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## MALAY WOMEN IN HISTORICAL STUDIES: A BIBLIOMETRIC REVIEW

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### Abstract:

This study presents a bibliometric analysis examining global research trends on Malay women in historical studies from 2000 to 2025. Addressing the limited mapping of scholarly output in this area, the analysis focuses on identifying publication patterns, subject distributions, influential authors, dominant keywords, and international collaboration networks. Using the keywords "Malay," "women," and "historical studies," data collection was conducted through the Scopus database. The search process applied strict inclusion criteria, targeting peer-reviewed journal articles in English within the Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities subject areas. After refining the dataset with OpenRefine software and visualizing relationships using VOSviewer, a total of 834 relevant documents were analyzed. The Scopus Analyzer tool further facilitated the identification of publication trends across the selected timeframe. Results indicate a steady increase in research output over the years, with a significant surge beginning in 2018 and peaking in 2023. The United States and the United Kingdom emerged as the leading contributors, while Malaysia showed gradual progress in domestic research participation. Subject area analysis revealed a dominant focus on Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities, accounting for more than 93% of total publications. Keyword co-occurrence mapping highlighted themes such as gender, feminism, womanhood, and identity, reflecting growing academic interest in intersectionality and postcolonial perspectives. Co-authorship analysis showed strong international collaborations, particularly among Western countries and Southeast Asian regions. Despite the increasing volume of research, limitations exist, especially concerning the reliance on a single database and the exclusion of non-English publications. These findings provide a comprehensive overview of the scholarly landscape and highlight the need for more diversified and locally-driven research on Malay women in historical contexts. The study demonstrates the relevance of bibliometric methods in

tracking research development and offers a foundational reference for future investigations in this field.

**Keywords:**

Malay, Women, and Historical Studies

## Introduction

Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative method used to evaluate the impact and development of research within a specific field by analyzing publications, citations, and other bibliographic data (Aleixandre-Benavent et al., 2017)(Supian & Ismail, 2022)(Marvi & Foroudi, 2023). This method is particularly useful for identifying trends, influential authors, and key research areas over time. In the context of historical studies on Malay women, bibliometric analysis can reveal how scholarly interest and research output have evolved from 2009 to 2025.

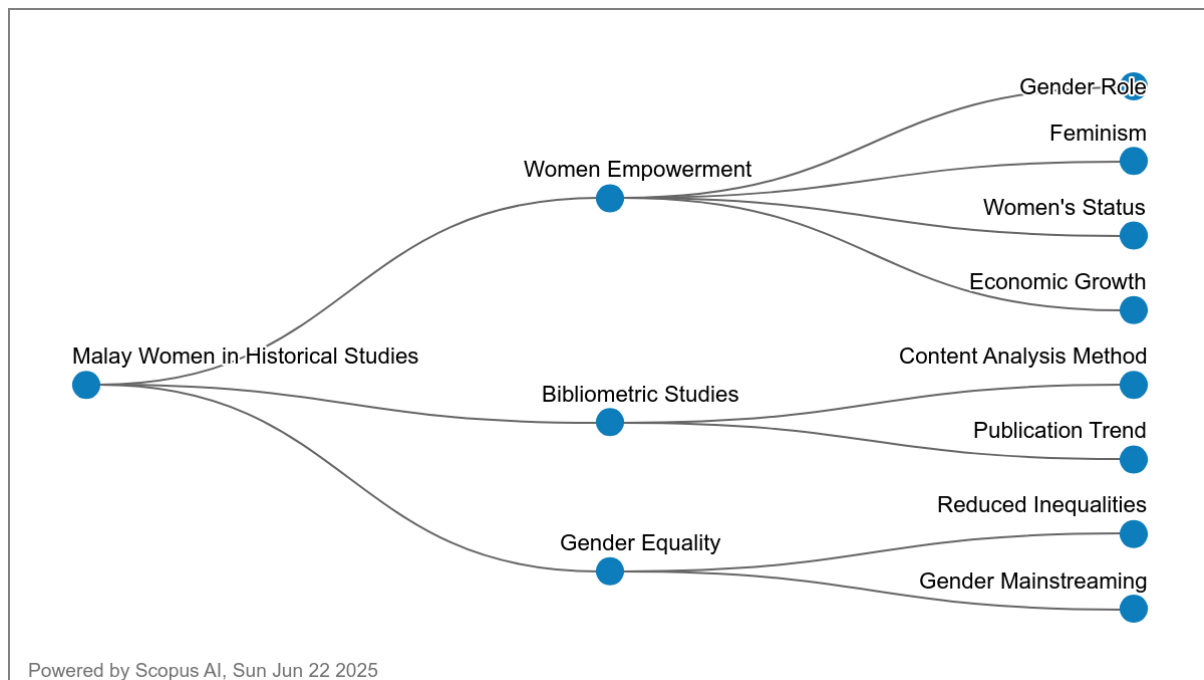
The distribution of documents by subject in historical studies on Malay women from 2009 to 2025 can be analyzed to understand the focus areas and shifts in research interests. For instance, studies have explored various aspects such as gender roles, economic contributions, and political participation of Malay women (Mohamad, 2016)(Hirschman, 2016)(Sattar & Sahoh, 2024). The analysis can highlight which subjects have received more attention and which areas might be under-researched, providing a comprehensive view of the academic landscape.

Bibliometric analysis helps identify key trends and influential research in the field. For example, research on the socio-legal history of Malay women during colonial times has uncovered significant gender-based dynamics and the role of women in economic and social cohesion (Mohamad, 2016). Additionally, studies on the political representation of Malay Muslim women in Thailand's Deep South highlight the cultural and religious challenges they face (Sattar & Sahoh, 2024). These trends indicate a growing interest in understanding the multifaceted roles of Malay women in different historical and cultural contexts.

Conducting a bibliometric review requires careful consideration of methodological aspects such as data sources, inclusion criteria, and analytical techniques (Aleixandre-Benavent et al., 2017)(Supian & Ismail, 2022)(Burrows & Nurmikko-Fuller, 2020). Commonly used databases for bibliometric analysis include Scopus and Web of Science, which provide comprehensive coverage of academic publications (Kasaraneni & Rosaline, 2024)(Mulay et al., 2020). The use of software tools like VOSviewer for visualizing bibliometric networks can enhance the analysis by mapping relationships between concepts and identifying research clusters (Saputro et al., 2023)(Hallinger & Kovačević, 2022).

The findings from a bibliometric review can inform future research directions by identifying gaps and emerging areas of interest. For instance, the relatively high status of women in pre-colonial Southeast Asia and their economic autonomy in peasant communities suggest areas for further exploration (Hirschman, 2016)(Rudie, 2016). Additionally, the impact of modernity and government policies on Malay women during the COVID-19 pandemic presents a contemporary issue that warrants deeper investigation (Md Syed et al., 2024)[13]. By highlighting these areas, bibliometric analysis can guide researchers in addressing critical questions and contributing to the broader understanding of Malay women's historical experiences.

In summary, a bibliometric review of historical studies on Malay women from 2009 to 2025 provides valuable insights into the evolution of research, key trends, and influential works. It also underscores the importance of methodological rigor and the potential for future research to build on these findings, ultimately enriching the academic discourse on Malay women's history.



**Figure 1: Concept Map of Malay Women in Historical Studies: A Bibliometric Review**

## Methodology

Bibliometric analysis encompasses the systematic process of collecting, organizing, and interpreting bibliographic data derived from scientific publications (Alves et al., 2021; Assyakur & Rosa, 2022; Verbeek et al., 2002). Beyond the descriptive quantification of elements such as publishing journals, years of publication, and prolific authors (Wu & Wu, 2017), bibliometric research also utilizes advanced analytical techniques, including document co-citation analysis. A robust literature review within this framework requires a meticulous and iterative process involving the careful selection of relevant keywords, comprehensive literature searches, and detailed analytical procedures.

This methodological rigor ensures the development of an exhaustive bibliography and the attainment of valid and reliable findings (Fahimnia et al., 2015). In line with these methodological principles, the current study emphasized high-impact publications to extract significant insights into the key theoretical underpinnings influencing the research field. To guarantee data reliability and credibility, the Scopus database was designated as the primary data source (Al-Khoury et al., 2022; di Stefano et al., 2010; Khiste & Paithankar, 2017). Furthermore, to uphold the scholarly quality of the data, only peer-reviewed journal articles were included, while other publication types such as books and lecture notes were intentionally excluded (Gu et al., 2019). Data collection was conducted using Elsevier's Scopus, recognized for its comprehensive subject coverage, focusing on publications released between 2000 and Jun 2025 for detailed bibliometric analysis.

### Data Search Strategy

The data search strategy for this bibliometric study was systematically conducted using the Scopus database, employing an advanced search string tailored to capture relevant publications on Malay women in historical studies. The search was performed by applying the following keyword combination within the Title, Abstract, and Keywords (TITLE-ABS-KEY) fields: (*"malay women" OR "malay girl" OR feminisme OR womanhood*) AND (*civilization OR history OR narrative*). To ensure relevance and time appropriateness, the publication timeline was strictly limited to works published between 2000 and 2025. Furthermore, the query was refined by applying subject area filters to include only documents from Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities, as these disciplines are most aligned with historical and gender-focused research. Additionally, language restrictions were applied to include only publications written in English, enhancing the accessibility and consistency of the data for analysis.

To strengthen the quality and relevance of the dataset, specific inclusion and exclusion criteria were also implemented. Only documents within the defined timeframe (2000–2025), subject areas (Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities), and English language publications were retained for the final analysis. Publications outside these categories such as those from non-social science fields, non-humanities areas, and non-English languages were excluded to ensure focus and homogeneity in the research scope. After applying these rigorous criteria, a total of 834 relevant documents (n=834) were identified as the final dataset for this bibliometric review. This carefully filtered dataset forms the foundation for the subsequent quantitative and qualitative bibliometric analyses, offering a comprehensive overview of global research trends, themes, and collaborations concerning Malay women in historical contexts.

**Table 1: The Search String**

Scopus	<b>TITLE-ABS-KEY ( ( "malay women" or "malay girl" or feminisme or womanhood ) and ( civilization or history or narrative ) ) AND PUBYEAR &gt; 1999 AND PUBYEAR &lt; 2026 AND ( LIMIT-TO ( SUBJAREA , "SOCI" ) OR LIMIT-TO ( SUBJAREA , "ARTS" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE , "English" ) )</b>
<b>Date access : 24 June 2025, 10.34AM</b>	

**Table 2: The Selection Criterion Is Searching**

Criterion	Inclusion	Exclusion
Time line	2000 – 2025	< 2025
Subject Area	Social Sciences Arts and Humanities	Non-Social Sciences and Art and Humaities
Language	English	Non- English

### Data Analysis

VOS viewer is a bibliometric analysis software developed by Nees Jan van Eck and Ludo Waltman at Leiden University, the Netherlands (van Eck & Waltman, 2010, 2017). Recognized for its user-friendly interface, the tool is extensively employed in the visualization and analysis of scientific literature. It is particularly effective in generating network visualizations, clustering thematically related elements, and producing density maps. The software’s

capabilities extend to analyzing co-authorship networks, co-citation relationships, and keyword co-occurrence patterns, thereby offering scholars a holistic perspective of the research landscape. Owing to its interactive features and ongoing updates, VOSviewer facilitates efficient exploration of extensive bibliometric datasets. Additionally, it supports metric computations, allows for tailored visual representations, and is compatible with a variety of bibliometric data sources, making it an essential instrument for researchers aiming to derive insights from complex academic domains.

A distinguishing feature of VOSviewer lies in its ability to convert complex bibliometric data into accessible and interpretable visual maps and charts. Its strength in network visualization is demonstrated through its functions in clustering interconnected elements, analyzing co-occurrence of keywords, and generating density-based representations. The software is designed to be accessible to both novice and experienced users, enabling seamless navigation of academic landscapes. Continuous development ensures the tool remains relevant and effective in the evolving field of bibliometric analysis. With support for diverse data types such as co-authorship and citation networks VOSviewer is regarded as a robust and flexible platform that empowers scholars to uncover meaningful patterns and correlations within their research fields.

In this study, bibliometric datasets were extracted from the Scopus database, covering publications from 2004 to December 2024. The datasets, formatted in PlainText, included information such as publication year, article title, authors, journal name, citation data, and keywords. These datasets were analyzed using VOSviewer version 1.6.20. Through the application of clustering and mapping techniques available within the software, visual maps were constructed to examine thematic structures. VOSviewer offers a valuable alternative to the Multidimensional Scaling (MDS) method by positioning items within a low-dimensional space, ensuring that the spatial proximity between items reflects their degree of relatedness (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). In this context, the VOS approach shares conceptual similarities with MDS (Appio et al., 2014). However, unlike MDS, which typically relies on similarity measures such as cosine or Jaccard indices, VOS employs a more refined normalization method for co-occurrence frequencies. This is achieved through the association strength ( $AS_{ij}$ ), calculated as follows (Van Eck & Waltman, 2007):

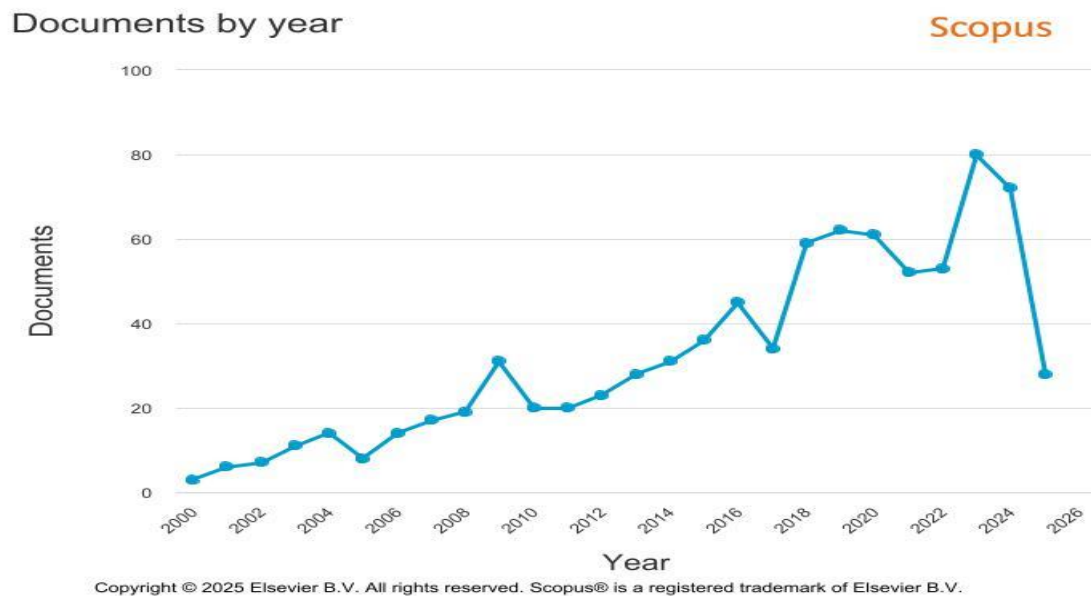
$$AS_{ij} = \frac{C_{ij}}{w_i w_j}$$

This metric is "proportional to the ratio between on the one hand the observed number of co-occurrences of  $i$  and  $j$  and on the other hand the expected number of co-occurrences of  $i$  and  $j$  under the assumption that co-occurrences of  $i$  and  $j$  are statistically independent" (Van Eck & Waltman, 2007).

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## Findings

### *What Are the Publication Trends on Women in Southeast Asian Historical Studies From 2000 To 2025?*



**Figure 2: Graph Of the Level of Research Development on Women in Southeast Asian Historical Studies**

**Table 3: The Development of Research on Women in Southeast Asian Historical Studies**

Year	Number Of Documents
2025	28
2024	72
2023	80
2022	53
2021	52
2020	61
2019	62
2018	59
2017	34
2016	45
2015	36
2014	31
2013	28
2012	23
2011	20
2010	20
2000-2009	130

The distribution of documents from 2000 to 2025 reveals a gradual yet significant growth in scholarly interest related to Malay women in historical studies. The earliest period (2000–2009) recorded 130 documents, indicating foundational research activity during that decade. However, from 2010 onwards, there is a notable year-by-year increase, with minor fluctuations.



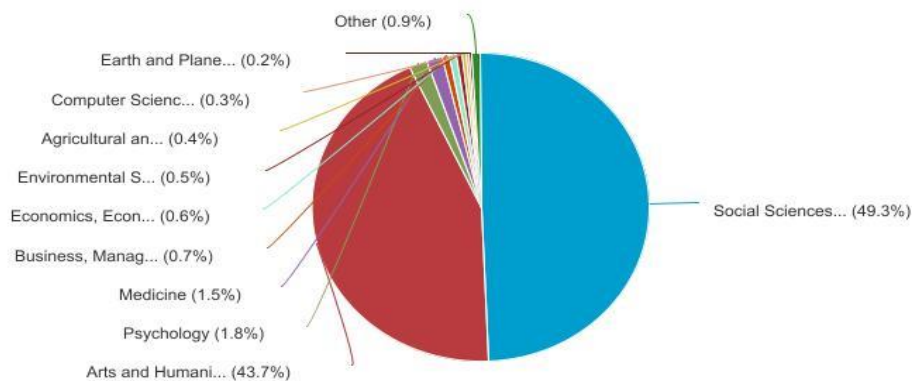
The years 2013 to 2016 show a moderate output ranging from 20 to 45 documents annually, suggesting consistent but still developing interest. A more substantial rise begins in 2018, with the number of publications stabilizing above 50 per year, peaking at 80 in 2023. This trend demonstrates an increasing academic engagement with the subject, reflecting the growing recognition of gender perspectives in historical scholarship.

The upward trajectory from 2020 to 2025, with the highest publication count in 2023 (80 documents), reflects a surge in awareness and scholarly focus on Malay women's roles and representations in history. The slight dip in 2024 (72) and the early data for 2025 (28) may be attributed to ongoing research or delayed indexing of newer publications. Overall, the data suggest that the past decade has seen a shift toward more inclusive historical inquiry, integrating gender as a key analytical category. The consistent growth of output highlights the evolving nature of historical discourse in Malaysia, where scholars are increasingly acknowledging the contributions and experiences of Malay women across different historical periods.

### ***What Are the Research Trends in Research on Women in Southeast Asian Historical Studies According to The Subject Area?***

Documents by subject area

Scopus



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**Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of Women in Southeast Asian Historical Studies By Subject Area**

**Table 4: Percentage Of Research on Women in Southeast Asian Historical Studies by Subject Area**

Subject Area	Number Of Documents	Percentage (%)
Social Sciences	634	49.3385214
Arts And Humanities	562	43.73540856
Psychology	23	1.789883268
Medicine	19	1.478599222
Business, Management And Accounting	9	0.700389105
Economics, Econometrics And Finance	8	0.622568093
Environmental Science	7	0.544747082
Agricultural And Biological Sciences	5	0.389105058
Computer Science	4	0.311284047
Earth And Planetary Sciences	3	0.233463035
Health Professions	3	0.233463035
Energy	2	0.155642023
Biochemistry, Genetics And Molecular Biology	1	0.077821012
Decision Sciences	1	0.077821012
Materials Science	1	0.077821012
Neuroscience	1	0.077821012
Nursing	1	0.077821012
Pharmacology, Toxicology And Pharmaceutics	1	0.077821012
	1285	100

The subject area distribution from 2000 to 2025 highlights that the majority of publications related to Malay women in historical studies are concentrated within the fields of Social Sciences (49.34%) and Arts and Humanities (43.74%). Together, these two disciplines account for over 93% of the total 1,285 documents, indicating a strong academic inclination toward exploring the historical, cultural, and societal dimensions of Malay women. This aligns with the interdisciplinary nature of gender and historical research, which often intersects with areas such as sociology, anthropology, literature, and history. The prominence of these two subject areas reflects a robust scholarly effort to examine the roles, identities, and representations of Malay women within broader historical narratives and socio-cultural contexts.

Beyond these dominant fields, other disciplines contribute marginally to the discourse. Psychology (1.79%) and Medicine (1.48%) show limited but noteworthy engagement, possibly focusing on the mental health, well-being, or medical experiences of Malay women in historical settings. Fields like Business, Environmental Science, Agriculture, and Computer Science account for less than 1% each, indicating that while interdisciplinary interest exists, it remains underdeveloped. The presence of isolated publications in areas such as Nursing, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience suggests emerging interest but also highlights potential gaps in the literature. This distribution underscores the need for more integrative research approaches that connect historical analysis with diverse academic disciplines, enriching the understanding of Malay women's multifaceted contributions across time.



### What Are the Most Cited Articles?

**Table 5 : Most Top Ten Cited Articles**

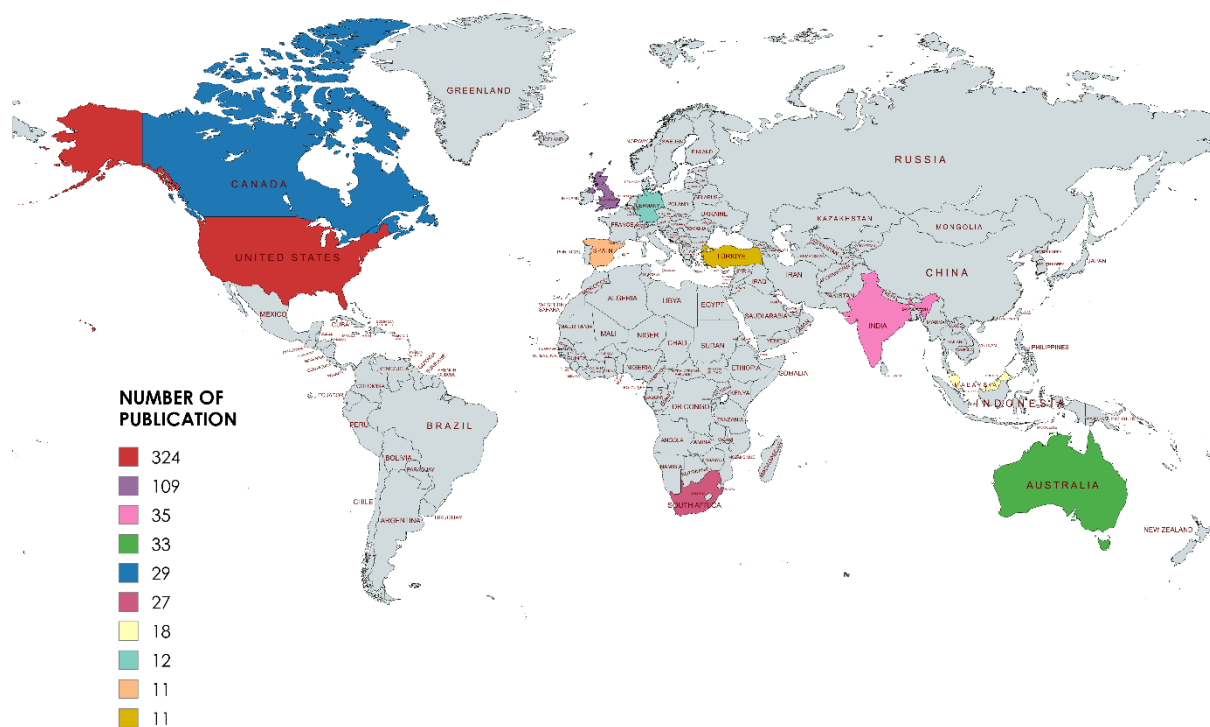
Authors	Title	Year	Source title	Cited by
Becker G.(Becker, 2023)	Disrupted lives: How people create meaning in a chaotic world	2023	Disrupted Lives: How People Create Meaning in a Chaotic World	562
Hall C.; Rose S.O.(Hall & Rose, 2006)	At home with the empire: Metropolitan culture and the imperial world	2006	At Home with the Empire: Metropolitan Culture and the Imperial World	404
Beauboeuf- Lafontant T.(Beauboeuf- Lafontant, 2009)	Behind the mask of the strong black woman: Voice and the embodiment of a costly performance	2009	Behind the Mask of the Strong Black Woman: Voice and the Embodiment of a Costly Performance	240
Zine J.(Zine, 2006)	Unveiled sentiments: Gendered islamophobia and experiences of veiling among muslim girls in a canadian islamic school	2006	Equity and Excellence in Education	208
Hersch K.K.(Hersch, 2010)	The Roman wedding: Ritual and meaning in antiquity	2010	The Roman Wedding: Ritual and Meaning in Antiquity	165
Todd S.(Todd, 2007)	Young Women, Work, and Family in England 1918-1950	2007	Young Women, Work, and Family in England 1918-1950	155
Jarauschk H.; Geyer M.(Jarauschk & Geyer, 2009)	Shattered past: Reconstructing German histories	2009	Shattered Past: Reconstructing German Histories	151
Liu F.(Liu, 2014)	From degendering to (re)gendering the self: Chinese youth negotiating modern womanhood	2014	Gender and Education	108
Farmer A.D.(Farmer, 2017)	Remaking black power: How black women transformed an era	2017	Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era	100
Censer J.T.(Censer, 2003)	The reconstruction of White Southern womanhood 1865- 1895	2003	The Reconstruction of White Southern Womanhood 1865-1895	97

The top 10 most cited articles in this dataset reveal a strong scholarly interest in how gender, identity, and historical experience intersect across time and cultural contexts. The most cited work, Becker's *Disrupted Lives* (2023), with 562 citations, reflects contemporary attention to how individuals navigate meaning-making in chaotic social conditions a theme especially relevant in the wake of global crises. Similarly, Hall and Rose's *At Home with the Empire*

(2006), with 404 citations, underscores the enduring relevance of postcolonial studies in analyzing the cultural impact of imperialism on metropolitan societies. Works like Beauboeuf-Lafontant's (2009) *Behind the Mask of the Strong Black Woman* (240 citations) and Zine's (2006) study on gendered Islamophobia (208 citations) highlight the importance of intersectional perspectives in examining race, gender, and religion in modern sociopolitical contexts.

Other highly cited works such as Hersch's *The Roman Wedding* (2010), Todd's study on young English women between 1918–1950 (2007), and Censer's examination of white Southern womanhood (2003) reflect the deepening scholarly commitment to historicizing women's experiences and roles in both public and private spheres. Liu's (2014) exploration of modern Chinese womanhood and Farmer's (2017) work on Black women's political agency during the Black Power era showcase the global and temporal range of gender studies. Collectively, these articles demonstrate that historical, cultural, and political reconstructions of womanhood remain central to gender scholarship, as researchers continue to explore how women have negotiated, resisted, and reshaped dominant ideologies across diverse historical periods and geographic settings.

### *What Are the Most Countries in Publication?*



Created with mapchart.net

**Figure 4: Most Top Ten Countries in Publications**

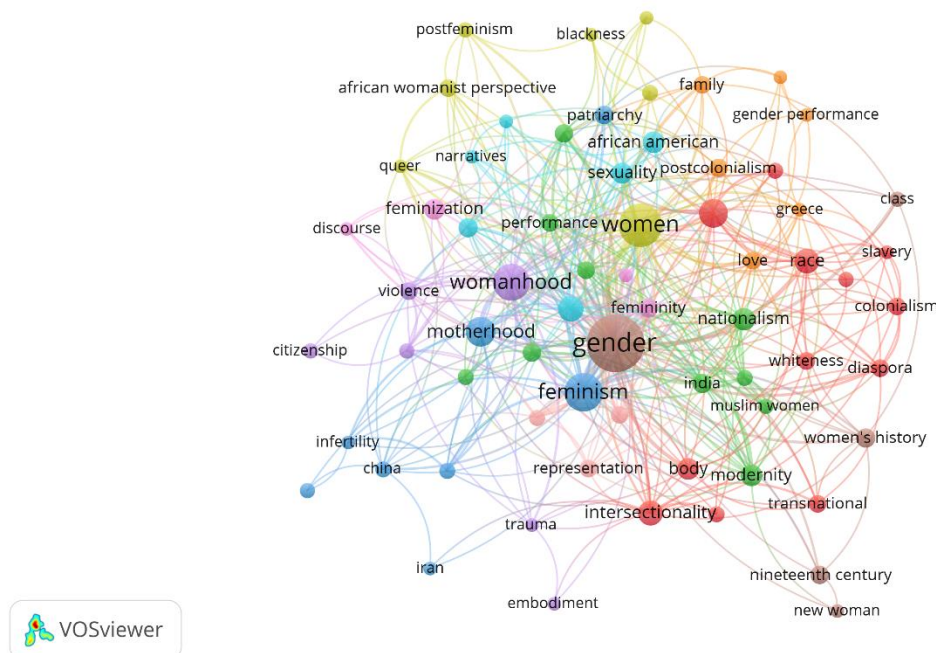
**Table 6: Most Top Ten Countries in Publications**

Country	Number Of Publication	Percentage (%)
United States	324	42.19
United Kingdom	109	13.66
India	35	4.39
Australia	33	4.14
Canada	29	3.63
South Africa	27	3.38
Malaysia	18	2.26
Germany	12	1.50
Spain	11	1.38
Turkey	11	1.38

The distribution of publications by country demonstrates that the United States leads significantly in scholarly output on the topic of Malay women in historical studies, contributing 42.19% (324 publications) of the total. This dominant position reflects the strong research infrastructure, availability of funding, and long-established academic interest in gender and area studies within American universities. Following the United States, the United Kingdom ranks second with 109 publications (13.66%), highlighting its continued engagement with postcolonial studies and historical research, which is understandable given its historical ties with Malaysia. Countries like India (4.39%), Australia (4.14%), and Canada (3.63%) also demonstrate moderate research contributions, which may be driven by growing academic interest in Southeast Asian studies and diaspora research within these regions.

Notably, Malaysia itself accounts for 18 publications (2.26%), which, although relatively low, signals an emerging domestic interest in scholarly investigations concerning Malay women's historical roles and experiences. The representation from countries like South Africa (3.38%), Germany (1.50%), Spain (1.38%), and Turkey (1.38%) further illustrates the international scope of gender and historical research. This global distribution indicates that the study of Malay women is gaining interdisciplinary and cross-regional relevance, appealing to historians, sociologists, and gender studies scholars worldwide. However, the relatively low contribution from Malaysia suggests a need for greater local academic involvement and research investment to deepen contextual and culturally nuanced analyses of Malay women in history.

### *What Are the Popular Keywords Related to the Study?*



**Figure 5: Network Visualization Map of Keywords' Co-Occurrence**

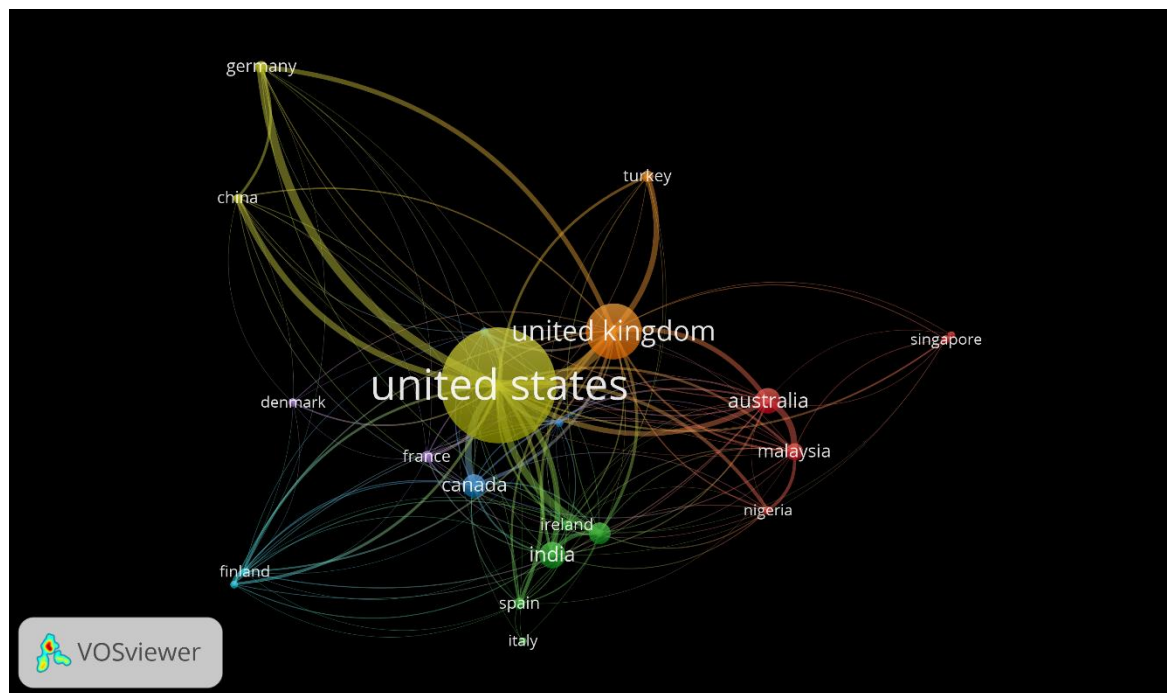
The keyword co-occurrence analysis using VOSviewer highlights several dominant themes that characterize scholarly discussions on Malay women in historical studies. The most frequently occurring keyword is “gender” with 83 occurrences and the highest total link strength (128), indicating its centrality and interconnectedness with other key terms in the dataset. Following this are “women” (47 occurrences, 79 link strength), “feminism” (38 occurrences, 64 link strength), and “womanhood” (35 occurrences, 56 link strength). These results suggest that the main focus of existing literature lies in examining the gendered experiences and feminist interpretations of Malay women's roles in historical contexts. Other closely linked themes such as “identity”, “motherhood”, and “black women” also show strong relational patterns, emphasizing intersectional approaches that consider race, gender identity, and maternal roles.

The network visualization further reveals strong thematic clustering, with dense linkages between keywords like “race”, “intersectionality”, “nationalism”, and “modernity”, each reflecting distinct but interconnected research strands. For example, “intersectionality” (16 occurrences, 24 link strength) highlights the growing scholarly attention to the overlapping social categories that shape Malay women's historical experiences. Similarly, keywords such as “patriarchy”, “sexuality”, and “representation” indicate critical discussions surrounding power dynamics, social constructs, and how Malay women have been historically portrayed in academic and social narratives. The inclusion of geographical and cultural identifiers like “India”, “Pakistan”, and “China” also suggests comparative studies or transnational feminist frameworks are being explored in this field.

In addition, terms like “postcolonialism”, “colonialism”, “diaspora”, and “women’s history” show that historical analyses often contextualize Malay women's experiences within broader

frameworks of colonial legacies and migration patterns. Emerging topics such as “muslim women”, “resistance”, “trauma”, and “violence” point to a critical engagement with socio-political challenges and historical struggles faced by Malay women. The appearance of “representation”, “media”, and “film” indicates that scholars are also examining how Malay women are depicted in various mediums over time. Overall, the keyword network reflects a rich, multi-dimensional research landscape where gender, history, identity, and power intersect in the academic study of Malay women.

### *What Is Co-Authorship Based on Countries' Collaboration?*



**Figure 6: Network Visualization Map of Country Collaboration**

The co-authorship analysis based on countries reveals that the United States plays a dominant role in research collaboration on Malay women in historical studies. With 326 documents, 3,526 citations, and the highest total link strength (2,730), the United States demonstrates both a strong publication output and extensive international research networking. This significant contribution reflects the country's global academic outreach and its leading role in gender and historical studies. The United Kingdom follows as the second major contributor with 109 documents, 1,364 citations, and a notable total link strength of 1,479, highlighting its strong historical and postcolonial research tradition. Countries like Germany (586) and Australia (567) also exhibit considerable collaborative link strengths, indicating active partnerships with other international researchers.

Regional contributions from countries like India (35 documents, 403 link strength), South Africa (27 documents, 504 link strength), and Malaysia (18 documents, 377 link strength) reflect a growing academic interest from the Global South. Although Malaysia's output is lower compared to Western countries, its relatively high total link strength suggests that Malaysian scholars are actively engaged in international research collaborations. Similarly, countries like Canada, China, and Turkey show moderate levels of contribution and networking



strength, indicating diversified global interest and emerging regional research networks focusing on Malay women and gender studies.

The network visualization also shows dense collaboration pathways among North American, European, and Asian countries. Strong co-authorship links between countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany reflect established academic relationships and resource sharing in the field. The presence of countries like Pakistan, Nigeria, Finland, and Sweden, despite their smaller publication counts, indicates the expansion of gender and historical studies into new academic territories. This growing international collaboration points towards the increasing global recognition of the significance of Malay women's historical narratives, providing new opportunities for cross-cultural and interdisciplinary research.

### **Conclusion**

The primary aim of this study was to conduct a bibliometric analysis on scholarly publications focusing on Malay women in historical studies, covering the period from 2000 to 2025. This research sought to examine patterns of publication growth, subject area distribution, influential articles, geographical contributions, keyword trends, and international collaboration networks within this field.

The analysis revealed several key findings. Firstly, there has been a steady increase in research output over the years, with a notable surge in publications from 2018 onwards, peaking in 2023. This trend reflects a growing scholarly interest in gender perspectives within historical research. In terms of subject areas, the majority of studies were published within the Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities, indicating that research on Malay women's historical roles remains closely tied to disciplines concerned with social, cultural, and historical analysis. Additionally, the United States and the United Kingdom emerged as the leading contributors to this body of literature, while Malaysia's contribution, though still limited, shows potential for further growth. The keyword analysis underscored dominant themes such as gender, feminism, womanhood, and identity, reflecting ongoing interest in intersectionality and postcolonial perspectives. Moreover, the co-authorship analysis highlighted active international collaborations, especially between Western countries and Southeast Asian regions.

This study contributes to the existing body of knowledge by providing a comprehensive overview of the development and current state of research on Malay women in historical contexts. It offers valuable insights into research trends, gaps, and emerging themes that can inform both scholars and institutions interested in advancing the field of gender and historical studies. The visualizations and quantitative metrics generated through bibliometric tools present a systematic mapping of the intellectual landscape, enhancing understanding of how research on this topic has evolved over time.

The findings from this analysis have practical implications for scholars, research institutions, and policymakers. Understanding the current focus areas and identifying underexplored topics can help in setting future research agendas, allocating funding, and encouraging more diversified investigations. The limited local contribution from Malaysia points to a need for strengthening domestic research capacity and encouraging greater academic engagement with the history of Malay women.



Despite its contributions, this study is not without limitations. The reliance on a single database (Scopus) may have excluded relevant publications indexed elsewhere. Additionally, restricting the analysis to English-language articles may have overlooked significant works published in other languages. Future research could expand the dataset by incorporating multiple databases and including publications in Malay or other regional languages. Further studies might also conduct more targeted content analyses on specific historical periods or thematic areas related to Malay women.

In conclusion, this bibliometric review demonstrates the value of systematic analysis in capturing publication trends, research dynamics, and thematic developments within the field of historical studies on Malay women. The insights generated serve as a foundation for future academic inquiry and highlight the importance of sustained and diversified research efforts to enrich understanding of Malay women's historical experiences.

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