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A Bibliometric Analysis of Religion and Culture based AI Framework

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ABSTRACT

The implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) development and deployment have become ethically significant in our modern lives. While the majority of contemporary AI ethics frameworks are based on secular and Western norms, there is an increasing number of works related to religion-culture in the frameworks. The focus of this bibliometric study is on the global research that surrounds religion and culture as the foundation for ethical AI frameworks, with an emphasis on Islamic ethical principles. By using the Scopus database, a total of 63 publications from 2015 to 2025 were analyzed through Biblioshiny and VOSviewer. The analysis includes trends in publication output, leading authors, collaborative networks, etc. Results indicate an increase in scholarly output since 2022, with Southeast Asia, notably Malaysia and Indonesia, and the Middle East as the key contributors. Core themes include ethics, religion, language model, and ethical design, while religious values, such as Islamic ethics and maqasid al-shariah, are increasingly integrated into AI ethics discourse. Keyword co-occurrence and thematic mapping reveal three dominant clusters: (1) core ethical AI principles, (2) ethics technology, and (3) religion-informed value systems. While terms like "artificial intelligence," "ethics," and "language models" remain central, faith-based constructs are transitioning from peripheral to foundational in shaping future AI frameworks. This study demonstrates the growing intellectual momentum behind culturally and spiritually responsive AI ethics also the potential of Islamic epistemology to enrich global AI governance.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Bibliometric Analysis, Ethics of AI, AI Framework, Religion Ethics

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly evolved from a specialized area of computer science into a technology that impacts nearly every aspect of modern life, including healthcare, finance, governance, and education. In recent years, AI applications such as machine learning, natural language processing, and predictive analytics have become embedded into digital ecosystems, automating decision-making processes and enhancing operation efficiency. In education, AI tools are widely used to personalize learning experiences, predict student performance, streamline administrative tasks, and support adaptive assessment systems. While these technologies promise innovation and improved access to quality education, they also raise critical questions about ethical issues such as fairness, autonomy, and the human voices or dimensions in learning settings.

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Concerns about the ethical implications of AI systems are increasing significantly as they become more self-sufficient and ubiquitous. Some of the major issues are algorithmic bias, lack of openness, breaches of data privacy, and the loss of human control. Most of the time, AI algorithms are trained on outdated or incomplete data sets. This increases systemic biases, especially against groups that are already underrepresented [1]. Also, many AI models are hard to understand and interpret because they are considered as "black boxes", only known to the programmers or developers of the algorithms. This makes it difficult for those affected by the systems, who are the end users, to know how decisions are made or to hold AI accountable for decisions made by the autonomous system. In education, for example, this lack of openness can lead to unfair grading, unfair profiling, or giving more weight to certain learning styles or cultural norms, which goes against the ideas of fairness and inclusion.

In response to these concerns, various ethical AI frameworks and guidelines have emerged globally in recent years. For example, the European Commission's Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI[2], UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence [[3], and IEEE's Ethically Aligned Design framework [4]. These documents highlight principles of ethical AI such as human oversight, fairness, privacy, accountability, and sustainability. However, most of these frameworks are based on the Western secular moral philosophies and do not necessarily account for the diverse cultural and religious perspectives that shape ethical reasoning in many parts of the world. This raises an important question: how can AI ethics be enhanced by integrating pluralistic worldviews, especially those rooted in faith-based traditions and non-Western epistemologies? Hence, it is imperative to address this question to create ethical frameworks for AI that are more contextually relevant and globally inclusive.

The integration of AI into education has established a revolution for teaching and learning systems, providing new opportunities for administrative efficiency, predictive analytics, adaptive assessment, and personalized instruction. But, as AI technologies become more deeply rooted in educational environments, they raise urgent ethical concerns regarding the decline of human-centered pedagogies, surveillance, autonomy, algorithmic bias, and data privacy [5], [6]. In the formative domain of education, where values, norms, and cultural beliefs are central to the development of learners, these challenges necessitate ethical frameworks that are not only technically robust but also morally grounded and socially responsible.The Western and secular intellectual traditions currently dominate global discussions on AI ethics. Initiatives like the IEEE Ethically Aligned Design and the European Commission's Guidelines for Trustworthy AI frequently represent liberal individualist worldviews that have their roots in the Western world. Even though these frameworks are frequently used, they might not adequately represent the socio-religious values and ethical sensibilities of many cultural and faith-based communities, especially in non-Western countries.

In this context, there is an urgent need for ethical perspectives that are culturally responsive and religiously informed, as they can provide more contextually grounded approaches to AI governance. The discourse on ethical AI can be significantly influenced by the rich intellectual resources of faith-based ethical traditions, such as Islamic, Confucian, Hindu, and Christian moral philosophies [7]. In the Islamic worldview, the epistemological foundation for knowledge and ethics is the concept of *Tawhid*, which is the oneness and unity of God. It advocates for a comprehensive, integrative perspective on life, in which all actions, including technological advancements, must be consistent with divine principles such as stewardship (*khilafah*), accountability (*mukallaf*), compassion (*raḥmah*), and justice (*'adl*) [8]. From Islamic perspective, AI is not an ethically neutral instrument, rather, it is a manifestation of human intention and responsibility that demands guidance from moral frameworks that preserve human dignity (*karamah*), avoid harm (*mafsadah*), and promote the common good (*maṣlaḥah*) [9]. This vision challenges technocentric or utilitarian paradigms and creates an opportunity for the development of AI systems that are spiritually aware, ethically accountable, and socially inclusive. Despite this, Islamic based frameworks remain underrepresented in mainstream AI ethics

literature, particularly in educational applications where students' moral and intellectual formation is at stake.

1.2 Research Questions

The objective of the study is to address the research gap of AI ethics frameworks and religion-cultural values, with a particular focus on Islamic based ethical viewpoints, through a bibliometric analysis of literature. By mapping publication trends, thematic clusters, and citation patterns, the study aims to assess the current landscape and highlight areas for future scholarly engagement. This bibliometric analysis will be the groundwork to find gaps that exist in the integration of faith-based or culturally grounded ethical principles incorporated in the AI ethics framework. To guide the analysis, the following research questions (RQ) are proposed:

RQ1. What are the publication trends, patterns, and progress in the literature on religion-cultural perspectives on the ethics of AI frameworks?
RQ2. What are the primary keywords in the studies?
RQ3. What are the primary research themes in the studies?

2. METHODOLOGY

To examine the global research landscape of AI ethics frameworks with religion-cultural values, we employed a bibliometric analysis approach. The bibliometric analysis is a quantitative method to evaluate the structure, development, and dynamics of academic literature within a specific field. It enables researchers to systematically analyze large volumes of scholarly data, revealing publication trends, collaboration networks, and thematic clusters using tools such as co-authorship, co-citation, and keyword co-occurrence mapping[10]. Bibliometric analysis provides both breadth and depth in understanding the evolution of a research topic. Unlike traditional literature reviews, which are often narrative and subjective, bibliometric methods offer an objective and data-driven approach to mapping knowledge structures. This is very useful in emerging interdisciplinary areas, such as AI ethics from a faith-based or cultural perspective, where the research is spread across disciplines and publication venues. Moreover, by visualizing intellectual patterns and research gaps, bibliometric analysis serves as a valuable foundation for future theoretical and empirical inquiry [11].

This study utilized the PRISMA 2020 (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) framework to ensure methodological rigour and transparency in the selection of literature [12]. The PRISMA flow diagram illustrated in Fig. 1, was used to document the identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion phases of the literature collection process. Articles were retrieved from the Scopus database using a combination of keywords related to AI ethics, religion, Islam, culture, and frameworks. Data retrieved were publications from 2015 to 2025 and in the English language only. Following the research strategy in Fig.1, 63 data were included in the bibliometric analysis and saved in .csv file format. Next, we conducted a thorough bibliometric analysis using Biblioshiny and VOSviewer to fully examine the research issues and provide a clear understanding of the research objectives. The procedures and in-depth studies conducted throughout this inquiry are shown in Fig. 2. The descriptive analysis shows the relevant analysis that was conducted to answer each of the research questions addressed in this study.

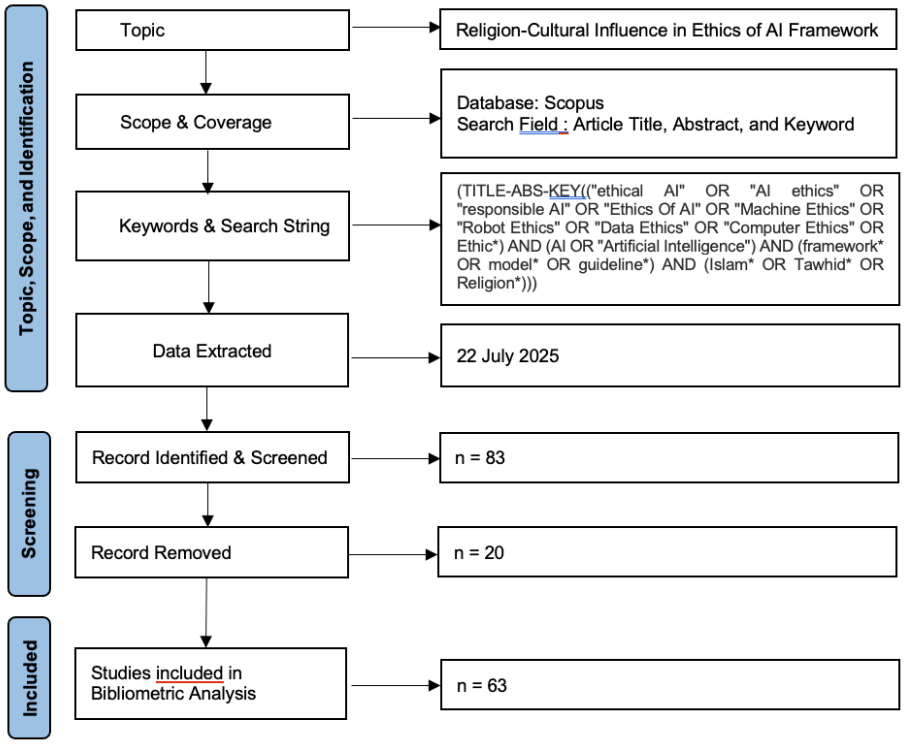

Figure 1. Research strategy flow diagram adapted from Prisma 2020.

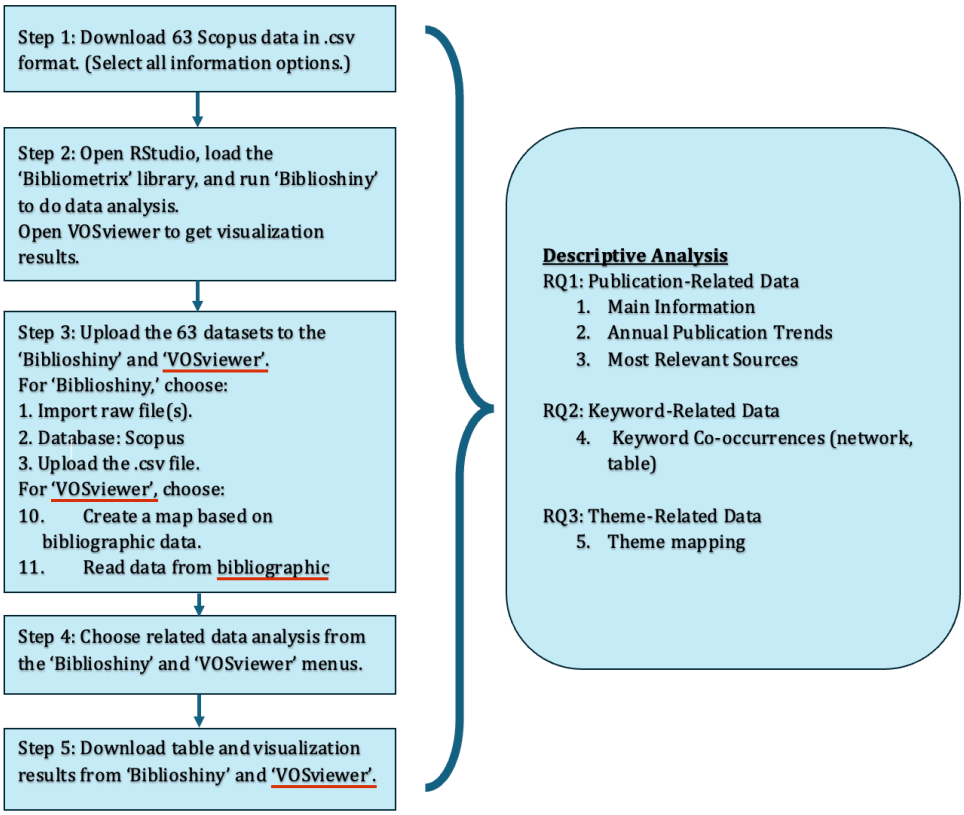

Figure 2. Bibliometric analysis steps and descriptive analysis using Biblioshiny and VOSviewer.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Publication Trends

The dataset analyzed in this study spans from 2017 to 2025, reflecting a relatively recent and emerging area of inquiry that intersects the AI ethics framework, culture, and religion, as tabulated in Table 1. A total of 63 datasets were published across 57 distinct sources, indicating a wide dispersion of literature and the interdisciplinary nature of this research domain. The annual growth rate of publication in this area is 48.77% within an 8-year span, suggesting a sharp and accelerating scholarly interest in the intersection of AI ethics and faith or cultural frameworks.

The dataset includes a total of **185 contributing authors**, with an average of **3.08 co-authors per document**, indicating a moderate level of collaborative authorship. Out of these, **16 documents** were single-authored, while the rest involved various forms of co-authorship, including **31.75% international collaborations**. The relatively high percentage of cross-border authorship suggests a growing global awareness of ethical diversity in AI development. However, it also hints at regional imbalances of co-authorship.In terms of document types, the collection consists of **35 journal articles, 10 book chapters**, and **18 conference papers.** This distribution reflects both the academic maturity and diversity of publication formats in the field. The **average citation per document is 4.429**, with a total of **3,110 references** across all documents, indicating a well-referenced but emerging scholarly base. The **average age of documents is 1.19 years**, emphasizing the timeliness of this inquiry and the growing momentum around culturally and religiously grounded ethical AI frameworks scholarship. Additionally, the dataset includes **322 "Keywords Plus"** and **262 "Author Keywords".**

Table 1 Analysis of Religions-Cultural Influence in AI Ethics Framework Data from Scopus Database

Description	Results
Main Information about Data	
Timespan	2017-2025
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	57
Documents	63
Annual Growth Rate %	48.77
Document Average Age	1.19
Average Citations per Doc	4.429
References	3110
Document Contents	
Keywords Plus (ID)	322
Author's Keywords (DE)	262
Authors	
Authors	185
Authors of Single-Authored Docs	16
Authors Collaboration	
Single-Authored Docs	17
Co-Authors per Doc	3.08
International Co-Authorships %	31.75
Document Types	

Article	35
Book Chapter	10
Conference Paper	18

Table 2 Annual Publication Progress of Religion and Culture-Based AI Ethics Framework

Year	Articles
2017	1
2018	2
2019	0
2020	0
2021	1
2022	2
2023	10
2024	23
2025	24

Table 3 Annual Average Citation

Year	MeanTC per Art	N	MeanTC per Year	Citable Years
2017	0	1	0	9
2018	10	2	1.25	8
2021	43	1	8.6	5
2022	15.5	2	3.88	4
2023	9	10	3	3
2024	4.04	23	2.02	2
2025	0.08	24	0.08	1

The annual distribution of publications in Table 2, reveals a significant increase in scholarly activity over the past three years. From 2017 to 2021, the field remained relatively underexplored, with only four publications emerging across this five-year span. There were no recorded publications in 2019 and 2020, suggesting minimal academic engagement with the topic during this early period. However, starting in 2022, the number of publications rose sharply, with 10 articles in 2023, followed by a surge to 23 publications in 2024 and 24 in 2025, indicating that scholarly attention to this topic has entered a phase of rapid growth and visibility. This upward trend aligns with increasing global discourse on the need for inclusive, religiously and culturally grounded ethical frameworks, especially in response to critiques of the Western-dominated AI ethics paradigm. The exponential rise in publications from 2023 onward may also reflect broader socio-political developments, such as the release of UNESCO's 2021 AI ethics guidelines. Hence, this increases the growing interest in decolonizing the ethics framework, which has stimulated a spike in faith-based and non-Western epistemological contributions.

The annual average citation analysis in Table 3 offers additional insight into the intellectual impact of these publications. While the publication count in 2025 is recorded as the highest (n = 24), the average citation per article is still low at 0.08, primarily due to limited time for citation accumulation (1 yr). In contrast, articles published in 2021 and 2022 have shown relatively higher impact, with mean total citations per article (MeanTC per Art) of 43.0 and 15.5,

respectively, and average citations per year of 8.6 (2021) and 3.88 (2022). These findings suggest that earlier contributions, though fewer, have had greater academic influence per article and may have served as foundational works that shaped the research surge in subsequent years. The data also reveal a citation lag typical of emerging fields. Which means newer publications often require time to disseminate, probably 4 to 5 years (as indicated in Table 3), before gaining traction within scholarly networks. Nevertheless, the sharp increase in recent publication volume signals a growing research community and the potential for sustained academic dialogue in the coming years.

The analysis of source distribution highlights the multidisciplinary nature of the emerging literature on religious-cultural influence in AI ethics frameworks as depicted in Table 4. The most relevant sources, in terms of productivity and citation metrics, span from journals in religion, education, sociology, and computer science hence reflecting the interdisciplinary appeal of this research topic. Among the top sources, the journal *Religions* leads in terms of productivity with 3 articles, a total citation count (TC) of 22, and an h-index of 2 (indicating that at least two of its articles have received two or more citations), with a g-index of 3 and a modest m-index of 0.25. This journal has been a consistent contributor to the intersection of faith and AI ethics since 2018, marking it as a pioneering source in this area. However, the *ACM International Conference Proceeding Series* stands out with the highest citation count source (TC = 33) despite having only one publication in 2023. This suggests that the article published in this proceeding has had significant impact due to its technical depth and wide visibility within the computer science community.

Table 4 Most Relevant Sources

Source	h_index	g_index	m_index	TC	NP	PY_start
Religions	2	3	0.25	22	3	2018
Acm International Conference Proceeding Series	1	1	0.33	33	1	2023
Afkar	1	1	0.33	1	1	2023
American Journal Of Economics And Sociology	1	1	0.5	11	1	2024
Ceur Workshop Proceedings	1	1	1	2	1	2025
Cogent Education	1	1	0.5	8	1	2024
Communications In Computer And Information Science	1	1	0.33	2	1	2023
Computers And Education: Artificial Intelligence	1	1	0.5	4	1	2024
Conference On Human Factors In Computing Systems - Proceedings	1	1	0.5	20	1	2024
Decision Science Letters	1	1	0.5	3	1	2024

3.1 Keyword Co-Occurrence Analysis

The keyword co-occurrence network visualized in Fig. 7 provides a thematic overview of the conceptual landscape of the topic. This network was generated using VOSviewer and is based on author-provided keywords and index terms that appeared at least a minimum number of times across the dataset. The resulting map is organized into three major clusters, represented by distinct colors (red, green, and blue), reflecting thematic groupings of related research areas. The red cluster represents educational, governance, and regulatory themes in AI. The frequently used terms such as "ethics", “ai”, "philosophical aspects", "education" and "machine learning”. This

cluster emphasizes foundational concerns in the field, particularly around moral reasoning that is highly related to education and philosophical aspects.

The green cluster centres at the core of AI ethics and religion ethical network surrounding AI with keywords like "artificial intelligence", "ai ethics", "ethical technology", "Islamic ethics" and "artificial intelligence ethic." This cluster highlights the increasing relevance of AI ethics in institutional settings, particularly with religion-based contexts. It also shows the need for structured ethical guidelines and pedagogical approaches that engage learners with the complexities of AI technologies, including moral reasoning within religious principles, civic responsibility, and the impact of automation on learning environments. The blue cluster contains terms linked to technical aspects of AI and the impact of AI effects (e.g., fairness, bias, responsibility), including keywords such as "language model", "computational linguistics", "economic and social effects", “language processing”, “embeddings”, and "natural language processing." It reflects ongoing efforts to develop AI systems that are ethically grounded and socially just, often drawing from global principles such as transparency, accountability, and explainability.

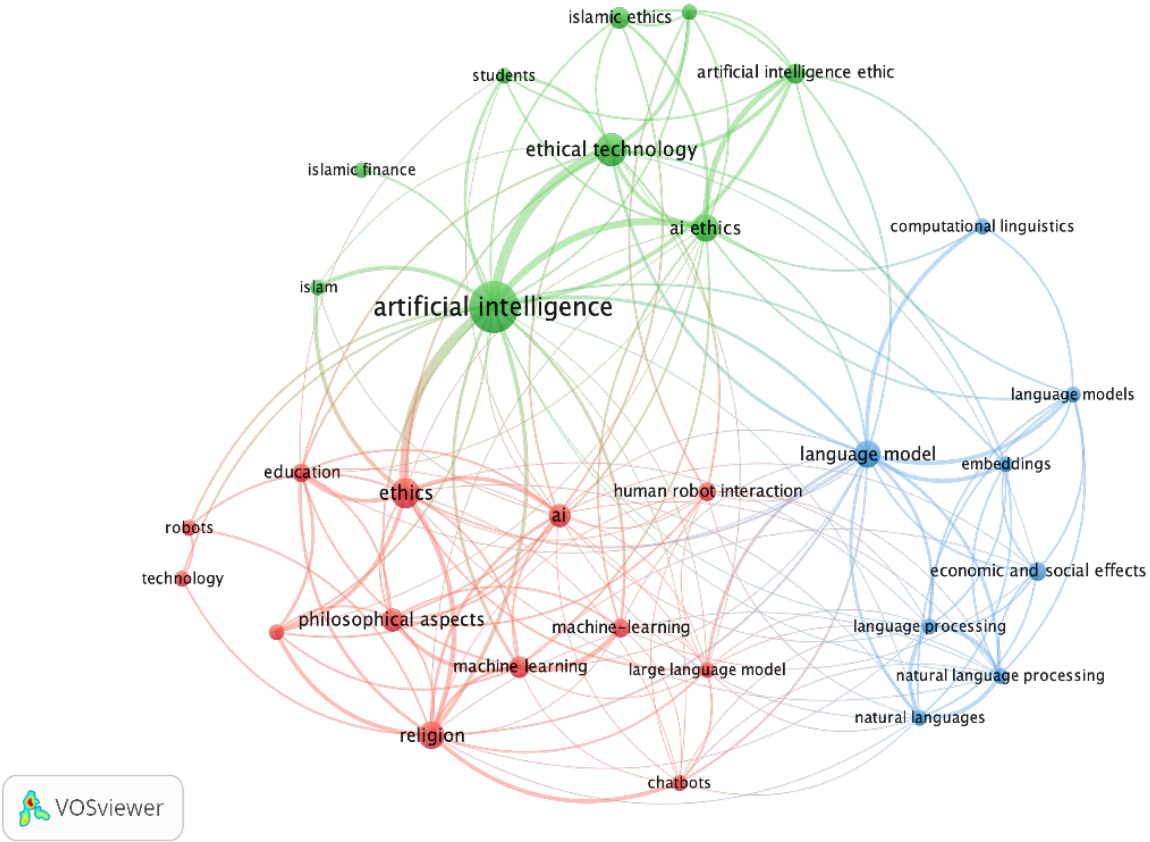

Figure 7. Co-occurrence Keyword network.

These thematically rich clusters demonstrate the emerging academic effort to expand the AI ethics discourse beyond dominant Western paradigms. It includes contributions from scholars who draw on faith-based moral systems, particularly Islamic philosophy, to critique, reinterpret, or complement existing AI governance models. The prominence of terms related to Islamic values within this cluster reflects a growing scholarly interest in culturally embedded ethical reasoning. The links between clusters indicates increasing interdisciplinarity. For example, terms like "ethical technology" and "ai ethics" bridge the ethical and pedagogical domains between “artificial intelligence” and “ Islamic ethics”. This integration illustrates a shift toward a more

pluralistic and context-sensitive AI ethics landscape, where religious and cultural insights support the “artificial intelligence” discussion.

Table 8 presents the top ten most frequently occurring keywords across the dataset, offering insights into the core vocabulary shaping scholarly discourse in this emerging field. In addition to visualizing thematic clusters, analyzing keyword frequency helps identify the dominant topics and conceptual anchors in the literature surrounding religion- and culture-informed AI ethics. "Artificial intelligence" is, as expected, the most common word, showing up 26 times in all of the papers. The words "ethics" and "ethical technology" come in close behind, each showing 10 times. This shows that the focus has stayed on developing technology in a way that is moral and on the moral effects of AI systems. The word "religion" is used eight times, which shows that it is an important part of this study's theme and that people are becoming more interested in faith-based approaches to AI ethics. Similarly, the phrase "Islamic ethics" shows up five times, indicating that it is becoming a separate topic within the larger discussion. This shows a positive trend towards including Islamic legal and philosophical ideas in discussions about AI control.

Table 8 Keyword Occurrences Table

Words	Occurrences
artificial intelligence	26
ethical technology	10
ethics	10
religion	8
ai ethics	7
language model	7
ai	6
islamic ethics	5
machine learning	5
economic and social effects	4

This grouping of keywords shows that the literature is divided into two main areas; one is about technical and mathematical issues such as machine learning and language models; and the other is about moral, cultural, and spiritual issues such as religion, Islamic ethics, and ethical technology. It is important to find a balance between these ideas if we want to make AI systems that are both scientifically sound and culturally appropriate.

3.2 Thematic Evolution

Figure 3 presents a strategic thematic mapping of the conceptual structure of the dataset. The theme keywords are plotted on the graph with two axes references: 1) centrality (relevance degree) on the x-axis and 2) density (development degree) on the y-axis. The resulting four quadrants provide insights into the maturity, importance, and developmental role of key themes within the field of religion- and culture-informed AI ethics. The motor themes (high centrality, high density at the top right quadrant) represent well-developed, high-impact themes that are central to the field. Keywords such as ethics, religion, language model, human-robot interaction, ethical design**,** and technology ethics dominate this space. These concepts are well-integrated across publications and indicate active scholarly engagement. Their positioning reflects the intellectual core of the field, where ongoing debates around fairness, algorithmic behavior, and ethical design are increasingly tied to both religious and humanistic dimensions of AI.

Meanwhile, the basic themes (high centrality, low density at the bottom right quadrant) describe the foundation but underdeveloped themes, including artificial intelligence, ethical technology, education, Islamic ethics, Maqasid al-Shariah, and philosophical aspects. These topics are central to the discourse but remain conceptually broad or in early stages of refinement. The presence of Islamic ethics and Maqasid al-Shariah here signals their growing importance in AI ethics discourse but also highlights the need for deeper theoretical development and empirical validation. These themes are likely to become future motor themes as the field matures.

The niche themes (low centrality, high density at top left quadrant) locate the well-developed but peripheral, suggesting specialized or context-specific lines of inquiry. These include financial markets, fintech, investments, religious sensitivity, and sentiment analysis. While not yet central to the religion-AI ethics discourse, these themes may play a critical role in applied or domain-specific research (e.g., Islamic fintech ethics, trust in AI tools for religious guidance, etc.). Their high density indicates conceptual maturity within limited subfields. Finally, the emerging or declining themes (low centrality, low density at the bottom left quadrant) contain topics that are either emerging or losing relevance, such as robotics, ethical standards, ethical aspects, computational linguistics, and Islamic law. While some of these may be early-stage areas requiring further exploration, others may be experiencing a decline in scholarly attention. For instance, the isolated position of Islamic law may indicate limited integration into current AI discourse, despite its potential to contribute normative frameworks grounded in classical jurisprudence.

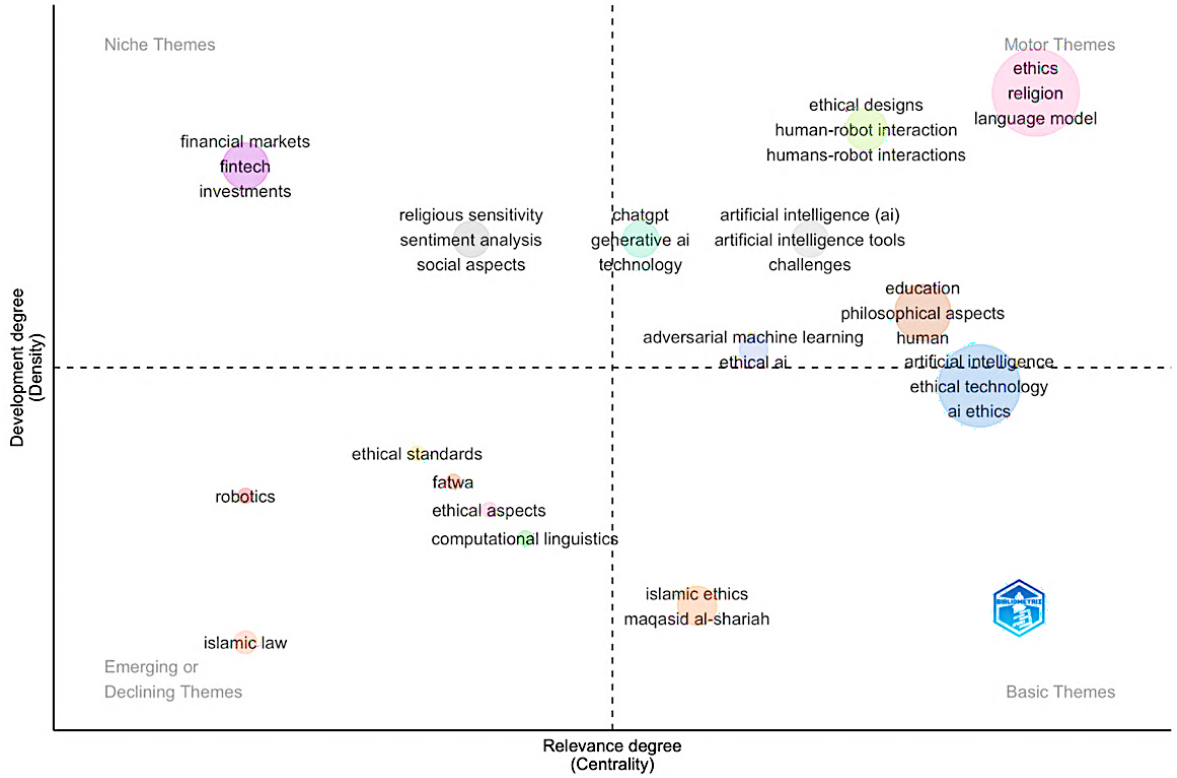

Figure 3. Theme mapping of the Bibliometric dataset.

4. DISCUSSION

This bibliometric analysis offers a comprehensive overview of the scholarly landscape on religious and cultural perspectives in the ethics of AI frameworks, particularly focusing on Islamic contributions. The findings provide insights into the evolution of this emerging field and address

the three research questions (RQs) that guided the study. While this study offers a broad overview, several limitations should be acknowledged. The analysis was limited to indexed publications from selected databases, e.g., Scopus, written in the English language and within journal articles, conference proceedings, and book chapters only. Hence, grey literature, policy papers, and non-English language scholarship, particularly in Arabic, Urdu, or Malay, are not evaluated.

The search relied on specific keywords, which may not capture all semantically relevant but differently phrased works. For example, Islamic ethical discourse may be embedded in articles without explicitly using terms like "Islamic ethics" or "maqasid al-shariah." Many high-growth publications are from 2024 and 2025, resulting in low citation counts due to short citation windows, which may underestimate their long-term influence. Furthermore, tools like VOSviewer help visualize clusters, the interpretation of themes and co-occurrences requires some subjective judgment and may differ across analysts. But the results presented in this paper are considered sufficient to explore the topic.

The publication trend reveals a significant surge in interest over the last three years, with output accelerating from 2022 and peaking in 2025. While early literature between 2017 and 2021 was sparse and exploratory, recent years show a transition toward more structured and collaborative academic work. The increase in average citations per article from earlier years (e.g., 2021 and 2022) indicates foundational contributions that have informed subsequent research growth. Thematic clustering of keywords and co-occurrence analysis (Fig. 7) reveals three dominant thematic concentrations: 1) education and governance framework, 2) the core of AI ethics and cultural and religious values, particularly Islamic ethics, and 3) technical aspects of AI and the impact of AI effects (e.g., fairness, bias, responsibility). This triadic structure underscores the interdisciplinary nature of the field, merging technological inquiry with ethical philosophy and sociocultural theory.

Keyword analysis confirms a robust vocabulary that spans general AI terms (e.g., *artificial intelligence, machine learning, language models*) and normative constructs (e.g., *ethics, ethical technology, fairness*), alongside faith-informed phrases such as *Islamic ethics, Islamic law, maqasid al-shariah*, and *religion*. The inclusion of terms like *students, education,* and *human-robot interaction* suggests growing attention to the pedagogical and human-centered dimensions of AI governance. This diversity reflects a dual semantic focus, ensuring technical rigour while embedding culturally and theologically grounded principles into AI design and deployment.

The thematic mapping reveals that the most central and developed themes include *ethics, religion, language models*, and *ethical design*, positioning these as motor themes driving the field forward. In contrast, *Islamic ethics, maqasid al-shariah,* and *Islamic law*, while conceptually rich, appear in the basic and emerging theme quadrants, suggesting that while these perspectives are gaining relevance, they are still under-theorized and underrepresented in high-impact publications. Niche areas such as *fintech, sentiment analysis,* and *religious sensitivity* indicate specialized subfields with potential for growth. The limited integration of *Islamic law* into mainstream discourse are positioned in the “emerging or declining” quadrant, signals an opportunity for deeper engagement in future of AI ethics frameworks.

4.1 Faith Integrated AI Ethics Framework

The findings of this bibliometric analysis exposed a significant gap between the prevailing Western-centric ethical AI frameworks and those grounded in religion-based or culture-based worldviews, particularly from the Islamic tradition. While Western frameworks, such as frameworks rooted in liberal humanism, Kantian duty, or utilitarianism, tend to emphasize principles like individual autonomy, transparency, fairness, and accountability that may not fully resonate with ethical reasoning embedded in non-Western societies.

In contrast, religion-and-culture-informed frameworks, especially those based on the Islamic worldview, offer a more holistic moral compass, one that aligns human technological pursuits with divine accountability, communal welfare, and spiritual responsibility. The Tawhidic paradigm, which affirms the oneness of God and the unity of creation, serves as the ontological foundation upon which ethical conduct, including technological development, should be built. Ethical values such as *Adl* (justice), *Maslahah* (public benefit), and *Amanah* (trustworthiness) are not merely moral ideals but actionable principles that govern both individual conduct and collective innovation.

The absence of these values in mainstream AI ethics education, particularly in engineering and computer science programs, reveals a missed opportunity to nurture ethically conscious professionals who are not only technically competent but also morally grounded. Embedding religion-and-culture-informed ethics into AI curricula presents a critical and timely intervention. This approach situates AI ethics not just as a technical or legalistic concern but as a spiritual and moral responsibility that spans societal, ecological, and eschatological dimensions.

As a Muslim majority nation with a maturing digital ecosystem, Malaysia is well-positioned to take the lead in pioneering such a framework. The integration of Islamic ethical principles into AI education could place Malaysia at the forefront of a decolonial and pluralistic approach to AI ethics, one that values not only global technological standards but also indigenous moral philosophies. In doing so, Malaysia could serve as a model for other nations grappling with how to align emerging technologies with culturally rooted ethical values.

In conclusion, the bibliometric evidence strongly suggests that while global interest in AI ethics is growing, it remains structurally imbalanced. There is an urgent need to broaden the scope of AI ethics discourse by embracing faith-informed frameworks that are not only relevant to Muslim societies but also enrich the global conversation on ethical and responsible AI development. Islamic ethics, grounded in *Tawhid*, *Adl*, *Maslahah*, and *Amanah*, offers a deeply principled and socially conscious foundation for constructing more inclusive, spiritually aware, and ethically robust AI ecosystems.

5. CONCLUSION

This bibliometric study offers the first comprehensive mapping of literature on religion- and culture-based ethical frameworks in artificial intelligence, with a particular emphasis on Islamic perspectives. The analysis covered publication trends, key contributors, thematic clusters, and keyword structures across 63 documents published between 2017 and 2025. Findings indicate that while the field is still emerging, there is a sharp upward trajectory in scholarly interest, especially post-2022, driven by global debates on AI fairness, ethical inclusivity, and culturally grounded governance. This study highlights the growing recognition that AI ethics must not be monolithic or culturally neutral. Rather, it must embrace diverse moral traditions and worldviews to ensure inclusive and socially accountable innovation. Religion and cultural perspectives, especially those rooted in Islamic thought, are beginning to enrich this landscape and offer pathways for more value-sensitive, spiritually aware, and just AI systems.

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