

TOURISM RESEARCH ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

TURİZM ALANINDA ÇEVRESEL ADALET ÇALIŞMALARI: BİBLİYOMETRİK BİR ANALİZ

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ABSTRACT

Tourism plays a significant role in economic development and job creation; however, it also causes environmental changes and impacts local communities. Research conducted from an environmental justice perspective is crucial to promote resource conservation and protect the rights of local populations. The study aims to review the literature on environmental justice in the tourism sector, contribute to the knowledge base, and examine the social and academic implications of the findings. A bibliometric analysis of 86 studies indexed in the WoS database (1999–2024) is conducted to identify leading journals, authors, countries, keywords, and themes. The findings reveal a substantial increase in research in this field, with the United States emerging as a key contributing country. Prominent themes include social and environmental justice, equity, ecotourism, urban contexts, ethics, conservation studies, and ethnographic research. The study underscores the importance of environmental justice in tourism and offers valuable insights to guide future research and policymaking processes.

Keywords: Environmental Justice, Tourism, Policy, Bibliometric Analysis.


JEL Classification Codes: F64, Z32, F68, Z00.


ÖZ

Turizm, ekonomik kalkınma ve istihdam yaratmada önemli bir rol oynasa da çevresel değişimlere ve yerel topluluklar üzerinde etkiler yaratmaya neden olmaktadır. Kaynakların korunmasını teşvik etmek ve yerel halkın haklarını korumak için çevresel adalet perspektifinden yapılan araştırmalar büyük önem taşımaktadır. Bu çalışma, turizm sektöründe çevresel adalet üzerine yapılan literatürü incelemeyi, bilgi birikimine katkı sağlamayı ve bulguların sosyal ve akademik etkilerini ele almayı amaçlamaktadır. WoS veritabanında yer alan 86 çalışma (1999–2024) bibliyometrik analiz yöntemiyle incelenmiş ve önde gelen dergiler, yazarlar, ülkeler, anahtar kelimeler ve temalar belirlenmiştir. Sonuçlar, bu alandaki araştırmaların önemli ölçüde arttığını ve ABD'nin önde gelen katkı sağlayan bir ülke olduğunu göstermektedir. Öne çıkan temalar arasında sosyal ve çevresel adalet, eşitlik, ekoturizm, kentsel bağlamlar, etik, koruma çalışmaları ve etnografik araştırmalar yer almaktadır. Bu çalışma, turizmde çevresel adalet konusunun önemini vurgulamakta ve gelecekteki araştırmalar ile politika geliştirme süreçlerine yönelik değerli bilgiler sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çevresel Adalet, Turizm, Politika, Bibliyometrik Analiz.

JEL Sınıflandırma Kodları: F64, Z32, F68, Z00.

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GENİŞLETİLMİŞ ÖZET

Amaç ve Kapsam:

Bilimsel literatürde genel anlamı ile çevreye daha az zarar veren bir sektör olarak kabul edilen turizm, iş olanaklarının yaratılması ve ekonomik kalkınma aracı olarak görülmektedir. Diğer taraftan turizmin gelişimi ile birlikte çevresel dönüşüm de tetiklenmekte, yerel halk ve doğal kaynaklar olumsuz etkilenmektedir. Son zamanlarda turizm endüstrisinin olumsuz etkilerine ilgi, akademik araştırmalar içerisinde giderek artmaktadır. Bu bağlamda doğal kaynaklara eşitsiz erişim, çevresel risklerin ve zararların adaletsiz dağılımına eleştirel bir bakış sunan çevresel adalet kavramı turizm ile ilgili literatürde de ilgi odağı haline gelmeye başlamıştır. . Bu çalışma ile turizm alanında çevresel adalet kavramına yönelik çalışmaların kapsamlı bir şekilde literatür analizinin sunulması ve ortaya çıkan bulgular üzerinden toplumsal ve akademik etkilerin tartışılması amaçlanmaktadır.

Yöntem:

Bu çalışmada bibliyometrik analiz tekniği kullanılarak çevresel adalet konulu turizm çalışmalarına ilişkin görsel haritalar oluşturulmuş ve alana dair gözlemler sunulmuştur. Bibliyometrik analizlerle bilimsel yayınlar sayısal yöntemler ile incelenmekte ve alanın genel eğilimleri ve yapısı ortaya çıkarılmaktadır. Web of Science (WoS) veri tabanında indekslenmiş ve 1999-2024 yılları arasında yayınlanmış, turizm alanında çevresel adalet konusunu ele alan 86 çalışma, konu ile ilgili öncü dergilerin, yazarların ve ülkelerin tespit edilmesi amacı ile incelenmiştir. Ayrıca bu çalışmaların anahtar kelimeleri ve tematik unsurlarının da belirlenmesi amacı ile bibliyometrik analizler, Microsoft Office Excel, VosViewer ve R Studio Bibliometrix (biblioshiny) programları kullanılarak gerçekleştirilmiştir. Bu araçlar araştırma alanındaki eğilimleri, yazarlar arasındaki iş birliği ağlarını, alanın tematik yapısını ortaya koymak amacı ile bibliyometrik analizlerde geniş bir kullanım alanına sahip olmaktadır.

Bulgular:

Bibliyometrik analiz sonuçları çevresel adalet konusunun turizm araştırmaları içerisinde kayda değer bir şekilde artış gösterdiğini ortaya koymuştur. Konu ile ilgili önemli katkıya sahip ülkenin 40 çalışma ile Amerika Birleşik Devletleri, en yaygın belge türünün ise makale olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Akademik kaynaklar içerisinde ise dergilerin ön planda olduğu görülmektedir. “Journal of Sustainable Tourism” dergisi ise 7 çalışma ile alana en çok katkı sağlayan dergi olarak öne çıkmaktadır. Turizm alanında çevresel adalet konulu çalışmaların yayınlandığı dergilerin alanlar bazındaki dağılımı incelendiğinde en çok çalışmanın her biri 28 çalışma olmakla “Çevresel çalışmalar” ve “Konaklama, boş zaman, spor ve turizm” alanlarında yayın yapan dergilerde gerçekleştirildiği görülmektedir. Yazarların atıf ağlarının belirlenmesine yönelik gerçekleştirilen analizde yazarın katkıda bulunduğu çalışma sayısı ve aldığı atıf sayısının 1 olması kriteri uygulanmış ve bu kriteri karşılayan 156 yazar olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Bu yazarlar içerisinde ise aralarında en güçlü bağlantı oluşturan 27 yazar ve 7 bağlantı kümesi olduğu tespit edilmiştir. En güçlü bağlantı gücüne sahip yazarın ise 16 bağlantı gücü ile Floyd, M.F (atıf sayısı 103) isimli yazar olduğu görülmüştür. Yazarlar içerisinde en yüksek atıf sayısına sahip yazar olan (478 atıf) Mcabee, K. isimli yazarın ise toplam bağlantı gücünün 3 olması ise dikkat çekici bulgu olarak öne çıkmıştır. Dokümanların atıf ağına dair gerçekleştirilen analizde ise belgelerin en az 1 atıf alması kriteri uygulanmıştır. Analiz sonuçlarına göre ise 86 çalışma içerisinde toplam 67 çalışma bu kriteri karşılamış, en kuvvetli bağlantıyı ise 5 bağlantı kümesi ile 13 çalışma oluşturmuştur. En güçlü atıf ağı bağlantısına sahip çalışma atıf sayısı 103, toplam bağlantı gücü 7 olan Floyd ve Johnson (2002) olmuştur. Çalışmaların ortak atıf durumunun ortaya çıkarılması için gerçekleştirilen belgelerin bibliyografik analiz için her belgenin en az 1 atıf alması kriteri uygulanmıştır. Bu kriteri sağlayan 67 belge içerisinde en güçlü eşleşmeye sahip 59 belgenin 10 küme ve toplam 277 bağlantı oluşturduğu ve toplam bağlantı gücünün ise 501 olduğu tespit edilmiştir. En çok bibliyografik eşleşme düzeyine sahip belge 5 atıf sayısına ve 64 bağlantı gücüne sahip Munar ve Jamal (2016) olmaktadır. Alan içerisinde ve alanlar arası en çok atıf alan çalışmaların belirlenmesi amacı ile gerçekleştirilen analiz sonuçlarına göre ise alan içerisinde en çok atıf alan çalışmanın 7 atıfı Floyd ve Johnson (2002), alanlar arasında ise 478 atıf sayısı ile Mcabee (1999) olduğu görülmektedir. Konu ile ilgili en çok yayın üreten yazarların tespit edilmesi amacı ile gerçekleştirilen analiz sonucuna göre bu yazarların her birinin en fazla iki çalışması olduğu görülmektedir. Diğer taraftan ise bu yazarların hiçbirinin en çok atıf alan yazarlar listesinde yer almaması dikkat çekici bir bulgu olmaktadır. Floyd, M.F ve Johnson, C.Y her biri 7 çalışmayla konu ile ilgili en çok atıf alan yazar olarak ortaya çıkmaktadır. Çalışma anahtar kelimeleri ve artı anahtar kelimeleri üzerinden yapılan tematik analiz sonuçları incelendiğinde ele alınan problemler içerisinde sosyal konular, sosyal-çevresel adalet, eşitlik, erişim, kalite, ekoturizm, kentsel bağlamlar, etik, koruma stratejileri ile ilgili konuların sıklıkla ele alındığı gözlemlenmiştir. Ayrıca çevresel sorunlarla ilgili algı çalışmalarının ve etnografik araştırmaların ön plana çıkan tematik alanlar olduğu belirlenmiştir. Bu bağlamda çevresel adaletin sadece çevresel zarar ve risklerin adaletsiz bir şekilde dağıtılması ile ilgili olmadığını aynı zamanda sosyal adalet ve etik sorunları da kapsadığını söylemek mümkündür. Bu bilgiler ışığında, çevresel adalet ile ilgili turizm çalışmalarında özellikle ekoturizm ve kentsel turizm konularının öne çıkan araştırma alanları olduğu ortaya konulmuştur.

Sonuç ve Tartışma:

Çalışmanın mevcut alan yazına katkıları dört temel açıdan kategorize edilmiştir: (1) alandaki etkili yazarların, ülkelerin, dergilerin ve çalışmaların belirlenmesi; (2) yazarlar arasındaki iş birliği ağlarının haritalandırılması; (3) konu ile ilgili baskın eğilimlerin ve trend konuların belirlenmesi; (4) başlıca tematik alanların ortaya çıkarılması. Genel olarak bu çalışmada çevresel adalet konulu turizm çalışmalarına yönelik bilimsel literatürün derinlemesine bir değerlendirmesi sunulmuş ve alanın gelişimi takip edilmiştir. Çalışma ile mevcut literatür derinlemesine analiz edilmiş ve konu ile ilgili bilgi birikimine katkı sağlanması amaçlanmıştır.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the field of environmental policy, the concept of environmental justice serves as a significant movement and organizing discourse (Schlosberg & Collins, 2014; Taylor, 2000). Moreover, environmental justice is also important for the sustainability of tourism (Peng et al., 2023). The concept of environmental justice, emerging at the intersection of social movements, public policy, and academic research, is characterized as a turning point as it addresses new population groups, issues, and spaces (Sze & London, 2008). Fundamentally, environmental justice is a concept focused on the critical examination of disparities in equitable access to natural resources and the unfair allocation of environmental hazards, (Scott, 2014) has been garnering increasing interest in the academic literature concerning tourism and the broader tourism industry (Hales & Jamal, 2015). The dual pursuit of economic benefits inherent in tourism and the objective of sustainable development often can create conflicts with the rights of local populations and the necessity of environmental protection. In this regard, environmental justice serves as a framework for critically analyzing the multifaceted impacts of tourism activities on communities and for developing strategies to manage these impacts more equitably. In addition, evaluating the growth of tourism through its impacts on affected communities can provide a clear framework for environmental justice (Whyte, 2010).

This research aims to examine the integration of the concept of environmental justice into tourism-related academic studies through bibliometric analysis and to contribute to the development of environmental justice awareness in the field of tourism by enhancing academic knowledge and societal awareness. Bibliometric analysis, as a powerful methodological tool, facilitates the detection of prevailing trends in the literature, the uncovering of research deficiencies, and the delineation of groundbreaking contributions. Furthermore, bibliometric methods allow for the visualization of bibliographic and bibliometric data, thereby uncovering invisible academic networks (Johnson & Samakovlis, 2019). In this study, bibliometric analysis is employed to systematically evaluate the existing literature concerning the overlap of tourism and environmental justice, to illuminate significant academic works, and to identify potential trajectories for future research. It is considered essential for the maturation of tourism research as a field and for the understanding of knowledge formation on this topic to utilize bibliometric analysis. A comprehensive review of both national and international tourism literature reveals a notable gap in academic publications that use bibliometric analysis to focus on the connection between tourism and environmental justice. Considering this significant gap, this study intends to carry out a bibliometric analysis specifically targeting scholarly publications addressing issues of environmental justice within the tourism sector. Given the emerging and relatively under-researched nature of environmental justice in tourism studies, it is expected that this research will yield valuable insights that could inform and guide subsequent academic efforts.

In the subsequent sections of the study, the intricate connection between environmental justice and tourism is explored, followed by a review of the existing research on the topic. The methodology, analytical processes, findings, and conclusions are then presented. In the conclusion section, the findings are synthesized to enhance the understanding of the interaction between the tourism sector and environmental justice, thus establishing a strong basis for future inquiries in this emerging field.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND TOURISM

Environmental justice is a social initiative and theoretical framework that emphasizes the fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, particularly for marginalized and indigenous communities disproportionately affected by environmental policies. It advocates equitable governance and meaningful participation in decisions regarding natural resource management. Studies often focus on inequalities in access to green spaces, injustices in the distribution of environmental risks such as pollution, and issues of power and ownership related to nature and resources (Scott, 2014). One of the core tenets of environmental justice theory is ensuring that individuals, irrespective of race, national origin, or income level, are safeguarded against the unequal effects of environmental hazards (Holifield, 2001). In this context, environmental justice offers a broad framework encompassing the societal norms, principles, regulations, and policies that support communities (Lee & Jamal, 2008).

Environmental justice has faced challenges in being defined as a research field, with the early scientific literature on the topic primarily focusing on “environmental racism”³ by examining the unequal impacts of environmental contamination

³ Chavis and Lee (1987) conducted one of the pioneering studies on environmental racism, examining the stark inequality between the greater exposure of non-white communities to pollution and the inadequate distribution of environmental benefits (Chavis and Lee, 1987; Sze and London, 2008). Another early study, Bullard (1990), drew attention to the systematic placement of hazardous facilities predominantly in

on racial minorities. However, more recently, the issue of “environmental inequality” has gained prominence, addressing the disproportionate exposure to environmental impacts based on class, gender, and immigration status. Rooted in the concept of equality, “environmental justice” emerged as a social movement in the United States in the 1980s in response to these specific issues (Sze & London, 2008; Morea, 2021). Today, environmental justice has become a significant topic in environmental discourses, with calls for environmental equity and justice becoming integral to major environmental negotiations (Ali, 2001). Moreover, as an emerging development issue, environmental justice aims to combat legal discrimination and poverty while reducing inequality (undp.org, 2014), emphasizing that oppressive and harmful conservation practices, marginalization, and dispossession are unsustainable (Morea, 2021).

Tourism practices within the framework of environmental justice have been explored in pioneering studies. McAfee (1999) examines the relationship between biodiversity, environmental protection, and economic development, emphasizing the need for inclusive approaches that prioritize local communities’ rights and sustainability over commodifying nature. Lee and Jamal (2008) advocate for integrating sustainable tourism with environmental justice, focusing on the rights of disadvantaged communities. Morea (2021) highlights the importance of social feedback in achieving equitable environmental governance in tourism. Whyte (2010) proposes equitable representation of indigenous communities and tailoring tourism projects to their needs. Camargo (2007) introduces concepts like cultural justice and equity into sustainable tourism frameworks. Blackford (2004) underscores how tourism-driven economic growth often disproportionately affects vulnerable groups, advocating a balance between economic benefits and cultural and environmental preservation. Otto (2017) links degrowth and environmental justice, analyzing the social and ecological impacts of projects promoting tourism and development.

Procedural justice and distributive justice are fundamental analytical frameworks in environmental justice research (Schroeder et al., 2008). Distributive justice typically emphasizes the disparities in the allocation of environmental risks and benefits, both human and natural. Recently, it has expanded to encompass more than just environmental risks, considering environmental benefits as a crucial element of societal well-being and focusing more on the distribution of essential goods (such as clean air and water) and green spaces that provide urban ecosystem services (such as parks and communal gardens) (Kato-Huerta & Geneletti, 2023; Schroeder, 2008). In the sphere of tourism, distributive justice can involve access to natural and tourism resources, water consumption, water supply in tourism development, wastewater treatment (Draper, 1997), sustainable water use (Gössling, 2001), the interplay between public health, water consumption, and tourism development (Stonich, 1998), the management of water resources in tourist destinations, the establishment of desalination plants (Ukayli & Husain, 1988), displacement, changes in land use (Sirima and Backman, 2013; Cocola-Gant, 2023), public health (Richter, 2003), and economic equality (Lee, 2007). Procedural justice, a relatively newer concept compared to distributive justice (Skinner-Thompson, 2022), focuses on how environmental decisions are made (Lee & Jamal, 2008) and is defined as justice derived from a state’s fair and impartial institutional processes (Schlosberg, 2007). Procedural justice in tourism often relates to the involvement of local communities and NGOs in the formation of tourism policies (Whyte, 2010; Muganda et al., 2013; Bramwell, 2014; Clausen, 2019), fostering collaboration, and addressing planning and decision-making processes based on community-oriented approaches (Lee & Jamal, 2008). Various tourism-related issues can be examined through the lenses of distributive and procedural justice. However, some studies (Ukayli & Husain, 1988; Draper, 1997) suggest that the framework for environmental justice and the connection between environmental justice and tourism remains underdeveloped.

Environmental justice is a critical element in the tourism sector, emphasizing the importance of balancing environmental concerns with social welfare in tourism destinations (Wibowo & Nur, 2024). However, the lack of interest in research on justice and equity in the interactions between people and their environment is rather surprising, as equity is one of the core principles of sustainable development practices and responsible tourism. While scientific studies over the last two decades on environmental conservation, eco-tourism, protected areas, and geo-tourism have drawn considerable focus on environmental disparities, the analysis of environmental justice issues has remained underdeveloped. Despite tourism being deeply intertwined with and reliant on ecological systems, the absence of environmental justice principles in tourism studies is particularly noteworthy (Lee & Jamal, 2008).

non-white communities in the southern United States. This study is groundbreaking as it was the first to link the placement of hazardous facilities in these areas to historical patterns of spatial discrimination in the context of environmental racism. Bullard identified that non-white communities were deliberately targeted for unwanted waste, and this practice stemmed from both historical and modern forms of institutional racism. Bullard’s report is a landmark study that systematically analyses the racial nature of exposure to hazardous waste (Bullard, 1990; Mohai et al., 2009; create.umn.edu, 2020).

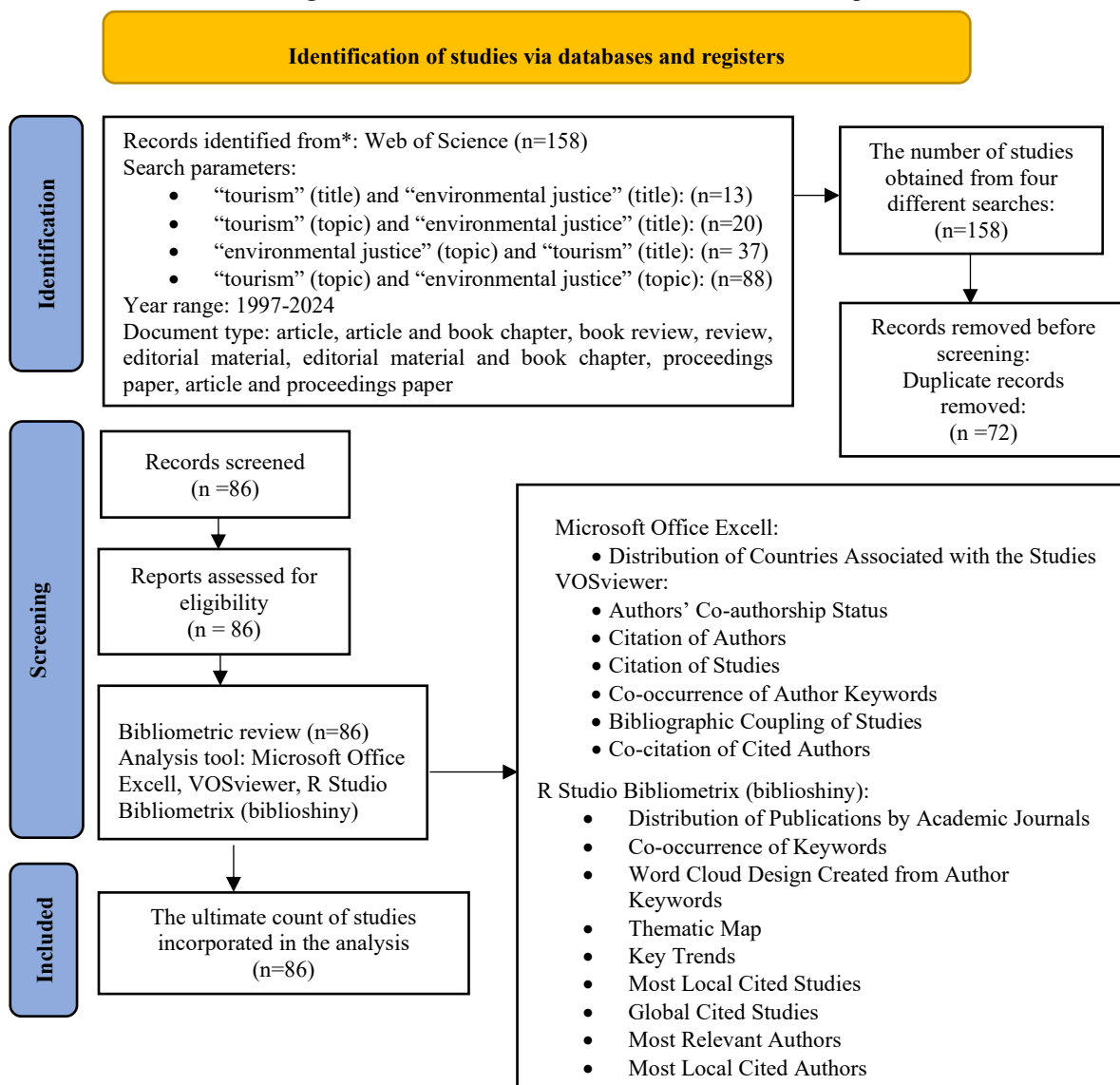
3. METHOD

Bibliometric analyses, an integral component of research assessment methods (Ellegaard & Wallin, 2015), are a valuable tool for objectively assessing academic productivity (Yıldırım et al., 2015). Furthermore, bibliometric analyses play a crucial role in mapping progress and identifying gaps within specific research fields. These methods are divided into two types: evaluative and relational. Evaluative techniques involve the analysis of studies based on citation counts, author contributions, distribution of publication years, number of journals, number of authors, and institutions. Relational methodologies, on the other hand, are more sophisticated and concentrate on analysing the connections between parameters such as authors, journals, citations, and institutions (Ülker et al., 2023). Commonly used to summarize the key findings from a collection of documents on various topics, bibliometric analysis has also become widely utilized in tourism research (Leong et al., 2021).

3.1. Data Collection Process

The data for this study were obtained from the Web of Science (WoS) database on July 29, 2024. WoS was considered appropriate for data collection in this study, as it is widely used and recognized as one of the most preferred options for bibliometric analysis of scientific publications (Han et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2013).

Figure 1. Literature Review Process on the Relevant Topic



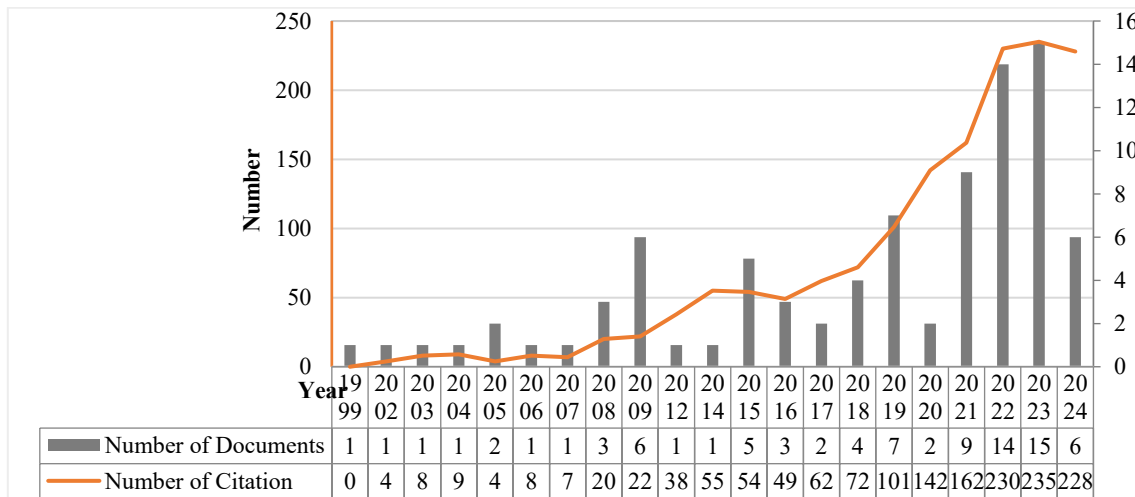
In bibliometric analyses, studies related to a specific topic are examined based on various parameters, and the findings are presented accordingly (Baysal, 2023). To access studies related to environmental justice within the tourism literature and ensure greater accuracy in the content, the search parameters were set as follows: “tourism” (title) and “environmental justice” (title), “tourism” (topic) and “environmental justice” (title), “environmental justice” (topic) and “tourism” (title), and “tourism” (topic) and “environmental justice” (topic). In cases where the number of studies on a specific topic is limited, it may be necessary to restrict the selection of documents based on their titles (Soh et al., 2023). The authors determined these parameters to comprehensively and specifically encompass scientific studies at the intersection of environmental justice and tourism. They were systematically designed to search the relevant literature thoroughly. Specifically, the terms “tourism” and “environmental justice” in both titles and topic fields stem from the frequent contextual use of these terms in academic writing. It was considered essential to employ these parameters to ensure that studies focusing on environmental justice in tourism, which are central to the research, would not be excluded from the analysis. After excluding 72 duplicate studies from the 158 obtained through these four different searches, a total of 86 studies were included in the analyses. These studies were analyzed using Microsoft Office Excel, VosViewer, and R Studio Bibliometrix (biblioshiny).

4. FINDINGS

4.1. Literature Growth

The distribution of tourism studies focusing on environmental justice, obtained through searches in the WoS database, is presented in Figure 2 according to publication years. While the first study on environmental justice within tourism research was conducted in 1999, no related studies were published until 2002. Between 1999 and 2009, there was a trend of increasing numbers of studies; however, no significant changes occurred during this period. In contrast, the period from 2009 to 2021 exhibited fluctuations in the number of publications.

Figure 2. The Evolution of Publications on Environmental Justice in Tourism Literature over the Years



After 2021, a consistent rise in the volume of studies is observed. The peak in the number of publications during 2022 and 2023 indicates that interest in the topic of environmental justice in the tourism discipline continues to grow. By July 2024, the total number of publications was six, suggesting that this trend is likely to persist. In summary, it can be stated that the literature on this topic is maintaining a steady growth rate, and the development is still in its early stages.

4.2. Publication Type

The types of studies conducted on environmental justice in the field of tourism are presented in Table 1. Among the works published from 1999 to 2024, it is observed that the most common document type is journal articles, which account for approximately 75.58% of the total.

Table 1. Distribution of Studies by Publication Type

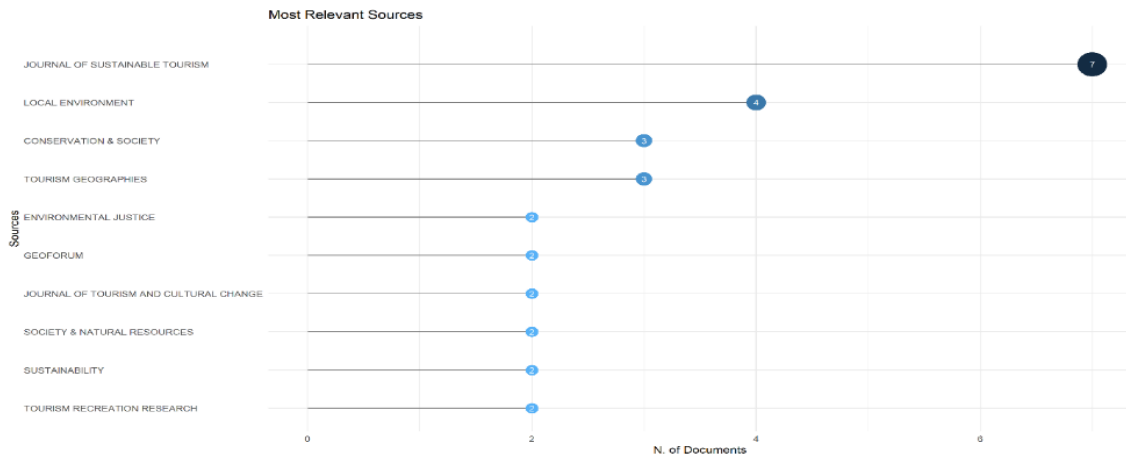
Publication Type	n	%
Article	65	75.58
Article; Book Chapter	8	9.30
Book Review	5	5.81
Review	3	3.48
Editorial Material	2	2.32
Editorial Material; Book Chapter	1	1.16
Proceedings Paper	1	1.16
Article; Proceedings Paper	1	1.16
Total	86	100

The second most common document type is both articles and book chapters, accounting for 9.30%. Book reviews comprise 5.81% of all studies.

4.3. Most Relevant Sources

To identify the academic sources in which the studies were published, 86 studies were included in the analysis using the R Studio Bibliometrix program, and the findings are illustrated in Figure 3. A total of 67 academic sources were identified; however, the analysis was conducted based on sources with at least two publications. It is evident that journals are prominent among the academic sources, and the sources with two or more publications are predominantly journals.

Figure 3. Distribution of Publications by Academic Journals



Within the journals focusing on environmental justice in tourism, the Journal of Sustainable Tourism stands out as the leading journal with seven studies. This is followed by the Local Environment journal with four studies, and both Conservation & Society and Tourism Geographies journals, each with three studies.

4.4. Analysis of Keywords

In bibliometric analyses, keyword analysis plays a crucial role in identifying the most popular topics (Ellegard & Wallin, 2015). This is because using keywords provides an additional feature that reflects the content of a document and the definition of a research area (Gurtu et al., 2015). Insights into the keywords derived from publications categorized as articles, both articles and book chapters, conference papers, and both conference papers and articles are presented in Table 2, Figure 4, Figure 5, Figure 6, and Figure 7.

The studies considered in this analysis, a total of 414 keywords were used. Keywords that were repeated two or more times are presented in Table 2. Keywords used only once in the studies are categorized under “others.” When

the distribution of keywords is analysed, it is observed that the most frequently repeated keyword is “environmental justice.” The other most used keywords are “tourism” (11) and “political ecology” (5), respectively.

Table 2. Distribution of Keywords

Keywords	Frequency (%)	Keywords	Frequency of Repetition (%)
Environmental Justice	29 (7 %)	Social and Environmental Justice	2 (0.48 %)
Tourism	11(2.65 %)	Social Capital	2 (0.48 %)
Political Ecology	5 (1.20 %)	Social Justice	2 (0.48 %)
Conservation	4 (0.96 %)	Sustainable Tourism	2 (0.48 %)
Protected Areas	4 (0.96 %)	Tourism Planning	2 (0.48 %)
Tourism Development	4 (0.96%)	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	2 (0.48 %)
Climate Change	4 (0.96 %)	Well-Being	2 (0.48 %)
Degrowth	3 (0.72 %)	Museums	2 (0.48 %)
Green Space	3 (0.72 %)	Eco-Tourism	3 (0.72 %)
Outdoor Recreation	3 (0.72 %)	Ethnography	3 (0.72 %)
Over-Tourism	3 (0.72 %)	Equity	2 (0.48 %)
Stakeholder	3 (0.72 %)	Gentrification	2 (0.48 %)
Sustainable Development	3 (0.72 %)	Human Geography	2 (0.48 %)
Water	3 (0.72 %)	Indigenous	2 (0.48 %)
Capitalism	2 (0.48 %)	Inequality	2 (0.48 %)
Caribbean	2 (0.48 %)	Justice	2 (0.48 %)
Circular Economy	2 (0.48 %)	Costa Rica	2 (0.48 %)
Community	2 (0.48 %)	COVID-19	2 (0.48 %)
Ecological Restoration	2 (0.48 %)	Environmental Protection	2 (0.48 %)
Ecosystem Services	2 (0.48 %)		
Others	280 (67.63 %)		
Total	414 (100 %)		

The conceptual consistency of word phrases and the network of relationships between keywords were visually mapped using RStudio Bibliometrix and VOSviewer software, as presented in Figure 4 (a; b; c). The conceptual consistency of the keywords included in the reviewed studies was revealed through a co-occurrence analysis. The co-occurrence analysis was conducted using RStudio Bibliometrix in Figure 4 (a) and VOSviewer in Figure 4 (b), based on “author keywords.” “Author keywords,” defined as the keywords selected and generated by the authors, play a significant role in condensing and illustrating the essence of scientific publications (Lu et al., 2020).

Upon examining Figure 4 (a), it can be observed that there are four clusters of interconnected keywords. The most densely connected cluster forms around the term “environmental justice.” The term “environmental justice” establishes a stronger network of relationships with terms such as “tourism,” “Costa Rica,” “ecotourism,” “water,” “social capital,” “ethnography,” “outdoor recreation,” “sustainable tourism,” and “protected areas” (Figure 4 (a)). To reveal the total strength of the connections, “author keywords” that appeared more than twice were subjected to a co-occurrence analysis using the VOSviewer program, and the results are presented in Figure 4 (b). Upon examining the resulting visual map, it is observed that the strongest relationship networks are formed around the phrase “environmental justice,” “tourism,” “climate change,” and “political ecology.” The total strength of the connections provided by VOSviewer are as follows: “environmental justice” (46); “tourism” (27); “climate change” (12); and “political ecology” (11).

In Figure 4 (c), a visual map illustrating the findings from the co-occurrence analysis of “keywords plus,” as conducted through the RStudio Bibliometrix program, is presented. “Keywords Plus” refers to terms produced through an automated computer algorithm that analyzes the words and phrases in the titles of the references cited by authors. These terms are crucial for a more comprehensive examination of the academic literature. In the long term, “keywords plus” can provide insights into research trends within a specific discipline. Both “author

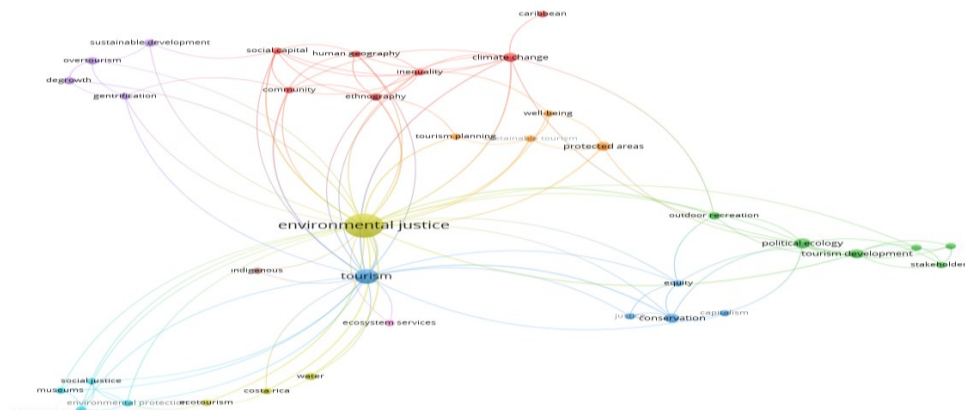
keywords” and “keywords plus” can present the knowledge structure of a topic and the connections between different research areas. In some cases, “keywords plus” can be more explanatory than the keywords assigned by the authors (Zhang et al., 2016; Tripathi et al., 2018). Upon examining the visual map, it is evident that the outcomes of the co-occurrence analysis of Keywords Plus (Figure 4 (a and b)) align closely with those of the co-occurrence analysis of author keywords (Figure 4 (c)). The visual map of the co-occurrence of keywords plus analysis reveals that the term “environmental justice” holds the most substantial network of connections. Other major clusters with significant relationship networks are formed around the terms “tourism” and “conservation.”

Figure 4. Visual Map of Keywords

(a) Co-occurrence of Author Keywords (RStudio Bibliometrix)



(b) Co-occurrence of Author Keywords (VOSviewer)



(c) Co-occurrence of Keywords Plus (RStudio Bibliometrix)

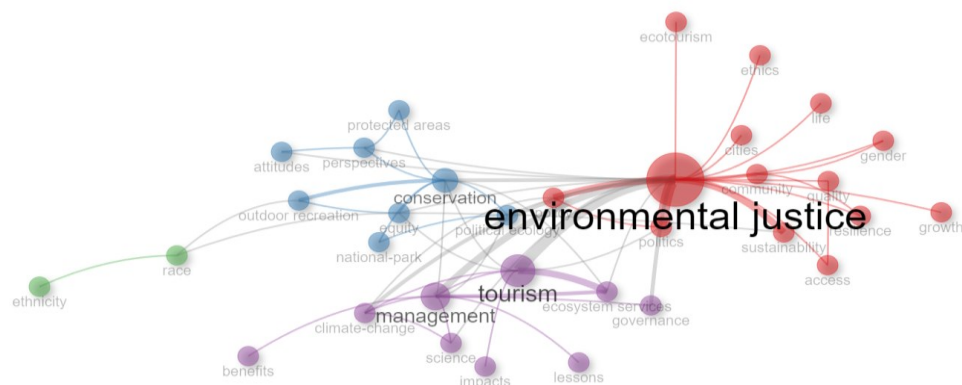


Figure 5. Word Cloud Design Created from Author Keywords

Figure 5 illustrates a word cloud created based on author keywords using the RStudio Bibliometrix program. Upon examining this word cloud, we can observe that it aligns with the results of the co-occurrence analyses. Similarly, the term “environmental justice” also stands out prominently in the word cloud. Other dominant terms, in order of prominence, include “tourism,” “political ecology,” “tourism development,” “climate change,” “protected areas,” “sustainable development,” “conservation,” “degrowth,” and “overtourism.” When both the visual maps of the co-occurrence of author keywords and co-occurrence of keywords plus analyses, as well as the word cloud, are examined, it becomes clear that in the studies on environmental justice conducted in the tourism area, themes such as political ecology, degrowth, over-tourism, climate change, protected areas, conservation, degrowth, sustainable development, and management come to the forefront.

To determine the developmental levels of the research fields, a thematic analysis was conducted based on “author keywords” (Figure 6 (a)) and “keywords plus” (Figure 6 (b)).

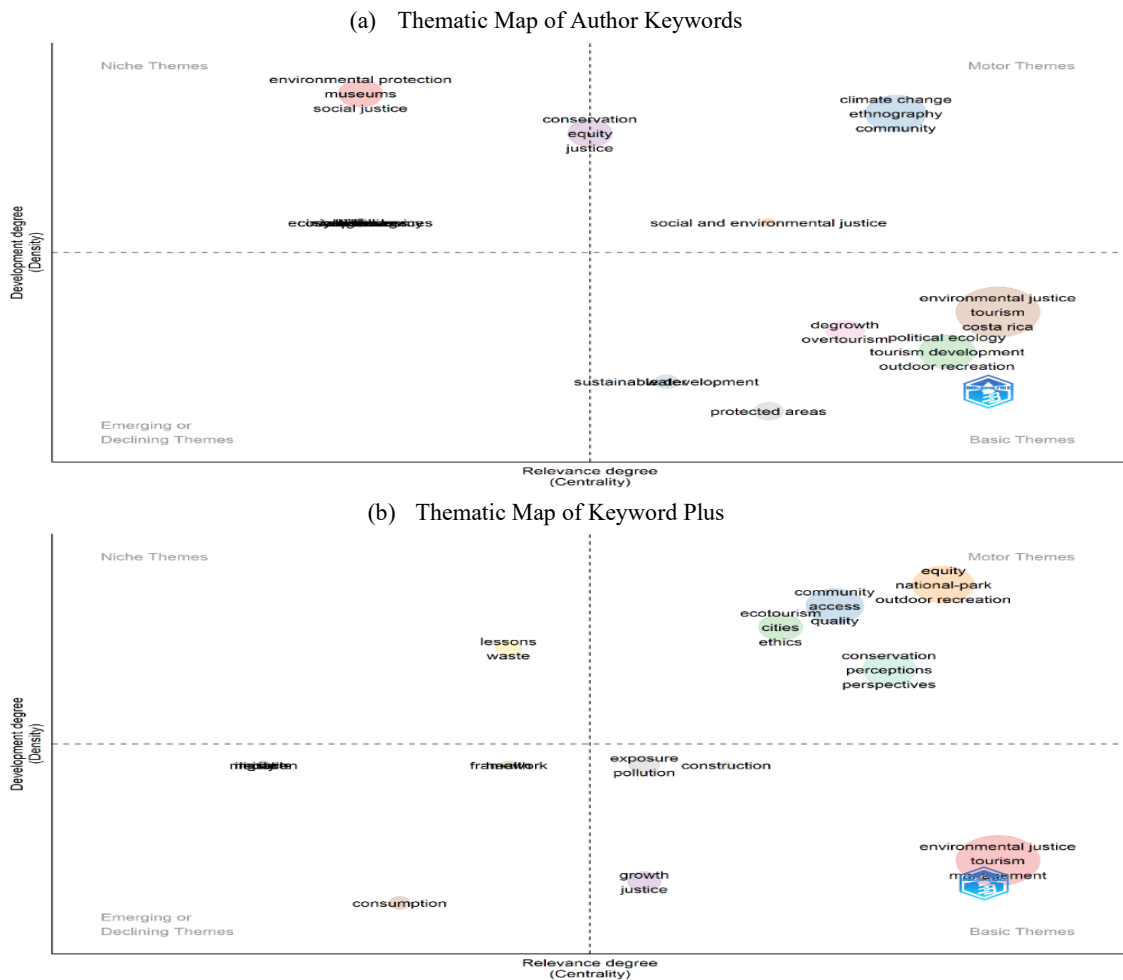
Thematic maps, also referred to as Porter's Strategic Diagram (Anish et al., 2024), categorize themes into four quadrants: motor themes, basic themes, emerging and declining themes, and niche themes (Seçilmiş & Sarı, 2023). In thematic maps, the horizontal axis denotes centrality, while the vertical axis signifies density. The positioning of terms within the quadrants aids in evaluating the significance of themes and the advancement of a particular research domain (Anish et al., 2024). Furthermore, the dimensions of the spheres reflect the quantity of documents linked to each theme or keyword (Ribeiro et al., 2022). Motor themes in the first quadrant include the most important and developing terms in the analysis. Niche themes in the second quadrant are well-developed and important for specific groups of researchers, although not directly related to the subject. The third quadrant contains themes with low development and centrality, representing either emerging or declining topics. The fourth quadrant refers to general terms that can be used in other fields, with lower density compared to motor themes (Anish et al., 2024; Özbakır, 2023).

When examining the thematic map created through “author keywords,” we observe that the motor theme consists of two main clusters. The largest of these themes relates to “climate change,” “ethnography,” and “community.” The other, relatively smaller theme is the “social and environmental justice” theme. Another noteworthy observation is that the themes of “conservation,” “equity,” and “justice” appear in both the niche and motor themes. This indicates that these themes are likely to become important and emerging topics in studies on environmental justice in tourism soon. Given that the topic of environmental justice is new within the tourism discipline, it can be considered normal for closely related themes such as environmental protection, museums, and social justice to fall within the niche theme. Over time, these themes are expected to also move into the motor theme (Figure 6 (a)). In contrast, when examining the thematic map created through “Keywords Plus,” we see four main topic clusters in the motor theme. The largest of these clusters includes topics such as “equity,” “national parks,” and “outdoor recreation.” The second largest cluster includes “conservation,” “perceptions,” and “quality.” “Community,” “transportation,” and “quality” form another large topic cluster, while the smallest cluster contains “ecotourism,” “cities,” and “ethics.” The niche themes portion of the thematic map created through “Keywords Plus” consists of topics like “lessons” and “waste” (Figure 6 (b)). In both thematic maps, created through keywords plus and author keywords, the topic of “community” is placed within the motor themes.

In the basic theme, which contains subject-specific core terms (basic theme), there are a total of five themes, three of which are significant (Figure 6 (a)). The largest topic cluster consists of “environmental justice,” “tourism,” and “Costa Rica.” The second largest cluster includes “political ecology,” “tourism development,” and “outdoor

recreation.” The third cluster, in terms of size, encompasses the topics of “degrowth” and “overtourism.” The topics of “sustainable tourism” and “protected areas” form the two smallest clusters (Figure 6 (a)). In the basic theme section of the thematic map created through “Keywords Plus,” four topic clusters are present. The largest of these includes “environmental justice,” “tourism,” and “management.” The topics of “growth” and “justice” make up another cluster. “Exposure” and “pollution” form the third largest cluster, while “structure” represents the smallest cluster. According to the thematic map generated through “Keywords Plus,” the topic of “consumption” is identified as having low development.

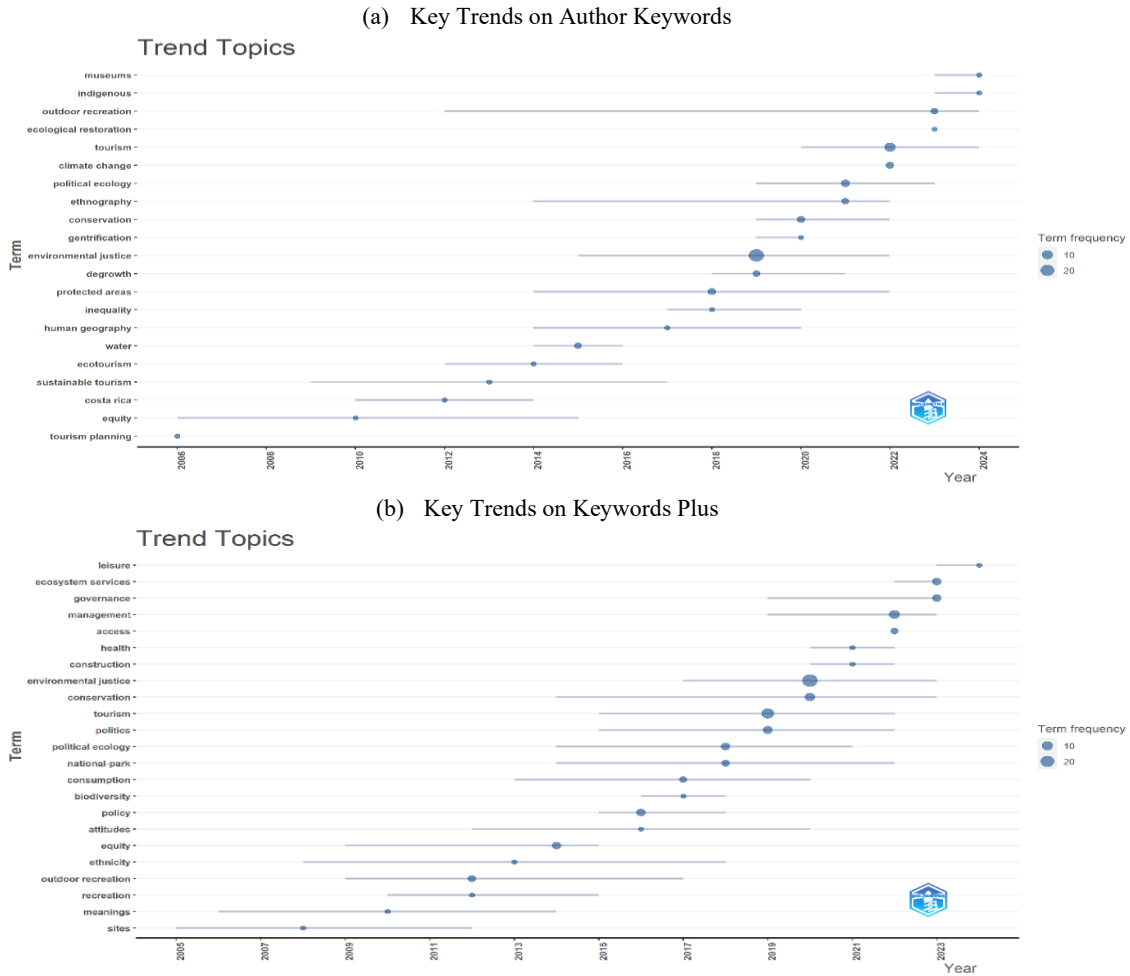
Figure 6. Thematic Map



To examine the progression of studies on environmental justice in tourism and identify trending topics along with the evolution of core thematic areas over time, an analysis was conducted utilizing author keywords and keywords plus in the RStudio Bibliometrix program. The findings of the analysis are illustrated in Figure 7 (a and b). The circles in the graph representing trending topics indicate the number of publications related to the subject. Larger circles visualize topics with a higher number of publications (Arıcı and Pelit, 2021).

During the analysis, it was stipulated that a keyword must have a minimum frequency of occurrence of at least 2, and the number of keywords for each year should also be at least 2. When applying these criteria, the analysis based on author keywords (Figure 7 (a)) considered studies published between 2006 and 2024, revealing a total of 21 research topics as popular subjects. In the analysis based on keywords plus (Figure 7 (b)), studies published between 2005 and 2023 were taken into account, showing the existence of 23 popular research topics.

Figure 7. Evolution of Key Trends in the Subject Over the Years



The analysis based on author keywords (Figure 7 (a)) reveals an increasing interest in topics related to “museums” and “local communities” in 2024. In 2023, issues concerning “outdoor recreation activities” and “ecological restoration” gained significance. The topic of “climate change” was at the center of researchers' attention in 2022. Additionally, the subject of “political ecology,” which was included in tourism research related to environmental justice in 2018, gained popularity in 2021. The theme of “conservation” also became important in 2020. Notably, the trend topic analysis based on author keywords indicates that while issues related to “tourism planning” attracted attention in 2006, they did not show further development afterward (Figure 7 (a)).

In the trend topic analysis based on keywords plus, it is observed that in 2023, the topics of “ecosystem services” and “governance” were at the centre of attention but did not show significant development. Topics such as “management” and “access” were focal points in 2022. In 2019, the subject of “policy” was prominent. A noteworthy nuance in this analysis is that issues related to “outdoor activities” were more frequently studied between 2009 and 2017 but did not show further development as of 2017. This finding contrasts with the results from the analysis based on author keywords, which indicated that topics related to “outdoor activities” became more popular in 2023 and continued to develop through 2024 (Figure 7 (b)).

4.5. Countries

The geographical distribution of studies on environmental justice in the tourism sector by country is presented in map format in Figure 8⁴. Table 3 provides the number and percentage of countries that contributed two or more

⁴ The colour intensity on the map is proportional to the number of publications.

studies to the topic. Upon examining the table, it is evident that 17 countries meet these criteria. The countries of the authors of the studies were considered when creating Figure 8 and Table 3. Countries that contributed with only one study were categorized as “others.”⁵

Figure 8. Distribution of Countries Associated with the Studies

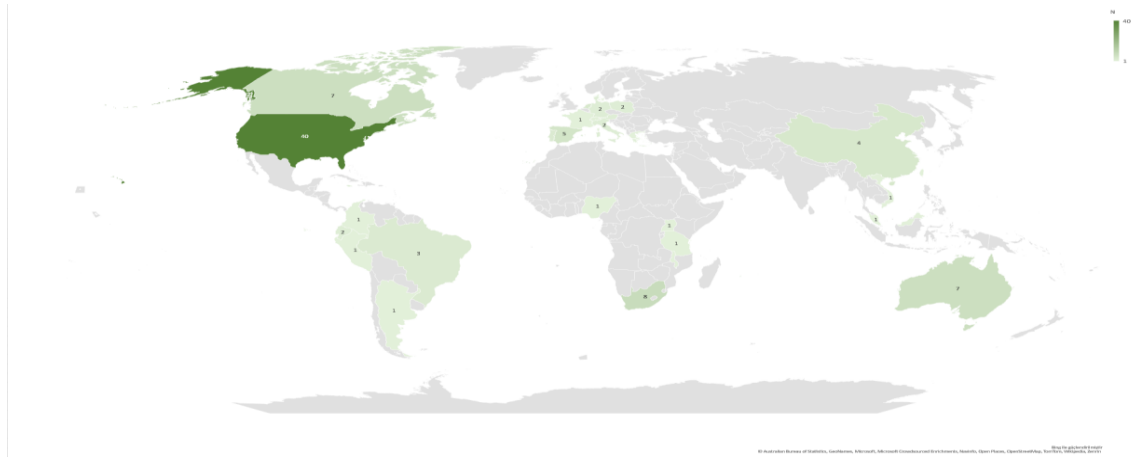


Table 3. Distribution of Countries Associated with the Studies

Countries	N (%)	Countries	N (%)
ABD	40 (46.512 %)	Austria	2 (2.326 %)
England	8 (9.302 %)	Denmark	2 (2.326 %)
S. Africa	8 (9.302 %)	Ecuador	2 (2.326 %)
Australia	7 (8.140 %)	Germany	2 (2.326 %)
Canada	7 (8.140 %)	Italy	2 (2.326 %)
Spain	5 (5.814 %)	Jamaica	2 (2.326 %)
Netherlands	4 (4.651 %)	Poland	2 (2.326 %)
Portugal	3 (3.488 %)	China	4 (4.651 %)
Brazil	3 (3.488 %)		
Others	8 (9.304 %)		

Both the map and Table 3 indicate that the country contributing the most to the topic is the United States, with 40 contributions, accounting for 46% of the total studies (512). The United Kingdom and South Africa rank second, each contributing to 8 studies. Other countries include Australia and Canada, each contributing to 7 studies, Spain with 5, and the Netherlands and China, each with 4 contributions. Brazil and Portugal contributed 3 studies each, while Austria, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, and Poland each contributed 2 studies.

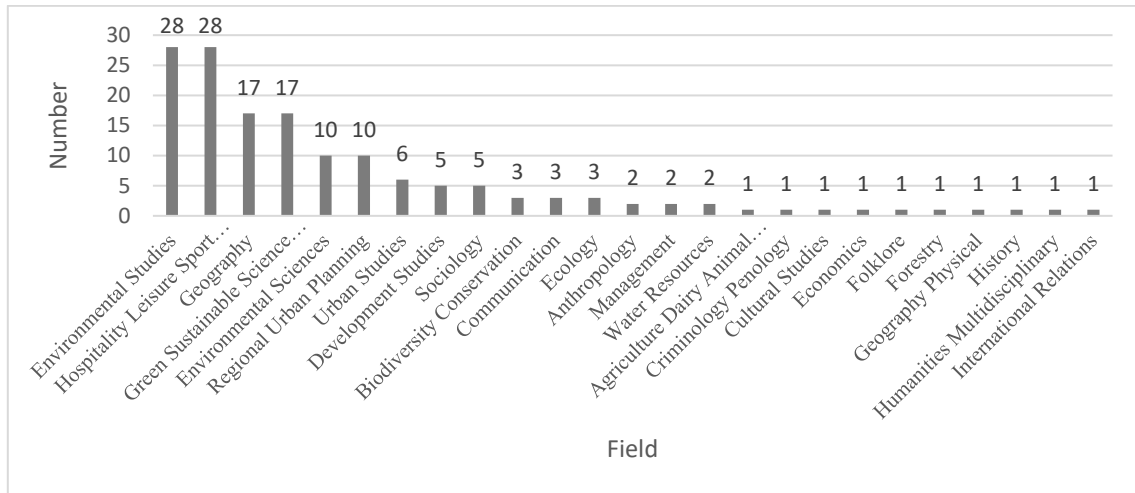
4.6. Fields

When analysing the distribution of studies on environmental justice in the field of tourism by area, it is observed that the highest volume of research is found in the fields of “Environmental Studies” and “Hospitality, Leisure, Sport, and Tourism,” with each having 28 studies.⁶ “Geography” and “Green Sustainable Science Technology” each contributed to 17 studies, while “Environmental Science” and “Regional Urban Planning” each contributed to 10 studies. “Urban Studies” (6), “Development Studies” (5), and “Sociology” (5) have contributed to five or more studies, ranking fourth and fifth, respectively. “Biodiversity Conservation” (3), “Communication” (3), and “Ecology” (3) share the sixth position. “Anthropology,” “Management,” and “Water Resources” each contributed to 2 studies (Figure 9).

⁵ A single study may have authors from multiple countries. An author may contribute to multiple studies. Additionally, a single study may have multiple authors from the same country.

⁶ A single study may utilize multiple fields.

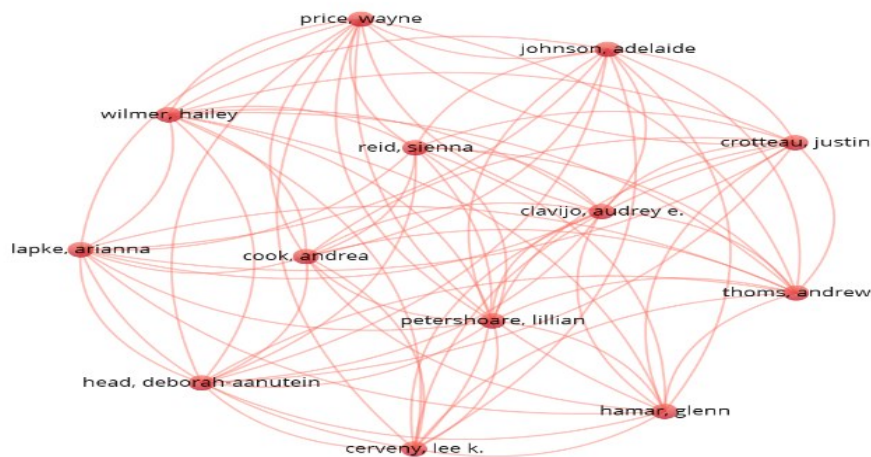
Figure 9. Distribution of Studies by Fields on the Relevant Topic



4.7. Co-authorship Status

The visual map generated using the VOSviewer program, illustrating the findings of the co-authorship analysis of 86 studies on tourism and environmental justice, is presented in Figure 10. The co-authorship analysis aims to identify connections and collaborations among authors (Dirik et al., 2023). During the analysis, a criterion was applied requiring each author to have at least one published work and one citation. This criterion identified a total of 156 authors within the program. Among the clusters formed by these authors, the largest cluster consists of 13 authors who exhibit the highest degree of connections and collaboration. The total number of connections among these authors is 78. Each of these 13 authors has contributed one study related to the topic and has a citation count of 10. Furthermore, each author in this group has a total connection strength of 12 (Figure 10).

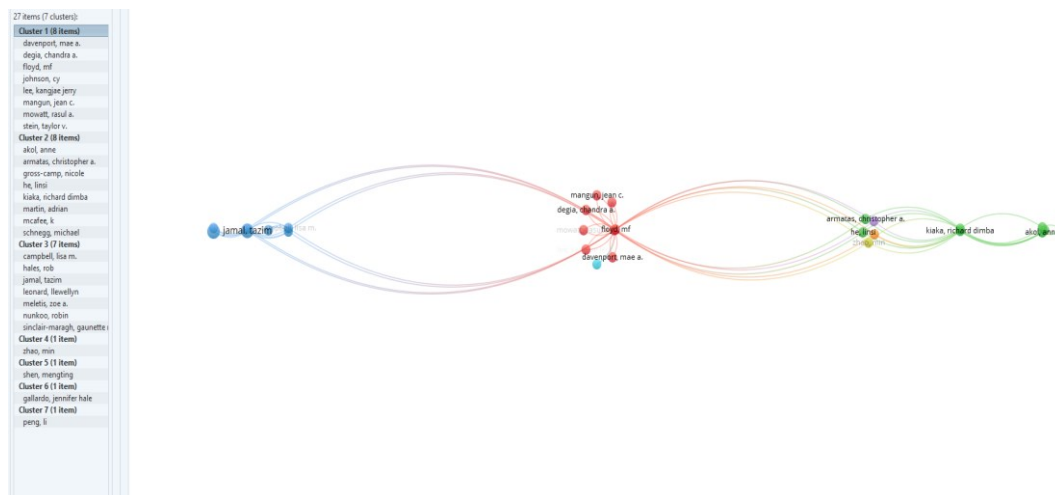
Figure 10. The Visual Map of Authors' Co-authorship Status



4.8. Citation of Authors

The network map for determining authors' citation networks has been generated and visualized using VOSviewer, as presented in Figure 11. The analysis applied a criterion requiring each author to have produced at least one work and received at least one citation. Among the 156 authors meeting this criterion, 27 authors with the strongest connections formed a total of 7 connection clusters and 61 connections.

Figure 11. The Visual Map of Citation of Authors



The authors with the highest connection strength within this group are Floyd, M.F. (citation count: 103) and Johnson, C.Y. (citation count: 103), both having a connection strength of 16, followed by Kiaka, R.D. (citation count: 58) and Schnegg, M. (citation count: 58), each with a connection strength of 8. Notably, in the results of the authors' citation network analysis, McAfee, K., who holds the highest citation count of 478, possesses a total connection strength of 3 (Figure 11).

4.9. Citation of Studies

The conclusions of the citation network analysis conducted using the VOSviewer program are revealed in Figure 12. This analysis is used to identify pioneering studies that facilitate the dissemination of a particular idea within a specific topic or research field over a defined period (Arslan, 2022).

Figure 12. The Visual Map of Citation of Studies



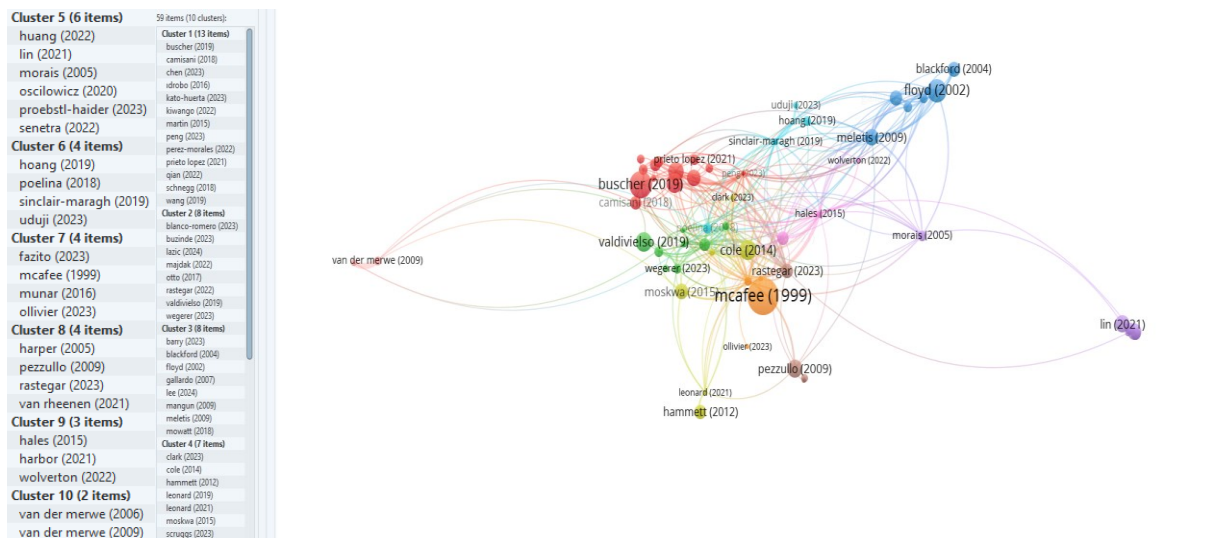
During the analysis, a criterion requiring each document to have received at least one citation was applied, resulting in 67 out of the 86 included studies meeting this criterion. However, a visual map was created based on 13 studies that exhibited strong connections. Upon examining Figure 12, it is evident that these 13 studies form 5 connection clusters and a total of 13 connections. According to the analysis results, the studies with the strongest citation network connections are Floyd and Johnson (2002), with 103 citations and a total connection strength of 7; Meletis and Campbell (2009), with 31 citations and a total connection strength of 3; Schnegg and Kiaka (2018), with 58 citations and a connection strength of 2; and Martin et al. (2015), with 51 citations and a total connection strength

of 2. Additionally, Hales and Jamal (2015) have a citation count of 3 and a total connection count of 3, while Peng et al. (2023) have a citation count of 1 and a total connection count of 2, yet they have established strong connections despite their lower citation counts (Figure 12).

4.10. Bibliographic Coupling of Studies

The outcomes of the bibliographic coupling analysis are presented in the visual map in Figure 13. Bibliographic coupling refers to the situation in which two independent studies cite a common work (Dirik et al., 2023). Introduced to the scientific community by Kessler in the early 1960s through a series of reports and research papers, this method is primarily defined as a method for categorizing technical and scientific documents, thereby facilitating the provision of scientific knowledge and improving document accessibility. The bibliographic coupling analysis is crucial for measuring document similarity, as it establishes cognitive relationships between documents (Jarneving, 2007; Öztürk & Gürlü, 2022).

Figure 13. The Visual Map of Bibliographic Coupling of Studies



A criterion requiring each document to have received at least one citation was applied during the analysis. A total of 67 studies met this criterion, and a visual map representing 59 studies with strong bibliographic coupling is presented in Figure 13. Upon examining Figure 13, it is observed that the 59 studies form a total of 10 clusters and 277 connections, with an overall connection strength of 501. The studies with the highest levels of bibliographic coupling are Munar and Jamal (2016), with 5 citations and a connection strength of 64; Hales and Jamal (2015), with 3 citations and a connection strength of 64; Peng et al. (2023), with 1 citation and a connection strength of 50; and Meletis and Campbell (2009), with 31 citations and a connection strength of 48, sharing the top four positions. Additionally, Floyd and Johnson (2002) received 103 citations, resulting in a total connection strength of 28; Büscher and Fletcher (2019) received 159 citations, with a connection strength of 10; and McAfee (1999) received 478 citations, yielding a connection strength of 2 (Figure 13).

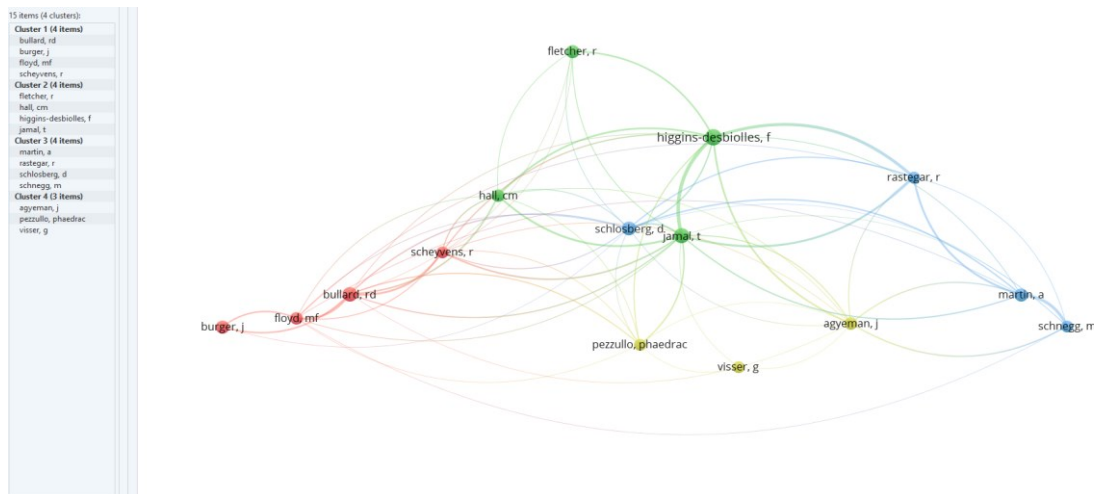
The studies in the clusters resulting from the Bibliographic Coupling analysis have been categorized according to their themes and presented to provide an overview of environmental justice research in tourism. The examination and categorization of the studies included in the clusters according to their themes confirm the consistency of the analysis results (Maseda et al., 2021). In the 1st cluster (red), the studies (Büscher & Fletcher (2019); Camisani (2018); Chen (2023); Idrobo et al., (2016); Kato-Huerta & Geneletti (2023); Kiwango & Mabele (2022); Martin et al., (2015); Peng et al., (2023); Perez-Morales et al., (2022); López et al., (2021); Qian (2022); Schnegg & Kiaka (2018); Wang et al., (2019)) focus on the integration of environmental protection and environmental justice. The studies in the 2nd cluster (green) (Blanco-Romero et al., (2023); Buzinde & Caterina-Knor (2023); Lazic & Lucia (2024); Majdak & Almeida (2022); Otto (2017); Rastegar & Ruhanen (2022); Valdivielso & Moranta (2019); Wegerer & Nadegger (2023)) are primarily concerned with sustainable development, fair governance in tourism, and how justice can be achieved. The studies in the 3rd cluster (blue) (Barry & Teron (2023); Blackford (2004); Floyd & Johnson (2002); Gallardo & Stein (2007); Lee (2024); Mangun et al., (2009); Meletis & Campbell (2009);

Mowatt (2018)) focus on equality and cultural perspectives, addressing issues such as social equality, the protection of cultural values, and the rights of local communities. The studies in the 4th cluster (yellow) (Clark & Nyuapane (2023); Cole (2014); Hammett (2012); Leonard (2019); Leonard & Nunkoo (2021); Moskwa et al., (2015); Scruggs et al., (2023)) examine the relationship between political ecology and tourism, addressing sustainability and power dynamics within environmental and social systems. The studies in the 5th cluster (purple) (Huang et al., (2022); Lin et al., (2021); Morais et al., (2005); Oscilowicz et al (2020); Pröbstl-Haider et al., (2023); Senetra & Szczepanska (2022)) focus on urban green spaces, recreation, and the impact of the pandemic, exploring topics like the pandemic, environmental justice, and urban planning. The studies in the 6th cluster (turquoise) (Hoang & Pulliat (2019); Poelina & Nordensvard (2018); Sinclair-Maragh (2019); Uduji & Okolo-Obasi (2023)) are addressed within the context of ecotourism, indigenous communities, and sustainable development. The studies in the 7th cluster (orange) (Fazito & Vargas (2023); Munar & Jamal (2016); Ollivier et al., (2023); McAfee (1999)) encompass research on biodiversity, environmental development, and socio-ecological systems. The studies on the protection of cultural heritage (Harper (2005); Pezzullo (2009); Rastegar (2022); Van Rheen & Melo (2021)) are found in the 8th cluster (brown). The 9th cluster (pink) (Hales & Jamal (2015); Harbor & Hunt (2021); Wolverton et al., (2022)) contains studies on the representation of Indigenous people in tourism management. The 10th cluster (Van Der Merwe (2009); Van der Merwe (2006)) focuses on research related to urban regeneration and the relationship between environmental justice.

4.11. Co-citation of Cited Authors

The visual map presenting the conclusions of the co-citation analysis conducted through the VOSviewer program is shown in Figure 14. Co-citation analysis is utilized to measure the rate with which two documents, authors, or journals are cited together (Small, 1973; Öztürk and Gürler, 2022).

Figure 14. The Visual Map of Co-citation of Cited Authors

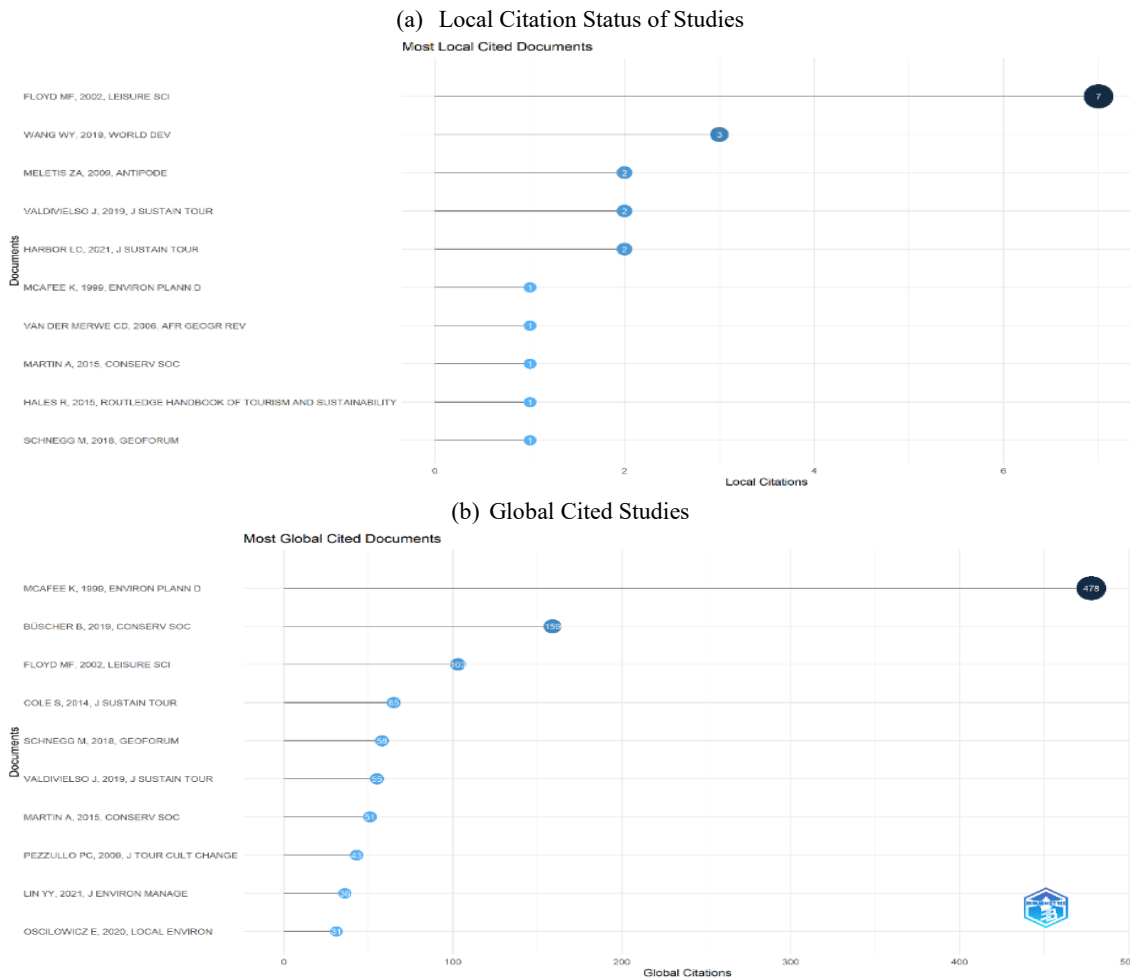


A criterion requiring each author to have at least 10 citations was applied for the co-citation analysis, and the analysis was performed on 15 authors who met this criterion. The results indicate the formation of a total of 4 clusters and 63 connections, with an overall connection strength of 490. According to the analysis results reflecting the co-citation status of the authors, Higgins-Desbiolles, F., with 32 citations, ranks first with a total connection strength of 171. Jamal, T. follows in second place with a total connection strength of 154 and 25 citations. Finally, Visser, G., with 11 citations, ranks last with a total connection strength of 3 (Figure 14). The authors are grouped based on their research areas. The themes have been determined based on the research areas of the authors listed in Web of Science. Authors in the first (red) cluster (Burger, J.; Floyd, M.F.; Bullard, R.D.; Scheyvens, R.) primarily publish in the field of public health, while authors in the second cluster (green) (Fletcher, R.; Hall, C.M.; Higgins-Desbiolles, F.; Jamal, T.) focus on business and economics. Upon examining the research areas of the authors in clusters 3 (blue) (Martin, A.; Rastegar, R.; Schlosberg, D.; Schneegg, M) and 4 (yellow) (Agyeman, J.; Pezzullo, P.; Visser, G.) it can be concluded that these authors work on multidisciplinary topics. The common characteristic of all the authors is that they publish on environmental and environmental justice issues.

4.12. Citation Status of Studies

An analysis was conducted using the RStudio Bibliometrix program to determine the most cited studies within and across fields, and the results are presented in Figure 15. The citation status of studies within a specific field or document set is referred to as “Local Citation Status” (Batsita-Caninon et al., 2023). When examining the local citation status of the studies, it is observed that the most cited study is by Floyd and Johnson (2002), with 7 citations. Wang et al. (2019) follows in second place with 3 citations (Figure 15(a)).

Figure 15. Citation Status of Studies



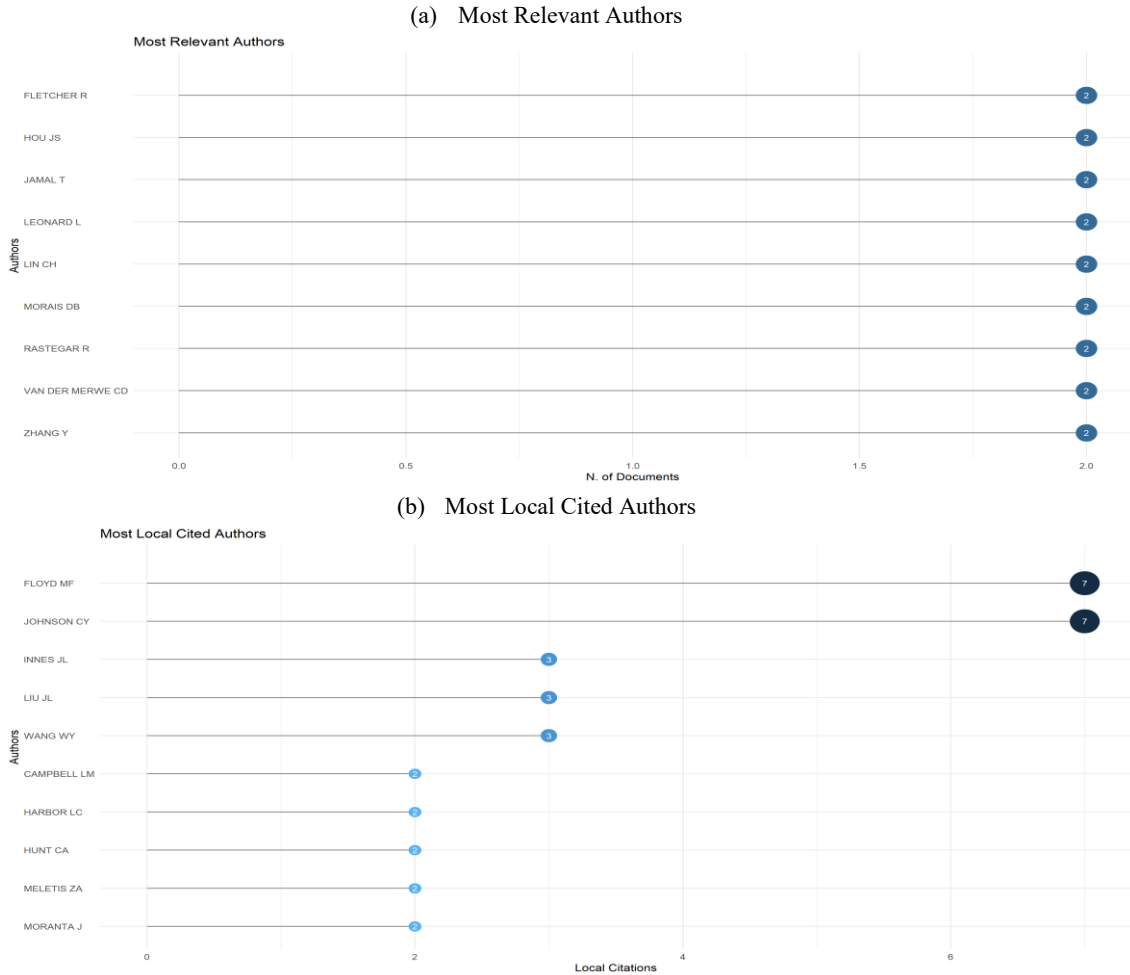
Global citation status, on the other hand, refers to the cumulative citations garnered from various publications in sources such as Scopus, WOS, and Google Scholar (Batsita-Caninon et al., 2023). The visual representation of the global citation status of the publications shows that the most cited study is by McAfee (1999), with a total of 478 citations. Büscher & Fletcher (2019) and Floyd & Johnson (2002) rank second and third, respectively, each having received over 100 citations (Figure 15(b)). McAfee (1999) examines the impact of an approach known as “green developmentalism” on environmental management, biodiversity, and global environmental issues. Büscher and Fletcher (2019) and Floyd and Johnson (2002) rank second and third, respectively, each having received over 100 citations (Figure 15(b)).

4.13. Authors' Relevance to the Subject and Citation Impact

Upon examining Figure 16 (a), it is evident that each of the generating the greatest number of publications in the field has a maximum of two works. Conversely, it is noteworthy that none of these authors appear on the ranking of the most cited authors. It is believed that this could be because the authors' studies have not made a deep impact

in the field, and therefore, they may have received fewer citations. Floyd, M.F. and Johnson, C.Y. emerge as the most cited authors in the field, each with 7 publications (Figure 16(b)).

Figure 16. Authors' Relevance to the Subject and Citation Impact



5. CONCLUSION

This article employs a bibliometric approach to present a comprehensive systematic literature review of academic research conducted on environmental justice within the tourism sector, focusing on studies published between 1999 and 2024. The study makes significant contributions to the existing academic literature in four key aspects: identifying the most prominent scholars, countries, journals, and major works within this discipline; mapping collaboration networks among researchers; determining prevailing trends at the intersection of environmental justice and tourism; and highlighting emerging and potential thematic areas. Overall, this article offers an in-depth assessment of the academic literature related to environmental justice in tourism and traces the intellectual evolution of the area. The analysis encompasses 86 studies meticulously examined in terms of publication year, publication type, journal, and country of origin, fields, citation status. One of the primary limitations of this study is the small number of existing works that explicitly focus on the connection between environmental justice and tourism. Consequently, to capture as comprehensive a picture as possible, the search parameters were intentionally narrowed to the “title” and “topic” categories. Given the broad scope of both environmental justice and tourism as research areas, this focused approach underscores the necessity of concentrating on studies at their intersection. Upon reviewing the relevant literature, it is observed that although the first identified study in this field dates back to 1999, previous research addressing issues such as water consumption and air and water quality has created

opportunities for the integration of environmental justice into the tourism literature, even if these studies were not explicitly framed in relation to environmental justice.

When examining the frequency of repeated keywords (Table 2), it is observed that the most frequently used keywords are “environmental justice,” “tourism,” and “political ecology.” The findings regarding the frequency of these keywords suggest that these concepts play a central role in studies related to the topic and that academic interest is concentrated on these themes. The frequent use of the keywords “environmental justice” and “political ecology” indicates that issues related to social inequalities and rights-based approaches concerning the environment have garnered significant academic attention. Furthermore, the prominence of the keyword “tourism” suggests that this sector is regarded as a critical research area in terms of its environmental impacts and its relevance to sustainable development.

The thematic map created based on the keywords in Figure 6 provides significant insights into the current position of the concept of environmental justice within the tourism discipline and forecasts the topics likely to gain prominence in the future. The inclusion of themes such as “climate change,” “ethnography,” and “community” as a large cluster within the motor themes indicates the increasing importance of environmental and social impacts in tourism research (Figure 6 (a)). Ethnography, in particular, can be considered a crucial method for understanding the experiences of local communities and informing policy development. Additionally, the presence of clusters such as “equity,” “national parks,” and “outdoor recreation” within the motor themes suggests a growing emphasis on justice and equity in the management of tourism areas (Figure 6 (b)). The inclusion of topics like “environmental conservation,” “museums,” and “social justice” in the niche themes implies that these areas are still in the development phase and hold substantial potential for future research (Figure 6 (a)). Furthermore, the positioning of “waste” within the niche themes highlights a lack of sufficient research on the impacts of tourism activities on waste management (Figure 6 (b)). The placement of “environmental justice” and “tourism” within the basic themes aligns with expectations, as these themes directly contribute to the research focus and scope of analysis. The emergence of these key concepts as basic themes reflects findings consistent with the study's objectives (Figure 6 (a)). Topics such as “degrowth” and “overtourism” (Figure 6 (a)) as well as “exposure,” “pollution,” and “construction” (Figure 6 (b)) within the basic themes further indicate a growing awareness of tourism's environmental limits (Figure 6 (a)) and its implications for human health, infrastructure development, and pollution caused by tourism activities (Figure 6 (b)).

The trend topic analysis presented in Figure 7 (a and b) provides important insights into the academic development of environmental justice in tourism and highlights which topics have gained more attention. Upon examining Figure 7 (a), it is observed that there has been an increase in interest in “museums” and “local communities” as of 2024. This indicates that the literature on the topic is developing toward social and cultural issues, with local communities' experiences coming to the forefront. In 2023, the topics of “outdoor recreation activities,” “ecological restoration” (Figure 7 (a)), and “ecosystem services” and “governance” (Figure 7 (b)) gained prominence, suggesting an increased interest in improvement processes (Figure 7 (a)) and that the relationship between ecosystem services and tourism, along with sustainable governance practices, is being explored more, though these areas have yet to mature (Figure 7 (b)). Furthermore, the rise of “outdoor recreation activities” and “ecological restoration” in 2023 can be explained by the increased demand for nature-based tourism after the pandemic (Güçlü, 2023), leading to a greater focus on nature conservation and ecological restoration (Figure 7 (a)). Additionally, in the Keywords Plus analysis (Figure 7 (b)), the theme of “outdoor activities” was more frequently studied between 2009 and 2017, but no significant development was observed after 2017. However, the author keyword-based analysis contradicts this finding, as the topic of “outdoor activities” became more popular in 2023 and continued to develop through 2024. This discrepancy highlights the renewed focus on outdoor activities in the context of nature-tourism relations and ecological conservation.

The distribution of studies presented in Figure 2 reveals a consistent rise in the number of publications after 2021. This trend is thought to be significantly influenced by the growing global interest in environmental justice issues and the increasing attention toward the environmental impacts of tourism. The United Nations Climate Change Conferences, held annually since 1995, are a manifestation of the rising awareness of issues such as climate change and environmental challenges (Öztürk & Öztürk, 2019). Additionally, in the post-COVID-19 period, the environmental impacts of tourism and the preservation of natural areas have gained greater importance. This shift is attributed to changes in tourism demand. While tourism preferences before the pandemic predominantly focused on destinations with coastal and cultural infrastructure, during the pandemic, demand shifted toward nature-based

destinations, such as highlands and mountains (Güçlü, 2023). The steady increase in the average annual citation counts can be associated with these publications being increasingly referenced within the scientific community, as well as the topic beginning to generate a broader academic impact.

When examining the distribution of studies by research areas (Figure 9), it is observed that “Environmental Studies” and “Hospitality, Leisure, Sport, and Tourism” make the highest contributions. This indicates that the concept of environmental justice finds broad applicability in both the context of environmental impacts and the tourism sector. Contributions from “Geography” and “Green Sustainable Science and Technology” reflect an interest in the spatial dimensions of tourism and the role of technological innovations in addressing environmental issues. In this context, the importance of topics such as destination sustainability, climate change, and sustainable technologies can be considered key factors driving research in these areas. The contributions from “Regional and Urban Planning” and “Urban Studies” suggest that environmental justice is gaining significance in urban environmental issues as well. Additionally, the contributions from fields such as “Sociology” and “Development Studies” highlight the connections between environmental justice, social inequalities, the rights of local communities, and sustainable development. This demonstrates that environmental justice is addressed not only as an environmental issue but also as a social and economic one.

Based on the findings presented in Figure 2, which indicate an increase in the number of studies related to environmental justice within tourism, and the data shown in Figure 9 that reveal the research areas producing publications on this topic, it can be asserted that there is growing momentum and interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of environmental justice within tourism.

The Bibliographic Coupling of Studies analysis (Figure 13) shows that the studies with the highest connection strength are those that receive the most citations and are frequently related to other works in the literature. Since Munar & Jamal (2016) and Hales & Jamal (2015) have received numerous citations and have similar connection strengths, they can be considered important works in the field. This may indicate that these studies have a broad impact in areas such as environmental justice, tourism, and similar topics. On the other hand, although McAfee (1999) has received many citations, its connection strength is lower, which may suggest that the influence of this study has diminished over time or that it is less connected to other works. This could imply that these studies are less associated with the current literature. These findings reveal that certain studies engage more with others, and the level of interconnectedness in the field's literature varies.

The results of the Co-citation of Cited Authors analysis (Figure 14) show that the author Higgins-Desbiolles, F. has the highest connection strength, indicating that their works have a significant impact in the field. On the other hand, Visser, G., who has the lowest citation count and connection strength, is cited less frequently by other authors. This suggests that while Visser's research is still relevant, it has had less impact compared to other works.

The United States emerges as the country that has made the most significant contributions to this field of study (Figure 8); this finding is consistent with the historical roots of the environmental justice movement in the U.S. during the 1980s (Sze & London, 2008; McGurty, 2000). Furthermore, it is observed that the journals with the greatest volume of publications on this subject specialize in tourism literature and environmental studies. The majority of the studies in this area are represented as journal articles. Kathleen McAfee's 1999 work, “Selling Nature to Save It? Biodiversity and Green Developmentalism,” stands out as a pioneering study in the realm of tourism-related environmental justice research (Figure 2). Additionally, among the authors publishing studies on tourism and environmental justice, the most frequently cited authors are Floyd, M.F. and Johnson, C.Y. (Figure 16 (b)).

Latest trends demonstrate an increase in environmental justice research focusing on topics such as governance, ecosystem services, museums, and the role of local communities (Figure 7(a, b)). More broadly, the literature reflects significant advancements in areas related to climate change, social impacts, social and environmental justice, equity, accessibility, quality, ecotourism, urban issues, ethics, and conservation in the context of tourism (Figure 6(a, b)).

The gaps in research at the intersection of Environmental Justice and Tourism, as well as suggestions for future studies, are presented in the following points:

- There are gaps in the integration of different cultural and local knowledge systems into environmental justice practices.

- It can be said that there is a need for studies examining the long-term impacts of tourism and tourism policies on the environment and local communities.
- There is a need for research on the impacts of new technologies and digital platforms on tourism management and how digital tools can be utilized as instruments to implement environmental justice practices.

Addressing these underexplored areas is expected to contribute to developing a more holistic and balanced framework for tourism management, ensuring fairness, inclusivity, and sustainability for all relevant stakeholders.

DECLARATION OF THE AUTHORS

Declaration of Contribution Rate: The authors have equal contributions.

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