

The Status of Women in War: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract

Objectives: This study aims to provide a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of research on the status of women in the context of war. Despite the richness of literature on armed conflicts, there has been less systematic evaluation of the research output concerning this important gendered dimension of war.

Methods: The study draws on 187 articles retrieved from the Scopus database, using the phrase "The status of women in war" in the search query to identify relevant publications. A bibliometric analysis was conducted to examine the patterns in publication productivity across countries, citation impact, key sources, affiliations, authorship trends, and thematic keywords.

Results: The findings reveal a gradual increase in research outputs related to women and war over the past three decades, with notable spikes following major conflicts in the 21st century. However, the citation impact of this work has decreased over time. The analysis also highlights the dominance of scholarship from Western countries, indicating the need to incorporate diverse global perspectives.

Conclusions: The paper concludes that while scholarship on women's gendered experiences of conflict is expanding, critical gaps remain in equitably representing diverse voices and contexts. Prioritizing interdisciplinary, intersectional analyses through collaborative global networks is needed to elevate overlooked perspectives for a comprehensive understanding of the urgency of women's realities in war.

Keywords: gendering war, bibliometric analysis, women, violent extremism, armed conflict.

وضع المرأة في الحرب: تحليل بيبليومتري

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ملخص

الأهداف: تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تقديم تحليل بيبليومتري شامل للأبحاث المتعلقة بوضع المرأة في سياق الحرب. على الرغم من ثراء الأدبيات المتعلقة بالنزاعات المسلحة، إلا أنه كان هناك تقييم أقل منهجية لمخرجات البحث حول هذا البعد الجنساني المهم للحرب.

المنهجية: تعتمد الدراسة 187 مقالة تم استرجاعها من قاعدة بيانات سكوبس. باستخدام عبارة "وضع المرأة في الحرب" في استعلام البحث لتحديد المنشورات ذات الصلة. تم إجراء تحليل بيبليومتري لفحص الأنماط في إنتاجية النشر في البلدان، وتأثير الاستشهاد، والمصادر الرئيسية، والشركات التابعة، واتجاهات التأليف، والكلمات الرئيسية الموضوعية.

النتائج: تكشف النتائج عن زيادة تدريجية في مخرجات البحوث المتعلقة بالمرأة والحرب على مدى العقود الثلاثة الماضية، مع ارتفاعات ملحوظة في أعقاب الصراعات الكبرى في القرن الحادي والعشرين. ومع ذلك، فقد انخفض تأثير الاقتباس لهذا العمل بمرور الوقت. وفسلح التحليل الضوء أيضاً على هيمنة المنح الدراسية من الدول الغربية، مما يشير إلى الحاجة إلى دمج وجهات نظر عالمية متنوعة.

الخلاصة: خلصت الورقة إلى أنه على الرغم من اتساع نطاق المعرفة حول تجارب النساء في الصراع بين الجنسين، لا تزال هناك فجوات حرجية في تمثيل الأصوات والسياقات المتنوعة بشكل عادل. هناك حاجة إلى إعطاء الأولوية للتحليلات متعددة التخصصات والجوانب من خلال الشبكات العالمية التعاونية لرفع مستوى وجهات النظر المهمة من أجل فهم شامل للحاجة الملحة لواقع المرأة في الحرب.

الكلمات الدالة: الحرب الجندرية، التحليل البيبليومتري، المرأة، التطرف العنيف، الصراع المسلح.



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Introduction

Throughout history, war has had a unique impact on women. As conflicts arise, social structures and norms often change to the detriment of women. Wars may directly or indirectly lead to increased violence against women, restricted access to resources and services, loss of traditional gender roles, and limited participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The status of women during and after armed conflict has gained increasing attention in scholarly discourse. However, there remains a critical need to systematically evaluate the research output on this important gendered aspect of war (Byrne, 1996a). This bibliometric analysis aims to address this gap by assessing publication trends, citation impact, key contributors, and thematic focus in the existing literature.

The importance of this topic stems from the profound and multifaceted ways in which war disproportionately affects women. Conflicts can lead directly or indirectly to increased violence against women, restricted access to resources and services, disruption of traditional gender roles, and limited participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. At the same time, war can also open new opportunities for women to challenge gender norms by taking on previously male-dominated roles (Karam, 2000). Understanding these complex, context-specific dynamics is crucial for crafting policies and interventions to support women in conflict and post-conflict settings. While a multitude of studies have made vital contributions to understanding women's experiences of conflict, there remain critical gaps. For instance, research on women in war has predominantly focused on Africa, Eurasia, and the Middle East (Afshar, 2007; Piela, 2012; Snoubar & Duman, 2016; Tickner & Sjoberg, 2011). Very few studies have examined conflicts in Southeast Asia, South America, and Oceania (Alix-Garcia et al., 2022; Chenoy, 2004; D'Costa, 2012; Singh, 2017). Additionally, existing literature primarily examines women's vulnerability and wartime victimization. More research is needed to explore the nuances of women's agency, resistance efforts, and the increase in female combatants (Henshaw, 2016). There also remains a lack of extensive intersectional analyses accounting for how gender intersects with other identities, such as race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and religion, to produce diverse wartime experiences (Allison, 2011). Concerning women's wartime experiences, some female combatants experience a complex combination of victimization and agency, while others become change agents during and after the war and may even benefit from it. Still, others feel victimized by being forced to fight a war that is started and led by men and ignored in post-war peacebuilding (Giri, 2021). However, the existing literature doesn't say much about the overall status of women in war.

This bibliometric analysis aims to address these research gaps by providing a comprehensive, quantitative assessment of scholarly literature on women in war. Bibliometric analysis allows us to quantitatively examine patterns and trends in the published literature on a topic (Patra et al., 2006). This reveals insights into the volume of publications, the impact of certain studies, connections between disciplines, directions of research networks, productivity, and gaps that remain to be addressed (Donthu et al., 2021). Furthermore, this review provides a meta-analysis of existing research to paint a picture of what scholars understand regarding women's multifaceted relationship with warfare. The key areas analyzed include gendering war, women's contributions as combatants and peacebuilders, and masculine militarization. By examining the connections and clusters within this body of literature, this bibliometric analysis review synthesizes the current knowledge and outlines the remaining blind spots and directions for future examination of the complex gendered repercussions of armed conflict. The review concludes by proposing under-studied avenues for further exploration by gender scholars concerned with peace and justice.

Moreover, this bibliometric analysis offers several unique contributions that advance our understanding of the status of women in war, a topic of profound significance that is underexplored in the existing literature. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first comprehensive bibliometric study that specifically focuses on assessing the research output and trends surrounding the multifaceted experiences of women during armed conflicts. While previous reviews have examined broader gender and conflict dynamics (Gizelis, 2018; Kamali et al., 2020; Sjoberg, 2009) and other articles review the existing research on specific topics such as sexual assault in conflict zones (Follingstad et al., 2022; Moore & Barner, 2017), Our study is novel in its targeted synthesis and evaluation of literature explicitly centering on the gendered

realities and reverberations of warfare for women. This focused lens enables in-depth mapping of an emerging yet crucial subfield.

This study adopted a bibliometric analysis based on 187 articles retrieved from the Scopus database. "The status of women in war" is the main key phrase used in the search query (titles, abstracts, and keywords). The novelty of our review is that this is the first bibliometric analysis study that systematically evaluated the research output on the status of women in war and focused on the notion of "gendering war". By combining quantitative bibliometric techniques with qualitative conceptual analyses, our study offers a comprehensive mapping of the knowledge landscape, while also capturing nuanced thematic underpinnings. Moreover, we identified critical gaps and imbalances that have remained unaddressed, paving the way for future research to adopt more inclusive, context-sensitive, and impactful approaches.

Gender, war, and women

Patriarchal discourse in times of war reinforces polarized gender roles that cast the nation along similar binaries: the strong nation is masculinized as virile, while the weak nation is feminized (Ahmed, 2013). The nature of war and conflict is strongly gendered, with military roles often viewed as typical for males rather than women. War is imagined as a fundamentally masculine realm in which men decide to go to war, do the planning, men do fight and die, protect their nation and helpless women and children, negotiate peace, divide spoils, and share power when the war is over. The broader value given to the masculinized "hard" over the feminized "soft" impacts how activities and initiatives are viewed and judged, both during and after conflict (Cohn, 2013). A persistent demand exists for nations to be "hard" rather than "soft," to seal themselves off from penetrative outside forces. As (Ahmed, 2013) argues, a "tough nation should be prepared...to avoid penetration".

These gender binaries extend to bodies expected to defend the nation. Men embody masculinity's traditional martial attributes: bravery, strength, and warrior prowess (Dowler, 2002; Pin-Fat & Stern, 2005). War itself has been constructed as a masculine enterprise, valorizing violence in the name of national or ethnic honor (Cockburn, 2010; Whitworth, 2004). Uncompromisingly, gendered rhetoric pervades men fighting battles, while women passively maintain hearths and homes (Byrne, 1996b).

However, women's roles vary across different contexts. During World Wars I and II, European women took over industrial, agricultural, and administrative jobs to temporarily disrupt gender conventions (Grayzel, 2013). Contemporary conflicts reveal women as combatants and breadwinners, signaling both the continuity of and challenges to gender binaries amid militarization. While resonant, patriarchal war discourse cannot uniformly account for women's complex shifting relations to conflict.

We continue to live in a world where war is the larger reality, as armed conflicts rage in places such as Yemen, Syria, Ukraine, and Palestine, with some receiving more media coverage than others. When it comes to gendering war, although women have taken on more combat roles in recent conflicts and obtained key leadership positions, war is still largely viewed as masculine (Riley, 2008). However, constructions of masculinity in contemporary "new wars" are more contradictory than the heroic warrior archetype of the past, which may either perpetuate gender inequality or allow space for change. While some features of new wars echo old ones, more research is needed to understand how shifting gender dynamics interact with the logic of modern conflicts. Their open-ended nature produces fluid gender roles that sustain cycles of violence.

Women's agency in peace and conflict has garnered increasing policy focus since UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000 (Jan Marie Fritz et al., 2009), with corresponding growth in academic attention (Pratt & Richter-Devroe, 2011). Women today are not just seen as victims of conflict but also as agents of change (Wilson, 2002). Despite being vulnerable to violence, women may have access to new knowledge and opportunities that positively transform their lives. To address emerging needs, sustainable peace requires the recognition of lived realities and multiple narratives in post-war societies. However, understandings of post-conflict transitions often cling to outdated war assumptions, like the notion that peacetime heralds a "coming back" – of masculine authority that dispels women to domestic spheres or of conservative governance revoking women's conflict-era gains (Moosa et al., 2013). As a result, social change appears to

be driven by political elites and technical experts, not by everyday women.

Violent extremism and women

The study of women's extremism by a range of scholarly disciplines has experienced remarkable growth over the past 20 years (Blee, 2021; Giscard d'Estaing, 2017; Rothermel, 2020; Ní Aoláin, 2016). Numerous studies have also examined the relationship between gender and extremism, and how certain types of fundamentalism show gender concerns (Fangen & Skjelsbæk, 2020; L. Davies, 2008; True & Eddyono, 2021). Other studies draw attention to the gender-blind spot in the Prevent Violent Extremism strategies (Blee, 2020; Pearson et al., 2020; Sweetman, 2017). For example, (Agius et al., 2022) argued that misogyny and masculinism go beyond 'anti-women' sentiment and align with the far-right's valorization of order, hierarchy, and traditional values.

In terms of conflict, waging war and violence are perceived to be intrinsically masculine, with women being considered incapable of perpetrating these types of offenses. As a result, the lady who does so is a startling society that goes against her feminine nature. There are gendered assumptions regarding masculinity and femininity that influence women's recruitment, roles, and motivations for violence and terrorism (Mahmood, 2019). Gender concepts are heavily context-based. Thus, the concepts of masculinity and femininity change over time and among countries. However, distinct responsibilities for men and women are apparent in wartime conditions, political unrest, and conflict. Studies on political violence show that whereas femininity is based on non-violent, "complementary and supportive" constructs of femininity, masculinity is heavily militarized and associated with violence. As a result, women take on roles such as "sacrificial mother," "passionate wife," and "extraordinary housewife," while males are mostly involved in fighting for and defending women and children.

However, many historical events and violent waves show that women have been part of such events as supporters or fighters. 'The Anti-Colonial Wave,' 'the New Left Wave,' the Anarchist Wave', and the 'Religious Wave' are identified as women who have been active participants in such waves of violence. In this sense, the impact of these conflicts and violent events on gender equality and gender topics has become a key issue. Although there is a wide range of literature on violent events and wars, earlier literature was mainly gender-blind, with women's participation simply not identified (Wilson, 2002). Thus, more research is required to reach a comprehensive understanding of the status of women during wars (perpetrators, victims, shadow actors, and other complex roles, and responsibilities).

Methodology

Through systematic reviews, researchers and research users can uncover patterns, variabilities, and consistencies in seemingly identical studies; and go beyond the limitations of single studies (P. Davies, 2000). However, there seems to be little use of systematic review methodology in women and war studies. Qualitative and quantitative assessments were conducted in this bibliometric analysis review using bibliophily for bibliometric packages in Rstudio. The use of these analytical tools helped the author visualize, compare, and export data to measure the overall research output from different angles. This study used Scopus as a database for scholarly literature because it is a reliable source and provides unparalleled access to high-quality data and comprehensive content. Scopus offers new sorting and refining features so that researchers can easily find and access millions of documents (Boyle & Sherman, 2006). Its approach implemented a gender perspective in measuring the literature on the status of women in war in this first bibliometric analysis study.

The study used the following search query in Scopus database: TITLE-ABS-KEY (women AND war AND discourse) AND (LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Women's Status") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "War") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Feminism") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Women") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Female") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Gender Role") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Violence") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Terrorism") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Critical Discourse Analysis")).

The search for data in this study was filtered and limited to two research areas: Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences. Only articles were considered in the data selection criteria. The retrieved data were exported from Scopus as a

CSV file and uploaded again to Rayyan for screening. The data file was imported into R (Rstudio) statistical software for analysis (Gagolewski, 2011). The retrieved dataset of 187 articles was then subjected to a comprehensive bibliometric analysis using the bibliometrix package in R, specifically the bibliophily package from the bibliometrix library (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017). The bibliophily application is an interactive web interface built on top of the bibliometrix R package (Moral-Muñoz et al., 2020). It offers a user-friendly method to import scholarly literature data, calculate diverse bibliometric indicators, and generate interactive visualizations to explore publication trends, author networks, and conceptual structures. Through these analytical techniques, the research team was able to systematically map the contours of scholarship on women's experiences in conflict settings, revealing both prominent areas of focus and critical gaps warranting further investigation.

The novelty of this approach lies in its application of a gender-focused lens to systematically evaluate the overall status and trajectory of research on women's experiences in the context of war. By mapping the contours of existing scholarship, this review aims to identify the prevailing areas of focus, emerging themes, and critical knowledge gaps, thus providing a meta-analytical perspective to guide future research and policy priorities in this important subfield.

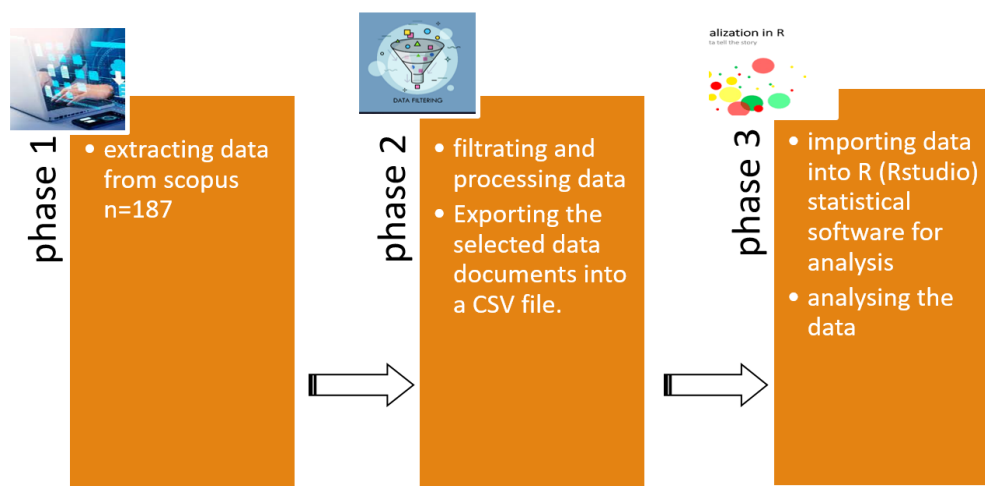


Figure 1. The study's major search phrases. (source: the author)

Results

Figure 2 depicts the number of articles published per year from 1992 to 2023 (the current year), with a specific focus on women's experiences in the context of war. Over the approximately 30 years covered in the data, there has been a gradual but uneven increase in the number of publications on this topic.

In the early 1990s, research interest was quite low, with only one article being published in 1992 and 1995. The output increased slightly to two articles in 1998 and 1999, indicating a small initial spike in attention, as shown in Figure 2. The early 2000s marked the first noticeable increase, with three articles in 2000 and a jump to five articles by 2004. From 2005 to 2008, the number of articles per year ranged from three to four. Research productivity rose again from this baseline from 2009 to 2013, with the highest output hitting eight articles in 2013. This perhaps signals elevated research interest following major 21st-century conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Output declined slightly from 2014 to 2016. This drop-off simply reflects random fluctuations or delays in article publications. However, this may also be indicative of shifting attention during this period to other rising geopolitical events. There was another marked jump from 2016. In 2017, the article output hit 8, rising further to 9 articles annually in both 2019 and 2020. This dramatic uplift over recent years likely shows the increased recognition of the importance of studying women's overlooked experiences as victims, combatants, activists, and pillars of the peace process.

The past two years have maintained a heightened focus, with six articles published in 2021 and seven in 2022. If

patterns continue as projected for 2023, with six papers thus far this year, research productivity remains substantially elevated from the early decades. The overall trends point toward rising attention, which will ideally translate into greater understanding, resources, and policy changes to support women before, during, and after conflicts worldwide. Continued growth in research would signify that researchers are asking new questions and applying fresh perspectives is still needed to fully capture the intricate gendered realities of armed struggles.

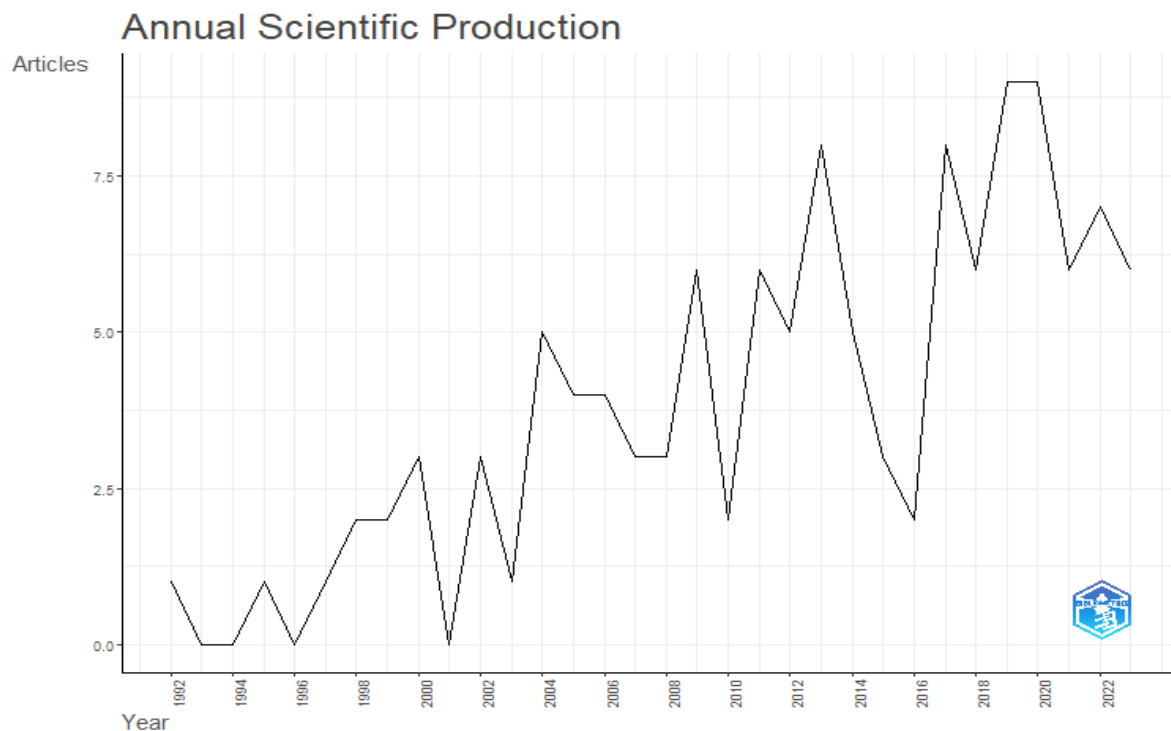


Figure 2. Annual scientific production

On average, articles focused on the status of women in war accrued 14.4 total citations. *Figure 3* shows that the number of articles on this topic per year ranged from zero to nine. The average total number of citations for this research area published each year was 1.15. As expected, more recent articles have had less time to build citations, with 2023 publications having one citation year left.

Early Period (1992-2002): In the early period, there was limited research output but a high impact on pioneering works. For example, the lone 1992 article on women in war garnered 16 total citations, over two times higher than the full period average.

Growth Period (2003-2014): In these years, research output on women in war grew steadily, culminating in eight articles published in 2013. However, the average citations per article declined to 11.97 citations, potentially suggesting incremental rather than seminal work. Despite more articles published, citations per year changed little, with a 2005 peak of 2.62 average citations per article.

Current Period (2015-2023): In recent years, articles have understandably accrued fewer citations, giving less time to cite—a period average of 3.87 citations per article. Up to nine articles have been published annually, indicating continued literature. However, with fewer citations per article, the average number of citations per year remains comparable at 0.78-2.3.

Key Trend:

The analysis indicates that while research output on women in war has increased, especially in recent decades, the citation impact per published article has declined compared to earlier breakouts. Maintaining a high impact, as the literature expands, remains an ongoing challenge to fully advance knowledge.

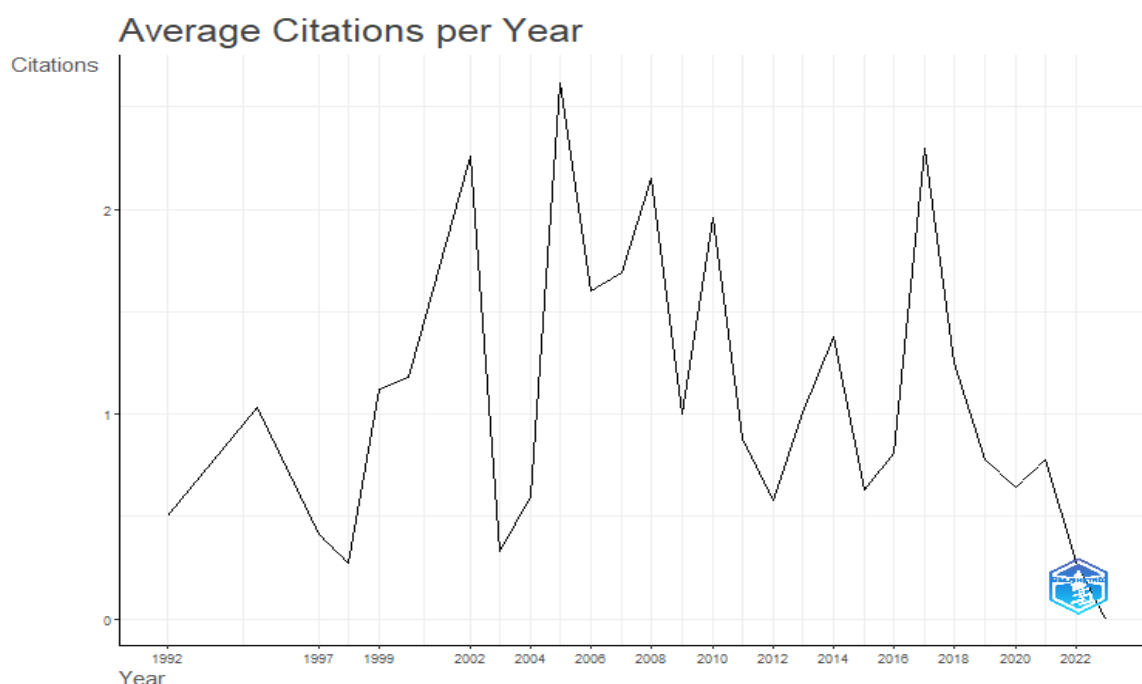


Figure 3. Average citation per year

Figure 4 outlines the most relevant sources to the study topic, indicating influential academic journals shaping research in this field. With 8 articles, the *Women's Studies International Forum* stands out as the leading publication venue explicitly focused on gender issues and war. The prominence of this journal points to strong roots in the women and gender studies discipline. Active discourse among scholars in this field has been instrumental in directing attention to women's overlooked experiences in armed conflict.

After the *Women's Studies International Forum*, there was a substantial drop-off, with the next tier of journals publishing only around five articles each over the period examined. This includes '*Gender and History*' and '*Gender, Place and Culture*', as well as field-specific '*International Feminist Journal of Politics*'. Diffusion across several journals indicates cross-disciplinary interest, rather than concentration in a single area. The third tier of active publication venues with four to two articles includes both methodological journals, such as *Cultural Dynamics* focused on technical aspects of gender analyses, as well as topical journals directly discussing issues tied to conflict, such as *Violence Against Women* and *Journal of Refugee Studies*.

In summary, while a leading gender studies journal has published the most articles, no single academic discipline has dominated the discourse on women in war. Rather, this issue spans political science, international relations, sociology, anthropology, geography, planning, and interdisciplinary social sciences. Distribution across journals publishing in a variety of fields reveals the complex, multifaceted impacts of conflict that necessitate the integration of diverse frameworks to fully understand women's compounding struggles and agency during wartime. This matrix of active publication outlets signals avenues for scholars to target research that is likely to reach key audiences while enriching collective insights.

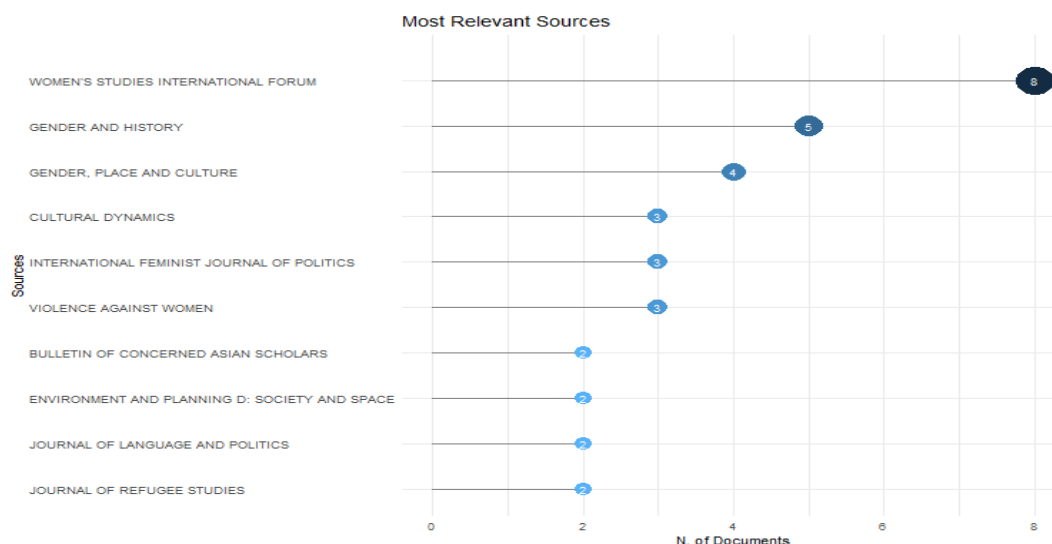


Figure 4. Most relevant sources

Figure 5 and Table 1 provide insight into the institutional affiliations and geographic distribution of active scholars researching women's experiences in war. No single institution dominates, with the most prolific entities - Cardiff University, Institut Agama Islam Negeri Kendari, and Robert Gordon University - only producing 3 articles each over the period examined. The bulk of contributions come from European institutions like Cardiff University and the University of Manchester in the UK and Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. However, other active affiliations highlight wider international participation from Indonesia (Institut Agama Islam Negeri Kendari), Canada (Saint Mary's University), Austria (Salzburg University), Australia (The University of Queensland), and Ireland (University College Dublin). This indicates growing global networks of academics training their focus on how armed unrest distinctly impacts women worldwide.

While more concentrated productivity comes from scholars situated in Europe, North America, and Australia, institutions in conflict-affected developing regions are also represented. The University of Zimbabwe for instance has published 2 articles providing critical on-the-ground perspectives. Other developing country affiliations like Ain Shams University in Egypt and An-Najah National University in Palestine signal research contributions from scholars adjacent to conflict zones with invaluable proximity and insight. Overall, the investigation of institutional affiliations underscores a cross-section of global participation in research on the gender dimensions of conflict. Though dominance by any particular university is lacking, the international breadth shows diffuse recognition of the importance of documenting and analyzing women's overlooked experiences across diverse cultural and socioeconomic contexts of violence.

Table 1. Top 20 most relevant affiliations

Affiliation	Articles
CARDIFF UNIVERSITY	3
INSTITUT AGAMA ISLAM NEGERI KENDARI	3
ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN	3
UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER	3
ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM	2
SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY	2
SALZBURG UNIVERSITY	2

Affiliation	Articles
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND BUSINESS SCHOOL	2
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN	2
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN	2
UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE	2
AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY	1
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY	1
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT	1
AN-NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY	1
APPLIED SCIENCE PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	1
ASTON UNIVERSITY	1
AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY	1
BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY	1
BLINDERN UNIVERSITY OF OSLO	1

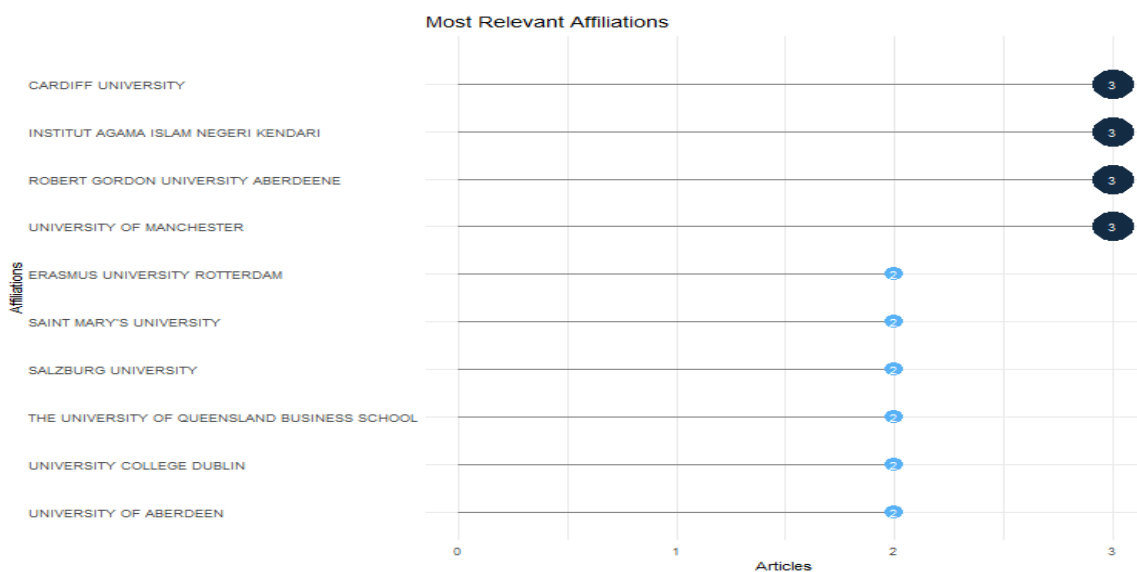


Figure 5. most relevant affiliations

Figure 6 provides a geographic breakdown of the publication output on women in war by country affiliation of the authors. Alongside just the article count per country, additional metrics are provided:

- SCP: Number of single-country publications
- MCP: Number of multiple country publications
- Freq: Normalized proportion of articles over the total set that the country contributed to
- MCP_Ratio: Proportion of the country's publications that had international co-authorship

As seen in Figure 6, the data reveals that research on this topic has been predominantly led by academics situated in the Global North, with 44 out of 122 articles associated with U.S. institutions and 42 attributed to UK organizations. Australia, Canada, and European countries like Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Sweden also display substantial productivity.

However, deeper analysis Qualifies this insight. The complete lack of multiple-country publications (MCP) linked to the U.S. and the low MCP ratios for other top countries indicate minimal international research partnerships. As such, there may be insular pockets of discourse failing to integrate diverse perspectives across geographic contexts. On the other hand, the presence of MCPs associated with developing conflict-affected nations like Indonesia, Zimbabwe, and New Zealand demonstrates some degree of cross-country collaboration providing on-the-ground insights otherwise lacking.

While Global North scholars, with easier access to funding and academic resources, have published the most to shape dominant conversations, this suggests room for improvement in integrating Southern viewpoints via collaborative projects transcending borders. With women everywhere impacted by the reverberations of violence, platforms enabling co-designed research and theory-spanning peripheries and power centers will be key to fully capturing the multifaceted gendered realities of contemporary conflict. Broader participation through international networks can strengthen scholarly discourse and policy responses to address women's needs in the war's aftermath.

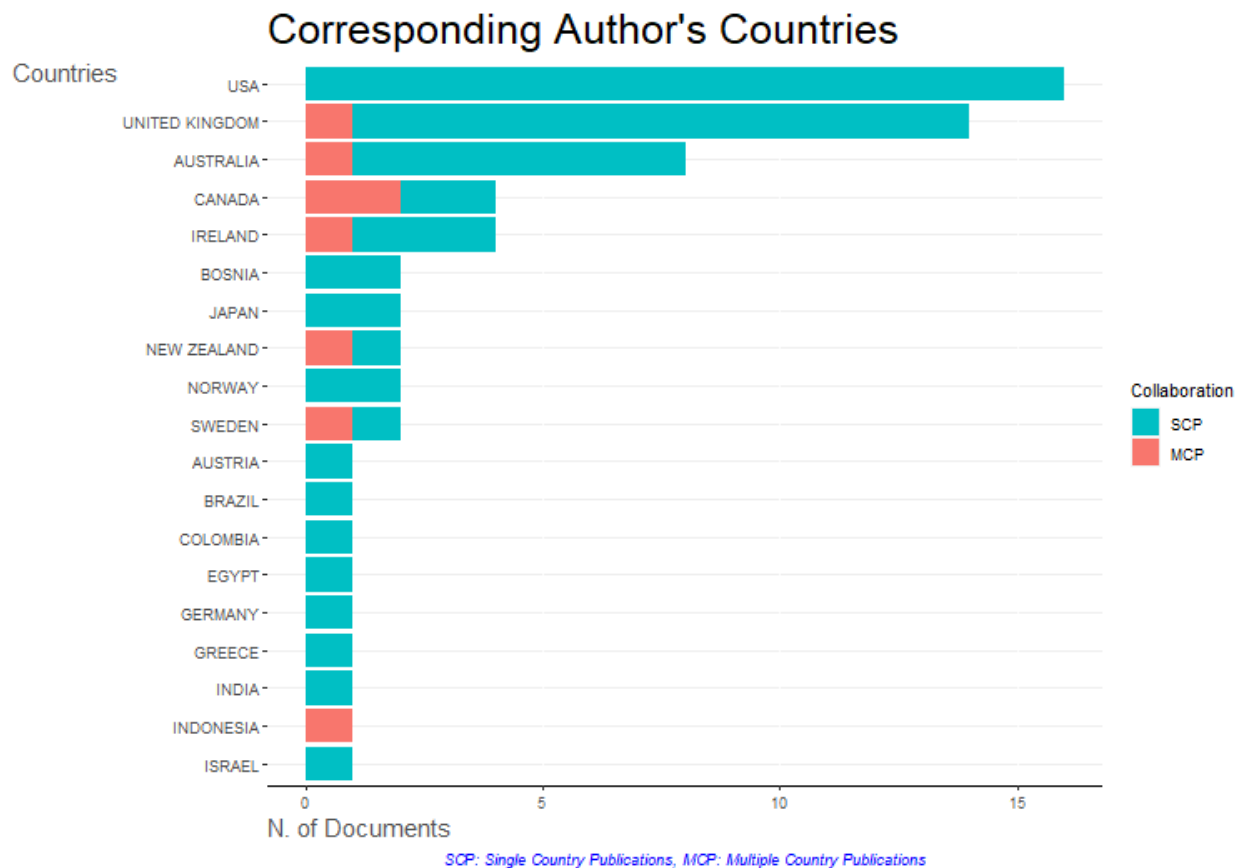


Figure 6. Corresponding author's countries

Figure 7 categorizes the publication output on women in war by region rather than individual country. This visualization further confirms the previous finding that Western Europe, Northern America, and Australia/Oceania dominate contributions, accounting for over 75% of all author affiliations.

The UK and USA lead with 32 articles each, reflecting substantial existing gender research programs and funding availability enabling extensive literature. Australia follows with 12 articles, establishing Oceania-based academics as major contributors even though represent a smaller overall population. Meanwhile, Canada's 5 articles denote proportional productivity relative to population as well.

Outside of these predominant regions, Ireland and Indonesia stand out, each affiliated with 6 and 5 articles respectively. Irish authorship signifies targeted interest within Western Europe to understand the impacts of conflict on women in that context. And Indonesian output punching above its weight signals budding recognition in Asia of the value of gender analysis on regional security issues.

As seen in Figure 7, other major regions like South/Latin America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa demonstrate lower output around only 1 to 3 articles per country. This suggests significant room for growth in increasing representation of gendered conflict experiences in developing areas where instability and extremism often excrement existing gender inequalities in access, rights, and power relations.

Overall, the regional breakdown confirms scholars situated in high-income Western regions with more access to academic resources and inequality indices have published the majority to define the contours of current discourse. However, ascending participation from Indonesia, Jordan, Pakistan, and Zimbabwe points to inroads for diversification through strategic South-South and North-South partnerships. This could enhance understanding and responsiveness to women's varied struggles worldwide during tumultuous periods of violence and unstable peace.

Country Scientific Production

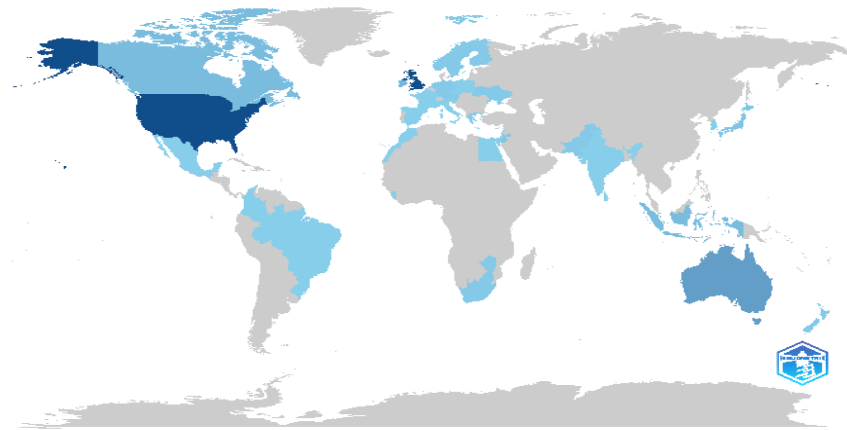


Figure 7. Country scientific production

Figure 8 shows the number of articles published on women in war from various countries over time, from 1992 to 2023. Overall, we see a strong upward trend in global research output on this topic. Publication numbers started very low in the early 1990s but have risen substantially, especially in the last decade. The USA and UK are the dominant producing countries, together accounting for about half of all papers. The USA shows a steady linear growth, going from just 1 article in 1992 to 32 by 2023. Meanwhile, the UK shows exponential growth starting from 0 articles in the early years up to matching the US by reaching 32 publications in 2023. After these two leaders, Australia, Canada, and some European countries like Germany, Greece, and Sweden have displayed solid output more recently. Emerging countries like South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Indonesia show potential with very recent publications but minimal long-term productivity so far.

As shown in *Figure 8*, some countries demonstrate surging late-stage interest, like Ireland rapidly increasing publications in the current decade from 0 to 6 articles in 2023. Others appear to have tapped outgrowth, for instance, Pakistan plateauing at 2 articles annually since 2008.

Overall, the data indicates established Western economic powers have published the most historically, but encouraging productivity signals are appearing from developing conflict-affected regions. This could indicate growing recognition globally of the value of gender analyses for a full understanding of the varied reverberations of war.

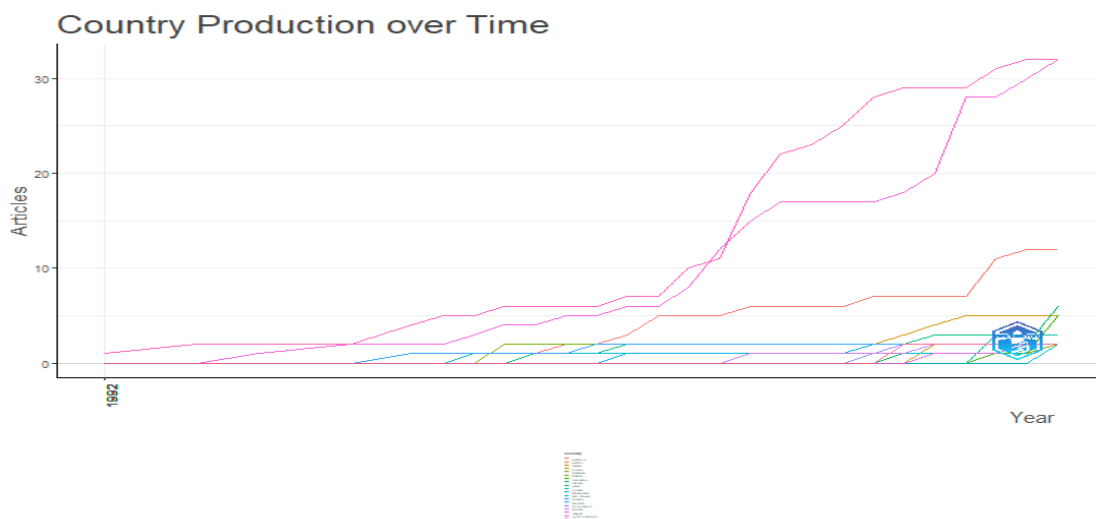


Figure 8. Country production over time

Figure 9 shows the frequency of words occurring in the set of articles analyzed related to women's status and war. Analyzing the most common terminology provides insight into key themes and focuses within this research area. Unsurprisingly, the terms "women's status" and "war" top the list, given the domain of study. Following closely are words like "female", "feminism", "gender relations", and "gender roles", highlighting a core emphasis on examining how armed conflict impacts and intersects with gender identities, hierarchies, activism, and shifting dynamics.

As shown in *Figure 9*, several other prevalent terms indicate common topics of study geographically - with regions like "Eurasia", "Asia", "Australia", the "United Kingdom", and the "United States" frequently appearing. This shows the spatial breadth of research interests. Meanwhile, words like "violence", "terrorism", "sexual violence", and "rape" reveal another major vein of work that emphasizes conflict's links to varied forms of gender-based violence. Additionally, the frequency of more theoretical constructs like "social movement", "political participation", "nationalism", and "post-colonialism" signal scholarly efforts connecting real-world conflict events to deeper analyses of their driving ideologies and power structures disproportionately harming women.

On the other hand, the lack of terms related to intersectionality, sexual orientation, or specific ethnic groups suggests room for further exploration of within-group differences in how war impacts diverse women. Overall, however, the lexicon indicates rich interdisciplinary analyses examining armed unrest through multifaceted gendered lenses.

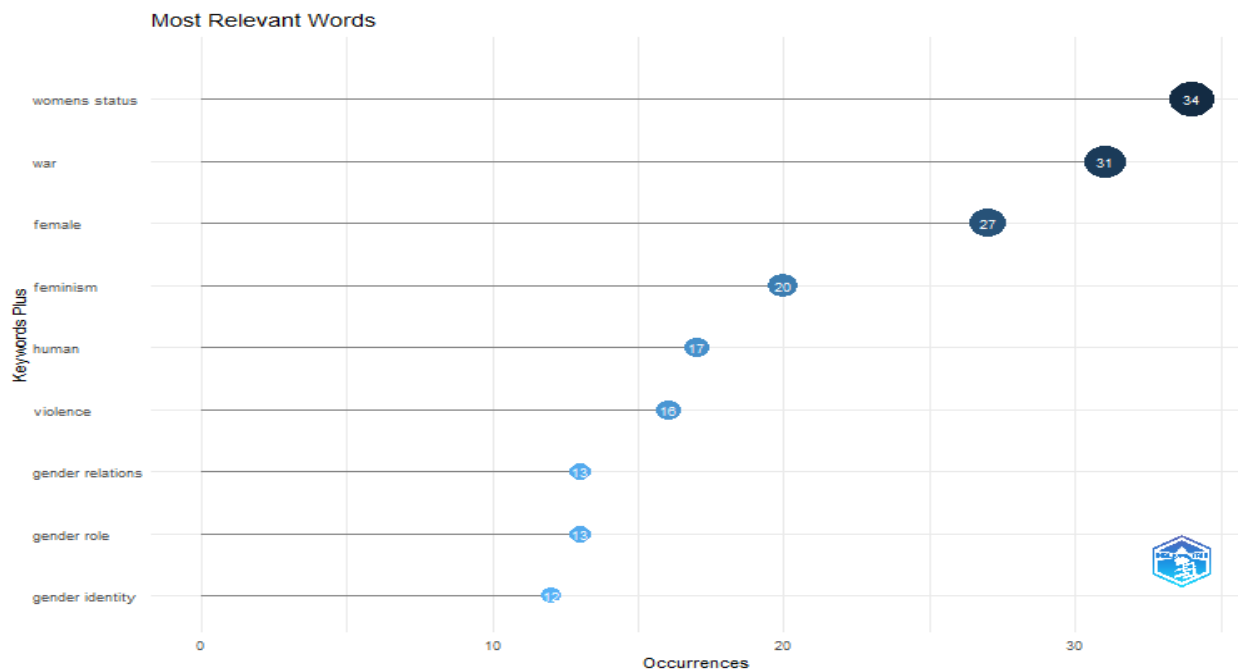
**Figure 9. Most relevant words**

Table 2 shows the 40 most common terms found in the articles, providing insight into the predominant topics and frameworks within research on women's status and war. The continued prominence of expected terms like "women's status", "war", "female", "feminism", "gender relations", etc. confirms a tight focus on examining the intersections of

armed conflict and gender hierarchies, rights, and identities. Beyond these basic expected words, we see attention paid to exploring connections to concepts like colonialism, nationalism, political discourse, public health, and social theory. This indicates analyses going beyond surface-level descriptions to study the deeper social, political, and ideological forces and structures that both drive conflict and shape its gendered impacts.

Table 2 also shows that the frequency of terms tied to specific countries and regions like Eurasia, Japan, Iraq, Israel, and Kenya demonstrates scholarly efforts to understand how women's experiences have varied across different cultural contexts of conflict. This evidence of localized Country-specific investigation complements the simultaneous emphasis on broad concepts and movements.

Additionally, the appearance of psychological and health terms reveals a vein of research documenting not just physical but also mental/emotional reverberations of violence disproportionately borne by women. Sites of victimization like sexual crime and rape also feature prominently. In summary, top terminology spotlights examination situated at the intersection of armed unrest, gender inequities, and wider sociopolitical currents - while also emphasizing localized variability and multidimensional well-being impacts. This snippet captures prevailing emphases and frameworks shaping the knowledge base.

Table 2. Top 40 most common terms found in the articles.

Terms	Frequency
women's status	34
war	31
female	27
feminism	20
human	17
violence	16
gender relations	13
gender role	13
gender identity	12
article	11
humans	11
gender issue	10
human rights	10
male	10
Eurasia	9
historical perspective	8
politics	8
social movement	7
terrorism	7
women's organization	7
Asia	6
Japan	6
political participation	6
post-war	6
warfare	6
women's rights	6
Islamism	5
sexual violence	5
theoretical study	5
united kingdom	5
united states	5
Australia	4
civil war	4
colonialism	4
Germany	4

Terms	Frequency
grief	4
history	4
Iraq	4
Israel	4
Kenya	4
national identity	4
nationalism	4
political discourse	4
psychological aspect	4
public health	4
rape	4
sexual crime	4
social theory	4
united nations	4
women's health	4

Figure 10 provides additional temporal insights by showing the distribution over time of some of the most frequently occurring terms. For each term, it reports the first quartile year, median year, and third quartile year, giving a sense of how discussion of various topics has spread out over the last few decades. We see the more basic top terms like "gender role", "politics", "Japan", and "Eurasia" have earlier interquartile ranges between the 1990s and 2000s. This suggests foundational work establishing examination of conflict's gendered impacts including geographically-situated studies as well as linking to political and sociological frameworks.

In contrast, many terms tied to gender rights, movements, and status (e.g. "women's status", "feminism") or associated forms of violence against women (e.g. "sexual violence") have interquartile ranges concentrated in the 2010s to present day as shown in figure 10. This indicates a substantial portion of recent focus is assessing shifts in gender equality and women's empowerment projects alongside persisting manifestations of conflict-fueled misogyny. Clustering of sociological concepts like "social movement" and "women's organization" ranges across the late 2000s to early 2010s - marking that time frame as an active period digging into gendered dimensions of activism and mobilization around conflict causes and consequences.

As shown in figure 10, the terms "Asia" and "war" demonstrate more consistent attention spanning their full interquartile ranges from the 2000s to the present. This stable time focus highlights the maturation of conflict and gender research situated in the Asian context as well as at the crux of understanding war's international reverberations. Overall, the timeline illustrates an evolution from preliminary geographical and theoretical interests to more recent engagement at the nexus of gender (in)justice and conflict while maintaining an emphasis on established sub-areas like Asia-focused and movement-centered studies.

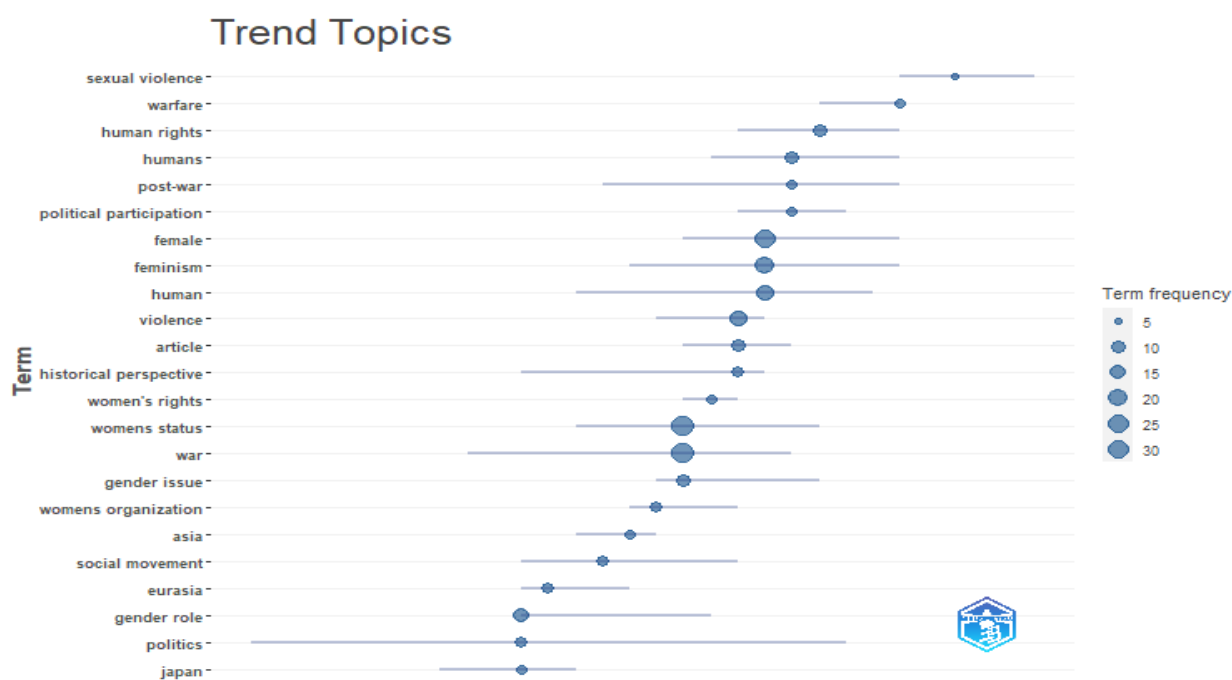


Figure 10. trend topics

This network graph visualization in *Figure 11* and *Table 3* provides additional insights by showing connections and relative importance of top terms based on co-occurrence across the articles analyzed. As shown in *Figure 11*, we can see a large clustered core of expected terms like "women's status", "female", "feminism", "gender relations", "war" etc. This reflects a tight topical focus on the intersection of gender and conflict issues. Within that dense core, "war" and "women's status" have the highest betweenness centrality, marking them as bridging concepts linking sub-themes.

As seen in *Table 3*, peripheral terms with fewer connections like "colonialism", "grief", "public health", and "sexual crime" suggest the potential for more integration with the predominant discourse - as these socio-political forces and well-being outcomes remain important but under-discussed lenses for understanding war's asymmetrical impacts. Concepts like "Eurasia", "Asia", "Japan", and "nationalism" appearing in smaller disconnected components indicate siloed pockets of geographically or ideologically situated analyses that could benefit from more intersection with each other and the broader knowledge base. While historically dominant regions and military superpowers like the "United States" and "United Kingdom" feature surprisingly sparsely - suggesting more context-specific investigation capturing localized nuances within wider structures.

Overall, the graph illustrates a tightly interconnected core signifying a common conceptual framework, but also meaningful gaps in bridging across ideas and contexts that scholars should continue working to address for a more holistic field encompassing conflict's multifaceted reverberations shaping women's status and rights worldwide.

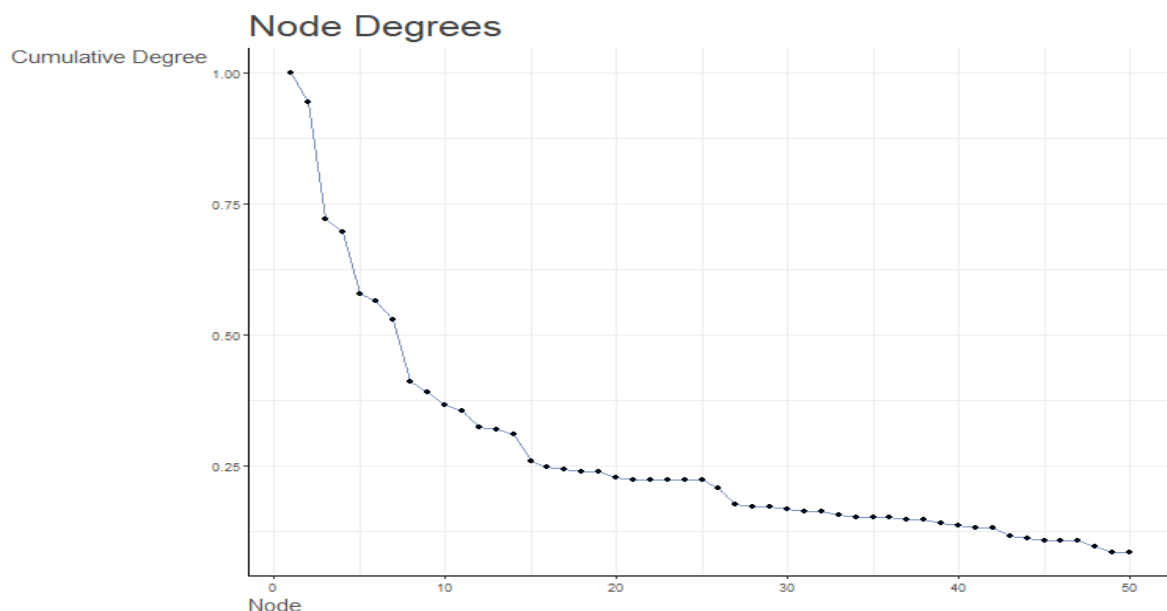


Figure 11. graph visualization of top terms based on co-occurrence across the articles analyzed

Table 3. Top terms based on co-occurrence across the articles analyzed.

Node	Cluster	Betweenness	Closeness	PageRank
war	1	464.757224	0.01694915	0.08853993
female	1	100.302975	0.01333333	0.06286677

Node	Cluster	Betweenness	Closeness	PageRank
human	1	41.9148962	0.01298701	0.05747442
violence	1	17.472012	0.01219512	0.03022747
gender identity	1	47.9229852	0.01282051	0.03157203
article	1	12.7004146	0.01162791	0.04324654
humans	1	21.9050306	0.01265823	0.04658178
male	1	2.3608876	0.01098901	0.02556398
politics	1	0.73171273	0.0106383	0.01804872
warfare	1	0	0.01010101	0.01114809
women's rights	1	0.11714771	0.01020408	0.01317221
sexual violence	1	1.27936673	0.01111111	0.01514219
united kingdom	1	0	0.00970874	0.00537721
civil war	1	2.21524308	0.01010101	0.01200411
colonialism	1	0	0.00943396	0.00418449
Germany	1	0	0.00819672	0.00412996
grief	1	0	0.00990099	0.00741812
history	1	0	0.01	0.01098783
Israel	1	0	0.01010101	0.00747444
psychological aspect	1	0.38032514	0.01030928	0.01701545
public health	1	0	0.01030928	0.01158119
rape	1	0	0.01	0.00834563
sexual crime	1	1.48347346	0.0106383	0.02015063
united nations	1	0	0.01	0.00834563
women's health	1	0	0.01	0.0086898
women's status	2	232.590055	0.01388889	0.08223255
feminism	2	117.44563	0.01369863	0.04535677
gender relations	2	3.97668945	0.01123596	0.02038855
gender role	2	4.52178554	0.01162791	0.02284831
gender issue	2	8.25358742	0.01149425	0.01840956
human rights	2	1.02989663	0.01075269	0.01223939
eurasia	2	31.4512615	0.01190476	0.0281609
historical perspective	2	2.60275962	0.01136364	0.01689335
social movement	2	2.11583186	0.01098901	0.01612929
terrorism	2	0.22291022	0.01086957	0.01185217
women's organization	2	10.9650853	0.01136364	0.01741867
Asia	2	2.79009045	0.00952381	0.01969442
Japan	2	0	0.00847458	0.00578546
political participation	2	0.39375724	0.00934579	0.01348743
post-war	2	0.4062402	0.00943396	0.01220928
islamism	2	0	0.0106383	0.00938617
theoretical study	2	2.82635915	0.01098901	0.01407145
united states	2	0	0.01052632	0.00668756
Australia	2	0	0.00840336	0.00558006
Iraq	2	0	0.00862069	0.00710614
national identity	2	0.35619879	0.00934579	0.01244337
nationalism	2	0	0.00917431	0.0089795
political discourse	2	2.17958772	0.01086957	0.01185631
social theory	2	0.32858063	0.00961538	0.01149471

Figure 12 shows the top concepts by analyzing their network centrality statistics after clustering terms into related groups. The largest cluster unsurprisingly centers on expected concepts like “women’s status”, “feminism”, “gender relations” etc that group together as prevailing foci examining the intersection of conflict and gender. The high betweenness centrality of “women’s status” positions it as the most central bridging term linking associated ideas.

A second large cluster forms around expected terms like "war", "female", and "violence", showing the tight

integration of gender and conflict issues in the knowledge network. Again, "war" plays a connecting role with the highest betweenness statistic in this group. Some additional isolated concepts and smaller clusters emerge as well, such as:

- A "post-colonialism" pair touching on critical ideological contexts
- A small "refugee" grouping denoting displaced populations needing support
- A "narrative" cluster around storytelling and verbal communication - signaling qualitative approaches to understanding experiences

The relative peripheral positioning and small size of many clusters indicate additional room in the literature to strengthen connections between concepts like health, trauma, ethnicity, politics, and other socio-contextual factors intersecting with wartime-gendered realities on the ground. Overall, while dominant topical clusters exist, gaps remain for weaving critical but disconnected ideas into the fabric of literature for a more holistic understanding of multifaceted forces shaping diverse reverberations of conflict for women worldwide.



Figure 12. top concepts

Table 4 shows an overview of 5 clusters (topics) that were identified in the literature review: women's status, war, post-colonialism, refugee, and narrative. Several key metrics provide insights into the prominence and connectedness of these topics.

As shown in Table 4, the "women's status" cluster has the highest Callon Centrality score at 8.84, indicating it has strong interconnections in the citation network with other clusters. It also has the 2nd highest Rank Centrality at 4, confirming it as highly influential. With a frequency of 274, it is also the most frequently occurring cluster. The "war" cluster ranks high across the board as well, with the highest Callon Density at 161.92 showing a dense concentration of connections between papers within that cluster. It has 2nd highest Callon Centrality and is the 5th most frequent cluster. As seen in Table 4, the "post-colonialism" and "refugee" clusters occur more peripherally, with just 2 papers each. They rank low across network connectivity metrics. Finally, the "narrative" cluster captures a moderate number of papers at 13 but still shows connectivity through a Rank Centrality of 3. In summary, topics directly addressing women's status and war are dominant in the literature, showing high levels of citation and interconnection. Other topics occur less frequently or in isolation. Expanding analysis of post-colonialism, refugees and narratives represents opportunities for future

research to interconnect with core discussions on women in war.

Table 4. Overview of 5 clusters (topics) that were identified in the literature review.

Cluster	Callon Centrality	Callon Density	Rank Centrality	Rank Density	Cluster Frequency
women's status	8.83649962	89.4000356	4	3	274
war	15.9684825	161.919896	5	5	229
post-colonialism	0	50	1	2	2
refugee	0.33333333	33.3333333	2	1	3
narrative	2.41666667	115.277778	3	4	13

Discussion

This bibliometric analysis reviewing academic literature on the status of women in war offers both affirming and surprising insights. On one hand, findings confirmed predictable dominant trends centered on core gender issues. On the other hand, results revealed unexpected patterns regarding impact, participation, and knowledge gaps.

Unsurprisingly, the highest volume of publications and citations concentrated directly on intersections of conflict and gender. Prevalent topics like shifting women's status and rights alongside persistent gender-based violence show scholars prominently situate analyses at this nexus. Simultaneously, diffusion across interdisciplinary journals and attention to broader contexts affirms rich interconnected examinations accounting for multifaceted forces shaping women's complicated wartime trajectories.

However, the study complicated assumptions on several fronts. First, findings challenged presumptions about impact. With heightened recent output but fewer citations per article, maintaining high visibility and influence may prove challenging amid literature expansion. Additionally, the geographic concentration of productivity revealed gaps in integrating diverse perspectives. Dominance of Global North authors risks overlooking critical on-the-ground insights from the Global South. Moreover, minuscule multiple country publications indicate concerning research insularity rather than needed multinational collaborations to fully capture women's varied realities.

Furthermore, counter to expectations, analysis found a dearth of attention toward intersecting factors like race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation mediating how different women experience conflict reverberations. Overall trends emphasized universality over within-group diversity. Addressing this key blind spot can strengthen scholarly discourse and practical support. While heartening growth in gender-attentive conflict examinations exists, caveats remain. Persisting citation inequality, unrealized international cooperation, and lack of intersectionality temper positive assessments. As warfare's impacts continue evolving, responsive research and policy demand equitable multi-perspectival approaches accounting for diverse women's compounding struggles amidst violence. This review constitutes a key step toward identifying progress made and gaps remaining for gender-conscious and socially-just conflict scholarship.

Additionally, findings across several key areas affirm ascending attention while revealing blindspots requiring redress. To be more specific, results showed low initial productivity with limited studies in the 1990s and early 2000s focused explicitly on gendered dimensions of conflict. However, the number of publications accelerated after 2009. Recent output exceeding 8 articles annually signals heightened recognition of overlooking women's complex experiences. Peaks in 2013 and again in 2019-2020 connecting to contemporary unrest indicate research responsiveness to pressing contexts of violence. Overall growth trends remain positive, though uncertain sustainability awaits ongoing assessment.

Impact metrics also evidenced evolving patterns. On average, a citation count of 14 per article affirms resonance within the still-maturing subfield. However, while output has gained momentum, citations per publication peaked earlier and then declined. As Figure 2 shows, highly-cited pioneering works giving way to incremental rather than paradigm-shifting papers may account for this drop. Thus, upholding influence commensurate with the expansion rate persists as an ongoing challenge.

Productivity trends also revealed concerning imbalances. Concentrated output from Western Europe and North

America comprising over 75% of affiliations spotlights uneven participation. Minimal multiple-country publications involving developing nation scholars further highlight Global South exclusion from dominant conversations. The scattered contributions from conflict-adjacent low and middle-income regions signal imperative, still unrealized opportunities to center overlooked frontline perspectives.

However, findings did underscore some diversity with the most relevant publication sources spanning numerous disciplines. While anchored in gender studies, diffusion across humanities and social science journals affirms interdisciplinary efforts grappling with the root ideologies and multifaceted impacts perpetuating gendered militarization and violence. Still, figure 11 illustrates the remaining gaps fully bridging disconnected concepts like sexual violence or grief with prevailing discourse. Integrative frameworks have room yet to strengthen.

In total, while heartening growth exists, gaps in equitable regional participation and cross-pollination of ideas qualify optimism. Sustaining promising publication momentum to match conflict's increasing complexity relies on addressing enduring blind spots excluding marginalized voices and intersections. Solely through purposeful solidarity across borders and academic boundaries an understanding of the gendered reverberations of violence comes to match women's urgent, uncompromising lived realities worldwide.

Theoretical and practical Implications

This bibliometric analysis contributes to the growing body of literature on gender and conflict studies by providing a comprehensive overview of research trends, patterns, and gaps. The findings underscore the need for a more intersectional approach that acknowledges the diverse experiences of women in conflict situations, influenced by factors such as race, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. The review highlights the importance of integrating theoretical perspectives from various disciplines, including gender studies, political science, public health, and critical theory, to better understand the multidimensional nature of women's experiences during and after armed conflicts.

The study has practical implications for policymakers, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations working on issues related to women, peace, and security. By identifying geographic and thematic gaps in the existing literature, the review emphasizes the need for more inclusive and context-specific research to inform policies and interventions that address the unique needs and challenges faced by women in different conflict-affected regions. The findings also highlight the importance of promoting collaborative research networks that amplify marginalized voices and facilitate knowledge exchange between scholars, practitioners, and local communities.

Limitations

While this bibliometric analysis offers valuable insights, it is crucial to acknowledge its limitations. The study's focus on the Scopus database and the specific search terms used may have inadvertently excluded relevant literature from other sources or used different terminology. Additionally, the reliance on citation-based metrics as a proxy for impact has inherent limitations, as citations may not always reflect positive influence. Furthermore, the rapidly evolving nature of research in this field means that the findings represent a snapshot in time and may require periodic updates to capture emerging trends.

Recommendations and future research

Findings from this review highlight several promising directions to advance gender-conscious scholarship and practice related to armed conflict.

Firstly, **sustaining promising publication momentum relies on dedicated funding mechanisms specifically supporting research explicating women's overlooked wartime roles.** Targeted grants prioritizing conflict-affected regions with productivity gaps can simultaneously buoy output and regional diversity. Regarding research design, incentivizing multinational collaborative projects and Global South leadership constitutes an imperative, ethical priority to displace concentrated Western dominance dictating prevailing discourse. Platforms directly enabling marginalized co-authorship merit support to dismantle knowledge hierarchies.

Additionally, future studies must purposefully center intersectional diversity in women's conflict experiences mediated by race, class, and ethnicity factors. The dearth of identity-conscious analyses risks homogenizing vastly different

reverberations of violence. Remedying glaring research gaps around intersectionality promises to enrich practical support provisions. Furthermore, based on the findings and limitations identified, several avenues for future research can be proposed:

1. Conducting systematic reviews or meta-analyses that synthesize qualitative and quantitative evidence from diverse sources, including grey literature and local community-based research.
2. Exploring intersectional approaches that examine how gender intersects with other identities, such as race, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, in shaping women's experiences of conflict and peace processes.
3. Investigating the role of women in countering violent extremism and their contributions to peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts.

Finally, the following recommendations can be made:

1. Allocate dedicated funding and resources to support research on women's experiences in conflict situations, with a particular emphasis on amplifying voices from underrepresented regions and marginalized communities.
2. Establish platforms and networks to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity-building among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners working on issues related to women, peace, and security.
3. Integrate findings from research into policy-making processes and public discourse to inform more inclusive and gender-sensitive interventions in conflict-affected regions.

In conclusion, realizing the full potential of this research area to progressively uplift women's status demands explicit prioritization of equitable regional participation, interdisciplinary approaches, intersectional identity mindfulness, and bridging inquiry to action. With concerted intention, scholars can keep positive trends ascending rather than inadvertently stagnating in exclusive echo chambers disconnected from applied change.

Conclusion

The findings from this bibliometric analysis underscore the growing recognition of the importance of studying women's experiences in armed conflicts. However, the review also reveals significant gaps and imbalances in the existing literature, particularly in terms of geographic representation, intersectional perspectives, and collaborative research practices. While the overall trend shows an increase in research output on this topic, the dominance of Western nations in shaping the discourse raises concerns about the potential marginalization of perspectives from conflict-affected regions in the Global South. Additionally, the lack of intersectional analyses that consider the intersections of gender with other identities, such as race, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, limits our understanding of the diverse and nuanced experiences of women in conflict situations. To address these gaps, future research endeavors must prioritize the amplification of marginalized voices and the promotion of collaborative research networks that foster knowledge exchange and capacity-building across borders and disciplines. By embracing intersectional approaches and fostering partnerships with local communities and women's organizations, researchers can ensure that their work is culturally sensitive, ethically grounded, and responsive to the lived realities of those affected by armed conflicts.

Furthermore, the findings highlight the need for greater integration of research insights into policy-making processes and public discourse. By translating academic knowledge into actionable recommendations and raising awareness about the multidimensional impacts of conflict on women, researchers can contribute to the development of more inclusive and gender-sensitive interventions aimed at promoting sustainable peace, gender equality, and women's empowerment.

Ultimately, this bibliometric analysis serves as a call to action for the research community to continue pushing the boundaries of our understanding of women's experiences in conflict situations. By embracing interdisciplinary collaborations, amplifying marginalized voices, and fostering meaningful partnerships with local communities, researchers can play a vital role in shaping a more just, equitable, and peaceful world for all.

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