

# Human Trafficking of Immigration Studies: A Bibliometrics Analysis

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**Abstract.** This paper aims to examine the current dynamics of the Human Trafficking in Immigration Studies. Using a bibliometric approach, we observe a sample of 7 (seven) documents from the Scopus database to identify research activity on human trafficking. The keywords "human trafficking" and "Immigration" have been executed in the search query. We presented the earlier stage of research in human trafficking, the subsequent trends, publication status based on source title, country and institution and examined the citation pattern of the publications. We also discussed the themes based on the occurrences and themes of the keywords, title and abstract of the document. This paper also predicts the future study in human trafficking of immigration.

**Keywords:** Human Trafficking, Immigration, Bibliometric Analysis

## 1 Introduction

Globally, transnational crime has emerged as a significant threat, including within Indonesia. According to Cockbain et al.'s research (2022) titled "Examining the Geographies of Human Trafficking: Methodological Challenges in Mapping Trafficking's Complexities and Connectivities," women constitute the majority of human trafficking victims, with a total number of 81%. Additionally, Poland has been identified as a major place of human trafficking, with 86% of these crimes occurring on the international stage [1]. In Indonesia, the Central Statistics Agency (2021) reported data on 124 cases of human trafficking crimes from 2018 indicated across all provinces. [2]. The rise of human trafficking is certainly the impact of the digital globalization era which makes the majority of the world's people want to raise their economic level instantly.

The rapid development of science automatically makes technology dynamic in the process of human life. Means of communication, information, and transportation are the fields that feel the most significant impact in technological development. By experiencing progressive technological advances, it causes territories from one country to another to be easily reached. The era of globalization provides a dynamic in the political system in the world. This condition is aimed at the direction of competitive struggle for influence, both nationally, regionally and globally. This situation causes changes in the situation for security in the world with the release of new issues that threaten the security of countries in the world including Indonesia. Moreover,

coupled with the increasing population that can have a negative impact arising from the movement or crossing of people in and out of a country's territory.

One of the factors that causes the mobility of population movements to other countries is the disproportionality between human resources and available jobs, so this encourages some residents to try their luck abroad. The image of a large income that will be obtained is the strongest magnet that encourages someone to work in another country. This attraction is utilized by irresponsible individuals to conduct human trafficking. Human trafficking represents a significant form of transnational crime impacting countries globally. Annex II of the Preamble to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime addresses this concern through the Preventive Protocol to Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. This protocol underscores the necessity for a comprehensive international strategy to thwart human traffickers and safeguard the rights of their victims. It defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, harboring, transfer, or receipt of individuals through coercion, violence, or other forms of duress.

In response to the Human trafficking issue, the Indonesian government has enacted Law No. 21 of 2007 on the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons. This legislation was reinforced by Presidential Regulation No. 22 of 2021, which amends Presidential Regulation No. 69 of 2008. The amended regulation defines trafficking in persons as the act of recruiting, transporting, harboring, sending, transferring, or receiving individuals through threats of violence, actual violence, abduction, confinement, forgery, fraud, exploitation of a vulnerable position, or financial transactions to gain consent from individuals in control of others, either domestically or across borders, with the aim of exploitation or resulting in exploitation.

Immigration is a vital state institution for the movement of people between countries. This is because human trafficking will definitely cross between countries, which involves the duties and functions of the Immigration institution. Therefore, research related to human trafficking from an immigration perspective is urgent to be conducted. This research has been conducted by Vries et al. entitled "Anti-immigration sentiment and public opinion on human trafficking in 2019, then Chacon, with the title "Human Trafficking, Immigration Regulation, And Subfederal Criminalization," in 2017. FitzGerald wrote an article entitled "Vulnerable geographies: human trafficking, immigration and border control in the UK and beyond," in 2016 and a book written by P. Orrenius and M. Zavodny, on Undocumented immigration and human trafficking, in 2015[3]-[6]. However, in this paper, researchers will discuss Human Trafficking in the perspective of Immigration using a bibliometric analysis approach. So far, the author has not found any references related to Human Trafficking in the Immigration Context using bibliometric analysis. Then, it becomes a research gap between this and previous studies that have been conducted by previous researchers.

This study seeks to identify the trends and developments in research on Immigration related to Human Trafficking. By conducting a bibliometric analysis of the relevant literature, the study aims to answer the following questions: (1) What are trends and developments on Human Trafficking within the realm of immigration studies? (2) Who are the leading researchers in the field of Human Trafficking in the context of Immigration?

## 2 Methods

Bibliometric analysis, a quantitative approach, involves examining academic literature through bibliographies to provide descriptions and evaluations and monitoring of published research [7]. The methodology aims to scrutinize publications, citations, and information sources, such as analysis aids in assessing the scientific productivity of authors and extracting various other pieces of information. It facilitates the identification of research clusters, offers insights into current research interests, and uncovers trends in emerging topics within a field. Each bibliometric method is tailored to specific research questions, particularly those prevalent in science mapping.

Metadata for this study was obtained from the Scopus database on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 11:45 am. The Scopus database is known for providing reliable, comprehensive information, along with specific analysis options and broad coverage. To collect metadata, a search was performed for the terms "Human Trafficking" and "Immigration" within article titles. Title-specific searches have been shown to enhance specificity and ensure the retrieval of current information. The collected metadata was then analyzed using Excel for frequency analysis. To perform citation metrics and analysis, Harzing's Publish or Perish software was employed, and VOSviewer was used for data visualization.

## 3 Results

To gain an understanding of Human Trafficking research within the context of Immigration, this research presented general statistics from the dataset. Articles that met the search criteria were analyzed based on document type, source, research productivity, subject area, prominent source titles, keywords, and citation analysis. The findings are primarily expressed in terms of frequency and percentage. Furthermore, this research includes annual growth data, showing the number of retrieved documents per year, with frequency and percentage, up to May 2024. Our citation analysis identifies the five most cited articles on this theme.

### 3.1 Growth and Trend of Human Trafficking Publications in Immigration Studies

To address questions regarding the growth and dissemination trends of research on Human Trafficking within the context of Immigration Studies, this study examined the annual publication count, document source, and type, as well as the journals in which these works appeared.

**Year of Publication:** This analysis will examine research productivity based on the number of documents published per year. Examining documents by year of publication helps researchers to observe patterns and popularity of research subjects over time.[8]. Based on the Scopus database, L. Saucedo with the article title "Victim or criminal: The experiences of a human-trafficking survivor in the U.S. immigration system" which is part of the book chapter in the book *Interrupted Life: Experiences of Incarcerated Women in the United States* published by Boyd School of Law, Nevada in 2010.[9]. Since then, publication growth has stagnated, as can be seen from the number of publications of only seven articles over the 14 years of publication from the beginning of this study. Table 1 details the number of publications of the Human

Trafficking of Immigration Study since 2010. The observed publication pattern indicates that this area of study warrants increased academic focus and broader scholarly exploration.

**Table 1.** Year of Publication

Year	TP	%	TC	C/P	h	g
2010	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0
2015	1	0.89	8	8.00	1	1
2016	1	4.38	35	35.00	1	1
2017	1	1.43	10	10.00	1	1
2018	1	1.17	7	7.00	1	1
2019	1	1.80	9	9.00	1	1
2021	1	0.67	2	2.00	1	1

Source: Harzing's Publish or Perish

Notes:

TP=total number of publications;

TC=total citations;

C/P=average citations per publication;

h=h-index;

g=g-index.

In 2016, the highest citation count per year was recorded, with 35 citations from a single publication. This data suggests that while the study is of significant importance, the number of publications and overall citations remains relatively low, indicating the need for further research in this area. The paper title with the most citations was authored by FitzGerald, Sharron A with the article title "*Vulnerable geographies: human trafficking, immigration and border control in the UK and beyond*" published in the journal *Gender, Place and Culture in 2016*. [5]. Meanwhile, the second rank with the number of citations per year of 10 occurred in 2017. As for 2021, the number per year is only two citations. From this table, it can be concluded that this study still has to be carried out considering the very important role of the study, but the number of publications and total citations is not significant.

**Document Type and Source:** Document types are categorized based on their authenticity, including articles, conference papers, book chapters, etc., while source documents refer to journals and conference proceedings. According to Ahmi & Mohamad, the classification of conference papers may vary between document type and source documents. For instance, a paper presented at a conference is listed as a conference paper under document type but may be categorized as a full journal article, conference proceeding, or book chapter under document source, depending on its publication status.[8].

As outlined in Table 2, publications on Human Trafficking within Immigration Studies are distributed across four document types. Articles constitute the majority, with three publications accounting for 42.9% of the total. Followed by book chapters, namely 2 documents (28.6%), the remaining 1 document each (14.3%) consists of reviews and conference papers. From the table below, it can be concluded that publications with the theme of Human Trafficking in Immigration studies are still very limited. This certainly opens up opportunities for future researchers to conduct studies in enriching the scientific repertoire related to the topic raised, especially Human Trafficking of Immigration Studies.

**Table 2:** Document types

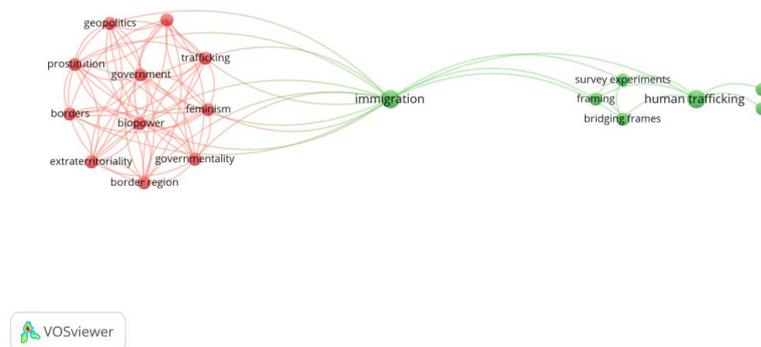
Document Type	Publications Total	Percentage
Article	3	42.9%
Book Chapter	2	28.6%
Review	1	14.3%
Conference Paper	1	14.3%

Documents and Countries: The number of publications by country was also assessed by identifying two countries contributing to the Human Trafficking in Immigration Studies literature. As depicted in Table 3, the United States emerges as the leading country, in six out of the seven articles on this topic.

**Table 2.** Publications per country

Country	Total Publications	Percentage
America	6	90%
Germany	1	10%

**Keyword Analysis:** The author made keyword network visualization for the study of Human Trafficking in the context of Immigration can be seen in Figure 1. In this figure, the color, circle size, font size, and line thickness represent the strength of relationships between keywords. The analysis reveals two clusters developed based on the keyword data.

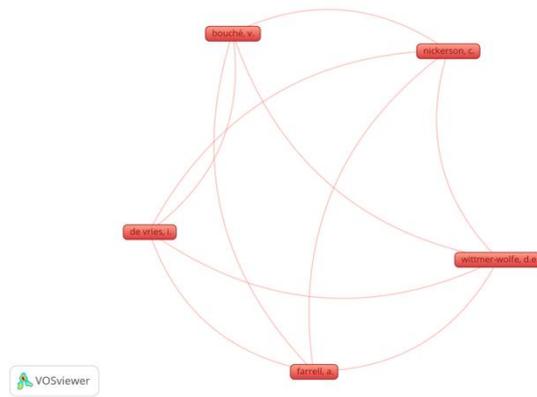


**Figure 1.** Keyword Visualization Map

The first cluster in red is related to Human Trafficking of Immigration, namely: government, governmentality, geopolitics, extraterritoriality, border region, in addition there are also keywords related to trafficking, prostitution, feminism and biopower. The second cluster in green keywords is more about human trafficking related to framing, bridging frames and survey experiments. From the figure, it can be concluded that the study of Human Trafficking in the context of Immigration is more towards government policies related to geopolitical, extraterritorial and state border policies. Other studies related to prostitution due to gender exploitation also have their own proscriptions. Another keyword that is quite unique is human trafficking which is related to framing. Framing is a theoretical approach to ordering information about how audiences feel about various political, organizational and social issues.

### 3.2 Most Influential Researchers in Human Trafficking of Immigration Publications

**Author Analysis:** The analysis of authorship related to Human Trafficking and Immigration, facilitated by Harzing's Publish or Perish tool, revealed a total of 14 researchers engaged in this field. Among them, only three are sole authors, while the remaining researchers have collaborated with others. Furthermore, an examination of author collaboration using VOSviewer highlighted a notable partnership among de Vries, Ieke; Nickerson, Connor; Farrell, Amy; Wittmer-Wolfe, Dana E; and Bouché, Vanessa. Their joint article, titled "Anti-immigration Sentiment and Public Opinion on human trafficking," was published in *Crime, Law and Social Change* in 2019 [4]. This study investigates how anti-immigration sentiment impacts public support for anti-trafficking measures in the United States. It specifically explores how negative attitudes towards immigration affect public awareness of trafficking risks faced by migrant populations and the subsequent support for protective policies. This inquiry is critical, given the challenge of enacting protective policies for trafficked individuals despite broad governmental endorsement of anti-trafficking initiatives.



**Figure 2.** Author Relationship Visualization Map

**Citation Analysis:** Table 4 presents the citation metrics for documents retrieved on May 11, 2024, at 11:45 am, revealing a total of 71 citations accumulated over a span of 14 years (2010-2024) concerning publications on Human Trafficking and Immigration. These citation metrics were generated by Harzing's Publish or Perish software by importing RIS-formatted files from the Scopus database into the software to present the citation metrics.

**Table 4.** Citation Metrics

Metrics	Data
Year of publication	2010-2021
Quote year	14 (2010-2024)
Paper	7
Excerpt	71
Citation/year	5.07
Citation/paper	10.14
Citation/author	55.30
Paper/author	4.70
Author/paper	2.00
h-index	5
g-index	7

Meanwhile, Table 5 highlights the five most cited articles, as per the Scopus database, with "Vulnerable Geographies: Human Trafficking, Immigration and Border Control in the UK and

Beyond" by FitzGerald, Sharron A (2016) emerging as the most cited. This article, published in Gender, Place and Culture, has accumulated 35 citations.

**Table 5.** Most Cited Articles

Author	Ttitle	Cites
FitzGerald, Sharron A (2016)[5]	Vulnerable geographies: human trafficking, immigration and border control in the UK and beyond	35
Chacon, Jennifer M (2017)[11]	Human trafficking, immigration regulation, and subfederal criminalization	10
de Vries, Ieke; Nickerson, Connor; Farrell, Amy; Wittmer-Wolfe, Dana E; Bouché, Vanessa (2019)[4]	Anti-immigration sentiment and public opinion on human trafficking	9
Orrenius, Pia; Zavodny, Madeline (2015)[6]	Undocumented immigration and human trafficking	8
Bonilla, Tabitha; Mo, Cecilia Hyunjung (2018) [12]	Bridging the partisan divide on immigration policy attitudes through a bipartisan issue area: The case of human trafficking	7

FitzGerald's study investigates human trafficking through the lens of feminist theory and critiques the UK's anti-trafficking policies. It explores how these policies reflect broader discourses on the vulnerability of trafficked women to sexual exploitation and the perceived national threat from organized crime. The research uses the UK's anti-trafficking strategies as a case study to examine the interplay between national security concerns and gendered perspectives on trafficking. It argues that the moralistic approach of the UK government towards trafficking reveals a particular mode of governance and biopower.

Furthermore, the study advances a feminist interpretation of the UK's international anti-trafficking measures, focusing on border control and selective immigration policies. FitzGerald's analysis concludes that while these interventions may aim to safeguard trafficked individuals, they are also intertwined with broader geopolitical strategies. This study is still relevant to be studied further considering that currently trafficking aimed at prostitution is increasingly widespread, not only in foreign countries such as the UK but also in other parts of the world including the ASEAN region, especially Indonesia. Therefore, studies related to Human Trafficking, especially in the perspective of Immigration, must be more massively studied and explored further.

## 4 Conclusion

This study aims to elucidate the intellectual output in the domain of Human Trafficking and Immigration through bibliometric analysis. In addressing the first research question, the researcher examined publication metrics by year, source, document type, and journal.

According to the Scopus database, the pioneering study in this area was conducted by L. Saucedo with the chapter titled "Victim or Criminal: The Experiences of a Human-Trafficking Survivor in the U.S. Immigration System," published in 2010. The highest number of citations per year occurred in 2016, with 35 citations per year and 1 publication. The paper title with the most citations was authored by FitzGerald, Sharron A. with the article title "Vulnerable geographies: human trafficking, immigration and border. The analysis indicated that the peak in annual citations occurred in 2016, with a total of 35 citations for that year and a single publication. The most cited paper is "Vulnerable Geographies: Human Trafficking, Immigration and Border Control in the UK and Beyond" by Sharron A. FitzGerald, published in 2016 in *Gender, Place and Culture*. The bibliometric analysis revealed that publications on Human Trafficking and Immigration are distributed across four types of documents. Articles constitute the majority, with 3 documents (42.9%), followed by book chapters with 2 documents (28.6%). Reviews and conference papers each account for 1 document (14.3%). Additionally, the analysis identified that the United States is the leading contributor, with 6 out of a total of 7 studies emanating from this country.

The keyword analysis consists of two clusters, the first cluster in red is related to Human Trafficking of Immigration, namely: government, governmentality, geopolitics, extraterritoriality, border region, in addition there are also keywords related to trafficking, prostitution, feminism and biopower. The second cluster in green keywords is more about human trafficking related to framing, bridging frames and survey experiments. The most influential author is FitzGerald, Sharron Ad with the highest total citations of 35 which examines "Vulnerable geographies: human trafficking, immigration and border control in the UK and beyond" which examines anti-trafficking measures in the UK as A case study investigating the interplay between narratives concerning the susceptibility of trafficked women to sexual exploitation and the perceived national risks posed by external threats such as organized crime.

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