

# A BIBLIOMETRIC EXPLORATION OF MAQASID AL-SHARIAH IN CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH

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**Abstract:** *This study examines the intellectual structure and development of Maqasid al-Shariah research through a bibliometric analysis of 956 documents indexed in Scopus. The findings reveal a significant evolution from a niche, theory-driven field to a rapidly expanding and multidisciplinary research domain. While Islamic finance remains the dominant area, emerging themes such as sustainability, governance, and ethics are gaining prominence. Network analyses highlight fragmented collaboration patterns and limited integration across disciplines. Despite increasing global relevance, gaps remain in linking Maqasid with contemporary management frameworks. The study provides insights into research trends and identifies opportunities for theoretical integration and future interdisciplinary development.*

**Keywords:** *Maqasid al-Shariah; Bibliometric Analysis; Islamic Finance; Sustainability; Justice*

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## Introduction

The concept of Maqasid al-Shariah, which refers to the higher objectives and purposes of Islamic law, has increasingly gained attention as a comprehensive framework for guiding ethical, social, and economic practices in contemporary contexts. Rooted in the pursuit of justice, human dignity, and societal welfare, Maqasid al-Shariah represents the underlying philosophy that governs Islamic legal and moral reasoning (Auda, 2019). It encompasses a set of divine intents that aim to ensure the well-being of individuals and society, making it not only a legal doctrine but also a holistic approach to human development. As highlighted in previous studies, adherence to Maqasid principles is considered essential for achieving both worldly benefits and spiritual fulfillment, reinforcing its relevance across various aspects of life. Over time, the concept has evolved through multiple historical stages, beginning with early Islamic scholarship and progressing towards more contemporary interpretations that extend beyond jurisprudence to include broader frameworks such as Maqasid al-Quran (Islam, 2022).

Historically, the theoretical foundation of Maqasid al-Shariah was established by prominent Islamic scholars. Al-Juwayni introduced the classification of Maqasid into essential (*daruriyyat*), complementary (*hajiyyat*), and desirable (*tahsiniyyat*) needs, which was later refined by Al-Ghazali through the identification of five core objectives: the preservation of faith, life, intellect, lineage, and property. This framework was further developed by Al-Shatibi, who systematised Maqasid as a central principle in Islamic jurisprudence, and subsequently expanded by Ibn Ashur, who advocated for its application as a methodological tool for *ijtihad* rather than merely a theoretical construct (Syihab, 2021). These contributions have positioned Maqasid al-Shariah as a dynamic and adaptable concept capable of addressing contemporary challenges across diverse domains.

In modern scholarship, Maqasid al-Shariah has been widely applied across various fields, demonstrating its flexibility and interdisciplinary relevance. Studies have explored its application in healthcare, education, economics, and governance, highlighting its role in promoting ethical decision-making and social welfare. In the context of Islamic finance, Maqasid serves as a guiding framework to ensure justice, fairness, and sustainability, aligning financial practices with broader societal objectives (Al-Ayubi & Halawatuddu'a, 2021; Musolli, 2018). Empirical studies further demonstrate its practical implications; for instance, Maqasid has been used to evaluate corporate social responsibility, ensuring that business practices prioritise social welfare over profit maximisation, while also supporting fair taxation and equitable economic systems. Additionally, research has highlighted its role in crisis management, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic, where Maqasid principles were applied to balance public health concerns with religious obligations, thereby ensuring societal stability and well-being.

Despite its broad applicability and growing importance, the implementation of Maqasid al-Shariah in contemporary contexts faces several challenges. One of the primary issues is the diversity of interpretations among scholars, which can lead to inconsistencies in its application across different regions and institutions (Auda, 2019; Kamali, 2020). The absence of a unified theoretical and methodological framework further complicates its integration into modern systems, particularly in legal, economic, and organisational contexts. Moreover, limited institutional support and varying levels of awareness hinder its widespread adoption, restricting its potential to function as a comprehensive governance framework (Hamed et al., 2022a, 2022b). In the field of Islamic finance, challenges such as aligning theoretical principles with

practical financial instruments and ensuring genuine Shariah compliance remain significant concerns (Dusuki & Abozaid, 2007; Halim & Al Amruzi, 2024; Ishak & Nasir, 2021).

Furthermore, concerns have been raised regarding the potential misuse of Maqasid al-Shariah to justify financial practices that may contradict its ethical foundations, highlighting the need for stricter governance and accountability mechanisms (Dusuki & Abozaid, 2007). The introduction of initiatives such as Value-Based Intermediation (VBI) represents a step towards addressing these challenges by providing structured guidelines for aligning financial practices with Maqasid principles (Mahyudin & Rosman, 2020). Nevertheless, the gap between theory and practice persists, particularly in translating Maqasid into measurable organisational and strategic outcomes.

Although several bibliometric studies on Maqasid al-Shariah have been conducted, these studies remain limited in scope and temporal coverage. Most existing works focus on specific domains such as Islamic finance, sustainability, or governance, or rely on earlier datasets that do not reflect the most recent developments in the field. As a result, they provide only a partial understanding of the intellectual structure and evolving research landscape of Maqasid al-Shariah. This study extends the existing literature by offering a more comprehensive and up-to-date bibliometric analysis, incorporating publications indexed in Scopus up to March 2026. Unlike previous studies, this research integrates multiple analytical techniques including co-authorship, co-citation, keyword co-occurrence, and country collaboration analysis to systematically map the intellectual foundations, collaboration patterns, and thematic evolution of the field. Furthermore, this study goes beyond descriptive mapping by identifying emerging research trends and proposing future research directions, thereby contributing to a deeper and forward-looking understanding of Maqasid al-Shariah scholarship.

Given these challenges and the increasing diversification of research, there is a need to systematically examine the development of Maqasid al-Shariah literature to identify its intellectual structure, dominant themes, and emerging research directions. A bibliometric analysis provides a robust methodological approach to achieving this objective, enabling a comprehensive mapping of scholarly contributions and revealing gaps in the existing literature. By analysing publication trends, collaboration networks, and thematic clusters, this study aims to provide a clearer understanding of how Maqasid al-Shariah has evolved as a research field and to identify opportunities for integrating it with contemporary frameworks such as innovation capability, sustainability, and strategic management.

## Methodology

This study adopts a bibliometric analysis approach to examine the intellectual structure and development of *Maqasid al-Shariah* research. Bibliometric analysis is widely recognised for mapping scientific knowledge, identifying influential contributions, and uncovering research trends (Donthu et al., 2021; Zupic & Čater, 2015). The dataset was retrieved from the Scopus database on 15 March 2026, selected due to its comprehensive coverage of high-quality peer-reviewed literature, standardized indexing, and compatibility with bibliometric analysis tools (Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2016). A structured search query was applied using:

*TITLE-ABS-KEY (“maqasid al-shariah” OR “maqasid shariah” OR “maqasid al shariah” OR (“objectives of shariah” AND maqasid))*

This formulation was designed to balance inclusiveness and precision by capturing variations of the core concept while limiting unrelated uses of the term “objectives of shariah.” The search was not restricted by language to ensure broader representation of global scholarship.

The screening process was conducted in two stages. First, duplicate records were removed using Scopus export tools and manually verified. Second, titles and abstracts were systematically reviewed to assess relevance. Studies were included if they explicitly engaged with *Maqasid al-Shariah* as a theoretical, legal, or applied framework. Studies were excluded if they (i) only mentioned “objectives of shariah” without substantive conceptual linkage to *Maqasid al-Shariah*, (ii) were non-scholarly outputs, or (iii) fell outside the scope of the research focus. Given the breadth of the search terms, a manual filtering step was performed to ensure dataset precision by removing irrelevant records. The screening was conducted by the author based on predefined criteria. After the screening process, a final dataset of 956 documents was obtained, including 24 articles in press. A subsequent verification step was conducted to ensure conceptual consistency across the dataset.

The dataset comprises multiple document types, with journal articles (746) forming the majority, followed by book chapters (109), reviews (37), and conference papers (37). Smaller contributions include books (16), editorials (7), and a limited number of short surveys, notes, and conference reviews. This distribution indicates that *Maqasid al-Shariah* research is primarily disseminated through peer-reviewed journal publications, while also supported by conceptual discussions in books and emerging findings presented in conferences.

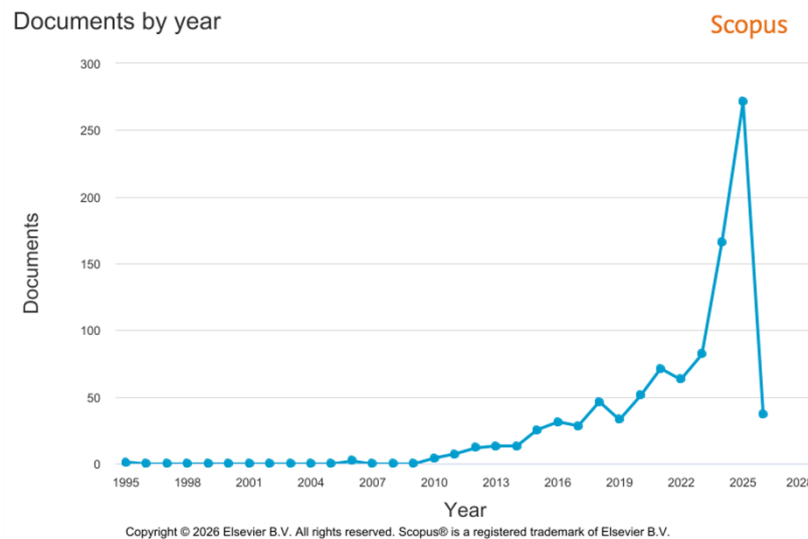
In terms of language, the literature is predominantly published in English (911 documents), with smaller contributions in Arabic (19), Malay (16), Indonesian (10), Turkish (1), and Russian (1). While this reflects the globalisation of the field, it also suggests a potential underrepresentation of non-English scholarship within indexed databases. The bibliographic data, including full records and cited references, were analysed using VOSviewer (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010). Analytical techniques such as co-authorship, co-citation (authors, references, and sources), keyword co-occurrence, and country collaboration were employed to explore collaboration patterns, intellectual foundations, and thematic developments. Threshold values were applied to minimise noise, and a thesaurus file was used to standardise terms. The findings were interpreted based on cluster structures, link strengths, and network density, providing comprehensive insights into the evolution, fragmentation, and future directions of *Maqasid al-Shariah* research. Finally, while Scopus provides extensive coverage, the use of a single database may exclude relevant studies indexed in other sources such as Web of Science or Google Scholar. This limitation is acknowledged, although Scopus remains widely accepted in bibliometric research due to its data quality and consistency.

## Results and Discussion

### Publication Trend

A total of 956 publications on *Maqasid al-Shariah* were identified, reflecting a clear evolution from a niche to a rapidly expanding research field. Between 1995 and 2008 (see Figure 1), output remained minimal, indicating its confinement to theoretical and jurisprudential discourse. From 2010 onwards, publications increased steadily, suggesting growing academic interest, particularly in Islamic finance and socio-economic applications. A notable surge occurred after 2016, with a sharp rise between 2022 and 2025, highlighting diversification into sustainability, ethics, and governance. While this growth demonstrates increasing global

relevance, it also raises concerns regarding research quality and coherence, underscoring the need for stronger theoretical integration and interdisciplinary consolidation.



Source: Scopus

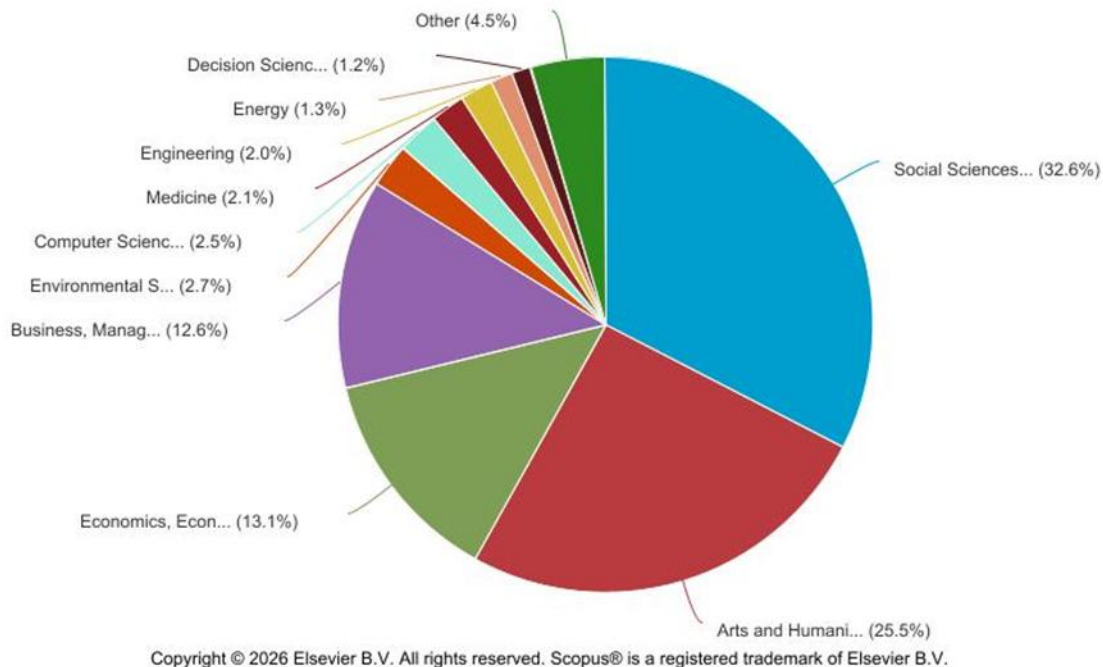
**Figure 1: Research Trend from 1995 to 2026**

The subject area distribution of Maqasid al-Shariah research demonstrates a strong disciplinary concentration alongside emerging interdisciplinary expansion. Social Sciences dominate the field, accounting for approximately 32.6% of publications, indicating that Maqasid is primarily examined through societal, governance, and policy-related perspectives. This is closely followed by Arts and Humanities (25.5%), reflecting the concept's deep roots in Islamic jurisprudence, philosophy, and ethical discourse. Together, these two domains highlight that Maqasid remains fundamentally grounded in normative and conceptual scholarship. Economics, Econometrics, and Finance (13.1%) and Business, Management, and Accounting (12.6%) represent significant but comparatively smaller proportions, suggesting that while Maqasid has been increasingly applied in Islamic finance and organisational contexts, its integration into mainstream business research is still developing. This indicates a partial transition from theory to application, particularly within financial systems and institutional performance.

Other subject areas, including Environmental Science (2.7%), Computer Science (2.5%), Medicine (2.1%), Engineering (2.0%), Energy (1.3%), and Decision Sciences (1.2%), collectively form a minor yet important segment of the literature. Their presence signals a growing recognition of Maqasid as a multidimensional framework applicable to sustainability, technology, healthcare, and decision-making contexts. However, the relatively low representation of these fields suggests that such interdisciplinary applications remain in an early stage. The distribution reveals a field that is still heavily anchored in social and philosophical domains, with emerging but limited penetration into scientific and technological disciplines. This highlights a critical opportunity for future research to expand Maqasid into broader interdisciplinary areas, particularly in innovation, sustainability, and strategic management.

## Documents by subject area

Scopus



**Figure 2: Documents by Subject**

## Co-authorship

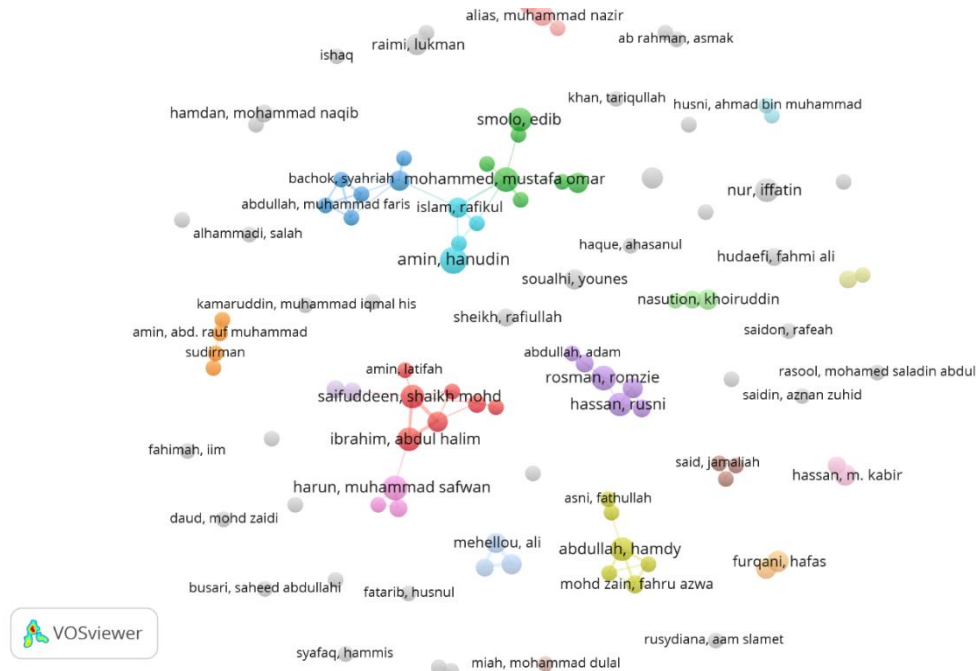
### Author

The co-authorship network analysis reveals the presence of several distinct clusters, each representing a specific collaboration group within the Maqasid al-Shariah research domain. The largest and most interconnected cluster comprises authors such as Mohammed Mustafa Omar, Smolo Edib, and Islam Rafikul, indicating a relatively strong collaborative core that contributes actively to the development of the field. This cluster demonstrates moderate link density, suggesting ongoing cooperation and knowledge exchange among its members. In contrast, another prominent cluster consisting of Ibrahim Abdul Halim and Saifuddeen Shaikh Mohd exhibits a tightly knit structure with strong internal connections, reflecting a highly localised collaboration pattern, likely within the same institutional or regional context.

Additionally, smaller clusters are observed, including groups centred around Rosman Romzie and Hassan Rusni, as well as Abdullah Hamdy and Mohd Zain Fahru Azwa. These clusters display limited connections beyond their immediate group members, indicating niche research collaborations with restricted external engagement. The presence of several minor clusters, such as those with only two or three authors, further highlights the fragmented nature of the network. Notably, a considerable number of authors appear as isolated nodes, suggesting that many researchers operate independently or with minimal collaboration.

Overall, the clustering pattern indicates that while pockets of strong collaboration exist, the broader co-authorship network remains weakly connected, with limited inter-cluster linkages. This suggests that Maqasid al-Shariah research is still developing in terms of collaborative

maturity, with opportunities for enhancing cross-institutional and interdisciplinary partnerships to strengthen the cohesion and impact of the field.



**Figure 3: Co-authorship by Author**

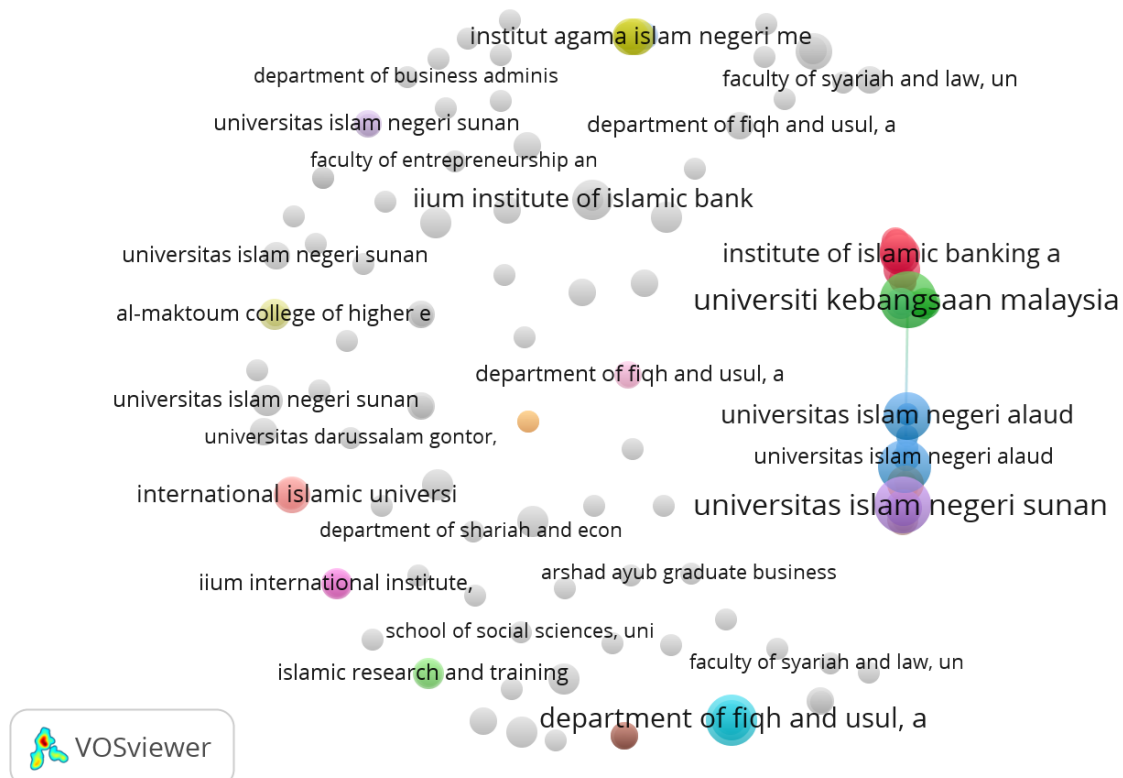
### Organisations

The institutional collaboration network reveals the organisational landscape underpinning Maqasid al-Shariah research, highlighting both dominant contributors and patterns of academic concentration. The network is characterised by a few highly prominent institutions surrounded by many smaller and weakly connected nodes, indicating that research activity is concentrated within specific academic centres rather than being widely distributed.

At the core of the network, institutions such as Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance, and Universitas Islam Negeri emerge as key hubs with strong linkages. These institutions demonstrate high research productivity and collaboration intensity, suggesting their central role in advancing Maqasid-related scholarship. Their prominence reflects the institutional strength of Malaysia and Indonesia in Islamic finance and Shariah-based research, reinforcing earlier findings on geographical concentration. In particular, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia appears as a major connector, linking multiple institutions and facilitating knowledge exchange across the network. Surrounding this core are several moderately connected institutions, including International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and various faculties and departments related to Islamic studies, business, and Shariah law. These organisations contribute to the development of the field by supporting interdisciplinary research, particularly in areas combining jurisprudence, economics, and finance. However, their connections remain relatively limited compared to the central nodes, indicating that collaboration is present but not deeply integrated.

A notable feature of the network is the large number of peripheral institutions, many of which appear as isolated or weakly connected nodes. These include smaller universities, specialised departments, and regional institutions, particularly from Indonesia. Their position suggests that

while Maqasid research is expanding, much of it is conducted independently without strong institutional collaboration. This reflects a degree of fragmentation at the organisational level, where knowledge production is not fully coordinated across institutions. The network indicates that Maqasid al-Shariah research is institutionally concentrated, with a few leading universities driving the field while many others remain marginally connected. Strengthening inter-institutional collaboration, particularly across countries and disciplines, will be important for enhancing research integration, improving knowledge exchange, and advancing the field in a more cohesive and globally impactful manner.



**Figure 4: Co-authorship by organisation**

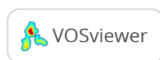
### Countries

The country co-authorship network (zoomed view) provides a more refined understanding of collaboration intensity and structural relationships within Maqasid al-Shariah research. The visualisation clearly reinforces the dominance of Malaysia and Indonesia as the two central hubs, with significantly larger node sizes indicating higher publication output and stronger collaborative linkages. The thick connecting lines between these two countries highlight a particularly strong bilateral relationship, suggesting frequent co-authorship and shared research agendas. This confirms that Southeast Asia remains the primary driver of scholarly activity in this field.

Malaysia appears slightly more embedded within a broader international network, maintaining multiple connections with countries such as the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and India. This positioning suggests that Malaysia functions as a key intermediary, facilitating knowledge exchange between different regions, particularly between Southeast Asia, the

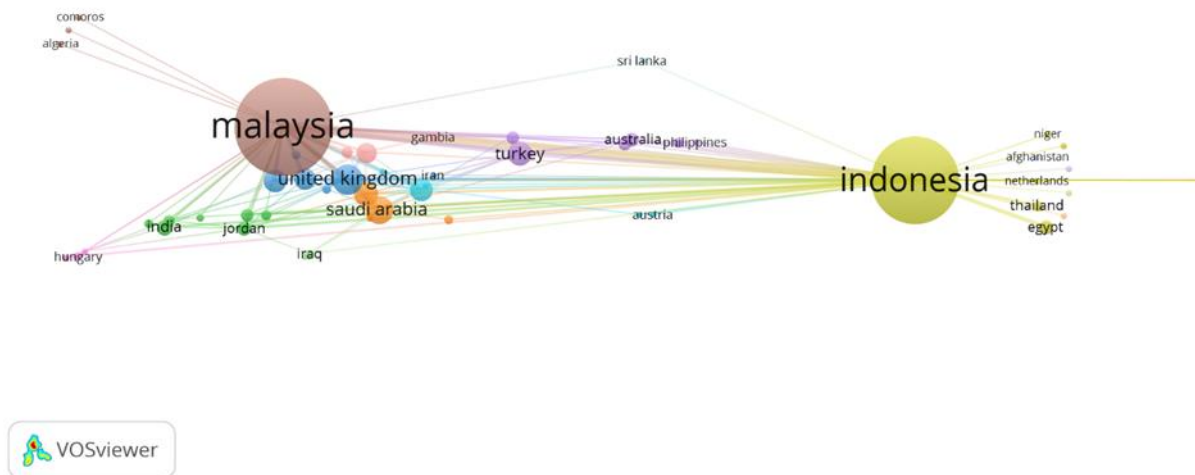
Middle East, and Western countries. In contrast, Indonesia, while equally dominant in output, shows a more outward but less dense collaboration pattern, with notable links to countries such as Egypt, Thailand, the Netherlands, and Afghanistan. This indicates expanding international engagement, although the depth of collaboration appears more limited compared to Malaysia.

The network also highlights secondary contributors such as Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom, which act as bridging nodes connecting multiple clusters. Their presence reflects the influence of both Islamic scholarship and Western academic institutions in shaping the field. Meanwhile, countries such as Turkey, India, and Jordan form smaller clusters with moderate connectivity, indicating regional collaboration patterns.



**Figure 4: Co-authorship by Countries**

A key observation from the zoomed network is the persistence of peripheral countries (e.g., Niger, Comoros, Algeria), which are weakly connected and contribute minimally to the overall collaboration structure. This suggests that Maqasid research remains unevenly distributed and lacks broad global integration. Overall, the analysis strengthens earlier findings by showing that while collaboration exists, it is still concentrated around a few dominant countries. Enhancing cross-regional collaboration beyond these hubs is essential for developing a more balanced and globally integrated research landscape



**Figure 5: Co-authorship by Countries**

### Co-occurrence

The keyword co-occurrence network illustrates a complex and multi-layered intellectual structure of Maqasid al-Shariah research, characterised by several distinct yet unevenly connected thematic clusters. The most dominant cluster is centred on Islamic finance and economic systems, represented by keywords such as Islamic finance, Islamic banking, zakat, Islamic economics, and fintech. This cluster occupies a central position in the network, indicating that the application of Maqasid al-Shariah is largely concentrated within financial and economic domains. The strong interlinkages among these keywords suggest a mature and well-established body of literature that operationalises Maqasid principles in financial practices and institutions. However, this dominance also reveals a critical limitation, as the concept of Maqasid appears to be functionally confined within financial discourse, with limited theoretical expansion into broader organisational or strategic contexts. As such, the current trajectory of research risks reducing Maqasid to an instrumental tool rather than a comprehensive framework for guiding holistic development.

In contrast, the cluster focusing on Islamic law, jurisprudence, and human rights, which includes keywords such as maqāṣid al-sharī‘ah, human rights, Islamic jurisprudence, legal reform, and gender justice, reflects the normative and philosophical foundations of the field. This cluster emphasises the role of Maqasid in promoting justice, equity, and societal well-being through legal mechanisms. The strong internal cohesion within this cluster indicates a well-developed theoretical base grounded in classical and contemporary Islamic legal scholarship. Nevertheless, a critical gap emerges in the limited interaction between this cluster and more applied domains such as finance, management, and innovation. This separation suggests that while Maqasid is conceptually robust in legal discourse, its translation into practical organisational and industrial applications remains insufficient, thereby highlighting a persistent theory–practice divide.

Another significant cluster is associated with sustainability and development, incorporating keywords such as sustainable development, Islamic finances, green development, environmental regulations, and economics. This cluster represents an emerging research stream that seeks to align Maqasid al-Shariah with global sustainability agendas, particularly in relation to environmental stewardship and socio-economic development. The presence of sustainability-related terms indicates a growing recognition of Maqasid as a framework that extends beyond financial and legal dimensions into broader developmental concerns. However, compared to the finance cluster, this area remains relatively fragmented and less cohesive, suggesting that the integration of Maqasid into sustainability discourse is still at an early stage of conceptual development. This lack of consolidation points to an opportunity for future research to strengthen theoretical linkages and develop more robust models that connect Maqasid with sustainability performance and innovation outcomes.

The Malaysia-centric and socio-behavioural cluster, represented by keywords such as Malaysia, consumer behaviour, halal, performance, and Muslim, highlights the geographical concentration of empirical research within specific contexts. Malaysia's prominent position reflects its role as a leading hub for Islamic finance and Maqasid-related studies. The inclusion of behavioural and market-oriented terms indicates a focus on consumer dynamics and performance measurement within Islamic markets. While this cluster contributes valuable empirical insights, it also reveals a potential limitation in terms of geographical bias. The concentration of studies within a single national context raises concerns regarding the generalisability of findings and underscores the need for more cross-country and comparative research to establish Maqasid as a globally relevant framework.

Finally, the ethics and bioethics cluster, which includes keywords such as ethics, bioethics, Islamic bioethics, humans, and morals, represents the human-centric and interdisciplinary dimension of Maqasid al-Shariah. This cluster extends the application of Maqasid into areas such as healthcare, moral philosophy, and human well-being, reflecting its foundational objective of preserving essential aspects of human life. Despite its conceptual richness, this cluster remains relatively peripheral within the overall network, indicating that ethical discussions are not yet fully integrated into mainstream Maqasid research. This marginal position suggests that the holistic potential of Maqasid, particularly its relevance to contemporary ethical and technological challenges, is underexplored.

Overall, the network reveals a fragmented intellectual landscape, where dominant financial themes coexist with less integrated legal, sustainability, behavioural, and ethical perspectives. The limited interconnections among clusters highlight a lack of interdisciplinary integration, suggesting that Maqasid al-Shariah research is still evolving towards a more cohesive and unified framework. This fragmentation presents a significant opportunity for future research to bridge these thematic divides, particularly by integrating Maqasid with strategic management, innovation capability, and organisational performance, thereby advancing its role as a comprehensive and dynamic framework for contemporary research and practice.



Maqasid, it also reflects a critical limitation: the concept is frequently interpreted through financial instruments and institutional frameworks rather than being extended into broader organisational or strategic contexts. This indicates a disciplinary concentration that may hinder the expansion of Maqasid into other fields such as innovation management or strategic capability development.

Another important cluster is centred around works such as Hudaib (Exploring the Ethical Identity of Islamic Banks), Haniffa (Developing Islamic Corporate Reporting), and Mansour (Performance and Maqasid), which focus on ethics, performance measurement, and governance. This cluster represents an effort to bridge normative principles with empirical evaluation, particularly in the context of organisational performance and accountability. The presence of terms related to performance measurement and ethical identity suggests a growing interest in quantifying Maqasid-based outcomes. However, the relatively weaker connections between this cluster and the central core indicate that these efforts remain methodologically and conceptually fragmented, lacking a unified framework that integrates ethical evaluation with strategic and operational dimensions.

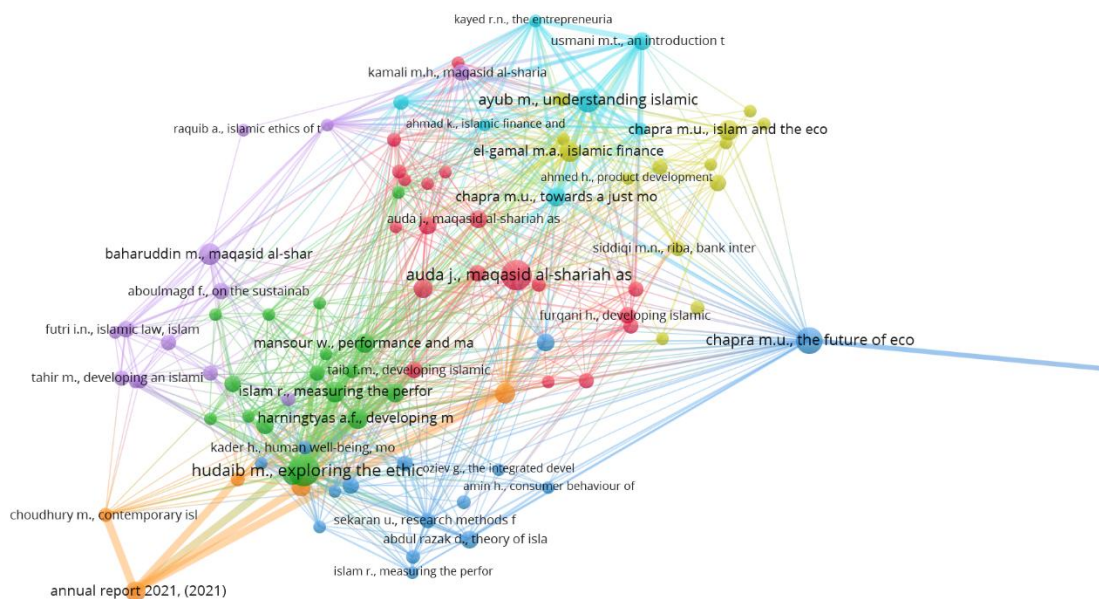
The network also reveals a cluster associated with sustainability and human well-being, including references such as Kader (Human Well-being), Harrington (Developing Maqasid-based models), and Islam (Measuring performance). This cluster signals an emerging research trajectory that aligns Maqasid with sustainable development and socio-economic impact assessment. Despite its relevance to contemporary global challenges, this cluster is less densely connected, indicating that sustainability-oriented Maqasid research is still in a formative stage and has not yet achieved strong integration with established financial or legal literature.

A particularly notable feature of the network is the presence of isolated or weakly connected references, such as Kamali (Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence), which appears detached from the main cluster despite its theoretical importance. This suggests a disconnect between classical jurisprudential foundations and contemporary applied research. Similarly, documents such as annual reports and methodological references appear at the periphery, indicating that empirical and institutional studies are not yet fully embedded within the core intellectual structure.

Overall, the co-citation network reveals a field that is intellectually anchored in a combination of systems theory and Islamic economics, yet remains fragmented across multiple emerging domains, including ethics, performance measurement, and sustainability. The strong centralisation around a few seminal works highlights both the strength and limitation of the field: while it benefits from a clear theoretical foundation, it lacks sufficient integration across disciplines. Critically, the absence of strong connections to contemporary management theories—such as the resource-based view, dynamic capabilities, and innovation capability—underscores a significant research gap. Addressing this gap by integrating Maqasid with organisational and strategic perspectives would not only enhance theoretical advancement but also expand its practical applicability in modern business and industrial contexts.



**Figure 7: Co-citation of Cited References**



**Figure 8: Co-citation of Cited References (Zoom In)**

**Cited sources**

The cited sources co-citation network provides important insights into the journal-level intellectual structure of Maqasid al-Shariah research, revealing how knowledge is disseminated across disciplinary outlets and highlighting the dominance of specific publication channels. The network is characterised by several distinct clusters, with a strong concentration around a few highly influential journals, indicating both intellectual consolidation and disciplinary segmentation.

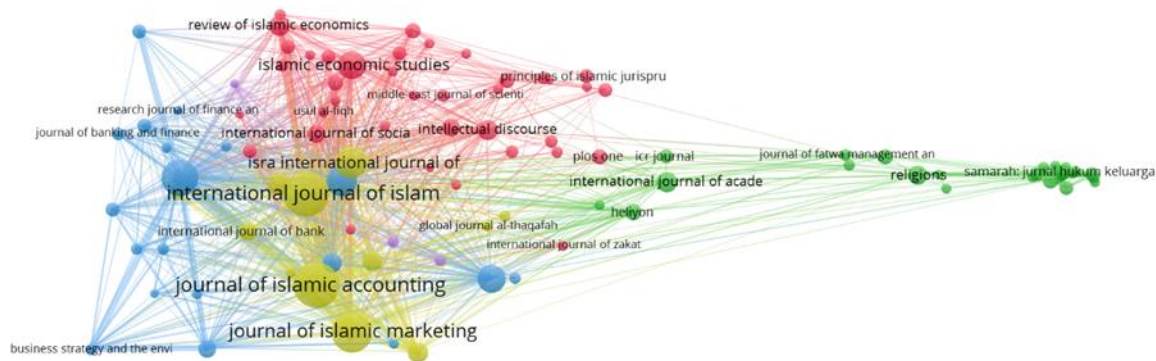
At the centre of the network, the most dominant cluster is anchored by journals such as International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management, Journal of

Islamic Accounting and Business Research, and Journal of Islamic Marketing. These journals exhibit the highest node sizes and strongest link strengths, indicating that they are frequently co-cited and serve as primary publication outlets for Maqasid-related research. This central positioning reflects the strong alignment between Maqasid al-Shariah and Islamic finance, accounting, and marketing disciplines. However, this dominance also reveals a critical limitation, as the field appears to be heavily concentrated within a relatively narrow set of specialised journals, potentially restricting exposure to broader academic audiences and limiting interdisciplinary engagement. Closely connected to this core is another cluster comprising journals such as Islamic Economic Studies, Review of Islamic Economics, and International Journal of Social Economics. This cluster reinforces the economic and financial orientation of the field, with a particular emphasis on theoretical and empirical studies in Islamic economics. The dense interconnections between these journals and the central cluster indicate a strong and cohesive knowledge base within the economics domain. Nevertheless, this concentration further highlights the disciplinary bias towards economic interpretations of Maqasid, potentially overshadowing other important dimensions such as organisational strategy, innovation, and management practices.

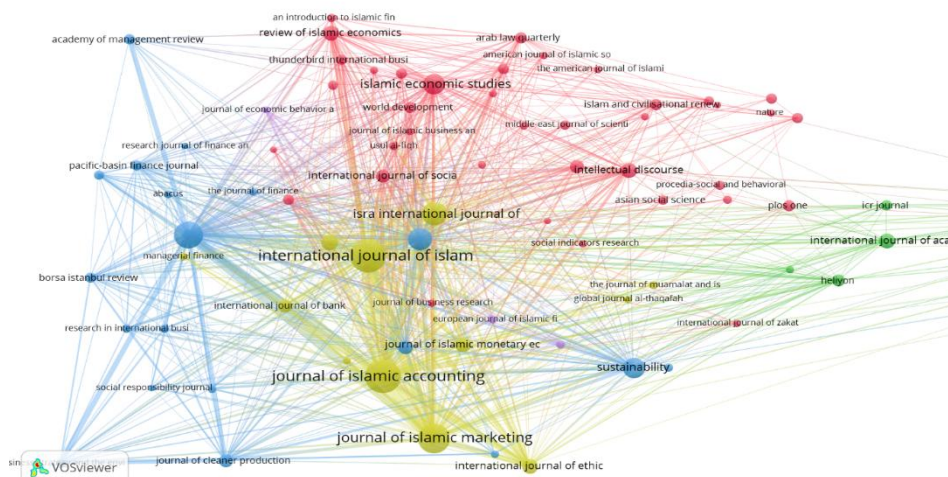
A third cluster, represented by journals such as Intellectual Discourse, Arab Law Quarterly, and Islam and Civilisational Renewal, reflects the legal, philosophical, and normative foundations of Maqasid al-Shariah. These journals focus on jurisprudence, ethics, and the conceptual development of Islamic thought. While they contribute significantly to the theoretical grounding of the field, their relatively weaker connections to the central finance-oriented journals suggest a lack of integration between normative and applied research streams. This separation indicates that legal and philosophical discussions of Maqasid are not fully translated into empirical or organisational contexts, reinforcing the theory–practice divide identified in earlier analyses. The network also includes a cluster of broader, interdisciplinary and high-impact journals such as Sustainability, Journal of Cleaner Production, Plos One, and Heliyon. These journals are positioned more peripherally but maintain connections with the central clusters, indicating emerging efforts to link Maqasid al-Shariah with sustainability, environmental studies, and interdisciplinary research. The presence of these journals suggests a growing recognition of Maqasid as a framework relevant to global challenges such as sustainable development and social responsibility. However, the relatively weaker link strengths imply that this integration is still in its early stages and lacks strong consolidation within the core literature.

Another peripheral cluster includes journals such as Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting, Managerial Finance, and Academy Management Review, which represent mainstream finance and management disciplines. The limited connections between these journals and the central Islamic finance cluster highlight a significant gap in cross-disciplinary integration, particularly with established management and strategy literature. This suggests that Maqasid al-Shariah has yet to be fully incorporated into mainstream business and management research, limiting its theoretical influence and practical applicability in broader organisational contexts. Overall, the cited sources network reveals a field that is highly centralised within Islamic finance and economics journals, with emerging but weakly integrated connections to legal, ethical, sustainability, and mainstream management domains. The clustering pattern indicates a clear disciplinary fragmentation, where different research streams operate in parallel rather than as a cohesive whole. Critically, the limited presence of high-impact management and strategy journals underscores a major research gap, particularly in linking Maqasid al-Shariah with contemporary frameworks such as the resource-based view, dynamic capabilities,

and innovation capability. Addressing this gap by expanding publication outlets and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration would significantly enhance the visibility, impact, and theoretical advancement of Maqasid-based research.



**Figure 9: Co-citation by cited sources**



**Figure 10: Co-citation by Cited Sources (Zoom In)**

### Cited authors

The cited author co-citation network reveals the intellectual landscape of Maqasid al-Shariah research, highlighting the presence of several dominant scholarly clusters that collectively shape the field. The most prominent cluster, represented in red, is densely populated with authors such as Chapra M.U., Ahmed H., Bouheraoua S., and Choudhury M.A., indicating a strong and cohesive body of literature grounded in Islamic economics and finance. The high density of connections within this cluster suggests that these authors are frequently co-cited, reflecting their foundational role in establishing Maqasid as an economic and socio-financial framework. Critically, this cluster demonstrates the dominance of Islamic finance discourse,

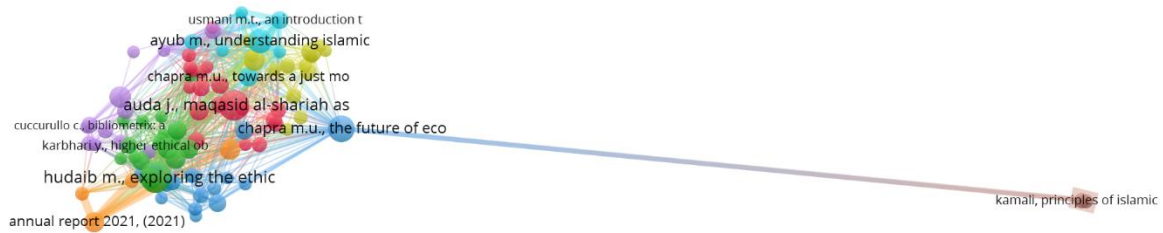
where Maqasid is primarily interpreted through economic justice, wealth distribution, and financial system development. However, this concentration also reveals a conceptual limitation, as the heavy reliance on a core group of scholars may constrain theoretical diversification and limit interdisciplinary expansion.

Adjacent to this, the blue cluster, centred around Auda J., represents a significant theoretical stream focusing on the systemic and philosophical reinterpretation of Maqasid al-Shariah. Auda's work, often linked with scholars such as Al-Raysuni A. and Al-Zuhaili W., introduces a systems-based approach that redefines Maqasid beyond classical jurisprudence into a more dynamic and adaptable framework. The connections between this cluster and the dominant red cluster indicate that Auda's contributions serve as an important bridge between traditional and contemporary interpretations. Nevertheless, the relatively smaller size of this cluster suggests that while influential, systems-based perspectives have not yet been fully integrated into mainstream empirical and applied research, particularly in management and organisational contexts.

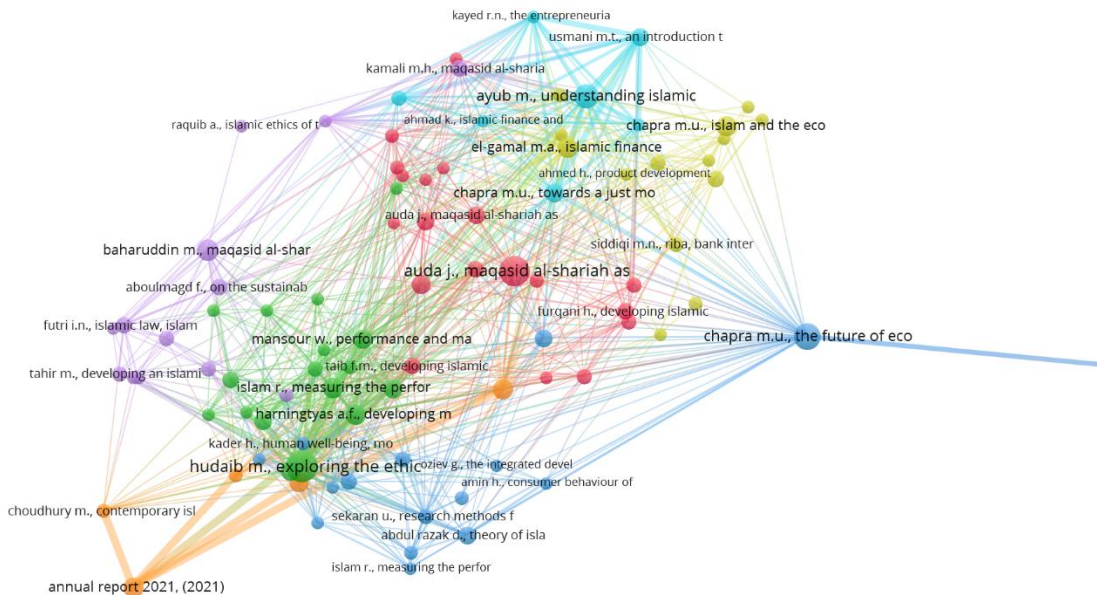
The green cluster, which includes authors such as Parra T.A., Esposito J.L., Ahmad K., and Masud M.K., reflects a more contemporary and interdisciplinary orientation. This cluster appears to engage with broader themes such as governance, sustainability, and socio-economic development, signalling an expansion of Maqasid research into global and cross-disciplinary domains. The positioning of this cluster towards the periphery of the network indicates that these contributions, although growing, remain less central compared to traditional Islamic finance literature. This suggests that the integration of Maqasid into modern global issues is still evolving and has yet to achieve strong co-citation alignment with foundational works.

Another important cluster is the yellow group, anchored by Siddiqi M.N. and supported by scholars such as Smolo E. and Mirakhor A. This cluster represents an intermediate intellectual position, linking classical Islamic economic thought with contemporary financial practices. Siddiqi's work, in particular, has played a pivotal role in shaping Islamic banking theory and ethical finance principles. The connections between this cluster and both the red and green clusters indicate its bridging function, facilitating the transition of Maqasid from traditional economic frameworks to more applied and policy-oriented contexts. However, despite its bridging role, this cluster still operates largely within the financial paradigm, reinforcing the dominance of finance-centric interpretations.

Overall, the network structure reveals a field that is intellectually anchored in Islamic economics and finance, with emerging yet less integrated contributions from systems theory, sustainability, and interdisciplinary research. The strong clustering around a limited number of influential authors suggests a degree of intellectual concentration, while the relatively weaker connections between clusters highlight fragmentation across different research streams. This pattern indicates that Maqasid al-Shariah research is still in a developmental stage, where foundational theories continue to dominate, and newer perspectives have yet to be fully synthesised into a cohesive framework. Critically, the absence of strong integration with management theories such as the resource-based view and innovation capability underscores a significant research gap. Addressing this gap by bridging traditional Maqasid scholarship with contemporary organisational and strategic perspectives would enhance both the theoretical robustness and practical relevance of the field.



**Figure 10: Co-citation by Cited Authors**



**Figure 11: Co-citation by Cited Authors (Zoom In)**

### Contribution and Future Research

This study contributes to the Maqasid al-Shariah literature by offering a systematic and evidence-based overview of its development using bibliometric analysis. By analysing publication trends, co-authorship patterns, and thematic structures, the study provides a clearer picture of how the field has evolved over time. The findings show that Maqasid research has moved beyond its traditional jurisprudential roots and is increasingly applied in areas such as Islamic finance, sustainability, and governance. At the same time, the analysis reveals that the field remains uneven, with strong concentration in certain domains and limited integration across others. From a theoretical perspective, the study highlights a key issue: the lack of connection between established Maqasid discourse and contemporary management and

organisational theories. While Maqasid is widely discussed in normative and financial contexts, its role in areas such as strategy, innovation, and organisational capability is still limited. This suggests that the concept has not yet been fully developed as a practical framework for modern organisations. By identifying this gap, the study opens space for repositioning Maqasid as a broader framework that can support value creation, not only from an ethical standpoint but also from a strategic and operational perspective.

In practical terms, the findings are relevant for both researchers and practitioners. For researchers, the study identifies areas that are already well explored and those that remain underdeveloped, helping to guide future work. For practitioners, especially those in Islamic finance and related sectors, the results highlight the importance of moving beyond compliance-based approaches and focusing more on outcomes such as social impact, fairness, and sustainability. Several directions for future research can be considered. First, there is a need to link Maqasid al-Shariah more explicitly with established management frameworks, such as innovation capability and organisational performance. Second, future studies should focus on developing measurable indicators of Maqasid, as current research is still largely conceptual. Third, more comparative and cross-country studies are needed to reduce the current regional concentration and improve the generalisability of findings. Finally, further work is needed to strengthen interdisciplinary connections, particularly with sustainability and technology-related fields, to ensure that Maqasid remains relevant in addressing contemporary challenges.

### Conclusion

This study shows that Maqasid al-Shariah research has grown significantly and is no longer limited to theoretical discussions, but has expanded into areas such as finance, sustainability, and governance. However, the field remains fragmented, with limited integration across disciplines and a strong concentration in specific domains. While its relevance continues to increase, there is still a gap in linking Maqasid with contemporary organisational and strategic perspectives. Strengthening this integration and developing more practical applications will be essential for advancing Maqasid as a comprehensive and relevant framework in addressing modern academic and industry challenges.

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