

# Mapping the Scientific Landscape of Psychological Crisis Affecting Child Sexual Abuse Victims: A Bibliometric Analysis

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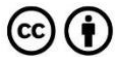
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**ABSTRACT:** This study explores the intellectual overview of psychological crisis in child sexual abuse (CSA) victims. Bibliometric analysis was performed to identify three primary terms “psychological crisis”, “child sexual abuse”, and “victims” between 2014 and 2024 which yielded 2,058 documents from WoS and Scopus databases after applying filtration criteria. The results were generated through VOSviewer and Biblioshiny. The study identified CSA as predominated keyword (11%), while psychological crises denoted with terms like trauma, anxiety, depression, and PTSD (1%). The psychological crisis marked as prevalence provides major impacts in recent research, while CSA remains an emerging topic that is evolving into specific areas such as punishment, emotions, victim blaming, and decision-making. The co-citation and authorship identified Finkelhor and Cohen J as fundamental researchers on CSA and child trauma, while Lyon TD as an influential author on CSA. The findings suggest that the research on CSA and its emotional effect on victims offers significant opportunities for further exploration in developing countries, particularly in Southeast Asia, alongside contributions from pioneer countries and established authors. The study concludes the need to advance research across several thematic areas in order to address existing knowledge gaps and advance scientific knowledge.

## INTRODUCTION

Psychological research has gained significant attention through diversification since the last decade because child sexual abuse (CSA) emerged as a crucial topic due to its intricate psychological effects. A psychological crisis or mental health crisis refers to an intense decompensating mental health episode which disrupts an individual’s ability to function or maintain control (Hudson et al., 2024). The term “crisis” describes an extremely changing situation which causes a stable process to rapidly transform into a depression that produce negative or risky results (Narter, 2023).

Psychological crisis tends to develop after traumatic events including sexual abuse (Dolev-Cohen et al., 2020). The physical and mental health of individuals suffer severe consequences from sexual abuse in addition to crimes offenses (Choi et al., 2023; Jardim et al., 2021). The traumatic experience of sexual abuse affects children throughout their adolescence and into their adulthood thus producing long-term effect of sexual abuse (Manukrishnan & Bhagabati, 2023). Children who have been sexually abused exhibit symptoms which include anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), low self-esteem, self-harm, and eating disorder (Alves et al., 2024; Choi et al., 2023; Wohab & Akhter, 2010). Florentino (2015) mentioned long-term symptoms of sexual

abuse include affective dissociation alongside with suicidal thoughts and acute phobias. Short term symptoms of sexual abuse impact victims through confusion along with humiliation, shame, fear of the aggressor, and social isolation (Alves et al., 2024).

The field of psychology has recently seen child sexual abuse become a prominent issue which has drawn numerous researchers to conduct studies (Tran et al., 2018). Research on psychological crises experienced by children sexually abused remains scarce. Previous studies primarily focus on psychological violence (Huang et al., 2024), maltreatment (Tran et al., 2018), mental health (Manukrishnan & Bhagabati, 2023), victimization (Dworkin et al., 2017), and emotional aspects which include PTSD, anxiety, or trauma (Collin-Vézina et al., 2021). Additionally, literatures available utilizing bibliometrics only focuses on psychological crisis of COVID-19 pandemic (Akintunde et al., 2021; Dong et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2024).

To comprehend the global response to this issue, a systematic approach and bibliometric analysis are required to describe the major intellectual contribution and collaborative efforts. Systemic reviews establish context while defining research problems and identifying existing and non-existing studies to direct future research through evaluative and transparent methods (Linnenluecke et al., 2020). Bibliometric analysis hereinafter offers performance and scientific mapping analysis through a quantitative and qualitative methods (Mulet-Forteza et al., 2021). This article introduces innovative approach using R-based bibliometric software, Biblioshiny, and VOSviewer to visualize the scientific mapping from research related to psychological crises in addressing CSA victims. Given the need of the global trend of CSA and its effect on mental health research, this study is necessary to systematically synthesize current knowledge, identify global trend and research gap, map intellectual contribution, and identify underexplored areas for future research direction (Donthu et al., 2021; Linnenluecke et al., 2020). Information in this study will develop the research advancement, support decision-making in research funding, and identify countries and researchers that predominantly contributed to the study.

### **Study Aim and Hypothesis**

This study aims to investigate the scientific landscape of psychological crisis in sexually abused children. Research on psychological crisis and child sexual abuse (CSA) has maintained a steady upward trend and holds critical value while also mapping future research directions. In addition, the co-citation and co-authorship networks are expected to create an intellectual structure that highlights the influence of key authors and demonstrates researcher social connections. The study assumes that international collaboration serves as a vital factor to deepening the global understanding of this issue, with a growing cross-national partnerships in recent years. To answer those hypotheses, the researchers provide multiple questions.

RQ1. What is the main topic addressed in research on the psychological crises and CSA?

RQ2. What is the significance conducting psychological crisis and CSA? How is the future development in investigating such research?

RQ3. How do co-citation and co-authorship networks reflect the intellectual and social structure of this research domain?

RQ4. Does international collaboration play an important role in this research?

The study provides scientific landscape information to explore the leading and trend topics (RQ1), to investigate the research gap and future research prospects (RQ2), to understand the collaboration pattern and intellectual structure of research (RQ3), and to map the structure and intensity of scientific collaboration between countries in a specific research topic (RQ4).

## **METHODS**

### **Design**

The research used quantitative methods with bibliometric analysis to study publication data within a specific academic field (Passas, 2024). Bibliometric analysis data was carried out through Web of Science and Elsevier Scopus database in order to obtain high quality papers, comprehensive citation indexes, and wide range of publication (Kumpulainen & Seppänen, 2022).

### **Document and Procedure**

The research procedure was carried out through following a three-phase approach as described by Sivarajah et al. (2017) and Mio et al. (2020). The first phase is Planning the Review Process, which include defining the research aims and objectives and developing review protocol. The second phase is Conducting the Review Process, that consist of identifying, selecting, evaluating, and synthesizing the pertinent research studies. The third phase is Reporting and Dissemination of the Overall Research Results, that is descriptive reporting of results and thematic reporting of journal articles.

According to the review protocol proposed by Mio et al. (2020), the data must have followed several conditions. 1) the data was generated in a reliable sources including Scopus and Web of Science databases with key words “psychological crisis,” “child sexual abuse,” and “victim”; 2) to focus measure data, all published journal articles were included, but excluded other types of document such as books, book chapters, proceedings, reports, and early access articles published between 2014 and 2024; 3) to enhance consistency, irrelevant topics were excluded; 4) selected articles published in English; 5) both empirical and conceptual articles belong to psychology discipline were included, and 6) read the article to obtain final suitability.

In phase two, researchers applied multi-stages of database selecting process. The document search was collected using the keywords “psychological crisis” AND “child sexual abuse” AND “victim” through Web of Science and Scopus databases, yielding 54,317 documents, on 18th November 2024. Then, the selection process followed the structure of the PRISMA flow diagram to ensure the trustworthiness of the inclusion and exclusion data process, see Figure 1. At the end of process, only 2,058 documents were considered for further investigation.

Lastly, the results were reported in descriptive. The analysis results were performed in bibliometric indicators 1) keyword co-occurrences, 2) thematic map and evolution, 3) co-citation and co-authorship networks, and 4) scientific collaboration network. The resulting visualizations and bibliometric indicators were analyzed descriptively to identify research trends, thematic structures, key authors, and collaboration patterns related to psychological crisis in CSA victim.

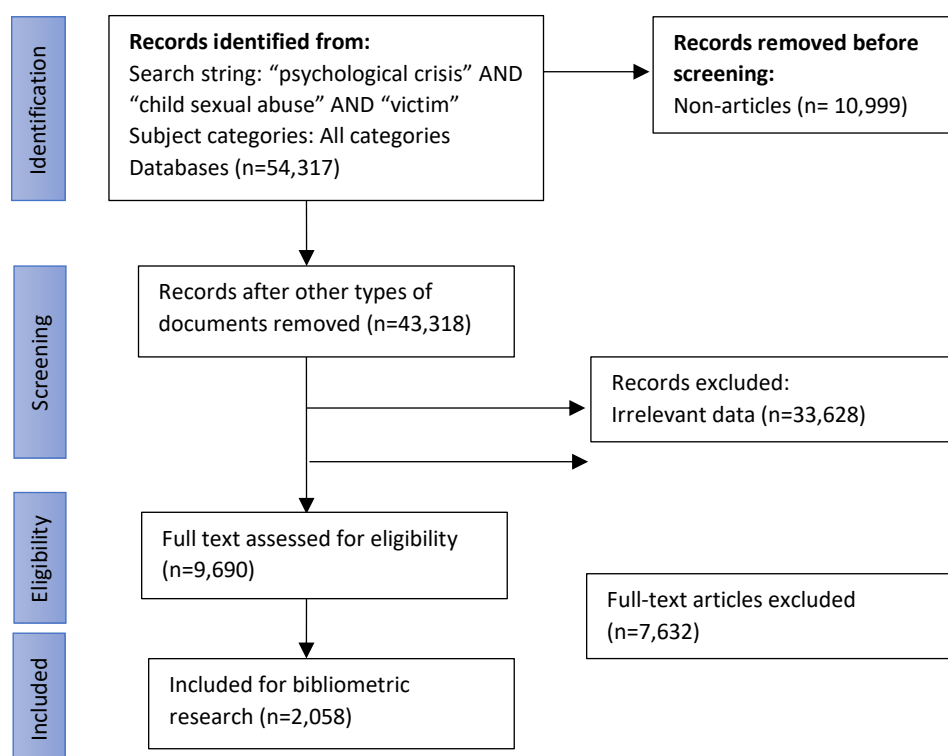
### **Instruments**

The Preferred Reporting Items for Systemic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) methodology was widely applied in bibliometric analyses to refine the search results (Boloy et al., 2021; Moher et al., 2009). The PRISMA diagram aims to ensure transparency which demonstrates how the data was filtered based on various criteria such as document type, time span, language, and research area (Page et al., 2022). Figure 1 illustrates the new PRISMA 2020 designed by Page et al. (2022). The PRISMA diagram served to record the document screening and selection process for bibliometric analysis. The systemic selection process reduced the initial 54,317 documents to 2,058 articles which were relevant to psychological crisis in CSA victims. The refined dataset underwent bibliometric analysis.

### **Data Analysis**

Bibliometric analysis is used to evaluate research field development through quantitative analysis and visualization of documents (Milán-garcía et al., 2021). The visualization enables

researchers to discover research patterns while identifying gaps and predicting future directions (Mukherjee et al., 2022). Tools such as VOSviewer and Biblioshiny were utilized to perform bibliometric analysis. VOSviewer was utilized to analyse data mapping and cluster the articles (Xie et al., 2020) by displaying them into circles with different colours and sizes. The higher the weight, the larger and the darker its label and circle. Meanwhile, Biblioshiny illustrates the statistical number of the documents. The visualizations were then qualitatively described based on thematic and network results.



**Figure 1.** flow diagram for article selection process by PRISMA statement

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

The general information of extracted data is highlighted in Table 1. In this study, the database combination followed by reduction steps yielded 2,058 documents from 354 different sources spanning 2014-2024. A total publication growth rate reached 15.28% annually throughout the entire period with the average document received 13.77 citations from 78,820 references. The extracted data revealed 5037 authors with identified keywords. The research area involved 6,361 authors and one author produced 133 documents with an average of 3.97 co-authors per article. Global co-authorship experienced a 27.89% growth rate.

The scientific mapping analysis revealed authors keywords and research trend to answer RQ1, thematic map and thematic evolution, intellectual and social structure of authors, and collaboration networks

### Analysis of authors keywords network

Keyword analysis provides information to find core research, paradigms, current focus areas, and emerging trend in a certain field, while also identifying research hotspots and future directions (Huang et al., 2024; Rejeb et al., 2025). The Biblioshiny tool produced keyword data which displays author-written keyword frequency distribution in Figure 1. The three most common keywords in the dataset are children sexual abuse with 251 occurrences (11%), bullying with 126 occurrences (6%), and intimate partner violence with 120 occurrences (5%). Several terms including trauma (2%),

mental health (2%), depression (1%), and PTSD (1%) are utilized to indicate psychological crisis, which describes the psychological impact of sexual violence experience.

Table 1. Summary of documents result

<i>Description</i>	<i>Results</i>
Timespan (Year)	2014:2024
Sources	354
Documents	2,058
Annual growth rate of publication (%)	15.28%
Average citations per document	13.77
References	78,820
Author's key words	5037
Authors	6,361
Authors of single-authored documents	133
Average co-authors per document	3.97
International co-authorships (%)	27.89%



Figure 1. Tree map keyword analysis (source Biblioshiny)

### Analysis of research trend

A graphical analysis is generated to support the keyword analysis during the time lapse (Martinez-Garcia et al., 2023). Biblioshiny was used to provide major trending topic based on the authors' keywords and the parameters of term frequency used in publication. Figure 2 describes 26 trending keywords appear each year during 2014 to 2024 with minimum 10 term frequency.

The result showed some keywords become trending topic in psychological crisis affecting CSA victims research for long period of about five years or more during the 2015-2024 namely child sexual abuse, bullying, adolescents, revictimization, posttraumatic stress disorder, victimization, aggression, acquaintance rape, and alcohol. Child sexual abuse become a dominant topic with the highest frequency (251 frequency) between 2015 and 2024. Furthermore, the subject of psychological crisis which implicitly discussed in CSA research throughout 2015 to 2022 are post-traumatic stress disorder (24 frequency) and alcohol (18 frequency). A new research trend topic is adverse childhood experience which has attracted researchers from 2020 to 2024. Consequently, those research topics maintain their position as both a sustaining and emerging research since 2015.

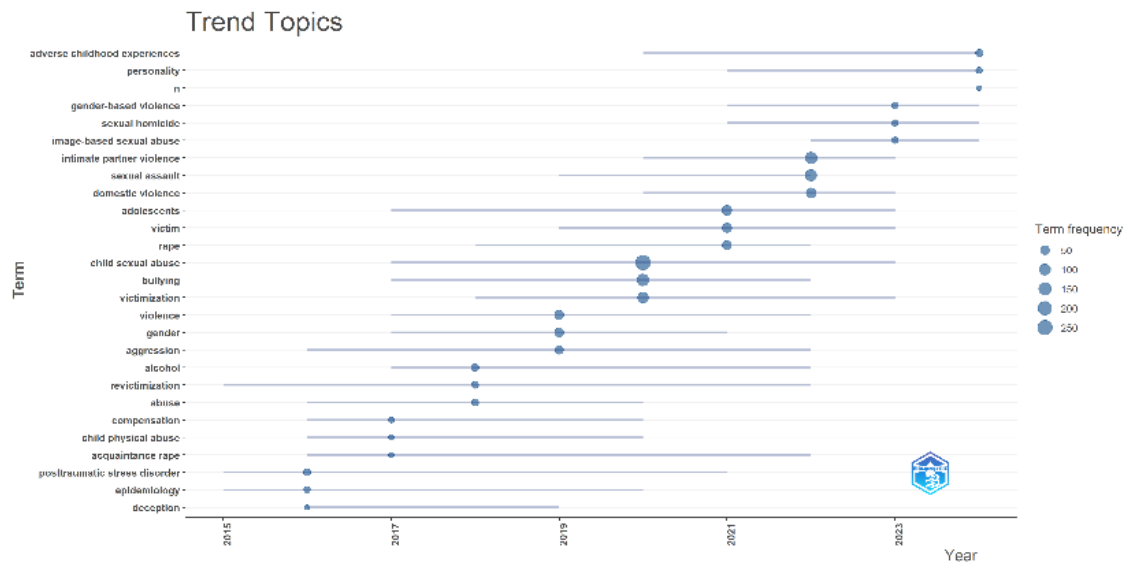


Figure 2. Trend of CSA's topics yearly 2014-2024 based on author's keyword (source Biblioshiny)

### Network analysis of authors' keyword

The co-occurrences illustrate network visualization of authors keyword that are frequently used on psychological crisis in CSA victims research, see Figure 3. The results identified six major clusters namely green, red, blue, yellow, tosca, and purple cluster. Each color has certain characteristic denoted with the large node as a group topic.

The green cluster contains the keyword "prevalence" together with other terms like trauma, PTSD, anxiety, suicide, and substance use representing different forms of long-term psychological crises. The red cluster with major term "victim" surrounded with terms forgiveness, guilt, shame, and decision-making illustrates emotional challenges post-abuse and while pursuing justice. The term "impact" appears in blue cluster followed with big node such as perception, gender, attitudes illustrate how society views abuse through victim blame, attribution, and bystander intervention which intensifies psychological distress because of social stigma.

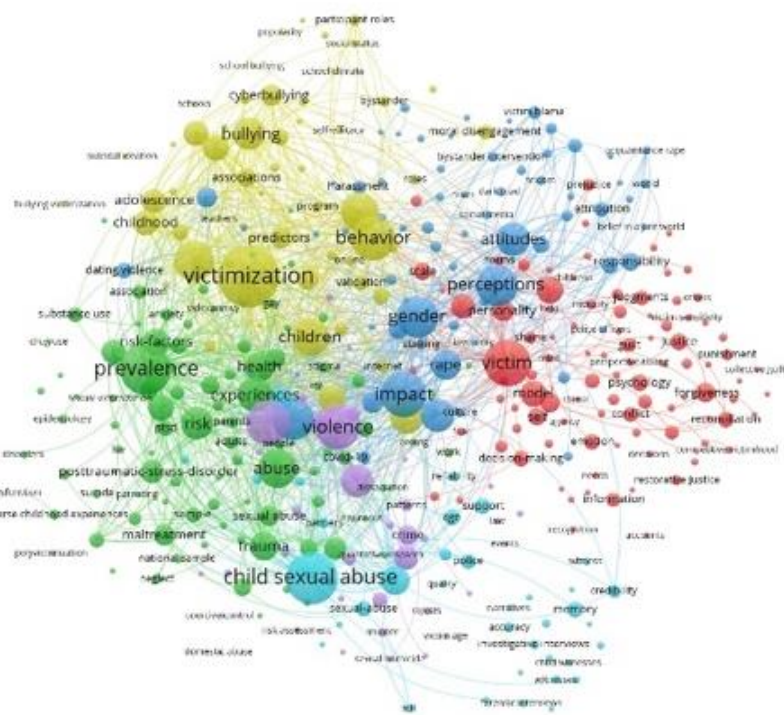


Figure 3. Authors keyword co-occurrences network visualization (source VOSviewer)



The yellow cluster contains victimization as its core term examines child development and social behavior such as bullying and cyberbullying, indicating that children experience violence at early age and become integrated into their developmental environment. The tosca cluster, headed by child sexual abuse, demonstrates technical and legal aspects including credibility, child witnesses, and support, illustrating the psychological difficulties victims encounter during investigations and legal proceedings. Lastly, the purple cluster, led by the keyword violence, encompasses with criminological elements such as sexual homicide, rapist, and risk assessment that help understand risk contexts and offender patterns. Overall, the co-occurrences network demonstrates that CSA victims experience psychological crises because of how internal factors, social elements, and structural components interact within their network of traumatic events.

### Thematic map of keyword search

The thematic map illustrates recent significant concerns generated from the author's keyword which provide future research opportunities within certain disciplines (García-Lillo et al., 2023). The thematic network is generated through VOSviewer, which map keywords into four primary quadrants based on density and centrality. The centrality represents the significance theme, while the density describes development theme (Bajaj et al., 2022; Nasir et al., 2020).

The initial quadrant is the niche theme. The quadrant shows a highly specialized theme with low relevance that requires future attention. The research explores four main topic which include reconciliation, forgiveness, punishment, and memory process. Secondly, the motor theme demonstrates a current research pattern with major progress and substantial influence on the field (Cobo & Herrera, 2011). Researchers in this quadrant investigate prevalence, abuse, and victim's experiences issues.

Thirdly, the basic theme contains themes that support fundamental research with a high relevance yet remain underdeveloped (García-Lillo et al., 2023). In the future, topics such as victimization, behavior, aggression, impact, perceptions, women, consequences and responses to sexually abused children should gain more attention. Finally, the emerging or declining theme reveals themes that demonstrate minimal significance while showing slow development (Tawiah et al., 2024). Topics such as child sexual abuse and disclosure processes are not fully developed. Therefore, this quadrant present future opportunities in the research disciplines.

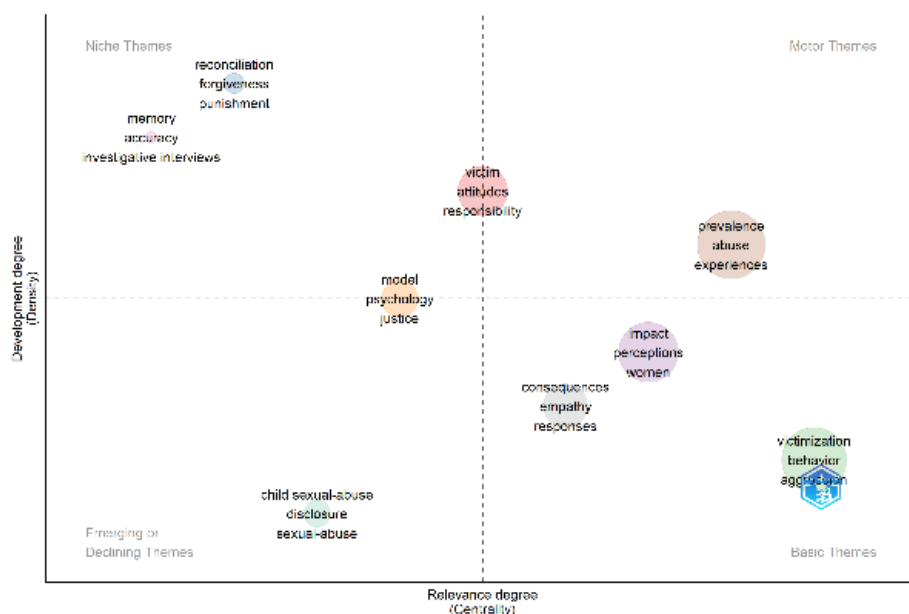


Figure 4. Thematic map analysis between 2014 and 2024 (source Biblioshiny)

### Thematic evolution and map

Based on the thematic evolution results generated from Biblioshiny, child sexual abuse research has maintained continuous focus throughout both periods (2014-2019 and 2020-2024). The first period from 2014 to 2019 found that child sexual abuse and forgiveness were the predominant areas of study, emphasizing victims traumatic experience that followed with complex emotional and moral responses. Most research focus on psychological crisis in CSA victims including fairness, bullying, and credibility, demonstrating abuse disclosure challenges and social stigma around victims.

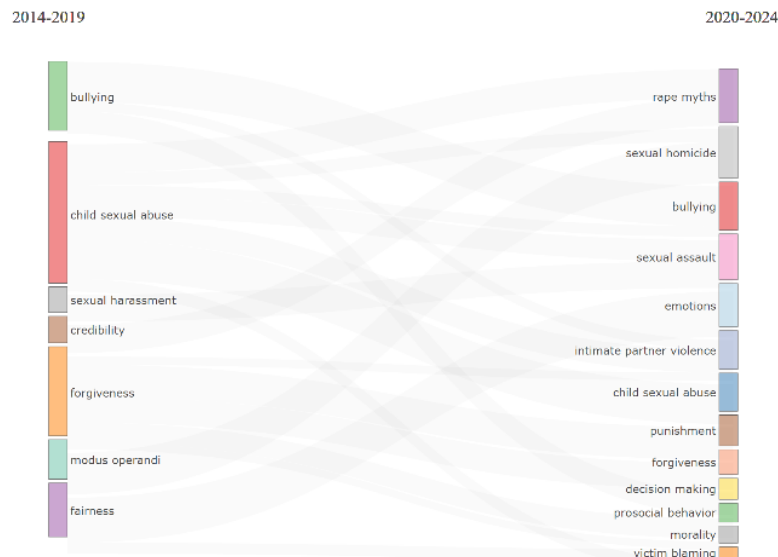


Figure 5. Thematic evolution for 10 periods from 2014-2024 (source Biblioshiny)

The later period, from 2020 to 2024, some themes emerged into more specific research areas. Victim blaming emerged to replace credibility and fairness shift into decision making as new research themes which demonstrate how social perception and victim mental pressure have evolved. This transition reflects deeper psychological effects and a conceptual shift in CSA research. Similarly, new themes such as emotions and forgiveness could be seen as attempts to comprehend the psychological processes that occur within victims after abuse. The study does not directly address the psychological crisis but its meaning emerges through developing themes which depict emotional distress, moral conflicts, and social discrimination experienced by victims.

### Analysis of Intellectual structure of authors

The analysis of authors' intellectual structure was generated through co-citation analysis in VOSviewer. Co-citation network connected two publications when they appear together in the reference list of another publication. Figure 6 indicates four research stream clusters of psychological crises affecting victims of CSA.

Faul F and Cohen J are authors who led red cluster to explore experimental design and quantitative analysis methods in social sciences and behavioral research. The red cluster contains frequently cited works which establish robust academic connections between blue, purple, and green clusters. The blue cluster contains Burt MR as its central author who studied gender-based violence and sexual violence. The study observed Salmivalli C and Kowalski RM emerged as leading expert in bullying and aggressive behavior research in the purple cluster. Additionally, the green cluster features Finkelhor D and Stolzenberg as experts in child violence, abuse, and trauma alongside Barth J, Braun V, and Alaggia who are well-known authors in this field.



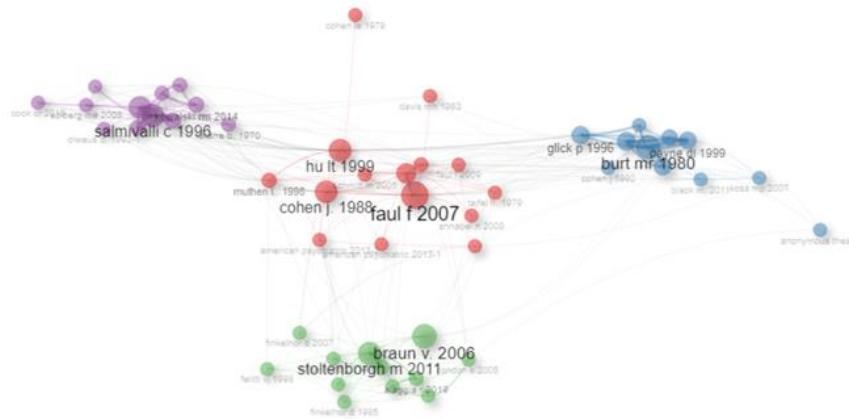


Figure 6. Network mapping the intellectual structure of authors (source VOSviewer)

### Analysis of social structure of authors

The node size in social structure network mapping indicates researchers with high impact in their research area. The data was measured from degree centrality, closeness centrality, and betweenness centrality. Researchers such as Lyon TD (University of Southern California), Beauregard E (Simon Fraser University), Santtila P (Abo Akademi University), and Chopin J (Universite de Montreal) demonstrate significant influence in the field of Psychology.

The betweenness centrality of Lyon TD reached 0.25 which indicates the author functions as a central hub that connects strong collaborative relationships between authors in the blue cluster, including Lamb Me (University of Cambridge), Quas Ja (University of California), and Stolzenberg Sn (Arizona State University) who study child sexual abuse. In the green cluster, Santtila P. builds solid cooperation with authors Pompedda F (University of Turku) and Haginoya S (Meiji Gakuin University) to investigate CSA interviews. The red cluster separation does not prevent Chopin J (Universite de Montreal) from working with Beauregard E (Simon Fraser University) on sexual victimization research.

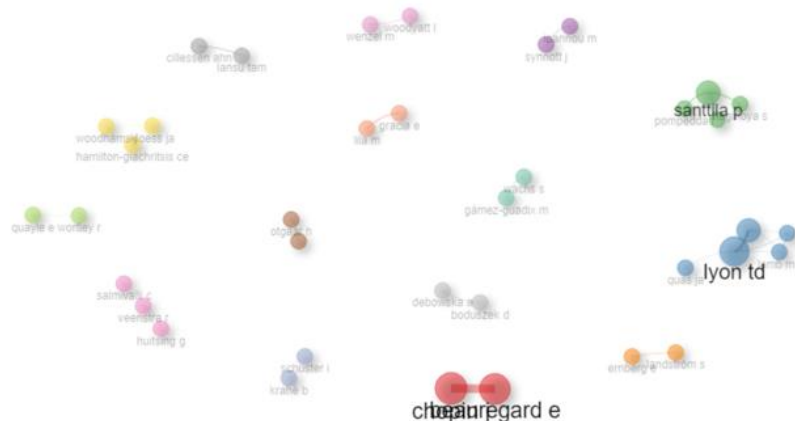


Figure 7. Network mapping the social structure of authors (source VOSviewer)

The network limited and specific collaboration between two or three scholars are called isolated pairs. Authors from the same institution can create collaborative work in investigating research. The authors Gracia E and Lila M from University of Valencia work together on intimate partner violence research while Schuster I and Krahe B from Universitat Postdam collaborate on sexual aggression studies. Then, authors with similar background of expertise cooperate in emerging research. Wachs S from University of Münster and Gamez-Guadix M from University of Madrid

collaborate in studying cyber sexual abuse while Quayle E from University of Edinburgh and Wortley R from UCL investigate sexual abuse images.

All nodes with high closeness centrality can reach the network efficiently. In the pink cluster, researcher Veenstra R reached the highest closeness centrality (0.5) and became a central role in the connectivity network. The closeness centrality metric determines how fast information spreads throughout the entire network to influence all its components (Yan & Ying, 2009).

### International Collaboration Networks

The collaboration network mapping between countries reveals international research connection and global partnership among the disciplines. Figure 8 shows four clusters which consist of red and blue clusters as two core clusters, green and purple as peripheral clusters.

The United States of America and the United Kingdom are countries with high influence in both publications and collaboration about psychological crisis and child sexual abuse victims. These countries are represented by large red-colored nodes with many lines connecting to Australia, the Netherlands, several Western countries, and South Korea. The blue clusters consist of Spain, Portugal, Russia, Italy, Poland, and Eastern European countries together with Indonesia and Singapore from Asia.

On the other hand, some countries exist at the network periphery yet maintain their connection. The green node representing Saudi Arabia shows minimal connections to both Canada in red cluster and Pakistan in blue cluster which indicates limited research collaboration in specific fields. The purple node represents Ghana which shows minimal engagement in the collaboration network. Although the red node is a major cluster, Argentina and Lithuania are on the periphery as a collaborative bridge to the dominant clusters, indicating their emerging role in global knowledge production and transfer.

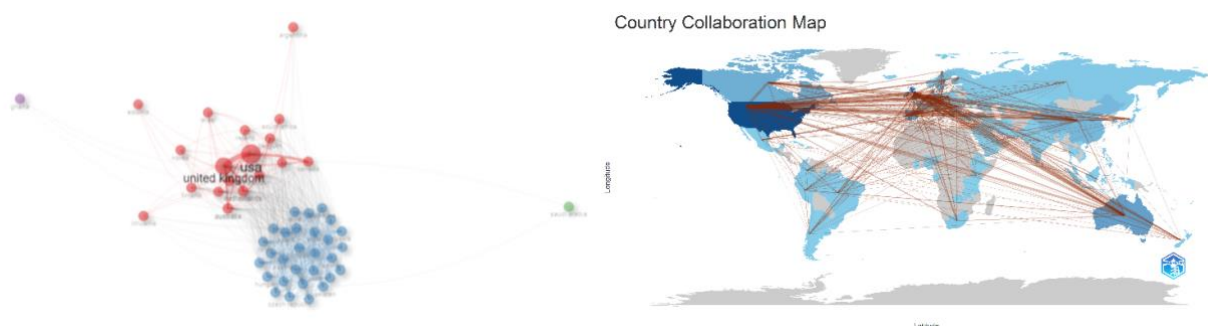


Figure 8. Collaboration network of countries worldwide

### Discussion

Psychological crisis gives greater impact to children experienced sexual abuse (Choi et al., 2023), even worse it can also risk the caregiver who are working with CSA victims (Sheehan et al., 2024; Zimba et al., 2016). Research conducted between psychological impact and child sexual abuse increase researchers' attention through systematic bibliometric analysis, benefit scholars and institutional to grasp the psychological effects, policy formulation, education, and support services. The result show that the total document of 2,058 articles have been published in 354 sources with annual publication growth reached 15.28%.

This study was conducted to explore intellectual network of psychological consequences of sexual abuse in childhood. The researchers gathered extensive data about global citation analysis together with keywords, trend topics, and co-occurrences, thematic mapping and evolution, intellectual and social structure of authors, as well as international collaboration. The terms analyzed are "psychological crisis," AND "child sexual abuse," AND "victim."

The psychological crisis on children sexually abused is associated with terms such as emotions, anxiety, trauma, PTSD, suicide, and substance use. A systematic and meta-analysis research from 1980 to 2008 supported the findings that a strong link existed between child sexual abuse and psychiatric disorders (Chen et al., 2010). Hailes et al. (2019) mentioned association between CSA and psychiatric disorders including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and schizophrenia. Further, the risks of the risk of CSA also associate with substance use disorders (Cicchetti & Handley, 2019). Suicidal thoughts and attempts among CSA survivors are nearly twice as common as in those without such experience (Hailes et al., 2019), primarily as a response to the enduring psychological suffering caused by the abuse (Lopez-Castroman et al., 2013; Tsur et al., 2022). In addition, emotions such as guilt, shame, embarrassment, self-blame are common impact of sexual assault, which can turn to depression and anxiety after disclosing the incident (Aakvaag et al., 2016; McElvaney et al., 2022). Aakvaag et al. (2016) added that intense emotional responses, such as guilt and shame, resulting from adverse experiences are significantly associated with trauma or PTSD.

The result show that research on the psychological crisis of CSA is in the basic theme category. This indicates that the topic represents both a fundamental and well-research area. This is illustrated by the research trend on “PTSD,” which span from 2015 to 2021 and visualized as a large node labelled “Prevalence” in the keyword mapping. Therefore, this topic requires continued research in the future due to its current state of being underdeveloped and insufficiently explored.

Child sexual abuse (CSA) includes physical, like penetration and fondling, and non-physical contact, such as exposure and exploitation, behaviors that use children for adult sexual purposes (Lo Iacono et al., 2021). Child sexual abuse, on the other hand, becomes a research trend during 2015-2024. In the first period, 2014-2019, many researchers paid attention to CSA as a traumatic incident that result complex emotional and moral effects. CSA is closely associated with mental health development (Hailes et al., 2019) which manifest gender-specific psychological effects. Women more prone to internalizing symptoms such as social withdrawn, sadness, guilt and fear, while men to externalizing behaviors including substance misuse, anti-social conduct, and aggression (Maniglio, 2015; Viliardos et al., 2023).

The researchers also paid attention to the disclosure challenges and stigmatization that CSA survivors encounters. A study mentioned that disclosing CSA is seminal act to end to current abuse, protect other children, prevent revictimization, provide psychological interventions, and hold perpetrators accountable more quickly (McElvaney & Culhane, 2017). However, disclosing CSA experience is far more complex than sharing ordinary personal problems. For many victims, the process is deeply traumatic (Halvorsen et al., 2020) and may take up to two decades to feel ready to share their experiences (Easton et al., 2014). Meanwhile, delays in disclosure may prolong individuals' exposure to serious negative consequences and mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, trauma disorders, and addictions, without access to appropriate treatment (Alaggia et al., 2019).

There are several challenges that explain why children often choose not to disclose their experience of sexual abuse. Children are afraid with the consequences of speaking out to their family, such as family disruption, losing relationship with parents (Ullman, 2003), fear of family rejection and disbelief (McElvaney et al., 2014). The situation become more complex if the perpetrator is a family member as victims are worried being condemned and judged by family (Tener, 2018) and blame themselves for the abuse (Morrison et al., 2018), especially when the abuse is ongoing (Ullman, 2003). Therefore, children may feel embarrassment, disgust, anger, and shame which can lead to PTSD after disclosing CSA (Collin-Vézina et al., 2021; McElvaney et al., 2014). Another reason is the negative stigma from society (Celik et al., 2018). Consequently, in cases involving more severe forms of abuse, most victim choose to remain anonymous when reporting their experience on social media (Lev-Wiesel et al., 2018).

The term “victim” examines emotional challenges and decision-making to report CSA within legal framework. During period 2020-2024, research themes on CSA have expanded into more specific areas, including decision making, victim blaming, emotions, and forgiveness which indicates growing interest post-incident psychological impacts. The evolution decision-making within this research theme highlights legal initiatives against perpetrators (Plastock et al., 2021). In fact, child-centered guidelines for mandatory reporting have been developed by Ramaswamy et al. (2023). The hostile legal system toward CSA necessitates a trauma-informed approach, particularly in gathering, to address CSA cases to ensure greater safety for survivors (Dolev-Cohen et al., 2020; Martschuk et al., 2022).

Society tends to blame victims for abuse especially when they exhibit delinquent behavior and delay disclosure (Theimer & Hansen, 2020). A study conducted by Toews et al. (2019) mentioned that mothers are frequently blamed for the negative outcomes of their children and their inability to detect abuse. Victim-blaming leads to disclosure reluctant because survivors face disbelief accusations, feeling unsupported, and experience guilt as well as parental abandonment after disclosure (Côté et al., 2022). The literature evolution highlights a vital shift from studying parental inadequacies to understanding how social norms and institutional responses create an environment that silences and stigmatizes survivors. The evolution map shows that the researchers paid minimal attention to this topic, suggesting further investigations to develop the study concerning victim-blaming.

The intellectual structure aims to uncover knowledge foundation, identify significant research streams (Donthu et al., 2021), and describe the relationship among research elements (Shiau et al., 2023). The intellectual structure reveals early researchers with particular interest become essential references due to their impactful findings in academic research. For instance, author Cohen J, an influential researcher in quantitative methodology, build strong connection with social science research, such as sexual violence, child trauma, aggressive behavior research.

Moreover, social structure of the authors describes collaboration between two or more experts in the fields (Koseoglu, 2016). The clusters illustrate authors with the strongest co-authorship hub with their respective groups (Killi et al., 2024). These researchers act as connectors to enable collaboration between researchers from different universities based on their specialized research area. For instance, researcher Lyon TD connects Lamb Me from Cambridge University, Quas Ja from California University, and Stolzenberg Sn from Arizona State University to investigate child sexual abuse. In contrast, two researchers form an isolated group, suggesting that their research interests lie within a distinct and well-defined niche. For instance, authors Wachs S and Gamez-Guadix M address issues in cyber sexual abuse.

Findings showed that developed countries have generated numerous influential authors and their publications which maintain their importance as fundamental references in academic. In collaboration pattern, influential countries including the USA and the UK actively collaborated with developed nations such as Australia, Canada, and countries within Western and Northern Europe such as the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Ireland, Finland, as well as countries in Eastern Asia namely China and South Korea. Furthermore, the research extended its mutual partnership to neighboring regions which included Southern Europe with Italy, Spain, and Portugal, Eastern Europe with Poland and Russia, as well as West and Southeast Asia with Turkey, Indonesia, and Singapore. The research landscape of CSA includes Turkey and Indonesia as developing countries which demonstrate their initial steps toward participating in this field’s development.

## Implications

The bibliometric analysis recognized implications for future research in psychology, specifically in areas of psychological crisis, child sexual abuse, and victims. Studies from Asia reported the prevalence of child sexual abuse reached 23,9% in 2014 (Singh et al., 2014), and

reaching up to 88.24% for girls and 68.7% for boys in 2020 (Solehati et al., 2021). Thus, Globally, psychological consequences and child sexual abuse are noticeable concern as CSA is crucial matter which influence all aspect of children life. Moreover, with the annual growth of publication reached to 15.28%, it is consequential for future research on conducting additional studies.

Bibliometric study of psychological crisis in CSA victims found different areas of potential research. These areas include attitudes, prevalence, victimization of CSA and its impacts to mental health, reconciliation after the abuse, and how professionals provide a legal aid to the survivors through safe interviews which does not trigger their traumatic memory. Generally, research on child sexual abuse is fragmented and these areas is highly specialized which remain received minimal attention from the researchers. Thus, developing theoretical and empirical studies in this area are necessary to contribute in improving policy and programs that support CSA victims.

Additionally, the bibliometric demonstrate that the United States and United Kingdom as the most prominent countries in promoting the psychological effects of CSA victims. Child sexual abuse is an emerged issue in psychology field. Therefore, a number of significant research have been conducted to prevent the occurrences of CSA, lessen its impacts, provide a protection for CSA victims, and punish the perpetrator. The international authorship accounted for 27.87% of the collaboration produced in 2014-2024 and the thematic map is in emerging theme illustrated that a higher level of global scientific cooperation is needed for future advancement.

Lastly, besides psychological impacts, providing healthcare services aims to ensure other consequences that may occur after the traumatic incidents. Moreover, schools and teachers should support and scrutinize a CSA victim from other violence such as bullying and cyberbullying, that may worsen the impact of sexual abuse. The study implies the need for preventive support and guidance to families through proper risk assessment and tiered parent education, efforts to assess emotional responses of CSA victims, and implement CSA education to protect children against sexual abuse.

### Limitations and Further Research

The limitation of this study is the scope use to review the document is not multi-disciplinary research, but specifically in the psychology field. Since this study is a literature study, human participants were not involved. The data were generated through the Scopus and Web of Science databases, with keywords “psychological crisis” AND “child sexual abuse” AND “victim.” The documents were collected from 2014 to 2024 and only selected free-access journal articles. To scrutinize global research, the researchers limited articles language in English and ignore any languages. Finally, the study does not provide performance analysis due to its primary goals to describe intellectual overviews of psychological effects of CSA victims. To support the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals 5, the research on safe disclosure of child sexual abuse, non-triggered interviews, and legal protection to the victims are suggested to eliminate all forms of violence against women and children. Future research is highly recommended to conduct full meta-analysis in each psychological effects, involving PTSD, depression, anxiety that remain underdeveloped. Other study areas including victim-blaming, decision-making, and forgiveness is worth investigating further.

### CONCLUSION

The study analyses of the impacts of child sexual abuse on mental health research to discover the scientific framework and knowledge trend. A systemic approach to evaluate the area of psychological crisis and child sexual abuse and victim is provided by the bibliometric analysis between 2014 and 2024, through WoS and Scopus databases. The results were generated from VOSviewer and Biblioshiny to obtain data mapping and statistical number of the documents. The study observed child sexual abuse as the most common keyword written by authors and identified six clusters with keywords, including child sexual abuse, violence, victimization, victim, prevalence,

and impact. The study observed that child sexual abuse, post-traumatic stress disorders, and adverse childhood experience are the research topics trend during 2014 to 2024.

The research proposed potential research areas on the thematic mapping, such as investigate disclosure process, consequences, responses, impact, prevalence, victimization, etc. During 2020-2024, child sexual abuse theme has evolved into more specific research areas, such as rape myths, sexual homicide, bullying, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence. Themes such as emotions and victim blaming appear as new research topics that correlate with psychological crisis. The intellectual structure revealed that Finkelhor, Stolzenborgh, Braun, Barth, and Alaggia have shaped fundamental research on child sexual abuse and trauma. Co-citation analysis identified four clusters, including design of analysis, gender-based violence, bullying and aggressive behavior, and CSA and trauma. Lyon TD was found as the most influential authors in child sexual abuse which linked more than two experts in the field. Findings found that that the United States and the United Kingdom stand out as a powerhouse in publishing articles and conducting collaborative research. This study provides information for local and global organizations about the psychological effects of child sexual abuse for victims and assist fellow researchers to conduct potential research areas.

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENT

The authors agree with the final version of this article.

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