

## A Bibliographic Analysis of Conflict and Social Entrepreneurship Studies Throughout History

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| ARTICLE INFO  | ABSTRACT   |
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| <p><b>Keywords:</b> Conflict; Social Entrepreneurship; Bibliometric Analysis.</p> | <p><i>Conflict engagement and social entrepreneurship are currently being studied by several scholars. Although social entrepreneurs often struggle to distinguish between creating social and financial value, they become embedded agents through their entrepreneurial agency as they work with various stakeholders, including individuals, organizations, and communities, to achieve common goals. The purpose of this paper is to provide a comprehensive overview of numerous research projects related to conflict engagement and social entrepreneurship. Utilizing a tool called VOSViewer, we present the results of our bibliometric analysis, which includes an examination of publications from the Scopus database spanning from 2008 to 2024. The analysis reveals 93 documents, comprising 64 journal articles, 18 books, 6 conference proceedings, and 5 book series. The highest number of publications was recorded in 2024, with 14 papers released. Among these, the most cited document, authored by Tobias et al. (2013), has been cited 198 times. The United States emerged as the leading country in this field, with 25 publications and 543 citations, highlighting the growing importance of social entrepreneurship in addressing conflict and promoting peace. This study offers a valuable bibliometric overview of the research trends and influence in the field, providing a foundation for future studies.</i></p> |

### INTRODUCTION

Researchers are becoming more and more interested in researching entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship. The "business model" is prioritised over other viewpoints in the literature's mainstream language, yet social entrepreneurship's characteristics are still little understood and require further study. Creating new and creative organizations or businesses to address human needs and enhance services in areas like poverty alleviation, healthcare, child protection, disability rights, and environmental sustainability is referred to as "social entrepreneurship" (Bornstein, 2007). Additionally, it is viewed as a driver of social transformation, economic growth, and employment (Dacanay, 2004) (Alford & Hughes, 2008).

The process theory of entrepreneurship, known as "entrepreneurship," urges academics to concentrate on the dynamic, change-oriented character of entrepreneurship (Rindova et al., 2009). By placing phenomena in space and time, process research aids in our comprehension of the causes and mechanisms of change (Langley et al., 2013). Furthermore, entrepreneurial activities are highlighted by entrepreneurship (Tobias et al., 2013).

However, some other researchers argue that because entrepreneurship entails social creation and social change by nature, all forms of entrepreneurship are social (Johannisson & Mønsted, 1997). And because entrepreneurship always strikes a compromise between social and economic values and behaviours, the results cannot be used as a differentiator (Chell, 2007). As crucial to comprehending entrepreneurship as economic instrumentality are elements like connections, community, values, identity, and meaning (Jack et al., 2008). The constructivist method focuses on how the environment and the entrepreneur influence one another rather than just examining the traits of each one alone. Additionally, the integrating social entrepreneurship with "conflict engagement" can increase its influence on regional development (Friedman & Desivilya, 2010). Lastly, we will propose that artistic processes can improve conflict engagement and social entrepreneurship, producing more significant and innovative results.

Social entrepreneurship is characterised by a conscious desire to liberate and transform in order to promote significant social change via entrepreneurship (Rindova et al., 2009). It is essential to conflict resolution because it tackles the root causes of conflict and advances stability and peace. Deeply ingrained social problems including poverty, inequality, and resource scarcity can give rise to conflicts. Social entrepreneurs can lessen these conflicts by generating employment opportunities and encouraging community involvement. Their programmes

frequently centre on empowering underrepresented groups, promoting communication between disputing parties, and fostering community trust. The capacity of social entrepreneurship to promote cooperation among various stakeholders is one of its main advantages.

In the past decade, the field of social entrepreneurship has experienced growing academic interest, particularly in how it intersects with conflict resolution. Studies such as those by Tobias et al. (Tobias et al., 2013) and (Friedman & Desivilya, 2010) have explored the transformative potential of social entrepreneurship in resolving conflicts. (Tobias et al., 2013) argued that social entrepreneurship could play a vital role in addressing social and economic issues in conflict zones, exemplified by their study on Rwanda's entrepreneurial coffee sector. Their work emphasized how social entrepreneurship could help in reducing poverty and fostering peace in post-conflict societies. Similarly, (Friedman & Desivilya, 2010) examined how integrating social entrepreneurship with conflict engagement could promote regional development in divided societies, demonstrating the potential of social enterprises to bridge gaps between conflicting communities.

Other studies have investigated the theoretical frameworks surrounding social entrepreneurship. (Friedman & Desivilya, 2010) critically analyzed the construct of social entrepreneurship, urging for a broader understanding that includes both economic and social dimensions. They argued that social entrepreneurship should not be reduced to merely an economic instrument, as it also involves addressing issues of community values and social change. (Chell, 2007) similarly argued for a convergent theory of entrepreneurship that encompasses both the social and economic roles of entrepreneurs. These studies laid the foundation for exploring how social entrepreneurship can be positioned within broader social and economic contexts, particularly in areas affected by conflict and instability.

While the intersection of social entrepreneurship and conflict resolution has been examined in various studies, there remains a lack of comprehensive bibliometric analyses that map the evolution of this field. Most research has focused on case studies or theoretical models, but a detailed analysis of the volume, trends, and impact of publications on this topic is still missing. This research aims to fill this gap by providing a bibliometric overview of conflict and social entrepreneurship studies from 2008 to 2024, using data from the Scopus database and employing the VOSViewer tool to map co-authorship, citation patterns, and keyword occurrences. This study provides valuable insights into the scholarly development of this field, highlighting the most influential authors, institutions, and publications.

The novelty of this study lies in its bibliometric approach to analyzing the growing body of literature on social entrepreneurship and conflict resolution. Unlike previous works that have primarily focused on qualitative case studies or theoretical frameworks, this research offers a data-driven perspective that maps the trends and citation impact of social entrepreneurship literature. By utilizing VOSViewer and analyzing Scopus data from 2008 to 2024, this study identifies key patterns in publication trends, co-authorship, and keyword usage, providing a unique perspective on the evolution and direction of research in this area. Furthermore, this study also identifies the institutions and authors that have been the most influential in advancing the field.

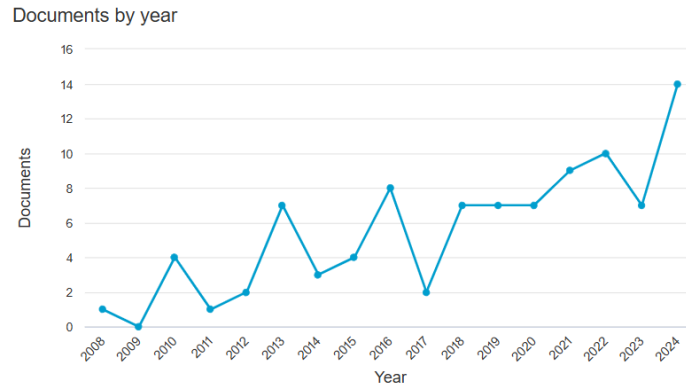
The main objective of this research is to provide a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the scholarly work on social entrepreneurship and conflict resolution. By examining the trends, citation patterns, and influential authors in this field, the study aims to offer a clearer understanding of how social entrepreneurship has evolved as a tool for conflict engagement. The findings of this research will benefit academics, policymakers, and social entrepreneurs by providing an overview of the current state of research and identifying areas for future investigation. Additionally, the study will help to bridge the gap between theory and practice, offering insights into how social entrepreneurship can be more effectively applied in conflict-prone regions to foster peace and social cohesion.

## **METHOD**

The Scopus database was chosen by the researchers to gather the data. Scopus guarantees that the content presented has undergone a rigorous process by presenting high-quality data. As a result, the manuscript that is indexed by Scopus is trustworthy and dependable. Every pertinent publication was searched for bibliometric data. In the "Article Title, Abstract, & Keywords" categories, we perform a Boolean search using the terms "Conflict" AND "Social Entrepreneurship". The results show 93 documents from 2008 to 2024, including 64 journals, 18 books, 6 conference proceedings, and 5 book series. We present the findings of our bibliometric analysis using a tool called VOSViewer.

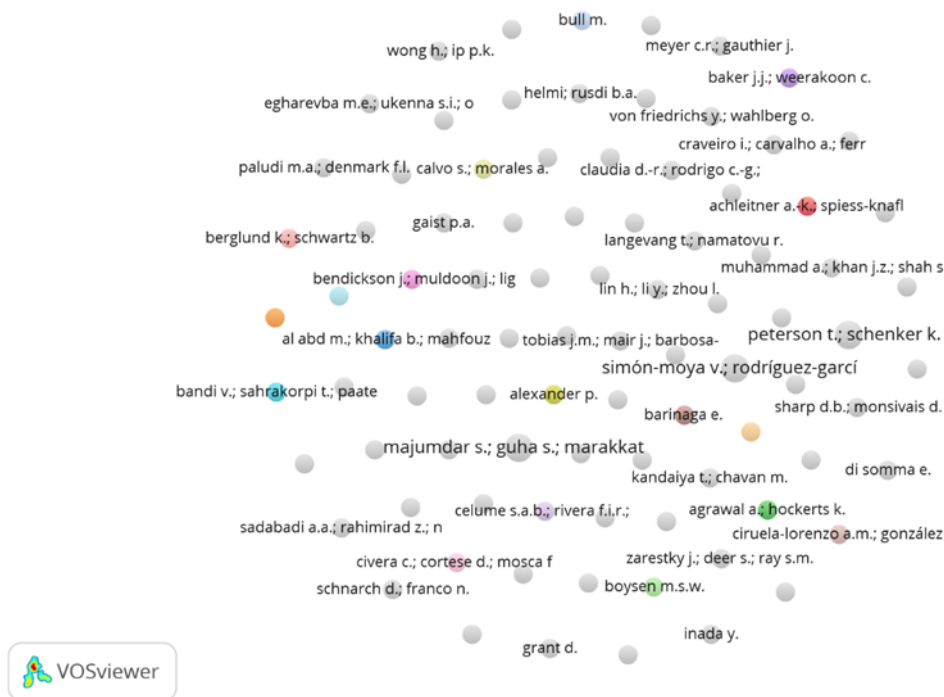
## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Figure 1 illustrates that the research publications on conflict and social entrepreneurship in the Scopus database from 2008 to 2024 show an up-and-down trend. Starting in 2008, the highest number of publications was 14 documents published in 2024.



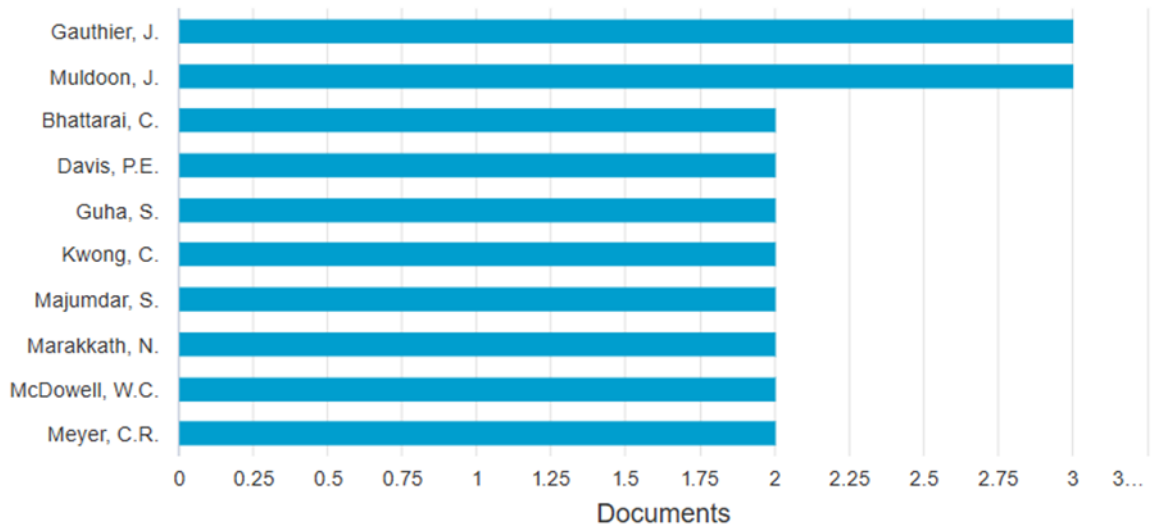
**Figure.1 Publication Trend.**

Using Authors as our unit of analysis, we examined co-authorship from 89 authors, that we present it in Figure 2 below:



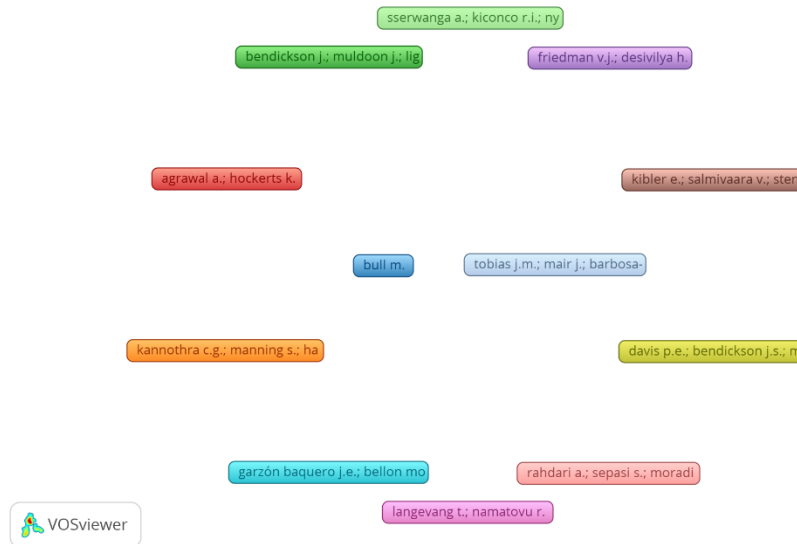
**Figure.2 Co-Authorship Analysis by Author.**

With a total of three publications published on Scopus, we also found that Gauthier, J., and Muldoon, J. have become the most productive authors (Figure 3).



**Figure.3 Documents by Author.**

Using Authors as our unit of analysis, we examined citation. The minimum number of document of an author is 30. As a result, out of 89 authors, 12 satisfy the requirements. We present it in Figure 4.



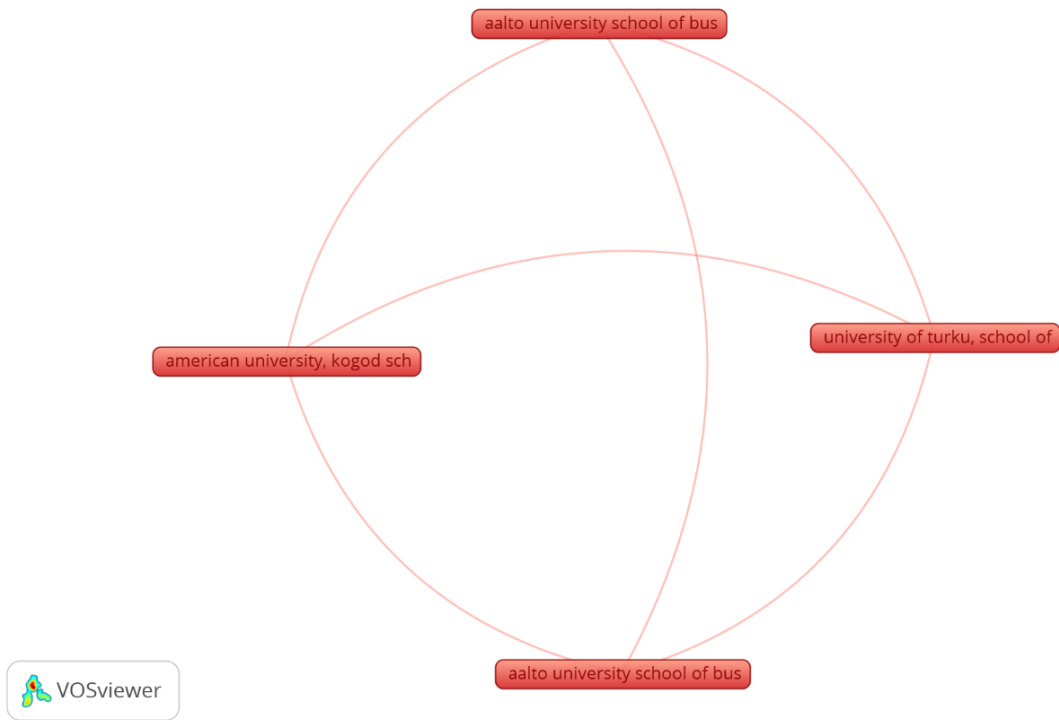
**Figure.4 Citation by Author.**

The most influenced author is Cailier J. G. with 198 citations. The rest of the author in the top ten, that also give high influence, we present in the Tabel 1 below:

**Tabel 1. Author(s) Documents & Citations.**

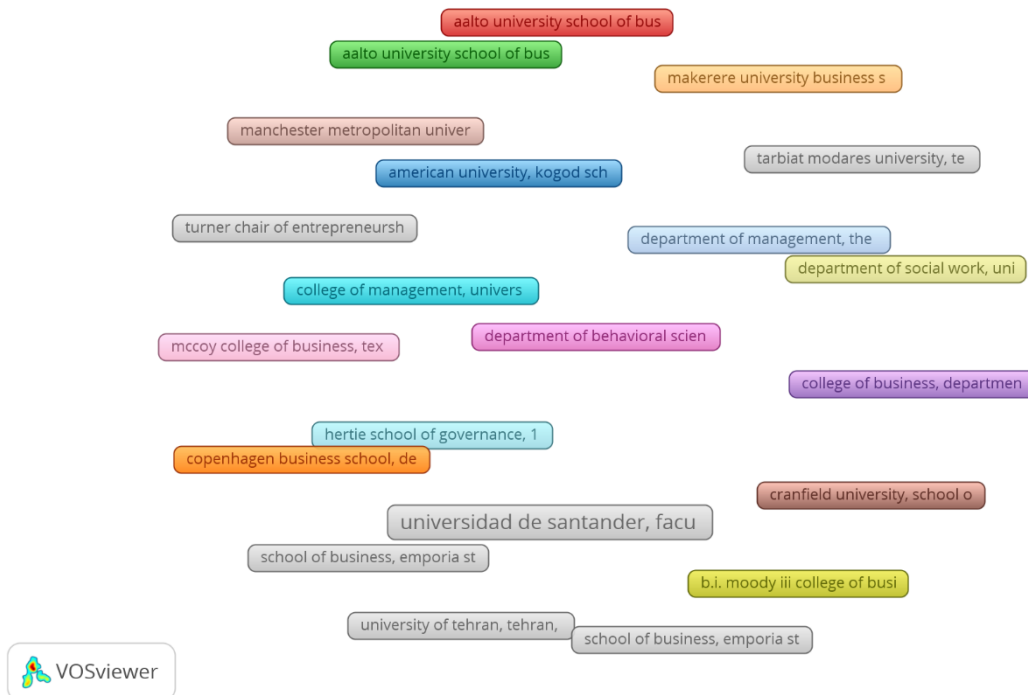
| No | Author (s)   | Citations |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1  | Tobias J. M., Mair J., Barbosa-leiker C.           | 198       |
| 2  | Rahdari A., Sepasi S., Moradi M.                   | 188       |
| 3  | Bull M.  | 109       |
| 4  | Bendickson J., Muldoon J., Liguori E., Davis P. E. | 88        |
| 5  | Friedman V. J., Desivilya H.                       | 66        |
| 6  | Kannothra C. G., Manning S., Haigh N.              | 62        |
| 7  | Agrawal A., Hockerts K.                            | 56        |
| 8  | Kibler E., Salmivaara V., Stenholm P., Terjesen S. | 56        |
| 9  | Garzon Baquero J. E., Bellon Monsalve D.           | 53        |
| 10 | Lengevang T., Namatovu R.                          | 46        |

Using organization as our unit of analysis, we examined co-authorship. A minimum number of citation of an organization is 30. As a result, out of 173 organization, 26 meet the thresholds. Unfortunately, some of the 26 items in this network are not connected to each other. The largest set of connected items consist of 4 items that we present it in Figure 5.



**Figure.5 Co-authorship by Organization.**

Using organization as our unit of analysis, we examined citation. A minimum number citation of an organizations is 30. As a result, out of 173 organization, 26 meet the thresholds. We present it in Figure 6.



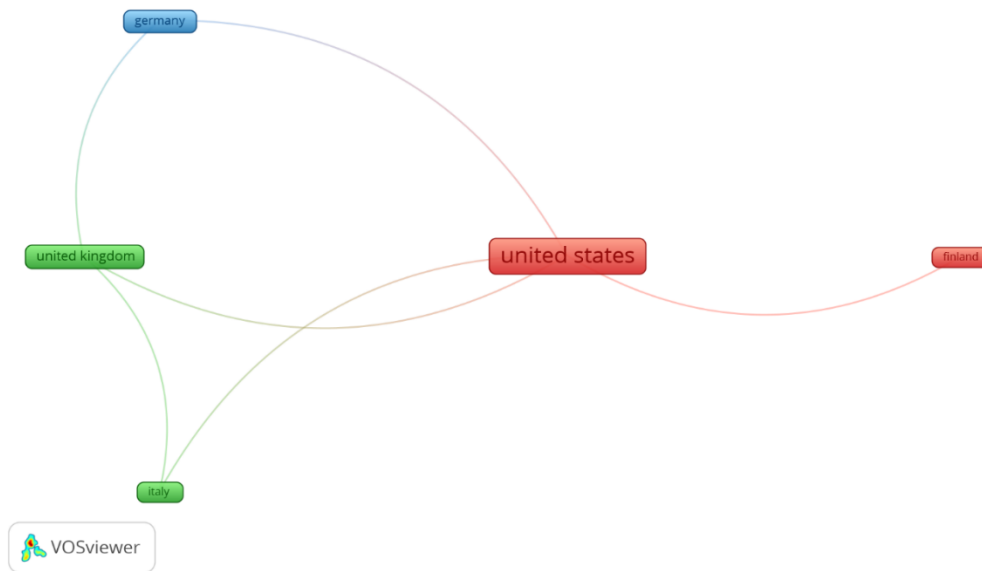
**Figure.6 Citation by Organization.**

The list of the organizations can be seen in Table 2.

**Tabel 2. Organization Documents & Citations.**

| No | Organization  | Document | Citation |
|----|---|----------|----------|
| 1  | Cranfield University, School of Management, England | 1        | 198      |
| 2  | Hertie School of Governance, Germany                | 1        | 198      |
| 3  | Washington State University, US                     | 1        | 198      |
| 4  | Tarbiat Modares University, Iran                    | 1        | 188      |
| 5  | University of Tehran, Iran                          | 1        | 188      |

Using countries as our unit of analysis, we examined co-authorship. A minimum number of document of a country is 2 and the minimum number of citations of country is 30. As a result, out of 36 countries, 11 meet the thresholds. Of the 11 objects in this network, several are not related to one another. Figure 7 shows 5 items in the greatest group of related items.



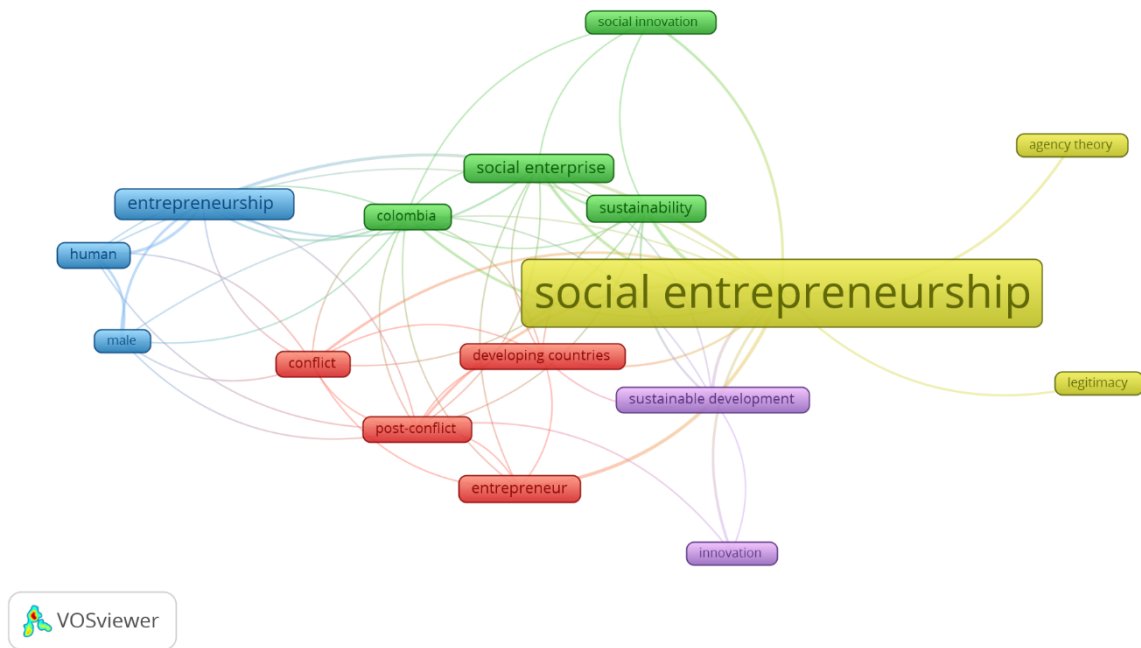
**Figure.7 Co-authorship by Countries.**

The nation with the greatest number of citations (543) and the most publications (25) is the United States. We present the list of the countries (top 5) in Table 3.

**Tabel.3 Countries Documents & Citations.**

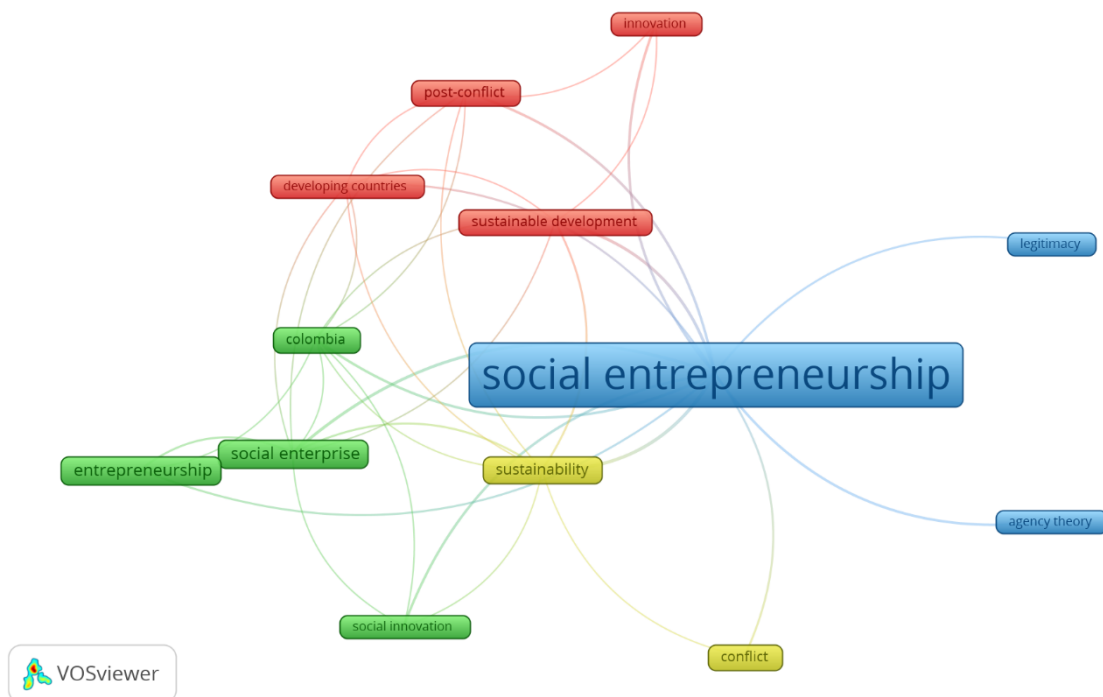
| No | Country        | Document | Citation |
|----|----------------|----------|----------|
| 1  | Unites States  | 25       | 543      |
| 2  | United Kingdom | 8        | 384      |
| 3  | Germany        | 5        | 239      |
| 4  | Finland        | 3        | 85       |
| 5  | Italy          | 4        | 46       |

Using All keyword as our unit of analysis, we examined Co-Occurance. A minimum number of occurrence of a keyword is 3. As a result, out of 438 keywords, 16 meet the thresholds. We present it in Figure 8.



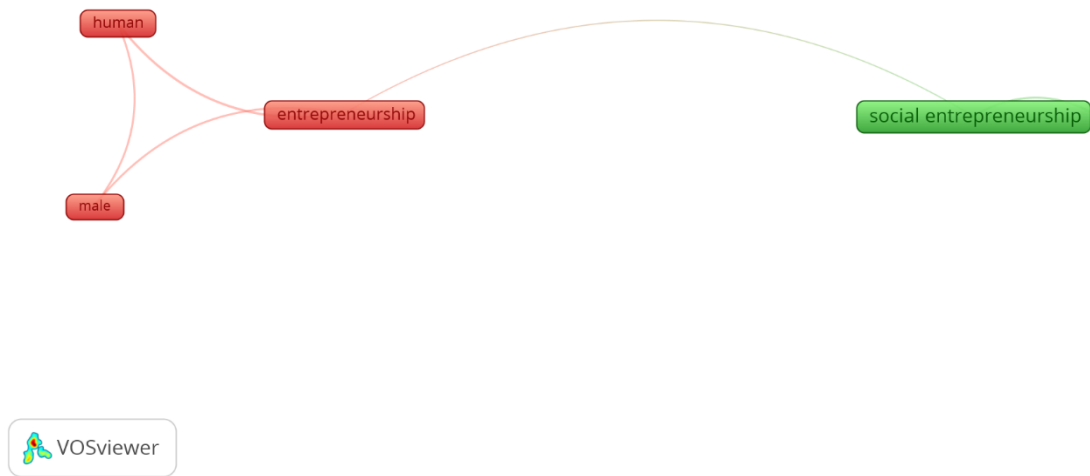
**Figure.8 Co-occurrence by All Keyword.**

Using Author keyword as our unit of analysis, we also examined Co-Occurrence. A minimum number of occurrence of a keyword is 3. As a result, out of 289 keywords, 13 meet the thresholds. We present the result in Figure 9.



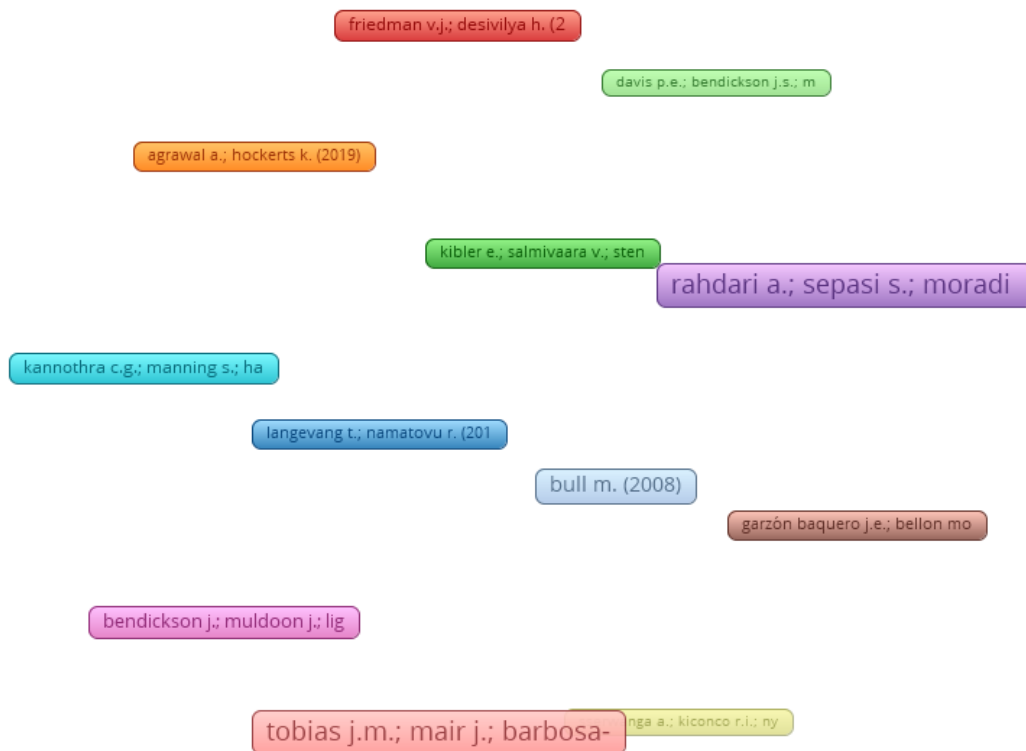
**Figure.9 Co-occurrence by Author Keyword.**

Furthermore, by using Index keyword as our unit of analysis, we examined Co-Occurance. A minimum number of occurrence of a keyword is 3. As a result, out of 182 keywords, 6 meet the thresholds. Some of the 6 items in this network are not connected to each other. The largest set of connected items consists of 5 items as we present it in Figure 10.



**Figure.10 Co-occurrence by Index Keyword.**

Using documents as our unit of analysis, we examined citation. A minimum number of citation of a document is 30. As a result, out of 93 documents, 12 meet the thresholds. We present it in Figure 11.



**Figure.11 Citation by Document.**

We present Table 4 and Table 5 to show the most significant and popular articles and journals about conflict and social entrepreneurship study.

**Table.4 Popular and Significant Articles**

| No | Author  | Article Title  | Citation | Source |
|----|---|--|----------|--------|
| 1  | Tobias, Jutta M., Mair, Johanna., Barbosa-Leiker, Celestina                       | Toward a theory of transformative entrepreneuring: Poverty reduction and conflict resolution in Rwanda's entrepreneurial coffee sector | 198      | [6]    |
| 2  | Rahdari, Amir., Sepasi, Sahar., Moradi, Mohammad.                                 | Achieving sustainability through Schumpeterian social entrepreneurship: The role of social enterprises                                 | 188      | [11]   |
| 3  | Bull, Michael.  | Challenging tensions: critical, theoretical and empirical perspectives on social enterprise  | 109      | [12]   |
| 4  | Bendickson, Josh., Muldoon, Jeff., Liguori, Eric., Davis, Philip E.               | Agency theory: the times, they are a-changin'  | 88       | [13]   |
| 5  | Friedman, Victor J., Desivilya, Helena.   | Integrating social entrepreneurship and conflict engagement for regional development in divided societies                              | 66       | [10]   |
| 6  | Kibler, Ewald., Salmivaara, Virva., Stenholm, Pekka., Terjesen, Siri.             | The evaluative legitimacy of social entrepreneurship in capitalist welfare systems   | 56       | [14]   |
| 7  | Agrawal, Anirudh., Hockerts, Kai.   | Impact Investing Strategy: Managing Conflicts between Impact Investor and Investee Social Enterprise                                   | 56       | [15]   |
| 8  | Langevang, Thilde., Namatovu, Rebecca.  | Social Bricolage in the Aftermath of War   | 46       | [16]   |
| 9  | Sserwanga, Arthur., Kiconco, Rebecca Isabella., Nystrand, Malin., Mindra, Rachel. | Social entrepreneurship and post conflict recovery in Uganda   | 31       | [17]   |
| 10 | Davis, Phillip E., Bendickson, Joshua S., Muldoon, Jeffrey., McDowell, William C. | Agency Theory Utility and Social Entrepreneurship : Issues of Identity and Role Conflict   | 30       | [18]   |

The first article demonstrated the interdependence of social and economic value creation mechanisms that are pertinent to transformative entrepreneurship. More precisely, they demonstrate the sequential nature of these mechanisms (i.e., economic dynamics come before social ones) and the potential role of perceptions of improved quality of life as a mediator in this relationship. They support rethinking the role of intentions in social entrepreneurship from a theoretical standpoint. Last but not least, lead an empirical shift away from researching people or organisations that use social entrepreneurship to spark social value and towards "ordinary" entrepreneurial protagonists—people who have up until now received little attention in this literature. Because other entrepreneurs—those typically associated with economic and social value generation—have established the enabling infrastructure for this, the study highlights individuals like coffee farmers who have recently been able to add new products and processes to their value chain. For instance, business entrepreneurs have established coffee processing and distribution operations, while social entrepreneurs have established coffee cooperatives. These "ordinary" people are the ones who sustain social change via entrepreneurship (Tobias et al., 2013).

Since the second article's main goal is to solve societal problems—which range from environmental and social issues to economic quandaries brought on by businesses themselves—social entrepreneurship (SE) is one of the most effective and useful instruments for addressing and carrying out the social responsibilities of businesses. Schumpeter's theory of entrepreneurship, which views entrepreneurship as both an economic and social catalyst, is the main focus of this study. The canvas has three different implications. First of all, the canvas illustrates the key components of the contemporary socioeconomic ecosystem and how they might cooperate to achieve the sustainable development agenda. Second, it facilitates the pragmatic integration of disparate yet connected ideas, which in turn establishes the groundwork for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' post-2015 development agenda, which places a strong emphasis on the function of social enterprises. Thirdly, the canvas and related analyses assist businesses in comprehending the degree of integration and maturity of their sustainable and ethical strategies. Lastly, the study emphasises how sustainable companies and social enterprises can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Rahdari et al., 2016).

The papers in the third position present the special issue, which examines the idea and importance of social entrepreneurship and social enterprise globally. The results imply that in order to bring uniqueness and worth to

this emerging field of study, a critical viewpoint is necessary. The presented papers challenge tensions from critical, theoretical, and empirical perspectives, posing some intriguing questions regarding contemporary conceptualisations of entrepreneurship and social enterprise. (Bull, 2008)

By offering a more thorough comprehension of agency theory, the authors in the fourth position stretch its foundations and make it easier for readers to comprehend why agency theory falls short in explaining some contemporary business phenomena. Some of the foundational elements of agency theory, according to the authors, are fairly antiquated, which has reduced its ability to explain contemporary business and more recent fields like entrepreneurship. (Bendickson et al., 2016)

The other paper makes the case that, when combined with conflict engagement, social entrepreneurship can be a successful regional development strategy in divided societies. It uses theory-building techniques from action research and programme theory evaluation, and it approaches social entrepreneurship and conflict engagement from a social constructionist perspective. The "programme theory of action" that serves as the conceptual and practical foundation for fostering development in Israel's northern periphery—a region marked by socioeconomic stagnation and profound social divisions, particularly between Jewish and Arab Palestinian residents—presents the argument. It is known as the "Studio for Social Creativity." (Friedman & Desivilya, 2010)

According to the next article, social entrepreneurship is essential for making up for the state's welfare cuts and notable shifts in social transfers. It can also find a legitimate foundation for expansion in both liberal and capitalist systems where the state continues to play a significant but complementary role in providing social welfare. Therefore, we must firmly evaluate the interaction of various areas of governance rather than concentrating on a single area of policymaking if the goal is to help welfare states encourage social entrepreneurship. In conclusion, we urge more research to deepen our understanding of the impact of the national institutional environment on legitimacy judgements and to critically assess the relevance and influence of various political governance logics and cultural environments on the legitimacy of social entrepreneurship. This will help to develop policy-relevant knowledge in this area and advance an international comparative view on social entrepreneurship. (Kibler et al., 2018)

The elements that allow impact investors and investee social enterprises to align across organisational boundaries are further examined in the seventh article. One can enquire as to how organisations can attain long-term inter-organizational alignment as well as what results can be seen at the inter-organizational level when these goals are not aligned. In order to investigate and theorise the inter-organizational relationship between impact investors and investee social enterprises, as well as to investigate strategies that can improve the effectiveness of impact investing, this study uses an institutional logic framework. The results show that: (1) the impact investor's and the investee social enterprise's inter-organizational relationship is significantly moderated by social mission; (2) the likelihood of investment is increased by prioritising due diligence, sector specialisation, and communication; and (3) the likelihood of post-investment alignment is increased by social impact measurement and reporting as well as frequent engagement. (Agrawal & Hockerts, 2019)

The eighth article describes three essential social bricolage techniques used to deal with volatility, protracted crises, and resource scarcity. They start by dissecting the process of obtaining resources and generating social value through peer mobilisation. Second, demonstrate how, in a changing environment, pluriactivity is employed to stretch and maximise limited resources. Third, they shed light on the process of reviving pre-war cultural assets in order to bring disparate communities back together. They aim to expand social bricolage theory by shedding light on these practices and demonstrating how the dynamics of "making do with resources at hand" are influenced by the post-conflict developing country context. (Langevang & Namatovu, 2019)

The ninth study set out to investigate the contribution of social entrepreneurship to the post-conflict recovery of northern Uganda's Gulu district. The results showed a correlation between post-conflict recovery and active social entrepreneurship. It has been discovered that social entrepreneurship fosters networking, innovation, and opportunity recognition on both an individual and societal level. (Sserwanga et al., 2014)

The goal of the last article in the top ten was to use agency theory and recognised social entrepreneurship types to create a typology for social entrepreneurship. We contend that social entrepreneurship has agency issues, whether they are overstatement or genuine incapacity. The type of entrepreneurship will determine how severe the issues are. Practically speaking, this means that social entrepreneurs should concentrate primarily on local problems, where obtaining outside funding is not a direct issue. (Davis et al., 2021)

The reputation of each journals containing the 10 articles above is presented in Table 5.

**Table.5 Popular and Significant Journals**

| No | Article Tittle | Journal | Publisher | Reputation |
|----|----------------|---------|-----------|------------|
|----|----------------|---------|-----------|------------|

|    |  |   |   |    |
|----|--|---|---|----|
| 1  | Toward a theory of transformative entrepreneuring: Poverty reduction and conflict resolution in Rwanda's entrepreneurial coffee sector | Journal of Business Venturing                                       | Elsevier Inc.   | Q1 |
| 2  | Achieving sustainability through Schumpeterian social entrepreneurship: The role of social enterprises                                 | Journal of Cleaner Production                                       | Elsevier Inc.   | Q1 |
| 3  | Challenging tensions: critical, theoretical and empirical perspectives on social enterprise  | International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour & Research       | Emerald Insight                                       | Q1 |
| 4  | Agency theory: the times, they are a-changin'  | Management Decision   | Emerald Insight                                       | Q1 |
| 5  | Integrating social entrepreneurship and conflict engagement for regional development in divided societies                              | Entrepreneurship and Regional Development: An International Journal | Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group)                    | Q1 |
| 6  | The evaluative legitimacy of social entrepreneurship in capitalist welfare systems   | Journal of World Business   | Elsevier Inc.   | Q1 |
| 7  | Impact Investing Strategy: Managing Conflicts between Impact Investor and Investee Social Enterprise                                   | Sustainability  | Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI) | Q1 |
| 8  | Social bricolage in the aftermath of war   | Entrepreneurship & Regional Development: An International Journal   | Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group)                    | Q1 |
| 9  | Social entrepreneurship and post conflict recovery in Uganda   | Journal of Enterprising Community: People and Places in Economy     | Emerald Insight                                       | Q1 |
| 10 | Agency Theory Utility and Social Entrepreneurship : Issues of Identity and Role Conflict   | Review of Managerial Science  | Springer  | Q1 |

## CONCLUSION

Starting in 2008, the highest number of publications was recorded in 2024, with 14 documents released. Among the most prolific authors, Gauthier, J., and Muldoon, J. have published three documents on Scopus, while Tobias J. M., Mair J., and Barbosa-Leiker C. have received the highest number of citations, totaling 198. Influential institutions in this field include Washington State University in the United States, Cranfield University School of Management in England, and Hertie School of Governance in Germany, which collectively contributed to 198 citations from a single document. The United States stands out as the most influential country with 25 publications and 543 citations. The term "Social Entrepreneurship" has gained significant traction across all keyword categories, including general keywords, author keywords, and index keywords. The most notable article on conflict and social entrepreneurship is "*Toward a Theory of Transformative Entrepreneuring: Poverty Reduction and Conflict Resolution in Rwanda's Entrepreneurial Coffee Sector*," authored by Tobias, Jutta M., Mair, Johanna, and Barbosa-Leiker, Celestina (2013), published in *Journal of Business Venturing* (Q1), and cited 198 times.

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