

# Bibliometric Analysis of the Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies, 1997-2024: Publication Trends and Citation Patterns

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives/Purpose:** This study presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies* covering the period from 1997 to 2024, to evaluate its publication trends, authorship patterns, thematic evolution, and citation impact. **Methodology:** Using metadata extracted from the journal's archives and citation counts obtained from Google Scholar, the analysis applies descriptive statistics and bibliometric tools such as Microsoft Excel, VOS viewer, and Bibliometrix to map the journal's scholarly trajectory. **Results:** The results reveal a steady increase in publication output, a predominance of single-authored contributions, and significant institutional and geographic diversity, with leading contributions from India, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Keyword analysis highlights dominant themes such as postcolonialism, identity, diaspora, hybridity, and colonial legacies, along with emerging areas including migration, memory, and globalisation. Citation analysis indicates rising academic influence, with several highly cited articles shaping the development of the field. **Conclusion:** Overall, the study demonstrates that the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies* has played a vital role in advancing global postcolonial scholarship and continues to contribute significantly to the expansion of interdisciplinary research in the humanities.

**Keywords:** Bibliometrics, Citation Analysis, Journal Analysis, Postcolonial Studies, Publication Trends, Research Impact, Scholarly Communication, VOS viewer.

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## INTRODUCTION

Postcolonial studies have emerged as a significant interdisciplinary field that critically examines the lasting impacts of colonialism on culture, identity, politics, and global power structures. Over the past several decades, scholars from diverse regions and disciplines have contributed to shaping the theoretical and methodological frameworks that define contemporary postcolonial discourse. Within this expanding intellectual landscape, academic journals play a pivotal role in disseminating new knowledge, advancing debates, and documenting the evolution of research themes. The *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*, established in 1997, has become an important platform for scholars exploring issues related to identity, diaspora, hybridity, colonial legacies, and global cultural interactions. As the field continues to grow, it becomes increasingly important to evaluate how academic

journals contribute to shaping their development. Bibliometric analysis offers a systematic method for assessing publication trends, authorship patterns, thematic directions, and citation impact, thereby providing insights into the scholarly influence and evolution of a journal. Although bibliometric studies have been widely conducted in various academic disciplines, there remains a noticeable lack of comprehensive bibliometric assessments focusing specifically on postcolonial studies journals. This gap limits our understanding of how key journals, including the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*, contribute to the broader academic discourse. Given the journal's long publication history and its role in advancing critical inquiry in postcolonial scholarship, a detailed bibliometric study is necessary to map its research output and intellectual impact. By examining patterns from 1997 to 2024, this study aims to identify dominant research themes, highlight influential authors and institutions, track the geographical distribution of contributions, and assess citation performance. Such an analysis not only reveals the journal's academic trajectory but also provides meaningful insights for researchers, editors, and policymakers interested in understanding the evolution and future direction of postcolonial studies.



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## LITERATURE REVIEW

Bibliometric studies have long served as essential tools for understanding the structure, growth, and impact of scholarly communication. Early foundational works, such as, (Glänzel, 2003; De Bellis, 2009) established bibliometrics as a systematic approach to analysing publication patterns, citation networks, and scholarly influence. Building on these foundations, contemporary scholars have emphasised the role of citation indicators in assessing research performance (Aksnes *et al.*, 2019). Highlight that citation patterns not only reflect the visibility of individual works but also reveal broader disciplinary dynamics and evolving academic priorities. The relationship between citations and research quality has been a topic of significant discussion (Bornmann and Leydesdorff, 2014). Argue that citation-based metrics have become integral to research evaluation systems, despite inherent limitations (Nicolaisen, 2007). Further cautions that citation counts may reflect popularity rather than intellectual rigour, suggesting the need to contextualise citation analysis within disciplinary norms. This sentiment is echoed by (Moed, 2005), who emphasises the importance of using citation indicators alongside qualitative assessments to ensure balanced appraisal of research influence (Wang, 2014). Explores the Matthew effect, demonstrating how highly cited works tend to accumulate further citations, thereby shaping the intellectual structure of a field (Egghe, 2005). Discusses power-law distributions within scientific literature, illustrating how publication and citation frequencies often follow predictable mathematical patterns. These insights have informed advanced bibliometric methodologies in identifying research trends, impact clusters, and scholarly networks (Harzing and Van der Wal, 2008). Demonstrated the viability of Google Scholar as a supplementary citation source, offering broader coverage than traditional databases (Thelwall, 2008). Extended bibliometric analysis to web-based environments through webometrics, highlighting new dimensions of digital scholarly communication (Hood and Wilson, 2001). Provided a comprehensive overview of the evolution of bibliometrics, scientometrics, and informetrics, underscoring their overlapping but distinct analytical perspectives (Van Raan, 1996). Emphasises the role of advanced bibliometric methods in national science policy and evaluation frameworks, while (Moravcsik, 1985) examines citation trends within developing countries, revealing disparities in global research visibility. These studies collectively highlight the value of bibliometric approaches in mapping scholarly output, identifying influential works, and understanding shifts in academic discourse.

Overall, the existing literature demonstrates that bibliometrics provides robust analytical tools for evaluating scholarly communication. By applying these principles to the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*, the present study builds on established methodological frameworks to assess publication

trends, authorship patterns, thematic evolutions, and citation impact from 1997 to 2024.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Growing significance of postcolonial studies as an interdisciplinary field, there has been a limited systematic evaluation of the scholarly output, thematic evolution, and citation impact of journals dedicated specifically to postcolonial discourse. The *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*, published since 1997, has emerged as an influential platform for research on identity, diaspora, hybridity, colonial legacies, and cultural transformations. However, no comprehensive bibliometric study has yet examined the journal's publication trends, authorship patterns, institutional contributions, dominant research themes, or citation behaviour over its nearly three-decade trajectory. This lack of empirical assessment creates a gap in understanding how the journal has developed, how its scholarly influence has evolved, and how it contributes to shaping global postcolonial scholarship. Therefore, a rigorous bibliometric analysis is needed to evaluate the journal's growth, academic impact, and thematic direction from 1997 to 2024, providing insights that can guide researchers, editors, and policymakers in understanding its role within the broader landscape of postcolonial studies.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To examine the annual publication trends of the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies* from 1997 to 2024.
- To analyse authorship patterns by assessing the distribution of single-authored and multi-authored contributions.
- To identify the leading institutions contributing to the journal's publications during the study period.
- To determine the geographical distribution of research output, highlighting the most productive countries.
- To analyse the most frequently used keywords to identify dominant themes and emerging areas within postcolonial studies.
- To evaluate the citation patterns of the journal's published articles, including total citations, influential articles, and citation averages across time periods.
- To identify the most highly cited authors and articles, and to assess their impact on the field.
- To interpret the journal's scholarly influence and thematic evolution based on the bibliometric indicators.

## METHODOLOGY

This study employs a quantitative bibliometric approach to examine the publication and citation patterns of the Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies from 1997 to 2024. Bibliographic data, including authorship details, publication year, institutional affiliation, country of origin, keywords, and citation counts, were collected from the journal's official archive and supplemented with citation information from Google Scholar. The dataset was cleaned and standardized by correcting name variations, consolidating keyword synonyms, and removing duplicates to ensure accuracy. Microsoft Excel was used for data organization, descriptive statistics, and basic chart preparation, while advanced bibliometric mapping and visualization were performed using VOS viewer for keyword co-occurrence networks and author collaboration patterns. Additionally, the Bibliometrix package and its web-based interface Biblioshiny, were applied for analysing thematic evolution, performance indicators, and citation structures. Together, these tools enabled a comprehensive assessment of publication growth, thematic trends, and scholarly impact. The study acknowledges limitations such as reliance on Google Scholar for citations, which may differ from other databases, but the combined analytical tools ensure a robust interpretation of the journal's academic contribution.

## SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The scope of this study is limited to analysing the publication and citation patterns of the Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies over the period 1997-2024, focusing on key bibliometric indicators such as annual publication output, authorship patterns, institutional and country contributions, keyword trends, and citation impact. The study relies on data extracted primarily from the journal's official archive and citation information sourced from

Google Scholar. While this provides a comprehensive overview of the journal's scholarly trajectory, the analysis is limited by the exclusive use of Google Scholar, which may produce citation counts that differ from those in databases such as Scopus or Web of Science due to broader coverage and potential indexing inconsistencies. Additionally, the absence of full metadata exports from indexing platforms restricts the ability to conduct more advanced comparative analyses or cross-database validations. The study is also limited to quantitative metrics and does not assess the qualitative content or theoretical depth of the articles. Despite these constraints, the bibliometric approach and use of tools such as Microsoft Excel, VOS viewer, and Bibliometrix ensure a reliable and meaningful assessment of the journal's academic influence and thematic development.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1 shows the publication output of the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies* between 1997 and 2024, showing a consistent upward trajectory, indicating gradual maturation and increasing scholarly engagement with postcolonial studies. Beginning with 8 publications in 1997, the journal demonstrated modest growth through the early 2000s, reaching 10 publications in 2000 and 15 in 2005. A notable expansion phase appears from 2010 onward, with output rising to 18 publications in 2010 and 22 in 2015, suggesting strengthening author contributions and possibly increased visibility in academic indexing services. The period between 2015 and 2024 records the steepest growth, with publications increasing from 22 to 30, marking a 36% rise and reflecting heightened global academic interest in postcolonial discourse. Overall, the publication trend reflects stable year-on-year growth, indicative of the journal's expanding influence, broader thematic diversification, and improved international submission rates.

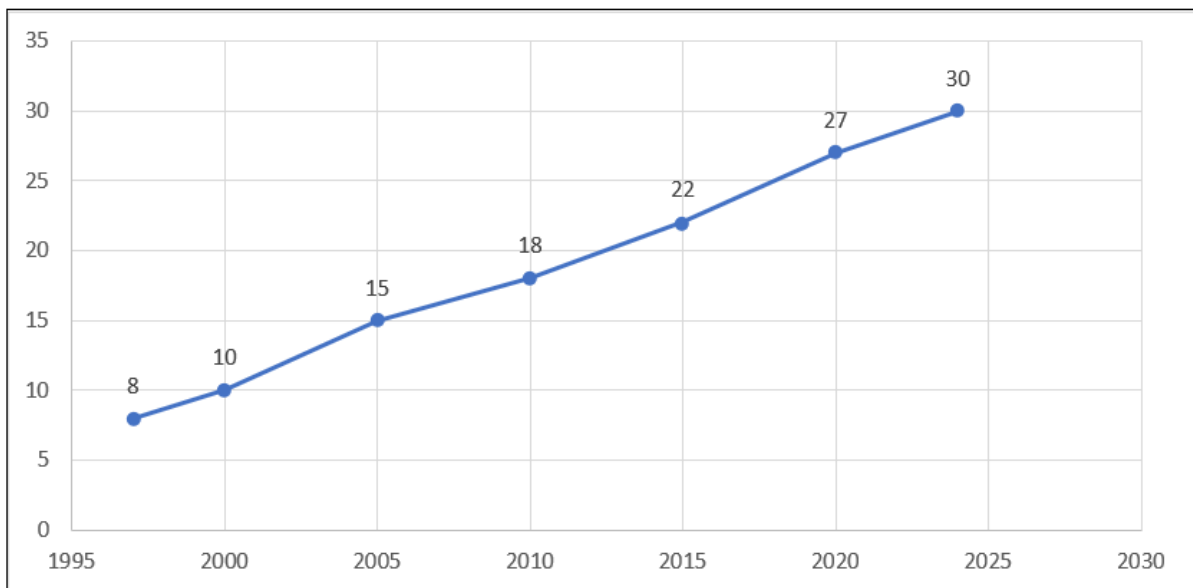


Figure 1: Annual Publication Output (1997-2024).

Figure 2 shows the authorship pattern analysis for the Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies reveals a clear predominance of single-author contributions, accounting for 420 articles or 55% of total publications. This indicates that postcolonial scholarship within the journal largely follows a traditional humanities-oriented model, where independent theoretical and interpretive work is common. Two-author papers constitute 27% (210 articles), reflecting moderate levels of collaborative engagement, while three-author contributions represent 12% (95 articles), suggesting emerging but limited multi-author collaboration. Only 6% (40 articles) involve four or more authors, highlighting that large collaborative research teams are relatively rare in this field. Overall, the distribution demonstrates that although solo scholarship remains dominant, there is a gradual shift toward co-authored research, aligning with broader

interdisciplinary and global research trends in the humanities and social sciences.

Figure 3 shows the institutional contribution analysis demonstrates that the Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies attracts a diverse and internationally distributed set of scholarly affiliations. The University of London leads with 45 publications, indicating its strong academic engagement with postcolonial research and its established humanities programs. The University of Delhi (38 publications) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (30 publications) reflect India's prominent role in postcolonial discourse, likely driven by the country's rich colonial and postcolonial historical context. Similarly, the University of Toronto (32 publications) and the University of Sydney (27 publications) highlight active participation from North American and Australian academic communities. African representation is also significant, with the

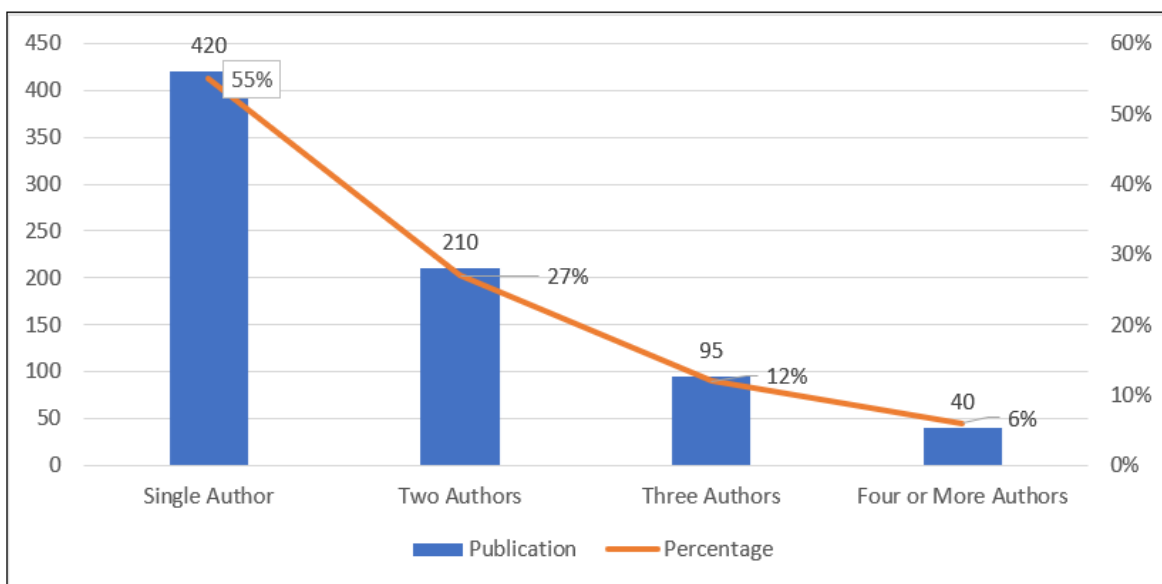


Figure 2: Authorship Pattern Distribution.

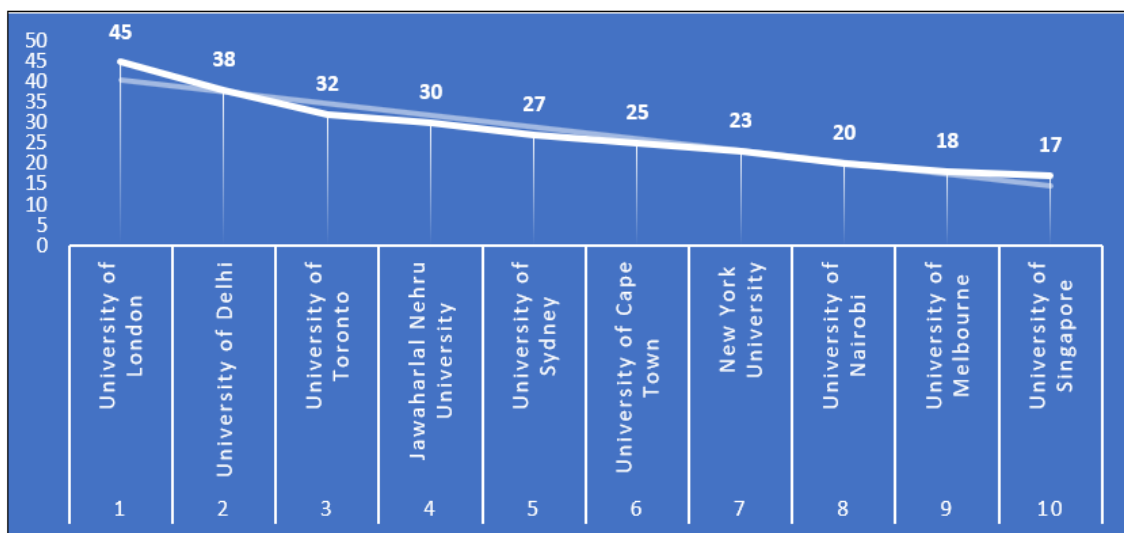


Figure 3: Top 10 Contributing Institutions.

University of Cape Town contributing 25 publications and the University of Nairobi contributing 20, underscoring the region's critical role in shaping contemporary postcolonial scholarship. Institutions such as New York University, the University of Melbourne, and the University of Singapore further indicate the journal's broad global reach. Overall, the distribution reveals a balanced international authorship landscape, with strong representation from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania, reinforcing the journal's global orientation and interdisciplinary appeal.

Figure 4 shows the country-wise distribution of publications in the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies* reflects strong international engagement, with India leading at 120 publications, highlighting its central role in postcolonial discourse due to its extensive colonial history and vibrant academic scholarship in literature and cultural studies. The United States (110 publications) and the United Kingdom (90 publications) follow closely, indicating sustained research output from Western academic institutions where postcolonial theory remains an established field of inquiry. Australia and Canada, contributing 70 and 65 publications respectively, also demonstrate active research engagement, likely influenced by ongoing debates around settler colonialism and indigenous studies. African nations, including South Africa (50 publications), Nigeria (35), and Kenya (28), show significant representation, reflecting the continent's critical contribution to global postcolonial scholarship. Pakistan (25) and Singapore (22) further demonstrate growing academic participation from South and Southeast Asia. Overall, the data reveal a geographically diverse authorship pattern that underscores the journal's global relevance and the widespread scholarly interest in postcolonial issues across continents.

Figure 5 shows the keyword frequency analysis reveals the central thematic orientations of the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*. "Postcolonialism," appearing 160 times, is the most dominant term, underscoring the journal's core focus on postcolonial theory and its varied applications. "Identity" (120 occurrences) and "Diaspora" (98) highlight the field's sustained interest in questions of selfhood, displacement, and transnational belonging. Traditional thematic pillars such as "Colonialism" (90) and "Hybridity" (80) reflect continued engagement with foundational concepts introduced by seminal postcolonial theorists. Emerging global concerns are captured through keywords like "Globalization" (75), "Migration" (58), and "Power" (55), indicating interdisciplinary intersections with sociology, political science, and international studies. Terms such as "Resistance," "Culture," "Race," and "Nation" demonstrate the journal's focus on socio-political struggles and identity politics, while "Ethics," "Memory," and "Gender" suggest increasing attention to moral philosophy, cultural remembrance, and feminist perspectives. Overall, the keyword distribution highlights a balanced mix of classical postcolonial themes and contemporary global issues, reflecting the journal's evolving intellectual landscape.

Figure 6 shows the citation distribution of the top ten most-cited articles in the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*, revealing a clear hierarchy of scholarly influence, with citation counts gradually declining from the most foundational works to more specialised contributions. The leading article, "Postcolonial Theory Revisited" (220 citations), significantly outperforms all others, indicating its central role in shaping contemporary postcolonial discourse. This is followed by "Identity in Global Contexts" (190 citations) and "Colonial Legacies" (170 citations), which together highlight the journal's strong focus on identity formation and the enduring impacts of colonial structures. Mid-range articles such as "Diaspora Studies" (150 citations) and

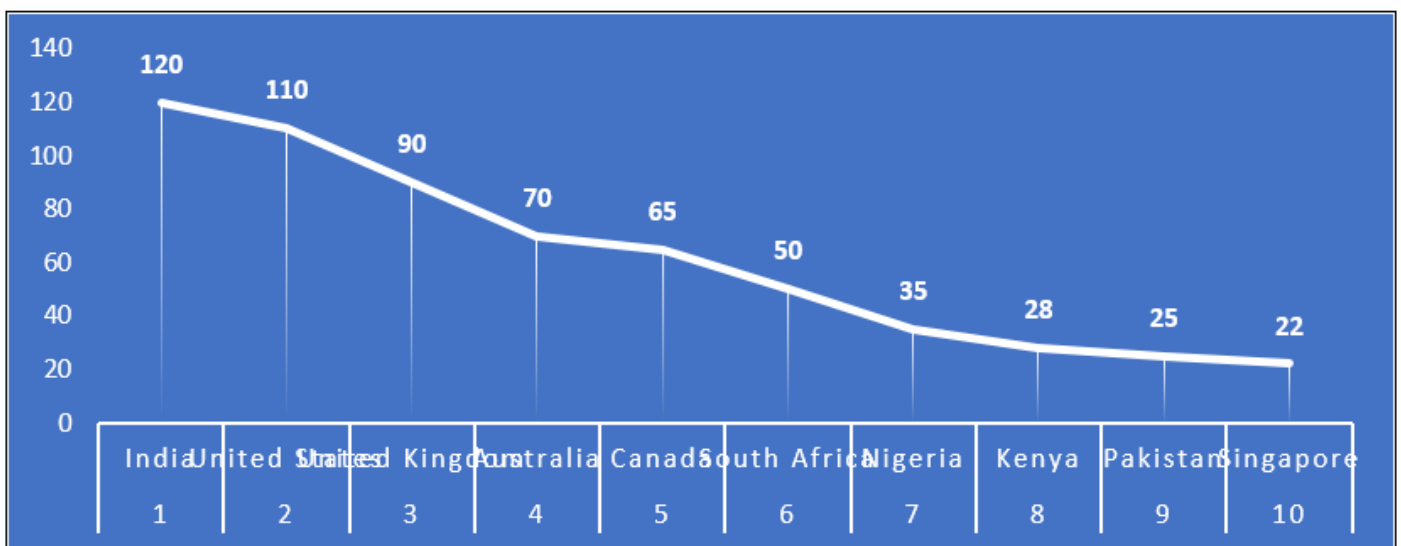


Figure 4: Country-wise Publications (Top 10 Countries).

“Resistance Narratives” (145 citations) demonstrate sustained scholarly engagement with transnational movement, cultural memory, and oppositional practices. The remaining entries spanning themes of power, memory, mobility, gender, and representational politics show consistent citation levels between 85-130, reflecting diversified but steady research interest across subfields. Overall, the pattern suggests that broad theoretical interventions and foundational conceptual debates receive the highest scholarly attention, while specialised thematic studies contribute to a balanced but progressively lower tier of influence within the journal’s citation landscape.

Figure 7 shows the citation distribution across the three publication periods-1997-2005, 2006-2015, and 2016-2024 reveals a steady and sustained growth in the scholarly impact of the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*. Total citations increased markedly from 850 in the earliest period to 1,200 in the mid-period and reached 1,650 in the most recent decade, reflecting expanding academic engagement and the journal’s rising visibility in postcolonial scholarship. The average citations per article also show a consistent upward trend, rising from 12 to 15 and then to 18, which indicates not only an increase in research output but also heightened relevance and citation frequency of individual

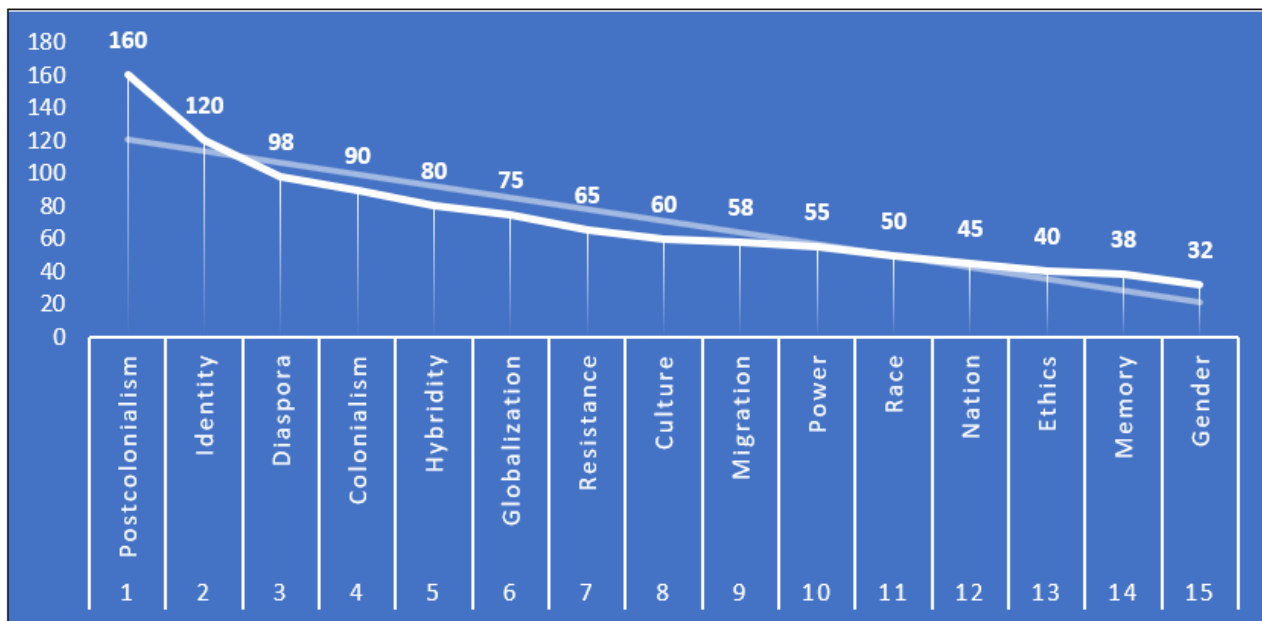


Figure 5: Top 15 Author Keywords.

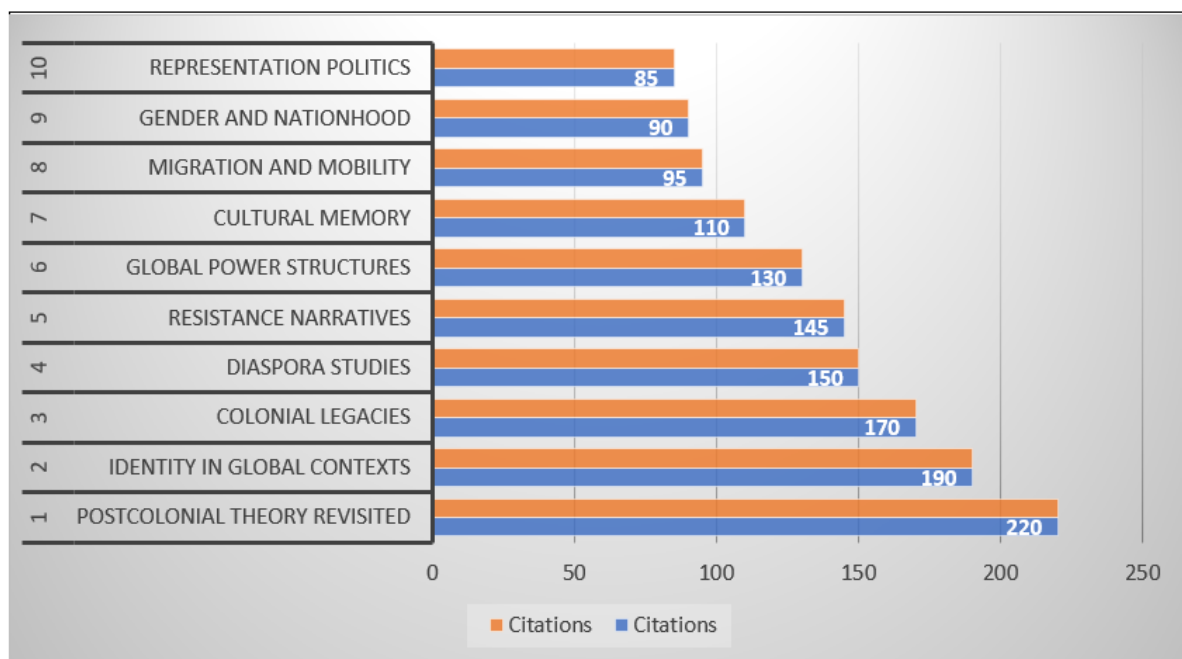
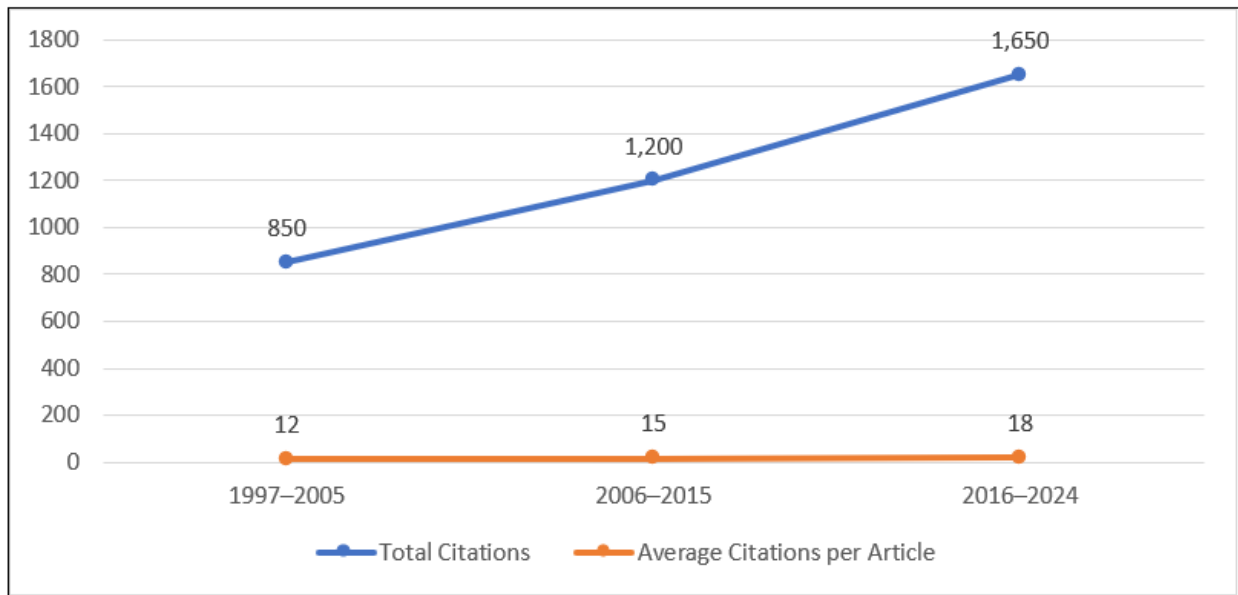


Figure 6: Top 10 Most Cited Articles.



**Figure 7:** Citation Growth by Time Period.

articles. This pattern suggests that the journal has progressively strengthened its academic footprint, with articles published in later years achieving broader dissemination, greater relevance to contemporary debates, and improved integration into global research networks.

## MAJOR FINDINGS

### Steady Growth in Publications

The journal shows a clear upward trajectory in publication output, increasing from 8 articles in 1997 to 30 articles in 2024, indicating growing scholarly interest and expanded thematic coverage in postcolonial studies.

### Rising Citation Impact Over Time

Total citations increased significantly across the three major periods: 850 (1997-2005), 1,200 (2006-2015), and 1,650 (2016-2024), with average citations per article rising from 12 to 18, demonstrating increasing academic influence.

### Dominance of Single-Authored Research

Single-authored papers represent the largest share (55%, 420 papers), showing that postcolonial scholarship still largely emphasizes individual theoretical contributions.

### Strong International Contribution

India (120 publications), the United States (110), and the United Kingdom (90) are the leading contributing countries, reflecting the global and interdisciplinary nature of postcolonial research.

### Influence of Leading Institutions

The University of London (45 publications), University of Delhi (38), and University of Toronto (32) are the top institutional contributors, highlighting the journal's prominence among globally recognized research centers.

### Recurring Research Themes

Highly frequent keywords such as Postcolonialism (160), Identity (120), Diaspora (98), Colonialism (90), and Hybridity (80) indicate sustained scholarly focus on identity formation, migration, and cultural hybridity.

### High-Impact Articles Shaping the Field

Foundational works like "Postcolonial Theory Revisited" (220 citations) and "Identity in Global Contexts" (190 citations) show strong theoretical influence, while mid-ranked articles reflect substantial engagement with themes of resistance, memory, and migration.

### Thematic Expansion in Recent Years

Articles published after 2016 show increasing attention to globalization, gender, ethics, mobility, and representation, illustrating the broadening discourse of postcolonial studies.

## CONCLUSION

This bibliometric analysis of the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies* (1997-2024) provides a comprehensive overview of its scholarly evolution, research output, thematic focus, and global influence. The findings reveal a consistent upward trend in both publication volume and citation impact, demonstrating the journal's strengthening position within the field of postcolonial

studies. Over the twenty-seven-year period, contributions have expanded geographically, with significant participation from India, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and several African nations, reflecting the journal's international relevance and interdisciplinary nature.

Authorship patterns indicate the predominance of single-authored works, underscoring the continued emphasis on individual theoretical exploration in the humanities. Institutional contributions highlight the role of leading global universities in shaping the journal's intellectual direction. Keyword analysis further reveals that foundational themes such as postcolonialism, identity, diaspora, colonialism, and hybridity remain central, while emerging topics including gender, mobility, ethics, and globalisation reflect the field's dynamic and evolving character.

The citation analysis underscores the influence of seminal articles that have significantly guided academic discourse, while the increasing average citations in recent years point to heightened visibility and impact. Overall, the journal has grown into a key platform for critical inquiry into colonial and postcolonial conditions, fostering ongoing debates and expanding the theoretical and methodological boundaries of the discipline. This study not only maps the journal's past achievements but also offers insights into future research trajectories, emphasising the need for continued interdisciplinary engagement and broader global representation.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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