



## A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS ON SLOW FOOD WITH VOSVIEWER

### *VOSVIEWER İLE SLOW FOOD ÜZERİNE BİBLİYOMETRİK ANALİZ*

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#### Abstract

Slow Food is a movement adopted by many people around the world. It originated in Italy and is a subject that is frequently discussed by academics today. This research presents a bibliometric analysis of 448 publications related to the Slow Food movement, published between 1998 and 2022 in the Web of Science database. The analysis used VOSviewer, a visualization software tool for bibliometric networks, to classify the publications according to their years and types, and to create a scientific map of institutional addresses of the authors. The study shows that the Slow Food movement has gained increasing attention in academic literature over the past three decades. The most frequently used keywords associated with the Slow Food movement, the most active countries and academic institutions in Slow Food publications are identified. Universities in Italy, the United States, and the United Kingdom are among the most productive institutions in the field of Slow Food research. The research demonstrates the growing interest in the Slow Food movement among academics and researchers and highlights the diversity of issues and perspectives related to this field. The findings can serve as a useful resource for academics and policymakers interested in Slow Food.

**Keywords:** Slow Food, Gastronomy, Bibliometric Analysis, Rural Tourism, Sustainability

#### Özet

Bu araştırma, Web of Science veritabanında 1998 ile 2022 yılları arasında yayınlanan Slow Food hareketi ile ilgili 448 yayının bibliyometrik analizini sunmaktadır. Analizde yayınları yıllarına ve türlerine göre sınıflandırmak ve yazarların kurumsal adreslerinin bilimsel bir haritasını oluşturmak için bibliyometrik ağlar için görselleştirme yazılımı olan VOSviewer kullanılmıştır. Çalışma, Slow Food hareketinin son otuz yılda akademik literatürde artan bir ilgi gördüğünü göstermektedir. Slow Food hareketi ile ilgili en sık kullanılan anahtar kelimeler, Slow Food yayınlarında en aktif ülkeler ve akademik kurumlar belirlenmiştir. İtalya, Amerika Birleşik Devletleri ve Birleşik Krallık'taki üniversitelerin Slow Food araştırması alanında en verimli kurumlar olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Araştırma, akademisyenler ve araştırmacılar arasında Slow Food hareketine artan ilgiyi göstermesi ve bu alanla ilgili konuların ve bakış açılarının çeşitliliğini ortaya koyması açısından önemli görülmektedir. Bulgular, Slow Food ile ilgilenen akademisyenler ve politika yapıcılar için faydalı bir kaynak olabilir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Slow Food, Gastronomi, Bibliyometrik Analiz, Kırsal Turizm, Sürdürülebilirlik

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## **1. Introduction**

The Slow Food movement, initially created in Italy as a response to the proliferation of fast food, has gained global recognition and has been adopted by numerous countries. The movement's mission is to promote access to healthy and ethically-sourced food. Co-founded by Carlo Petrini and his colleagues, the Slow Food movement has evolved into a way of life and has captured the interest of many scholars in the field of gastronomy (Petrini 2003; Petrini & Gainotti, 2008; Petrini, 2010a; Petrini, 2010b; Petrini, 2013; Galli, 2019; Pascucci & Santini, 2019). However, despite its significance, there is a paucity of bibliometric analyses on the subject. As such, this study aims to address this gap in the literature and to achieve the following research objectives:

- Bibliometric analysis can help identify research trends and patterns in the literature related to Slow Food. This can provide insights into the development of the field and help researchers identify gaps in the literature that need further investigation.
- By analyzing citation patterns and the number of publications in the field, bibliometric analysis can help evaluate the impact of research on the Slow Food field, enabling researchers to identify which studies have had the greatest impact and contributed significantly to the field.
- This bibliometric analysis can provide valuable information for policymakers and practitioners who are interested in promoting sustainable food systems and supporting small-scale farmers. By identifying research gaps and trends, policymakers and practitioners can make more informed decisions about policy and practice related to Slow Food.
- With this bibliometric analysis study can help researchers identify potential collaborators in the field of Slow Food. By identifying researchers who have published in related areas, researchers can reach out to potential collaborators and expand their networks.
- This study can help raise awareness about the importance of Slow Food and sustainable food systems. By analyzing the research literature, researchers can identify key themes and messages related to Slow Food and use this information to promote awareness and education among the general public.

Overall, bibliometric analysis is a valuable tool for understanding the research landscape in the field of Slow Food and can provide valuable insights for researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and the general public.

Bibliometrics is a statistical methodology that enables the quantitative analysis of research articles on a particular topic through mathematical techniques. To conduct bibliometric analysis, researchers can use specialized tools such as VOSviewer, which facilitates the assessment of the quality of studies, identification of key areas of research, and prediction of future research directions. The online database Web of Science (WOS) is a major repository of scholarly papers, offering built-in analysis tools that can generate informative figures. In addition, the search results obtained from WOS can be exported to software applications like VOSviewer, allowing for further analysis of the data (Chen, Dubin & Kim, 2014; Yu, Li, Zhang, Gu, Zhong, Zha, Yang, Zhu & Chen, 2020).

## **2. Literature Review on Slow Food and Related Concepts**

Slow Food is a global movement that promotes the consumption of locally grown and produced food, and is based on the principles of sustainability, biodiversity, and social justice. Founded in Italy in 1986, the movement has since grown to encompass more than 160 countries, with more than 100,000 members worldwide (Galli, 2019; Pascucci & Santini, 2019). The Slow Food movement arose in response to the increasing industrialization of the food industry and the loss of local food traditions and cultures. The movement seeks to promote local food systems and to preserve traditional food cultures, as well as to promote sustainable agriculture and animal husbandry. Slow Food emphasizes the importance of local and seasonal ingredients, and encourages the use of traditional cooking techniques and recipes (Reisch & Scholz, 2018).

One of the key principles of Slow Food is the importance of biodiversity. The movement seeks to promote the preservation of local and traditional varieties of plants and animals, as well as to promote the use of sustainable farming practices. By promoting the use of local and traditional crops, Slow Food helps to maintain the genetic diversity of food crops and to prevent the loss of unique and valuable plant varieties (Pascucci & Santini, 2019). Another important principle of Slow Food is the promotion of social justice. The movement seeks to promote fair trade and to ensure that food producers receive a fair price for their products. Slow Food also seeks to promote the participation of marginalized communities in local food systems, and to promote food access and food security for all (Kloppenburg, 2018). Slow Food has had a significant impact on society, both in terms of promoting sustainable food systems and in terms of promoting social justice. The movement has helped to raise awareness of the importance of local and seasonal ingredients, and has encouraged the use of traditional cooking techniques and recipes. Slow Food has also helped to promote the use of sustainable farming practices, and has helped to preserve traditional food cultures and local food traditions (Ricciardi & Largo-

Wight, 2020). In addition, Slow Food has played an important role in promoting social justice and fair trade. The movement has helped to promote the participation of marginalized communities in local food systems, and has helped to promote food access and food security for all. Slow Food has also helped to promote fair trade and to ensure that food producers receive a fair price for their products (Kloppenburg, 2018). Despite its many achievements, Slow Food also faces challenges. One of the challenges is the tension between promoting local food systems and promoting global food systems. While Slow Food promotes local and seasonal ingredients, it also recognizes the importance of access to a variety of food products from around the world. This tension has led to debates within the movement about how best to balance the promotion of local food systems with the need for access to a variety of food products (Pascucci & Santini, 2019). Another challenge for Slow Food is the need to address issues of food waste and food loss. While the movement promotes the use of local and seasonal ingredients, it also recognizes the importance of reducing food waste and food loss. Slow Food has begun to address this issue by promoting the use of sustainable farming practices, and by encouraging the use of traditional cooking techniques that minimize food waste (Nestle, 2002; DuPuis & Goodman, 2005; Lyons & Mutersbaugh, 2010; Alkon & Mares, 2012; Ricciardi & Largo-Wight, 2020).

Slow Food is a global movement that promotes the consumption of locally grown and produced food, and is based on the principles of sustainability, biodiversity, and social justice. The movement has had a significant impact on society, both in terms of promoting sustainable food systems and in terms of promoting social justice. While Slow Food faces challenges, such as the tension between promoting local food systems and global food systems, and the need to address food waste and food loss, the movement continues to be an important force in promoting a more sustainable and just food system. As Slow Food continues to grow and evolve, it is important for the movement to continue to address these challenges and to promote a more sustainable and just food system. By continuing to promote the use of local and seasonal ingredients, and by encouraging the use of sustainable farming practices and traditional cooking techniques, Slow Food can help to promote a more sustainable and just food system, while preserving traditional food cultures and local food traditions.

### **3. Methodology**

Bibliometric analysis is a research technique that employs quantitative methods to examine the publishing, citation, and co-citation patterns in scientific publications. Bibliometric analysis is a strong instrument for assessing research performance and identifying new research fields. It

has been utilized extensively in numerous study domains and has helped to the comprehension of the structure and development of scientific fields (Bornmann and Leydesdorff, 2014; Wallin, 2005; Van Eck & Waltman, 2010; Egghe, 2005; Waltman & Van Eck, 2012; Larivière, Gingras & Archambault, 2015). Nonetheless, the limits and inherent biases of bibliometric analysis must be carefully considered.

In this research, VOSviewer program was preferred both to perform the bibliometric analysis and to visualize the results obtained. VOSviewer is a freely available tool for analyzing and visualizing bibliometric data from the Web of Science database (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010). It allows for the exploration of citation networks, co-authorship patterns, and other bibliometric information (Li, Wu, Shen, Wang & Teng, 2017; Chen & Leydesdorff, 2014; Waltman & Van Eck, 2012). Despite its benefits, the use of VOSviewer is not without limitations. One of the main challenges is the quality and completeness of the data available in the Web of Science database, which can limit the accuracy and generalizability of the results (Chen et al., 2018). Additionally, the maps generated by VOSviewer can be complex and difficult to interpret, requiring careful consideration of the visualization techniques employed (Boyack et al., 2011).

To investigate global literature on Slow Food, a search of the WOS collection database was conducted, encompassing publications on all dates. The search term "Slow Food" was applied as a keyword in the title to identify the closest matching publication. Eligible documents' information, such as publication year, language, journal, title, author, affiliation, keywords, document type, abstract, and citation count, were exported in CSV format to meet the pre-defined requirements. The retrieval date was recorded as 16.01.2023. The bibliometric analyses were performed using VOSviewer (version 1.6.18) to explore co-authorship, co-occurrence, citation, bibliographic coupling, co-citation, and thematic patterns. Network visualizations were constructed using two standard weight attributes, namely "Links attribute" and "Total link strength attribute" (Stephan et al., 2017; Yu et al., 2020; Kırıcı, Bozkurt & Tabak, 2021).

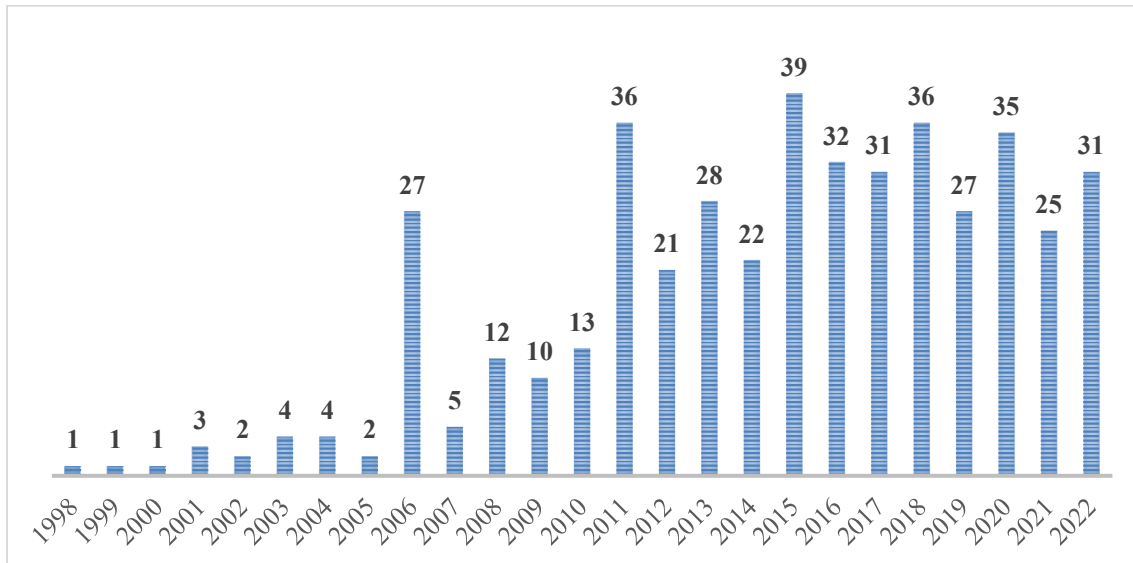
In this study also employed a word cloud analysis using Maxqda software to create a visual representation of the frequency of keywords found in the articles reviewed. Word clouds are a useful tool for gaining insight into the prominent themes and topics of a specific context (Williams, Parkes, & Davies, 2013; Ustaoglu, 2019). The aim of visualizing data is to enhance its comprehensibility and accessibility, providing a quick and straightforward way for interested individuals to access key information (Fronza et al., 2013).

#### **4. Data Analysis**

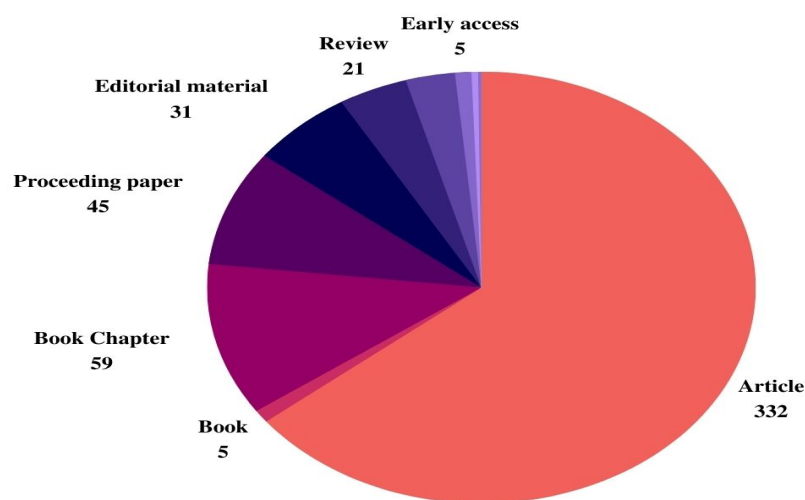
By conducting a search on January 16, 2023, using the phrase Slow Food and selecting "all

areas", 448 publications were accessed. The distribution of these publications by year is displayed in table 1 below.

**Table 1: Distribution of Slow Food publications by year**



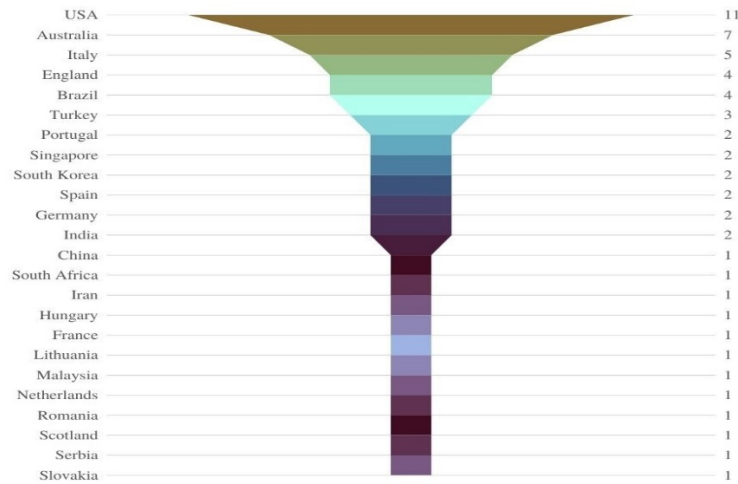
An examination of the distribution of the 448 studies on Slow Food published between 1998 and 2022 reveals that the number of studies began to increase after 2006 and peaked in 2015. The studies were obtained from various disciplines/fields, including 332 articles, 59 book chapters, 45 proceeding papers, 31 editorial materials, 21 reviews, 15 book reviews, 6 early access, 5 books, 2 meeting abstracts, and 1 letter, with the earliest from 1998 and the most recent from 2022 (Figure 1). The acquired data were analyzed using author-citation-journal-country-institution-keyword analysis and summary analysis, with the Web of Science index utilized as a criterion.



**Figure 1. Distribution of Slow Food publications by type**

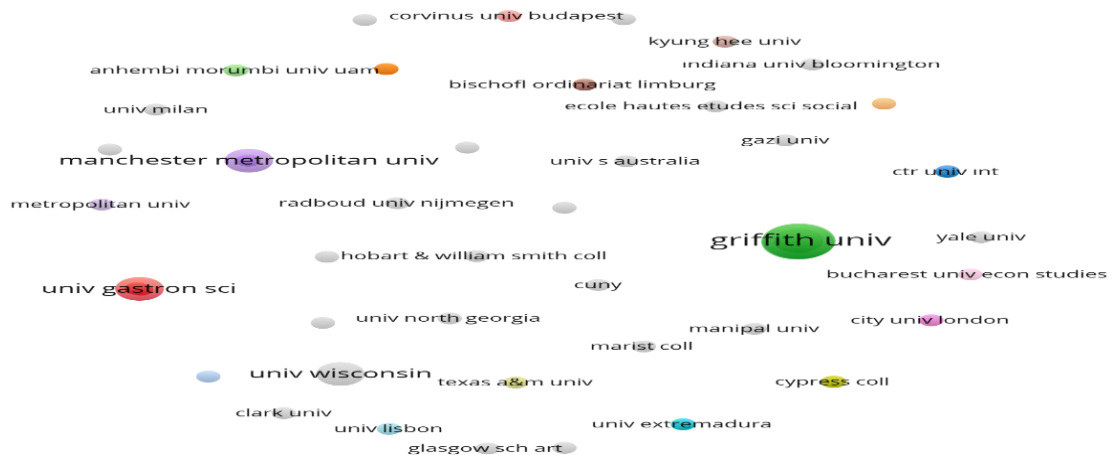
The geographic dispersion of studies on the Slow Food concept has also been explored. The quantity of papers produced by each nation does not solely reflect the research conducted in

that nation. In some instances, a study may be co-authored by authors from other nations, and in this instance, the same study may be published in multiple countries. Therefore, the number of publications by country may appear to be greater than it actually is. Nonetheless, there are 24 countries that have published with the keyword Slow Food. The United States is the nation with the most publications, with 11, followed by Australia with seven. The birthplace of the Slow Food movement, Italy, ranks third with five publications. Table 2 displays the total number of publications for all other nations.



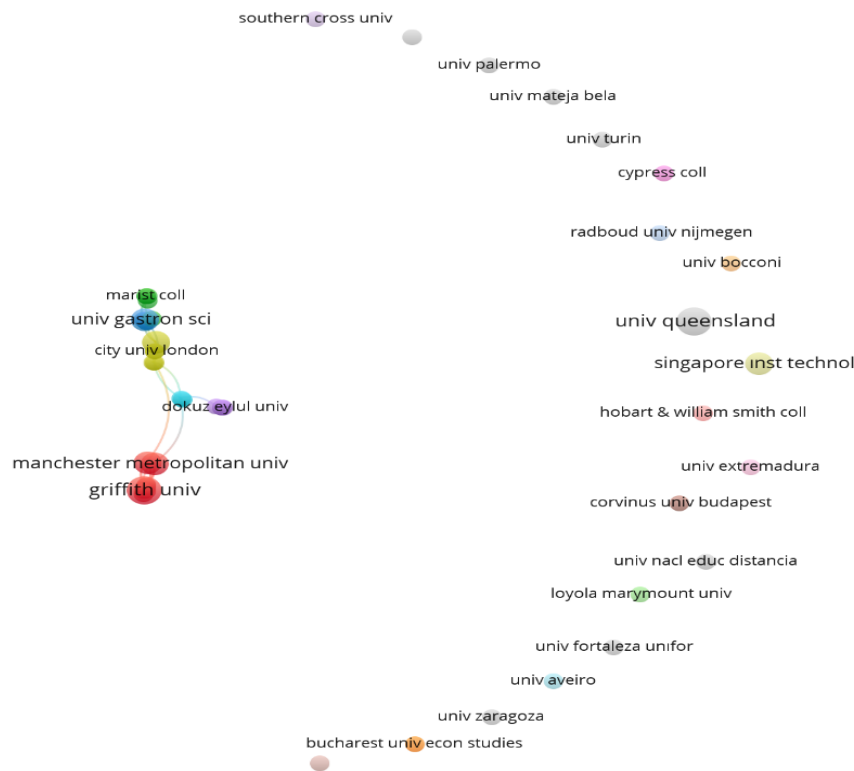
**Table 2. Publication distribution by country**

In the WOS database, 68 universities and institutes have contributed publications on the topic of Slow Food, and 51 publications have received a minimum of one reference from publications addressed to the university. Examining the distribution of university publications reveals that Griffith University and the University of Queensland, with three publications each, are the universities with the largest number of publications. Tied for second place with two publications apiece are the Singapore Institute of Technology, the University of Gastronomic Sciences, Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Newcastle, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Other universities each produced one publication. Figure 2 depicts the concentration distribution of scholarly publications per university.

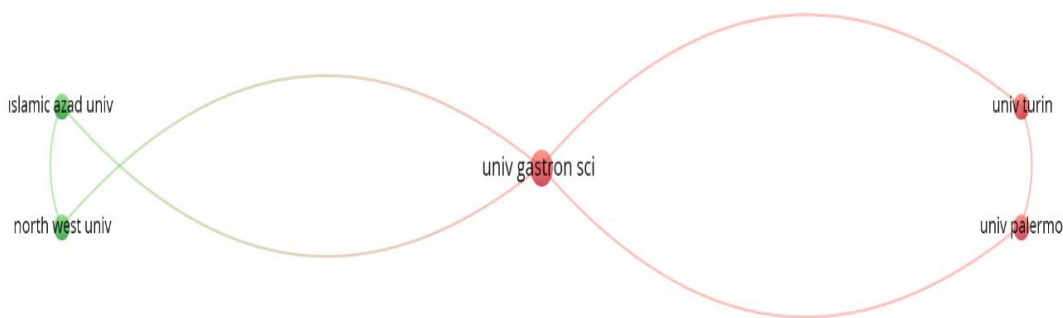


**Figure 2. Distribution map of publications by universities**

Due to the number of publications, the level of cooperation between universities can be considered minimal (Figure 3). The universities with the highest level of inter-university interaction are grouped into two clusters. The first cluster includes the University of Gastronomic Sciences, the University of Palermo, and the University of Turin. The second cluster includes the Islamic Azad University and the North West University.



**Figure 3. Map of institutional collaboration in the research field**



**Figure 4. Map of institution with the most collaboration**

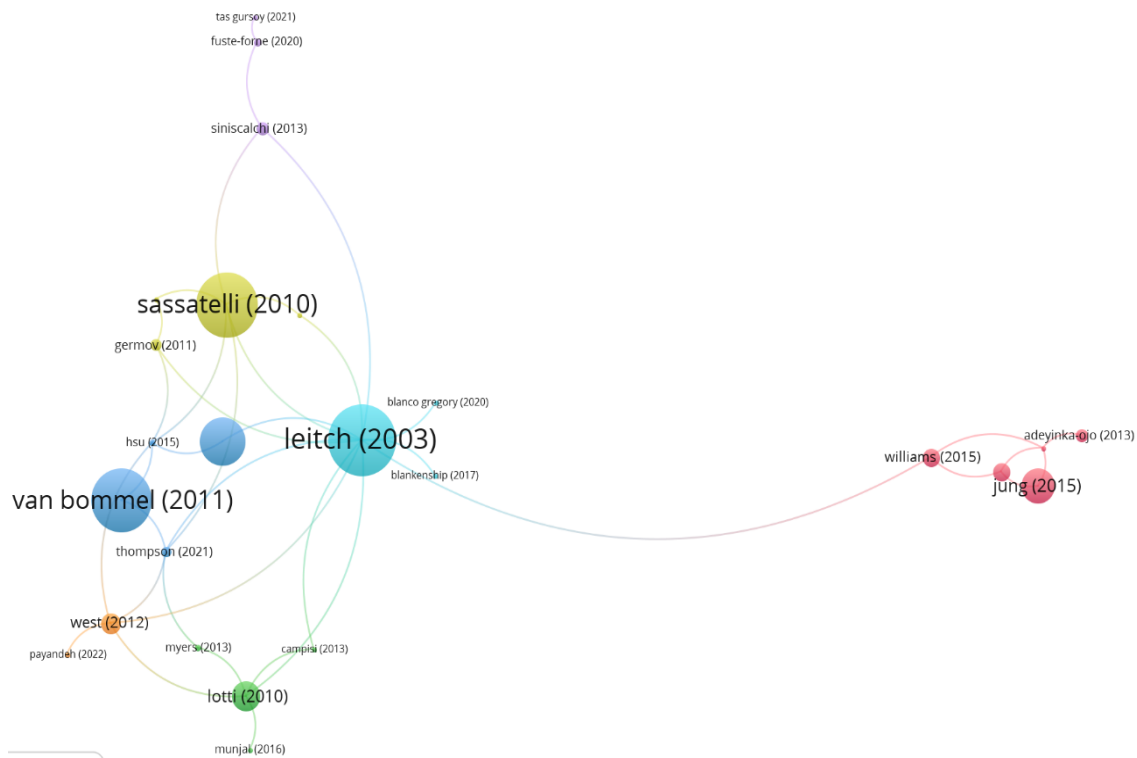
VOSviewer has also been used to identify and visualize the collaboration networks of researchers. Examining the scholarly articles on the topic of "Slow Food" in the WOS database reveals a total of 99 authors' investigations on this topic. In Figure 5, the first six "Slow Food" researchers with three or two publications are displayed. Based on this information, Lee, K. H.,



Packer, J., and Scott, N. have produced the most research with three articles each. With two publications apiece, Freij, M., Germov, J., and Ineson, E. M. tie for second place. This figure displays the association between the citations and publications of authors who have used the keyword Slow Food in their work and whose work has earned at least one citation.

#### 4.2. Author Citation Analysis

Leitch, A., with 114 citations, is the most cited author for his writings on "Slow Food" in WOS, according to an examination of published citations. Davolio, F., and Sassatelli, R. are in second place with 102 citations, while Spicer, A., and Van Bommel, K. are in third place with 100 citations. There are no citations for 21 of the papers scanned in WOS. Figure 6 depicts the strength of collaboration between the publications of 52 writers whose publications interact with each other, out of 78 authors whose at least one publication has been cited at least once.



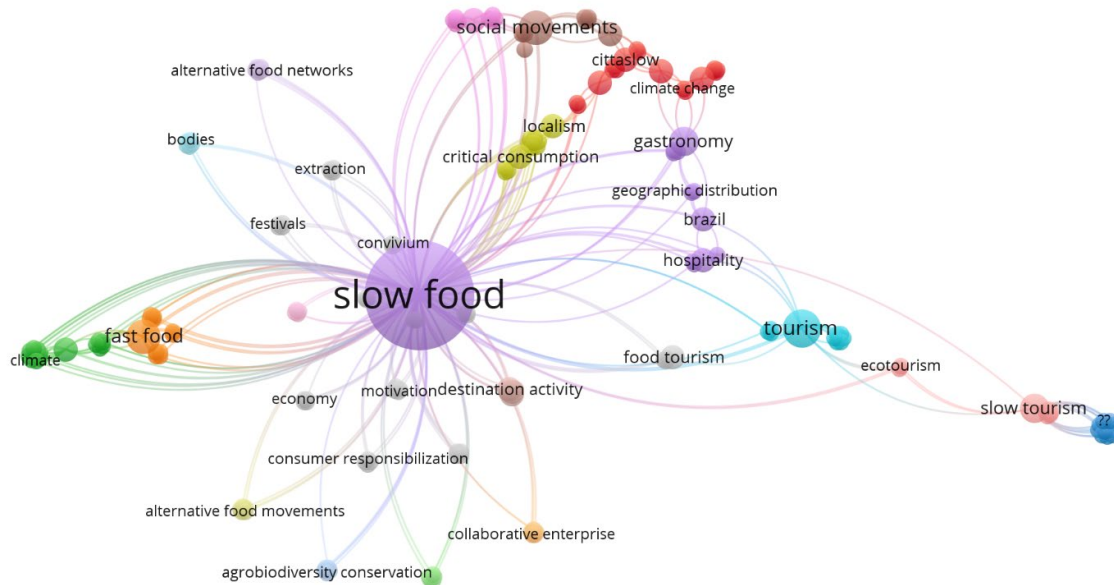
**Figure 6. Collaboration network between the authors with the most citations**

Seven clusters were generated as a result of the VOSviewer study. The first cluster, which contains 14 authors and has the highest density of the seven clusters, is depicted in red. The second cluster, represented in green, has nine authors. The third cluster, represented by the color blue, has eight authors, while the fourth cluster, represented by the color yellow, has six authors. The fifth cluster, represented by the color purple, also has six authors. The sixth cluster, represented by the color orange, has five authors, and the seventh cluster, represented by the color turquoise, has four authors. There are 39 publications that have received at least one citation. It is observed that 25 works have co-citations.



7	Globalization	2	18	Sustainability	2
8	Critical consumption	2	19	Travel motivation	2
9	Localism	2	20	hospitality	2
10	Discourse analysis	2	21	Food tourism	2
11	Cittaslow	2			

Co-occurrence rates of terms were also analyzed. Figure 9 depicts the word network that includes 196 of the 207 keywords that have the most interaction with one another.



**Figure 9. Distribution map of frequently used keywords in publications**

The 196 keywords are separated into 29 distinct groups. According to the research, Slow Food is the term most commonly associated with keywords. Slow Food is generally associated with gastronomy, actor-network theory, ethical consumption, ethics, identity, Cittaslow, climate change, cultural heritage, slow food tourism, sustainability, and sociality.

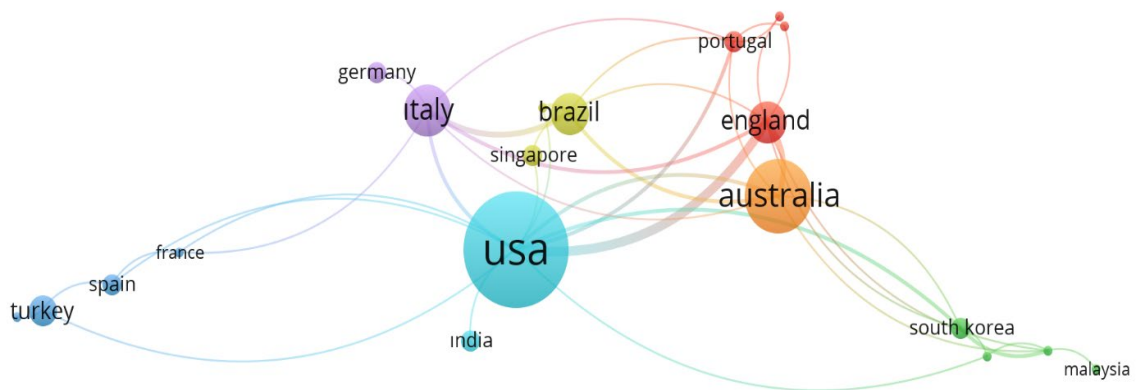
**4.4. Source Citation Analysis**

One of the unique features of VOSviewer is its ability to create maps that visualize the structure of citation networks (Van Eck & Waltman, 2014). This feature has been utilized to study the impact of scientific publications and the interrelationships among scientific fields. Publications with the Slow Food keyword that have been scanned in WOS appear in 45 distinct journals. There are 34 publications in these journals that have received at least one citation. The Journal of Consumer Culture has the most cited publications with a total of 119 citations, followed by Ethnos with 114 total citations, and Organization Studies with 100 total citations. There are 21 publications with interconnected citations. Figure 10 depicts the outcomes of the citation analysis of the publications that collaborated.



**Figure 10. Source citation analysis network map**

The results of the country citation analysis demonstrate the international collaboration between leading publication nations. Each node represents a country, and the linkages represent the relationships between them. The thickness of the linkages increases as the number of connections between nodes increases. The size of the circles on the map varies according to the number of articles produced by each country. The colors correspond to the clusters of countries that have been identified. When the minimum number of documents and minimum citations for a country is set to 1 in the VOSviewer application, 22 of the 24 countries meet the threshold value. Seven clusters of data on the countries with the highest collaboration in scientific papers on Slow Food have been identified, and these are depicted in Figure 11.



**Figure 11. Network map of collaboration between countries**

The United States of America, Australia, and Italy are the countries that publish the most articles on Slow Food. In the first cluster, the countries of England, Iran, Portugal, and South Africa are cooperating and are represented in red. The second cluster, which consists of Malaysia, China, Serbia, and South Korea, is represented in green. The countries of France, Romania, Spain, and Turkey are depicted in blue within the third cluster. Brazil, Hungary, and Singapore are the participating nations in the fourth cluster, depicted in yellow. The sixth cluster contains Germany and Italy, which are represented in purple, while India and the United States are depicted in turquoise within the sixth grouping. Australia is represented by the orange-

colored seventh and final cluster. The United States of America, depicted in turquoise, is the country with the highest level of international collaboration, as indicated by the graph.

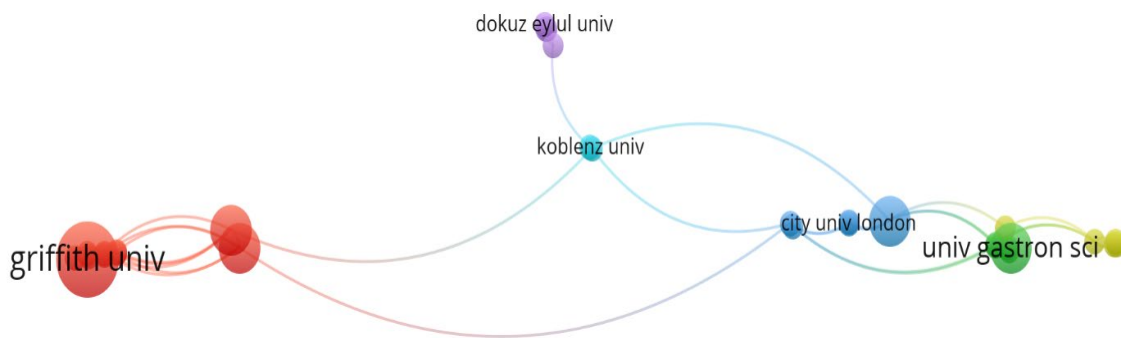
Italy is observed to have the most cited publications, with a total of 196 citations. The second most cited country is England with 194 total citations, followed by the United States of America with 184 total citations. There are 20 publications from countries whose publications have received at least one citation and have interconnected citations. Table 4 shows the top ten countries with the highest number of citations and publications.

**Table 4: Top 10 countries with the most cited publications in Web of Science**

	Country	Documents	Citations
1	Italy	5	196
2	England	4	194
3	USA	11	184
4	Australia	7	125
5	South Korea	2	84
6	China	1	55
7	Singapore	2	55
8	Hungary	1	45
9	Portugal	2	37
10	Malaysia	1	22

**4.6. Institution Citation Analysis**

The minimum number of documents and minimum citations of universities-institutions in VOSviewer have been set to 1. It is determined that 51 out of 68 universities-institutions meet the threshold value. The statistics for the universities-institutions that collaborate the most on Slow Food-related scientific papers are believed to be collected in six clusters. These six clusters are represented graphically in Figure 12.



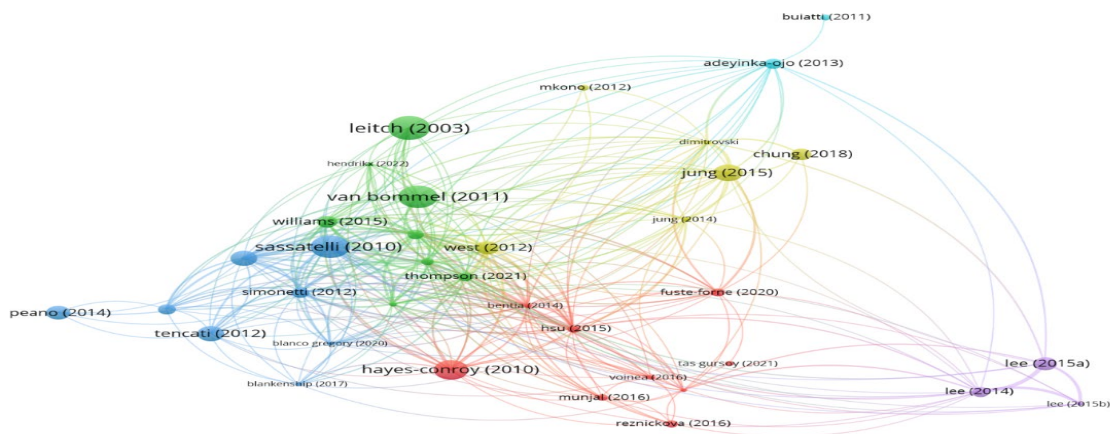
**Figure 12. Network map of collaboration between institution**

The first of six clusters containing the most collaborative institutions consists of ten institutions. The names of the institutions in the top three clusters with the most collaboration are listed below. The red cluster includes Griffith University, Incheon National University, Jeju National

University, Kyung Hee University, Manchester Metropolitan University, Metropolitan University, Taylors University, University Kragujevac, University Macau, and the University of Newcastle. The second cluster, represented in green, consists of Islamic Azad University of Tabriz Branch, North West University, University of Gastronomical Science, University of Lisbon, and the University of London. The universities in the third cluster, depicted in blue, are the City University of London, Clark University, University of South Australia, University of Warwick, and the University of Wisconsin Madison.

#### **4.7. Bibliographic Coupling Analysis of Documents**

As a result of the bibliographic match study, it was found that 50 of the publications had identical bibliographies. Analyzing the relationships of individuals who received at least one citation from these 50 publications, it was found that 39 of the publications met the criteria. Based on these articles, it was observed that 36 of them are closely collaborating. The map of the publication cooperation network is displayed in Figure 13.



**Figure 13. Map of bibliographic coupling analysis**

#### **5. Conclusion and Discussion**

This bibliometric analysis, using VOSviewer, was conducted to investigate the size, distribution, publication year, authors, and institutions of Slow Food literature. The analysis found that Slow Food has gained prominence in recent years and has been the subject of an increasing number of studies. Most Slow Food research was conducted in the 2010s, and the majority of it was carried out in social sciences and environmental sciences. The analysis shows that Slow Food is becoming increasingly significant and is receiving more attention. Further research on this subject may help us better understand the impact of the Slow Food movement. The analysis of coexisting keywords and the clustering of publications sheds light on the primary themes and focuses of Slow Food research. The diverse character of Slow Food research is illustrated by the most popular search terms (Miele & Murdoch, 2002). The

clustering of publications is believed to contribute to the identification of various distinct fields of research, such as the social, cultural, and economic components of Slow Food, as well as its effects on public health and the environment. However, bibliometric study also revealed several research gaps in the field of Slow Food. For instance, there is a lack of research on the success of Slow Food programs in achieving their goals, such as supporting sustainable food systems or reducing food waste. Additionally, further research is needed to determine the significance of Slow Food in addressing global issues such as climate change and food inequality.

In general, the bibliometric analysis conducted with VOSviewer revealed the significance of Slow Food as a study topic and its potential to contribute to a more sustainable and equitable food system. Future research should concentrate on fixing the identified shortcomings and examining Slow Food's potential as a sustainable food movement in greater depth.

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### **Ethics Committee Permission**

There is no situation in the article that requires ethical committee approval or legal/special permission.

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