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Contribution Of Social Capital Towards Fostering Entrepreneurial Intention: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract:
This study examines the impact of social capital on entrepreneurial intention using bibliometric analysis. Social capital is the crucial element of entrepreneurial intention. In this research, both WoS and Scopus were used to locate, process, and evaluate relevant data. A total of 504 publications from the Web of Science and 504 papers from Scopus were selected. R-Studio was used to integrate the data, and 640 publications were analysed after duplicates and papers with titles and abstracts irrelevant to the scope of study were eliminated. BiblioShiny was used for the analysis. Publication trend showed a lengthy period of silence from 1993 to 1999, and gradual growth began from 2005. An era of quick and persistent research output began in 2019 when annual publishing rates skyrocketed, and sustained research output. Frontiers in Psychology is a top core source as per Bradford's law. Liang C stands out as the leading author in this area. The United States (USA) is the undisputedly most cited nation, with a staggering 5,226 citations. The analysis revealed three key thematic clusters: The Foundation of Intentionality, The Strategic Engine of Performance, and The Relational Infrastructure for Innovation. In conclusion, social capital plays an important role in influencing entrepreneurial intentions.

Keywords: Network Capital, Social Capital, Social Network, Social Connectedness, Venture Creation, Startup Intention.

1. Introduction

An important role for entrepreneurship is to play in driving innovation, creating social and economic value, as well as creating employment days within the economy of a country (Wong et al., 2005). Entrepreneurship is the act of perceiving opportunities and exploiting them (Shane & Venkataraman, 2000). The best predictor of behaviour is intention, particularly when behaviour is uncommon, challenging to monitor, or involves unpredictable time lags (Bird, 1988). Entrepreneurial intention, defined as the ambition to launch a new venture (Krueger et al., 2000), is frequently viewed as a crucial component of genuine participation in establishing a new business (Kautonen et al., 2015). Researchers' primary focus has been on examining the concept of entrepreneurial intention, hereafter, over the last few decades (Ephrem et al., 2019) since it is the most significant indicator of the establishment of new businesses (Ephrem et al., 2019; Barba and Sahuquillo, 2018). Recent studies have focused on the relevance of social capital in entrepreneurship (Cai et al., 2021; Luo et al., 2022).

Social capital of researchers is often described as a connection with social networks; it seems like these networks are important in developing Social Capital (Ali & Yousuf, 2019; Cruickshank & Rolland, 2006; Lin, 2005). Social capital is defined as ''the sum of the actual and potential resources embedded within, available through, and derived from the network of relationships possessed by an individual or social unit' (Nahapiet & Ghoshal, 1998, p. 243).

Social capital encompasses an individual's relationships with friends, family, coworkers, and other known support systems, including investors, potential clients, and financial institutions such as bankers. It plays a significant role in identifying business opportunities, creating and growing ventures, and improving corporate performance (Stam et al., 2014).

Social Capital encourages entrepreneurship by providing people with resources from friends, family, the community, and society at large (Cai et al., 2021; Liao & Welsh, 2005). The social capital of a person encompasses both personal and professional contacts (Nahapiet and Ghoshal, 1998). It includes 'social interactions and ties (e.g., family members and close friends who have entrepreneurial experience), trust relationships people have with other network members (e.g., local governments and banks), and norms that encourage entrepreneurship in the network environments' (Cai et al., 2021). Individual entrepreneurs, communities, networks, and societies interact to create social capital, which provides people with current and potential entrepreneurial resources. Additionally, social capital provides access to new customers, venture investors, and crucial competitive information (Florin et al. 2007).

Social capital is essential during the startup stage of any business, as it enables people to build crucial networks and gain the confidence to launch new ventures. Additionally, a stable social context increases the likelihood that people will quit their jobs and pursue opportunities for entrepreneurship, which is why new business owners usually launch their ventures in the same area where they have long resided (Zimmer, 1986; Ali & Yousuf, 2019; Aldrich, 1999). Several studies demonstrate a strong connection between social capital and entrepreneurial intention (Mahfud et al., 2020; Luo et al., 2022; Ali & Yousuf, 2019).

2. Research methods

2.1 Bibliometric analysis

Bibliometrics is a collection of systematic techniques for statistically analyzing large amounts of scientific data (Donthu et al., 2021). Bibliometrics analysis reveals subtle information regarding new trends and subjects in a given field. Its primary objective is to examine the scientific productivity of a topic within the given field. Bibliometric studies raise several questions, such as whether there are more publications than a trending topic or the extent to which a study topic meets the demands of a particular community. But the fundamental tools used to spot trends are scientific mapping and performance analysis. The performance analysis model was published output per country, institution, and author increase trend in three decades. Concerning Social Capital and Entrepreneurial Intention, the scientific mapping, as well as collaboration networks, co-authorship analysis, and network mapping, were correlated. Bibliometrics can help academics and practitioners to (i) better get a grip on the extent, quality, and effects of a topic. These types of questions require empirical analysis of the data to provide solutions. Once it has been scientifically dissected using measurable criteria, it can also be viewed via a transparent research window. Bibliometric analysis software, such as BiblioShiny, is used to analyze relationships related to a subject using empirical data. This helps scholars to examine data trends and make recommendations based on patterns in a particular field.

2.2 Research questions

RQ1. What are the current worldwide research trends concerning social capital and entrepreneurial intention?

RQ2. Which top journals have made significant contributions to the study of social capital and entrepreneurial intention?

RQ3. Who are the top authors in these fields, and which nations have made significant contributions to the study of social capital and entrepreneurial intention?
RQ4. What are the prominent themes prevalent in this field of study?
RQ5. What are the potential avenues for future research?

2.3 Selected databases and search strategies

Web of Science and Scopus are regarded as the most reliable citation databases for analyzing bibliometric data (Zhu and Liu, 2020; Wang and Si, 2023). Both WoS and Scopus were utilized in this study to locate, process, and evaluate data. Social capital and entrepreneurial intention were the main subjects of this study. Figure 1 displays the selection criteria from both datasets.

2.4 Merging and mapping the data

The procedures for this study were broken down into four stages. The initial step was the implementation of appropriate search strings and the collection of data from main bibliometric databases (i.e., Web of Science and Scopus), where a large proportion of articles are cited. Although Web of Science (525) records were downloaded in 500 batches per set and up to a maximum of 500 articles, about half of the records (504) were exported from Scopus as BibTeX files, following the preferred database syntax for its exportation requirement for BibTeX format (full record and references cited). Two record sets were from Web of Science (500 records and 25 records, respectively). The second stage, with RStudio as a coding tool, mixed and crossover of Web of Science and Scopus data.
This included combining the BibTeX (Scopus) and BibTeX (Web of Science) sets before 180 duplicated records were removed in RStudio. In phase three, the data from each database were integrated by R-studio and stored in an Excel file. The first problem is that the VOS viewer will not further merge files coming from different databases, because the crucial point will again be eliminating duplicates. BibTeX(Scopus) R code and BibTeX (Web of Science) R code can be used to convert respectively Scopus and Web of Science output files, so that you get rid of duplicates + merge them into one Excel file for further analysis using R-Studio. The merged files had 849 documents after duplicates were removed. Only publications relevant to the study's scope were included after reviewing the titles and abstracts. As illustrated in Figure 1, the final total number of papers was 640. After completing this task with R-Studio, the Excel file was uploaded to Biblioshiny to demonstrate the participation of authors, academic publications, countries, and educational establishments worldwide. The data was further classified and evaluated. We then used BiblioShiny to generate, map, and visualize bibliometric networks. After that, the data was presented collectively using bibliometric visual networks to provide in-depth insights. Biblioshiny, therefore, provided an analytical and visual bibliometric perspective.

Figure 1: Search Strategies and Shortlisting Papers

3. Results and Findings

3.1 Descriptive or Performance Analysis/ Research Productivity

3.1.1 Publication Growth Trends

For several years, the field was almost entirely silent, with barely any activity between 1993 and 1999, and only a single publication appeared in 1993. A shift started occurring in the early 2000s when occasional articles started to appear, but change was slow less than one publication a year on average. It wasn't until around 2005 that real momentum began to build. From that point through 2017, the scene shifted, and there were dozens of publications every year, ranging from 5 to 33 publications annually. This gradual development, unified by growth that was short on tedium and long on vitality, provided the field with a firm basis for future expansion. The most recent shift has been the most dramatic. Publishing took off in 2019. Articles nearly doubled from 25 in a single year and ballooned to a peak of 64 in 2020. While it did dip and rise a bit over the years that followed, it eventually evened out at quite high level between 51 and 61 publication per year, significantly more than anything ever

published in any of the previous decade. Looking back, the trajectory was divided into three stages: long years of silence were succeeded by a period of slow but steady development and then a euphoric stretch in which growth raced ahead at dizzying speeds with no sign of abatingalbeit now “new normal”.

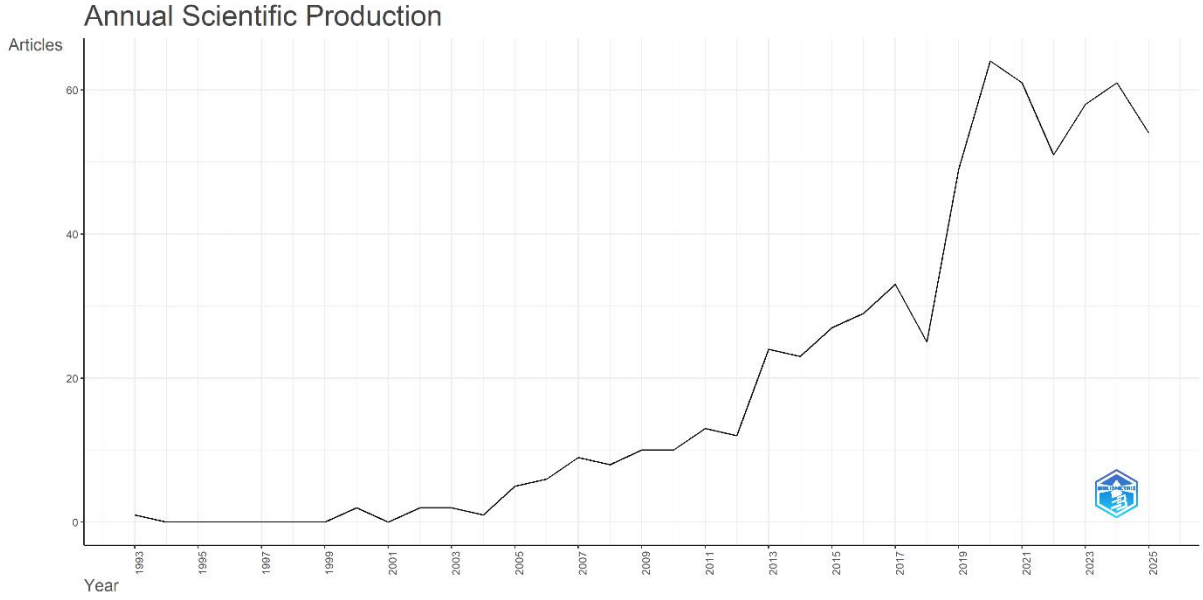

Figure 2: Annual Scientific Production.

3.1.2 Core Sources by Bradford Law

We used Bradford's law (Brookes, 1969) to divide the journals in this area into three zones. Zone 1 expresses the major and visible core journals. 16 journals from the 264 were situated in Zone 1, and the other journals came from Zones 2 and three.

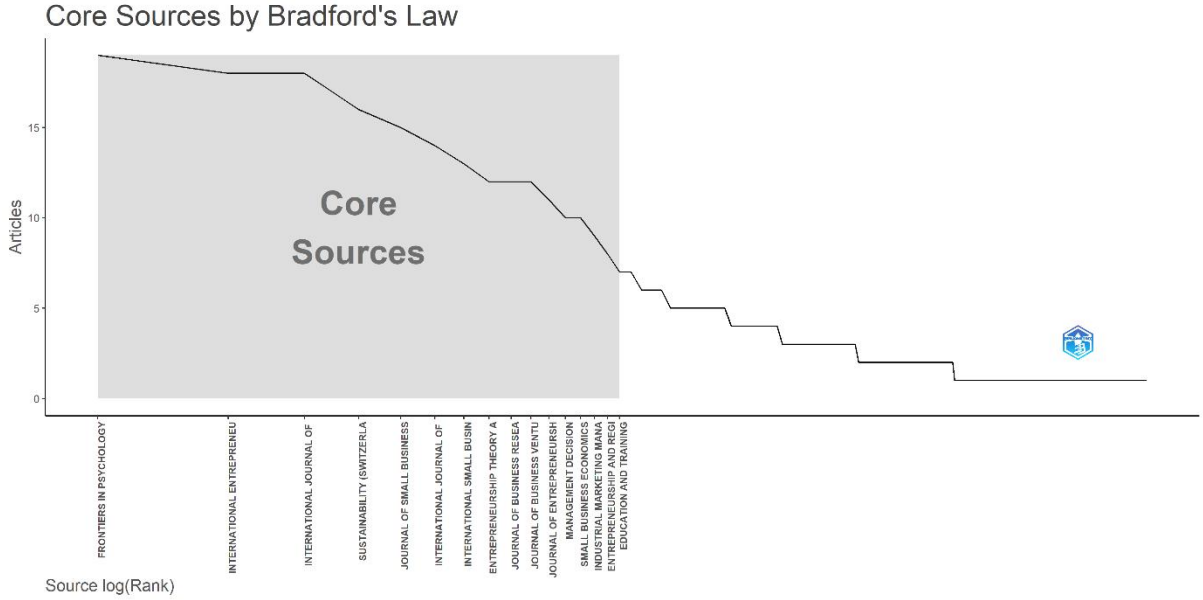

Figure 3: Core Sources by Bradford’s Law.

Table 1: Core Sources by Bradford’s Law

SO	Rank	Freq	cumFreq	Zone
FRONTIERS IN PSYCHOLOGY	1	19	19	Zone 1
INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND	2	18	37	Zone 1

MANAGEMENT JOURNAL				
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENTREPRENEURIAL BEHAVIOUR \& RESEARCH	3	18	55	Zone 1
SUSTAINABILITY (SWITZERLAND)	4	16	71	Zone 1
JOURNAL OF SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	5	15	86	Zone 1

3.1.3 Source Production over time

A common story emerges when examining these five journals: they all hit their stride, as it were, after extended periods of quiet and began publishing much more regularly, even if the trajectory of growth for each journal was different. None of the journals had been published in the area for over a decade, from 1993-2004, so there was some sense that it was still emerging or not institutionalized. The Journal of Small Business Management (JSBM) was an early exception to this silence, when in 2005 it led the way with a series of modest, though steady contributions for several subsequent years as well. Close behind, was IEMJ publishing regularly two articles per year from 2006 onwards and it had become another early supporter. This long, slow upward trend continued until around 2013-2015. Then shit started to roll: JSBM just got a whole lot more active in publishing and we saw not one, but TWO new players come onto the scene in 2015, and Sustainability the year after.

At the same time, during this period, Frontiers in Psychology had not arrived yet. The greatest shifts happened over the past five years or so, starting around 2020. The entire field seemed to come alive. Both IEMJ and JSBM had rapid growth, but the younger journals like Sustainability or IJEBR experienced very fast rises: they increased their number of articles by a factor exceeding five. Most stunning of all is Frontiers in Psychology: it was only established as a player in 2020, and then grew at a rate that's over the top, from just four articles to 19 by 2023, when it suddenly became one of the biggest publishers. The vista is completely transformed from the quiet beginnings by 2025. The five journals are all active and growing, with Frontiers in Psychology and IEMJ currently cemented into the top positions based on aggregate output, which is trailed by Sustainability, IJEBR, and the first mover JSBM to round out the field. This synchronized run-up sends a "strong signal" about substantial growth of the discipline and increased attention toward it since the late 2010s.

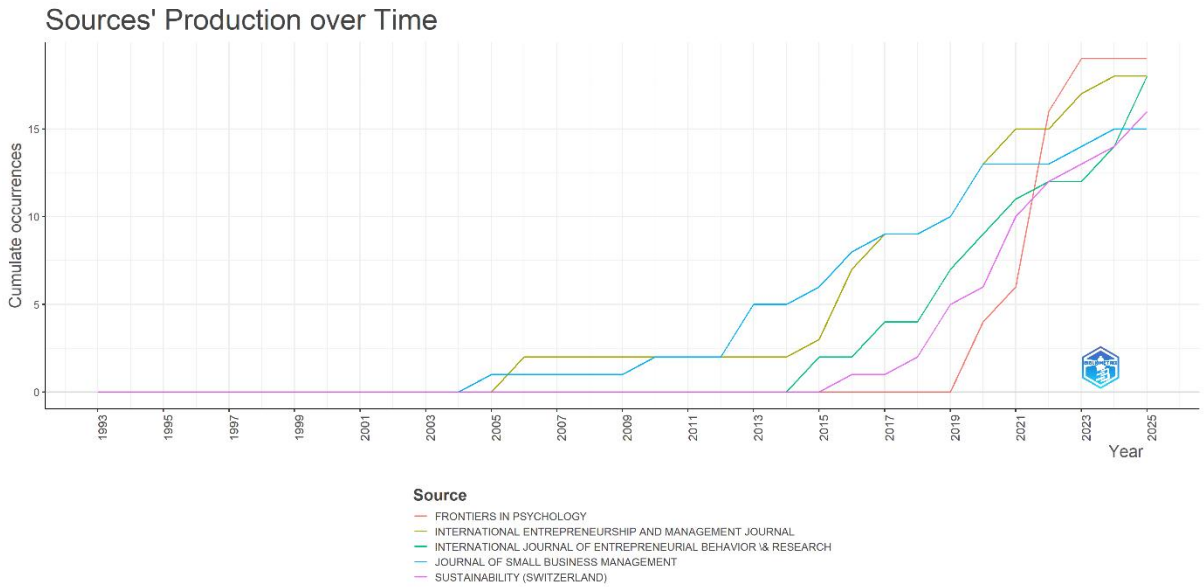

Figure 4: Sources' Production over Time.

3.1.4 Most Relevant Authors

According to the statistics, Liang C is the most productive author in this subject. Liang C has more than twice as many papers in total, and a fractional authorship of 4.39; they also hold the lead for significant contributing credits, particularly on multi-author projects. This is to say that Liang C isn't only prolific, they're also frequently central to the work, cited as doing critical work in teams. Following at a short distance are Garcia-Villaverde P and Rodrigo-Alarcon J, with seven articles each. But broken into fractions, the scores are: 1.58 and 1.45, which are also quite low; that's how flavourful a character Liang C can be for you.) The gulf between the most published and deeply engaged demonstrates something of Liang C's unique stance in this area.

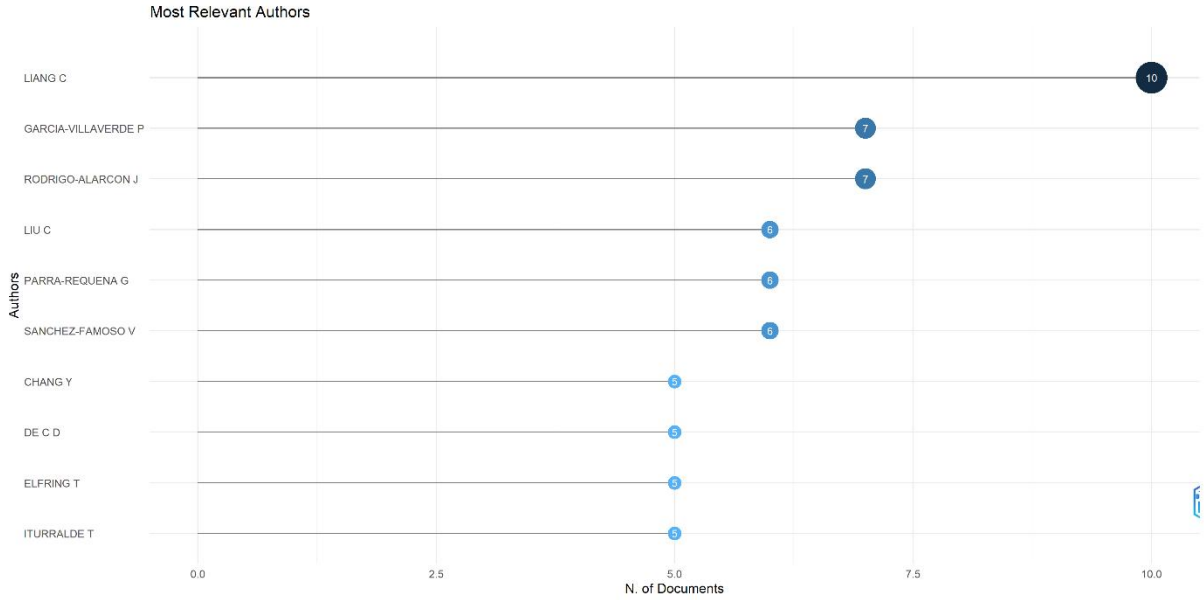

Figure 5: Most Relevant Authors.

3.1.5 Most relevant affiliations

The review highlights several key organisations that have made significant advances in this area. Leading the way here is the University of Castilla-La Mancha with a whopping 38 articles, its main contribution overall. Following it from a long way behind we find University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) with 15 papers, National Taiwan University and Xi'an Jiaotong University, both with 13 articles to their credit, evidence of their importance regarding this field.

Jönköping International Business School, National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology, University of Seville, and Universiti Malaysia Kelantan all perform well with nine articles each. Other significant institutions are Ming Chuan University and the University of Jena, with ten articles each. As a combination of long-established and newcomer centres promoting development and innovation across the subject, they show the variety and dynamism of research involvement in these institutions. With leading universities in Europe, Asia, and even further afield all playing an instrumental part in driving research progress, this variation is supplemented by a common commitment to growing the total of human knowledge.

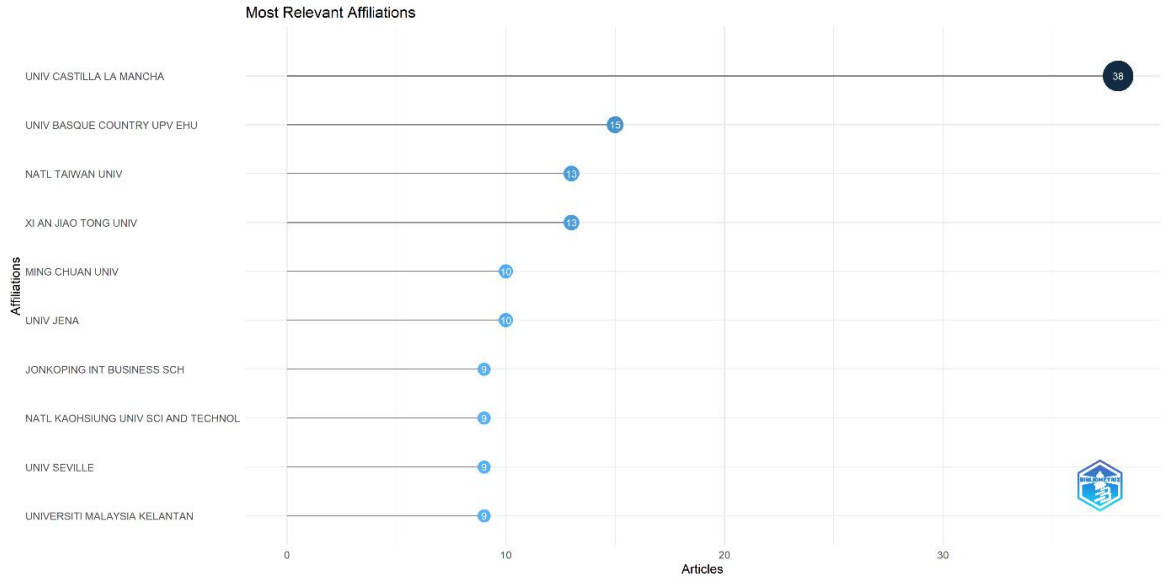

Figure 6: Most Relevant Affiliations

3.1.6 Most Cited Countries and corresponding authors' countries

Most cited countries

The data offers solid indications of the geography involved: which nations use the most citations here. The United States is also firmly on top of the list with 5,226 citations in total, having spread throughout, there seems to be no arguing about this leading importance. Israel takes the second spot at 2,992 citations, while the United Kingdom is just behind it with 3,808 citations – both reflecting their standing as historical leaders in research and development. Spain and China also make substantial contributions to the literature with 2,585 citations and 2133 citations, respectively, illustrating the growing role of these countries in the scientific discourse. 1] which lists the following ten nations (all provide considerable support with 1,247 to 584 citations): Canada; Norway; France; Netherlands; Germany. Combined, they are the research hub for knowledge development and benchmarking in this area. Given that there are major research centres in North America, Europe and Asia, research is so diverse and globalized nowadays.

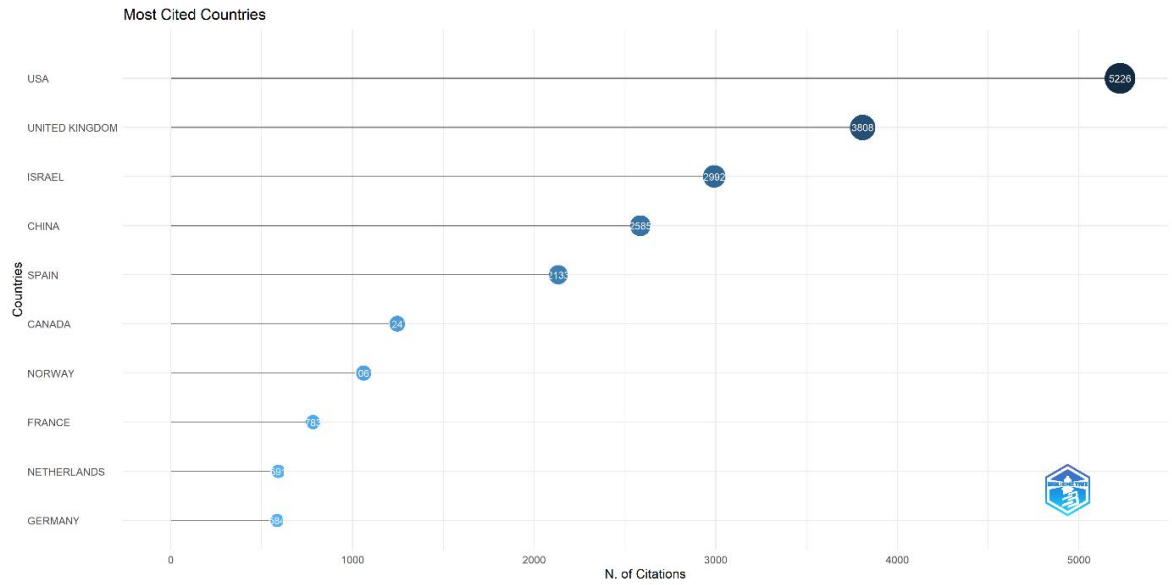

Figure 7: Most Cited Countries

Corresponding Author's countries

China leads the way with a (relatively) massive 18.4% of all studies — 118 out of our sample's total of 640 corresponding authors, to be precise — as a big hitter in this space. That is followed by the USA with 59 articles (9.2%) and Spain with 55 articles (8.6%). Fifth-ranked UK and Germany with 54 (8.4%) and 22 (3.4%) papers respectively. Interestingly, there's a very strong bias toward working internationally in many of the European countries. For example, over half of corresponding authors from France (57.1%), Sweden (66.7%) and Ireland (75%) published with researchers in other countries. There is a lot of collaboration between the researchers from Canada, Pakistan and New Zealand (50%, 50%, 60%), indicating an international warming, keep-cold climate in their research community. At the other end of the spectrum, several countries such as Malaysia, Ghana, Turkey, and Brazil are notable for having no papers with an international co-authorship in this period, meaning that all the here-indicated publications came from domestic teams working within their own borders. This combination of joint and individual work emphasises the diversity of research relationships globally. It demonstrates where some countries are actively creating international networked effects and where others see research unit teams more at the country level.

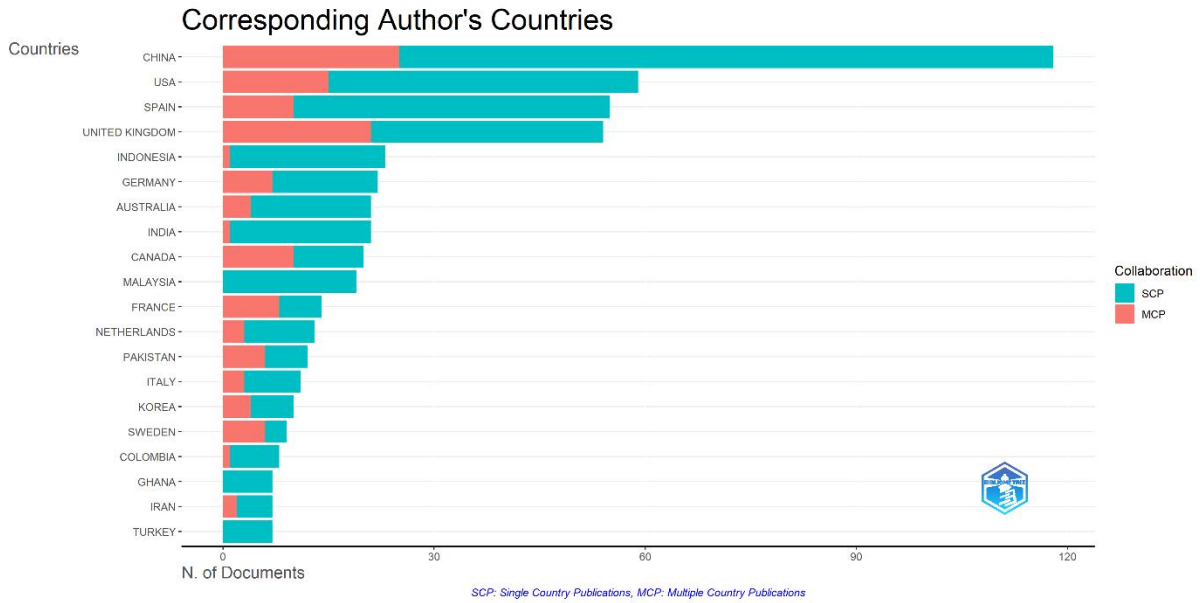

Figure 8: Corresponding Author's Countries

3.1.7 Most Frequent Words

The keywords' frequency analysis shown in Figure 9, highlights that the most recurring keywords are 'entrepreneurial orientation' with 204 occurrences and 'social capital' with 198 occurrences, emerging as highly relevant to the theme investigation. The second most popular keyword is 'Performance' (149), which describes the effects of social and entrepreneurship aspects on organizational outcomes. This trend is reflected in other exogenously related terms where the term 'entrepreneurship' occurs 94 times, the term innovation same as entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurial intention with 74 occurrences. Furthermore, 'firm performance', 'networks', 'firms', and 'knowledge' suggest that the research in this area often investigates how the network configuration and learning contribute to firm success. Moreover, terms such as 'impact' and 'social networks' imply an effort to understand relational dynamics, the moderating or mediating mechanisms that link entrepreneurial configurations together. All these taken together, the model presents a research climate concentrating on social relationships, innovation, and entrepreneurial orientation, and how they play together to influence performance and business expansion.

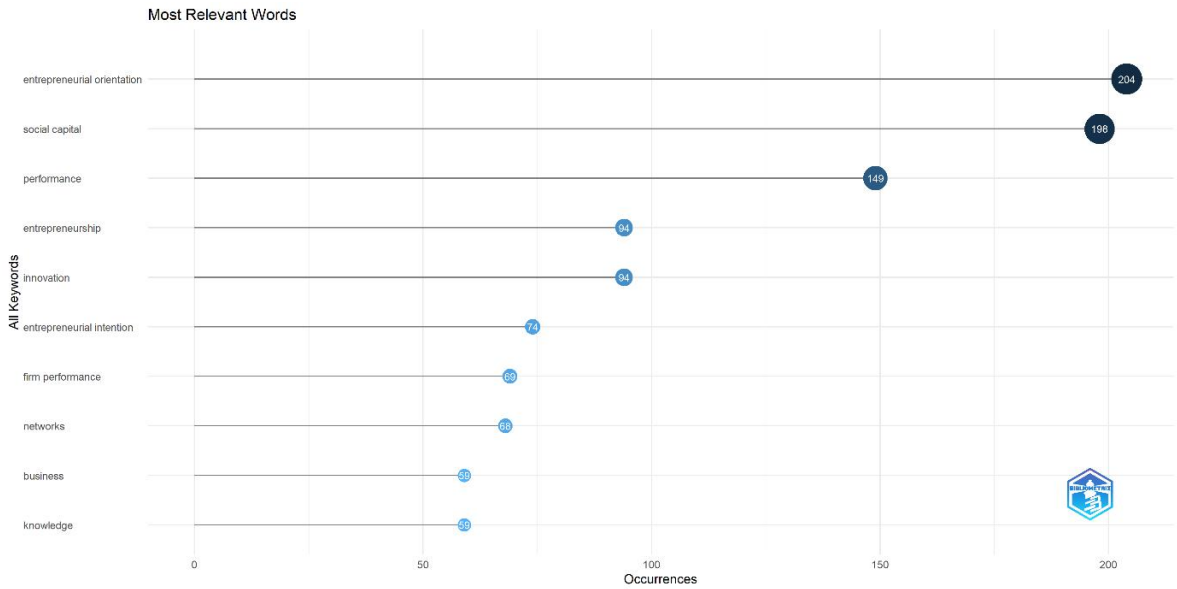

Figure 9: Most Frequent words

3.2 Science Mapping (Networks and Relationships)

3.2.1 Collaboration Network

The collaboration network consists of 12 groups, showing that the vast majority of significant activity is around two large groups. Cluster 1, with core authors including Zhang S and Li Y from China, is located in the centre of the network. The value of betweenness of media people is described by data in the illustration, and Zhang S is worthy of being a bridge role who can bring together different parts according to his high betweenness score. Furthermore, like cluster 8, China authors also form another central node in a close-knit group – Cluster 6 anchored by Liang C.

In addition to these two clusters, it is worth mentioning further smaller, relatively tight pairs of collaborators, observed in Clusters 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, and Cluster 12. Although these pairs within a clothing item are highly efficient, relatively little transport directly across the network occurs. For mid-sized groups in Clusters 4, 5, and 10, internal leaders help keep teams connected.

In summation, the network is a consolidation of several clusters that maintain everything together, and there are lots of small couples doing stuff on their own without attracting attention.

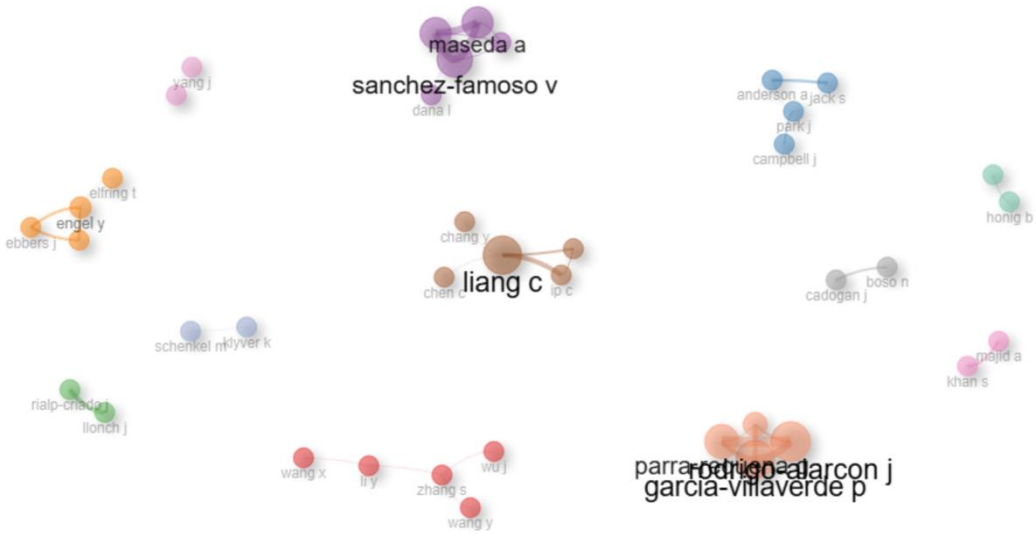

Figure 10: Collaboration Network

3.2.2 Countries Collaboration World Map

The global network of collaborations among research teams has a pronounced regional character, and we identify clear structures that indicate whether regions are from the Old World or the New World. China becomes a major player in Asia; deep relations have been formed with New Zealand, Korea, and Vietnam. But despite its sway, China has much less developed ties with influential networks in top Western countries such as the US, Canada, and the UK. In contrast, the USA and UK are major nodes that connect widely to other partners in Europe, Asia, and Oceania.

These are extraordinary things, especially for regional collaborators. Europe is an interdependent economic community; Australia and New Zealand are close friends. But there are also obvious disconnects: Canada and Mexico have never had better relations; Argentina and Mexico, two Latin American countries, rarely cooperate with European research giants. Even though globalization has created sturdier informational centers here and there, the overall view is that research collaboration is still significantly more driven by local or regional partnerships, than truly becoming a fully global, integrated structure.

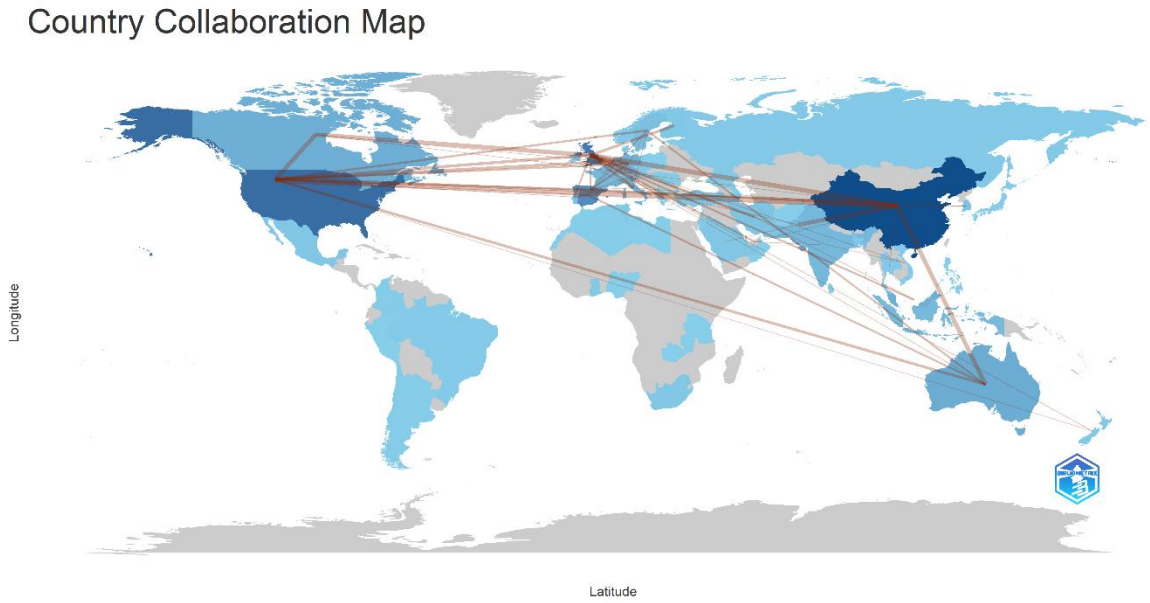

Figure 11: Country Collaboration Map

3.3 Thematic & Conceptual Structure (Knowledge Base & Future Directions)

3.3.1 Keyword Co-occurrence Network

Cluster 1: The Foundation of Intentionality

This group of academics, which has taken a sober look at why people go into business, epitomizes the heartland of entrepreneurship research. The underlying concept is entrepreneurial intention, the choice to behave economically entrepreneurially and which is influenced by an interplay of internal and external determinants. Self-efficacy one's belief in their own ability to complete a task successfully is a powerful motivating factor here and can often be the difference between an idea of mind becoming reality. Human Capital The concept of human capital which is the education that enables people to have knowledge and skills. Social networks and financial capital, on the other hand, demonstrate how green support is conjoined with private gain.

Crucially, this vignette also helps to connect the line from belief to venture creation with larger goals, such as new impact and growth, in connecting individual intention on the ground to an overall story about entrepreneurship and its consequences.

Cluster 2: The Strategic Engine of Performance

This cluster is implementation, how businesses actually grow and compete, while the former is intention. At the center of this network, there exists one of the most pronounced ideas in the entire network, that being entrepreneurial orientation. It reflects the firm's strategy posture and directly influences outcomes such as competitive advantage and firm performance. Here, the mechanisms and tactics that turn direction into successful impact are researched in this cluster. The mechanisms and strategies that transform orientation into real success are the focus of this cluster. These are the mediating role of intrafirm attributes (e.g., dynamic capabilities and absorptive capacity) and the moderating roles of environmental variables such as market orientation. All of this is based on the resource-based view, which treats firms as having, and being able to make use of, unique valuable resources. Simply put, this cluster describes the systems, abilities, and tactics that determine whether a business takes off after it launches or not.

Cluster 3: The Relational Infrastructure for Innovation

This edition of the cluster focuses on networks and knowledge dissemination as drivers of entrepreneurial activity. Follow its key ideas, social capital, innovation, and performance, and see how trust, networks, and collaboration constitute the basis for economic expansion. Interpersonal networks and acquaintanceships serve as conduits for entrepreneurs and firms to receive knowledge and means. When people and organizations are deeply embedded in these networks, they acquire knowledge and receive the help necessary to trigger innovation and drive the creation of ventures. Whilst the resources affecting intention lead directly to Cluster 1, this cluster has a stronger focus on the continued relevance of networks in developing business. It demonstrates that the source of your long-term growth and competitive advantage is likely not even fully within your firm but rather from the broader network of relationships the entrepreneur has.

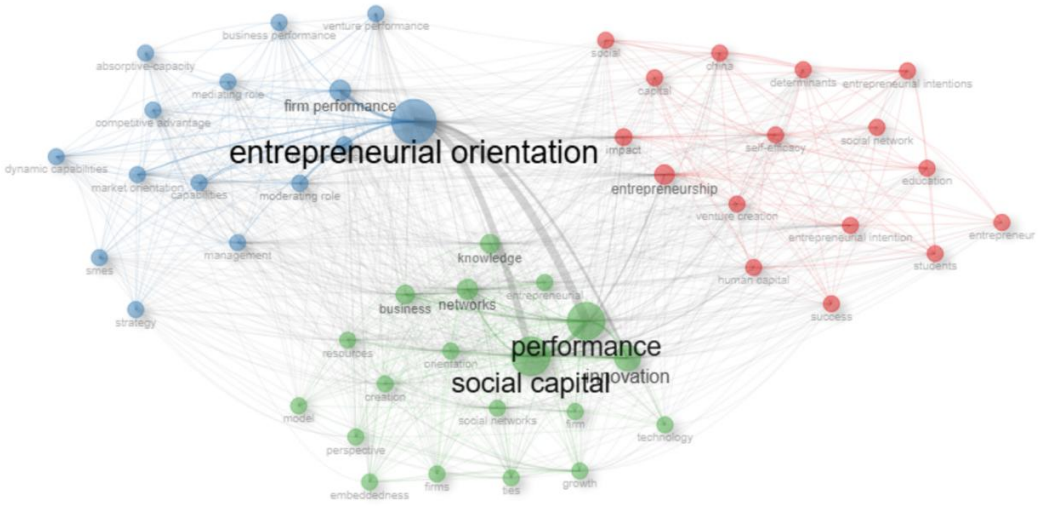

Figure 12: Keyword Co-occurrence Network

4 Thematic map

Entrepreneurial learning can be seen as a story with three closely connected threads, each representing a phase in the entrepreneurial process. Social Capital and involvedness's ecology is spun from the raw muscle of connection. Achieving entrepreneurship success is a team sport, not a solo endeavor. Related networking processes may be involved which enable knowledge and resources exchange that stimulates the identification of opportunities and supports the challenging efforts of starting a business. This is the story that connects a user's intent to what organizations actually do.

The second story has a good set up that compliments this establishment well. In the direction of this direction, the entrepreneurial orientation is widely accepted as an organization's strategic pill that boosts innovation, risk and competitive return. It is the role and effect of such a posture on performance in terms of statements that from these orientations long-term gains will result which are of interes when variables like market orientation, dynamic capabilities are considered. This is the tale of these companies, and especially so family businesses that are taking decisions which can shape not just their survival but their future success.

Theirs is the most private of narratives: the story of an individual will. This is a psychological aspect of what drives confidence, learning and mindset to become an entrepreneur. Together, these stories explain how ventures are envisioned, built, and sustained–by intention, by relationships, and by strategy.

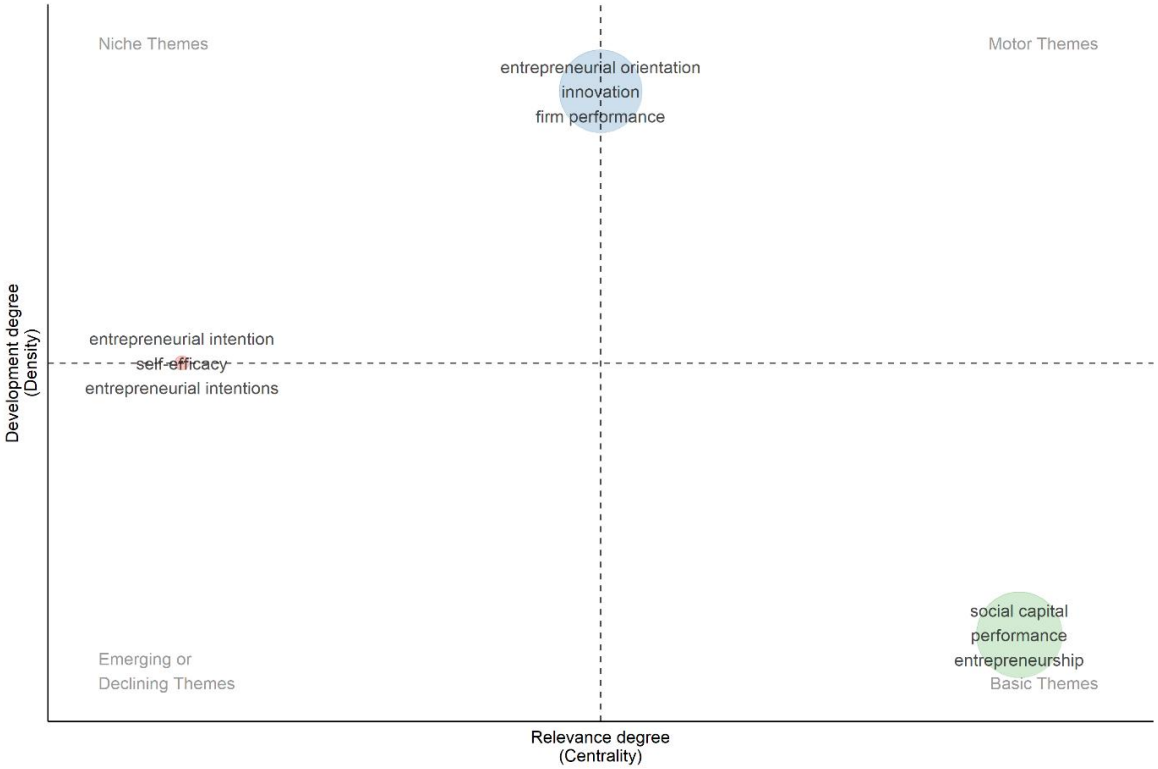

Figure 13: Thematic Map

5 Discussion

This study is a bibliometric analysis that systematically and comprehensively investigate the role of social capital on entrepreneurial intention. The results of the field analysis suggest that this arm of entrepreneurship research are no longer in niche, but a dominiant force globally. They are examined in relation to the issue of generalizing the findings. The explosion is on the increasing network that PSE also exhibits a sharp increment in documents, signifying paradigm shift. That is indicative of a larger trend, namely that entrepreneurship is much less the lone-wolf series of efforts and far more of a community-based business. Much has already been accomplished The most substantial contribution within the field of entrepreneurship research, for instance by now certainly includes the finding with respect to the importance of interaction between an individual's social network and his or her business opportunity that is reflected in the movement from episodic to a persistently high production plateau.

A curious picture regarding the geographical heterogeneity of impact and productivity emerges. Although the US has a central role in total citation impact by demonstrating that its scientific and discovery efforts are still valued, other pictures emerge when pairs of authors are looked at. The dominance of China in the number of papers (118 articles) indicated its inclination to take part in this current discourse. The cooperation dies of course, but it makes a more complex picture. Counterposed to the better domestic regionally-oriented networks in China, India and Malaysia are countries like France, Sweden and Canada with high levels of MCP, thereby providing an interesting potential two worlds research system (at least until

now) at work: one highly interconnected elsewhere where there is a globalized world even on science. A second is developing internal capacitance without ever having done this before. Little is known about) (and/or what cross-cultural effects/network dynamics imply for these developing capacities.

With respect to the intellectual landscape, a keyword co-occurrence analysis indicates that this field is sound and informative. Three separate but interrelated constellations The Relational Infrastructure for Innovation, The Strategic Engine of Performance and Habitat containing Intentionality - have been constructed to depict the entrepreneurial phenomenon properly. Most notably, what this point shows is that there is not one monolithic social capital. It antecedes other entrepreneurial activities, providing the strategic direction and competitive advantages required for long-term success (Cluster 2). Indeed, it has direct effect on the root of entrepreneurs' intention (Cluster 1). Then it offers the relational resources required for venture creation (Cluster 3). Concepts such as 'social capital', 'self-efficacy', and 'entrepreneurial orientation' are crucial because they demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the close relationship between social resources and psychological predispositions in the entrepreneurial process.

Additionally, the thematic map indicates a field that is mature in its grasp of the direct relationship to performance outcomes, while also being well-developed in its core areas (such as the function of networks and self-efficacy) and evolving into niche specializations. The lack of a theme in the high-centrality, high-density quadrant suggests that although the area has solid roots, it is still developing and has not yet come together around a single, highly developed, and flawlessly integrated research front.

6 Conclusion

This study comprehensively summarised the evolution and theoretical underpinnings of the field's studies on social capital and entrepreneurial intention. The study chronicles the performance and philosophical foundations of the subject across three decades by a thorough bibliometric analysis of 640 papers. According to the findings, the topic has expanded dramatically, particularly since the late 2010s. It has gone from focusing on a specialized interest to a mainstream area of study within the field of entrepreneurship research. Institutions in China, Spain, and the US have made significant contributions to this field.

The theoretical foundation of the research field is formed by three elements: (1) psychological intention of an individual to embark on a new venture, (2) Strategic behavior and performance of ventures, and (3) relational types of Social Capital that provides requisite resources and assistance in working with it. Not distinct issues but interwoven ones, the three chapters demonstrate that entrepreneurial intentions do not self-develop in isolation, but are nested in a rich web connecting networks and knowledge with strategic actions.

Findings from this study confirm social capital as a precursor to entrepreneurial intention. Social Capital provides the resources, trust and normative support for individuals to ACT in relation to VenCap. Apart from reinforcing the known, this analysis also stimulates a wave of new research in different geographical regions and through disentangling complex mechanisms using integrative methods that can promote further of this fascinating work area. It does so through a description of the historical and current contexts within which this research is conducted.

7 Future Research Directions

The field is mature yet highly dynamic, as the thematic and conceptual mapping reveal. There are also a few important gaps and opportunities for further study in the future. First, it appears

that there is a strong bias toward East Asian and Western environments in the geographical concentration of research papers published and studies conducted. Future research should also focus on analyzing the relationship between Social Capital and entrepreneurial intention in under-researched countries, especially in South Asia, Africa, and Latin America. It would also acknowledge idiosyncratic cultural, institutional and economic moderators of the impact of social networks on entrepreneurial intention in these alternative settings and lend greater international relevance to the current construct.

Second, although Social Capital is recognized as one of the main drivers for creating entrepreneurial intention, additional specific investigations need to be developed to understand its mediating and moderating features here. The role of digital social capital as well as entrepreneurial intention itself needs to be studied which is how having a social media or relationship with online community influence the entrepreneurship. Moreover, future work may examine how bonding, bridging and linking-Social Cap ital matters across stages in the entrepreneurial venture creation (e.g., from initial intention to actual firm establishment or growth) spirit level.

Third, keyword co-occurrence analysis identifies three clusters: relational infrastructure, strategic performance, and intentionality. A possible direction of future study may be in combining these different ideas. Further research could construct comprehensive models about how an intention, through the influence of social capital, can lead to a strategic entrepreneurial orientation and performance of the firm.

Lastly, the methodological tool emphasizes the significance of bibliometric study. More mixed-methods studies are needed. Qualitative research would be used to supplement quantitative bibliometric data to understand the context and how entrepreneurs employ social networks for setting and achieving intentions.

8 Limitations of the study

The present study, through the use of a bibliometric method, makes a significant contribution to the research panorama; however, it has some limitations, even if this analysis was very ambitious. Firstly, as we exclusively relied on information from two major databases- Web of Science and Scopus, we might have missed any appropriate research papers published in book chapters, conference proceedings, working papers, or journals that are not indexed by these databases, which could result in low coverage for the outcome. Failure to include in such an analysis might limit the overall breadth of the legislation and partial coverage of the area. For example, new or locally relevant research being published in local repositories or non-indexed journals could be missed; this might result in a bias towards more established research and/or English language publications. A second limitation is that, although a detailed range of keywords and search terms were used in developing the search strategy, relevant studies may have been missed as they did not use this terminology, which could potentially impact on overall findings. Furthermore, although publication and citation metrics are good indicators of production and influence, they do not assess the methodological rigour or qualitative depth of the individual studies under consideration, which is something that is heavily emphasized in the quantitative research of bibliometrics. High citation counts can also be impacted by several non-academic factors, such as journal prominence, author reputation, or citation bias; therefore, they may not always reflect the most methodologically sound or conceptually innovative works. Bibliometric results should be interpreted cautiously in this context.

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