



Research Trends on Public Sphere Democracy in 2023-2024: A Systematic Literature Review

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 24 January 2024

Revised 30 April 2024

Accepted 09 January 2025

Available online 29 January 2025

E-ISSN: 0216-9290

How to cite:

Sabilah, A. (2025). Research Trends on Public Sphere Democracy in 2023-2024 : A Systematic Literature Review. POLITEIA: Jurnal Ilmu Politik, 17 (1), 1-14.

ABSTRACT

The study aims to observe the trends of research carried out by various researchers around the world discussing the public sphere, especially in democratic countries, throughout the years 2023–2024, which will eventually be concluded on the basis of the findings of this study. In conducting research, the method of systematic literature review is used, which uses 131 scientific articles sourced from the database. Then the entire review uses the Vosviewer application as a basis for doing analysis. The research revealed that there was a significant decrease in the writing of articles on the subject of public sphere democracy as the number of articles available in the Scopus database decreased from 2023 to 2024. Then it was found that the average author had the same number of works, i.e., two articles uploaded to the Scopus database. The United States ranked first as the country with the most posts on the subject of public sphere democracy, with a total of 28 articles, followed by Germany, which ranked second, and the United Kingdom, which ranked third. The scope of public sphere democracy research topics provides dominant indicators in the social sciences with specific keywords such as political, public, power, study, and state. The results of this research contribute to the development of a research roadmap on public-sphere democracy. The research has the limitation that the articles used as research references only come from Scopus databases, so the research findings cannot comprehensively describe the issue of public-sphere democracies. So further research needs to use scientific articles that come from other reputable international databases, such as the Web of Science and Dimensions Scholars.

Keyword: Research, Public, Sphere, Democracy

ABSTRAK

Kajian tersebut bertujuan untuk mengamati tren penelitian yang dilakukan oleh berbagai peneliti di seluruh dunia yang membahas ranah publik, khususnya di negara-negara demokrasi, sepanjang tahun 2023–2024, yang pada akhirnya akan disimpulkan berdasarkan temuan penelitian ini. Dalam melakukan penelitian digunakan metode tinjauan literatur sistematis yang menggunakan 131 artikel ilmiah yang bersumber dari database. Kemudian keseluruhan review menggunakan aplikasi Vosviewer sebagai dasar melakukan analisa. Penelitian mengungkapkan adanya penurunan yang signifikan dalam penulisan artikel bertema demokrasi ruang publik seiring dengan berkurangnya jumlah artikel yang tersedia di database Scopus dari tahun 2023 ke tahun 2024. Kemudian diketahui bahwa rata-rata penulis memiliki jumlah artikel yang sama, yaitu dua artikel yang diunggah ke database Scopus. Amerika Serikat menduduki peringkat pertama sebagai negara dengan postingan terbanyak mengenai demokrasi ruang publik, dengan total 28 artikel, disusul Jerman di peringkat kedua, dan Inggris di peringkat ketiga. Cakupan topik penelitian demokrasi ranah publik memberikan indikator-indikator dominan dalam ilmu-ilmu sosial dengan kata kunci spesifik seperti politik, publik, kekuasaan, kajian, dan kenegaraan. Hasil penelitian ini berkontribusi pada pengembangan peta jalan penelitian mengenai demokrasi ruang publik. Penelitian ini memiliki keterbatasan yaitu artikel yang dijadikan referensi penelitian hanya berasal dari database Scopus, sehingga temuan penelitian tidak dapat menggambarkan secara komprehensif persoalan demokrasi ruang publik. Sehingga penelitian selanjutnya perlu menggunakan artikel ilmiah yang berasal dari database internasional bereputasi lainnya, seperti Web of Science dan Dimensions Scholars.

Kata Kunci: Penelitian, Publik, Ruang, Demokrasi,



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<http://doi.org/10.26594/register.v6i1.idarticle>

1. Introduction

The idea that the Internet has the capacity to increase and strengthen democratic participation is brought up in the new public sphere and is a compelling one. The public's growing use of cyberspace and the Internet's growth have made the communication space a platform for the growth of voice. Numerous researchers have looked into the potential of the Internet to foster democracy and participation (Aljalabneh et al., 2023). How internet users' opinions typically vary depending on their field of study. Four main interpretive lenses have historically defined academic approaches to the public or political influence of social media and the internet: technodeterminism, behaviorism, and the emphasis on either ideology or the economy of media ownership. The popular internet platform Facebook has made a point of promoting democratic values (Hrudka, 2023).

Numerous earlier studies on public-sphere democracy concentrated on a broad range of subjects and problems. Jaworsky (2023) explain about Politicians, the media, and the general public all voiced strong sentiments regarding individuals who cross borders during the "migration crisis" of 2015–16. Discussions regarding who qualifies as a "good citizen" and who should be shut out as an "anticivil" outsider have an impact on both immigrants and natives in the civil domains of Western democracies. Rein and Bornstein (2023) Explain about the history of Amistad and its evolution, elucidating the pivotal role played by the Second Vatican Council in paving the way for the Spanish government's ultimate official acknowledgement of Madrid's Jewish population, With the backing of a portion of the Spanish church hierarchy, the organization started a campaign to remove anti-Semitic material from textbooks and denounce the blood-libel customs that persisted in Spanish popular culture. With the rise of social media and digital media, campaigns are adopting technology and innovation at a much faster rate. In many political systems, voter alignments, party dynamics, and program logics both reflect and generate instability, so the campaign environment and its regulations are always changing. Opinion climates have also changed as a result of disinformation, foreign meddling in elections, hyperpartisan media ecosystems, and hyperactive users. Building on the theoretical idea of progressively fragmented and discordant public spheres in light of these developments (Koc-Michalska et al. 2023). The "deliberative model of democracy" might serve as both the ideal framework and the essential yardstick for observing changes in public discourse in the present day. A democracy cannot truly become deliberative without the news media's active involvement (Splendore et al., 2024).

While a great deal of public-sphere democracy has been explained by past studies, few of those studies used the article review method with the Vosviewer program, nor did they use a systematic literature review strategy with articles from the Database scopus. As a result, the review paper using the SLR approach, which draws from 131 scientific publications from the database scope, is the subject of this study. The SLR method is a powerful and advantageous scientific approach that helps researchers grasp problems by drawing on prior findings.

This study's focus prompts an attempt to respond to the research question: How does public sphere democracy research evolve? Article analyzers utilizing Vosviewer and qualitative content analysis with SLR techniques are the research methodologies employed. The formulation of public domain policy, particularly in democracies like Indonesia, and the advancement of science, particularly governance science pertaining to public sphere democracy challenges, have both benefited from this research.

In an article, many scholars discussed the Public Sphere and the crucial role that prefigurative politics play in setting an example that will guide institutional advancement. In this context, communities strive to internally realize the desired socio-political forms rather than concentrating on altering the broader socio-policy order. The Bahá'í community serves as a model for norms and practices that can provide a path out of the dynamics Habermas describes as systems that rule the world of living by promoting andining communication as a means of social coordination. The telic-organic paradigm of interpersonal, community, and institutional interaction frames the communication style of the Bahá'í community (Sabet, 2023).

However, there are growing concerns about the careless ways in which tech companies have violated people's privacy, endangering the existence of traditional jobs and the financial security they offer, and undermining the foundations of democracy and the free press. These alarms are being raised all over the world. There appears to be a growing consensus that the commercial internet has evolved into a public domain under private governance, exposing citizens to a variety of viewpoints within the same domain. This paper's contribution is to refute the notion that technology businesses and nations need to follow a "social contract" of values in order to avoid continuing down the current zero-sum path (Srinivasan & Ghosh, 2023).

Societies gain when citizens show greater receptivity to changing political attitudes because a variety of opinions flourish and less divisive public spaces may be promoted. This is in contrast to the divisive political and media landscape of today. Little is known about how political polarization affects people's capacity to be politically persuaded in social media contexts, despite the fact that political polarization is on the rise and new

social media platforms allow users to curate more diversified news consumption patterns. This study aims to clarify this phenomenon by examining the consequences of three different forms of political polarization: affective, ideological, and perceived societal. It does this by using representative US panel survey data (De Zúñiga et al., 2023).

Based on earlier studies, a vibrant public sphere, where ideas spread and are open for discussion and debate by all, is essential to democracy. By simplifying complex issues, disseminating knowledge on important subjects, and offering premeditated political answers, journalism has made a substantial contribution to this social mediation. The public realm's digital revolution has given rise to new models of media provision, distribution, and consumption (Fischer & Jarren, 2024). It was discovered that public support for trade unions has grown over the past ten years. However, I argue that the legacy of previous legal rulings still limits American discourse on labor unions, even in these revitalized trans-Oriental public forums. Trade unions are classified as participating in commercial operations within the post-New Deal constitutional framework, as opposed to advocating normative demands for workplace justice (Reddy, 2023). On the other side, as concepts like "post-truth" have emerged, the place of truth in public discourse and politics has recently been shattered. There are grave worries that the truth would be rendered useless by the people's acceptance of lies, which gives rise to suspicions that the latest communication technologies combined with unrestricted democracy will destroy reasoned public areas (Yudin, 2023).

Aside from efforts to define the public sphere as an area where equality, respect for one another, and thoughtful consideration are prized above all else, action that generates awareness, attention, and followership is becoming more and more important. The public sphere is changing as a result of this shift, necessitating a review of the conceptual instruments used by democratic publics. We suggest that instead of the normative approach of Habermas, the public sphere should be defined in a way that is based on facts and can be observed using tools from justification theory. This way, we can look at the many moral foundations of public spheres and find a wider range of public behaviors (Luhtakallio & Meriluoto, 2023). Defends the state against religious influence and brings forth fundamental elements of pre-rational thought, or religious and metaphysical thought, which post-metaphysics is unable to produce on its own, such as social solidarity. Habermas's own translation project, which translated the biblical concept of humanity as being made in the likeness of God into the equal dignity of every human being, serves as an example of the work that his translation proviso undertook (McKenna, 2024). The notion of an all-encompassing global governing system that serves as the foundation for an international public sphere and is obedient to all (Mak 2024). Young people's digital culture has been essential in advancing online civic engagement, networking democracy, and political participation; comparable trends can be seen in East and South Asian politics (Saud et al., 2023).

The new public arena that the digital sphere has created offers a dangerous fusion of acquiescence, mob justice, and public outrage. It gives expression to transformative ideals, whereas mob justice promotes the deletion and punishment of critics (Englezos, 2023). conception of democratic citizenship education in the context of the changes that the usage of digital technologies has brought about in Western cultures today. His conception uses a nonideal, critical methodology that focuses on resolving democratic deficiencies and adopts a deliberative understanding of democracy that offers a systemic perspective on society-wide communicative arrangements (Culp, 2023). These kinds of institutions must make difficult choices about how to preserve substantive norms pertaining to the preservation of equal human dignity and nondiscrimination while also striking a balance with norms of inclusion, impartiality, and pluralism in light of the rise of far-right groups. Institutions in the public domain, and public broadcasting in particular, are crucial to the operation of democracies (Hien & Norman, 2023).

Fundamental ideas and prior research results in a range of areas pertaining to public speech, media, democracy, and digital culture. The framework, which is appealing from the literature, highlights the vital role that dynamic public places play in fostering democratic processes. He recognized how digital technology has changed public life, pointing out its potential to encourage greater participation as well as its dangers in terms of advancing justice and manipulating large numbers of people. Furthermore, he recognized the difficulties institutions confront in maintaining substantive standards of nondiscrimination and equality while negotiating the complexity of inclusion and plurality, particularly in light of the rise of the right-wing extremist movement.

Based on earlier study findings that offer a comprehension of the subtleties of the modern public sphere and incorporate knowledge from a variety of academic fields, including political theory, cultural studies, and media studies. Through integrating viewpoints on media distribution, digital culture, civic participation, and institutional dynamics, the framework seeks to provide guidance for an extensive examination of the changing terrain of democratic discourse and action.

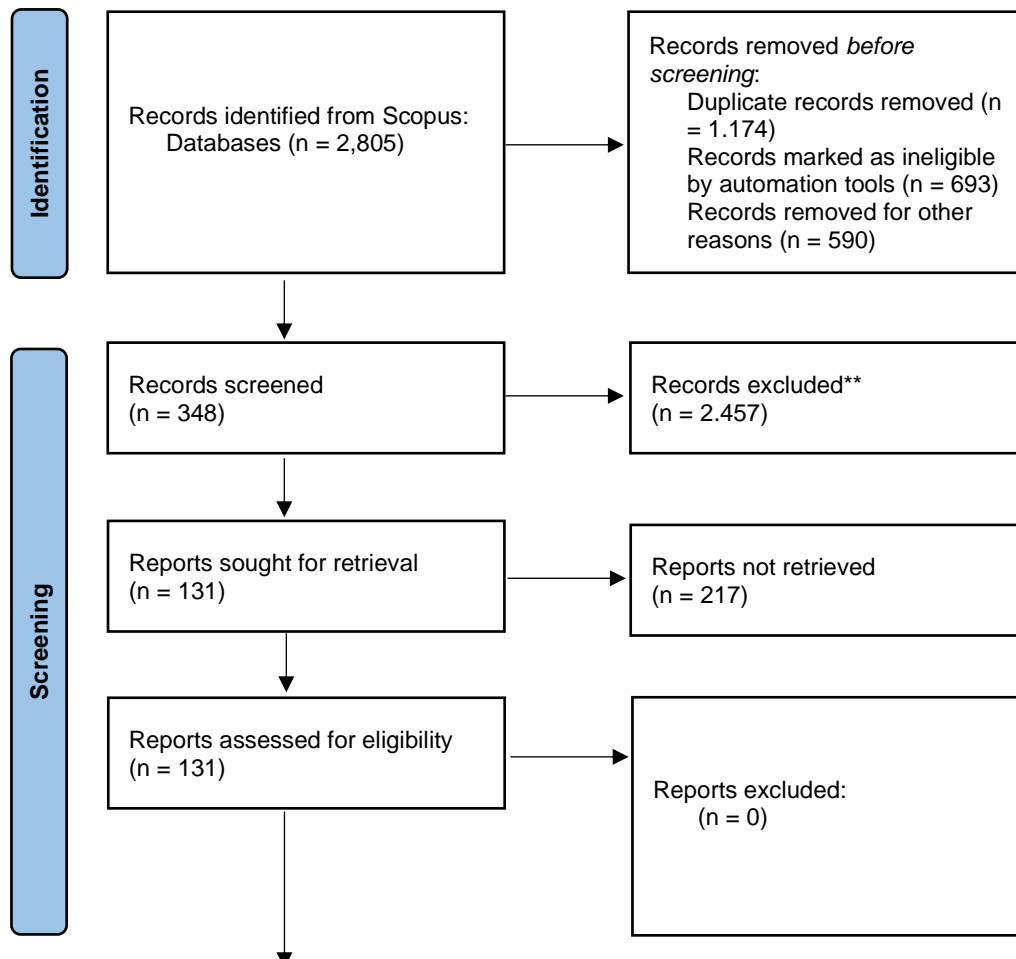
2. Method

The study used the systematic literature review (SLR) technique, which tries to address particular concerns, such as how public sphere democracy is developing and how this study was published in the most recent year (2023–2024) in a globally recognized journal that is indexed by Scopus. A more focused follow-up question, specifically:

- 1) What are the patterns of scientific publications in the public domain in terms of year, area, writer, and topic area?
- 2) How are research themes spreading in relation to the distributions of scientific publishing clusters on public domain democratic concerns within the past year, namely 2023–2024?

The research questions are outlined in a manner consistent with the general standards of the SLR. These standards include identifying the research theme, which is public sphere democracy; specifying the type of document, such as a journal indexed scopus; defining the time frame for article publication, which is 2023–2024; identifying the type of file used for review, such as a RIS file; defining the application of management of reference, such as Mendeley; defining the application for article review, such as Vosviewer; analyzing articles using the Vosviewer feature, which involves visualizing topic density and grouping of topics; and conducting thorough interpretations of the data until producing research findings that are among the most important answers to the research questions submitted.

The PRISMA protocol (Preferred Reporting Items of Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) is followed in the selection, filtering, and inclusion of articles from the database scopus, as mentioned above. The process of registering an account in a premium or paid Scopus database, logging in with an official account, and entering the term "public sphere democracy" in the article search column on Scopus using the search format of an article that is, (public spheres) AND (democracy) are all related to the identification phase of article search. Currently, 2,805 items are visible. These are thoroughly checked until duplicates of 1,174 articles are discovered. Finding articles that have a strong degree of relevance to the topic of public sphere democracy and are available in the form of RIS files; creating a valid and accurate report regarding the number of articles to be selected to be established as references for review articles; and identifying 131 articles that are strictly ferivated and validated are all part of the screening stage, which is the stage to determine the number of articles recorded from the scopus database as well as in accordance with the chosen topic of study.



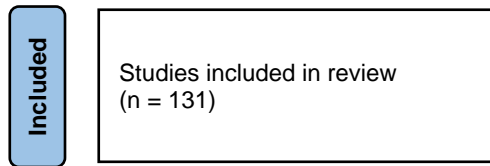


Figure 1. PRISMA Flow Chart of study selection

Establishing the topic of the writing is the first step in producing scientific writing. This stage determines the direction in which the study, which addresses the issue or issues under investigation, will go. In this research process, once a theme has been chosen to be investigated, the next step is to use Scopus to look for data. This process is used in this study to choose a data source that fits the selected theme. In order to move on to the next stage, data must be processed in the third step using the Mendeley and Vosviewer tools. The next step, the data analysis stage, will require the author to focus on assessing the previously gathered data.

3. Result

Analysis suggests that between 2023 and 2024, they will have access to specific data on the existence of democratic public spaces in the Scopus database. Thro that year there are many researchers discussing public sphere and democracy especially in 2023 who have contributed the most writing with a total of 118 papers uploaded to the Scopus database, then entering 2024 there has been a decrease of this consequences is still early in the year and not a lot of researchers are discussing it. And of course, it is hoped that research on public sphere democracy will continue to grow because it is very interesting to discuss. The results of the analysis and clustering can be seen from the description below:

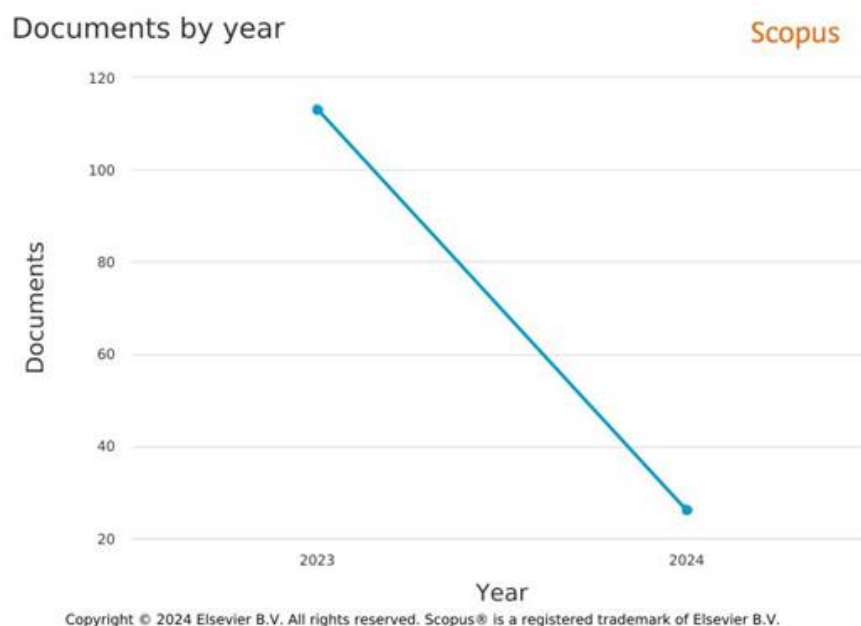


Figure 2. Table of writing data based on the year of publication

The data above indicates that 2023 will be the year that deals with the dominant public space democracy because everyone is still talking about COVID-19 and many other conflicts, which will increase the public sphere through the writing of carefully considered articles on social media and other platforms. The economic recession caused by their own government's actions has caused financial hardship in too many countries. After that, new public spaces were created specifically for ideal democratic governance, and this phenomenon is being studied by many authors. He hopes to be able to give new knowledge to the public and to be a warehouse of knowledge for his readers. Of course, with a deep discussion about the public sphere and democracy can give an understanding of how the new space is made a place that responds to the challenges of the times to continue to innovate and develop if seen from different perspectives.

By highlighting the conflicting effects of water from oil extraction and transportation, a 2023 overview of research by Rinaldi (2023) has clarified the impending global water crisis and strengthened public discourse on oil and water rights. The water-oil conflict that dominated Colombian media coverage between 2017 and 2021 is evaluated in this article. Additionally, the research conducted in 2024 by Xie (2024) has examined the relationship between the technological framework and the social, cultural, and political aspects of mobile communications, concentrating on matters like data protection, privacy regulations, and the platform owners' profit-seeking objectives.

The ability of social media corporations to control speech in public areas characterizes a new form of dominance. The argument is that social media firms have the power to arbitrarily stifle people's freedom of choice as they can partially regulate individuals' political engagement in public areas (Aytac, 2024). Democratic political change cannot occur in the absence of public space. It advances the discussion of public space from the standpoint of broadly recognized critical theory, strives to substantiate the first two claims, and succinctly outlines the contributions and underlying arguments of this specific topic (Brunkhorst et al., 2024). The researchers basically have their respective perspectives on issues relating to public sphere democracy and in general, the picture below shows some of the academics' interests in public space democracies, making it clear.

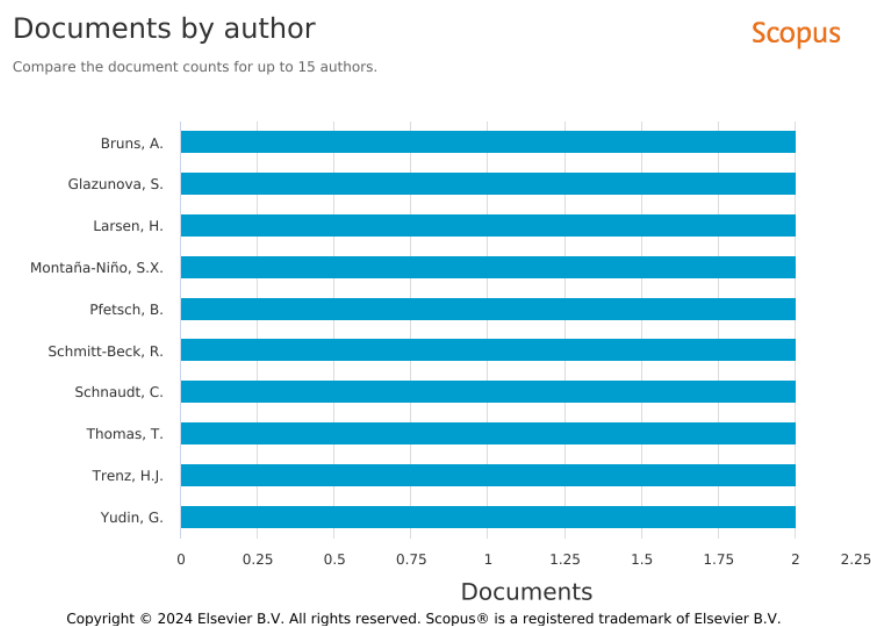


Figure 3. Table of article writing data by author

The Scopus database diagram by the author, which depicts how different authors from different regions of the world have similar interests, is based on the data mentioned above. It suggests that while different authors may cover different aspects of democracy in public spaces, the issue of democratic public areas as a whole continues to attract authors from a variety of backgrounds, with the public space democratic serving as their general foundation. The writers give a new understanding of the science in their writings, which brings about what they think and is a foundation in the writing process, about the theories used until the end of their writing. And what can't be underestimated is the way they're dealing with issues that are hot in their country and around their territory.

Taking into account new theories about civil public scope in the Nordic countries as well as the most recent scientific work on library activism in a Nordic context, Larsen (2024), one of the writers who holds the position in the above picture, discusses the recent controversy surrounding libraries in Norway. When managing public libraries as a civil public space, it became evident from the idea of a civil public space and its implementation that the values of neutrality and inclusive practices on the part of minorities may be at odds.

A new kind of public space has emerged as a result of the digital sphere, offering a risky blend of mass justice, public outrage, and forgiveness. It provides a revolutionary sense of voice as mass justice motivates the punishment of (and eradication of) detectors. Digital has created a "false public," but it is not at odds with the public domain (Englezos, 2023). During the COVID-19 epidemic, restrictions on movement did not

prevent people from voicing their opinions. They are taking democracy to the digital sphere, such as Twitter, because they are unable to join the demonstrations (Sumartias et al., 2023). Of course, their coverage also covers topics that are popular in their home countries, as the diagram below shows how different countries dominate in the number of papers uploaded to the Scopus database.

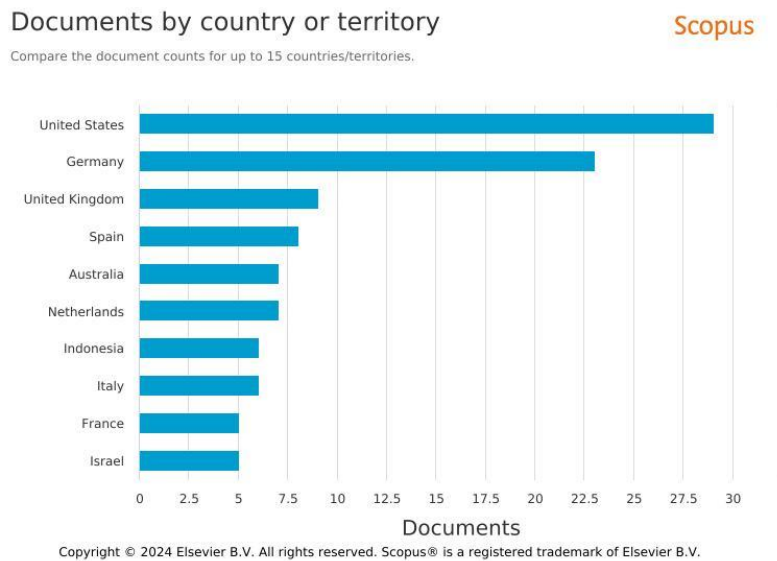


Figure 4. Country Data table related to the topic

According to the above diagram, authors from the United States are more interested in writing about public sphere democracy than writers from any other nation. Germany is next in line with interest in public-sphere democracy, and the United Kingdom is in third place. The number of papers published in the Scopus database between 2023 and 2024 is the basis for the ranking. The country of the United States is multicultural and multiethnic. There are numerous distinct tribes and cultures in this nation. The vast majority of Americans are descended from immigrants. Another strong country with both political and economic might is the United States. With 50 states and one federal district, the United States is a federal constitutional republic. North America's center is where the United States is situated. Additionally, this is a chance to forge a brand-new public domain. Thus, scholars are making use of this phenomenon to provide material for their articles. The advent of social media and digital media has significantly accelerated the rate of technological innovation and campaign acceptance. Disinformation, foreign meddling in elections, a hyperpartisan media landscape, and agitated users have also contributed to a shift in the political atmosphere. In light of these advancements and predicated on the theoretical notion of progressively chaotic and discordant public environments (Koc-Michalska et al., 2023). The figure below illustrates how distinct the priorities of the conversation subjects are in the study that the researchers have already published, as well as the range of research types they have already examined.

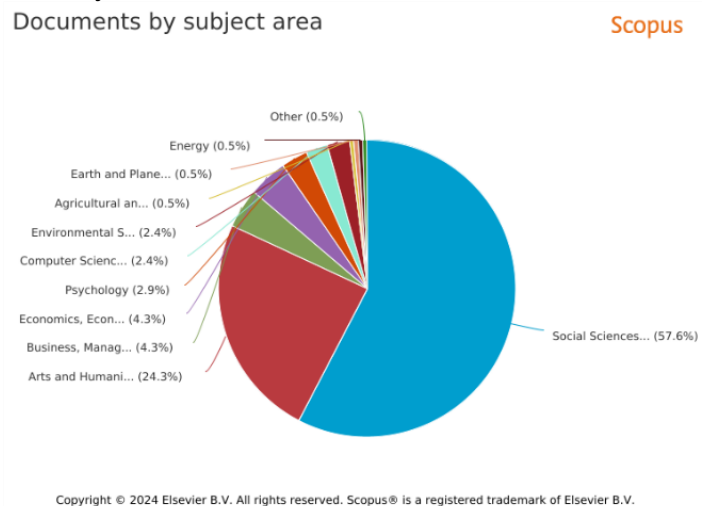


Figure 5. Table of article writing data by Subject Area

The data, which is based on the picture above, suggests that the writer's interest in the field of social sciences is quite general - 57.6% of the overall topic area. Since social science monitors phenomena that cannot be ignored from the scientific domain, it shows how social science is inseparably connected with democracy and public speech. On the other hand, it shows that in the course of democracy, it is often betrayed by the leaders of the state who are inclined to authoritarianism by giving a sense of compulsion to the people to follow the will of the country's leaders. Of course this is based on the failure of long-standing leaders to understand the context of democracy (Scudder et al., 2023). In addition, many researchers have concentrated on the topics they use in terms such as politics, public, power, studies, and states that serve as the basis for their work.

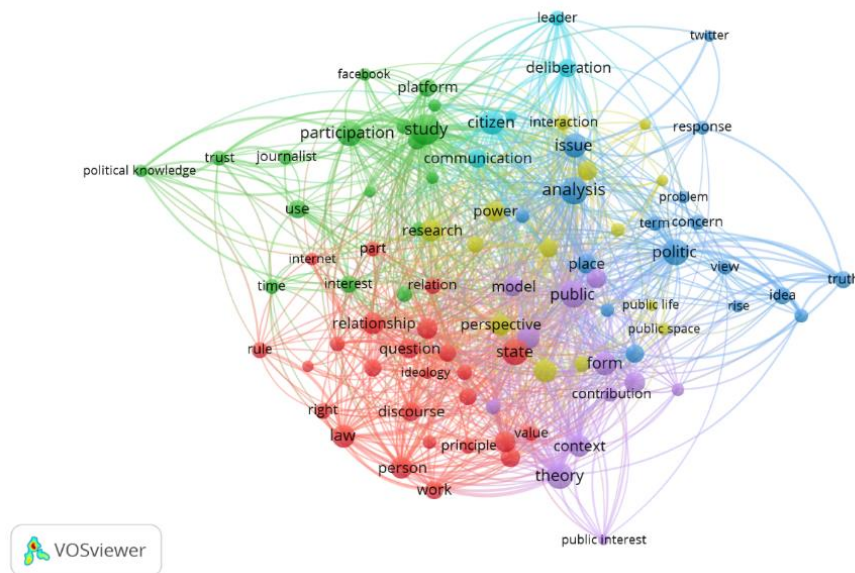


Figure 6. Vosviewer Networking Data Mapping

From the chart above, the data shows that the blue root marks the political topics discussed, the yellow root is the power discussion, the red root is state debate, the green root is study discussion, and the purple root is public discussion. It shows how the issues of the topic are relevant to the idea of democracy in public spaces. Every dominant topic has connections that cannot be unleashed in a public-sphere context. For example, if politics cannot be separated from what is called power, then it has become a duty if people enter the political world to seek power. This is already related to the public sphere because in this safe modern process of campaigns or dissemination of information against politics, it is very easily accessible through social media, so this will be very connected. Then state and public issues are very closely linked in the context of the public sphere because the public chose this new space to express itself in the form of responding to the state, which causes this topic to have a close connection. And if seen between the topics of domination over the state and the public, the researchers discuss more power than any other topic, as can be seen from the picture below.

Table 1. Cluster Distribution Data Table from Vosviewer

Clusters	Item	Amount
Clusters 1	Ability, argument, attempt, attention, capacity, case study, concern, deliberation, effect, idea, individual, information, literature, need, opportunity, platform, problem, rise, scholar, social media platform, social medium, topic.	22
Clusters 2	Activity, civil society, community, content, country, decade, discourse, education,	18

	field, government, ideology, influence, medium, organization, person, strategy, support, understanding.	
Clusters 3	Aspect, challenge, Europe, example, focus, Germany, group, habermas, inequality, liberal democracy, place, principle, relevance, right, today, transformation, world.	17
Clusters 4	Democratic society, freedom, importance, involvement, law, light, political participation, political sphere, public life, public space, rule, type, voice, woman, year.	15

As can be observed from the above table, there are four divisional categories. The first group includes various subgroups, including social media platforms, individuals, ability, debate, attention, and so forth. People who pay attention to providing comprehensive information through numerous channels, like social media, are essential to a democratic state. Cluster 2, which includes activity, civil society, community, government, and so on, can help to explain this. Which he can understand to mean that when people support their nation, it makes democracy more valuable—for instance, by creating a society that actively participates in observing how the government formulates policies.

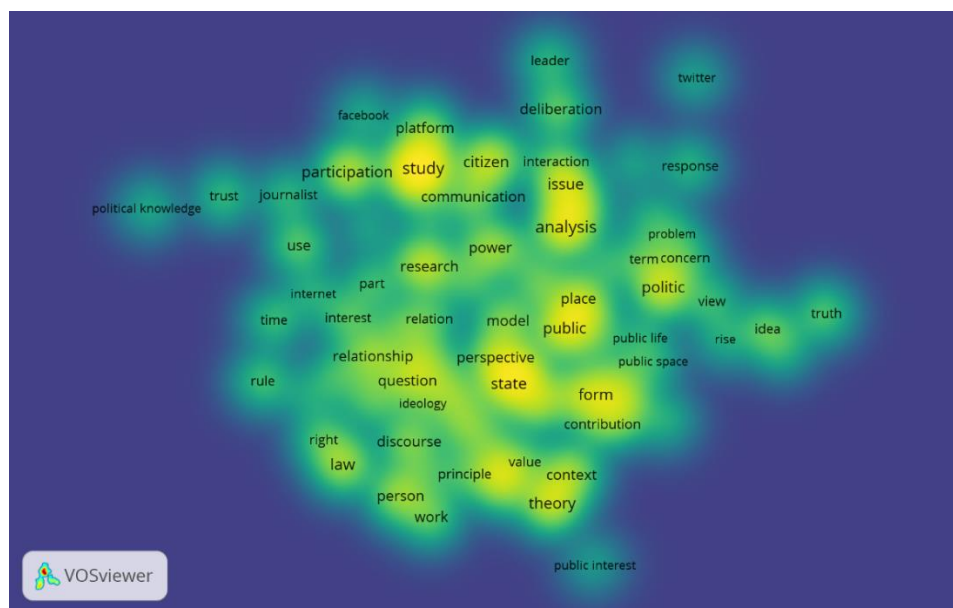


Figure 7. Vosviewer Networking Data Mapping

The data above demonstrate that the state and the public have the biggest impact on the state of public-sphere democracy. In the past few decades, a great deal of writers have drawn attention to the concepts of "regression," "accident," and "crisis" in relation to public life, public space, and public spaces. In the framework of modern cities, or cosmopolies, we wish to examine an alternative position in this essay that acknowledges the significance of public space, public socialization, and cosmopolitanism for democratic societies without discounting this dominant point of view (Felix de Souza, 2023).

The discussion of the state was also influenced by a phenomenon that occurred in 2018, when the State of Israel adopted a new citizenship law, which changed the identity of the country after 70 years of its establishment. Proponents of this constitutional law argue that it is necessary because the character of the Jewish nation in the country is threatened and because liberal-democratic principles and policies have acquired

unwanted dominance in public life. Citizenship laws, however, do more than just restore lost or imagined collective identities; they are a significant setback for both liberal and republican understandings of a democratic state, as well as Jewish-Arab relations (Chowers, 2024). Behind the many controversies that have taken place in Israel, there are many authors who have raised this topic in their articles.

Because of these factors, the world is already entering a new period that is extremely different from the one that existed three or four decades ago, and that has altered people's perceptions of what it means to live a very sophisticated life. causing people to adopt an entirely computerized style of life that they cannot abandon. Technology is now a tool that improves human lives in modern times. Anything can be done more readily with technology. Everything is digital in this day and age. Three theories the medium is the message, technology is the major driving force, and media drives culture in the context of communication illustrate differences in the emphasis on technological determinism, according to Straubhaar and LaRose.

The adagium comes first. The well-known communication theory of Marshall McLuhan is "media is the message." McLuhan goes beyond simply accepting the idea that new communication technologies shape society's culture in his now-famous book *Understanding the Media* (1964). Furthermore, he asserts that "the media's form matters more than their content." Second, technology is the primary social motivator. Within the framework of technological determinism, technology is thought to play a significant role. Technology affects how people behave in society in a big way, not just in terms of personal habits or industrial automation. Third, the media shapes culture. The introduction of technology has altered how people live. The emergence of digitalization and the Internet, from the first computer generation to the creation of web networks and the glorification of social media, represents the pinnacle of modern times. Subsequently, the term "new media." emerged. The most sophisticated advancement in media and telecommunications technologies is known as new media. The qualities of "digitalization and convergence," "interactivity," and "networks and networking" are the primary factors that set conventional media apart.

New media encompasses not only digital media but also the creation of original digital media forms and the reconstruction of more conventional media forms in order to embrace and adjust to new media technology. The Internet undergoes a complete metamorphosis to become this new media technology. The digital age has given rise to the new public sphere. A fresh public area that welcomes fresh hues for a political civilization. The phrase "Who, Say What, In which channel, To whom, With What Effect" was coined by Harold Lasswell. This straightforward formula is incredibly useful for comprehending the phenomenon of communication, particularly in the context of political communication. (notes, lasswell's formula is that it comes with propaganda that is one of the political methods available).

According to what Lasswell says above, communication is either directed or linear. He places a lot of emphasis on the part of persuasion that is done with the intention of achieving a particular result, making it less of a "pass" to communication in general. It is said that "communication describes the evolution of meaning"; meaning is not something that is received but is instead created and assigned. Therefore, communication is a transaction that man creates and attributes in order to achieve his goals, rather than a response to or connection with something. "Communication facilitates the evolution of makna; makna is something that is discerned, examined, and provided, not something that is taken. Therefore, communication is not just a response to something but also an interaction with something; it also refers to a transaction that people initiate and carry out in order to achieve the goals that those people have.

Additionally, according to Barnlund, communication has the following properties:

1. Dynamic, which denotes that it is a deliberate behavior process that either results from internal mechanisms (self-action) or only opposes external influences. (Conversation).
2. Continuous (connected); nothing exists in isolation; connection is a prerequisite for life to continue ongoing and without a start or finish.
3. Circular (rotating), implying that meaning flows from one thing to another without following a straight path; individuals communicate simultaneously yet independently of one another.
4. Unrepeatable: A person cannot provide a message that is exactly the same as one sent at a different period since the re-creation of meaning that synapses entails a change of personal image in the past, present, and future.
5. Irreversible: Once a message has been said and understood, it cannot be taken back from the recipient's memory.
6. Complex communication occurs at the intra-personal, interpersonal, organizational, social, and cultural levels in a variety of circumstances.

Lasswell and Dean Barnlund presented rather distinct theories regarding communication; Lasswell was more straightforward, while Barnlund was more intricate. But when it comes to comprehending the phenomenon of communication, both are complementary. However, in Barnlund's view, Lasswell's formula would need to be changed from being too basic to being spinning and interconnected instead of linear. To achieve this, the element with whom must be used in place of the element with whom in the Lasswell formula. But instead of flowing from one person to another, it will act more concurrently, with both of them contributing to each other.

Naturally, after discussing communications, we must draw attention to the political facets of this area. Social scientists have differing definitions of politics, just like they do about communication. Politics, according to Easton (1953), is "the authority in allocating values." Catlin (1963) was referring to "power and power." Politics, in the words of the renowned communication theorist Harold Lasswell (1958), is "who gets what, when, and how."

Political communication has a crucial role in the political system, as the political process cannot work without it (Almond and Coleman, 1960). Communication processes are used in or through socialization and political recruiting, interest articulation and aggregation, rule-making, and decision-making. Alfian (1990) really makes the assumption that political communication is the lifeblood that keeps the political system alive and functioning.

This paper primarily analyzes political communication in light of the political system. Alternatively, among the various roles in political systems, political communication held a prominent position. The evolution of media and technology has led to a rise in complexity and interest in the study of political communication. If the existence of television media first facilitated the development of political communism as a new academic discipline, the social media presence on the Internet has significantly altered research on voting behavior and public opinion. A public opinion will emerge in public, and it is typically this public opinion that shapes state policy.

According to Habermas, it is challenging for the mainstream media to establish a public forum that is genuinely in the best interests of the general public and free from interest bias. Habermas draws attention to the deterioration of public space caused by mass media practices and the rise of consumer culture as opposed to critical society. This is a result of the mass media's current preponderance on amusement and promotion over discussion venues for public issues. Public places and public discourse have been colonized by commercial interests, economic capitalists, and mainstream media, with television leading the way. As a result, the press system that the government has established to protect press freedom has a significant impact on the public sphere that is transmitted through mass media. Press freedom is responsible and helps to keep the public sphere thriving.

3.1 Discussion

The Scopus database will witness a substantial decrease in research interest in the public Sphere democracy by 2024. This phenomenon has garnered significant attention as a result of multiple variables, one of which is the dearth of researchers dedicated to investigating this subject matter. At the onset of the year, it seemed that there was a dearth of comprehensive research on this matter, leading to a scarcity of data and material for reference purposes. Furthermore, a shift in study emphasis towards alternative topics that may possess greater urgency or popularity could potentially contribute to the decrease in interest. The insufficient focus on the public domain of democracy may also stem from the intricacy of the subject matter, necessitating additional time and exertion to comprehensively grasp it. This can lead researchers to gravitate towards subjects that are perceived as simpler or more captivating to explore. Consequently, it is anticipated that there will be a decrease in interest and attention towards research pertaining to the public domain of democracy in the Scopus database in the year 2024. It is anticipated that in the year 2024, there will be an increased scholarly focus on the public domain of democracy, facilitating a more profound comprehension and inventive approaches to enhancing societal engagement in democratic processes.

The concept of the public sphere extends beyond political issues and encompasses various domains, leading to a plethora of contentious news. For instance, Larsen (2024) research on the ongoing library controversy in Norway, library activism in the Nordic context, and the latest theories concerning civil public space in the Nordic countries have all contributed to this topic. By doing so, it establishes a connection between the continuing deliberations among librarians in Norway and the present state of library research and theory pertaining to civic public space within the Nordic model. This study examines the current state of democratic librarianship in the Nordic nations, focusing on four key factors: (1) the involvement of individuals in democratic activities within libraries; (2) the decision-making processes of library managers; (3) the influence of political party activities within the public library setting; and (4) the legislative framework governing

libraries. Furthermore, this robust and distinctive ecological system is bolstered by (1) deliberations within book clubs and collective reading gatherings pertaining to the interests of the broader populace, (2) the standards upheld by library directors and managers, including impartiality, freedom of expression, and adherence to the provisions outlined in the Library Law, (3) the perspectives of politicians regarding public libraries as hubs of democratic communities, and (4) the significant influence exerted by the Library Law on the practice of democratic librarianship (Koizumi and Larsen 2023).

There is a projected substantial growth in research interest pertaining to the public sphere in England throughout the period of 2023–2024. The rapid advancement of information technology and social media is primarily responsible for triggering this phenomenon, as they have a significant impact on the dynamics of public space. The United Kingdom presents an intriguing research topic within this particular setting due to its status as a developed nation grappling with intricate issues pertaining to freedom of expression, plurality, and public involvement. Discussions pertaining to Brexit, social issues, politics, and inequality are progressively prompting researchers to investigate the formation, occupation, and societal response to public space. The research places significant emphasis on the examination of how social media impacts many dynamics, such as the polarization of opinion and the development of eco-security. Hence, the examination of the public sphere in England encompasses not solely political and social dimensions but also the influence of technology in shaping intricate communication networks within the contemporary digital age.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the social sciences in understanding topics related to the public sphere, especially in democratic nations. Theoretical and methodological underpinnings provided by the social sciences are essential for examining the dynamics of the public realm, encompassing the interactions of individuals, institutions, and the media. In a democratic nation, a profound comprehension of the public realm is essential for safeguarding the well-being of democracy. Researchers can investigate the processes shaping public opinion, spreading information, and wielding political power in a diverse setting through the field of social science. By comprehending the intricacies of the public realm, nations can formulate more efficient strategies to foster citizen engagement in democratic procedures and uphold pluralism and freedom of speech. Hence, the examination of the public sphere within the realm of social science not only contributes to the development of a more comprehensive comprehension of democracy but also offers significant perspectives for fostering constructive transformations within political and social structures.

4. Conclusion

This research reveals that public sphere is an important concept in the context of modern democracy, and a strong argument can be built to support the importance of a deep understanding of public space. First, public space creates space for discussion, debate, and the exchange of ideas between citizens, which is an important aspect of maintaining the health of democracy. Through this interaction, people can express their aspirations, debate crucial issues, and openly criticize government policies. In addition, public space allows for public accountability towards the government and political institutions because citizens can monitor government actions and voice their dissatisfaction publicly. Furthermore, public space is a place where the media reports news and analysis, so it plays an important role in shaping public opinion. In addition, through public spaces, people can organize social and political movements to fight for their rights and influence changes in public policy. Thus, public space is not only a forum for political participation but also a pillar of democracy that connects civil society, media, and government in a transparent and open system.

The study of the public sphere plays a significant role in enhancing our comprehension of the intricate nature of democratic processes and the involvement of the general public. This study aims to ascertain the various aspects that exert an effect on the structure and behavior of the public sphere. These factors encompass the media's role, political institutions, and civil society. We can understand the process that shapes public sentiment, brings public concerns to the forefront, and impacts governmental authority through a comprehensive examination of the interplay among these diverse components. In addition, conducting research on the public sphere aids in the development of more efficient policies aimed at enhancing public engagement and fortifying democratic systems. This research contributes to the advancement of political science, sociology, and communication by enhancing our understanding of the theoretical frameworks that underlie this phenomenon. Research on the public sphere provides useful insights into addressing emerging concerns, including the impact of social media and disinformation, which have the potential to shape novel manifestations of the public sphere within the framework of a digital society.

While the examination of the public realm yields useful insights, the utilization of data sources only derived from the Scopus database, particularly during the period of 2023–2024, may impose limits that restrict the range of viewpoints and the extent of analysis. These databases may not comprehensively cover the entire spectrum of themes and local circumstances relevant to public sphere studies in various countries, including

the United Kingdom. This constraint has the potential to impact the generalizability and applicability of study findings to wider contexts. Hence, it is advisable to supplement data from many sources, such as local sources, field surveys, or comprehensive case studies, in order to conduct further study. Through this approach, scholarly investigation can offer a more all-encompassing depiction of the intricacies of the public sphere in the United Kingdom while mitigating potential biases that may emerge due to constraints in data availability. Furthermore, research can delve deeper into investigating disparities in social media utilization, public engagement strategies, and political dynamics across diverse regional or community settings. By adopting a comprehensive and diverse methodology, scholarly inquiry might yield more precise and pertinent perspectives in comprehending the significance of the public sphere within contemporary democratic society.

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