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Research Article | Araştırma Makalesi

Public administration and political science publications from Türkiye: A bibliometric analysis in WoS

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Abstract

This study presents a bibliometric analysis of political science and public administration publications in Türkiye that are indexed in the WoS database from 1966 to 2024. 555 documents were analyzed using VOSviewer and Microsoft Excel. The documents were evaluated based on authors, publication years, types, institutions of the authors, journals in which they were published, citation counts, and keyword usage The results show a substantial increase in publications, especially after 2015. Most research comes from a small group of prolific authors and leading institutions. Thematic analysis highlights strong interdisciplinary links with economics, education, and international relations. Citation network analysis reveals that a few articles receive most of the citations. Overall, this study provides insights into the evolution, productivity, thematic trends, and global integration of Türkiye-affiliated research in political science and public administration. This study contributes to our understanding of national research ecosystems and provides valuable insights for the strategic development of the social sciences.

Keywords: Bibliometrics, Public Administration, Political Science, Türkiye. **JEL Codes:** H83

Türkiye'den kamu yönetimi ve siyaset bilimi yayınları: WOS'ta bibliyometrik bir analiz

Öz

Bu çalışma, 1966 ile 2024 yılları arasında Web of Science (WoS)'ta indekslenen Türkiye'deki siyaset bilimi veya kamu yönetimi yayınlarının bibliyometrik analizini sunmaktadır. Bu amaçla VOSviewer ve Microsoft Excel kullanılarak 555 belge analiz edilmiştir. Bu belgeler, yazarları, yayımlandığı yılları, türleri, yazarların çalıştığı kurumları, yayımlandıkları dergiler, atıf sayıları ve anahtar kelime kullanımı açısından değerlendirilmiştir. Sonuçlar özellikle 2015 yılından sonra yayın hacminde önemli derecede artış olduğu ve araştırmaların büyük ölçüde sınırlı sayıdaki üretken yazar ve önde gelen kurumlarca üretildiğini göstermektedir. Tematik analiz, ekonomi, eğitim ve uluslararası ilişkiler arasında güçlü bir disiplinlerarası etkileşim olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Atıf ağı analizi, az sayıda makalenin en yüksek atıf sayısını aldığını göstermektedir. Sonuç olarak bu çalışma, Türkiye'de siyaset bilimi ve kamu yönetimi alanında yürütülen araştırmaların evrimi, verimliliği, tematik eğilimleri ve küresel entegrasyonuna ilişkin içgörüler sunmaktadır. Çalışma, ulusal araştırma ekosistemlerinin anlaşılmasına katkı sağlamakta ve sosyal bilimlerde stratejik gelişim için önemli çıkarımlar sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Bibliyometrik, Kamu Yönetimi, Siyaset Bilimi, Türkiye **JEL Kodları:** H83

Introduction

Political science and public administration are two closely intertwined disciplines that constantly influence each other. Both provide important insights into political behavior, governance, and social structure. Today, they have moved beyond mere theoretical discussions and have become the focus of concrete studies exploring how public services can function more effectively. Türkiye has a vibrant political structure and a strong bureaucratic tradition. This makes it a compelling example for such studies. The country's history, location and administrative reforms have the potential to make significant contributions to international academic debates in these areas. While the increase in Türkiye-based publications in these fields in recent years is notable, the actual impact of this visibility remains ambiguous. Relying solely on publication counts is insufficient to understand the standing of this scholarship within the global scientific community. To address this need, the study employed bibliometric analysis as the primary research tool.

Bibliometrics is a powerful tool that allows us to analyze academic publications using numerical data. This method allows us to measure how a field is evolving, identify emerging topics, and assess the impact of these studies on the scientific community. Bibliometric analysis allows researchers to examine scientific productivity and the impact of publications based on selected criterias (Passas, 2024, p. 1017). The importance of this method stems from the fact that it not only allows the mathematical

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evaluation of the number of publications but also provides the opportunity to measure the impact of these publications on the scientific community.

This study analyzes Türkiye's international academic visibility in public administration and political science using the WoS database. The primary research question is: "What are the key characteristics of Türkiye-based academic publications in public administration and political science indexed in WoS?" This analysis aims to position Türkiye's academic performance in relevant fields according to international standards while also highlighting its strengths and areas for improvement.

The WoS database was chosen as the data source because it includes high-impact journals and offers international classification standards. However, this choice limits the analysis to publications within the WoS scope and excludes studies in national/regional indexes; this should be noted as a limitation.

VOSviewer and Microsoft Excel were used in the analysis. VOSviewer was chosen for its ability to visually map relational data, such as author collaborations and keyword networks. Unlike alternatives that require coding, such as Bibliometrix, VOSviewer's interface offers a practical advantage for researchers without programming experience. Microsoft Excel was used for descriptive statistics and general organization of the data.

1. Literature Review

In recent years, a growing number of bibliometric studies have been conducted in the fields of public administration and political science. These studies provide valuable insights on how these two disciplines have transformed over time. These analyses provide insightful data on a wide range of topics, including the evolution of academic interests and research methods, prominent authors, and influential institutions. These studies make it possible to examine academic trends both in Türkiye and globally on a comparative basis. For example, Ayhan et al. (2022) examined articles published between 1990 and 2019, focusing on public administration research in Türkiye. They noted that Türkiye's publication count and global impact remained low compared to the United States and other developed countries. Cansun and Arık (2019) analyzed political science publications from Türkiye between 1900 and 2016 within the scope of WoS. The study found that 87% of the publications were produced after 2000 and that the research focused on relations with the European Union, democratization, and political parties. In a similar analysis, Tabak et al. (2016) examined publications published between 1980 and 2014 in an international database. This study reveals the evolution of research topics over time.

Darıcı (2021) examined strategic management theses written between 1999 and 2020. His analysis revealed a limited number of studies in this area, particularly at the doctoral level. Gündoğdu (2022) examined governance studies from DergiPark and the National Thesis Center between 2002 and 2021. This study revealed a significant increase in the number of publications after 2018. Sevinç and Zeren (2015) examined the most influential public administration journals. While they found that "Public Policy" was the most popular topic, they concluded that numerical popularity does not always equate to quality academic content. Payam (2024) analyzed Amme İdaresi Dergisi between 2007 and 2023, revealing that contributions focus heavily on traditional themes such as public and state administration, with assistant professors being the most frequent contributors. Özbey (2025) conducted a bibliometric analysis of public policy research within the public administration category of the WoS database from 1980 to 2024. The study identified the United States as the most productive country. In a similar study, Çelikkaya (2020) examined regional development articles published between 1985 and 2018. The analysis showed that the discipline of economics has become more prominent after the 2000s.

Önder et al. (2019) analyzed articles published in a journal between 1990 and 2009. The study revealed that statistical methods were rarely used in Turkish public administration research. Uçak (2025) analyzed political advertising publications and identified the United States as the leading country in this field, with 2017 as the peak year. Taking a broader perspective, Aydilek (2025) examined publications and revealed a continuous increase in the number of academic publications since the 1990s. Lin and Yaakop (2024) examined digital governance publications and identified countries such as the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and India as the most active contributors. Nurhadi and Meilinda (2024) found gradual increase in interest in good governance in public administration articles between 1995 and 2024, while Wei et al. (2024) mapped publications dating back to the 1920s, highlighting the historical depth of this field and the importance of technological topics such as artificial intelligence and big data as current emerging trends. Finally, Yu (2022) presented a significant finding demonstrating the continuous increase in international collaboration in articles published between 1998 and 2016.

2. Materials and Methods

The objective of this study is to examine the characteristics of studies on public administration or political science produced in Türkiye using bibliometric methods. According to Mete and Şimşir (2025, p. 222), bibliometrics is defined as a quantitative scientific analysis methodology that enables the evaluation of the nature and development of scientific studies. The data were

collected from WoS databases e.g., Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), Conference Proceedings Citation Index –Social Science & Humanities (CPCI-SSH), Book Citation Index - Social Science & Humanities (BKC-SSH), Conference Proceedings Citation Index-Social Science and Humanities (CPCI-SSH), Science Citation Index Expanded (SSCI-EXPANDED), Conference Proceedings Citation Index – Science (CPCI-S), Art & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI) and Book Citation Index (BKCI-S) for the period from 1966 to 2024 as of September 29, 2025. 1966 is chosen as the starting point since it is the year that the first political science and public administration publication from Türkiye was added to the WoS database. Advanced search was adopted that used the following keywords for searching and retrieving data; "public administration" or "political science". The query path was: "public administration" (All Fields) or "political science" (All Fields). The results were refined by selecting "Turkey" and "Türkiye" in the country rankings while there were no restrictions on the language of the articles. The query link is:

https://www.webofscience.com/wos/woscc/summary/e5e4c8f7-6cb8-4117-ace8-6993f56b97b6-017de4445d/relevance/1

The bibliographic data related to public administration or political science included publication trends, publication types, top WoS categories, most productive authors, top journals, top affiliations, most cited publications, highly collaborative authors, highly cited articles and total link strength (TLS) and most used keywords. A total of 588 bibliographic records were retrieved, and bibliographic records were analysed and mapped using the VoSviewer version 1.6.20 and Microsoft Excel 2016.

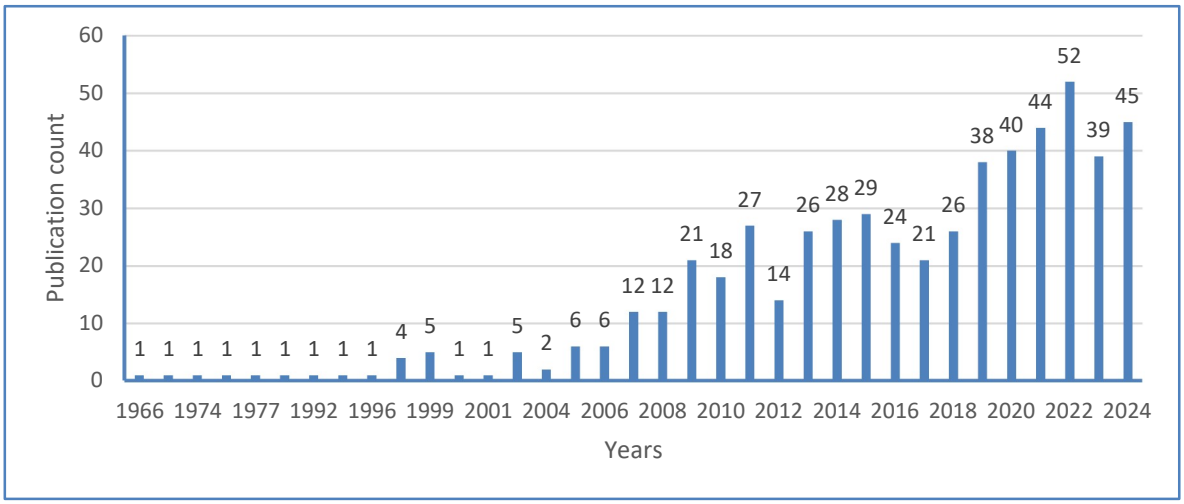
While the WoS database identified a total of 555 publications affiliated with Türkiye in the fields of Political Science and Public Administration, the number increased to 591 when classified by document types. This discrepancy arises from the fact that certain publications are indexed under more than one document category (e.g., a single work may simultaneously appear as both "Article" and "Early Access" or as both "Article" and "Proceedings Paper"). As a result, the sum of document types exceeds the actual number of unique publications. This is a common occurrence in bibliometric studies and reflects the indexing practices of the database rather than an actual increase in publication volume.

3. Results

3.1. Number of Articles Published by Year

An analysis reveals that Türkiye-based publications remained limited until the mid-1990s. However, a significant upward trend has been observed in research output since the 2000s. The upward trend, which began with six publications in 2005 and 2006, became more pronounced in 2011, reaching 27 publications. In the last five years, publication output has varied considerably, with 40 publications in 2020, 44 in 2021, 52 in 2022, 39 in 2023, and 45 in 2024 (Figure 1). These findings demonstrate that academic production in the field of Political Science and Public Administration in Türkiye has gained momentum particularly since the 2000s and has maintained a consistently high level throughout the 2020s.

Figure 1. Number of Publications on Public Administration or Political Science Between 1966 and 2024 Recorded in WoS.



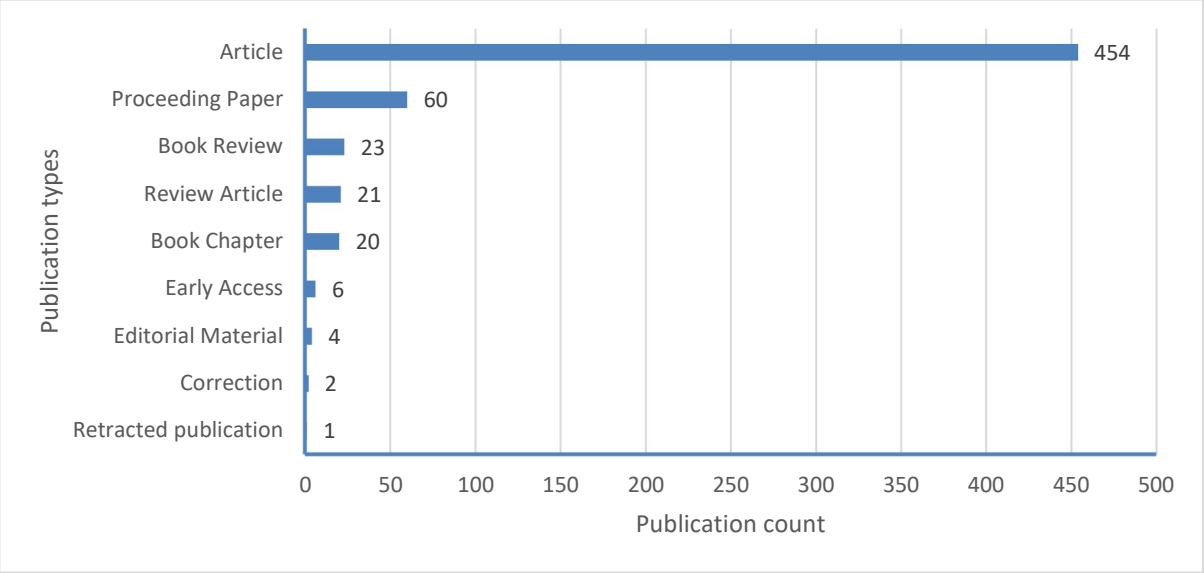
Source: Compiled by author

3.2. Publication Types

As a result of a comprehensive review of Türkiye's publications in the field of political science or public administration in the WoS database, a total of 591 publications were identified by publication type. The analysis of publication types indexed in the WoS database with a Türkiye affiliation in the field of Political Science and Public Administration shows that research articles constitute the dominant share, with a total of 454 publications. Proceeding papers are ranked second with 60 contributions, book reviews (23), followed by review articles (21), and book chapters (20), which together indicate a moderate level of diversity in publication formats. In addition, smaller numbers of early access publications (6), editorial materials (4), corrections (2), and one retracted publication were also identified (Figure 2). These findings highlight that research articles represent the primary vehicle of scholarly

output in the field, while proceedings papers and review articles serve as significant complementary contributions; other document types, though fewer in number, enrich the variety of academic production.

Figure 2. Distribution of Publication Types and Their Counts About Public Administration and Political Science

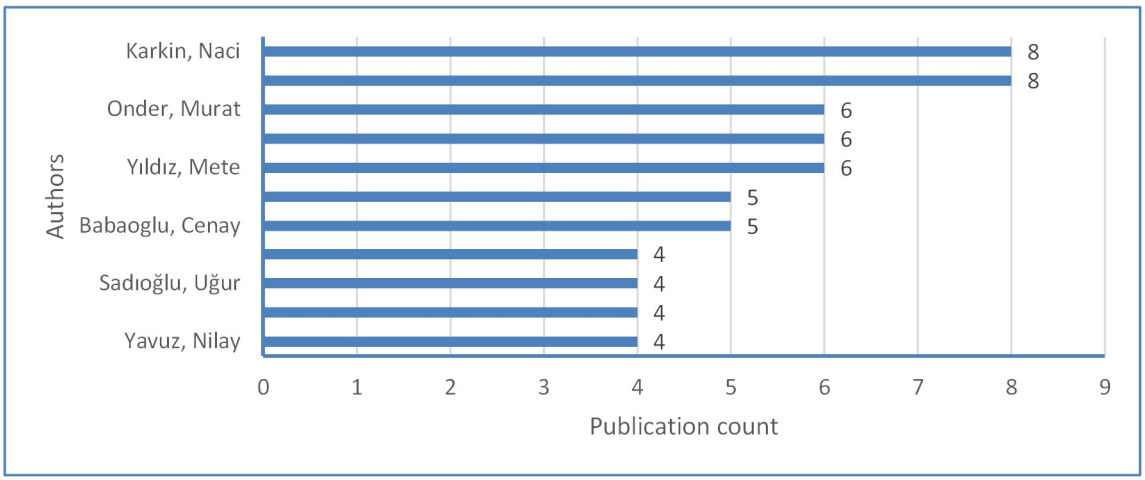


Source: Compiled by author

3.3. Most Productive Authors

200 authors found in the WoS database who contributed to publications in the field of political science and public administration published with Türkiye addresses. Figure 3 shows 11 researchers with four or more publications. The overall authorship number reveals that most researchers contributed to with a single publication. Notably, 70 authors published one publication, and 103 authors produced two publications. Add to that, 16 authors authored three publications, four authors four, two authors five and three authors six publications. The most prolific contributors are Karkin Naci and Aytaç Selim Erdem. They each have eight publications. These findings can be interpreted as the field is dominated by a relatively small group of highly productive researchers, as well as a large base of individual authors.

Figure 3. Authors From Türkiye Who Have Four or More Publications in The Field of Public Administration and Political Science in The WoS Database.



Source: Compiled by author

3.4. Top 20 WoS Categories

A total of 89 subject categories were identified for publications related to Public Administration and Political Science. This is reflecting a highly interdisciplinary distribution. Most of the publications are in the fields of Political Science (178) and Public Administration (93), followed by Economics (54), Education & Educational Research (34), and International Relations (33). Table 1 shows additional contributions that observed in areas such as Area Studies, Information Science & Library Science, Social Sciences Interdisciplinary, Business, Management, Communication, Sociology and History. And smaller numbers of publications were distributed across diverse fields including Computer Science, Psychology, Environmental Studies, Urban Studies, Women's Studies, Philosophy, Anthropology, and Engineering.

Table 1. Number of Publications on Public Administration or Political Science According to Top 20 of WoS Category

WoS Categories	Count
Political Science	178
Public Administration	93
Economics	54
Education Educational Research	34
International Relations	33
Area Studies	24
Information Science Library Science	21
Social Sciences Interdisciplinary	18
Business Finance	17
Business	16
Management	15
Communication	12
Computer Science Interdisciplinary Applications	10
Computer Science Information Systems	9
Environmental Studies	9
Religion	9
Sociology	8
Development Studies	6
Engineering Civil	6
History	6

Source: Compiled by author

3.5. Top Affiliations

The institutional analysis shows that publications are distributed across 200 different institutions, which is a wide diversity of research activity. Table 2 shows the leading contributors as Koç University (36 publications), Hacettepe University (34), Istanbul University (33), Bilkent University (31), Ankara University (25), and Middle East Technical University (23). These were followed by Pamukkale University (18), Sabancı University (15), Boğaziçi University (14), Gazi University (14) and Yıldız Technical University (12). The top 20 affiliations with the most publications are given in Figure 2. Internationally, notable contributions came from institutions including the University of London (6), London School of Economics (4), Harvard University (4), University of Toronto (3), University of Vienna (3), and University of Copenhagen (3). Even though the most publications originated from prominent Türkiye universities, many national and international institutions collaborations exist in the field.

Table 2. Top 20 Affiliations with The Most Publications Involved in Public Administration and Political Science in Türkiye.

Affiliations	Count
Koç University	36
Hacettepe University	34
İstanbul University	33
İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University	31
Ankara University	25
Middle East Technical University	23
Pamukkale University	18
Sabancı University	15
Boğaziçi University	14
Gazi University	14
Yıldız Technical University	12
Başkent University	9
Dokuz Eylül University	9
Sakarya University	9
Akdeniz University	8
İstanbul Bilgi University	8
İstanbul Technical University	8
Necmettin Erbakan University	8
Süleyman Demirel University	8
Adnan Menderes University	7

Source: Compiled by author

3.6. Top Journals

The analysis of publication sources shows a distribution across 200 different journals and conference proceedings. Table 3 shows the most publications as Amme İdaresi Dergisi (45 publications), followed by international journals such as the International

Political Science Review (19), Politsci with the special issue titled New Opportunities and Impasses: Theorizing and Experiencing Politics (12), the American Political Science Review (11), the Journal of Mehmet Akif Ersoy University Economics and Administrative Sciences Faculty (11), the Maliye Dergisi (11), and PS: Political Science & Politics (11). Other journals with notable contributions are European Political Science (10), Political Science Quarterly (10), and Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences (10). Regional and thematic outlets such as the Romanian Journal of Political Science (9), Uluslararası İlişkiler/International Relations (8), and the Kafkas University Journal of Economics and Administrative Sciences (7) also played an important role. Many of the publications are in the leading international political science journals and a considerable portion was published in Turkish academic journals. This can reflect international engagement and strong national scholarly activity in the field.

Table 3. Top 20 Journals and Publication Numbers in Which Studies on Public Administration or Political Science Are Most Published

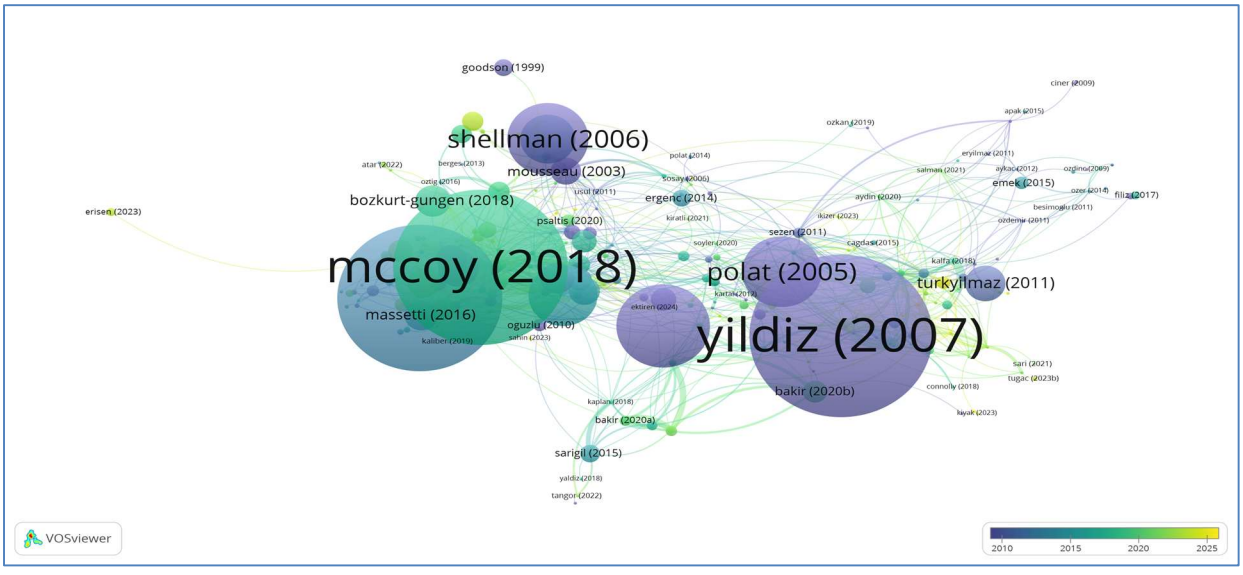
Publications Titles	Count
Amme İdaresi Dergisi	45
International Political Science Review	19
New Opportunities and Impasses Theorizing and Experiencing Politics Politsci 14	12
American Political Science Review	11
Journal of Mehmet Akif Ersoy Univ. Economics and Administrative Sciences Faculty	11
Maliye Dergisi	11
Ps Political Science Politics	11
European Political Science	10
Political Science Quarterly	10
Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences	10
Romanian Journal of Political Science	9
Uluslararası İlişkiler / International Relations	8
Kafkas Univ. Journal of Economics and Administrative Sciences Faculty	7
Turkish Librarianship	7
All Azimuth A Journal of Foreign Policy and Peace	6
British Journal of Political Science	6
Istanbul University Journal of Faculty of Political Sciences	6
Journal of Public Affairs Education	6
Review of Economics and Political Science	6
Sosyoekonomi	6

Source: Compiled by author

3.7. Bibliographic Coupling Network of Publications

The document-level bibliographic coupling analysis conducted in VOSviewer indicates that publications in Political Science and Public Administration with a Turkish address are concentrated around two main clusters. The first cluster, represented by earlier studies such as Yildiz (2007) and Polat (2005), reflects the traditional public administration literature, while the second cluster is formed by more recent international contributions such as McCoy (2018) and Massetti (2016). Publications after 2015 (e.g., Bozkurt-Gungen, 2018; Bakir, 2020) act as bridging studies that connect national literature to international debates (Figure 4). The temporal distribution further suggests that although early work remains influential, recent publications are increasingly gaining centrality within the network.

Figure 4. Document-Level Bibliographic Coupling Network of Political Science and Public Administration Publications with a Turkish Address



* The visualization included 339 of the 555 documents that were analyzed, which met the threshold of at least one citation. (Compiled by author)

3.8. Most Cited Publications and TLS

Table 4 presents the ranking of the 20 most cited publications in the field of Political Science or Public Administration in the WoS database with addresses in Türkiye, together with their TLS values. The analysis reveals that the most cited study is Yildiz (2007) with 552 citations and a TLS value of 14, followed by McCoy (2018) with 520 citations and a stronger network position (TLS: 26). Hanmer (2013) ranks third with 485 citations and a relatively modest TLS score of 9. Other highly cited works include Tosun (2001) (239 citations) and Shellman (2006) (199 citations) (Table 4).

In terms of network connectivity, measured by TLS, more recent publications demonstrate stronger bibliometric coupling despite comparatively lower citation counts. For instance, Aytaç et al. (2021) and Calhan et al. (2021) both exhibit the highest TLS value of 77, followed by Çubuk et al. (2019) (74) and Elçi (2022) (56). This suggests that while older studies tend to accumulate higher citation counts, newer contributions are more central in shaping contemporary research networks.

Table 4. Ranking of the 20 Most Cited Publications and TLS in The Field of Political Science or Public Administration in WoS with Addresses in Türkiye*

Rank	First Author*	Reference	Citations	TLS
1	Yıldız (2007)	Yıldız (2007)	552	14
2	Mccoy (2018)	Mccoy et al. (2018)	520	26
3	Hanmer (2013)	Hanmer and Kalkan (2013)	485	9
4	Tosun (2001)	Tosun (2001)	239	3
5	Shellman (2006)	Shellman & Turan (2006)	199	1
6	Polat (2005)	Polat (2005)	195	3
7	Bloom (2015)	Ben-Nun Bloom et al. (2015)	163	25
8	Karaman (2013)	Karaman & Pamuk (2013)	123	1
9	Signorino (2003)	Signorino & Yılmaz (2003)	85	0
10	Turkyilmaz (2011)	Turkyilmaz et al. (2011)	84	5
11	Heper (1998)	Heper & Keyman (1998)	83	4
12	Bozkurt-Gungen (2018)	Bozkurt-Gungen (2018)	72	1
13	Just (2012)	Just & Anderson (2012)	69	13
14	Massetti (2016)	Massetti & Schakel (2016)	68	5
15	Elci (2022)	Elçi (2022)	66	56
16	Carkoglu (2015)	Çarkoğlu & Aytaç (2015)	62	24
17	Mousseau (2003)	Mausseau (2003)	60	38
18	Bilgin (2005)	Bilgin (2005)	60	9
19	Castillo (2005)	Castillo & Saysel (2005)	48	4
20	Erdin (2020)	Erdin & Özkaya (2020)	48	0

*The top 20 most cited articles in the table were automatically obtained from the VoSviewer application, and only the first author's name has been retrieved. The correct sources are displayed in the reference column.

3.9. Most Used Keywords

According to the keyword analysis, the most frequently occurring terms in the reviewed publications were “Turkey” (80), “Public Administration” (78), and “Political Science” (19). These terms also had the highest TLS values (“Public Administration” 258, “Turkey” 254, “Political Science” 85), demonstrating their central role in the literature and the strong relationships they establish with other terms. Furthermore, the prominence of terms such as “New Public Administration”, “Governance” and “e-Government” indicates that the studies focused on the themes of governance, administrative reforms, and digital transformation (Table 5).

In addition, the presence of keywords such as “Ethics”, “Local Governments”, “European Union”, “Populism”, “Public Policy”, “Democracy”, “Participation”, “Reform”, “Strategic Planning” and “Transparency” demonstrates that literature also addresses themes of democratization, ethical principles, openness in governance, and local government. Furthermore, the prominence of current concepts such as “Covid-19”, “Digitalization”, “Artificial Intelligence”, “Big Data”, “Blockchain” and “e-Participation” demonstrates that new research trends are taking shape regarding the technological transformation process and the post-pandemic era. Less frequently encountered concepts such as “Sustainable Development”, “Authoritarianism”, “Neoliberalism”, “Corruption”, “Public Value”, “Civil Servant”, “Disaster Management” and “Trust” point to the thematic diversity of the field and demonstrate that different perspectives are included in academic discussions.

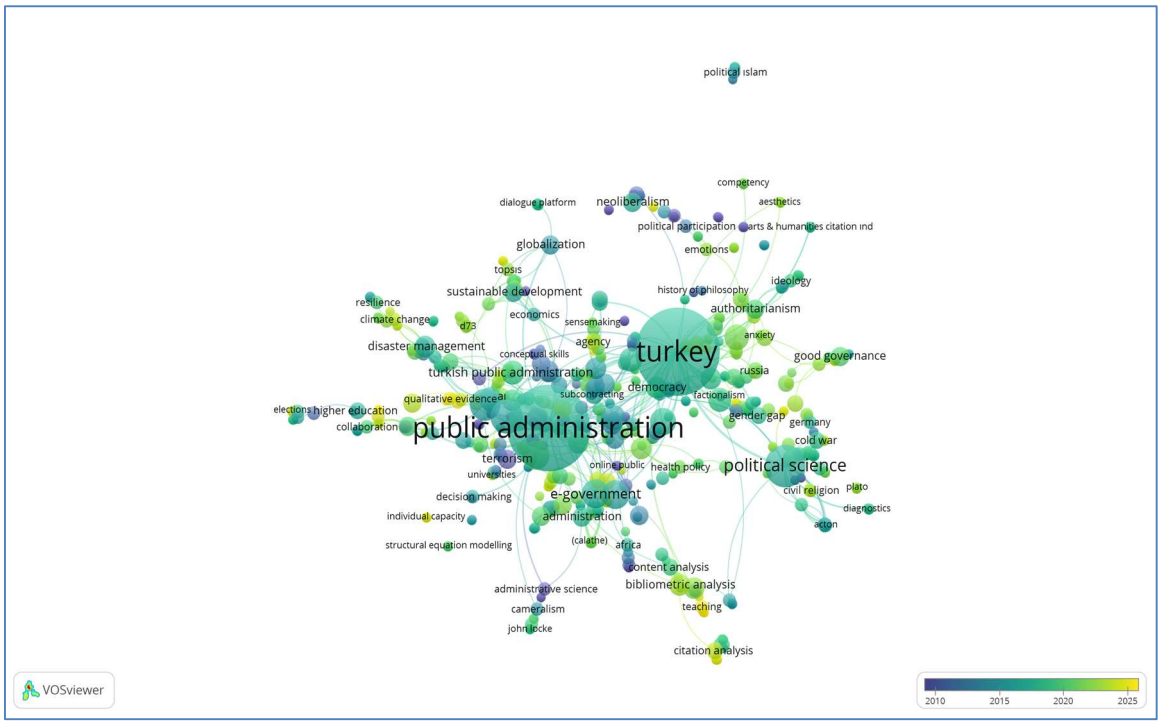
Table 5. Top 20 Keywords by Frequency and Link Strength in Türkiye-Addressed Publications on Political Science and Public Administration.

Keywords	Occurrences	TLS
Turkey	80	254
Public Administration	78	258
Political Science	19	85
New Public Management	12	40
Governance	11	37
E-Government	9	34
Ethics	9	19
Local Governments	9	30
European Union	8	23
Accountability	7	24
Populism	7	25
Political Parties	6	23
Public Policy	6	22
Public Service	6	25
Turkish Public Administration	6	17
Bibliometric Analysis	5	8
Bureaucracy	5	15
Change	5	14
Covid-19	5	18
Democracy	5	20

Source: Compiled by author

A keyword co-occurrence network analysis conducted via VOSviewer reveals that studies in the field of public administration are largely focused on Türkiye. The terms "*Public Administration*" and "*Turkey*" constitute the core components of the field, representing both the highest frequency of use and the strongest overall link strength. Furthermore, while the terms "*Governance*", "*Democracy*", "*Political Science*" and "*Good Governance*" attract attention with their strong correlations, terms such as "*e-Government*", "*Terrorism*" and "*Climate Change*" are seen to have received increasing attention, particularly between 2020 and 2025. These results reveal the interdisciplinary nature of the public administration literature, its evolution in interaction with national and global dynamics, and its potential to shape future research trends (Figure 5).

Figure 5: VOSviewer Visualization of Keyword Co-Occurrences in Türkiye-Addressed Publications on Political Science and Public Administration (Version 1.6.20)



Source: Compiled by author

Discussion and Conclusion

This study analyzed the visibility of political science or public administration publications based in Türkiye in the WoS database from 1966 to 2024. In this regard, both similar and differing dynamics were identified when compared to previous studies in the literature. This study reveals a two-stage evolution for Turkish research in political science and public administration. The first stage, from 1966 to 2005, was defined by limited scholarly output and a primarily local focus. The period after 2005 marks a decisive turning point. A sharp rise in publication numbers, institutional activity, and international visibility has been observed, especially after 2015. These findings are consistent with the study conducted by Aydilek (2025), which shows a continuous increase on a global scale since the 1990s. However, Gündoğdu (2022), who examined national databases, states that the significant increase in the number of publications occurred after 2018. This difference reveals that the integration of Türkiye-based researchers into international indexes gained momentum earlier than the expansion of the national publication pool. This trend, which reached its peak in 2022, reflects the integration of these studies originating from Türkiye into the global academic environment.

According to the study results, the prominence of "Populism" and "Migration" as research topics indicates a significant shift in focus when compared to previous studies in the literature. For example, Cansun and Arık (2019), found that "Relations with the European Union" and "Democratization" were dominant topics in political science studies focusing on Türkiye. However, the current dataset covered by this study shows that EU-focused discussions have been replaced by more conjunctural themes such as global crises and populism. In addition, the increase in technology-focused keywords such as "e-government," "Artificial Intelligence" and "Digitalization" aligns with trends in global and national literature. Specifically, these results resonate with Lin and Yaakop's (2024) global findings regarding the prominence of digital governance. Furthermore, the data supports the recent study by Şener et al. (2024), confirming that digitalization-focused studies have become a central theme in the public administration discipline. Different conclusions regarding themes can also be attributed to the scope of data analyzed. For example, Sevinç and Zeren (2015) limited their analysis to the top ten SSCI journals from 2011 to 2013 and identified "Public Policy" as the primary theme. In contrast, because this study covers a much longer period and a broader range of journals, specific, crisis-driven topics like "Populism" were detected instead of just general categories.

One of the important findings is the dominance of research articles in the field. This can be explained by the fact that peer-reviewed journal articles are the main metric of academic recognition and career progression. This can also indicate the presence of researchers actively engaged in generating new and validated knowledge. The pursuit of validated knowledge also impacts the research methods that are used. Comparing data sources reveals a key difference in this regard. Önder et al. (2019) analyzed only at the national level and found that statistical methods were rarely used. In contrast, this broader study identified advanced keywords like "Structural Equation Modeling" (Figure 5). This can indicate that as researchers aim for global journals, they are using more quantitative methods.

On the other hand, proceedings papers point to a community that is actively participating in academic conferences. This is important for the early dissemination of ideas, receiving informal feedback, and building professional networks. It shows that researchers are not just writing for publication but are also engaged in live scholarly dialogue. The low rate of retractions and corrections suggests a stable and credible publication environment.

Author productivity analysis indicates an area with a strong core. But it also has a weak and broad base. This structure is consistent with Payam's (2024) findings in the national context. His analysis of Amme İdaresi Dergisi showed that 66% of the articles were written by a single author, and even the most prolific authors contributed only occasionally. Therefore, while supporting the most productive authors remains important, the real challenge lies in creating new opportunities for other contributors to become active, regular members of the international academic community. This dynamic may also be impacted by modifications to academic promotion and appointment standards and the exclusion of researchers without SSCI or ESCI publications. These conditions are another reason that can encourage researchers to focus on building professional relationship networks. Future research could look at how these structural factors impact the international collaborations and publication activity of researchers.

Interdisciplinary relationships emerge as expected. It is natural that the boundaries between disciplines are not as clear as they used to be in the past. This view is also confirmed by Özbey (2025), who analyzes public policy literature. Her study reveals that this field is no longer limited to governance, but has become integrated with "health", "economy", and "technology," as evidenced by the rise of keywords such as "Artificial Intelligence" and "Covid-19" after 2020. This aligns with findings that interdisciplinary interaction has expanded beyond traditional fields. For example, technology, economics, international relations, and health care create a complex structure for effective public policy. However, this situation also presents another challenge for the researchers. The fact that research is related to different fields may cause the field of public administration to appear less consistent. A political scientist writing about blockchain for computer science journals and another working on municipal administration for public

administration journals may not see themselves as part of the same discussion.

Institutional analysis shows that elite universities dominate research output. But at the same time, contributions from regional universities and international collaborators are increasing. For example, institutions like Pamukkale University and Süleyman Demirel University appear in the top 20. This indicates that research production is not exclusively limited to the major metropolitan centers. It shows that research capacity is expanding. This geographical and institutional diversification is important for the long-term health and resilience of the national academic ecosystem. Consistent with previous bibliometric studies (Ayhan et al., 2022; Al et al., 2010; Payam, 2024; Polat, 2020), Hacettepe University remains a leading institution. However, unlike the strictly state-dominated landscape observed in national contexts, this analysis reveals that foundation universities like Koç University have risen to the very top, creating a competitive mix of state and foundation institutions. Additionally, international collaborations are a sign of a state of integration. The contributions from prestigious global institutions, including the University of London, the London School of Economics, and Harvard University, demonstrate that leading Turkish universities are not working in isolation from the global academic community.

Amme İdaresi Dergisi has the highest number of publications. This can be explained by the fact that, as stated by Payam (2024, p. 347), it is the longest-standing Turkish journal in the WoS database, having been indexed in SSCI since 2007. This can give it a significant advantage, while other Turkish academic journals were slow to enter due to Clarivate's strict selection criteria and Türkiye's publishing structure. It should be noted that this is not the focus of this study, but it could be explored in future research.

The study shows that new research generally has a much stronger TLS than older research, even if the total number of citations is lower. The high TLS of recent Turkish studies indicates that the local research community is no longer merely applying international theories to the Turkish context. Ayhan et al. (2022) previously noted limited global impact. However, this study indicates a transition from a peripheral role to greater global integration. This trend supports Yu's (2022) observation of increasing international collaborations. The researcher's studies have become key reference points for an international community of scholars. They also play an active role in shaping global debates on specific research themes. The strong network centrality of recent Türkiye-related research can be interpreted as a very positive sign. This means that newly produced studies are not published in isolation. On the contrary, it indicates that these studies are directly interacting with and connected to a wide variety of other contemporary studies. They are helping to structure the current debates in the field, particularly around themes such as populism, digital governance, and public values. Especially after 2015, the thematic focus of Türkiye-originated publications seems to have a general theme focused on subjects that are popular among scholars worldwide. This may be because researchers are seeking higher visibility and impact in global journals, which often favor contemporary debates and trending themes. As a result, basic concerns about the legal, administrative, and socioeconomic systems of Türkiye might get relatively less attention.

While this study is not primarily based on Wallerstein's center-periphery theory (1974), the findings can provide a valuable starting point for future research based on this theory. According to the theory, a small number of countries and institutions occupy the "center" position in research, determining the direction and prestige of studies. These centers influence which topics and research receive the most attention and citations. Conversely, researchers in peripheral positions often face limited resources, barriers to access, and visibility issues. Academic production in Türkiye partially reflects these center-periphery dynamics. The increase in international collaborations, particularly in recent years, highlights the importance of diversity in enhancing the global visibility of Turkish research. Furthermore, keyword co-occurrence networks and bibliographic matching in bibliometric analyses using VOSviewer can lead to the prominence of highly cited and well-known studies. This can lead to new or supporting research being overshadowed by older, highly cited studies. Future studies could examine in more detail core-periphery relations, the impact of international collaborations, and how they can enhance Türkiye's academic visibility. Furthermore, how studies from different disciplines influence each other and the development of academic interaction networks could be important research topics. In this context, diversifying Türkiye's academic production, both structurally and thematically, could contribute to a more effective position in the international arena.

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