THE PRACTICE OF POLITICAL IDENTITY: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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ABSTRACT. This study aims to conduct a bibliometric analysis of the theme of political identity. This topic has recently become a center of attention and the strengthening of right-wing populism, for example, has succeeded in giving victory to several leaders such as Donald Trump, Josh Bolzonaro, and Duterte. Using the Scopus database from 2016 through 2021, concept mapping and clustering related to the theme of political identity will be seen. Data was collected through searching the Scopus database with the keyword political identity which resulted in 520 related articles. The data analysis focused on cluster analysis, dominant topics, related themes, and mapping of political identity study topics, based on the number of articles visualized and analyzed using VOSviewer and WordStat 8 software. This research shows that the study of political identity has four dominant keywords that often appear, namely: Political Identity, identity, Politics, and Political Ideology. This means that these four topics are the main focus of attention written by most authors. This shows that the topic of politics is very closely related to its use as a basis for one’s politics and will become a big challenge for democracy in the future.

Keywords: conceptualization; political identity; VOSviewer; WordStat 8

INTRODUCTION

Political identity is a phenomenon that has attracted a lot of interest from researchers because it has become a public discourse in various parts of the world. However, social segregation as the impact of this phenomenon is very real and affects the existence of a democratic public space (Haas et al., 2019). Therefore, political identity is one of the threats to the democratization process because it creates divisions that allow identity dominance bias between the majority and other identities (minorities).

Political identity has a mixed history in different parts of the world. The political policy of apartheid as the effect of colonialism in South Africa is one tangible manifestation of the massive separation of racial identities between blacks and whites in the 20th century (Torres & Monserrat Molas, 2019). The impact of this colonialism spread to various regions and strengthened the identity between the colonized and the colonized so that white racial superiority was formed as the master race (Paret, 2018). By definition, political identity is a political concept or movement that emphasizes differences as the main focus of political categorization (Nolan-Garcia & Inclan, 2017). Djuyandi & Ramadan (2019) see the political identity movement as a political activity based on feelings of injustice experienced by certain groups or groups of people.

The phenomenon of political identity is interesting because it takes place even in countries with well-established democratic regimes. Examples are the United States, France, Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, and the United Kingdom. Likewise, several developing countries are in democratic consolidation, such as Brazil, Belarus, and Indonesia. This indicates that political identity is a political phenomenon that has spread to various countries in this era of democratization, so it is crucial to map the studies conducted by many scholars on this topic. For example, the 2016 United States presidential election set a bad precedent where political identity in general elections was echoed. The issues raised by Trump’s side led to the rise of Christian nationalists by promoting sexism, phobia of Islam, racism, xenophobia, including economic...
discontent (Whitehead et al., 2018). In addition, the phenomenon of political identity occurred in the Central African Republic to coup President Michel Djotodia, a Muslim President by Christian groups and civilians. These actions led to such chaos and violence that in January 2014, President Michel Djotodia decided to resign (Isaacs-Martin, 2016).

Research from Panotto (2019) a Pentecostal church in the City of Buenos Aires that is part of the spectrum of evangelical churches in Argentina, but represents a particular case within that field, in terms of theological, religious and, especially, socio-political views. The study of the CCNV will allow us to explore how “the evangelical” and “the Pentecostal” represent floating signifiers (Ernesto Laclau about political identity is based on the similarity of religion or belief in Argentina. The dominance of the Pentecostal Church with a significant number of followers influences political activity to determine leaders with a background from the Pentecostal Church. The political construction that is built must be based on a common belief so that theological aspects are indoctrinated and certain political views. In Turkey, the identity of the Kurdish nation opens up a space for debate because there is a treatment gap between the Turks and the Kurds. However, the effort to be recognized has not been realized because it has been politicized by the Turkic peoples who occupy more strategic positions in the government. This feeling of not being recognized often causes a shift in the public sphere due to national discrimination against the nation (Kuzu, 2016). In Indonesia, the use of political identity is still a common phenomenon. The diverse social conditions of society allow the use of political identity issues so that adequate political education is needed to the grassroots (La Dirman et al., 2019).

Political identity from these various studies show that the tendency of identity to be misused for political purposes creates gaps in society. Religion, raciality, ethnicity, ethnicity, and various other political elements harm the implementation of democracy in various parts of the world which have a heterogeneous composition of society. In contrast, democracy was formed to create justice and equality, which was negated in the spirit of political identity. Based on the background above, which gives a conclusion that the destructive practice of political identity is all carried out specifically in one case. This article attempts to fill this void by conducting a bibliometric analysis on the topic of political identity. The aim is to map the main and essential concepts in the study of political identity.

Many researchers have carried out articles with Bibliometric models that focus on certain topics. (Mora et al., 2017) doing it on the topic of Smart-City Research for two decades, (Naruetharadhol & Gebsonbut, 2020) on Food Tourism Studies in Southeast Asia, (Einecker & Kirby, 2020) about Climate Change, (Li & Lei, 2021) on the Topic of Modeling Studies (2000–2017), (Syaifuddin et al., 2021) about Mapping Political Theory, (Habibi et al., 2021) about Medical Tourism and (Widianingsih et al., 2021) about Watershed Governance. From the above studies and other literature searches, there has not been a single bibliometric study on political identity which has become an essential contribution to this article.

Therefore, the purpose of this research is to conduct a review on the study of political identity taken from the Scopus database as a reference for reputable international journals. The aim is to determine mapping and clustering on the theme of political identity so that it is easier to identify important issues/themes that have been discussed in the study of political identity and their explanations. In the process of conceptualizing the theme using VOSviewer software and WordStat 8. This research also aims, first; see the trend of publication by author, author affiliation and author’s country of origin. Second, clustering the topic of political identity. Third, show keywords that often appear to see the focus of the study and map out future studies.

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with bibliometric analysis. Bibliometric analysis is a bibliographic database-based method (Naruethradhol & Gebsonbut, 2020; Gomnezelj, 2016; La Paz et al., 2020; Mergo & Yang, 2017; Dabić et al., 2020; Dwekat et al., 2020; De Tre et al., 2014) to analyze academic publications (Mora et al., 2017; Li & Lei, 2021; Wang et al., 2021) first author, citations, date of publication, and publication journal were extracted and quantitatively analyzed using Bibliographic Item Co-Occurrence Matrix Builder software and the Bibliometric (https://bibliometric.com/app). Bibliometrics can be used to analyze the main research topics and emerging topic trends (Martinez-López et al., 2018; Jiang et al., 2019). The bibliometric analysis focuses on examining themes, authors, citations, co-citations, methodology, and keyword occurrences (Kabongo, 2019; Koseoglu et al., 2016).

This research is sourced from the Scopus database by going through several procedures. First, data was collected by entering the keyword “political identity,” carried out on January 3, 2022. As a result, there were 2734 relevant documents which were further sorted by limiting the time duration, namely 2016-2021, the subject area of social science, the
type of article document, the publication is final, the type of journal source and language English, which produced 520 relevant articles which were final. Second, the data is then exported in the form of RIS, which is then visualized and analyzed using VOSviewer and WordStat 8.

VOSviewer serves to visualize bibliographies or data sets containing bibliographic fields (title, author, author, and journal) taken from co-occurrence keywords. Word Stat 8 is then used to analyze the journal’s abstract data to show the word cloud. The data in this study were analyzed with three approaches: descriptive analysis, intellectual structure, and conceptual structure. First, the descriptive analysis describes the annual publication output. It identifies the most contributing authors, institutions, and countries for intellectual structures. Finally, the conceptual structure identifies various concepts often used in the study of political identity and divides them into clustering and mapping studies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Publication of Political Identity Studies

Studies with the theme of political identity have fluctuated developments. From 2016 to 2021, as shown in Figure 1, it shows that the highest publication was in 2019 with 109 topics, then 2020 with 104 topics. In 2021, there will be a significant decrease to 78 topics, one of which is possible due to the Covid pandemic situation where the focus of the study is more directed at Covid-19.

FIGURE 1. Number of publications per year in Political Identity Studies from 2016-2021

Leading authors, institutions, and countries represented in Political Identity Studies

There are ten authors with the highest number of publications on the topic/theme of political identity in 2016-2021. As shown in Figure 3, there are four authors with the same number of articles (3 articles/13%), namely Baker, Heydar Markel, Joslyn and Thacter. Then the next 6 authors with the same number of articles (2 articles/8%) namely Aitken, Balcells, L, Baldridge, BJ, Barassi, V, Berti B and Dvir-Gvirsman, S with a total of 3 articles. One of the articles was written by four authors with a total of 3 articles, namely Backer; Ignorance or culture war? Christian nationalism and scientific illiteracy (2021), Heydar Markel; The Politics of Being “Cait”: Caitlyn Jenner, Transphobia, and Parasocial Contact Effects on Transgender-Related Political Attitudes (2020), Joslyn: Intersectionality in Action: Gun Ownership and Women’s Political Participation (2019) and Thacter; EU political identity, integration and top-down analyses: a reply to Neil Fligstein (2019).

FIGURE 2. The most authors contribution in Political Identity Studies from 2016-2021

Based on metadata from journals with political identity, ten countries with the highest number of authors were mapped. From Figure 4, it can be seen that there are five countries with the most authors. The United States has the highest number of authors with 189 articles (46%). They were followed by the United Kingdom with 89 articles (22%), Canada with 25 articles (6%), Italy with 20 articles (5%), and Australia with 16 articles (4%). Meanwhile, Indonesia was only ranked 7th with 15 articles (4%). The position of the United States as the highest country is due to government support in research and publication activities through large funding.

FIGURE 3. The Most Author’s countries in Political Identity Studies from 2016-2021

Source: analysis research on www.scopus.com, 2022

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Although the United States is the country with the largest number of authors, this is not the case with the origin of the author’s university. Figure 5 shows London School of Economics and Political Science (UK) as the most universities with 8 articles (15%). Then in a row i.e. Universiteit van Amsterdam, 6 (Netherlands) with 6 articles (11%) and Oxford Social Sciences Division (UK) with 6 articles (11%). Ranks 4 to 10 have the same number (3 articles/9%), namely university of Colorado Boulder 5 (Canada), Pennsylvania State University (USA), The University of Manchester (English), Central European University 5 (Hungary), The University of British Columbia 5 (English), The University of Texas at Austin 5 (United States) and Luiss University 5 (Italy).

Main Research Cluster Analysis and Mapping Study

Cluster Study

In the period 2016 to 2021, several main and important concepts are often used to study political identity. Of the total 520 documents obtained, analyzed, and visualized using VOS Viewer, it will show the dominant concept, which is often discussed. The size of a circle indicates the number of publications related to that keyword, both in the journal title and in the journal abstract. The larger the circle size, the greater the number of articles relevant to that keyword. From Figure 6, it can be seen that the four most dominant or prominent words are Political Identity, Identity, Politics, and Political Ideology.

From the VOSviewer analysis, 6 clusters of 72 items were identified with different color codes (Table 1). This clustering is useful for research purposes, firstly seeing the trend of research done previously and secondly helping researchers find the next research topic (novelty). Table 1 shows each cluster and the concept items in it. This is very helpful for researchers if they take certain clusters because they can determine new concepts to be studied.

In cluster 1, the most dominant keyword is political identity. This shows that the topic of political identity has the highest frequency or is often mentioned in cluster 1. This happens because all the
concepts are written by the author always refer to the topic of political identity. One of the relevant articles are written by Chen & Urminsky, (2019) entitled “The Role of Causal Beliefs in Political Identity and Voting” stated that the majority of the British population who have a stronger British national identity are more likely to support Britain leaving the European Union (Brexit). In addition, another dominant keyword in cluster 1 is politics, the relevant article written by Alwin & Tufiş, (2016) entitled “The Changing Dynamics of Class and Culture in American Politics: A Test of the Polarization Hypothesis” states that the views of conservatives and liberals who have a stable political identity have different responses to the case of Gay and Abortion in the United States. Liberal voters who tend to have modern employment levels tend to support protection against gay and abortion, while conservative voters with different occupations tend to reject these two things.

In cluster 2, the most dominant keyword is political ideology. This topic is dominant because all related articles included in cluster 2 mention the keyword political ideology. The most dominant keyword of political ideology is also because the political identity movement is part of the expression of political ideology adopted by the community, so many authors very often study it. One of the relevant articles are written by Harahap (2019) entitled “Islamic Political Parties in Southeast Asia: The Origin and Political Problems” which in his research found two main findings, namely First, there were six factors which influenced the establishment of Islamic political parties, that is the demography, political system, political ideology, contagion, international political economy, and political competition. Secondly, there were four problems faced by Islamic political parties in winning the political contest, especially in the general election. The first problem was the division of local cultural identity, followed by the unfavorable situation for Islamic political parties, political ideology, and the quality of Islamic political parties themselves.

In cluster 3, the most dominant keyword is identity. This topic is dominant because, in cluster 3, all related articles mention the word identity. The high frequency of identity is also due to this keyword being the basis of political activity analyzed by the authors. The political expression shown is related to efforts to fight for the existence of an identity, so authors often refer to it. One of the relevant articles are written by Waldinger & Duquette-Rury, (2016) entitled “Emigrant Politics, Immigrant Engagement: Homeland Ties and Immigrant Political Identity in the United States,” states that although immigrants have settled in the United States, their political identity remains strong with their country of origin.

The consequence lies in political identity, which they will always do to defend the interests of their country of origin.

In cluster 4, the most dominant keyword is social movements. This topic has the highest frequency of mention because it relates to all articles included in cluster 4. Social movements are the main issue studied because this topic contains social movements to fight for their identity in political life. One of the relevant articles are written by Papa & Milioni, (2016) movement mobilisation and civic membership within the Indignados movement in Greece and France. Through interviews with Indignados members and content analysis of activist discourses in the movement’s Facebook groups, we critically evaluate the potential of social media in (re entitled “I Don’t Wear Blinkers, All Right!” The Multiple Meanings of Civic Identity in the Indignados and the Role of Social Media” states that social media, especially Facebook, has succeeded in uniting and increasing the political identity of the Indignados in Greece and France. In addition, the dominant keyword in cluster 4 is citizenship. Many authors refer to this keyword because political identity is closely related to citizenship. One of the relevant articles are written by Waterbury (2017) entitled “National Minorities in an Era of Externalization: Kin-State Citizenship, European Integration, and Ethnic Hungarian Minority Politics” which shows that the granting of citizenship rights granted by Romania has succeeded in increasing the political identity of the Hungarian community. The granting of this status provides space and opportunity in the form of political rights to fight for their interests as a minority group.

In cluster 5, the most dominant keyword is nationalism. This keyword has the highest frequency of mention in cluster 5 because all articles see that the spirit of nationalism strongly drives the expression of political identity. One of the relevant articles are written by Balthasar (2017) entitled “In Search of More Than A State: Trajectories of Political Ordering and Identity Plurality in Somalia” shows the development of political identity in Somalia which continues to fluctuate. The violence and conflicts that have occurred in Somalia to date result from the political identity that continues to be exploited by political interests. It is difficult to produce peace. In addition, the dominant keyword in cluster 5 is populism. This keyword also has the highest frequency of mention in cluster 5 because all articles see that the expression of political identity is highly driven, namely populism. One of the relevant articles are written by Magaudda (2020) entitled “Populism, Music And The Media: The Sanremo Festival and The Circulation of Populist Discourses which states
that the development of populist discourse in Italian society also utilizes musical instruments through The Sanremo Festival.

In cluster 6, the most dominant keyword is election. This keyword has the highest frequency of mention in cluster 6, considering that political identity has a very high operating space at the moment of election, so it is reasonable to be referred to a lot. One of the relevant articles are written by Heersink & Peterson, (2017) entitled “Truman defeats Dewey: The effect of campaign visits on election outcomes which states that Donald Trump’s victory in the State of Ohio” is largely determined by the extensive campaign that continues to be carried out and the campaign material on nationalism (political identity) that is continuously emphasized.

Furthermore, the overlay aspect shows traces of research history on political identity. Figure 7 will show the keywords that have various publishing ranges. The color gradation shows the average publishing time of an article that includes several keywords in the mapping. A number of articles collected based on Scopus show that keywords with a minimum of five mentions in an article have a publishing period from 2018-2019. Some examples of average publication times with a solid color, such as color Blue in 2018, are research with the theme or keywords “identity, political ideology, and political parties. These keywords had the highest number of mentions on average in 2018. Then it is dark blue with the keywords political ideology, politics, and nationalism from early 2019 to mid-2019. And yellow which shows that these keywords are most often mentioned in articles with an average year of publication in mid-2019, namely “climate change and identity”. From the explanation above, the overlay shows how dynamic the topics (keywords) written by researchers are and can help show research topics that are still rarely done.

Next is a discussion related to network mapping in terms of the density of each keyword which can be seen from the most striking color difference between one another (density). Density mapping can be based on several criteria, namely total link strength and occurrences’. Figure 8 is analyzed based on the criteria of co-occurrences or how often these keywords are mentioned in the articles included in the database. These various topics have a distinction in terms of color thickness. The difference in color thickness means that the topic group that shows thickness is more of a dominant and massive topic discussed concerning political identity by several previous authors. A number of these dominant concept groups have strong and complex relationships, making it easier for researchers to map and draw conclusions related to political identity.

Based on the figure 7, four keywords have more striking color differences than the others. Using the criteria of “co-occurrences” shows that “Political Identity” is the most obvious/dominant. The keyword proved to be the dominant keyword and had the most striking density, with 68 mentions. Next is the keyword “identity” has the second most striking color difference with 54 mentions. After that, the keyword Politics 23 was in the next sequence as the dominant keyword with 23 mentions. Finally, the keyword political ideology as the dominant word or most often referred to 22 times.

**Study Mapping**

The last data analysis and visualization is word loud to show words/topics that often appear in the study of political identity. By using the WordStat 8 tools where the data is limited to words that appear at least five times and are only sourced from abstract, it is found that the two most dominant words are political and identities. The World Cloud generated from Word Stat 8 is carried out through a stemming process, breaking sentences into one word. It can be seen in Figure 9 that two words have the most significant meaning and are the most frequently discussed. Political relates to the use of identity for political purposes. Meanwhile, identity shows that political expression is motivated by the desire...
to defend or defend the identity of an individual or group.

Figure 9. Word Cloud of Abstract Using WordStat 8 of Political Identity Studies from 2016-2021

The bibliometric analysis is intended to explain the development of a political identity by looking at the dominant topic. The study with the theme of political identity is very interesting for researchers because it reflects the problematic situation of democracy and world politics because it gives birth to exclusivity and division in society. Furthermore, this theme shows that identity is one of the political strategies used to maintain group existence and achieve political goals.

The United States is the country with the most authors in the study of political identity, which shows their reputation and excellence in democratic politics research. Although in terms of origin, the University does not come from the United States with the highest number of author publications, this shows a fairly even distribution among universities in the United States. The high interest of authors from the United States in this topic is because political identity shows the fragility of democracy, especially after the election of Donald Trump. He exploited white nationalism to be considered a serious threat to democracy in the United States and globally. Therefore, further research related to political identity needs to be done to identify the working pattern of identity mobilization in political life to be anticipated.

From the bibliometric analysis carried out, it can be seen that four keywords often appear as evidence of the main focus of many researchers. The first is a political identity. This keyword is most often discussed because it is the main reference in the study of political identity. This becomes the most central theme, so, naturally, it is often referred to. Second, identity, political identity is directly related to individual and group identities in political life. The choice of political action taken is based on a common identity or efforts to protect and defend one’s identity. Identity is the next most dominant keyword because it relates to the basis of political identity in which individuals or groups carry out a political identity based on their identity solidarity. Third, politics. This keyword becomes the next dominant reference because the expression of individual and group identity struggles is closely related to political life. The mapping carried out by political life, for example, it is closely related to making and implementing public policies and elections. Fourth is a political ideology. These keywords show that political identity is closely related to political ideology. One of the basic and biggest motivations for individuals or groups to carry out political identity is the political ideology they adopt. Political identity can work because it can adapt to the political ideology adopted by individuals or communities so that they are successful in mobilizing sympathy and gaining political support. For example, the victory of Anis Baswedan and Sandiaga Uno in the 2017 DKI Jakarta Elections is inseparable from the politics of Islamic identity that works by spreading anti-Islam sentiments (blasphemy Islam) to the Basuki Tjahaja Purnama (BTP)-Djarot Syaifulah Yusuf (Sihidi et al., 2020). As the incumbent pair, the two represent a regime that does not accommodate the interests of Muslims as the majority voter segment in DKI Jakarta. Therefore, coupled with the blasphemy incident by BTP, the anti-Islam sentiment grew stronger and succeeded in mobilizing sympathy and political support from the community, especially those propagated massively by conservative Islamic groups such as the Islamic Defenders Front (Front Pembela Islam/FPI) and Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia (HTI).

CONCLUSION

The study of political identity has attracted the attention of many authors because it relates to issues of global democracy, one of which gives rise to segregation and division. Political identity works based on internal group solidarity that political interests have systematically and massively exploited. Identity sentiment is one of the elite’s most widely used political strategies because it is quite efficient and effective in mobilizing support and votes for political interests. Feelings of excessive anxiety due to perceived threats and to maintain the group’s existence become the main narrative in the operationalization of political identity, which generally negatively impacts community solidarity as a nation and state.

This study shows that the keywords most frequently researched by the authors with the theme of political identity are Political Identity, Identity, Politics, and Political Ideology. This shows that the theme of political identity is closely related to the use of identity as the basis for one’s political actions. Political identity manifests the political ideology of individuals or communities in political life to maintain the continuity of self-existence amid pressure from other identities that are considered enemies. Political identity is the enemy of equality which is one of the main substances in democracy because it ignores
the fact of pluralism. Political identity is a serious challenge for the sustainability of democracy in the future, so real action is needed from state and non-state actors to take measured actions to minimize the work of political identity.

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