

Mapping Constitutional Law Studies Through Bibliometrics (2005–2024): Challenges and Opportunities

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Abstract:

This study seeks to explore and analyze constitutional law research published in the Scopus database over the past two decades, from 2005 to 2024. Using bibliometric analysis combined with VOSviewer software, it examines trends, patterns, and developments in the field during this time frame. The findings reveal that constitutional law studies published over the last two decades have yet to provide a comprehensive contribution. Based on these findings, the study highlights the need for constitutional law research that focuses on the adaptation and transformation of legal orientations in the era of globalization, both conceptually and in practical application. By addressing these processes, future challenges in constitutional law can be more effectively managed, paving the way for a more progressive legal system. The study underscores the importance of bold and forward-thinking constitutional law research that tackles fundamental issues and offers transformative solutions for the governance of national legal systems.

Introduction

Constitutional law plays a fundamental role in ensuring political stability and protecting citizens' rights amidst the dynamics of social change. Today, the field is undergoing significant shifts driven by globalization and digital transformation, which demand adaptation in both its regulations and implementation (Wardhani et al., 2022). This context has become increasingly relevant as Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia, face challenges in maintaining a balance between decentralization of power and central authority, which in turn impacts public engagement and governmental accountability (Fernando et al., 2023; Hidayat, 2024; Lindgren et al., 2024). These shifts introduce additional complexity, as changes in constitutional law within Southeast Asia can have far-reaching effects on socio-political structures and human rights protections (Batanov, 2023; Siburian, 2022). Thus, constitutional law must chart a new course in understanding and addressing emerging issues in the region. This study not only identifies trends, patterns, and gaps in constitutional law research but also explores the potential for developing new approaches to create a legal framework that is more responsive to the demands of a changing era and the needs of society.

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Constitutional law is a branch of legal studies that focuses on the structure, functions, and limitations of power within a state's governance framework (Rosenbloom & Gould, 2021; Tutik, 2018). As the foundation for organizing state governance, constitutional law is crucial in maintaining the balance between governmental authority and citizens' rights. It plays a key role in shaping stability and justice within government systems (Galuh et al., 2023; Jamaluddin, 2021; Tibaka & Rosdian, 2018). In line with this, Khosla & Vaishnav (2024) assert that constitutional law serves as an instrument to ensure accountability of power and to prevent abuses of authority. Consequently, constitutional law studies often emphasize principles such as constitutional governance, human rights, decentralization of power, and the functions of state institutions (Chandranegara, 2019; Fatmawati et al., 2021). These issues are frequently discussed because they lie at the core of power dynamics, influencing political stability and public trust in the legal system. Their significance is amplified by the ever-changing socio-political dynamics, which demand an adaptive legal response to maintain relevance and effectiveness.

Previous research on constitutional law has generally focused on three main aspects. First, studies examining the structure and functions of state institutions (Jetschke & Murray, 2020; Warburton & Aspinall, 2018; Yeh & Chang, 2017). Warburton & Aspinall (2018) emphasized that a comprehensive understanding of institutional structures is essential for ensuring accountability and efficiency in governance. Second, research focusing on human rights and the protection of citizens' rights (De Gregorio, 2019; Dressel & Bünte, 2014; Putra et al., 2019). De Gregorio (2019) highlighted the need for constitutional law to strike a balance between governmental authority and the protection of individual rights, ensuring that such authority does not lead to harmful violations against society. Third, studies addressing decentralization and the relationships between central and local governments (Bintang et al., 2019; Butt, 2019; Yakub et al., 2020). Yakub et al. (2020) noted that while decentralization brings governance closer to the people, it also presents challenges in maintaining coordination and policy consistency between central and regional authorities.

Research on constitutional law has traditionally focused on three key aspects: the structure and functions of state institutions (Rudy et al., 2021), human rights (Susanti & Gumbira, 2023), and decentralization along with the relationship between central and local governments (Asmorojati et al., 2022). However, these studies have yet to comprehensively address how constitutional law can tackle emerging challenges arising from social changes, such as globalization, digitalization, and increasing demands for public participation in governance. This narrow approach has hindered constitutional law from effectively adapting to the complex issues of the modern era, particularly in Southeast Asia, where the socio-political context is uniquely dynamic. To bridge this gap, this study aims to comprehensively map trends in constitutional law research and identify relevant challenges and opportunities

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to better respond to these dynamics. The study is guided by two main questions. First, what are the directions and tendencies of constitutional law research in responding to evolving socio-political changes? Second, what opportunities can be developed to strengthen the role of constitutional law in addressing global and regional challenges in the future?

Studies on constitutional law in Southeast Asia from 2005 to 2025 reveal a growing complexity arising from various social and political changes, including decentralization, public participation, and the influence of globalization. These shifts demand adjustments to the existing legal frameworks. To evaluate and analyze constitutional law research, this study employs bibliometric analysis based on articles published in the Scopus database. This approach is instrumental in identifying trends, patterns, and gaps in constitutional law research within the Southeast Asian region. The study builds on the argument that constitutional law research in Southeast Asia over the past two decades has increasingly focused on diverse local issues. However, these studies have yet to comprehensively address the broader challenges posed by significant social and political transformations. While constitutional law research in Southeast Asia has made progress, it still falls short of fully responding to the complexities of contemporary issues in a holistic manner.

Method

This study adopts a descriptive qualitative approach utilizing bibliometric analysis. Bibliometric analysis is a method used to describe and analyze large volumes of scientific data, enabling the identification and evaluation of trends, challenges, and developments within a specific field (Fernando et al., 2024). Agha et al. (2024) further explain that bibliometric analysis can be employed to map and unravel cumulative scientific knowledge, allowing for a comprehensive observation and analysis of trends, challenges, and opportunities in a given research area. In other words, studies based on bibliometric analysis provide recommendations and a solid foundation for evaluating non-progressive fields of study, identifying knowledge gaps, generating new ideas, and offering normative and progressive recommendations for the advancement of specific disciplines. This context forms the basis for this study's use of bibliometric analysis to examine and analyze the challenges and opportunities in constitutional law research, as reflected in Scopus-based publications over the past two decades.

The search and analysis process was conducted using the keyword "State Administrative Law" in the Scopus database, which resulted in 7,939 documents. From these 7,939 documents, a limiting process was applied using the following search criteria: TITLE-ABS-KEY (constitutional AND law) AND PUBYEAR > 2003 AND PUBYEAR < 2025 AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "SOCI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "ARTS")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE, "final")) AND (LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "United States") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY,

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"Russian Federation") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Spain") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "United Kingdom") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Italy") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Brazil") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Germany") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Ukraine") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Poland") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Indonesia")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English")) AND (LIMIT-TO (OA, "all")) (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Data Limitation Process in the Scopus Database.

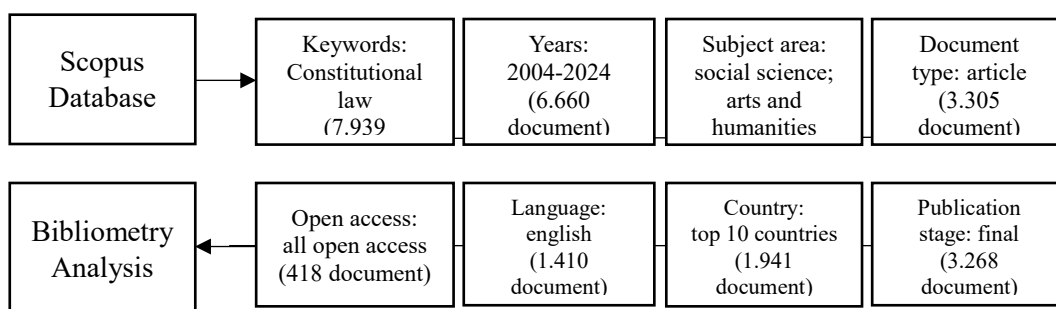


Figure 1 shows the data limitation process in the Scopus database, conducted to collect data related to studies on constitutional law. The collected data was then exported in RIS (Research Information Systems) and CSV (Comma Separated Values) formats based on the Scopus database. This exported data was subsequently analyzed using the VOSviewer application. In other words, the data described in this study represents the visualization of images, graphs, diagrams, and tables containing 10 study patterns, as well as categories of keyword entity clusters, based on the relevance of trends in constitutional law studies over the past two decades (2005-2024). This process and its stages allow for conclusions to be drawn from the exploration and evaluation of the challenges and opportunities in constitutional law studies over the past two decades, based on publication documents in the Scopus database from 2005 to 2024.

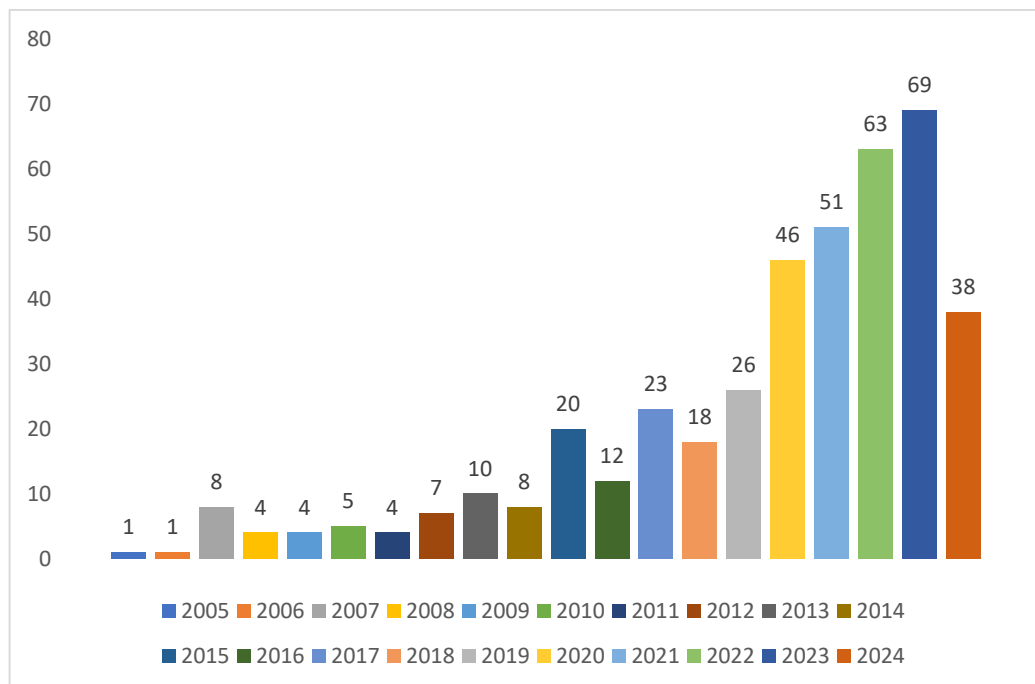
Results and Discussion

The discussion of constitutional law issues published in the Scopus database from 2005 to 2024 is crucial to explain and analyze, in order to evaluate the challenges and opportunities for constitutional law studies amid the rapid changes in the legal system during the globalization era. The trends and developments of constitutional law studies published in the Scopus database can be observed through the findings and discussions presented below.

Trends in the Publication of Constitutional Law Studies from 2005-2024

The trends in the publication of constitutional law studies that emerged and developed over the past two decades can be explained and analyzed through publication documents in the Scopus database from 2005 to 2024. These publication trends can also be observed in Figure 2, Figure 3, and Figure 4.

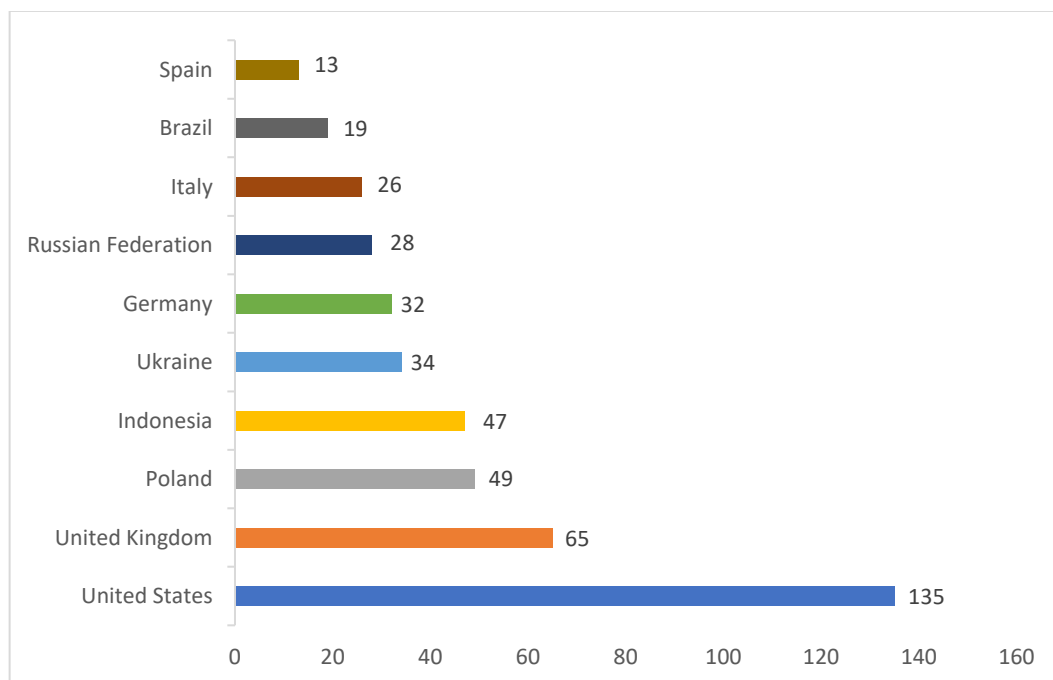
Figure 2. Publication Documents of Constitutional Law Studies by Year



Source: Scopus Database (2024).

Figure 2 is a diagram showing the annual publication of constitutional law studies, based on the search results from the Scopus database with a total of 418 documents from 2005 to 2024. In 2005, there was 1 document; in 2006, 1 document; in 2007, 8 documents; in 2008, 4 documents; in 2009, 4 documents; in 2010, 5 documents; in 2011, 4 documents; in 2012, 7 documents; in 2013, 10 documents; in 2014, 8 documents; in 2015, 20 documents; in 2016, 12 documents; in 2017, 23 documents; in 2018, 18 documents; in 2019, 26 documents; in 2020, 46 documents; in 2021, 51 documents; in 2022, 63 documents; in 2023, 69 documents; and in 2024, 38 documents. The data from 2005-2024 reveals three key trends in constitutional law studies published in the Scopus database. First, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 were the years with the highest publication trends. Second, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 were years with a moderate publication trend. Third, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2014 were years with the lowest publication trends.

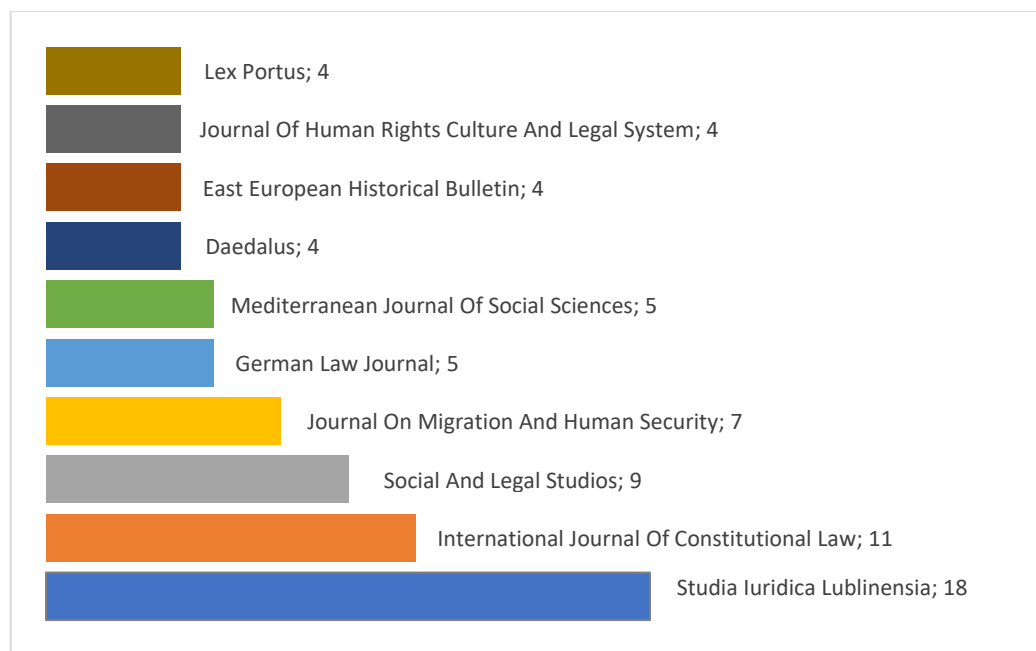
Figure 3. Distribution of Countries of Authors in Constitutional Law Studies



Source: Scopus Database (2024).

Figure 3 is a diagram showing the 10 countries with the most consistent authors of constitutional law studies, based on the search results from the Scopus database with a total of 448 documents from 2005 to 2024. The United States has 135 published documents, the United Kingdom has 65 published documents, Poland has 49 published documents, Indonesia has 47 published documents, Ukraine has 34 published documents, Germany has 32 published documents, the Russian Federation has 28 published documents, Italy has 26 published documents, Brazil has 19 published documents, and Spain has 13 published documents. From these 10 countries with consistent authorship of constitutional law studies on the Scopus database, three key trends can also be observed. First, the United States, United Kingdom, and Poland are the countries with the highest number of authors. Second, Indonesia, Ukraine, and Germany are countries with a moderately high number of authors. Third, the Russian Federation, Italy, Brazil, and Spain are countries with the lowest number of authors.

Figure 4. Sources that publish studies on constitutional law



Sumber: Scopus Database (2024)

Figure 4 is a diagram showing the 10 sources that published the most constitutional law studies, based on the search results from the Scopus database with a total of 71 documents from 2005 to 2024. The *Studia Iuridica Lublinensia* journal has 18 published documents, the *International Journal of Constitutional Law* has 11 published documents, the *Social and Legal Studies* journal has 9 published documents, the *Journal on Migration and Human Security* has 7 published documents, the *German Law Journal* has 5 published documents, the *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences* has 5 published documents, the *Daedalus* journal has 4 published documents, the *East European Historical Bulletin* journal has 4 published documents, the *Journal of Human Rights Culture and Legal System* has 4 published documents, and the *Lex Portus* journal has 4 published documents. From these 10 sources that have consistently published constitutional law studies in the Scopus database, three key trends can also be observed. First, *Studia Iuridica Lublinensia*, *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, and *Social and Legal Studies* are the sources with the most publications. Second, *Journal on Migration and Human Security*, *German Law Journal*, and *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences* are sources with a moderately high number of publications. Third, *Daedalus*, *East European Historical Bulletin*, *Journal of Human Rights Culture and Legal System*, and *Lex Portus* are sources with the least publications.

The Development of Constitutional Law Studies in the Last Two Decades

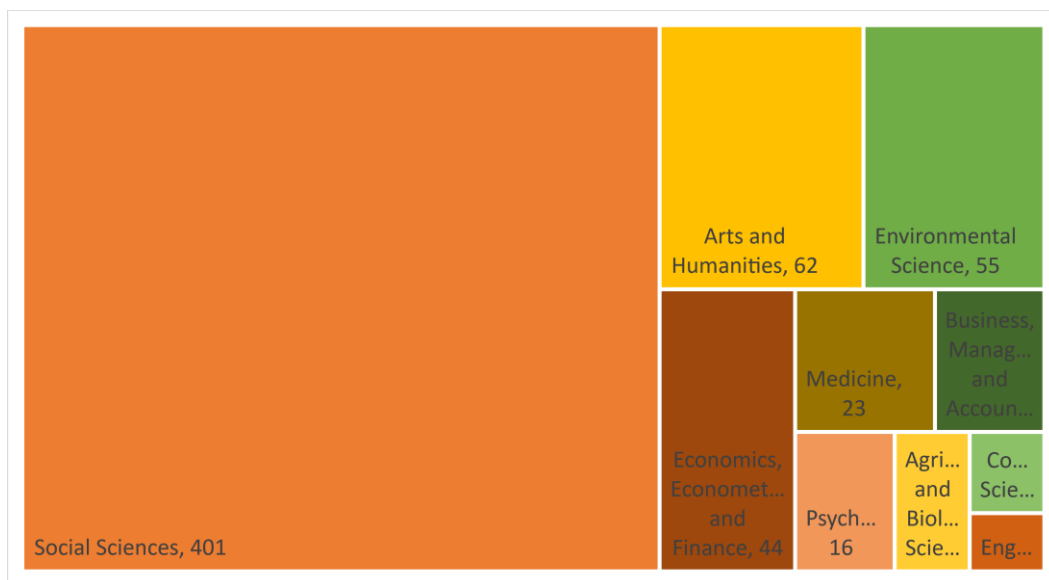
The development of constitutional law studies in the last two decades can be explained and analyzed through publications from the Scopus database from 2005-2024, based on subject areas, keyword entity patterns, and the most cited studies. The development of constitutional law studies over the past two

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decades, based on publications from the Scopus database from 2005-2024, can also be seen in Figure 5, Figure 6, and Table 1.

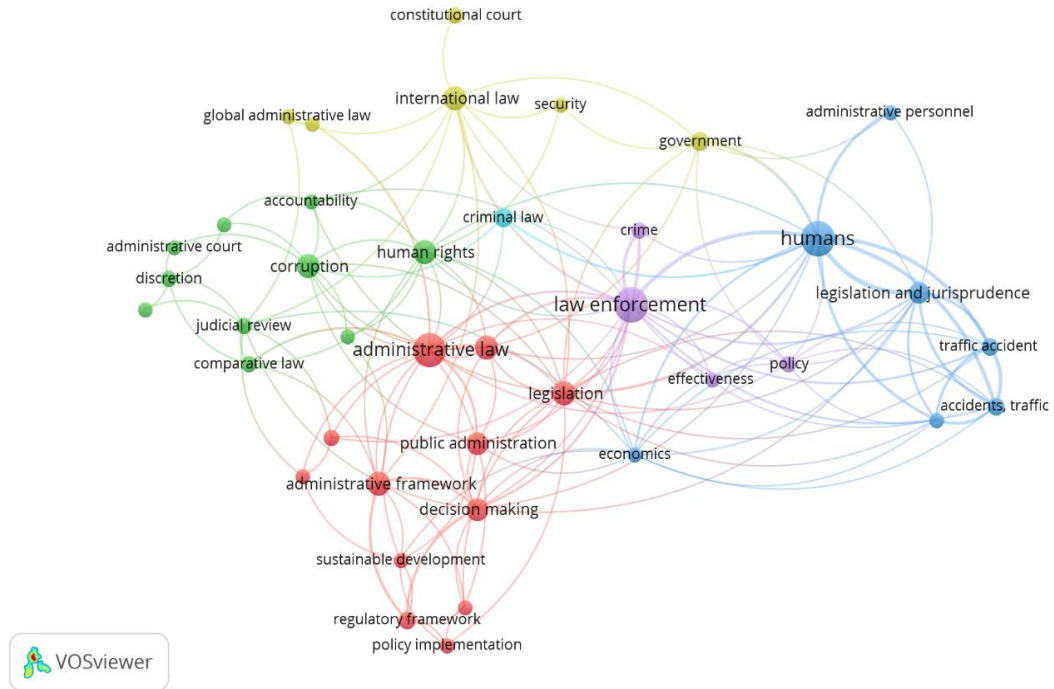
Figure 5. The subject areas of constitutional law studies in the last two decades



Source: Scopus Database (2024).

Figure 5 is a treemap showing the 10 subject areas most commonly used in constitutional law studies, based on search results from the Scopus database with a total of 643 documents from 2005-2024. The subject area "Social Sciences" has 401 published documents, "Arts and Humanities" with 62 documents, "Environmental Science" with 55 documents, "Economics, Econometrics, and Finance" with 44 documents, "Medicine" with 23 documents, "Business, Management, and Accounting" with 18 documents, "Psychology" with 16 documents, "Agricultural and Biological Sciences" with 12 documents, "Computer Science" with 7 documents, and "Engineering" with 5 documents. From these 10 subject areas, three important trends can be observed. First, the subject areas "Social Sciences," "Arts and Humanities," and "Environmental Science" are the most frequent. Second, "Economics, Econometrics, and Finance," "Medicine," "Business, Management, and Accounting" are fairly common. Third, "Psychology," "Agricultural and Biological Sciences," "Computer Science," and "Engineering" are the least common subject areas.

Figure 7. Network Visualization of constitutional law studies



Source: Scopus Database (2024).

Figure 7 shows the keyword entity patterns based on the network visualization of constitutional law studies, based on the search results from the Scopus database with 40 items. From Figure 7, six dominant clusters emerge in the constitutional law studies. First, the red cluster with 12 items: administrative courts; administrative frameworks; administrative law; administrative procedures; decision making; land management; law; legislation; policy implementation; public administration; regulatory framework; sustainable development. Second, the green cluster with 10 items: accountability; administrative court; administrative justice; comparative law; corruption; discretion; education; governance; human rights; judicial review. Third, the dark blue cluster with 7 items: accidents, traffic; administrative personnel; economics; humans; legislation and jurisprudence; prevention and control; traffic accident. Fourth, the yellow cluster with 6 items: constitutional court; global administrative law; legal pluralism; security. Fifth, the purple cluster with 4 items: crime; effectiveness; law enforcement; policy. Sixth, the light blue cluster with 1 item: criminal law.

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Table 1. The most cited studies on constitutional law

Title	Authors	Focus	Source	Year	Citation
The heterogeneous state and legal pluralism in Mozambique	De Santos, B.S.	Pluralism in constitutional law.	Law and Society Review	2006	167
Chevronizing foreign relations law	Posner, E.A., Sunstein, C.R.	Doctrine in constitutional law.	Yale Law Journal	2007	85
Unfulfilled Promises, Future Possibilities: The Refugee Resettlement System in the United States	Brown, A., Scribner, T.	Control in constitutional law.	Journal on Migration and Human Security	2014	76
Nudging legally: On the checks and balances of behavioral regulation	Alemanno, A., Spina, A.	Implementation in constitutional law.	International Journal of Constitutional Law	2014	74
Reluctant nationalists: Federal administration and administrative law in the republican era, 1801-1829	Mashaw, J.L.	Accountability in constitutional law.	Yale Law Journal	2007	66
Understanding environmental models in their legal and regulatory context	Fisher, E., Pascual, P., Wagner, W.	Evaluation of constitutional law.	Journal of Environmental Law	2010	53
National constitutional courts in the European constitutional democracy	Komárek, J.	Transformation of constitutional law.	International Journal of Constitutional Law	2014	51
Opening Pandora's box: Some reflections on the constitutional effects of the	Spaventa, E.	Doctrine in constitutional law.	European Constitutional Law Review	2007	48

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decision in Pupino Administration and the democracy: Administrative law from Jackson to Lincoln, 1829-1861	Mashaw, J.L.	Ideology in constitutional law.	Yale Law Journal	2008	45
Populism and constitutional tension	Walker, N.	Challenges in constitutional law.	International Journal of Constitutional Law	2019	43

Source: Database Scopus (2024).

Table 1 presents the most cited studies on constitutional law publications in the Scopus database from 2005 to 2024. The table highlights the 10 main areas of focus in the most cited constitutional law studies during this period. First, studies that focus on pluralism in constitutional law, such as de Sousa Santos' work from 2006, are highly cited. Second, studies exploring doctrine in constitutional law, including the works of Posner and Sunstein in 2007, are also among the most cited. Third, studies addressing control in constitutional law, such as the research by Brown and Scribner in 2014, make up another significant portion of highly cited publications. Fourth, studies examining the implementation of constitutional law, such as Alemanno and Spina's work from 2014, are frequently referenced. Fifth, studies centered on accountability in constitutional law, including Mashaw's 2007 study, are well-cited as well. Sixth, studies that focus on the evaluation of constitutional law, like those by Fisher et al. in 2010, are also widely cited. Seventh, works that analyze the transformation of constitutional law, such as Komarek's 2014 study, appear frequently in citations. Eighth, studies on doctrine in constitutional law, including Spaventa's 2007 work, are another key area of focus. Ninth, studies that explore ideology in constitutional law, such as Mashaw's 2008 publication, are also notable in citation frequency. Finally, studies addressing the challenges within constitutional law, such as Walker's 2019 research, round out the top ten most cited studies in this field.

Evaluating the Challenges and Opportunities of Constitutional Law Studies

The findings of this study show that constitutional law studies published in the last two decades (2005-2024) have experienced fluctuations. From the exploration of 7,939 documents in the Scopus database, the United States, United Kingdom, and Poland emerged as the countries with the most authors publishing constitutional law studies. Journals such as **Studia Iuridica Lublinensia**, **International Journal Of Constitutional Law**, and **Jurnal Social And Legal Studios** have been the most consistent sources for publishing constitutional law studies. The research trends in constitutional law studies, which have fluctuated over the past two decades, undoubtedly

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bring fundamental implications and challenges to constitutional law, both conceptually and in its implementation. In this context, Fernando et al. (2024) suggest that this can be reflected in the keyword correlation patterns most frequently used in constitutional law studies over the past two decades, which tend to show stagnation in terms of themes and focus. Future constitutional law studies should accommodate contemporary issues in order to find legal breakthroughs to address constitutional problems in the era of globalization.

In the last two decades (2005-2024), constitutional law studies have not experienced significant development in terms of focus or themes. This context can be observed through three key domains that indicate the progress of constitutional law study trends in the last two decades. First, the subject areas of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and Environmental Science are the most frequently used. Second, the keyword entities commonly used in constitutional law studies include terms like administrative law, law enforcement, administrative court, and policy implementation. Third, studies that focus on themes such as doctrine, implementation, and accountability are the most frequently referenced in constitutional law research. Based on these three domains, it can be reflected that the opportunities for constitutional law studies have not been comprehensively explored, especially studies focusing on constitutional issues in the social media era, which have fundamentally altered the principles and implementation of constitutional law.

Constitutional law experiences complex dynamics in the era of globalization. This complexity reflects the changes and challenges arising from the rapid developments in social, political, and technological fields (Diksy & Triadi, 2024; Lismanto & Utama, 2020). Didik Suhariyanto et al. (2024) in their study also mention that the dynamics of constitutional law can be seen in how its principles are adapted to address new issues, such as the increasing demands for transparency, accountability, and human rights protection. Furthermore, the digitalization and globalization influence how the law is applied and understood in both domestic and international contexts (Abdillah et al., 2023; Daud & Zuhuda, 2018; Setiawan et al., 2024). For instance, the emergence of information technology brings new issues related to data privacy, cybersecurity, and the rapid spread of information (A.E. Isfihani et al., 2024; Marune & Hartanto, 2021). This demands constitutional law to continuously adapt and respond to the increasingly complex needs of society, amidst the threats of human rights violations and injustice (Martitah et al., 2023). Therefore, it is crucial for the legal system to not only uphold fundamental values such as the rule of law and the separation of powers but also strengthen the capacity of law enforcement institutions to effectively carry out their functions in facing the various challenges.

Studies discussing constitutional law issues in the last two decades (2005-2024) have not shown significant development in terms of concepts or implementation. Therefore, responding to constitutional law issues presents a complex challenge for the future. Pradhani (2021) emphasizes that constitutional law studies have tended to be descriptive and normative, thus

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requiring new, more comprehensive ideas to address or resolve constitutional law issues that have long-term implications for the governance of a country in the future. Porta et al. (2018) also state that constitutional law studies in the future must provide solutions or preferences in addressing constitutional issues both theoretically and practically in the era of globalization. Consequently, studies addressing constitutional law issues have the potential to provide practical contributions, becoming a solution to the empirical constitutional law problems arising in the globalization era.

In addition to highlighting fundamental challenges, constitutional law studies in the last two decades (2005-2025) also present potential opportunities to develop constitutional dialogues, particularly in responding to the changes in constitutional systems in the era of globalization. Studies focusing on the adaptation and transformation of constitutional law systems in the era of globalization are potential areas for development, considering that previous constitutional law studies tended to overlook the legal orientation in the context of globalization. Romeo (2020) also states that constitutional law studies in the future should not only be able to identify normative issues but also analyze the legal conditions in the globalization era with an interdisciplinary approach. By discussing the process of adaptation and transformation of constitutional law in the globalization era, future constitutional law issues can be effectively addressed, leading to the creation of a more progressive legal governance system in a country, based on the recommendations of radical constitutional law studies that explain and analyze fundamental issues.

Conclusion

The findings of this study highlight that the publication of constitutional law studies in the Scopus database over the last two decades (2005-2024) has revealed complex challenges and opportunities for the future. From the exploration of 7,939 documents in the Scopus database, the United States, United Kingdom, and Poland emerged as the countries with the most consistent authors in producing constitutional law studies. Journals such as *Studia Iuridica Lublinensia*, *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, and *Jurnal Social and Legal Studies* have been consistent sources for publishing constitutional law studies. The subject areas of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and Environmental Science were the most prevalent in constitutional law studies. From these trends and patterns, it can be reflected that constitutional law studies have not yet made comprehensive contributions. The results of this exploration and evaluation form the basis for this study's recommendation to emphasize constitutional law studies that analyze the adaptation and transformation of legal orientations in the globalization era, both conceptually and in terms of implementation.

The commitment of both academics and legal practitioners in manifesting the principles and orientations of constitutional law enforcement can significantly contribute to the governance of constitutional systems in a country, particularly in the context of policies and legal decisions in the

globalization era. For practitioners as stakeholders, constitutional law studies can serve as a reference in responding to and formulating progressive legal policies to improve the constitutional system in the future. For academics, constitutional law studies can also be a foundation or reference for identifying and providing academic formulas for constitutional dialogues over the last two decades, both empirically, methodologically, and theoretically. Thus, knowledge of the concepts and practices of constitutional law systems can be explored and evaluated comprehensively, so that constitutional issues can be explained and resolved effectively and efficiently across countries, especially in the globalization era.

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