Review

The trends in contemporary authoritarian leadership studies: A bibliometric data analysis

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Abstract: The study of authoritarian leadership has undergone significant development, with researchers exploring its different dimensions and consequences. This leadership style, characterized by a top-down approach and centralized decision-making authority, has been extensively examined in psychology, organizational behavior, and management literature. Scholars have delved into the effects of authoritarian leadership on various aspects of organizations such as employee satisfaction, motivation levels, productivity rates, turnover rates, and team dynamics. The research landscape surrounding authoritarian leadership has witnessed a recent surge in interest as scholars strive to understand its intricate connections with different variables. The primary objective of this study is to conduct a comprehensive bibliometric analysis on authoritarian leadership, aiming to identify the key research areas, influential authors, prominent journals in the field, and citation patterns. To our knowledge, no bibliometric analysis on authoritarian leadership can be found in the Scopus database, highlighting the novelty of our research. Through a source-based examination of scholarly articles and their citations pertaining to authoritarian leadership, this analysis offers valuable insights into the current state of research in this domain. By focusing on publications from the past decade onwards, we aim to uncover trends and potential gaps within existing literature while also providing guidance for future research endeavors. Our research findings will provide valuable insights into the phenomenon of authoritarian leadership, contributing to a deeper understanding of its implications. By delving into this topic, we hope to pave the way for future studies and investigations in this field that can build upon our findings and expand knowledge even further.

Keywords: authoritarian leadership; autocratic leadership; research trend; bibliometric analysis; bibliometric review

1. Introduction

Authoritarian leadership, commonly known as autocratic leadership, has been extensively studied and discussed in scholarly literature (Pizzolitto et al., 2023). Researchers have explored the impact of this particular style of leadership across different fields such as business, politics, and education (Pizzolitto et al., 2023). The main objective behind these studies is to delve deeper into the intricate dynamics between authoritarian leadership and its influence on organizational outcomes as well as employee performance. By examining these factors closely, researchers aim to gain a comprehensive understanding of the effects exerted by authoritarian leaders within various contexts.

While existing literature has produced contradictory findings on the effects of authoritarian leadership (Chiang et al., 2021), the theoretical underpinnings guiding these investigations are not explicitly articulated. Some studies posit detrimental

outcomes such as reduced employee satisfaction, diminished organizational citizenship behavior, and limited creativity (Hanaysha, 2023). Conversely, other research suggests positive effects on employee performance and job satisfaction (Liu et al., 2023). To provide a more robust theoretical context for our study, we aim to draw upon the trait theory of leadership as a theoretical framework for understanding authoritarian leadership. The trait theory of leadership posits that certain individuals possess innate qualities or characteristics that make them better suited for leadership roles, including determination, confidence, intelligence, and assertiveness (Stogdill, 1974).

The trait theory of leadership and authoritarian leadership can be connected through the identification and analysis of specific traits that are commonly associated with authoritarian leaders. Dominant traits, self-confidence, decisiveness, assertiveness, lack of agreeableness, and task orientation are characteristics often inherent in authoritarian leaders and are identified in trait theory as key leadership qualities (Bass and Stogdill, 1990; Northouse, 2021). Trait theory can be used as a lens to identify and evaluate the individual characteristics that might predispose someone to adopt an authoritarian style. However, it is important to note that trait theory has limitations and has evolved over time to include considerations of situational, relational, and contextual factors that also influence leadership styles and effectiveness (Kirkpatick and Locke, 1991). This comprehensive approach aims to bridge the theoretical underpinnings of the trait theory with the practical manifestations observed in authoritarian leadership, offering a nuanced perspective on the intricate relationship between individual traits and leadership styles.

To provide a more in-depth analysis of authoritarian leadership, this study aims to conduct a thorough examination of recent research articles through a comprehensive bibliometric approach. The objective is to identify emerging trends and patterns within scholarly publications concerning authoritarian leadership over the past decade. Our search within the Scopus database revealed that, to date, no researcher has conducted a bibliometric analysis on authoritarian leadership. Our research specifically focuses on identifying key themes and addressing any gaps or deficiencies in existing knowledge on this subject matter. Through the application of certain criteria, this investigation aims to contribute to shaping future research directions by formulating pertinent research questions that effectively address the identified knowledge gaps. This study seeks to explore trends and research directions by posing the following relevant research questions:

1) What is the number of publications on authoritarian leadership research?
2) Who are the most active authors in this field?
3) Who has the most cited article of authoritarian leadership research?
4) How do authoritarian leadership topics develop, as revealed by mapping from bibliometric analysis?
5) What are the implications of these findings for future research on authoritarian leadership?

2. Theoretical background

Leadership is crucial for organizational success and has been extensively

researched in the field of management. It is a process through which individuals influence and guide their followers toward achieving organizational goals. Leadership can take various forms, including authoritarian leadership (Northouse, 2021). Authoritarian leadership stems from a word root that means "to command" or "to enforce". This style is based on hierarchical power structures, where leaders exert control and make decisions without much input or participation from their subordinates (Farh and Cheng, 2000). It is often characterized by strict rules, clear directives, and top-down decision-making (Wang et al., 2013). While some scholars argue that authoritarian leadership can be effective in certain situations, such as times of crisis or when dealing with unskilled employees (Wang and Guan, 2018), others highlight the potential negative consequences, such as reduced employee satisfaction and motivation (Eissa et al., 2020).

Authoritarian leadership, also known as autocratic leadership, is a leadership style characterized by centralized decision-making and minimal input from subordinates. It reflects the belief that ultimate authority lies with the leader themselves (Du et al., 2020). The authoritarian leadership style, characterized by its resemblance to a dictatorship, entails the exercise of complete authority and the enforcement of stringent compliance from subordinates (Huang et al., 2023). This leadership approach entails firm control over decision-making processes, with leaders providing explicit directions and expecting unwavering obedience without room for consultation or questioning (Li et al., 2021). While frequently lauded for its effectiveness, particularly in crises or uncertain situations requiring swift and decisive action (Liu et al., 2023; Wang and Guan, 2018), the authoritarian leadership style is not without risks. Acknowledging the positive aspect of prompt decision-making, it is crucial to note that hastily taken decisions without proper consultation may exacerbate crises. The effectiveness of authoritarian leadership in crisis situations is contingent upon the appropriateness and careful consideration of decisions. Moreover, the authoritarian leadership style may impede creativity and innovation, as subordinates' contributions are seldom acknowledged (Du et al., 2020). This lack of recognition may extend to negative effects on morale and job satisfaction, limiting opportunities for autonomous decision-making and professional development (Hanaysha, 2023). The long-term sustainability and effectiveness of authoritarian leadership are subjects of debate, primarily due to its top-down approach, which may impede the development of a collaborative and inclusive organizational culture crucial in today's globalized and diverse work environments (Asim et al., 2021).

Authoritarian leadership, characterized by an emphasis on personal dominance, strong centralized authority, and strict control over subordinates, has been extensively studied in literature. Existing research reveals that authoritarian leadership yields adverse effects on various outcome variables, encompassing team interaction, organizational commitment, task performance, and extra-role performance (Chen et al., 2014; Cheng et al., 2004; Harms et al., 2018). The process of organizational change, which involves technical, structural, and conceptual innovation, necessitates employees to adjust their work routines and exceed their routine duties (Farahnak et al., 2020). In the context of organizational change, marked by inherent uncertainty, active employee support proves pivotal for successful implementation. However, under authoritarian leadership, employees exhibit reduced inclination toward

engaging in additional behaviors due to the diminished reciprocity between authoritarian leaders and their subordinates (Chen et al., 2014).

In addition to the above, authoritarian leadership is characterized by a leader exerting robust authority and control over subordinates, demanding unquestioned obedience (Cheng et al., 2004). When employing this leadership style, the leader possesses absolute control and decision-making power, with subordinates expected to simply comply with instructions (Li et al., 2021). Notably, authoritarian leaders tend to offer minimal support or positive feedback to their employees and considering leaders' behaviors as crucial indicators of organizational support (Huang et al., 2023), employees under authoritarian leadership may perceive diminished organizational support. In the context of our research objective to analyze authoritarian leadership within an organizational framework through bibliometric analysis, we aim to delve into the intricacies of how this leadership style manifests and evolves within organizational settings. This examination seeks to contribute valuable insights into the dynamics and implications of authoritarian leadership within the specific context of organizations.

3. Materials and method

Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative methodology that enables the examination of publications to identify significant patterns, prominent authors, and emerging themes within a specific field of study (Donthu et al., 2021). This method utilizes performance evaluation indicators and science mapping techniques to uncover intricate structures in scholarly literature (Blakeman, 2018). Our research aims to utilize bibliometric analysis in the context of authoritarian leadership to acquire an extensive comprehension of research trends. By doing so, we can better understand the implications these findings may have on future research directions as well as their practical applications across different contexts.

We aim to explore the development of authoritarian leadership, which appears to be less developed compared to other leadership styles. Our initial search in the Scopus database revealed 28 documents on bibliometric analysis related to transformational leadership, while servant leadership has 9 documents, authentic leadership has 7 documents, and ethical leadership has 6 documents. In contrast, there are currently no bibliometric analyses available for authoritarian leadership. This gap motivates our study's goal of conducting a certain literature review using bibliometric analysis for authoritarian leadership.

Our investigation is centered around terms associated with authoritarian leadership, including keywords with technical terms of TITLE-ABS-KEY ("authocratic leader*" OR "authoritarian leader*" OR "Totalitarian leader*" OR "Dictatorial leader*"). The initial phase of our research involves amassing a comprehensive collection of scholarly articles from esteemed academic journals that specifically delve into the topic of authoritarian leadership. We have accessed reputable source databases such as Scopus to collect relevant data for our study.

When conducting our bibliometric analysis, we opted to use the Scopus database as our primary source due to its extensive coverage and popularity among academic researchers. Various studies have indicated that in fields of study beyond medicine and

the physical sciences, Scopus provides more comprehensive access to sources compared to the Web of Science (Hallinger and Kovačević, 2019; Mongeon and Paul-Hus, 2016). Additionally, due to limitations accessing the Web of Science database, utilizing Scopus allows for more comprehensive access since it is the primary source available at our university. Furthermore, for the Scopus search conducted in this review, a wide range of document types were considered including journal articles, books, chapters, and conference papers, to ensure inclusivity.

Following the establishment of the database, bibliometric analysis software like VOSviewer will be employed for data examination and visualizations creation. These visual representations will aid in comprehending the composition and trends within studies on authoritarian leadership. The search strategy process will be visually illustrated in **Figure 1**, providing a comprehensive overview of the steps involved.
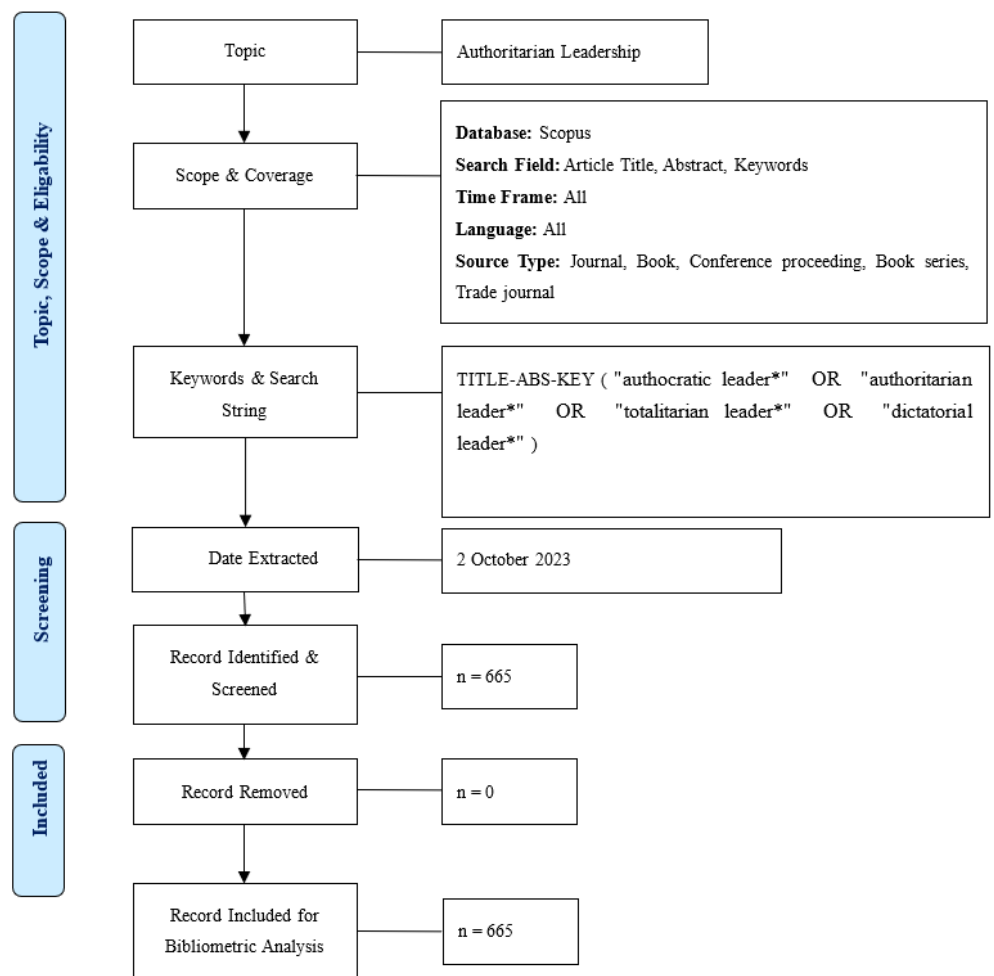

Figure 1. Flow diagram of the search strategy (Zakaria et al., 2021).

4. Results

We conducted a bibliometric analysis using the Scopus database, extracting the data in the form of a csv file. The collected data was then imported into VOSviewer software for comprehensive analysis and visualization. We use VOSviewer's "co-occurrence" with "all keywords" process to identify the author and index keywords that frequently appear in articles related to authoritarian leadership. Our analysis also

examining publications over time, identifying frequently cited articles, and highlighting top authors in the field of authoritarian leadership.

First, we retrieve the data from a reputable academic database and organize it according to the number of year-wise publications, as shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Number of publications.

Year	Documents	Year	Documents	Year	Documents
2023	49	2000	2	1977	1
2022	94	1999	4	1976	1
2021	65	1998	2	1975	1
2020	61	1997	4	1974	0
2019	59	1996	2	1973	2
2018	42	1995	2	1972	2
2017	34	1994	1	1971	1
2016	24	1993	0	1970	1
2015	32	1992	0	1969	2
2014	22	1991	0	1968	0
2013	28	1990	0	1967	0
2012	29	1989	0	1966	1
2011	15	1988	1	1965	0
2010	11	1987	0	1964	0
2009	10	1986	0	1963	0
2008	7	1985	1	1962	1
2007	15	1984	1	1961	0
2006	7	1983	1	1960	1
2005	11	1982	0	1959	1
2004	3	1981	3	1958	0
2003	2	1980	0	1957	1
2002	0	1979	0	1956	0
2001	3	1978	0	1955	2

Table 1 presents the bibliometric analysis findings obtained from the Scopus database, providing a comprehensive overview of publications related to authoritarian leadership. The data includes information on the number of publications in this field starting from 1955, which marks the first recorded publication in the Scopus database, up until recent publications in 2023 with total of 665 documents. This methodological approach allows for an in-depth examination and understanding of emerging research trends within this specific domain.

Research on authoritarian leadership has undergone significant development over the years. It initially emerged in 1955 (Shaw, 1955; Yuker, 1955) with only a few studies documented in the Scopus database. However, it wasn't until the late 2000s that research on authoritarian leadership began to gain substantial attention and recognition in the field of leadership studies. The exploration of authoritarian leadership can be traced back to early leadership models formulated by Kurt Lewin

and his team in the late 1930s (Lewin et al., 1939). Since then, there have been continuous efforts towards advancing this area of study, although progress remains relatively slow. Evidence of this gradual growth is evident when analyzing the number of documents dedicated to authoritarian leadership within the Scopus database. From its first recorded document in 1955 up until today, a total of merely 665 documents have been amassed. Nonetheless, an encouraging upward trend becomes apparent starting from the late 2000s onwards, suggesting promising advancements within this specific domain of research on authoritative leaders.

After collecting and analyzing data from the top 10 authors in the field of authoritarian leadership, we compiled our findings and presented them in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Top 10 authors.

Author	Documents	Topic	Highest topic field-weighted citation impact
Huang X	6	Leadership; Beneficence; Employee Voice	1.41
Bunce V	5	Authoritarian Regimes; Democracy; Autocracy	1.34
Gumusluoglu L	4	Ethical Leadership; Employee Voice; Organizational Citizenship Behavior	1.39
Karakitapoğlu-Aygün Z	4	Ethical Leadership; Employee Voice; Organizational Citizenship Behavior	1.39
Zhou M	4	Emotional Labour; Emotion; Service Employees	1.36
Chan SCH	3	Leader-Member Exchange; Transformational Leadership; Personnel	1.18
Cheng BS	3	Workplace; Spiritual Leadership; Organizational Citizenship Behavior	1.21
Chou WJ	3	Need Satisfaction; Self-Determination Theory; Physical Education	1.24
Hong JY	3	Secularization; Islam; Religious Indifference	1.35
Graham L	3	Leadership; Beneficence; Employee Voice	1.41

Table 2 presents a comprehensive overview of the top 10 authors who have made significant contributions to the field of authoritarian leadership. The data showcases the number of papers published by each author, highlighting variations in publication output among them. Although there is some disparity in the number of publications across different authors, it is worth noting that there seems to be a slower growth and development in research on authoritarian leadership over time.

Huang has the highest number of publications, indicating significant contribution to the field. However, the topic of the research primarily focuses on leadership in general. Huang's author position is mostly as second author, suggesting a secondary role in authoritarian leadership research and a broader focus on general leadership topics. On the other hand, Bunce's research directly pertains to authoritarian leadership. Most of the publications are by the first author, highlighting a more focused scope on authoritarian leadership compared to other authors in this field. Furthermore, the remaining authors mainly delve into organizational behavior of employees or other types of leadership such as ethical, transformational, and spiritual. This suggests that research on authoritarian leadership is still relatively limited in comparison.

Table 3 presents a compilation of the most highly cited articles within the field of authoritarian leadership. This citation analysis examines the number of times these articles have been cited, offering valuable insights into their influence within the research field. The table also includes information on the year of publication for each

article, giving a comprehensive understanding of its relevance and impact over time.

Table 3. Top 10 documents citations.

Document title	Authors	Year	Citations
Antecedents and outcomes of abusive supervision: Test of a trickle-down model	Aryee S, Sun LY, Chen ZX, Debrah YA	2007	618
Paternalistic leadership and subordinate responses: Establishing a leadership model in Chinese organizations	Cheng BS, Chou LF, Wu TY, Huang MP, Farh JL	2004	524
War and the survival of political leaders: A comparative study of regime types and political accountability	de Mesquita BB, Siverson RM	1995	451
Defeating authoritarian leaders in post-communist countries	Bunce VJ, Wolchik SL	2011	393
Remote control: How the media sustain authoritarian rule in China	Stockmann D, Gallagher ME	2011	309
Leadership behaviors and group creativity in Chinese organizations: The role of group processes	Zhang AY, Tsui AS, Wang DX	2011	212
Democratic diversions: Governmental structure and the externalization of domestic conflict	Gelpi C	1997	188
Subnational appointments in authoritarian regimes: Evidence from Russian gubernatorial appointments	Reuter OJ, Robertson GB	2012	186
The Janus face of paternalistic leaders: Authoritarianism, benevolence, subordinates' organization-based self-esteem, and performance	Chan SCH, Huang X, Snape E, Lam CK	2013	180
Uncertainty-Identity Theory: Extreme groups, radical behavior, and authoritarian leadership	Hogg MA, Adelman J	2013	177

The article by Aryee et al. have received a substantial number of citations in the Scopus database, indicating its notable impact and relevance within the field of authoritarian leadership. Our analysis of raw data from the Scopus database reveals that there is a need for a more comprehensive and thorough examination to uncover trends, patterns, and emerging research areas related to authoritarian leadership. This signifies the considerable impact and relevance their study has had on advancing our knowledge in this area. However, our analysis of raw data from Scopus merely scratches the surface of understanding trends, patterns, and emerging research areas within authoritarian leadership. A more comprehensive and nuanced analysis is needed to delve deeper into the content and underlying themes present within this dynamic field. While we are currently focused on gathering quantitative data on research output, it remains imperative to undertake further examination that will provide a richer comprehension of this subject matter.

5. Discussion

This section delves deeper into the findings of graphic visual mapping to illustrate the publication of studies on authoritarian leadership using bibliographic data. The study identified significant or distinctive terms in certain articles and mapped their co-occurrence based on keyword analysis. This mapping allows for an identification and understanding of the dynamics, dependencies, and interactions between different elements within this knowledge domain.

Based on **Figure 2** network analysis, three dominant node clusters have been identified in the field of authoritarian leadership which is "leadership", "authoritarianism", "authoritarian leadership", and "employee". These clusters represent distinct research themes and highlight the significance of leadership,

authoritarianism, authoritarian leadership, and employee as primary concepts within this field. Additionally, smaller clusters connecting to these main themes indicate specific subtopics that contribute to a deeper understanding of authoritarian leadership. These subtopics encompass areas such as examining the impact of authoritarian leadership on group cohesion, exploring the relationship between authoritarianism and followership, and investigating how situational determinants influence expressions of authoritarian leadership. The network analysis findings underscore the multidimensionality and complexity inherent in studying different facets of authoritative approaches to leadership.
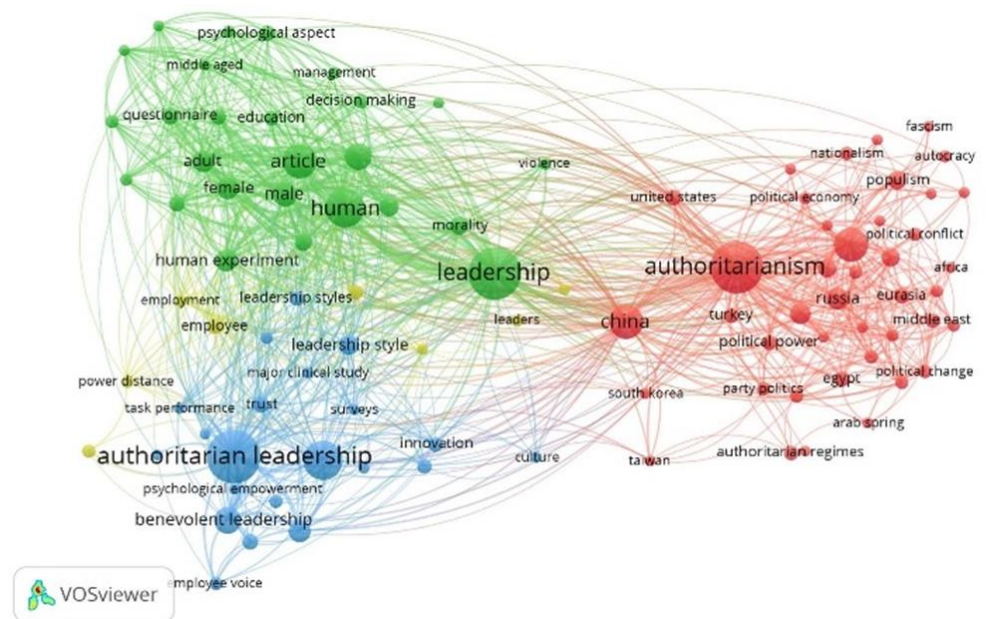

Figure 2. Network analysis (author's processed data).

A network analysis was conducted to identify clusters within the field of authoritarian leadership. The clusters were color-coded to represent different subfields or research areas. Cluster one, represented by red color, consisted of 42 items. Cluster two, represented by green color, included 26 items. Similarly, cluster three represented by blue color and comprised of 21 items. Lastly, cluster four was represented with yellow color and contained 8 items.

Cluster analysis in network visualization provides valuable insights into the interconnections of various themes or topics within a field. It enables us to gain an understanding of the overall structure and focal points of research in that area. The identification of significant clusters allows researchers to discern the main focus or dominant research theme within the field, such as authoritarian leadership. This signifies a substantial amount of scholarly interest and contribution towards comprehending this specific aspect of leadership. Conversely, smaller clusters indicate subtopics or niche areas that have garnered less attention or research activity, presenting opportunities for further exploration and development in these facets. **Table 4** showcases the frequency of keyword occurrences, arranged in descending order. It includes eight prominent items that are highlighted as follows.

The data collected from cluster 1 of the keyword occurrence analysis presents

intriguing findings, specifically highlighting concepts such as authoritarianism, democracy, populism, and democratization. This cluster also reveals a distinct focus on political contexts in countries like China and Russia, where non-democratic systems prevail. The prominence of these keywords suggests that research exploring the relationship between authoritarian leadership and political systems is actively taking place within the field. Additionally, this clustering underscores how scholars are examining authoritarian leadership in relation to processes aimed at promoting democratic governance.

Table 4. Cluster keyword occurrence.

Cluster with high occurrence			
Cluster 1	**Cluster 2**	**Cluster 3**	**Cluster 4**
authoritarianism	leadership	authoritarian leadership	employee
China	human	paternalistic leadership	psychology
democracy	article	benevolent leadership	employee creativity
Russia	humans	moral leadership	employment
democratization	male	leadership style	leaders
populism	adult	creativity	power distance
Russian federation	female	trust	authoritarian
election	human experiment	human resource management	autocratic leadership

Cluster 2 is characterized by keywords such as leadership, human, article, humans, male, adult, female, and human experiment. These keywords highlight the focus of Cluster 2 on exploring the relationship between authoritarian leadership and various human characteristics and behaviors. The cluster examines authoritarian leadership through empirical studies and experiments involving human participants to gain insights into its effects on different demographics such as males and females in order to understand their perspectives better.

Cluster 3 is comprised of keywords such as authoritarian leadership, paternalistic leadership, benevolent leadership, moral leadership, leadership style, creativity, trust and human resource management. These keywords exemplify the research focus within Cluster 3 which delves into various forms of authoritarian leadership and their impacts on different facets of organizational behavior including trust-building processes, user initiatives in fostering creativity, and effective management of human resources. Furthermore, the cluster illustrates how authoritarian approaches can intertwine with other styles of leadership, such as paternalistic and benevolent methods, in order to yield insightful outcomes.

Cluster 4 encompasses various keywords such as employee, psychology, employee creativity, employment, leaders, power distance, and authoritarian leadership. This cluster focuses on examining how research conceptualizes authoritarian leadership within the context of employee dynamics and psychology. It delves into a broader understanding of the impact of authoritarian leadership on employee behavior and outcomes, including their creativity and power dynamics within the organization.

We are also present in **Table 5** the low weight Links in each cluster to provide a

comprehensive overview of the various clusters and their respective focus areas in the study of authoritarian leadership. Weight Links refers to the count of connections that each item has within the cluster. Items with a low "weight Links" value are typically seen as less central or influential in the overall cluster, compared to those with higher "weight Links" values. This measure can help identify key or influential items within the cluster and is often represented as smaller nodes in network visualizations to reflect their importance.

The low weight Links in each cluster provide additional insight into the specific topics and research areas within the study of authoritarian leadership. Each cluster provides a unique perspective and focus on the study of authoritarian leadership, ranging from its relationship with human characteristics and behaviors to its impact on organizational behavior and employee dynamics. **Table 5** shows some results of keywords that can be an alternative way to understand the focus areas and themes within each cluster as an opportunity for future research and exploration.

Table 5. Top 8 cluster keyword for the low weight Links value.

Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4
fascism	social psychology	servant leadership	leaders
social movements	management	behavioral research	employee creativity
authoritarian regime	violence	employee voice	authoritarian
Arab spring	organization and management	power distance orientation	power distance
historical perspective	questionnaires	culture	autocratic leadership
autocracy	middle aged	psychological empowerment	employment
authoritarian regimes	organizational culture	leadership styles	psychology
dictatorship	personnel management	creativity	employee

Furthermore, our research includes an overlay visualization of co-occurring keywords in **Figure 3**. This visual representation offers valuable insights into the interconnectedness and interrelations between different clusters and topics within the study of authoritarian leadership. The overlay visualization presents a distinct perspective from network analysis by highlighting the relationships and intersections among various aspects of authoritarian leadership research based on their average publication year. Each node is assigned a different color to indicate when the corresponding research was conducted. By examining this representation, we can gain comprehensive understanding regarding the evolution and progression of studies on authoritarian leadership over time as well as identify which specific topics have received more extensive scholarly attention in recent years.

Figure 3 presents an illustration related to authoritarian leadership, showcasing the progression of topics over time based on the average publication years. The graph displays a range of colors that correspond to different periods, with dark purple representing publications from around 2010 and yellow indicating more recent works up until 2023. This color gradient signifies the prominence of keywords in contributing to our collective knowledge and understanding of authoritarian leadership at specific points in time.

The changing color in the visualization represents the average of keywords

publication when it substantially contributes to our understanding of authoritarian leadership. The node size, along with specific color marks, reflects the level of research dedication to certain topics within recent years. By overlaying co-occurring keywords in **Figure 3**, we can observe how research on authoritarian leadership has evolved and developed over time, providing a visual depiction of trends and areas that have garnered attention in this field. These interconnected clusters and subtopics formed by each keyword indicate the interdependencies and interconnectedness inherent in studying authoritarian leadership.
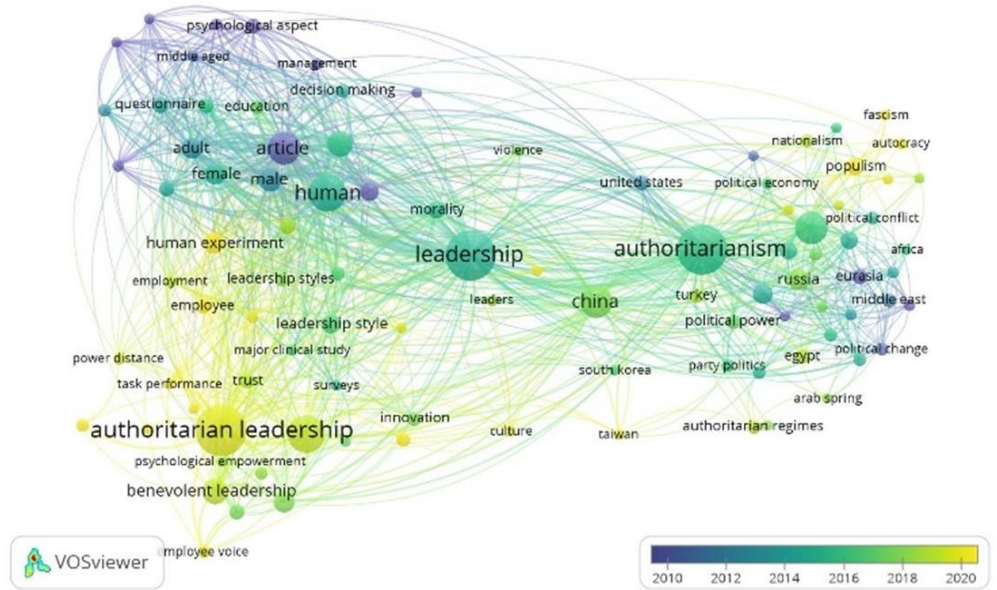

Figure 3. Overlay visualization of average publication year (author's processed data).

An additional visualization using VOSviewer is the density visualization. This mapping technique allows us to examine how the weight occurrence of keywords contributes to the distribution of density within the network. By identifying key areas of research and prominent themes and topics in the study of authoritarian leadership, we can gain insights into their significance. The density visualization provides a representation of both frequency and concentration levels for specific keywords across the entire network. Areas that display higher densities indicate increased frequencies and concentrations of relevant keywords within those particular regions.

The density visualization in **Figure 4** illustrates a significant concentration of keywords associated with authoritarian leadership. This indicates that certain topics within the field have received greater attention and focus, resulting in stronger interconnections and dependencies among them. The density of these keywords serves as an indicator of research activity and the perceived importance attributed to each specific topic. The heavy yellow color concentration around the keywords "leadership," "authoritarian leadership," "authoritarianism," and "human" suggests that these topics have been extensively researched in the study of authoritarian leadership. The prevalence of the keyword "authoritarianism" indicates a focus on political research, particularly in exploring the relationship between authoritarian leadership and different political systems or ideologies. In contrast, other prominent keywords such

as "leadership," "human," and "authoritarian leadership" seem to be associated with discussions about human behavior, psychology, and organizational dynamics within the context of organizational leadership. Conversely, lower keyword densities suggest comparatively less emphasis or fewer research efforts devoted to those particular areas within the realm of authoritarian leadership. We can observe keywords with lower density at the outer edges, indicating that these topics may have received less exploration or priority in the study of authoritarian leadership. This suggests potential areas for further research and investigation.
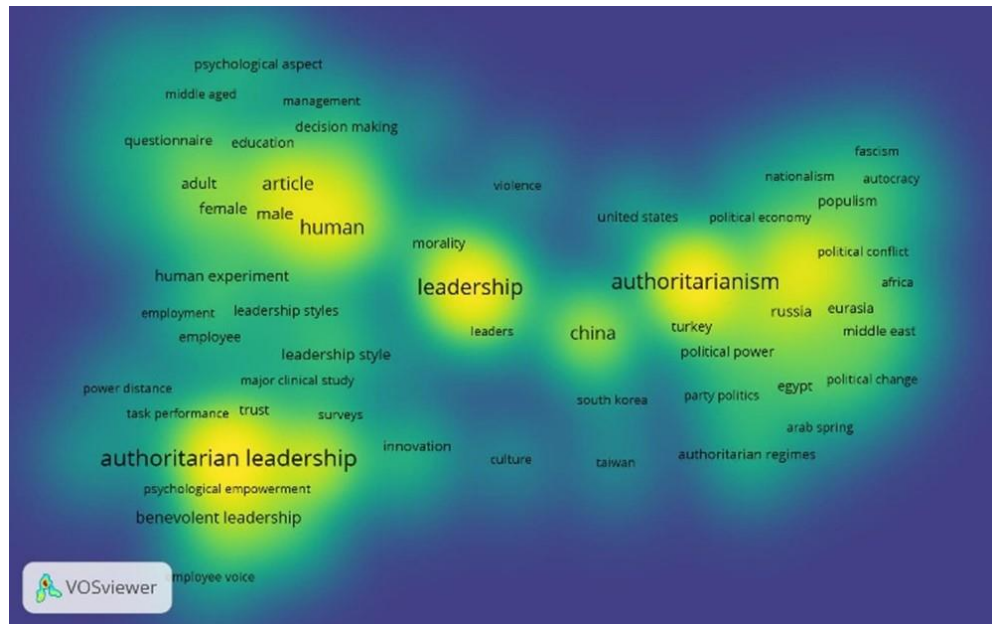

Figure 4. Density visualization of authoritarian leadership publication (author's processed data).

6. Conclusion

Over the past decade, there has been a surge in research on authoritarian leadership, with numerous studies conducted between 2012 and 2023. While the initial research on authoritarian leadership dates back to 1955, our data set reveals a recent surge in interest and recognition of its impact and implications. The number of publications related to authoritarian leadership remained relatively low until the early 2000s, with only around 7 to 15 publications scattered throughout the year. However, starting in 2012, there was a significant increase in research output, with over 20 publications per year. As of our search conducted on Scopus database using bibliometric analysis methods, we found a total of 665 publications on this topic by the year 2023. This indicates an expanding body of literature exploring the various aspects and consequences associated with authoritarian leadership.

The analysis of author activity reveals that Huang is the most prolific researcher in the field of authoritarian leadership, having published 6 documents. Bunce closely follows with 5 documents and Gumusluoglu with 4 documents. In terms of citation impact, the most influential article on this topic is titled "Antecedents and outcomes of abusive supervision: Test of a trickle-down model" by Aryee et al. which has accumulated an impressive count of 618 citations. The substantial growth in

publications related to authoritarian leadership indicates widespread recognition and significance attributed to studying this leadership style within academic circles.

In conclusion, this study provides valuable insights into the complex nature of authoritarian leadership and its effects on employees and organizations. The research in this field has shown significant progress with a growing number of publications by emerging scholars who contribute to our understanding. Despite its slower start, there is now increased recognition of the relevance and importance of studying authoritarian leadership to comprehend organizational dynamics and employee behaviors. While authoritarian leadership may not align with contemporary theories and practices, it remains crucial for managers to understand its impact in order to effectively manage and mitigate potential negative consequences.

In addition, future studies could delve into the temporal evolution of research, tracking how the focus on authoritarian leadership has evolved over time. Exploring different cultural contexts, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and conducting long-term investigations can provide a more comprehensive understanding. Comparative analyses with other leadership styles, examination of ethical considerations, and the development of practical guidelines for managers represent promising avenues.

7. Implications

The findings of this bibliometric analysis on authoritarian leadership have practical implications for practitioners, managers, officials, and industries. With the hope that practitioners can gain insights into key themes, influential authors, and emerging trends, the analysis aims to inform leadership strategies within organizations. Managers responsible for decision-making and leadership development can strategically use this research by aligning leadership strategies with evidence-based practices, drawing from the identification of influential publications and active researchers. For example, a middle manager seeking to enhance team dynamics can incorporate proven leadership principles into their approach based on insights from this analysis. Organizations and industries, when benchmarking their leadership practices, can assess their alignment with academic standards using the analysis. Identifying the most-cited articles and influential authors is intended to serve as a benchmark for evaluating the effectiveness of current leadership strategies, particularly during periods of organizational restructuring or when aiming to enhance leadership effectiveness within specific industries.

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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