

MAPPING THE NEXUS BETWEEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF GLOBAL RESEARCH TRENDS (2016–2025)

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Abstract

This phenomenon indicates that entrepreneurship can no longer be understood merely as an individual economic activity but rather as a practice embedded in diverse legal and institutional configurations across countries. This research uses a quantitative approach through bibliometric analysis with the bibliographic coupling method, utilizing VOSviewer software to map the intellectual connections between documents, authors, journal sources, organizations, and countries based on the similarity of references used. The analysis results indicate that the structure of the literature is dominated by an institutional approach that positions law as a factor that simultaneously limits and facilitates entrepreneurship, with certain works serving as key conceptual nodes in the global research network. Furthermore, the findings reveal a concentration of knowledge production in certain countries and institutions, particularly in Western Europe and North America, reflecting geographical disparities in the development of entrepreneurship theory and policy. The analysis of journal sources also shows epistemic fragmentation between entrepreneurship studies and law, where interdisciplinary integration is still relatively limited. Overall, the results of this study affirm that the relationship between entrepreneurship and the legal framework forms a field of study that is institutional, contextual, and dynamic and opens up space for future research development that is more critical, polycentric, and interdisciplinary in responding to global economic and regulatory changes.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Legal Frameworks, Bibliometric Coupling, Institutional Theory.

1. INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is one of the main engines of global economic development due to its ability to create added value through innovation (Nuraeni, 2022). job creation, and the enhancement of national competitiveness. In the context of an increasingly complex and digitized modern economy, entrepreneurship is not only seen as an economic activity but also as a social phenomenon involving the transformation of societal values and behaviors. The success of the economic system largely depends on the capacity of individuals and institutions to create an environment that encourages creativity and the courage to take risks within clear legal boundaries. A stable and inclusive legal framework becomes an important element for that dynamic because it provides certainty and protection for entrepreneurs. To understand this relationship, it is important to examine how institutions and legal frameworks interact with the entrepreneurial process in various economic contexts.

The legal framework is not just a system of rules that governs economic behavior but also a container that determines the space for innovation and the creation of new value (Syahputra & Armadi, 2024). Adaptive regulations can function as catalysts, whereas rigid regulations have the potential to stifle entrepreneurs' creativity. In recent years, more and more countries have adjusted their economic policies to align with sustainable development goals and digital transformation. The legal perspective that positions laws as a space of opportunity for entrepreneurs shows that legal norms do not merely control but also facilitate productive economic interactions.

Recent data shows that the level of global entrepreneurial activity varies significantly based on institutional quality and national legal frameworks (Aysi, 2020). Based on the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) report, there are more than 582 million active entrepreneurs worldwide in 2024, with an annual growth rate of around 5.4%. However, only 37% of the total participating countries have specific legal instruments to support a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem. These figures affirm that disparities in policy design and regulatory effectiveness directly impact a country's economic performance. This fact reinforces the need to map the interconnections between legal dimensions and entrepreneurship in order to identify emerging research patterns and trends globally.

In the context of sustainable development, entrepreneurship is often positioned as a strategic instrument to address social and environmental issues through value-based innovation (Nasila & Napu, 2024). The development of the concept of social entrepreneurship shows that the integration of economic and social goals can be a long-term strategy that strengthens economic resilience. Legality and governance play an important role in ensuring the sustainability of social business models that are developing in various countries. Therefore, it is relevant to trace how shifts in international regulations influence the direction of cross-border entrepreneurship research and practices.

Efforts to strengthen entrepreneurship governance in many developing countries still face challenges in the form of policy inconsistencies (Ana Mayasari, Harjono, H., Putri Maha Dewi, 2025). The weakness of law enforcement, as well as the lack of protection for new innovations. The varying quality of institutions leads to differences in access to financing, licensing procedures, and intellectual property protection. Recent studies emphasize that the success of modern economic development heavily depends on the legal system's ability to create a conducive environment for productive entrepreneurship. In that framework, bibliometric mapping becomes an important tool for understanding the dynamics and direction of scientific studies related to the interaction between law and entrepreneurship at the global level.

The bibliometric approach makes a significant contribution in identifying knowledge networks and patterns of scientific collaboration (Fadillah, 2025). This study explores thematic developments that occur at the intersection of legal studies

and entrepreneurship. Through bibliographic coupling analysis, the conceptual relationships between authors and institutions researching similar topics in various parts of the world can be revealed. The use of databases such as Dimensions and visual analysis tools like VOSviewer enables comprehensive mapping of global research trends regarding the relationship between legal frameworks and entrepreneurial practices. Thus, this systematic exploration paves the way for a deeper examination of how the integration of law and entrepreneurship shapes future policy and research directions.

2. METHODOLOGY

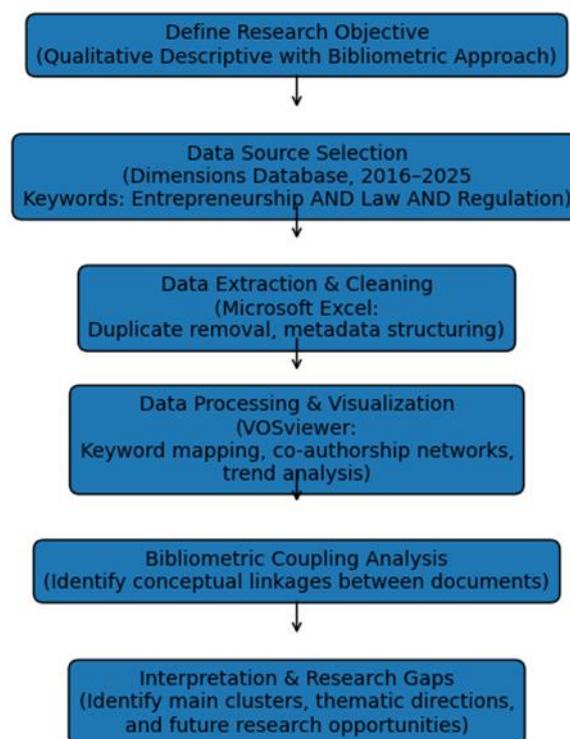
This research method uses a descriptive qualitative approach with bibliometric analysis to map the development of literature examining the relationship between entrepreneurship and law. Data was collected from the Dimensions database with a publication time range from 2016 to May 2025, using the search keywords "Entrepreneurship" AND "Law" AND "Regulation". The selection of the Dimensions database for data collection was motivated by its extensive coverage and its capacity to deliver comprehensive publication metadata relevant to studies on entrepreneurship, law, and regulation, enabling systematic bibliometric analysis (Suharso, Setyowati, & Arifah, 2021). In addition, this research employs a bibliometric approach as a quantitative method to examine publication trends, collaborative networks, and the evolution of research themes within the domains of entrepreneurship, legal frameworks, and regulatory studies, a method that has demonstrated effectiveness across diverse disciplines, including economics and public policy (Mridu & Prince, 2024).

The collected data were subsequently processed using Microsoft Excel for preliminary organization, including data cleaning, duplicate elimination, and the structuring of publication metadata to support the analysis of research on entrepreneurship, law, and regulation. The analysis then proceeded with bibliometric mapping using VOSviewer software, which facilitates the visualization of author collaboration networks, keyword co-occurrence, and inter-document relationships within studies related to entrepreneurship and regulatory frameworks. VOSviewer is extensively applied due to its capability to generate interactive and systematically organized visual representations, allowing bibliographic connections to be displayed through clearly interpretable science maps (Khadivi & Sato, 2023). Through this methodological approach, the analysis is able to identify collaboration patterns, thematic developments, and shifts in scholarly focus in the fields of entrepreneurship, legal studies, and regulation over the defined period (Rohmani, Suprpto, & Pambudi, 2023).

This study employs bibliographic coupling as the main analytical technique, which serves to identify relationships among documents by examining shared references within the bibliographies of individual publications. By applying this method,

it is possible to uncover conceptual linkages among scholarly works in the areas of entrepreneurship, law, and regulation, even in the absence of direct citation relationships, thereby offering a more comprehensive overview of the structural configuration of the literature on a given topic. Bibliographic coupling analysis has been extensively utilized to identify dominant research streams and to detect potential research gaps that may be further explored (Modi & Patel, 2024). Consequently, the integrated use of the Dimensions database, Microsoft Excel, and VOSviewer within a bibliographic coupling framework provides a robust methodological foundation for mapping and understanding the evolution of scholarly literature related to entrepreneurship within legal and regulatory contexts (Altay & Balim, 2024).

Figure.1 Flowchart Research Methodology



The research adopts a qualitative descriptive approach combined with bibliometric analysis to systematically map the global research landscape on the nexus between entrepreneurship and legal frameworks (Abbas & Bulut, 2024). This approach enables the identification of intellectual structures, thematic evolutions, and research trends related to how legal and regulatory environments shape entrepreneurial activities worldwide.

1. Define Research Objective

The first stage of the study involves defining the primary research objective, which is to analyze and map the scholarly relationship between (Vallaster, Kraus, Merigó Lindahl, & Nielsen, 2019) entrepreneurship, law, and regulation through bibliometric techniques. This stage establishes the analytical focus on understanding

how legal frameworks influence entrepreneurial development, innovation, and business sustainability across different jurisdictions and economic contexts.

2. Data Source Selection

The bibliographic data are collected from the Dimensions database, which provides extensive multidisciplinary coverage of global academic publications (Gasparyan, Ayvazyan, & Kitas, 2013). The search is limited to the period 2016–2025 to capture recent and relevant research developments. The dataset is generated using the keywords “Entrepreneurship” AND “Law” AND “Regulation,” ensuring that the selected publications explicitly address the intersection of entrepreneurial activities and legal or regulatory issues.

3. Data Extraction and Cleaning

All retrieved records are exported into Microsoft Excel for preliminary data processing (Bauzon, Murphy, & Wahi-Gururaj, 2021). This stage includes the removal of duplicate documents, standardization of author names and institutional affiliations, and normalization of journal titles. In addition, bibliographic metadata such as publication year, document type, citation counts, and keywords are structured to ensure accuracy and consistency for further bibliometric analysis.

4. Data Processing and Visualization

The cleaned dataset is subsequently analyzed using VOSviewer, a specialized software for bibliometric mapping and visualization (Bukar et al., 2023). VOSviewer is utilized to construct visual networks of keyword co-occurrence, co-authorship relationships, and thematic clusters. These visualizations facilitate the identification of dominant research themes, collaboration patterns, and emerging topics related to entrepreneurship and legal regulation at the global level.

5. Bibliometric Coupling Analysis

Bibliometric coupling is employed as the main analytical technique to explore the intellectual connections among publications (Ma, Xu, & Li, 2022). This method identifies documents that share common references, allowing the detection of conceptual similarities even in the absence of direct citation links. Through bibliometric coupling analysis, the study reveals core research clusters that represent major theoretical and empirical streams within entrepreneurship and legal framework studies.

6. Interpretation and Identification of Research Gaps

The final stage involves interpreting the bibliometric results to identify key thematic clusters and prevailing research directions (Lim & Kumar, 2024), and evolving global trends in the study of entrepreneurship and legal frameworks. This analysis also highlights underexplored areas and research gaps, providing insights into potential avenues for future research and contributing to a deeper understanding of regulatory influences on entrepreneurial ecosystems.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 FINDINGS

Bibliographic coupling is one of the techniques in bibliometric analysis used to measure the intellectual relationship between documents through the similarity of the referenced bibliographies. This method was first proposed by Kessler in 1963 and is based on the assumption that the greater the number of shared references between two documents, the stronger the scientific connection between them. In practice, bibliographic coupling is utilized to map the structure of knowledge, reveal similarities in research themes, and trace the dynamics and development of a field of study with the help of analytical tools such as VOSviewer and Bibliometrix. (Zakiyyah, Winoto, & Rohanda, 2022) .

3.1.1 Documents

In the context of bibliographic coupling, a document is understood as a unit of scholarly work—comprising journal articles, conference proceedings, books, or research reports—that serves as the object of bibliometric analysis. Documents serve as fundamental units of analysis to identify intellectual connections through the similarity of references used. The position of a document in bibliographic coupling is crucial, as the level of relationship between documents is determined by the number of shared references. The higher the degree of reference similarity, the stronger the thematic and conceptual interconnection between the documents, reflecting the proximity of the study focus or research field being examined.(Yonna Ananda, Rizal, & Rohman, 2025).

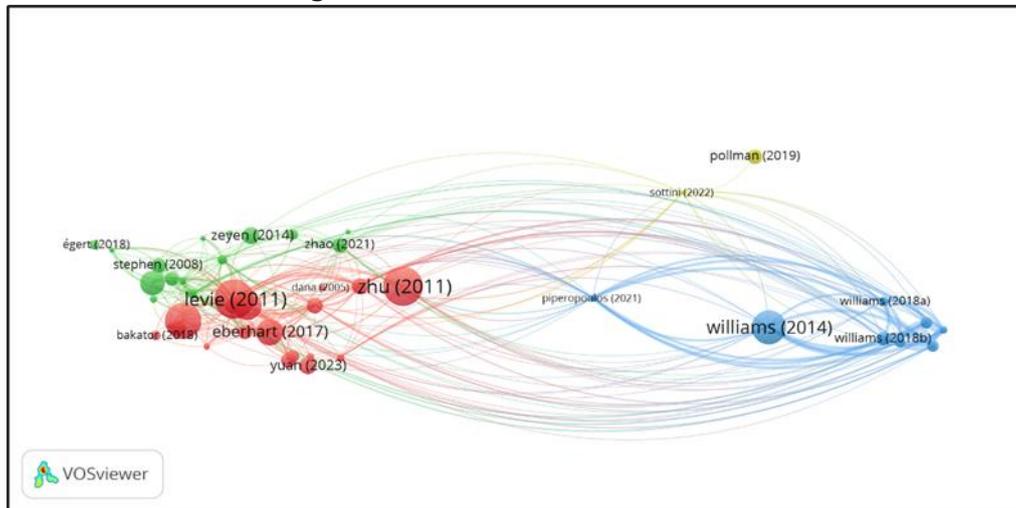
Table 1. Hasil tipe analisis dokumen

Peringkat	Dokumen	Jumlah Sitasi	Total Link Strength
1	Williams (2018c)	27	327
2	Williams (2019b)	12	317
3	Williams (2018d)	30	301
4	Williams (2019a)	26	278
5	Williams (2018b)	40	266
6	Williams (2018a)	21	154
7	Williams (2014)	237	140
8	Piperopoulos (2021)	13	135
9	Estrin (2016)	48	105
10	Levie (2011)	317	97

The table displays the ranking of documents based on the total link strength value in bibliographic coupling analysis, which reflects the strength of referential connections between documents. Williams (2018c) occupies the top position, indicating a strong conceptual proximity to other publications, even though the number of citations is not the highest. The dominance of Williams' work at the top indicates consistent themes and references in the field of study. Conversely, highly cited

documents such as Levie (2011) and Williams (2014) have lower total link strength, emphasizing that citation influence does not always align with the strength of bibliographic connections in mapping the structure of knowledge.

Figure 1. Visual analisis dokumen



Gambar; Hasil Olah Vosviewer

The results of bibliographic coupling mapping using VOSviewer show that the intellectual structure of research on the relationship between entrepreneurship and the legal framework is formed into several main clusters. The blue cluster is dominated by the work of Williams (2014) and its subsequent publications, which serve as central nodes, reflecting a strong focus on informal entrepreneurship, institutions, and regulation. The red cluster, led by Zhu (2011), Levie (2011), and Eberhart (2017), represents institutional studies and the role of regulation in shaping entrepreneurial dynamics, while other clusters show the development of more specific and contemporary themes.

The implications are that these findings affirm that entrepreneurship research and the legal framework develop through an overlapping reference base, with key documents forming the main conceptual foundation. Bibliographic coupling analysis is effective in identifying core literature and shows that regulation plays a role not only as a constraint but also as a shaping factor of the entrepreneurial ecosystem. This map opens up opportunities for further research on issues of adaptive regulation, digital entrepreneurship, and variations in cross-country legal regimes.

3.1.2 Authors

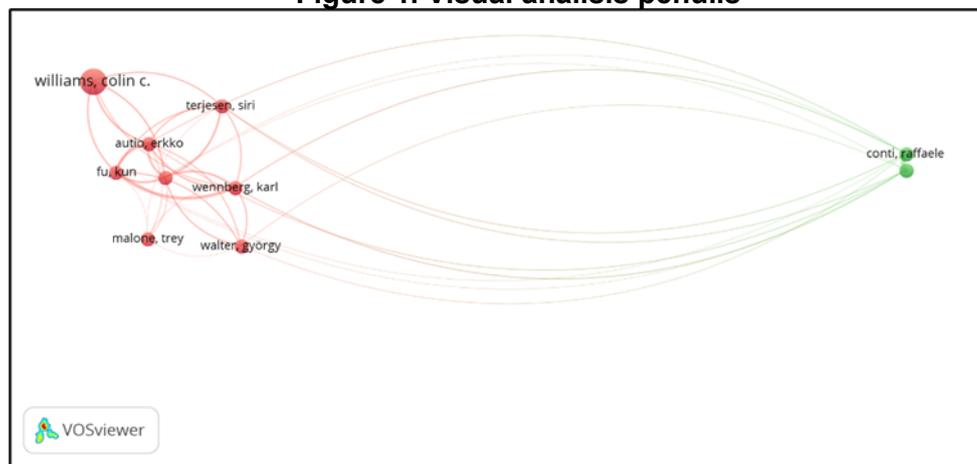
In bibliographic coupling analysis, authors are understood as individuals or groups of academics who produce scientific works and are used as units of analysis to map the intellectual connections between researchers. The role of the author becomes crucial because the relationship between authors is determined by the degree of similarity in the sources cited in their publications. The greater the number of the same references cited by two or more authors, the stronger the bibliographic connection and intellectual proximity among them. The authors coupling analysis, patterns of collaboration networks, currents of scientific thought, and the distribution of expertise developing in a field of study can be identified. (Ananda, Rizal, & Rohman, 2025).

Table 1. Hasil Tipe Analisis Penulis

Peringkat	Author	Jumlah Dokumen	Jumlah Sitasi	Total Link Strength
1	Fu, Kun	2	43	189
2	Autio, Erkko	2	317	155
3	Conti, Raffaele	2	79	155
4	Valentini, Giovanni	2	79	155
5	Wennberg, Karl	2	200	148
6	Mickiewicz, Tomasz	2	99	144
7	Rani, Vosuri Sandya	2	14	140
8	Sundaram, Natarajan	2	14	140
9	Terjesen, Siri	2	171	79
10	Williams, Colin C.	7	393	79

The table displays the top ten authors based on bibliographic coupling analysis using VOSviewer with the unit of analysis being the author, where the ranking is based on the total link strength value as an indicator of the strength of referential ties. Fu, Kun ranks the highest, demonstrating a strong intellectual proximity to other authors despite having a relatively limited number of documents and citations. On the other hand, highly productive and cited authors like Williams, Colin C, and Terjesen. Siri, have more moderate total link strength, affirming that citation levels do not always align with the strength of bibliographic ties in the authors' network.

Figure 1. Visual analysis penulis



Gambar; Hasil olah vosviewer

The results of the bibliographic coupling analysis using VOSviewer on the author unit of analysis show the formation of two main clusters in the research on the relationship between entrepreneurship and the global legal framework for the period 2016–2025. The first cluster is dominated by authors such as Williams, Colin C., Autio, Erkko, Terjesen, Siri, and Wenneberg, Karl, who have strong bibliographic connections. This indicates similarities in references and research focus on the role of institutions, formal and informal regulations, and public policies in shaping the dynamics of entrepreneurship.

The second cluster, represented by Conti, Raffaele, has a more limited yet strategic connection with the main cluster, indicating a focus on the legal aspects of innovation and specific regulations. The implications of these findings indicate opportunities for research integration between macro-institutional approaches and micro-legal analysis to enrich the understanding of the impact of legal frameworks on innovation, strategy, and the sustainability of entrepreneurship in various global contexts.

3.1.3 Source

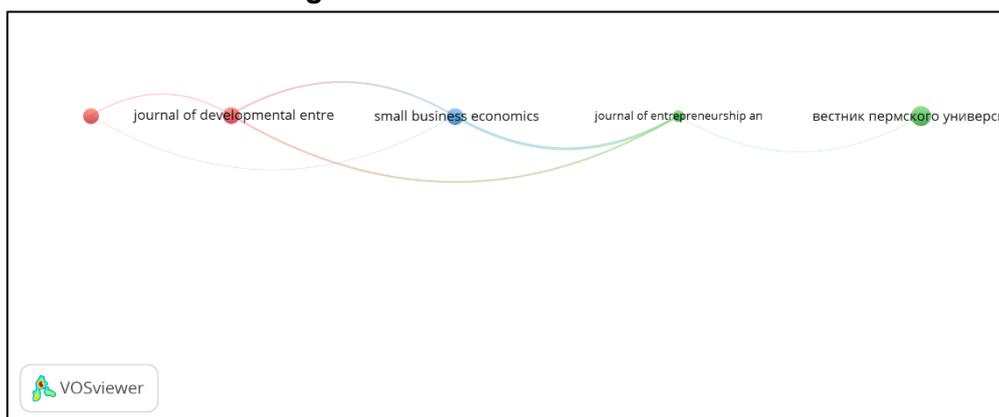
In the framework of bibliographic coupling, sources are defined as journals or scientific publications that serve as a medium for disseminating research results and are used as units of analysis to examine the relationships between journals based on the similarity of references cited in the published articles. This analysis aims to map the level of intellectual relationships between journals, reflecting similarities in thematic focus, scope of study fields, and research direction trends among these publication sources. Therefore, sources in bibliographic coupling serve as indicators of the level of scientific consolidation in a field, where journals with a high degree of interconnectedness play an important role in the dissemination and development of knowledge. A high degree of interconnectedness indicates a strategic position in the development and dissemination of knowledge in that field (Arlina, Sudiar, & H, 2022).

Table 1. Hasil tipe analisis sumber

Peringkat	Nama Sumber/Jurnal	Jumlah Dokumen	Jumlah Sitasi	Total Link Strength
1	<i>Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public...</i>	3	59	60
2	<i>Small Business Economics</i>	6	323	58
3	<i>Journal of Developmental Entrepreneur...</i>	6	127	39
4	<i>Baltic Journal of Economic Studies</i>	3	6	6
5	<i>Actual Problems of Russian Law</i>	5	28	1
6	<i>Vestnik Permskogo Universiteta...</i>	8	14	1
7	<i>Zhurnal Lex Russica</i>	5	11	1
8	<i>Analytical and Comparative Jurisprud...</i>	10	15	0
9	<i>Architecture and the Built Environment</i>	4	4	0
10	<i>Civil Law</i>	4	7	0

The table presents the results of bibliographic coupling analysis using VOSviewer at the unit of analysis of journal sources, which shows the level of inter-journal connectivity based on the similarity of references used. The Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy occupies the most dominant position with the highest Total Link Strength value, followed by Small Business Economics and the Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship, which affirm their roles as the main reference sources in entrepreneurship studies. Meanwhile, other journals have relatively low to no linkage strength, reflecting more focused and fragmented contributions, while also indicating opportunities to strengthen cross-disciplinary literature integration in entrepreneurship research and legal frameworks.

Figure 1. Visual analisis Sumber



Gambar; Hasil olah vosviewer

The results of the bibliographic coupling analysis using VOSviewer on the journal source analysis unit show the formation of two main clusters in research on the relationship between entrepreneurship and the global legal framework for the period 2016–2025. The dominant cluster consists of entrepreneurship and public policy

journals such as the Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy, Small Business Economics, and the Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship, which have strong bibliographic connections, indicating similarities in theoretical and empirical references in institutional and regulatory studies.

The implications of these findings indicate that the literature is still dominated by economic and policy perspectives, while the integration with legal studies is relatively limited. This opens up opportunities for further research to develop an interdisciplinary approach that integrates legal sources and entrepreneurship to strengthen understanding and policy recommendations related to the role of the legal framework in entrepreneurship development.

3.1.4 Organizations

In bibliographic coupling analysis, organizations are understood as the affiliated institutions of the authors who are the subjects of study to trace the intellectual connections between organizations based on the similarity of references used in scientific works. This analysis focuses on mapping the degree of interconnection between two or more organizations thru the use of similar literature sources, which reflect the similarity of research orientation, patterns of academic collaboration, and the alignment of thematic focus of institutions within a discipline. (Samsara, 2022).

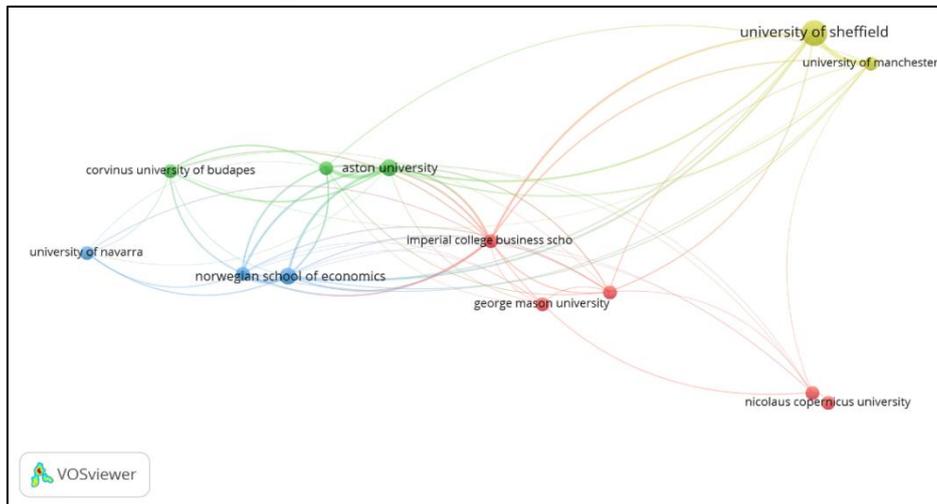
Table 1. Hasil tipe analisis sumber

Peringkat	Organisasi	Jumlah Dokumen	Jumlah Sitasi	Total Link Strength
1	Aston University	3	121	213
2	Norwegian School of Economics	3	328	202
3	Linköping University	2	200	187
4	University of Sheffield	7	393	182
5	London School of Economics and Political Science	2	48	152
6	University of Manchester	2	62	145
7	Imperial College Business School	2	317	136
8	Corvinus University of Budapest	2	9	50
9	Salisbury University	2	25	46
10	University of Navarra	2	79	23

The results of the bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer with a bibliographic coupling approach at the organizational unit of analysis show ten institutions with the highest level of intellectual connectivity based on total link strength. Aston University ranks at the top, followed by the Norwegian School of Economics, Linköping University, and the University of Sheffield, reflecting the strong similarity in references and the closeness of research directions between organizations. Overall, these

findings indicate a connection in literature and similar thematic focus among institutions, reflecting research orientation patterns and potential academic collaboration in the analyzed field of study.

Figure 1. Visual analysis Sumber



Gambar; Hasil olah vosviewer

Based on the results of bibliometric mapping using VOSviewer with a bibliographic coupling approach at the organizational unit of analysis, the network visualization shows the intellectual connections between global academic organizations formed through similarities in references within scientific publications. Aston University serves as the main hub connecting several institutions such as the Norwegian School of Economics, Imperial College Business School, and Corvinus University of Budapest, reflecting the close research orientation in the study of entrepreneurship and legal frameworks.

The formed cluster structure also shows the grouping of organizations based on similar thematic focuses, such as the connection between the University of Sheffield and the University of Manchester, indicating a concentration of research on aspects of regulation and legal policy. The implications of these findings indicate that entrepreneurship research and legal frameworks are evolving through the convergence of literature across institutions and countries, making highly interconnected institutions potential centers of academic reference and drivers of international collaboration in the development of evidence-based research and policies.

3.1.5 Countries

In bibliographic coupling analysis, countries are positioned as units of study used to trace and map the intellectual connections between countries based on the similarities in references used in scientific publications. This analysis focuses on measuring the level of cross-country literature connectivity, which represents the patterns, intensity, and concentration of research directions in a field of study on a global scale. The role of countries in bibliographic coupling reflects a country's

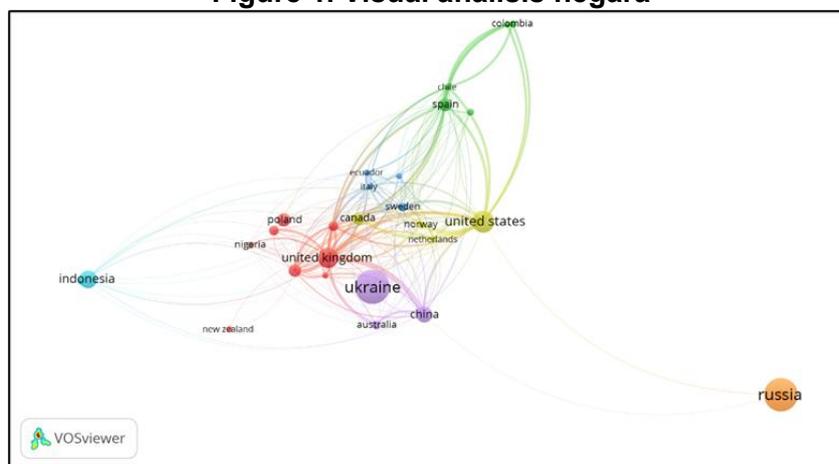
contribution to the development of science through the situational connections between publications, whether in the framework of academic collaboration, knowledge diffusion, or thematic research focus (Puspita & Sujarwo, 2025).

Table 1. Hasil tipe analisis negara

Peringkat	Negara	Jumlah Dokumen	Jumlah Sitasi	Total Link Strength
1	United Kingdom	22	1.178	2.533
2	United States	25	1.171	2.051
3	China	14	485	1.039
4	Spain	9	201	976
5	Norway	3	328	880
6	Chile	2	68	703
7	France	5	87	699
8	Germany	8	182	697
9	Canada	8	145	647
10	Mexico	2	50	491

Based on the results of bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer with a bibliographic coupling approach at the country unit of analysis, the table displays the ten countries with the highest literature connectivity measured thru total link strength. United Kingdom and United States occupy dominant positions, demonstrating a central role in the global research network through strong reference similarities in scientific publications. Other countries such as China, Spain, and Norway also show significant levels of interconnectedness despite varying numbers of documents, indicating the intensity and consistency of using similar literature sources. Overall, these findings reflect a concentration and interconnected direction of research among countries, while also affirming the role of major countries as drivers in the formation and diffusion of knowledge in the analyzed field at the global level.

Figure 1. Visual analisis negara



Gambar; Hasil olah vosviewer

Based on the results of bibliometric mapping using VOSviewer with a bibliographic coupling approach at the country unit of analysis, the network visualization shows strong inter-country literature connections through similarities in scientific publication references. The United States and the United Kingdom occupy central positions in the network, indicating a dominant role in shaping the direction of global research, while other countries such as Spain, China, and Ukraine show significant connections, albeit with varying intensities.

The cluster structure formed reflects the grouping of countries based on thematic proximity and literature base, with the dominance of developed countries, as centers of knowledge production. The implications of these findings indicate that entrepreneurship research and legal frameworks are developing transnationally but are still concentrated in certain countries, thereby opening opportunities for developing countries to strengthen their academic contributions through international collaboration and the enrichment of contextual perspectives in global studies.

3.2 DISCUSSION

3.2.1. The Role of Legal Frameworks and Institutions in Shaping Entrepreneurial Dynamics

The bibliometric coupling findings that place the works of Williams, Autio, Terjesen, and Wennberg as key conceptual nodes indicate an epistemic consensus that entrepreneurship cannot be adequately understood without reading the legal framework as an active institutional structure, not merely a normative backdrop. The strong referential connections between documents indicate that law is treated as a variable that is simultaneously enabling and constraining, thereby generating critical dialog against the classical entrepreneurship paradigm that tends to emphasize individual agency and free markets. In this context, law is understood as an arena of institutional contestation that shapes the preferences, strategies, and even the moral economy of entrepreneurs, especially in the phenomena of informal and hybrid entrepreneurship. This argument challenges uniform regulatory approaches and demands the development of entrepreneurship theories that are more sensitive to the differentiation of legal regimes, the quality of institutions, and the power relations inherent within them. Thus, these findings encourage the expansion of the entrepreneurial analytical framework toward an institutional-critical approach that not only measures the impact of regulations but also questions how laws are produced, negotiated, and internalized in entrepreneurial practices.

3.2.2 Entrepreneurship, Public Policy, and National Context Variations

The dominance of the United Kingdom, the United States, and Western European institutions in the bibliographic coupling network reveals an epistemological tension between the universal claims of entrepreneurship theory and the reality of knowledge production that is highly geographically concentrated. The strength of the interconnectedness of literature across developed countries indicates that the legal frameworks and public policies in those countries serve as global normative references, implicitly positioning the contexts of developing countries as conceptual peripheries. These findings provoke a critical dialog regarding the structural bias in global entrepreneurship research, where variations in national legal contexts are often reduced to control variables rather than being seen as sources of alternative theories.

The argument arising from these results emphasizes that entrepreneurship policies cannot be separated from the specific political-legal configurations of a country, so generalizing findings from developed country contexts has the potential to produce non-contextual policies when applied in other regions. Therefore, this bibliometric coupling implicitly demands a reorientation of the research agenda toward the production of more polycentric knowledge, making the national legal context a legitimate theoretical locus to enrich and correct the mainstream of entrepreneurship studies.

3.2.3 Integration of Legal and Entrepreneurial Perspectives: Directions and Future Research Opportunities

The pattern of journal source interconnections, dominated by entrepreneurship and public policy journals, with relatively marginal involvement of legal journals, reveals an epistemic fragmentation between legal studies and entrepreneurship that has not yet been fully bridged. These findings indicate that law is still positioned as a supporting technocratic instrument, rather than as a field of critical analysis capable of substantially shaping innovation, business strategies, and market dynamics. In the context of the development of digital entrepreneurship, platform economy, and technology-based innovation, this separation becomes problematic because the transformation of entrepreneurship actually occurs through gaps, ambiguities, and regulatory lag. The argument that can be drawn from the results of this bibliometric coupling emphasizes the need for an interdisciplinary approach that not only integrates law into entrepreneurship but also makes entrepreneurship an object of reflection for the development of legal theory itself. Thus, future research is challenged to build a methodological dialog between normative legal analysis and empirical entrepreneurship approaches in order to produce a conceptual framework capable of simultaneously responding to the complexities of economic and regulatory changes.

4. CONCLUSION

This research examines the development and structure of global knowledge regarding the relationship between entrepreneurship and the legal framework in response to the increasing complexity of regulations, economic transformation, and public policy demands on entrepreneurial activities during the period 2016–2025. This phenomenon shows that entrepreneurship can no longer be understood merely as an individual economic activity but rather as a practice embedded in diverse legal and institutional configurations across countries. This research employs a quantitative approach through bibliometric analysis using the bibliographic coupling method, utilizing the VOSviewer software to map the intellectual connections between documents, authors, journal sources, organizations, and countries based on the similarity of references used. The analysis results show that the literature structure is dominated by an institutional approach that positions law as a factor that simultaneously constrains and facilitates entrepreneurship, with certain works serving as key conceptual nodes in the global research network. Furthermore, the findings reveal a concentration of knowledge production in certain countries and institutions, particularly in Western Europe and North America, reflecting geographical disparities

in the development of entrepreneurship theory and policy. The analysis of journal sources also shows epistemic fragmentation between entrepreneurship and law studies, where interdisciplinary integration is still relatively limited. Overall, the results of this research affirm that the relationship between entrepreneurship and the legal framework forms a field of study that is institutional, contextual, and dynamic, and opens up space for future research development that is more critical, polycentric, and interdisciplinary in responding to global economic and regulatory changes.

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