

**TWO DECADES OF MICRO INSURANCE RESEARCH (2001–2024): A
COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOMETRIC REVIEW**

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Abstract

This study provides an extensive bibliometric overview of microinsurance research from 2001 to 2024, including a systematic examination of the field's intellectual framework, thematic development, and worldwide academic contributions. Using data extracted from peer-reviewed publications, the study employs co-citation analysis, bibliographic coupling, and keyword co-occurrence mapping to explore the development, interdisciplinary connections, and research trends within the microinsurance domain. The results indicate a consistent rise in academic production, with a compound annual growth rate above 11 percent, demonstrating heightened scholarly and policy interest in microinsurance as a mechanism for financial inclusion and risk mitigation among disadvantaged people. Key clusters identified in the analysis span themes such as social protection, health insurance, climate risk, and development finance. The co-citation network indicates a multidisciplinary foundation rooted in development economics, public policy, and actuarial science, while the thematic map suggests an ongoing shift toward emerging areas such as digital microinsurance and climate adaptation strategies. Despite the field's maturity, the study identifies underexplored areas and recommends further inquiry into technology-enabled microinsurance models and impact evaluation frameworks. This bibliometric review not only maps the trajectory of microinsurance research but also offers strategic insights for academics, policymakers, and development practitioners aiming to strengthen its theoretical and practical dimensions.

Keywords: Microinsurance, Bibliometric Analysis, Co-citation, Health Insurance, Keyword Co-occurrence

Introduction

In the last twenty years, microinsurance has become an essential tool for risk management and social protection, especially for low-income and vulnerable groups. Microinsurance is a type of affordable insurance designed for low-income people, helping them protect themselves from risks like health problems, farming issues, and disasters caused by climate change. The global interest in microinsurance has increased, leading to a corresponding rise in the number and variety of scholarly research examining its mechanics, efficacy, and implementation issues.

Microinsurance denotes cost-effective insurance offerings tailored for low-income demographics, bolstering their financial resilience. It encompasses health, life, property, and agricultural risks, enhancing claims processing efficiency and mitigating debt while using technology for improved accessibility and sustainability (1). The limited voluntary demand for microinsurance is affected by issues like cost, quality, insufficient faith in insurers, and liquidity restrictions, underscoring its potential as an effective risk-management instrument for impoverished individuals (2).

Bibliometric studies have become increasingly important in financial scholarship, particularly in the context of attempting to compile the knowledge base on microfinance. The bibliometric analysis of microfinance research indicates a burgeoning scholarly interest in comprehending its diverse dimensions and effects. (3) conducted a detailed analysis of publications from 1997 to 2017 using keyword and citation network methods; however, relying on keywords chosen by authors limited the range of topics explored, making it difficult for the study to fully capture the complex variety within microfinance research. Thematic focus and development within this field have been mapped through the use of bibliometric methodologies in numerous studies. For example, (4) conducted a bibliometric review that concentrated on Islamic microfinance institutions in Indonesia, emphasizing the scholarly consideration of Islamic work ethics and their integration into microfinance practices. In the same vein, (5) produced a thorough bibliometric analysis of the literature that pertains to the function of microfinance services in micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), emphasizing the vitality of microfinance in improving the performance of MSMEs.

Despite the growing significance of microinsurance as a financial safeguard for low-income groups, the scholarly discussion regarding its development, execution, and efficacy remains disjointed. In the last twenty years, several research projects have examined different aspects of microinsurance, including market dynamics, regulatory frameworks, and customer behaviour. However, a rigorous bibliometric examination of the current body of knowledge is missing, making it difficult to identify research trends, gaps, and future directions.

This study attempts to overcome this gap by undertaking a complete bibliometric evaluation of microinsurance research from 2001 to 2024, revealing insights into prominent publications, rising topics, and academic partnerships. By mapping the intellectual structure of microinsurance literature, this study attempts to give policymakers, academics, and industry stakeholders a greater understanding of the academic trajectory of microinsurance.

The following research questions are designed to guide a comprehensive bibliometric inquiry into the scope, evolution, and thematic dynamics of microinsurance research

1. What are the key publication trends in microinsurance research from 2001 to 2024 in terms of volume, growth rate, and citation impact?
2. Who are the most influential authors, institutions, and countries contributing to microinsurance research, and how have their roles evolved over time?

3. How does co-citation analysis reveal the underlying intellectual foundations and theoretical influences in microinsurance research?
4. What does bibliometric coupling disclose about the current research frontiers and the degree of scholarly convergence or divergence in the field?
5. Which topics and keyword patterns have emerged or declined in importance, as revealed by co-occurrence analysis of author keywords

The rest of this article is organised as follows: The methodology section delineates the methodology and dataset employed in the study; the analysis section presents and analyses the study's results; the discussion and conclusion section outlines the study's limitations and encapsulates the paper and proposes a future research agenda informed by the study's findings.

Methodology

This study employed bibliometric and descriptive content approaches for data analysis. Bibliometrics is a very reliable research method, as it reduces the risk of subjective bias commonly seen in qualitative literature synthesis (6). The present work used VOS viewer (7) and Biblioshiny software for bibliometric analysis, as it is the most frequently used and easily accessible scientometric mapping tool. Data for the bibliometric analysis was extracted from the Scopus database for the period from 2001 to 2024 (Table 1). The search keyword for data collecting that has been utilised is "microinsurance". The inclusion criteria were i) publications in the domain of economics, business and social science, ii) journal articles composed in English, and iii) works published from 2001 to 2024. The advanced search yielded the identification of 482 documents based on the aforementioned search criteria. A data cleansing procedure was conducted to verify incomplete or inaccurately entered records, which yielded 451 documents. The bibliometric dataset covers the years 2001 to 2024 and includes 451 documents from 287 academic sources, such as journals, books, and other academic forms. The data shows a strong annual growth rate of 11.13%, which indicates that research activity has been steadily increasing over the past two decades. This is a sign of the field's growing scholarly interest. The average age of a paper is 8.73 years, which shows that literature has been building up over time while still being relevant to current academic discussions. The corpus has a moderate to high degree of scholarly influence, with an average of 19.8 citations per document and a total of 18,672 references. The 1,510 author-defined keywords and 1,140 Keywords Plus phrases show how diverse concepts may be. These terms show how both authors and indexers contribute to theme framing. Only the authors' keywords were taken into account for the analysis. Authorship research suggests that there are 1,087 writers who contributed, with 99 documents being written by one author and 97 authors writing their works. The collaboration index shows a strong level of academic cooperation, including cross-border collaboration. For example, the average number of co-authors per document is 2.65, and the international co-authorship rate is 23.5%. This means that the research area benefits from both individual and group academic involvement, with a lot of the work coming from collaborative, sometimes multidisciplinary, projects.

Table 1: Main information about data

Timespan	2001:2024
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	287
Documents	451
Annual Growth Rate %	11.13
Document Average Age	8.73
Average citations per doc	19.8
References	18672
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	1140
Author's Keywords (DE)	1510
AUTHORS	
Authors	1087
Authors of single-authored docs	97
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	99
Co-Authors per Doc	2.65
International co-authorships %	23.5
DOCUMENT TYPES	
article	451

Results

This chapter looks at microinsurance research by examining how it has grown over the years, identifying key authors, countries, and institutions, and using a three-field plot to show how productive and influential the research is. Scientific mapping investigates the links among research components, including knowledge exchanges and structural linkages (8).

Performance Analysis

Figure 1 demonstrates a consistent increase in scholarly output, reflecting a sustained and expanding academic interest in the field. The initial years (2001–2007) indicate a relatively modest output, with fewer than 10 articles published annually, suggesting that this is an emerging research area. An observable increase commences around 2009, succeeded by

fluctuations and a consistent rise, culminating in a notable peak in 2020, where output exceeds 45 publications. Although there were minor declines following 2020, production remains strong, and publication rates have stabilised above the levels observed prior to 2018. The trend indicates the development of microinsurance as a separate research area, characterised by increased global academic involvement and diversification.

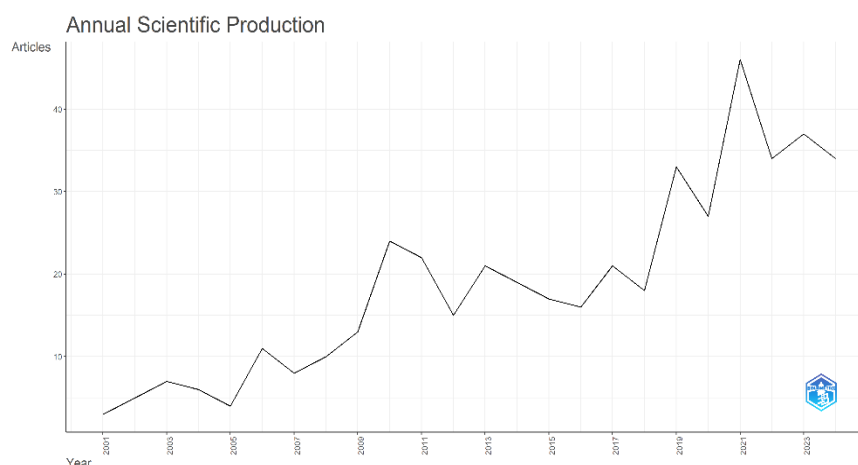


Figure 1. Annual scientific growth

Figure 2 illustrates the authors with the highest number of contributions within the specified period. The first three authors, Dror, Mosley, and Sam AG, have each produced four documents, signifying their pivotal influence in the microinsurance study domain. Their constant production highlights their ongoing academic involvement and impact in this field. Their work's exposure in several journals indicates fundamental contributions, presumably focusing on critical themes such as health microinsurance models, policy implications, and socioeconomic effects.

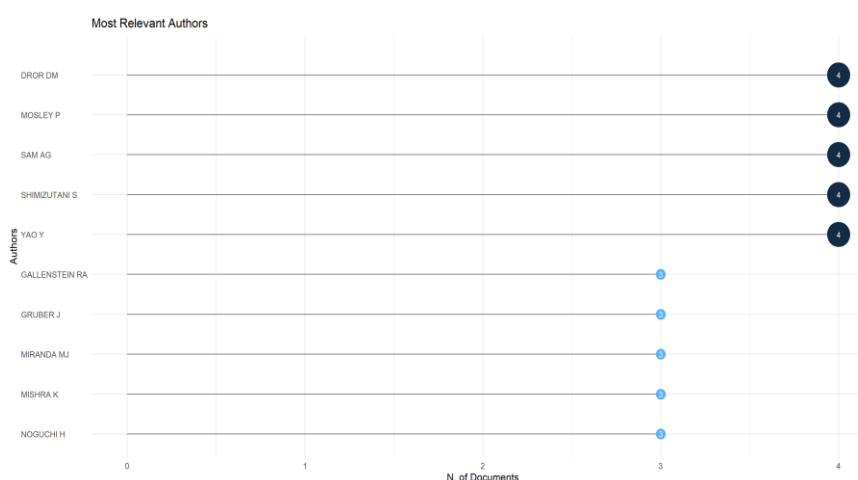


Figure 2. Most relevant Authors

Table 2 underscores the essential contributions of some prominent researchers who have profoundly influenced the debate on microinsurance. Peter Mosley distinguishes himself with a cumulative frequency of four publications, the greatest total citation count (TC = 92), and a robust citation per year measure (TCpY = 6.133), reflecting both prolific productivity and enduring influence over time. His initial efforts from 2003–2011 established fundamental empirical insights into the socio-economic ramifications of microinsurance. Jonathan Gruber is a significant individual whose academic contributions are evident in his articles between 2004 and 2011. His 2004 work garnered 76 citations (TCpY = 3.455), indicating sustained significance, especially in correlating health insurance with labour economics and firm-level dynamics. David M. Dror, a frequent contributor in the years 2006, 2013, and 2014, continuously adds to the theoretical and practical frameworks of the discipline, particularly in community-based and health microinsurance models.

Table 2: Authors' Production over Time

Author	year	freq	TC	TCpY
MOSLEY P	2011	2	92	6.133
GRUBER J	2004	1	76	3.455
DROR DM	2013	1	32	2.462
DROR DM	2014	2	32	2.667
GALLENSTEIN RA	2021	1	25	5
MIRANDA MJ	2021	1	25	5
MISHRA K	2021	1	25	5
SAM AG	2021	1	25	5
GRUBER J	2011	1	23	1.533
GALLENSTEIN RA	2019	1	16	2.286
MIRANDA MJ	2019	1	16	2.286
MISHRA K	2019	1	16	2.286
SAM AG	2019	1	16	2.286
SHIMIZUTANI S	2007	2	16	0.842
DROR DM	2006	1	15	0.75
MOSLEY P	2003	1	12	0.522
MOSLEY P	2004	1	10	0.455
SAM AG	2017	1	10	1.111
YAO Y	2017	1	9	1
GRUBER J	2023	1	8	2.667
NOGUCHI H	2007	1	8	0.421

NOGUCHI H	2009	1	5	0.294
SHIMIZUTANI S	2009	1	5	0.294
YAO Y	2019	1	5	0.714
GALLENSTEIN RA	2023	1	3	1
MIRANDA MJ	2023	1	3	1
MISHRA K	2023	1	3	1
NOGUCHI H	2011	1	3	0.2
SAM AG	2023	1	3	1
SHIMIZUTANI S	2011	1	3	0.2
YAO Y	2021	1	2	0.4
YAO Y	2023	1	1	0.333

Figure 3 presents a bibliometric analysis of the leading academic journals contributing to microinsurance research between 2001 and 2024. The chart visually identifies the top journals by the number of documents published on the subject during the study period.

Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance: Issues and Practice and Social Science and Medicine emerge as the most prolific sources, each contributing 16 publications, underscoring their central role in disseminating microinsurance scholarship. These journals likely reflect interdisciplinary interests, combining risk management, insurance, and public health perspectives. World Development, with 15 documents, highlights the development-orientated framing of microinsurance in global policy and economic contexts. Other notable contributors include Insurance: Mathematics and Economics (9 documents), suggesting a significant stream of quantitative and actuarial research in the field. Sustainability (Switzerland) and the Journal of Public Economics also feature prominently, indicating growing attention to microinsurance within sustainability frameworks and fiscal policy discussions.

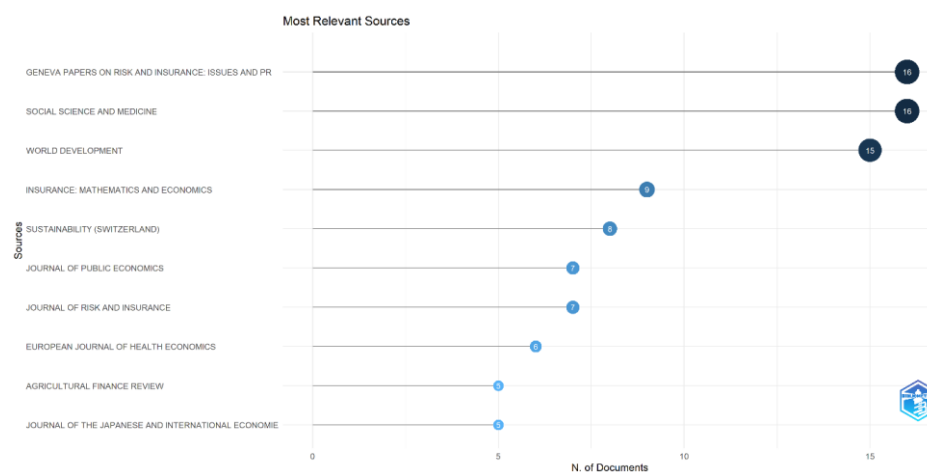


Figure 3. Most relevant Authors

The chronological distribution of articles in prominent journals from 2001–2024 indicates the gradual institutionalisation and multidisciplinary growth of microinsurance research. The Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance: Issues and Practice and Social Science and Medicine exhibit consistent development over two decades, each attaining 16 publications by 2024. This record demonstrates a coherent incorporation of microinsurance into both actuarial risk and public health sectors.

World Development exhibits a significant increase beginning in 2008, indicating the advent of microinsurance as a developmental instrument in economic policy discussions. Simultaneously, Insurance: Mathematics and Economics started its contributions in 2013, indicating a comparatively recent but consistent use of quantitative and modelling methodologies within the discipline. Sustainability (Switzerland) commenced operations in 2019, seeing strong expansion until 2024, signifying an emerging and intensified emphasis on microinsurance within environmental, social, and governance (ESG) and resilience research frameworks.

Table 3: Sources' Production over Time

Year	Geneva papers on risk and insurance: issues and practice	Social science and medicine	World development	Insurance: mathematics and economics	Sustainability (Switzerland)
2001	1	0	0	0	0
2002	1	2	0	0	0
2003	1	2	0	0	0
2004	1	3	0	0	0
2005	1	3	0	0	0
2006	3	3	0	0	0
2007	3	3	0	0	0
2008	3	3	1	0	0
2009	3	3	1	0	0
2010	4	5	3	0	0
2011	4	6	4	0	0
2012	5	7	5	0	0
2013	7	8	5	1	0
2014	10	9	6	1	0

2015	10	10	6	2	0
2016	11	10	7	3	0
2017	11	12	10	3	0
2018	11	13	11	5	0
2019	12	13	11	7	2
2020	12	13	12	7	2
2021	14	15	14	9	4
2022	15	15	15	9	7
2023	15	15	15	9	9
2024	16	16	15	9	9

Figure 4 illustrates the most frequently referenced nations in microinsurance research. The United States greatly leads with 2204 citations, underscoring its dominant influence and foundational contributions to the conversation. This high citation count suggests that research output from the USA has shaped much of the theoretical and empirical development in the field. Germany and the United Kingdom follow with 536 and 529 citations, respectively, reflecting strong European engagement and influential academic outputs. These three countries collectively represent the core contributors whose scholarship has had the greatest academic reach and impact in microinsurance research globally.

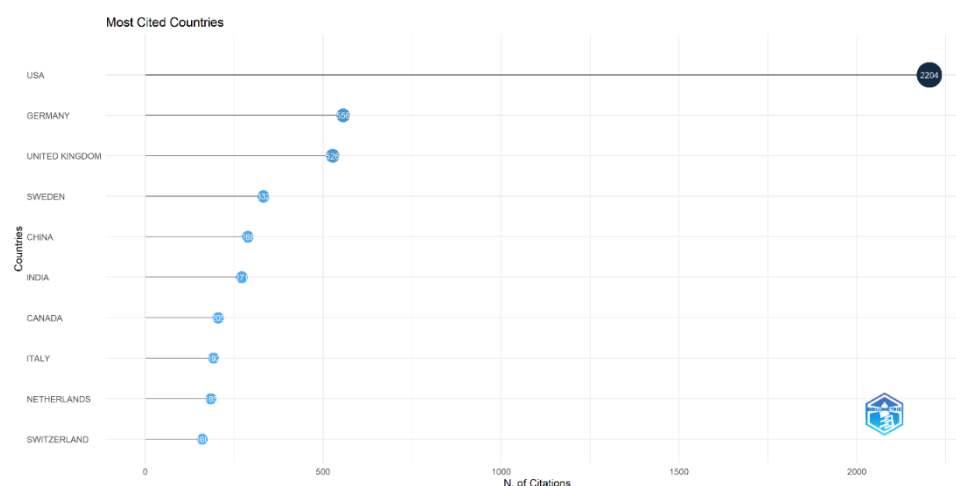


Figure 4: Most cited countries

The three-fields plot (figure 5) offers an overview of the interconnected dynamics among contributing countries (AU_CO), key authors (AU), and dominant research themes (DE). The United States, China, and India emerge as the most active publishing countries, with strong authorial representation such as Dror DM, Mosley P, and Zhang Y. These authors have made significant contributions to themes such as microinsurance, micro-health insurance, and

poverty alleviation, indicating their centrality to the field's development. Notably, authors like Dror DM and Sam AG bridge multiple thematic areas, including health insurance, microfinance, and risk management, showing their influence across interdisciplinary domains. The visual linkage between countries and themes underscores the USA's and China's leadership in driving research related to climate change, insurance innovation, and socio-economic resilience. The dominance of topics like microinsurance, health insurance, and poverty reflects a sustained academic focus on financial inclusion and social protection.

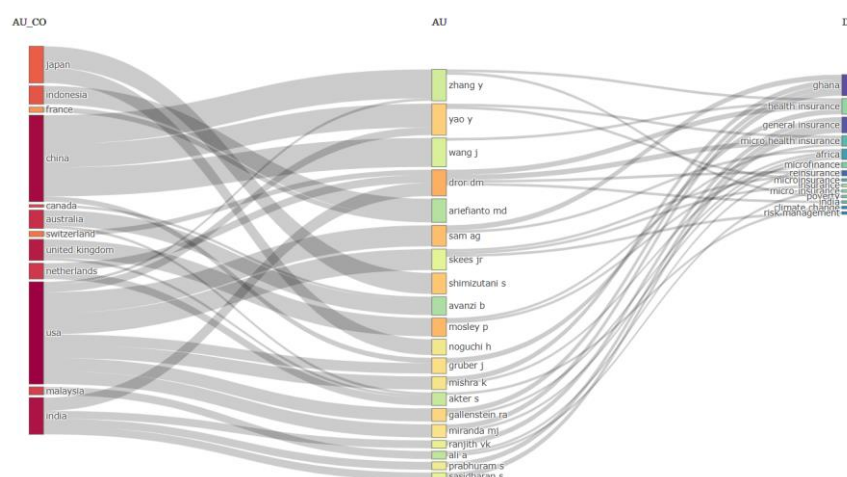


Figure 5: Three-fields plot

Science Mapping

Science mapping is a method used in bibliometric analysis to show how scientific literature on a certain topic is structured and how the different parts are connected. It helps researchers find important contributions, important works, gaps, overlaps, and trends in study. The techniques for scientific mapping often include co-citation analysis, bibliographic coupling, and co-word analysis (9).

Co-Citation Analysis

Co-citation analysis is a key part of bibliometrics that helps researchers understand the intellectual organisation of a topic. It tells you how often later publications quote two papers together, based on the idea that frequent co-citation means the works are related in some way or have similar themes. (10) first used co-citation analysis, which is based on the idea that the more often two publications are referenced together, the more likely they are to cover similar themes or have an effect on a field. It is especially helpful for finding important works, grouping study fields, and following the development of scientific ideas. Figure 6 portrays the co-citation network of microfinance research, illustrating the intellectual structure of the field through the most frequently co-cited authors and their interconnections.

The policy-orientated and institutional research tradition is represented by Cluster 1 (red cluster), which includes scientists like Binswanger-Mkhize, Giné, Townsend, and Karlan. This group is mostly interested in how microinsurance systems are governed, designed, and put into

place, especially in the context of development economics and financial inclusion. The fact that people like Ito, Kono, and Mahul are involved shows that international development organisations, regulatory systems, and behavioural insights in the acceptance of microinsurance are quite important. Cluster 2 (green cluster) represents an economic tradition that focuses on risk and vulnerability. Some of its most important writers include Morduch, Dercon, and Townsend. Their research looks at how microinsurance might help low-income people deal with income shocks, manage risk, and level out their spending. This group combines microeconomic models with real-world data to show that insurance is a critical way to help people get out of poverty and increase their resilience. The protection and mutuality debate in Cluster 3 (blue cluster) is led by researchers like Giné, Yang, and Platteau. Their study looks at the social and cooperative aspects of microinsurance, focusing on community-based and mutual insurance plans. These studies look at trust, local knowledge, and social capital as important parts of making microinsurance plans work and last.

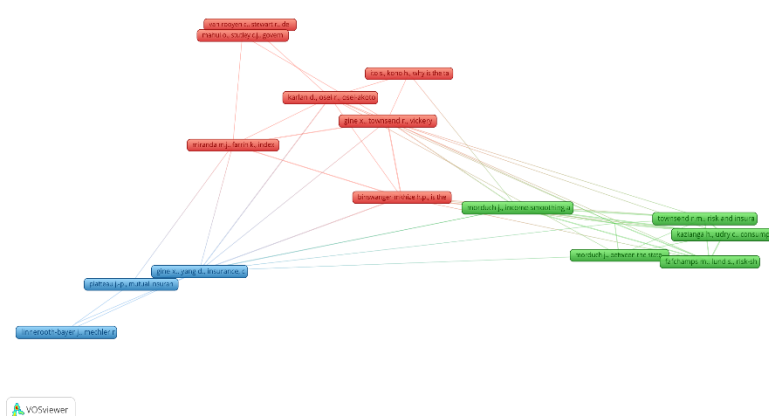


Figure 6: Co-citation network of Micro finance research

Bibliometric Coupling

The study employed the bibliographic coupling method and the VOS viewer software to do a thorough examination of the data. When two or more texts quote the same reference, the phenomenon is called bibliometric coupling. The bibliometric coupling between two documents is greater the more references they have in common. Bibliometric coupling is a quantitative tool used in bibliometric and scientometric analysis to figure out how similar two texts are by looking at the references they have in common. Bibliographic coupling is a way to map research that is based on the idea that two publications that have the same references also have comparable content (11).

The bibliometric clusters depicted in Table 4 illustrate varied academic interactions with insurance topics from 2001 to 2024. In the social insurance cluster,(12) and (13) examine institutional determinants and corporate responses to social insurance programs. The life insurance cluster, as articulated by (14) and (15), underscores life insurance as a mechanism for financial stability and inclusion in developing economies. In the realm of climate and

catastrophe insurance, (16) and (17) investigate the economic ramifications of natural catastrophes and the use of insurance in agriculture. The microinsurance cluster is led by (18), who associate microinsurance with technology adoption and (19) who investigate its capacity to alleviate poverty. In health insurance, (20) examine information frictions in plan selection, whereas (21) explore equity in actuarial processes. The Agriculture Insurance cluster, as articulated by (22) and (23), illustrates the importance of insurance in risk mitigation and economic inclusion. (24), and (25) investigate customised insurance strategies for climate risks in the context of organisational insurance. (26) and (27) investigate the impact of consumption insurance on family savings and income volatility. Ultimately, in risk insurance, (28) and (29) examine insurance strategies for poverty traps and catastrophe resilience.

Table 4: Thematic clusters of Micro insurance Research

Clusters	Author(s)	Title	TC
Social Insurance and Unemployment	Rothstein et al., (2012)	Explaining the welfare state: Power resources vs. the Quality of Government	105
	Gruber & Lettau (2004)	How elastic is the firm's demand for health insurance?	76
	Ruiz-Casares et al., (2010)	Right and access to healthcare for undocumented children: Addressing the gap between international conventions and disparate implementations in North America and Europe	62
Life Insurance	Shi et al., (2015)	The role of life insurance in an emerging economy: Human capital protection, assets allocation and social interaction	68
	Johannessen et al., (2014)	Strategies for building resilience to hazards in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems: The role of public private partnerships	60
	Giesbert et al., (2011)	Participation in Micro Life Insurance and the Use of Other Financial Services in Ghana	54
Climate and Catastrophe Insurance	Panwar & Sen (2019)	Economic Impact of Natural Disasters: An Empirical Re-examination	126
	Enjolras & Sentis (2011)	Crop insurance policies and purchases in France	85

	Patt et al., (2010)	How do small-holder farmers understand insurance, and how much do they want it? Evidence from Africa	83
Micro Insurance	Foster & Rosenzweig (2010).	Microeconomics of technology adoption	590
	Hamid et al., (2011)	Can Micro Health Insurance Reduce Poverty? Evidence From Bangladesh	60
	Grimm et al., (2013)	Kinship ties and entrepreneurship in Western Africa	46
Health Insurance	Mueller (2006)	Entrepreneurship in the region: Breeding ground for nascent entrepreneurs?	204
	Handel&Kolstad (2015)	Health insurance for "humans": Information frictions, plan choice, and consumer welfare	210
	Meyers & Van Hoyweghen, (2018)	Enacting Actuarial Fairness in Insurance: From Fair Discrimination to Behaviour-based Fairness	49
Agriculture Insurance	Meagher (2018)	Cannibalizing the Informal Economy: Frugal Innovation and Economic Inclusion in Africa	84
	Alam et al., (2020)	Agriculture insurance for disaster risk reduction: A case study of Malaysia	59
	Marr et al., (2016)	Adoption and impact of index-insurance and credit for smallholder farmers in developing countries: A systematic review	52
Organizational Insurance	Landry & Jahan-Parvar, (2011)	Flood insurance coverage in the coastal zone	84
	Schwarze et al., (2011)	Natural hazard insurance in Europe: Tailored responses to climate change are needed	56
	Kshetri (2017)	The economics of the Internet of Things in the Global South	50

Consumption Insurance	Chou et al., (2003)	National Health Insurance and precautionary saving: Evidence from Taiwan	97
	Gorodnichenko et al., (2010)	Inequality and volatility moderation in Russia: Evidence from micro-level panel data on consumption and income	53
	Cardoso & Portela (2019)	Micro foundations for wage flexibility: Wage insurance at the firm level	39
Risk Insurance	Sawada & Takasaki (2017)	Natural Disaster, Poverty, and Development: An Introduction	117
	Barnett et al., (2008)	Poverty Traps and Index-Based Risk Transfer Products	244
	Hänke & Barkmann (2017)	Insurance Function of Livestock: Farmer's Coping Capacity with Regional Droughts in South-Western Madagascar	56

Keyword Co-Occurrence Analysis

In bibliometric analysis, co-occurrence analysis is a way to find connections between important phrases, authors, or sources in academic writing. The study employed a co-occurrence analysis to investigate the keywords to gain a more comprehensive understanding of microinsurance trends (30). This study used co-occurrence analysis and thematic mapping to look at how ideas have changed, how they are organised, and new research directions in twenty years of microinsurance literature.

The evolution of keyword co-occurrence presented in Figure 7 illustrates a clear thematic transformation in the field across three distinct periods. During the early phase (2001–2008), research was anchored in foundational concerns, with keywords such as “developing countries”, “insurance”, “microfinance”, and “health insurance” reflecting a broad focus on access, poverty alleviation, and basic coverage mechanisms. In the subsequent period (2009–2017), the field diversified significantly with the rise of thematic clusters around “micro-insurance”, “financial inclusion”, and “reinsurance”, indicating a deepening of conceptual frameworks and a stronger connection to global development agendas. This phase also saw the introduction of context-specific topics, such as "agriculture," "Ethiopia," and "microhealth insurance," signalling regional and sectoral expansion. By the most recent phase (2018–2024), the research trajectory further evolved towards complexity and specialisation, with sustained

interest in “insurance”, “Africa”, and “health insurance”, while new terms such as “loss reserving”, “climate change”, and “social insurance” reflect the growing intersection of microinsurance with actuarial science, environmental risk, and social policy. The presence of terms like “micro-simulation” and “focus groups” also points to methodological refinement. Overall, the changes show a shift from basic ideas to a more detailed and complex understanding of the social, economic, environmental, and institutional aspects of microinsurance.

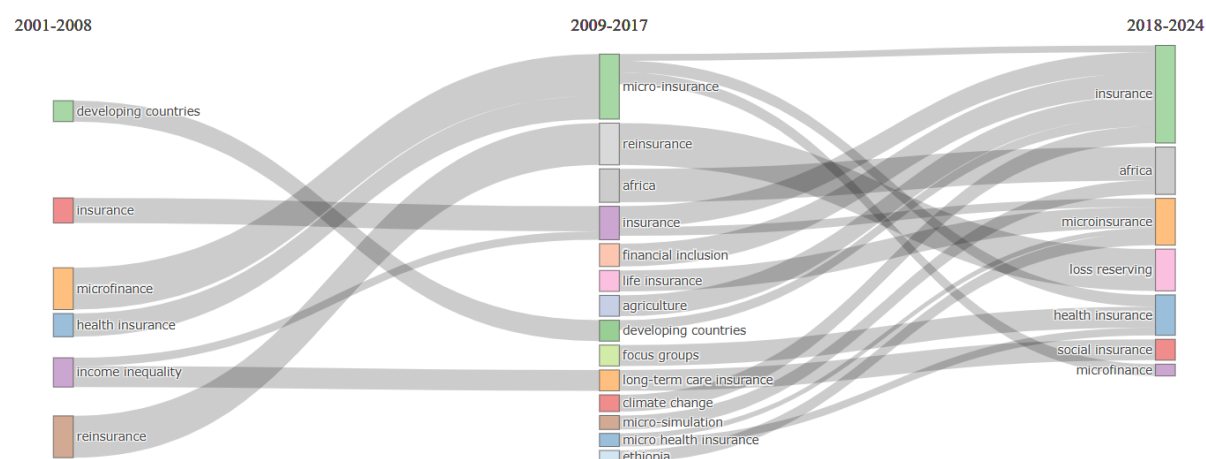


Figure 7: Co-Occurrence Analysis of Microinsurance Research (2001–2024)

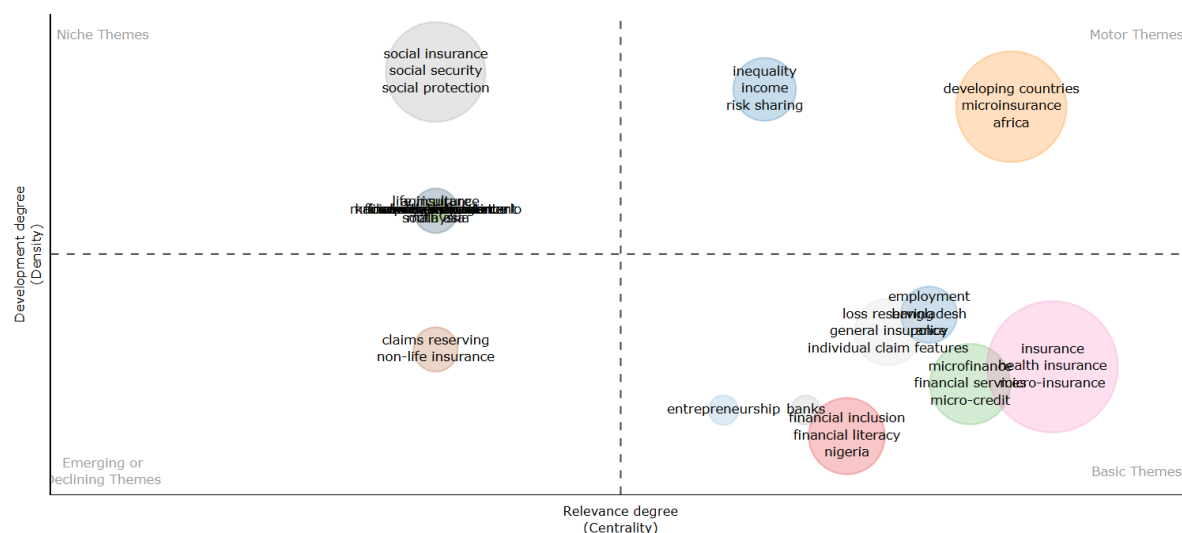


Figure 8: Thematic Map of Microinsurance Research (2001–2024)

The thematic map (Fig. 8) shows a well-organised landscape of academic interest based on centrality and density. The most important motor themes are "developing countries", "microinsurance", and "Africa". This map shows that research in these areas is both central to the field and conceptually well-developed. This study shows that there is a long-term academic and policy interest in microinsurance applications in the Global South. On the other hand, basic

ideas like "insurance", "health insurance", "microcredit", and "financial literacy" are important to the field but not as well developed. This evidence suggests that these are the key ideas that hold the field together, but there is still opportunity for more theoretical and empirical development. Niche subjects like "social insurance", "social security", and "social protection" seem very well developed but not very important. This suggests that there are specialist subfields that are strong but not very connected to the main path of microinsurance research. On the other hand, issues like "claims reserving", "non-life insurance", and "financial inclusion" in Nigeria are in the developing or falling quadrant. This means that they are either new fields of research or areas where academic interest may be fading.

Discussion

This extensive bibliometric study of microinsurance research from 2001 to 2024 demonstrates a robust and rapidly growing academic scene. The importance of well-known authors and institutions shows that there is ongoing leadership and teamwork among them, which has helped shape microinsurance as both a field of study and a relevant area for policy. The spatial concentration of contributions, along with the impact of leading academics, has shaped the global landscape of research activity and facilitated the international dissemination of ideas and practices. The three-fields plot and theme maps illustrate that microinsurance research is profoundly multidisciplinary, incorporating insights from development economics, public policy, health systems, climate resilience, and financial inclusion. The co-citation analysis emphasises conceptual coherence within subject clusters and reveals robust links among them, demonstrating a complex transdisciplinary framework. These findings affirm that the area is both broad in extent and unified in its theoretical and methodological basis. Bibliometric coupling further demonstrates the conceptual depth and empirical diversity of the subject, signifying the maturity of microinsurance research. Research has utilised a wide array of paradigms, including social protection, insurance design, behavioural economics, and poverty reduction. The theme framework indicates a solid foundation based on development-orientated policy issues while simultaneously highlighting areas for continuous transformation and untapped potential.

In conclusion, microinsurance research is at a pivotal point—established in its core contributions, yet receptive to new approaches and innovations. Emerging subjects and interdisciplinary collaborations provide a rich foundation for future academic inquiry. This review's conclusions function as both a retrospective analysis of previous advancements and a strategic framework for future research and policy enhancement in microinsurance.

This bibliometric assessment of microinsurance research from 2001–2024 offers a thorough overview of the intellectual framework, topic progression, and citation trends of the discipline; however, significant limits should be recognised. The study is limited by the extent of the indexed databases utilised, which may inadequately encompass pertinent grey literature, region-specific research, or publications in languages other than English. Consequently, significant localised research, especially in emerging economies where microinsurance is particularly pertinent, may be inadequately represented. Second, bibliometric approaches,

while strong in mapping academic production and effect, are inadequate in judging the quality and contextual relevance of individual works. Citation numbers alone may not necessarily represent practical significance or policy acceptance.

In terms of future prospects, the study emphasises numerous areas where additional research is both essential and promising. There is considerable potential for further investigation into microinsurance applications within developing industries, including digital banking, climate change adaptation, and informal labour markets. The incorporation of modern technologies, like blockchain and AI, into microinsurance frameworks is little examined and requires academic investigation. Moreover, multidisciplinary collaboration might broaden to encompass behavioural science, environmental studies, and technological innovation, thereby enhancing the conceptual foundation of the area. Increased focus on longitudinal research, evaluations of real-world effects, and culturally informed frameworks should improve academic comprehension and policy formulation. These routes offer significant opportunity to enhance the relevance and efficacy of microinsurance research in mitigating global socio-economic risks.

Conclusion

This bibliometric analysis provides a thorough examination of the development, framework, and conceptual foundations of microinsurance research from 2001 to 2024. In the past twenty years, the discipline has greatly advanced, marked by a consistent rise in academic production, varied methodological methods, and broadening theme areas. The results underscore the pivotal importance of development economics, public policy, and risk management in influencing the dialogue, with significant input from both individual academics and cooperative institutional initiatives. The co-citation and bibliographic coupling analyses demonstrate a robust conceptual framework, characterised by persistent themes like social protection, health financing, and community-based insurance schemes. Geographical and institutional mapping highlights the increasing globalisation of microinsurance research, but concentrated leadership persists in certain places and among prominent writers. Thematic analysis reveals a pronounced policy focus, with rising subjects like digital microinsurance, climate risk, and financial inclusion becoming increasingly significant recently. Although the discipline demonstrates intellectual unity and interdisciplinary collaboration, there are still chances to enhance involvement in neglected domains and to connect theoretical progress with real policy applications. This study offers essential insights into the historical developments and present state of microinsurance research. It serves as an important tool for future researchers, policy makers, and organisations looking to effectively contribute to the ongoing improvement and real-world use of inclusive risk prevention strategies in at-risk situations.

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Abbreviation

VOS: Visualization of Similarities

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