

Research Trends on Women Entrepreneurship in Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: A Bibliometric Review

Alifa Sakina Haurannisa^{a*}, Ratih Purbasari^b, Pratami Wulan Tresna^c

^{abc}Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia

* Corresponding author e-mail: alifa24015@mail.unpad.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

Women entrepreneurship within entrepreneurial ecosystems has emerged as a rapidly growing field of scholarly inquiry, yet its intellectual and thematic landscape remains insufficiently mapped. This study presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of 94 documents from 64 sources indexed between 2016 and 2026, using Biblioshiny to examine research trends, intellectual structure, and emerging themes in this field. Addressing RQ1, findings reveal an annual growth rate of 31.1%, with the International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship as the most productive and influential source, and the United States as the leading contributing country with an international co-authorship rate of 38.3%. Addressing RQ2, the collaboration network remains fragmented across 11 small clusters, while keyword co-occurrence analysis identifies Entrepreneur, Gender, and Entrepreneurship as the most central terms, with Ecosystem and Entrepreneur emerging as motor themes in the thematic map. Addressing RQ3, trend topic analysis identifies Female entrepreneurship as the most rapidly developing topic projected to grow beyond 2026, with three key research gaps identified: the underdeveloped conceptual integration of gender within ecosystem frameworks, the limited maturity of female entrepreneurship literature, and the isolation of digital platform ecosystems from mainstream research. As a bibliometric review, this study maps the intellectual and thematic evolution of the field, identifies three research gaps requiring further conceptual development, and provides a foundation for future research on gender-responsive entrepreneurial ecosystems.

INTRODUCTION

Women's entrepreneurship is a driver of economic growth, job creation, and inclusive social development. The number of women entrepreneurs continues to increase. Women entrepreneurs face challenges that differ from those faced by male entrepreneurs. These challenges include limited access to capital, limited access to networks, and limited access to technology (Lucarelli et al., 2025). Gender-based inequality in the labour market constrains the economic potential of women entrepreneurs. This inequality includes unequal access to resources (Pandey & Kumar, 2019), occupational segregation (Alwago, 2023), and constrained economic participation (Dhar et al., 2025). These forms of inequality reduce productivity through the misallocation of talent and the underutilization of women's entrepreneurial capacity. Reduced productivity hinders overall economic development (Fernández et al., 2021). Women's entrepreneurship therefore faces structural barriers to its full development.

The entrepreneurial ecosystem in ASEAN and in Indonesia remains insufficiently responsive to women entrepreneurs. Existing literature on the relationship between women's entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems shows specific limitations. Ungerer et al. (2023) state that the intersection of female entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems has not been systematically mapped. While their review provides a qualitative synthesis without bibliometric mapping. Gehlot et al. (2025) conduct a bibliometric analysis of women's entrepreneurship research using Biblioshiny. Their analysis identifies digital transformation and informal economies as underexplored themes. Their analysis addresses women's entrepreneurship broadly. Their analysis does not examine the entrepreneurial ecosystem as a structural context. Ben Saad et al. (2026) conduct a systematic review of women's entrepreneurship in the Gulf Cooperation Council region. Their review identifies institutional and ecosystem gaps and is geographically limited to a single region. These reviews indicate that research at the intersection of women's entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems remains fragmented in its intellectual development, its collaborative structures, and its research themes.

Research on women's entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems has continued to expand. This research employs both qualitative and quantitative approaches. A systematic bibliometric examination focused specifically on the intersection of these two fields remains limited. This study employs Biblioshiny in R Studio to map the evolution of this literature and examines publication trends, collaborative networks, and research themes. This study provides overview of scholarship on women's entrepreneurship within entrepreneurial ecosystems. The study addresses the following research questions.

RQ1 What are the developments and trends in scientific publications on women's entrepreneurship within entrepreneurial ecosystems?

RQ2 What are the patterns of collaborative networks in research on women's entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems?

RQ3 What are the dominant and emerging research themes and topics in studies on women's entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems?

This study follows a two-stage analytical sequence (Donthu et al., 2021). Performance analysis and science mapping constitute the two main methodologies of bibliometric research. Performance analysis establishes the quantitative foundation of the field. This foundation includes publication volume, citation patterns, and the productivity of authors, journals, and countries. Science mapping builds on this foundation. Science mapping reveals the relational structure of the field, including collaboration patterns and conceptual linkages among publications. Thematic synthesis follows both stages. Thematic synthesis integrates these two layers of evidence to identify dominant themes and future research directions. This sequence moves from descriptive metrics to relational structure, to thematic interpretation.

To ensure a coherent structure, this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the materials and methods used in this study, covering the literature search procedures, document inclusion and exclusion criteria, and the generation of analytical data used in Biblioshiny within R Studio. Section 3 presents the results of the performance analysis, addressing RQ1. Section 4 maps the patterns of collaborative networks, addressing RQ2. Section 5 synthesizes these findings to identify dominant research themes and topics, as well as future research directions, addressing RQ3. Section 6 concludes the study by summarizing the answers to the three research questions. Section 7 outlines the limitations of this study and potential avenues for further bibliometric research on women's entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a bibliometric approach to analyse the development and structure of the literature. The analysis quantitatively examines scientific publications using citation and bibliographic data to identify publication patterns, research trends, and knowledge gaps. The study follows the Bibliometric-Systematic Literature Review Framework (B-SLR) and the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines to structure the literature identification and screening process.

Database. This study was conducted using data obtained from Scopus, a reputable repository of scientific publications known as a database covering various disciplines, including social sciences, politics, business, management, and finance. Scopus was selected because it has a broad coverage of business journals, is indexed to a high standard, and is compatible with bibliometric mapping tools, ensuring the consistency and quality of large-scale bibliometric analysis. The database search was conducted using an appropriate and recognized systematic review protocol, applying the B-SLR by (Marzi et al., 2025) and following the PRISMA guidelines by (Page et al., 2021).

Keyword Selection. First, consistent with the conceptual mapping outlined in the preceding section, the keyword set was derived from two families of terms. The first captures women's

entrepreneurship and was assembled from Corrêa et al. (2022), Moreira et al. (2019), Kamran et al. (2026), and Nguyen et al. (2025). The second captures the entrepreneurial ecosystem and was assembled from Kansheba & Wald (2020), Thai et al. (2023) and Wadichar et al. (2024). Truncated forms were retained where prior reviews used them. The two families were then combined with additional variants to produce the final search string.

Second, based on the keyword findings from previous researchers, the keywords most relevant to the research topic were combined, filtered, and supplemented with new keywords, resulting in the following set of keywords:

("women entrepre*" OR "female* entrepre*" OR "women* business*" OR "female* business*" OR "women* enterprise*" OR "female* enterprise*" OR "women* start-up*" OR "female* start-up*" OR "women* startup*" OR "female* startup*") AND (ecosystem OR "startup ecosystem" OR "start-up ecosystem" OR "entrepre* ecosystem*" OR "ecosystem* entrepre*")*

These search terms represent the final-stage query applied to Scopus, which was selected as the primary database because it offers broad coverage of business and management journals, maintains high indexing standards, and is fully compatible with bibliometric tools such as Biblioshiny, thereby ensuring consistency and quality in large-scale bibliometric analysis (see Database section).

The query was used consistently throughout the data identification phase, and to ensure a comprehensive search, the selected keywords had to appear in the article title, abstract, or author-provided keywords. At this stage, 484 articles were identified as of July 1, 2026. Next came the screening stage, which involved applying filters to limit the document type to “article” (ar), the source type to “journal” (j), the publication language to English, and the publication status to “final.” The refined query yielded 226 articles. This resulted in the final search query applied to Scopus, as follows:

TITLE-ABS-KEY (("women entrepre*" OR "female* entrepre*" OR "women* business*" OR "female* business*" OR "women* enterprise*" OR "female* enterprise*" OR "women* start-up*" OR "female* start-up*" OR "women* startup*" OR "female* startup*") AND (ecosystem OR "startup ecosystem" OR "start-up ecosystem" OR "entrepre* ecosystem*" OR "ecosystem* entrepre*")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (SRCTYPE , "j")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE , "final"))*

After obtaining the Scopus data, a manual screening process was conducted based on titles, abstracts, and keywords. In several cases, full-text articles were also reviewed to verify thematic relevance. To reduce potential bias, journal names and author identities were anonymized during the screening process. The screening procedure followed predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria that focused on the relevance of studies to the entrepreneurial ecosystem and women entrepreneurs. Documents lacking conceptual alignment with the research topic were excluded. The detailed criteria used in the screening process are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Inclusion criteria and Exclusion criteria

Category	Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
Search scope	Keywords must appear in titles, abstracts, or author keywords.	Articles that do not include keywords in core text sections.
Initial identification	Articles indexed in Scopus up to 1 July 2026 (484 records).	Document outside the time frame or not available in Scopus.
Database filters	Document type=article; Publication status=final; Source type=journals; Language=english.	Non-articles (Book chapters, Reviews, Conference papers, etc), articles in press, non- English publications.
Thematic relevance	Studies related to Entrepreneurial Ecosystem and Women entrepreneur.	Studies not relevant to Entrepreneurial Ecosystem and Women entrepreneur.
Manual screening	Titles, abstracts, keyword, and some cases full text include manually screened.	Articles that do not provide significant conceptual insights into the topic.
Bias reduction	Journal names and author identities were concealed to reduce bias.	Articles eliminated due to reviewer subjectivity or bias.
Final selection	Articles meeting all criteria, consistent with bibliometric protocols and research objectives = 94	Articles excluded through automatic filtering and manual screening.

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

The inclusion criteria covered studies related to the entrepreneurial ecosystem, women entrepreneurs, and investigations of the relationship between entrepreneurial ecosystems and women entrepreneurship. The exclusion criteria removed studies that did not provide relevant conceptual insights or failed to address either topic. Following the application of these criteria, the screening process was conducted in accordance with established bibliometric review protocols. The complete sequence of identification, screening, eligibility assessment, and final selection is illustrated in Figure 1.

Initially, the study was planned to include documents published from 2000 onward. However, the screening process revealed that the earliest relevant Scopus-indexed publication related to the entrepreneurial ecosystem and women entrepreneurs appeared in 2016. Consequently, all eligible documents published between 2016 and July 1, 2026, were included in the analysis. This period captures the emergence and development of research on entrepreneurial ecosystems in the context of women entrepreneurship and resulted in a final dataset of 94 documents for bibliometric analysis.

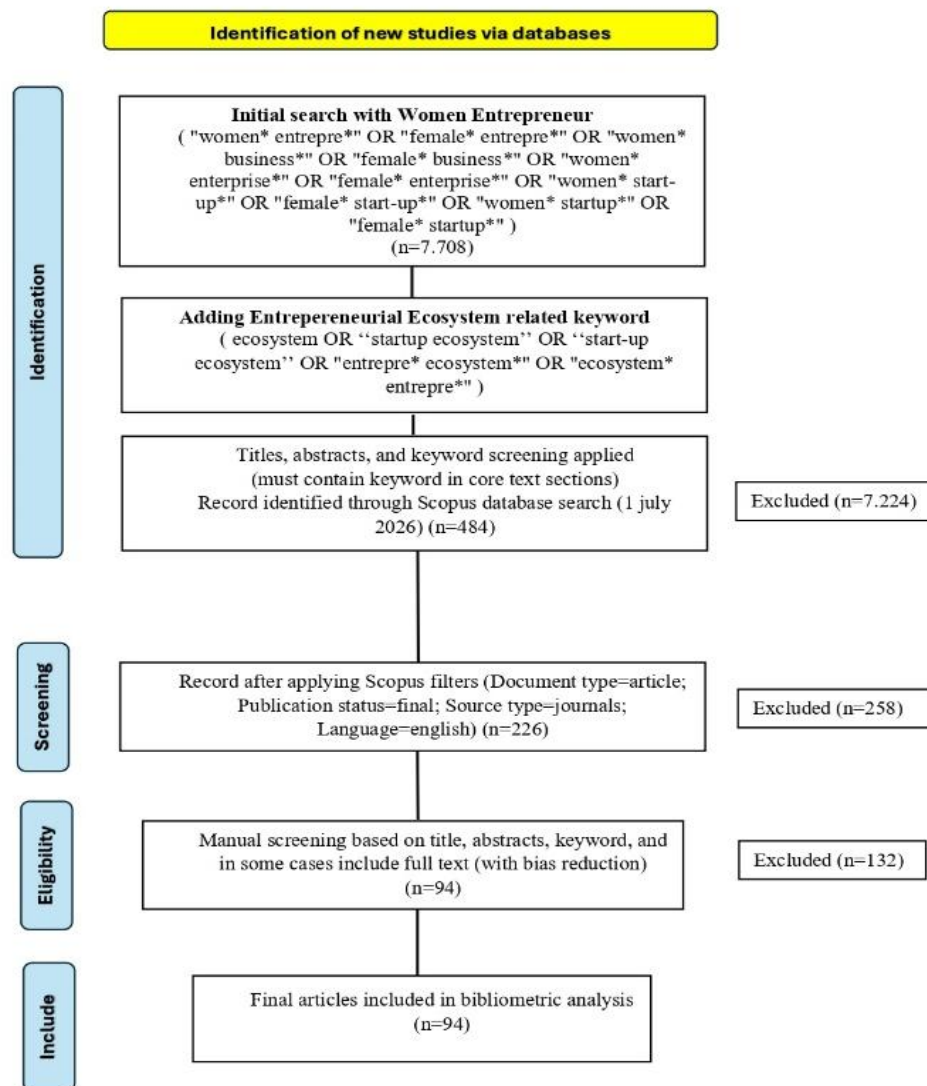


Figure 1. PRISMA framework on bibliometric analysis of women entrepreneurship research studies

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Data Analysis. This study used Biblioshiny in R Studio to address the research questions (RQs) (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017). The analysis was conducted in three stages in accordance with the study's focus. To address RQ1, this stage aimed to evaluate research performance through quantitative indicators such as the number of publications, citations, authors, journals, and international collaborations, presenting analyses using Bradford's Law and author productivity using Lotka's Law (Hoang, 2025; Souza et al., 2024). Next, to address RQ2, the intellectual and thematic structure was mapped through collaboration network analysis and keyword co-occurrence analysis, followed by thematic mapping to classify research themes based on

centrality and density values into four quadrants (Prabha et al., 2025; Pradana et al., 2025). To address RQ3, trend topic analysis was used to identify topics experiencing significant growth.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The results section is organized according to the research questions, with each analytical subsection explicitly addressing a specific aspect of the bibliometric investigation. Descriptive analyses are presented first and provide an overview of the dataset, serving as a contextual foundation.

Descriptive analytics. The dataset covers the period from 2016 to 2026. Although the initial search was intended to include publications from 2000 onwards, eligible Scopus-indexed studies on women’s entrepreneurship within entrepreneurial ecosystems only began to appear in 2016. The final dataset consists of 94 journal articles, providing a homogeneous basis for bibliometric analysis. As shown in Table 2, the field demonstrates strong publication growth and a relatively young literature base, indicating increasing scholarly attention and the continuing development of research on women’s entrepreneurship within entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of The Dataset

Category	Description	Results
Main Information About Data	Timespan	2016:2026
	Sources (Journals, Books, Etc)	64
	Documents	94
	Annual Growth Rate %	31,1
	Document Average Age	2,48
	Average Citations Per Doc	17,95
	References	0
Document Contents	Keywords Plus (Id)	161
	Author’s Keywords (DE)	381
Authors	Authors	281
	Authors Of Single-Authored Docs	12
Authors Collaboration	Single-Authored Docs	12
	Co-Authors Per Doc	3,01
	International Co-Authorships %	38,3
Document Types	Article	94

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

The dataset includes 381 author keywords and 161 Keywords Plus, indicating diverse research themes and terminology. A total of 281 authors contributed to the 94 articles, with an average of 3.01 authors per document, highlighting the collaborative nature of this field. International

collaboration accounts for 38.3% of publications, demonstrating broad global engagement in research on women's entrepreneurship within entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Performance Analysis. This section presents Biblioshiny output based on the highest value of each indicator. Table 3 ranks sources by Freq (Bradford's Law), Table 4 by H-Index, Table 5 by H-Index, Table 6 by number of documents and author proportion (Lotka's Law), Table 7 by number of articles, Table 8 by number of articles, and Table 9 by Total Citations (TC). Together, these tables highlight the sources, authors, affiliations, countries, and documents with the greatest contribution and impact in Women's Entrepreneurship within Entrepreneurial Ecosystems.

Source. Bradford's Law was used to identify the core journals that contribute most to research on women's entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems. This analysis helps reveal the concentration of publications within the field and highlights the primary outlets for scholarly dissemination.

Table 2. The 10 most productive sources based on bradford's Law

Rank	Sources (So)	Freq	Cumfreq	Zone
1	International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship	6	6	Zone 1
2	Cogent Business and Management	4	10	Zone 1
3	International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research	4	14	Zone 1
4	Small Business Economics	4	18	Zone 1
5	Administrative Sciences	3	21	Zone 1
6	Journal of Business Research	3	24	Zone 1
7	Journal of Business Venturing Insights	3	27	Zone 1
8	Journal of Enterprising Communities	3	30	Zone 1
9	Journal of the International Council for Small Business	3	33	Zone 1
10	Women's Studies International Forum	3	36	Zone 2

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Table 3 shows that publication output is concentrated in a limited number of journals. The International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship ranks first with six publications, followed by Cogent Business and Management, International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research, and Small Business Economics with four publications each. Most leading journals belong to Zone 1, indicating a concentration of knowledge production within a core group of outlets. To complement productivity analysis, Table 4 presents the most influential sources based on citation and impact indicators.

Table 3. Top 15 most influential sources

Rank	Source	H_Index	G_Index	M_Index	Tc	Np	Py_Start
1	International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship	5	6	0,455	106	6	2016
2	International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research	4	4	0,500	113	4	2019
3	Journal of Business Research	3	3	0,750	48	3	2023
4	Journal of Enterprising Communities	3	3	0,333	45	3	2018
5	Journal of the International Council for Small Business	3	3	0,600	48	3	2022
6	Small Business Economics	3	4	0,375	739	4	2019
7	Cogent Business and Management	2	3	0,667	14	4	2024
8	Ids Bulletin	2	2	0,286	23	2	2020
9	International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal	2	2	1,000	19	2	2025
10	Journal of Research in Marketing and Entrepreneurship	2	2	0,667	38	2	2024
11	Acta Psychologica	1	1	0,500	1	1	2025
12	Administrative Sciences	1	3	0,500	16	3	2025
13	Agriculture And Human Values	1	1	0,500	2	1	2025
14	Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics	1	1	0,500	1	1	2025
15	Asia-Pacific Journal of Regional Science	1	1	0,200	7	1	2022

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Table 4 reveals that journal productivity does not always correspond to scientific impact. Small Business Economics records the highest total citations (739), indicating substantial scholarly recognition. The International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship achieves the highest H-index (5), demonstrating consistent citation performance across its publications. Meanwhile, International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal records the highest M-index (1.000), reflecting rapid growth in citation impact.

Authors. This analysis examines the most influential authors and the distribution of author productivity within the field. Author influence is assessed using bibliometric impact indicators, while productivity patterns are evaluated using Lotka's Law.

Table 4. 15 most influential authors

Rank	Author	H_Index	G_Index	M_Index	Tc	Np	Py_Start
1	Maalaoui A	2	2	0,500	23	2	2023
2	Adegbile As	1	1	0,333	15	1	2024
3	Adelowo C	1	1	0,250	1	1	2023
4	Adesola S	1	1	0,333	15	1	2024
5	Afif K	1	1	0,500	2	1	2025
6	Ahokangas P	1	1	0,333	27	1	2024
7	Aidis R	1	1	0,091	42	1	2016
8	Akinwale Y	1	1	0,250	1	1	2023
9	Al Omoush Ks	1	1	0,333	7	1	2024
10	Aljarodi Am	1	1	0,333	14	1	2024
11	Almulhim Aa	1	1	1,000	1	1	2026
12	Alok S	1	1	0,500	4	1	2025
13	Alomair A	1	1	1,000	1	1	2026
14	Aman R	1	1	0,333	27	1	2024
15	Atwal H	1	1	0,250	4	1	2023

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Table 5 identifies the authors with the strongest scientific impact in this field. Maalaoui A ranks first with the highest H-index and G-index values, while Aidis R records the highest total citations. In contrast, Almulhim Aa and Alomair A show the highest M-index values, indicating rapid citation growth despite their recent entry into the field. These indicators provide complementary perspectives on author influence, including productivity, citation performance, and citation growth (Gasparyan et al., 2018; Hirsch, 2005). Table 6 further examines whether author productivity is concentrated among a small number of contributors.

Table 5. Author productivity through lotka's Laws

Documents written	N. of Authors	Proportion of Authors
1	279	0,9929
2	2	0,0071

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Table 6 shows a highly uneven distribution of author productivity. A total of 279 authors published only one article, whereas only two authors contributed two publications. This pattern is consistent with Lotka's Law, which states that most authors publish a single work while only a small proportion maintain repeated contributions within a field (Donthu et al., 2021). The limited number of recurring contributors suggests that research on women's entrepreneurship within entrepreneurial ecosystems remains an emerging area with substantial opportunities for future scholarly contributions.

Affiliations and Countries. The analysis examines the distribution of research contributions across institutional affiliations and countries. This analysis identifies the institutions and countries with the highest publication output and provides an overview of the geographical distribution of research in the field.

Table 6. Top 15 most influential affiliations based on publications

Rank	Affiliation	Articles
1	California State University	3
2	Nottingham Trent University	3
3	Ramon Llull University	3
4	Tshwane University of Technology	3
5	American University of Beirut	2
6	Birla Institute of Technology and Science	2
7	Boston University Metropolitan College	2
8	Dalhousie University	2
9	Free University of Bozen-Bolzano	2
10	Indian Institute of Management	2
11	King Faisal University	2
12	Lovely Professional University	2
13	Manipal Institute of Technology	2
14	Niigata University	2
15	Rowan University	2

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Table 7 shows that the leading affiliations each contributed two or three articles. California State University, Nottingham Trent University, Ramon Llull University, and Tshwane University of Technology recorded the highest output with three articles each. The distribution across institutions indicates that research contributions are spread across multiple academic affiliations. Table 8 extends this analysis to the country level by examining publication output and international collaboration.

Table 7. Top 15 most influential countries based on publications and citations

Rank	Country	Articles	Articles %	SCP	MCP	MCP %
1	USA	16	17,0213	9	7	43,75
2	India	9	9,5745	7	2	22,22
3	China	6	6,3830	3	3	50,00
4	Spain	6	6,3830	1	5	83,33
5	United Kingdom	5	5,3191	3	2	40,00
6	South Africa	4	4,2553	4	0	0,00

Rank	Country	Articles	Articles %	SCP	MCP	MCP %
7	Canada	3	3,1915	3	0	0,00
8	Colombia	3	3,1915	2	1	33,33
9	France	3	3,1915	1	2	66,67
10	Germany	3	3,1915	3	0	0,00
11	Italy	3	3,1915	2	1	33,33
12	Lebanon	3	3,1915	1	2	66,67
13	Australia	2	2,1277	1	1	50,00
14	Jordan	2	2,1277	2	0	0,00
15	Netherlands	2	2,1277	0	2	100,00

**Articles% Percentage of total articles, SCP Single-Country Publications, MCP Multi-Country Publications, MCP% Percentage of Multi-Country Publications*

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Table 8 shows that the United States has the highest publication output with 16 articles, followed by India with nine articles. In terms of international collaboration, the Netherlands records the highest MCP percentage at 100%, while the United States records 43.75% from seven multi-country publications. These results indicate differences in both publication productivity and international collaboration across countries.

Papers. The analysis identifies the most influential papers based on total citations and citations per year. These indicators provide an overview of the documents that have received the greatest scholarly attention in the field.

Table 8. 15 most influential papers

Rank	Paper	DOI	TC	Tc Per Year
1	Neumeyer X, 2019, Small Bus Econ	10.1007/S11187-018-9996-5	285	35,6
2	Hechavarría Dm, 2019, Small Bus Econ	10.1007/S11187-018-9994-7	231	28,9
3	Mcadam M, 2019, Small Bus Econ	10.1007/S11187-018-9995-6	222	27,8
4	Kuschel K, 2017, Cross Cult Strategic Manage	10.1108/Ccsm-03-2016-0072	68	6,8
5	Wang J, 2019, Int J Entrep Behav Res	10.1108/Ijebr-04-2018-0248	66	8,2
6	Schäfer S, 2021, Geogr Compass	10.1111/Gec3.12591	43	7,2
7	Aidis R, 2016, Int J Gender Entrepreneurship	10.1108/Ijge-12-2015-0044	42	3,8
8	Motoyama Y, 2021, Local Econ	10.1177/0269094221995783	33	5,5
9	Kakeesh Df, 2024, J Res Mark Entrep	10.1108/Jrme-09-2023-0158	32	10,7
10	Kang Hy, 2022, Technovation	10.1016/J.Technovation.2022.102522	31	6,2
11	Welsh Dhb, 2023, J Bus Res	10.1016/J.Jbusres.2022.113320	31	7,8
12	Ogundana O, 2024, J Int Counc Small Bus	10.1080/26437015.2022.2100296	28	9,3
13	Aman R, 2024, Int J Entrep Behav Res	10.1108/Ijebr-04-2023-0425	27	9

Rank	Paper	DOI	TC	Tc Per Year
14	Mouazen Am, 2023, Int J Gender Entrepreneurship	10.1108/Ijge-07-2022-0116	26	6,5
15	Freund D, 2024, J Sustainable Tour	10.1080/09669582.2023.2207780	25	8,3

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Table 9 shows that Neumeyer et al. (2019) has the highest total citations with 285 citations, followed by Hechavarria & Ingram (2019) and McAdam et al. (2019), with 231 and 222 citations, respectively. All three papers were published in Small Business Economics. Kakeesh (2024) records the highest citations per year at 10.7, indicating strong recent citation activity. Aidis & Weeks (2016) remains the oldest highly cited paper in the dataset, with 42 total citations.

Collaborations Networks. The Collaborations Networks section presents Biblioshiny output based on the highest value of each indicator. Table 10 ranks co-authorship collaborations by PageRank, Table 11 ranks keyword co-occurrence by PageRank, and Table 12 ranks thematic clusters by Callon Centrality and Callon Density, supported by Figure 2 (co-authorship network), Figure 3 (keyword co-occurrence network), and Figure 4 (thematic map). Together, these reveal the collaboration structure, keyword connectivity, and thematic development in Women's Entrepreneurship within Entrepreneurial Ecosystems.

Co-authorship. The co-authorship analysis examines collaboration patterns among authors in the field. Table 10 presents the 15 authors with the highest network indicators based on Betweenness, Closeness, and PageRank.

Table 9. 15 Co-authorship collaboration

Rank	Author	Cluster	Betweenness	Closeness	PageRank
1	Goncalves m	1	1	0,50	0,061
2	Celik e	1	0	0,33	0,032
3	Choosuk c	1	0	0,33	0,032
4	Maalaoui a	2	1	0,50	0,061
5	Brecht s	2	0	0,33	0,032
6	Cavallo f	2	0	0,33	0,032
7	Adegbile as	3	0	1	0,042
8	Adesola s	3	0	1	0,042
9	Adelowo c	4	0	1	0,042
10	Akinwale y	4	0	1	0,042
11	Afif k	5	0	1	0,042
12	Azima s	5	0	1	0,042
13	Ahokangas p	6	0	1	0,042

Rank	Author	Cluster	Betweenness	Closeness	PageRank
14	Aman r	6	0	1	0,042
15	Almulhim aa	7	0	1	0,042

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Table 10 shows that Goncalves M and Maalaoui A record the highest PageRank value (0.061) and the highest Betweenness value (1). These values indicate their prominent positions in the co-authorship network. The Closeness values of 0.50 for both authors also indicate their network position within their respective collaboration structures. Figure 2 illustrates the overall co-authorship network.

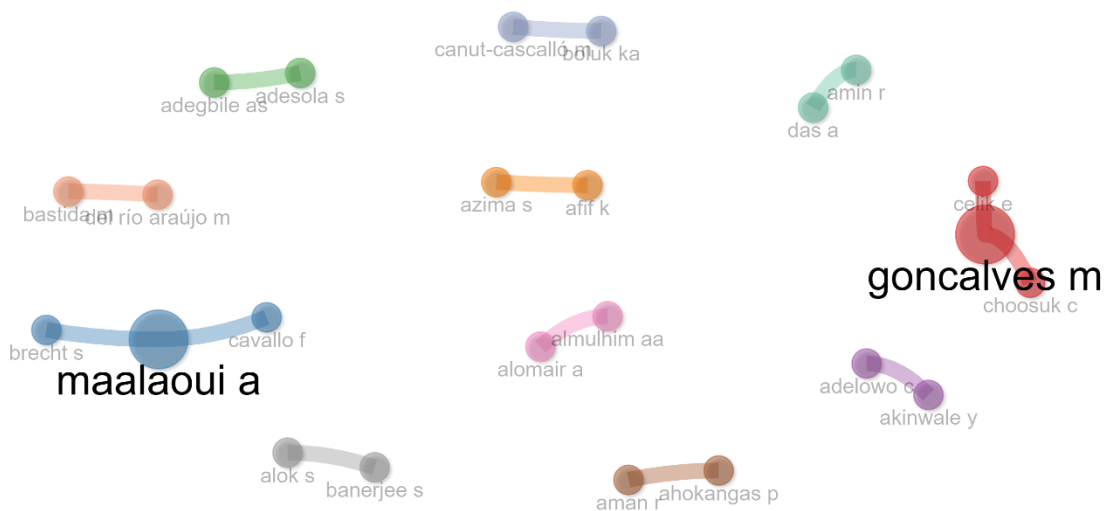


Figure 2. Co-authorship collaboration

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Figure 2 shows that 25 of the 281 authors met the minimum collaboration threshold and formed 11 collaboration clusters. Most clusters contain two or three authors. The relatively small number of connected authors and the separation between clusters indicate that co-authorship remains concentrated within limited research groups. This pattern is consistent with the average of 3.01 authors per document reported in the descriptive analysis.

Keyword Co-occurrence. The keyword co-occurrence analysis examines the relationships among keywords based on their joint occurrence across the selected publications. Table 11 presents the 15 keywords with the highest network indicators from the 34 keywords that met the minimum occurrence threshold.

Table 10. 15 Keyword Co-occurrence Network

Rank	Keyword	Cluster	Betweenness	Closeness	PageRank
1	Entrepreneurship	1	169,1	0,018	0,082
2	Gender	1	171,0	0,019	0,095
3	Female entrepreneurship	1	0,0	0,012	0,011

Rank	Keyword	Cluster	Betweenness	Closeness	PageRank
4	Female entrepreneurs	1	0,0	0,012	0,017
5	Women’s entrepreneurship	1	3,8	0,013	0,015
6	Innovation	1	0,0	0,012	0,009
7	Economic development	1	4,7	0,012	0,017
8	Women	1	0,0	0,013	0,017
9	Gender equality	1	0,0	0,012	0,009
10	Social entrepreneurship	1	0,0	0,012	0,017
11	Women entrepreneurship	2	62,2	0,013	0,036
12	Entrepreneurial ecosystem	2	27,9	0,015	0,026
13	Institutional theory	2	0,0	0,009	0,012
14	Angel investment	2	0,0	0,009	0,012
15	Entrepreneur	3	244,2	0,020	0,115

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Table 11 shows that “Entrepreneur” records the highest Betweenness (244.2) and PageRank (0.115). “Gender” and “Entrepreneurship” also record relatively high Betweenness and PageRank values. These results indicate that the three keywords occupy prominent positions in the keyword network. Figure 3 presents the relationships among the identified keywords.

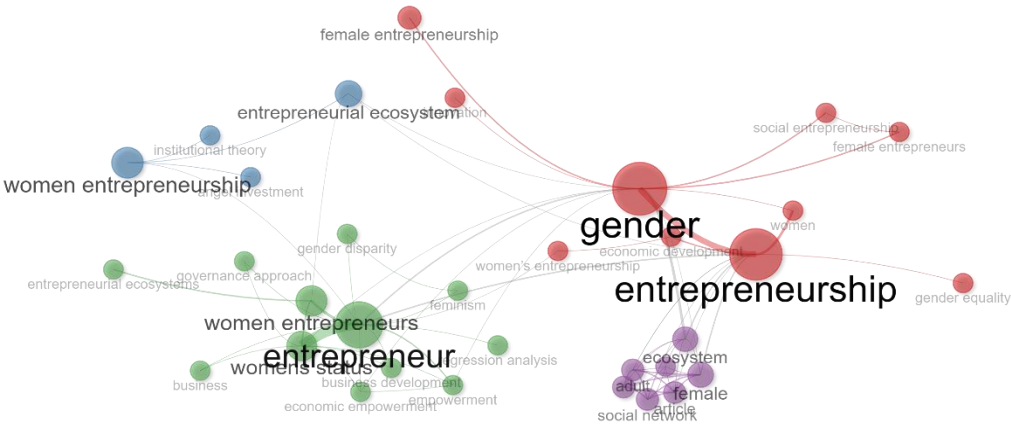


Figure 3. Keyword Co-occurrence Network

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Figure 3 shows four keyword clusters. Cluster 1 centers on “Entrepreneurship,” Cluster 2 centers on “Women’s Entrepreneurship,” Cluster 3 centers on “Entrepreneur,” and Cluster 4 centers on “Ecosystem.” The four clusters represent interconnected research themes related to

gender, entrepreneurship, women's entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Thematic map. The thematic map analysis examines the development and relevance of research themes based on Callon Centrality and Callon Density. Table 12 presents the centrality, density, rank, and frequency of the eight identified thematic clusters.

Table 11. Thematic map analysis - Cluster centrality and density

Cluster	Callon centrality	Callon density	Rank centrality	Rank density	Cluster frequency
Gender	1,872	54,009	4	3	74
Women entrepreneurship	2,768	65,583	6	5	39
Entrepreneur	3,769	66,116	8	6	47
Entrepreneurial ecosystem	2,708	62,326	5	4	45
Women entrepreneurs	1,073	52,877	3	2	32
Female entrepreneurship	0,673	47,159	2	1	20
Ecosystem	3,156	198,657	7	8	48
Digital platform ecosystem	0,000	154,167	1	7	12

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Table 12 shows that “Entrepreneur” has the highest Callon Centrality (3.769), while “Ecosystem” has the highest Callon Density (198.657). These values indicate differences in the external relevance and internal development of the identified themes. Figure 4 presents the thematic positions based on centrality and density.

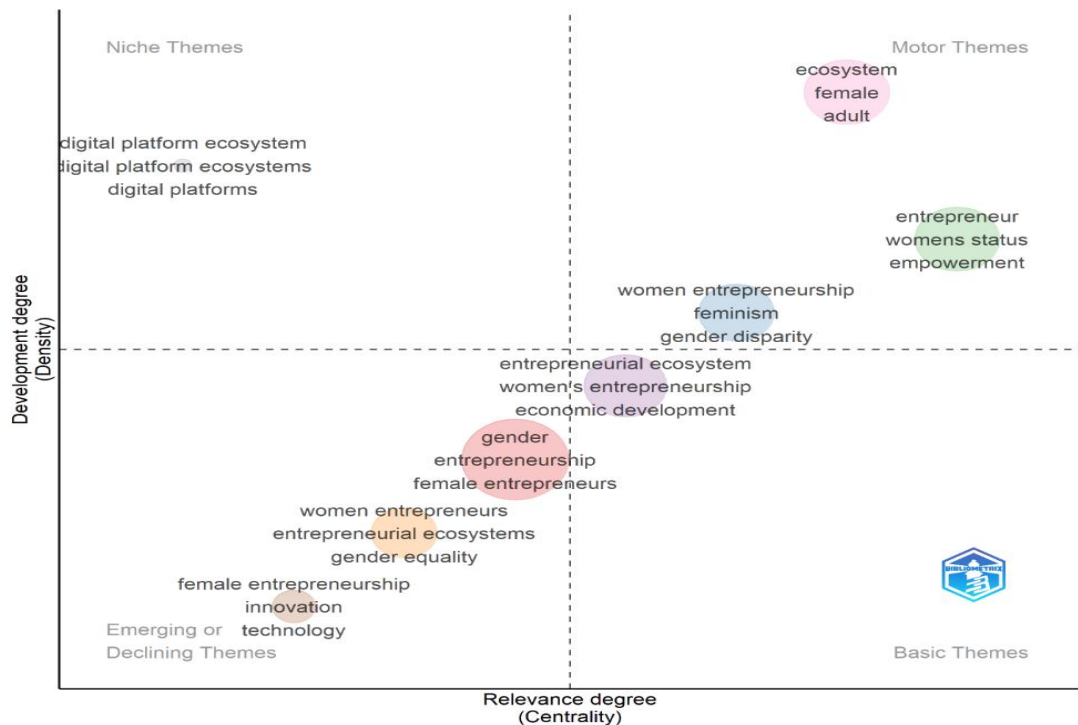


Figure 4. Thematic map analysis

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Figure 4 distributes the eight thematic clusters across four quadrants based on Callon Centrality and Callon Density. “Ecosystem” and “Entrepreneur” occupy prominent positions among the developed themes. “Digital platform ecosystem” is positioned as a niche theme. “Female entrepreneurship” is positioned in the emerging or declining area. “Entrepreneurial ecosystem” and “Women’s entrepreneurship” are located near the boundary between the basic and emerging or declining areas. These positions indicate different levels of thematic development and relevance within the literature.

Research Developments. The Research Developments section presents Biblioshiny output based on the highest value of each indicator. Table 13 ranks trend topics by Frequency, supported by Year (Q1), Year (Median), and Year (Q3), while Figure 5 visualizes the trend topics. Together, these reveal the evolution and shifting research focus over time in Women's Entrepreneurship within Entrepreneurial Ecosystems.

Trend Topic. The trend topic analysis examines changes in research attention over time based on keyword frequency and occurrence periods. Table 13 presents the identified trend topics based on Frequency, Year (Q1), Year (Median), and Year (Q3). These indicators show the frequency and temporal distribution of topics in research on women’s entrepreneurship within entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Table 12. Trend Topic

Term	Frequency	Year (Q1)	Year (Median)	Year (Q3)
Entrepreneurial ecosystems	7	2019	2021	2024
Gender	21	2022	2023	2025
Women entrepreneurs	12	2021	2023	2025
Innovation	5	2023	2023	2024
Women entrepreneurship	15	2024	2024	2025
Entrepreneur	14	2020	2024	2025
Entrepreneurial ecosystem	12	2022	2024	2025
Entrepreneurship	21	2022	2025	2025
Female entrepreneurship	11	2024	2025	2026

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Table 13 identifies nine trend topics with different levels of frequency and temporal distribution. “Gender” and “Entrepreneurship” have the highest frequencies at 21 occurrences each, showing their strong presence in the literature during the recent period. “Women entrepreneurship” and “Female entrepreneurship” appear later in the dataset, with median years of 2024 and 2025, respectively. “Female entrepreneurship” has the latest Q3 year at 2026, indicating its recent emergence within the literature. In contrast, “Entrepreneurial ecosystems” has the earliest Q1 year in 2019 and the longest temporal span, showing its sustained presence

across the development of the field. These patterns indicate a shift from broader ecosystem and entrepreneurship topics toward more specific attention to gender and women's entrepreneurship.

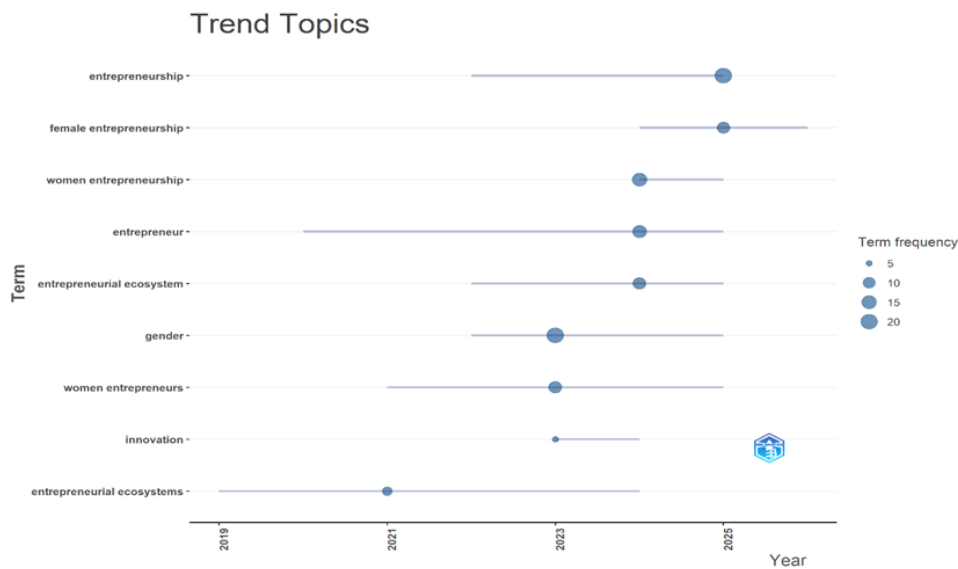


Figure 5. Trend Topic

Source: Research Data (Processed), 2026

Figure 5 visualizes the temporal distribution of the identified trend topics. The pattern shows that earlier research was associated with “Entrepreneurial ecosystems” and “Entrepreneur,” while more recent publications increasingly address “Gender,” “Women entrepreneurship,” “Women’s entrepreneurship,” and “Female entrepreneurship.” The emergence of these gender-related topics in the later years indicates a growing thematic focus on women within entrepreneurship research and provides a basis for examining how the field continues to develop.

Research Gaps and Future Research Directions. Considering the results of the thematic mapping, keyword co-occurrence networks, collaboration networks, and trending topics presented in the previous subsections, this study identifies three research gaps. These gaps directly correspond to the study's stated aim of advancing a more inclusive and gender-responsive entrepreneurial ecosystem agenda.

First, the results of the thematic mapping in Figure 4 show that the “Gender” cluster is located in the Emerging or Declining Themes quadrant, even though it recorded the highest frequency in Table 12 and dominated the trending topics in Figure 5. This indicates that the “Gender” theme is frequently discussed; unfortunately, research on it has not yet reached sufficient conceptual depth within the context of entrepreneurial ecosystems. Several studies indicate that entrepreneurial ecosystems are still often perceived as gender-neutral, even though women face disparities in access to resources, networks, and support. Therefore, future research should incorporate a gender perspective by examining how institutional, cultural, and structural factors

influence the experiences of women entrepreneurs across various ecosystem contexts (Brush et al., 2019; Welter et al., 2017).

Second, the “*female entrepreneurship*” cluster in Figure 4 is located in the Emerging or Declining Themes quadrant with the lowest Centrality and Density values Table 12, yet it shows a trend of topic development with a fairly high frequency Table 13 through 2026. The rapid development of these topics, even though the concept itself is still evolving indicates significant opportunities for further research, particularly when combined with the institutional contexts of various countries. This would expand the study of female entrepreneurship through cross-national studies, long-term analysis, and qualitative approaches to understand the experiences of women entrepreneurs in various ecosystems (Jennings & Brush, 2013; Laskovaia et al., 2017).

Third, “*digital platform ecosystem*” cluster is located in the Niche Themes quadrant with a high-Density score and does not appear in the trend topics analysis. This indicates that digital platforms within the women’s entrepreneurship ecosystem remain very limited in their connection to key themes in the literature, consistent with previous research showing that women entrepreneurs in developing countries face unique challenges in accessing and utilizing digital platforms as part of their entrepreneurship ecosystem (Alkharafi, 2024). Therefore, there is a need for research on how digital platforms can help women entrepreneurs access markets, capital, and networks, particularly in a developing country like Indonesia.

These three gaps are not independent. They form an interconnected research agenda that responds to the expectations set out at the beginning of this study. The conceptual maturation of gender as an analytical lens (first gap) provides the theoretical foundation for understanding women's entrepreneurial experiences across contexts (second gap). The integration of digital platform ecosystems (third gap) offers the practical infrastructure through which inclusive and gender-responsive ecosystems can be operationalised. Pursuing this agenda would advance both the theoretical understanding of gendered entrepreneurial ecosystems and the practical capacity of policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to build ecosystems that work for women.

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

This study set out to map and analyse trends in the development of scientific literature on women's entrepreneurship within entrepreneurial ecosystems, using a bibliometric approach based on Biblioshiny. The analysis covered 94 documents from 64 Scopus-indexed sources, published between 2016 and 2026. This corpus enabled the study to address the three research questions established at the outset. The first aim was to map the development and trends of scientific publications in this field (RQ1). The field has grown rapidly, with an annual growth rate of 31.1%. The United States, India, and Spain lead in scholarly contributions. The

International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship is the most productive and influential source in the field.

The second aim was to identify collaborative network patterns and the intellectual structure of the field (RQ2). Co-authorship analysis reveals a fragmented collaboration network. This network consists of 11 small, largely isolated clusters. Keyword co-occurrence identifies Entrepreneur, Gender, and Entrepreneurship as the most central terms. Thematic mapping identifies Ecosystem and Entrepreneur as the field's motor themes. These findings establish the scale, direction, and geographic distribution of knowledge production in this field. These findings also reveal that collaboration in this field remains localised, and that its intellectual core is organised around a small set of dominant themes.

The third aim was to identify dominant and emerging themes and topics (RQ3). Trend topic analysis identifies female entrepreneurship as the most rapidly developing topic, projected to grow beyond 2026. The thematic map shows that Gender, Female Entrepreneurship, and Digital Platform Ecosystem occupy underdeveloped quadrants despite their frequency. These findings identify where the field is heading and where conceptual development is lagging. This identification constitutes the central purpose of a bibliometric mapping exercise. The three sets of findings, considered jointly, provide a systematic mapping of the field's evolution, structure, and emerging directions. This mapping offers a foundation for future research on gender-responsive entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Theoretical contribution. This study contributes a systematic mapping of the intellectual landscape of women's entrepreneurship within entrepreneurial ecosystems. This contribution is an evidence-based overview of how the field has evolved, which themes have matured, and which remain underdeveloped. This study does not test causal relationships. This mapping offers future researchers a structured starting point for identifying where theoretical work is most needed. This need is particularly evident in the integration of gender as an analytical lens within ecosystem frameworks.

Practical contribution. The findings offer guidance for the research community and for evidence-informed policy discussion. For researchers, the identified gaps and the fragmented collaboration network point to concrete opportunities for cross-national and cross-cluster collaboration. For policymakers and practitioners, the mapping highlights the areas where evidence remains thin. These areas include the conceptual integration of gender and the role of digital platform ecosystems. Further empirical research is required in these areas before policy prescriptions can be reliably formulated. This study identifies the research agenda that must precede such prescriptions. This study does not offer direct policy recommendations.

Limitations. This study has several limitations that qualify the contributions above. First, the dataset includes only documents indexed in Scopus. Publications in Web of Science, Google Scholar, or regional databases are not represented in this dataset. This exclusion may limit the geographic and linguistic breadth of the mapping. Second, the analysis relied solely on Biblioshiny. Network dimensions that could be visualised with other tools, such as VOSviewer,

were not explored in this study. Third, the corpus of 94 documents is relatively small. This size limits the generalisability of the collaboration and thematic analyses. Larger datasets are needed to produce more representative patterns.

Suggestions for future research. Future research is encouraged to expand the database scope beyond Scopus. Future research is also encouraged to combine bibliometric analysis with systematic review approaches. Broader keyword strategies could capture a larger corpus. Qualitative analysis could deepen understanding of the themes identified here. Future studies could specifically pursue the three gaps identified in this review: the conceptual maturation of gender within ecosystem frameworks, the development of female entrepreneurship as a mature body of literature, and the integration of digital platform ecosystems into mainstream research on women's entrepreneurship. Systematic attention to this last theme has also begun to appear in national scholarship, which indicates that the research agenda identified in this review extends beyond the dataset analysed here.

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