

Bibliomapping Global Trends in Fiscal Policy Research: An Overview of Post Pandemic Studies

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Received: 25 December 2025

Revised: 10 January 2026

Accepted: 15 January 2026

Published online:

Abstract

This study employs a bibliometric approach to analyze global trends in fiscal policy research in the post-pandemic era. Using data from the Scopus database, the study covers publications from 2020 to 2024, identifying growth patterns, key themes, and collaborative networks. The analysis reveals significant growth in fiscal policy research, with a focus on economic recovery strategies and resilience following the COVID-19 pandemic. Keyword analysis highlights dominant themes such as government spending, tax policy, and economic stabilization measures. Co-authorship and institutional collaboration analysis indicate a high level of cross-institutional cooperation among practitioners, regulators, and academics, reflecting a shift towards more integrated and multidisciplinary research. This study provides a comprehensive overview of post-pandemic fiscal policy research, offering insights into emerging trends and collaborative practices that can inform future research and policy-making. The findings underscore the critical role of fiscal policy in addressing global economic challenges and promoting sustainable growth.

Keywords:

Fiscal policy, economic challenges, sustainable growth, bibliometric analysis

How to Cite:

Mansyur, Abdurrahman., Yunus, Kurniati. (2026). Bibliomapping Global Trends in Fiscal Policy Research: An Overview of Post Pandemic Studies. *IMANIF: Islamic Economics, Management and Finance Journal*, 1(1), 8 – 27.

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has precipitated an unprecedented global economic crisis, characterized by a widespread recession, severe disruptions in global supply chains, and a significant increase in unemployment across countries at various levels of development (Gupta, 2023; Höhler & Lansink, 2021; Ndubisi et al., 2022). Key economic sectors, including international trade, tourism, and manufacturing, experienced sharp contractions, leading to declining economic activity and intensifying pre-existing socioeconomic inequalities (Blum & Neumärker, 2021; Gössling et al., 2020). These conditions posed substantial challenges for governments, compelling them to adopt expansive fiscal interventions aimed at stabilizing economies and supporting recovery efforts.

Against this backdrop of economic disruption, governments around the world introduced a wide range of fiscal policy measures, including stimulus spending, tax relief programs, and the expansion of social protection systems, in an effort to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic (Embrett et al., 2021). The scale and urgency of these interventions marked a renewed prominence of fiscal policy in crisis management. As a result, these policy responses have attracted considerable attention within the academic community, leading to a rapid increase in scholarly publications examining the effectiveness, scope, and implications of fiscal policy during and after the COVID-19 crisis. Consequently, fiscal policy has re-emerged as a central instrument in macroeconomic management during periods of systemic economic shock.

In conceptual terms, fiscal policy refers to government actions involving public expenditure and taxation designed to influence macroeconomic conditions, promote economic stability, and support sustainable growth (Chugunov et al., 2021; Stupak, 2019). Within the context of economic crises, fiscal policy is expected to play a critical role in stimulating aggregate demand, safeguarding employment, and addressing income distribution concerns, particularly when conventional monetary policy instruments face structural or operational constraints (Estrada et al., 2014; Falade & Folorunso, 2015). The pandemic period therefore provides a distinctive empirical context for assessing the role and effectiveness of fiscal policy in responding to large-scale and prolonged economic disruptions.

Building on this conceptual foundation, a growing body of empirical research has examined fiscal policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis across different national contexts. Zaytsev, (2020) reported that in Russia, reductions in interest rates were insufficient to stimulate economic activity due to restrictions on mobility and production, resulting in a policy emphasis on maintaining financial liquidity. In Canada, Azad et al., (2021) found that fiscal policy played a more active role than monetary policy in supporting short-term economic recovery through deficit spending, although the positive effects diminished following the withdrawal of fiscal stimulus, leading to increased inflationary pressures and declining investment. Similarly, Rizvi et al., (2021) demonstrated that fiscal policy announcements contributed to mitigating stock market losses in Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand, while showing limited effectiveness in Malaysia, underscoring the heterogeneous outcomes of fiscal interventions during the pandemic.

While these empirical studies provide valuable insights into country-specific policy responses, the expanding literature remains fragmented and largely focused on individual cases or specific fiscal instruments. Consequently, broader patterns in the development of fiscal policy research have

received comparatively less attention. One notable effort to address this issue was undertaken by Khahro et al., (2020), who conducted a bibliometric analysis of fiscal policy research published between 1970 and 2020 using the Scopus database and identified a substantial increase in scholarly output since 2000. However, the absence of advanced bibliometric visualization tools in that study limited its ability to capture evolving research themes, collaboration networks, and geographical patterns of knowledge production.

More recent bibliometric investigations have sought to address specific segments of fiscal policy research during the pandemic period. Gunawan & Herman, (2022), for instance, analyzed the development of Islamic fiscal policy research using data from the Dimensions.ai database, while Teiusan & Plescaci, (2022) examined research on tax and fiscal policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis using the Web of Science database. Although these studies offer important contributions, their thematic focus and reliance on alternative databases constrain their capacity to present a comprehensive and globally integrated overview of fiscal policy research in the post-pandemic era.

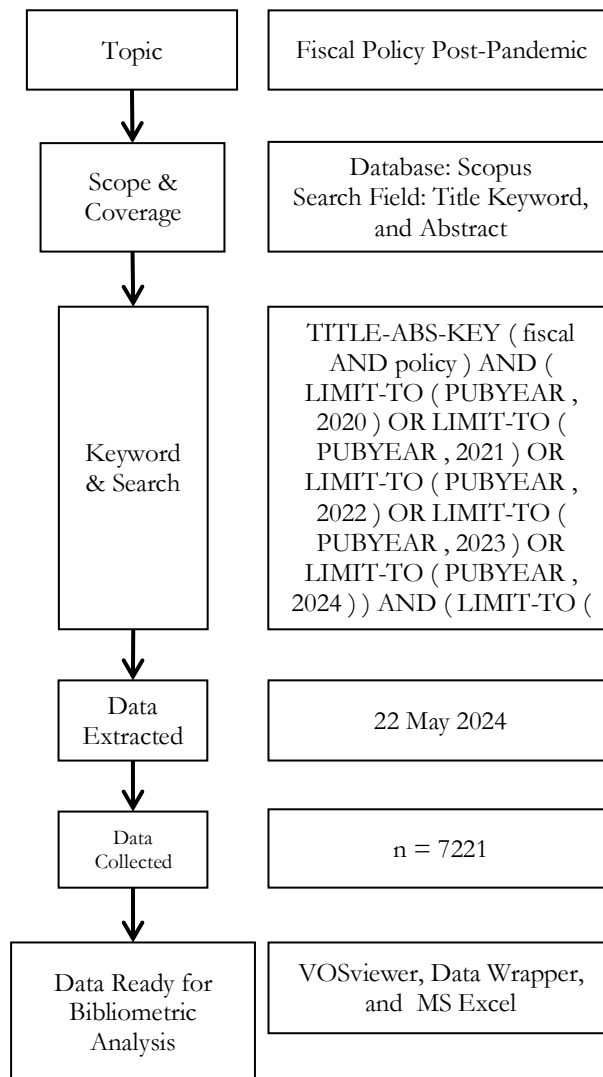
Taken together, these limitations point to a significant gap in the literature concerning a systematic and integrative mapping of global fiscal policy research following the COVID-19 pandemic. This gap restricts policymakers' ability to draw lessons from international experiences and hinders academic efforts to identify emerging research priorities and collaborative structures within the field Sofyan et al., (2022). Addressing this shortcoming requires a bibliometric approach capable of synthesizing large volumes of scholarly output and revealing the intellectual structure and evolution of fiscal policy research.

In response to this need, the present study aims to examine the evolution of fiscal policy research in the post-pandemic period from 2020 to 2024 through a bibliometric analysis based on the Scopus database (ELSEVIER, 2020). Scopus is selected due to its extensive disciplinary coverage and the availability of comprehensive publication metadata, which enables the identification of research trends, collaboration patterns, and research impact (Baas et al., 2020); (Muin et al., 2020). By employing bibliometric mapping techniques, this study seeks to analyze publication growth, explore patterns of scholarly collaboration, identify dominant research themes and emerging topics, and propose directions for future research. Through this contribution, the study provides a structured overview of post-pandemic fiscal policy scholarship and offers a foundation for advancing research and evidence-based policymaking in the field.

METHODS

This study employs a bibliometric approach to analyze research trends in fiscal policy in the post-pandemic era. Data were collected from the Scopus database on May 22, 2024. The selection of Scopus as the data source is based on several considerations, including its extensive coverage and reputation, guaranteed data quality, and comprehensive bibliometric analysis features (Mansyur, 2024; Muin et al., 2020; Rachman et al., 2023; Suffian et al., 2023).

Figure. 1 Search Strategy



A specific search string was developed to identify relevant publications: TITLE-ABS-KEY (fiscal AND policy) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2020) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2021) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2022) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2023) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2024)) AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "ECON") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "SOCI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "BUSI")). This search strategy ensures that the selected publications include the terms "fiscal" and "policy" in the title, abstract, or keywords and restricts the publication period to the years 2020 to 2024. Additionally, the search is limited to publications within the subject areas of Economics, Econometrics and Finance (ECON), Social Sciences (SOCI), and Business, Management and Accounting (BUSI) to maintain a focus on the fiscal policy domain.

To extract meaningful insights and identify research trends, a combination of bibliometric analysis techniques was employed. First, trends in post-pandemic fiscal policy research publications were explored. This analysis included calculating the growth rate, representing the percentage increase (or decrease) in publications year by year (van Eck & Waltman, 2014). Additionally, the distribution of publications by country of origin was examined. Second, major research topics and themes were identified through keyword analysis. This involved creating a

word cloud to visualize the most frequently occurring keywords in the selected publications. Moreover, keyword network visualization was used to map the relationships and interconnections between these prominent keywords (van Eck & Waltman, 2014). Lastly, a co-authorship analysis was conducted to explore collaborative networks in post-pandemic fiscal policy research. This analysis utilized density visualization to depict the intensity of collaboration among authors and their network structures landscape (Donthu et al., 2021). Furthermore, institutional collaboration networks were examined to identify collaboration patterns among research institutions across different countries (van Eck & Waltman, 2014).

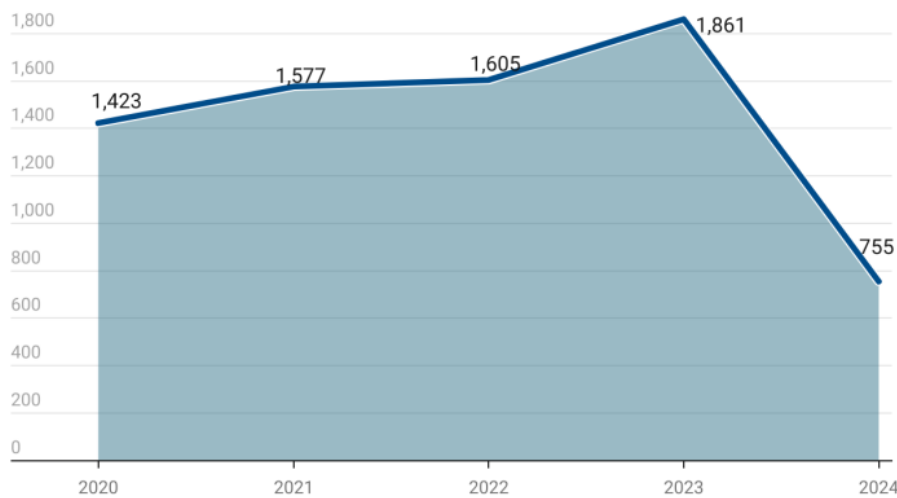
The chosen software tools facilitated data analysis and visualization processes. VOSviewer, a software program specifically designed for bibliometric analysis, was used to perform the core analysis and generate network visualizations (van Eck & Waltman, 2014). Datawrapper.de, a web-based data visualization tool, was employed as an additional tool to create other visual representations of the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The search results on the Scopus database yielded 7,221 publications related to the theme of Fiscal Policy. Of these publications, 6,203 were articles, 621 were book chapters, and the remainder were reviews, books, and conference papers during 2024.

Publication Trends in Post-Pandemic Fiscal Policy Research

Figure 2. Annual Publication 2020-2024

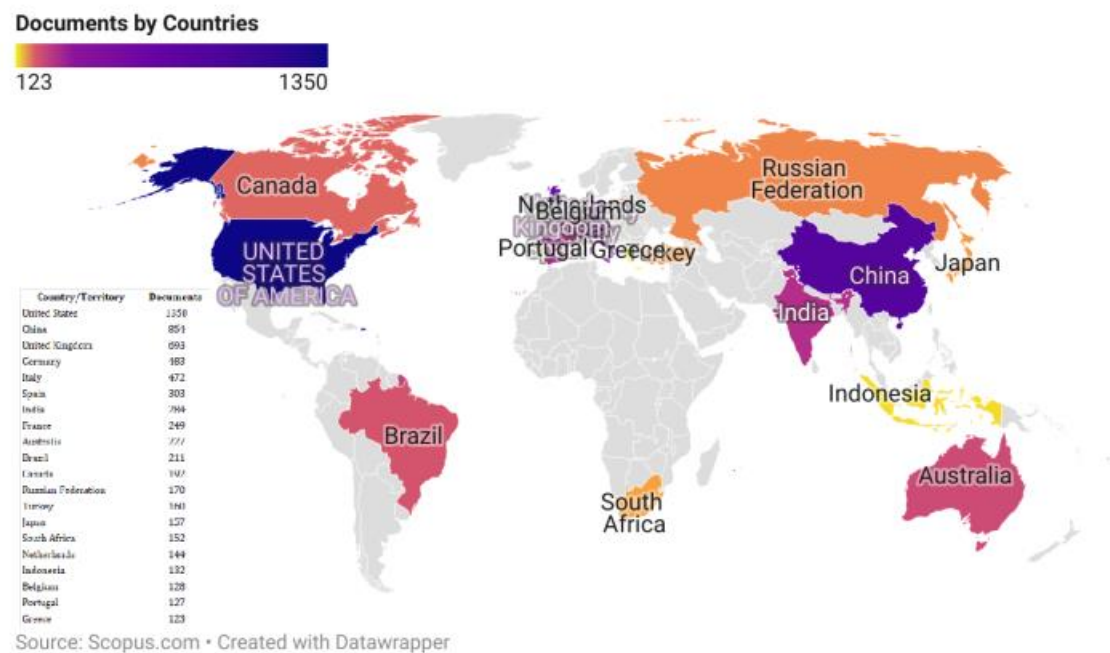


Source: Scopus.com • Created with Datawrapper

Annual publication data on fiscal policy research in the post-pandemic era, utilizing data from the Scopus.com database for the period 2020-2024, reveals an initial upward trend followed by a potential decline. The number of published documents exhibited a steady rise, increasing from 1423 in 2020 to 1577 in 2021 and reaching a peak of 1861 in 2023. This significant surge in 2023 suggests a heightened interest and research activity in the field of fiscal policy during that year.

However, data for 2024, currently limited to publications recorded up to May, shows a notable decrease with only 755 documents. It is crucial to acknowledge the partial nature of this data, as it only reflects publications within the first half of the year. The possibility of a continued increase in publications by the end of December 2024 remains open.

Figure 3. Publication by Countries



Source: Datawrapper (authors elaboration)

A closer examination of the preceding figure reveals the top 10 countries contributing the most publications to fiscal policy research in the post-pandemic era. This data unveils an intriguing geographic distribution. The United States leads the pack with a significant output of 1350 publications, closely followed by China with 854 publications. This dominance by these two nations reflects their well-established research strengths in the fields of economics and public policy.

European countries also demonstrate a considerable presence in fiscal policy research. The United Kingdom (693 publications), Germany (483 publications), Italy (472 publications), and Spain (303 publications) all contribute substantially. This highlights Europe's critical role in fostering global discourse and advancing practices within the domain of fiscal policy.

Beyond North America and Europe, India (284 publications) and Brazil (211 publications) emerge as noteworthy developing nations actively contributing to fiscal policy research. This trend signifies a growing interest and enhanced research capacity within developing countries to tackle the economic challenges brought about by the pandemic

In conclusion, the analysis underscores a multifaceted global landscape in fiscal policy research, enriched by significant contributions from both developed and developing nations. While the dominance of the United States and China warrants consideration in the context of their broader research prowess, the contributions of European and developing countries undeniably illustrate the dynamic interplay within this field on a global scale.

Table 1. Top 10 Cited Documents

Author	Title	Total Citations
(Z. Khan et al., 2021).	How does fiscal decentralization affect CO2 emissions? The roles of institutions and human capital	423
(Hepburn et al., 2020)	Will COVID-19 fiscal recovery packages accelerate or retard progress on climate change?	355
(Cheng et al., 2021)	How do technological innovation and fiscal decentralization affect the environment? A story of the fourth industrial revolution and sustainable growth	261
(Padhan & Prabheesh, 2021)	The economics of COVID-19 pandemic: A survey	234
(Gormsen & Koijen, 2020)	Coronavirus: Impact on stock prices and growth expectations	197
De Vito, A., Gómez, J.-P. (2020)	Estimating the COVID-19 cash crunch: Global evidence and policy	196
Chishti, M.Z., Ahmad, M., Rehman, A., Khan, M.K. (2021)	Mitigations pathways towards sustainable development: Assessing the influence of fiscal and monetary policies on carbon emissions in BRICS economies	188
Sarkodie, S.A., Owusu, P.A. (2021)	Global assessment of environment, health and economic impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)	180
Hille, E., Althammer, W., Diederich, H. (2020)	Environmental regulation and innovation in renewable energy technologies: Does the policy instrument matter?	178
Laeven, L., Valencia, F. (2020)	Systemic Banking Crises Database II	174

Source: Scopus Database

The table above illustrates the ten most cited publications in post-pandemic fiscal policy research. The most frequently cited publication, K. M. Khan & Ullah, (2021), highlights the importance of fiscal decentralization in reducing CO2 emissions, considering the roles of institutions and human capital. This study, with 423 citations, underscores the increasing attention to the relationship between fiscal policy and climate change. It shows that during 2020-2024, researchers have been highly focused on the connection between fiscal policy and climate change, emphasizing the importance of strengthening institutions and enhancing human capacity in climate change mitigation.

Hepburn et al., (2020) discuss the impact of COVID-19 fiscal recovery packages on climate change, illustrating the relevance of balancing economic recovery with

environmental goals. This publication, with 355 citations, emphasizes the significance of analyzing the impact of COVID-19 fiscal recovery packages on climate change. The article explores whether economic actions taken for pandemic recovery can accelerate or hinder progress in climate change mitigation. The high citation count indicates the relevance of this topic for policymakers and researchers seeking to balance economic recovery with environmental objectives.

Meanwhile, Cheng et al., (2021) explore how technological innovation and fiscal decentralization affect the environment within the context of the fourth industrial revolution, stressing the importance of integrating fiscal policy and technology for sustainable growth. With 261 citations, this research focuses on the impact of technological innovation and fiscal decentralization on the environment in the context of the fourth industrial revolution and sustainable growth. This study is significant as it links technological advancements with fiscal policy and their impact on environmental sustainability, demonstrating how these factors can be combined to support broader environmental goals.

Padhan & Prabheesh, (2021) provide a comprehensive survey on the economic impacts of the pandemic, highlighting the need for a thorough understanding of global economic recovery strategies. This article, cited 234 times, offers a comprehensive survey of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It examines various economic aspects of the pandemic, including the fiscal and monetary policies implemented in response to the crisis. The broad relevance of this survey reflects the importance of a comprehensive understanding of the pandemic's effects on the global economy and recovery strategies.

Gormsen & Koijen, (2020) analyze the impact of COVID-19 on stock prices and growth expectations, offering critical insights into the pandemic's influence on financial markets. With 197 citations, this research explores the impact of COVID-19 on stock prices and growth expectations. This analysis provides important insights into how the pandemic has affected financial markets and future economic growth perceptions. This publication is relevant for researchers and practitioners interested in the short- and long-term impacts of the global health crisis on financial markets.

These highly cited studies collectively highlight the multifaceted impacts of fiscal policies in the post-pandemic era, emphasizing the crucial intersections between economic recovery efforts, technological innovation, and environmental sustainability. The prominence and relevance of these works in academic discourse underline the importance of continued research and collaboration in addressing global economic challenges.

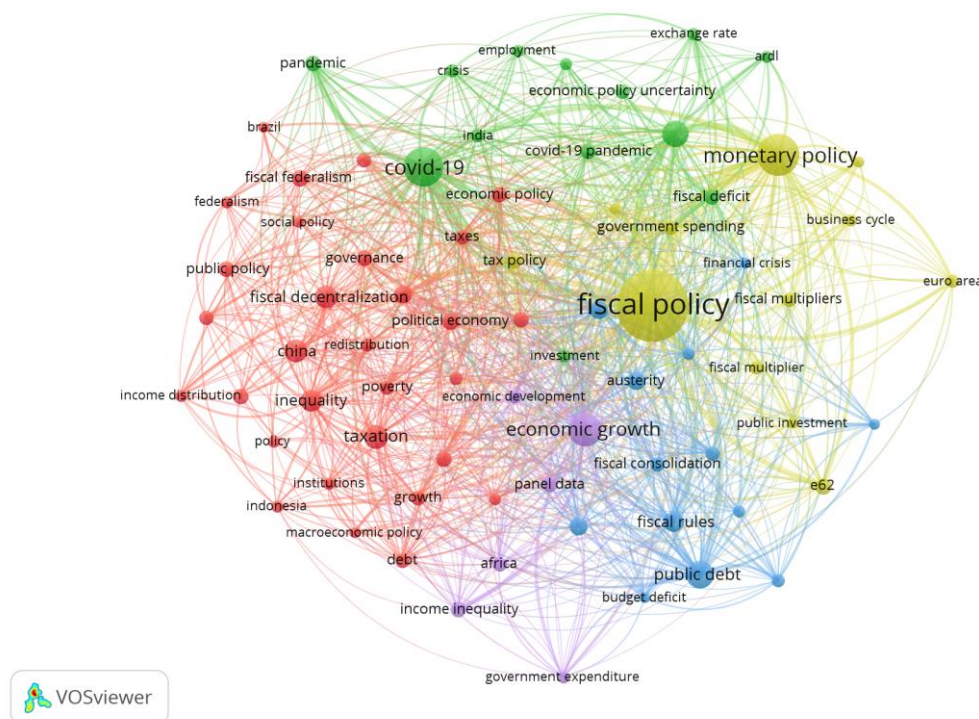
Key Research Topics and Themes in Post-Pandemic Fiscal Policy Research

Figure 4. Worcloud Visualization

explores the potential of fiscal decentralization to enhance governance and promote equitable economic growth. Additionally, it examines how fiscal policy can support sustainable development goals and address environmental concerns, such as climate change.

The emphasis on decentralization, sustainability, and inequality reflects the critical issues shaping fiscal policy research in developing countries. Decentralizing fiscal authority to local governments can improve policy responsiveness and efficiency. Fiscal policy can also play a crucial role in promoting sustainable development and addressing environmental challenges. Moreover, redistributive policies can be used to tackle economic inequality and achieve a more equitable distribution of income. These themes underscore the complexity and depth of fiscal policy research in developing nations, as countries strive to balance economic recovery, sustainable development, and social equity.

Figure 5. Keyword Cluster Visualization



Cluster 2 (GREEN) sheds light on the profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global fiscal and economic policies. Keywords like "COVID-19," "Pandemic," and "Crisis" underscore the primary focus of research on the ramifications of this health crisis on the global economy. Investigations delve into various dimensions, ranging from economic policy uncertainties to the significant impact on the labor market, reflected in keywords like "Employment" and "Unemployment."

Furthermore, topics such as "Fiscal Deficit" and "Inflation" mirror how the pandemic has affected the fiscal balances of nations, leading to widening budget deficits and inflationary pressures. A specific focus on countries like "India" indicates that some

research analyzes the pandemic's impact in specific regional contexts. Keywords like "Exchange Rate" and "Investment" highlight the pandemic's effect on investments and exchange rate volatility, reflecting global economic uncertainty.

This cluster underscores governments' crisis response through fiscal policies to maintain economic stability and mitigate the negative impact on the labor market and investments, emphasizing the importance of effective policy strategies to address the long-term repercussions of the pandemic.

Cluster 3 (BLUE) focuses on fiscal stability and debt sustainability in developed countries, particularly in the Eurozone. Keywords such as "Austerity," "Budget Deficit," "Debt Sustainability," "European Union," and "Eurozone" highlight the concern with how these countries manage budget deficits and public debt. Topics like "Fiscal Consolidation," "Fiscal Rules," and "Fiscal Sustainability" reflect research on austerity measures and fiscal rules aimed at maintaining long-term economic stability. Additionally, themes like "Government Debt" and "Financial Crisis" underscore the response to financial crises and the challenges in maintaining fiscal sustainability.

Cluster 4 (YELLOW) highlights the relationship between fiscal policy and business cycles, as well as the interaction between fiscal and monetary policy. Keywords such as "Business Cycle," "Fiscal Multiplier," "Government Spending," "Monetary Policy," and "Macroeconomics" indicate a focus on how government spending and taxation policies influence the macroeconomy. Research in this cluster also includes analyses using economic models like DSGE (Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium) to understand the impact of fiscal policy on business cycles and economic growth. "Public Investment" and "Tax Policy" emphasize how public investment and taxation policies are used to stabilize the economy and support long-term development.

Cluster 5 (PURPLE) integrates topics related to economic development and inequality in developing countries, particularly in Africa. Keywords such as "Africa," "Economic Development," "Economic Growth," "Government Expenditure," and "Income Inequality" indicate research exploring how government spending can drive economic growth and reduce income inequality. The use of "Panel Data" reflects an empirical approach to analyzing cross-country data to identify factors that drive economic development and well-being. This cluster underscores the importance of fiscal policy in achieving inclusive and sustainable economic development in developing regions.

Most Productive Author and Collaborative Networks in Post-Pandemic Fiscal Policy Research

Figure 6. Most Productive Author

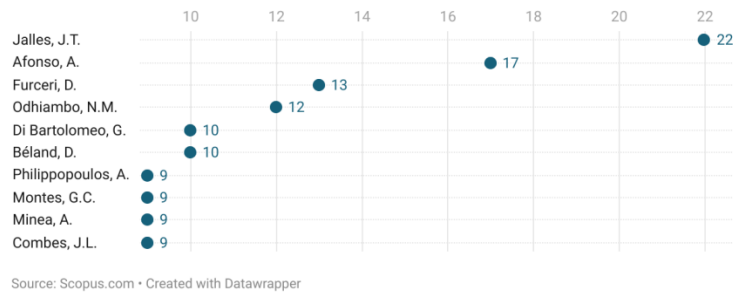
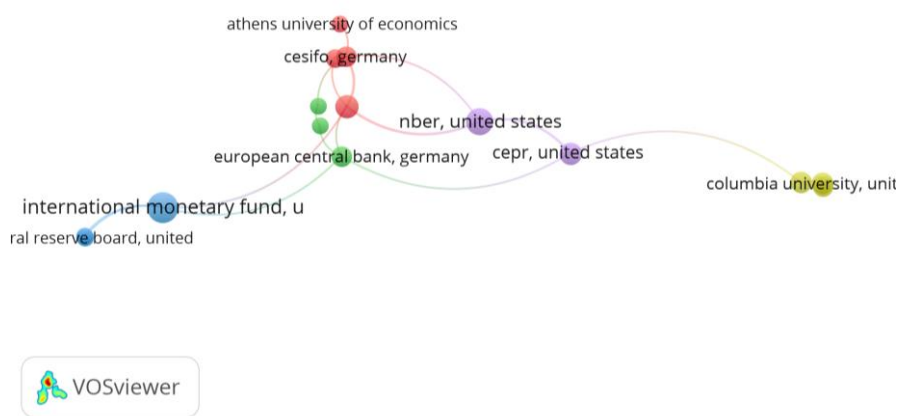


Figure 6 on the most productive authors indicates that Jalles, J.T. occupies the top position with the highest number of publications in the field of fiscal policy during the period 2020-2024, with a total of 22 publications. This reflects Jalles' exceptionally high productivity and significant contribution to fiscal policy research. Afonso, A. follows with 17 publications, reaffirming his status as a leading researcher in this field. Furceri, D., with 13 publications, also demonstrates active involvement in fiscal policy research.

Odhiambo, N.M., and Di Bartolomeo, G., with 12 and 10 publications respectively, also substantially contribute to the fiscal policy literature during this period. Similarly, Béland, D. has 10 publications, highlighting a strong presence in fiscal policy research. Other authors, such as Philippopoulos, A., Montes, G.C., Minea, A., and Combes, J.L., each with 9 publications, show consistent productivity and make important contributions to expanding knowledge in this area.

The fact that some authors, like Jalles, J.T. and Afonso, A., have a significantly higher number of publications compared to others indicates the existence of highly productive individuals in fiscal policy research. Figure 7 also reveals density visualization and institutional diversity among these authors, reflecting global collaboration and a variety of perspectives in fiscal policy research.

Figure 8. Collaboration Network Visualization



The results of the network analysis highlight several key institutions in publishing research in the field of fiscal policy. Prominent think-tanks and research organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the National Bureau of Economic

Research (NBER), the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), and CESIFO play crucial roles in fiscal policy analysis. Additionally, universities also contribute significantly, with Columbia University, Athens University of Economics, Copenhagen Business School, University of Mannheim, University of Cambridge, and University of Oxford being the most active in fiscal policy research. These universities and think-tanks are essential in developing new theories and methodologies and providing in-depth analysis on fiscal policy issues. They often collaborate with international organizations and governments to offer research-based policy recommendations.

Meanwhile, central banks also play a pivotal role in advancing research in fiscal policy. Institutions such as the Bank of Canada, the European Central Bank, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, and the Federal Reserve Board contribute significantly to fiscal policy research. These central banks focus not only on monetary policy but also investigate the interaction between fiscal and monetary policies, economic stability, and the impact of fiscal policies on national and global economies.

Recommendation for Future Research in Post-Pandemic Fiscal Policy Research Trends

The table below summarizes several studies that provide recommendations for further research. This will help researchers to develop research in the field of fiscal policy

Table 3. Recommendation for Future Research

Author	Title	Recommendation
(Musibau et al., 2024)	Exploring the Fiscal policy— income inequality relationship with Bayesian model averaging analysis	Further research can link the use of fiscal policy moderating variables through economic growth to income inequality.
(Xu & Cai, 2024)	Is green finance a motivator for energy transformation investments in the OECD?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Studying the relationship between green finance and renewable investment at the national level. 2. Feasibility of establishing a digital green financial market and its effect on the protection of natural resources. 3. The production of green rhizomes using the development of sustainable resources in OECD countries. 4. Using the scenario-building method to predict the future of the green financing market and the restoration of natural resources in OECD countries
(Tan, 2024)	Bridging fiscal decentralization and circular economy for sustainable energy transition: an examination of BRICS economies	The findings of this research cannot be generalized to other countries with different contexts. So that future

in highly decentralized settings

research can take advantage of other factors such as technological advances, policy reforms, cultural perceptions, and more. Thus, the results of future research can be broader, covering the spectrum that has not been studied in this research

(M. Li et al., 2024)

The impact of the digital economy on green innovation: the moderating role of fiscal decentralization

1. Due to data availability, the research period for this paper is 2011–2019. This timespan can be appropriately expanded in future studies.

2. This paper discusses only the relationship between the DIGEC and GINNO at the macrolevel and lacks microlevel explanations. In the future, this issue can be explored using enterprise-level data.

3. In this paper, the sample is tested for classification from different perspectives, and the results obtained are actually averaged in some sense. In a follow-up research, a geographically weighted regression model can be used to test for heterogeneity and increase the relevance of the results.

(Phung et al., 2023)

How are FDI and green recovery related in Southeast Asian economies?

1. For further research, it is recommended to expand the empirical model by including indicators of green FDI and green fiscal policy.

2. Additionally, comparing results across Asian regions will provide Asian policymakers with better insight into how fiscal policy can promote green growth.

3. The use of qualitative methods such as Analytic Hierarchy Process or MADMs will be very useful for eliciting the opinions of scientists and experts and will complement

		the quantitative estimation results.
(Y. Li et al., 2023)	Assessment of environmental tax and green bonds impacts on energy efficiency in the European Union	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Future researchers can develop research by considering the COVID-19 pandemic as a variable in econometric models, the influence of the war between Russia and Ukraine, using analysis at the country level, and highlighting the effectiveness of different green tax rates.2. The use of other statistical and econometric methods such as scenario building, futurology, and artificial neural networks is also recommended to predict trends and megatrends from research variables.

CONCLUSION

This study provides a systematic overview of post-pandemic fiscal policy research through a bibliometric analysis of publications indexed in the Scopus database from 2020 to 2024. The findings demonstrate a substantial increase in scholarly attention to fiscal policy in response to the economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Research themes are predominantly concentrated on government expenditure, taxation, and macroeconomic stabilization, reflecting the central role of fiscal instruments in supporting economic recovery and enhancing resilience during periods of crisis.

In addition to thematic developments, the analysis of co-authorship and institutional collaboration reveals an increasing tendency toward cross-institutional and interdisciplinary cooperation. The involvement of academics, policymakers, and regulatory institutions indicates a growing recognition that complex economic challenges require integrated approaches that transcend disciplinary and institutional boundaries. This collaborative pattern suggests an evolving research ecosystem in which fiscal policy is examined not only as a technical economic tool but also as a multidimensional response to systemic shocks.

Overall, the findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the intellectual structure and evolution of fiscal policy research in the post-pandemic era. By mapping dominant themes and collaboration networks, this study offers a foundation for identifying future research directions and supports evidence-based policymaking. The results underscore the continuing importance of fiscal policy as a key mechanism for addressing global

economic challenges and promoting sustainable economic growth in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IMPLICATION AND LIMITATIONS

The findings of this study carry several important implications for both policymakers and researchers. From a policy perspective, the prominence of research themes related to government spending, tax policy, and economic stabilization highlights the critical role of fiscal interventions in addressing the long-term economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. These insights can assist policymakers in designing more adaptive and sustainable fiscal frameworks that enhance economic resilience and support inclusive growth in the post-pandemic context. Moreover, the observed patterns of collaboration emphasize the value of closer engagement between academic researchers, practitioners, and regulatory institutions, as such cooperation can facilitate the development of more comprehensive and empirically grounded fiscal policies.

From an academic standpoint, this study contributes to the growing body of bibliometric research by providing a structured mapping of post-pandemic fiscal policy scholarship. The identification of dominant themes and collaboration networks offers a reference point for future studies seeking to position their contributions within the broader research landscape. In this regard, the findings may also support the development of more integrated and interdisciplinary research agendas in the field of fiscal policy.

Despite these contributions, several limitations should be acknowledged. First, the reliance on the Scopus database may result in the exclusion of relevant publications indexed in other major databases, such as Web of Science or Google Scholar. Consequently, the findings may not fully capture the entire spectrum of global fiscal policy research. Second, the temporal scope of the analysis, which is limited to the period from 2020 to 2024, restricts the ability to assess longer-term trends and structural shifts in fiscal policy research that may have emerged prior to the pandemic. Third, while bibliometric analysis is effective in identifying publication patterns, thematic trends, and collaboration networks, it does not provide detailed insights into the substantive content, methodological rigor, or policy effectiveness of individual studies.

Future research is therefore encouraged to expand the scope of analysis by incorporating multiple databases and extending the observation period to include pre-pandemic years. Such an approach would allow for a more comprehensive comparison of research dynamics before, during, and after the COVID-19 crisis. Additionally, combining bibliometric techniques with qualitative or systematic content analysis could yield deeper insights into the theoretical contributions and policy implications of fiscal policy research. Through more holistic and integrative approaches, future studies can further advance understanding and support the development of effective fiscal policy responses in an increasingly uncertain global economic environment.

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