REVIEW PAPER
UDK: 338.482:303.436
001.891:338.48]:050(100)
014.3:004.65
DOI: 10.5937/EKOPRE2506334L
Date of Receipt: November 3, 2024

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TOURISM SAFETY AND SECURITY: A BIBLIOMETRIC AND CONTENT ANALYSIS OF SSCI AND ESCI TOURISM JOURNALS

Bezbednost i sigurnost u turizmu - Bibliometrijska i analiza sadržaja SSCI i ESCI časopisa u oblasti turizma

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to summarize the existing academic knowledge on safety and security in tourism. Based on the Web of Science database, a total of 40 peer-reviewed papers were collected and reviewed. The papers were divided into two categories depending on whether they were published in established (SSCI) or emerging (ESCI) journals. The bibliometric analysis revealed the most prolific authors, the geographical distribution of authorship, the citation impact of the articles and journals, and the main research topics. The content analysis revealed a predominant research focus on topics such as the effects of fraud, harassment, crime, systemic risks, and terrorism on tourism, with quantitative methods being used extensively. The differences between SSCI and ESCI papers are analysed, showing that SSCI papers primarily investigate how scams and harassment at the tourism destination influence tourists' perception of safety and security. In contrast, ESCI papers tend to focus more on examining the impact of crime and terrorism on tourism. This study provides valuable insights for destination management organizations, helping them to understand the impact of certain safety and security measures on tourists' experiences. The major contribution of this study is the comprehensive overview, systematization and in-depth analysis of the scientific papers on safety and security in tourism.

Keywords: *tourism safety, security in tourism, scams and harassment, crime, terrorism, systemic risks*

Sažetak

Cilj rada je da sumira postojeća akademska znanja na temu bezbednosti i sigurnosti u turizmu. Pretragom Web of Science baze podataka, identifikovano je i detaljno analizirano 40 naučnih radova. Radovi su podeljeni u dve kategorije u zavisnosti od toga da li su publikovani u etabliranim (SSCI) ili novijim (ESCI) časopisima. Bibliometrijskom analizom su utvrđeni najproduktivniji autori, geografska distribucija autorstava, uticajnost pojedinačnih radova i časopisa, kao i ključne istraživačke teme. Analiza sadržaja otkrila je dominantan fokus istraživača na teme kao što su efekti prevare, uznemiravanja, kriminala, sistemskih rizika i terorizma na turističku delatnost, pri čemu su u najvećoj meri primenjene kvantitativne metode istraživanja. U radu su analizirane i razlike između SSCI i ESCI radova sa zaključkom da su SSCI radovi prvenstveno usmereni na istraživanje uticaja prevara i uznemiravanja na turističkoj destinaciji na percepciju turista o bezbednosti i sigurnosti, dok se ESCI radovi više fokusiraju na ispitivanje uticaja kriminala i terorizma na turizam. Ova studija pruža vredne uvide destinacijskim menadžment organizacijama, pomažući im da razumeju uticaj preduzetih mera bezbednosti i sigurnosti na iskustva turista. Najveći doprinos rada ogleda se u sveoubuhvatnom prikazu, sistematizaciji i detaljnoj analizi naučnih radova na temu bezbednosti i sigurnosti u turizmu.

Ključne reči: *bezbednost u turizmu, sigurnost u turizmu, prevare i uznemiravanje, kriminal, terorizam, sistemski rizici*

Introduction

Tourism plays an important role in the global economy and contributes significantly to GDP and employment in various regions. In 2024, international tourism revenues reached 1.6 trillion dollars [70], with tourism contributing 10% to global GDP [75]. In the same year, tourism also contributed significantly to employment, providing 357 million jobs worldwide [75], and the number of international tourist arrivals reached 1.44 billion, nearly returning to pre-pandemic levels [70].

However, tourism is highly sensitive to various forms of crises that significantly affect its operations and sustainability. These crises are usually classified according to their origin and include natural or environmental disasters (e.g., volcanic eruptions, hurricanes or tsunamis), health-related crises (particularly epidemics and pandemics), political disruptions (such as war, terrorism and civil unrest), and economic or financial crises (including recessions or currency devaluations) [38]. Another important category is crises induced by violence and criminal activity, such as organised crime, extortion and general insecurity within destinations [43]. In the digital age, cyberattacks [8] and cybersecurity risks [72] – including data breaches and related threats – have become increasingly significant concerns. These events, whether occurring independently or in combination, can severely affect the mobility of tourists, the image of the destination and the economic performance of tourism-dependent regions. For example, terrorism, such as the events on September 11, 2001 and the attacks in Paris, Tunisia and Brussels, had a significant impact on public perception, economic stability and the tourism industry [24], [30]. Similarly, natural disasters, such as the 2004 tsunami in Thailand, have also led to a decline in tourist arrivals [27]. Political instability also has a serious impact on tourism in many destinations, as it damages the image of destinations, deters tourists and disrupts economic growth, often with more serious consequences than major natural disasters [33]. Additionally, high crime rates at the destination also have a serious impact on tourism, as they undermine the sense of security and deters visitors [43].

The COVID-19 pandemic, however, had the most severe impact on global tourism to date, causing a 74% decline in international arrivals in 2020 [69]. Aside from these immediate consequences, the crisis accelerated and exposed long-standing structural weaknesses within the sector. Research shows that companies in the tourism industry had to adapt rapidly by introducing new digital tools, revising their cost structures and switching to more resilient business models [32], [47]. Hotels, for example, implemented crisis-specific operational strategies and actively sought government support to stabilise operations [17], while cultural and themed tourism providers refocused their services on the domestic market and reduced their operating hours [47]. Teams played a central role in organisational responses to the pandemic, as their cross-functional composition and collaborative structure enabled rapid decision-making, real-time adaptation, and effective coordination under conditions of extreme uncertainty [52]. Building on these efforts, many companies used the crisis as a catalyst for innovation, particularly through digitalisation and market repositioning [60]. In addition to these internal measures, national governments implemented comprehensive fiscal and institutional support strategies aimed at stabilising the economy and ensuring the viability of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in vulnerable sectors such as tourism [9].

Extreme weather events and various geopolitical events are ongoing challenges shaping the future of tourism. As highlighted by UN Tourism's global survey from May 2025 [71], there is an urgent need for more comprehensive safety, security, and risk management strategies to ensure long-term sector sustainability. With this in mind, this paper aims to reveal the current state of knowledge in scientific papers on safety and security in tourism using bibliometric and content analysis. These analyses provide an insight into the evolution of research in this area and highlight key trends, while also identifying emerging issues that require further attention. By mapping the intellectual landscape of safety and security in tourism and providing a comprehensive review of published articles, the aim is to ensure that future research is focused on the most pressing issues. To gain a more comprehensive understanding, publications in SSCI (Social Science

Citation Index) and ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index) indexed journals will be considered. In this way, influential studies and emerging trends will be identified from the perspective of both established journals (SSCI) and promising journals (ESCI).

Methodology

Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative (data-driven) analysis widely used in tourism literature [11], [44], [58], [59] to "evaluate and monitor the progress of given discipline [46, p. 181] and to "structure existing knowledge about research topic" [44, p. 2]. The evaluative bibliometric analysis carried out in this paper included: a) *performance analysis*, which aimed to determine the distribution of papers across journals, identify the most productive authors, and analyse the geographic distribution of authorship; b) *citation analysis*, which aimed to identify the papers and journals that had the greatest impact on shaping scientific thought within the subject area; and c) *keyword analysis*, which aimed to uncover dominant research niches, keyword trends and keyword clusters. In addition to the keywords selected by the author, the keyword analysis included KeyWords Plus, i.e., "words or phrases that frequently appear in the titles of an article's references, but do not appear in the title of the article itself" [26]. Finally, the keyword trends and clusters were visualised using VOSviewer software, version 1.6.20 [72], with the clusters serving as the basis for further content analysis.

Content analysis is a qualitative (text-driven) analysis that is also widely used in tourism literature [5], [23], [25], [51], [56]. Content analysis aims to provide a deeper insight into the researched issues and reveal dominant research methods, research design, research region, and other details that are not captured by evaluative bibliometric analysis. In short, the aim of content analysis is to provide "a worm's eye view of the literature" [5, p. 1077].

In addition, the validity of Price's [63] and Bradford's [16] bibliometric law is analysed. Price's bibliometric law states that "the growth of scientific production over time follows an exponential function" [37, p. 946]. In other words, this law indicates a constant growth of scientific production over time. Bradford's bibliometric law, on the other hand, "describes how the articles in a specific area are scattered across journals" [36, p. 946]. This law applies when there is a relatively high concentration of articles in a few core journals, i.e. when "the difference in the distribution of articles across journals" is significant [49, p. 1111].

Although bibliometric analysis is usually considered objective [34], [48], some authors warn that "bibliometric research, paradoxically, can be subjective in that it requires making choices as to terms and terminology" [11, p. 543]. In this sense, an important prerequisite for high-quality bibliometric and accompanying content analysis is the creation of a representative sample of papers. This is achieved by selecting appropriate search terms for searching index databases, but also by applying additional criteria, shown in Table 1, where the individual paper analysis is particularly important.

Using the filters listed in Table 1, the original sample of 309 scientific papers on tourism safety and security was narrowed down to 40 papers for detailed bibliometric and content analysis. It is important to note that the analysis

Table 1: Methodology for selecting papers on tourism safety and security (carried out on May 22, 2024)

Searched terms in the WoS database	"tourism safety" OR "tourist safety" OR "tourism security" OR "tourist security" OR "destination safety" OR "destination security" OR "tourism AND safety" OR "tourist AND safety" OR "destination AND safety" OR "tourism AND security" OR "tourist AND security" OR "destination AND security" OR "tourism AND crime" OR "tourist AND crime" OR "destination AND crime" OR "tourism AND war" OR "tourist AND war" OR "destination AND war" OR "tourism AND terror" OR "tourist AND terror" OR "destination AND terror" OR "tourism AND terrorism" OR "tourist AND terrorism" OR "destination AND terrorism" OR "tourism AND natural disaster" OR "tourist AND natural disaster" OR "destination AND natural disaster" OR "tourism AND epidemic" OR "tourist AND epidemic" OR "destination AND epidemic" OR "tourism AND pandemic" OR "tourist AND pandemic" OR "destination AND pandemic" (n=309)
Document type	Article, review article and early access (**n=225**)
Language	English (**n=211**)
WoS category	Hospitality Leisure Sport Tourism (**n=105**)
Individual paper analysis	**n=40**

Source: Authors

excludes studies focused on injuries to tourists during recreational and adventure activities, such as skiing, horseback riding, mountaineering, etc. (adventure tourism safety). Additionally, studies addressing the negative impact of media, such as crime series and their influence on the safety image of destinations, as well as research on human-wildlife interactions (e.g., #wildlifeselfies), were also excluded.

Results and discussion

Results of evaluative bibliometric analysis

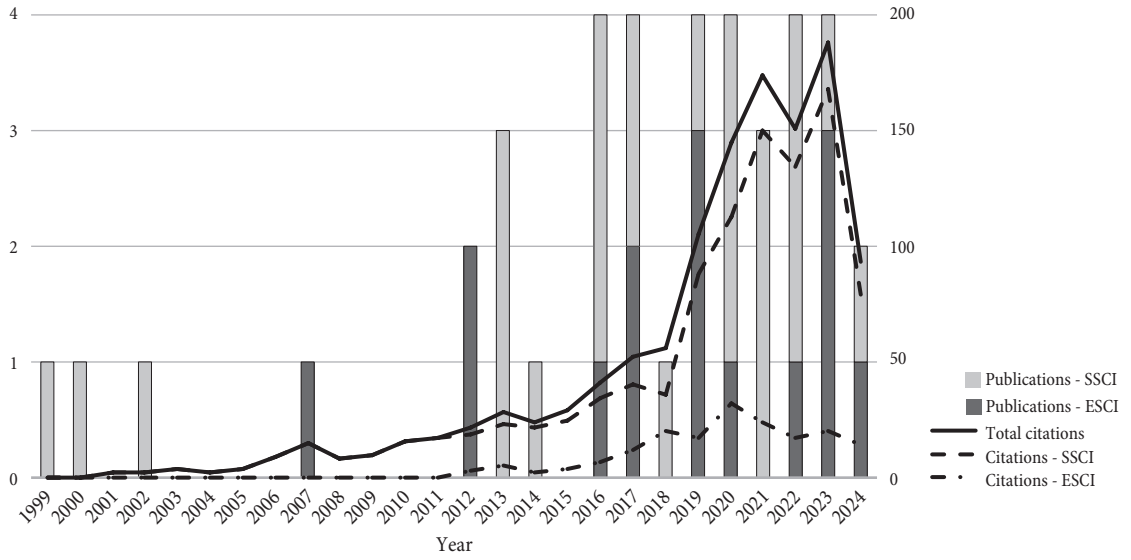
The first paper on the topic of tourism safety and security in WoS-indexed journals was published in 1999 in the *Annals of Tourism Research* under the title "Tourism and crime in the Caribbean" [31]. Between 1999 and 2011, only four papers were published on this topic. In the following 13 years (2012 – May 2024), however, the number of published papers increased ninefold. This trend clearly reflects an accelerated growth of academic output and an increasing interest in the topic within the academic community. Nevertheless, it does not support Price's bibliometric law, as there is no constant growth of scientific production over time. The increase in publications on tourism safety and security was irregular, with no papers published on the topic during 10 of the analysed years (Figure 1). Similar results have been observed by other researchers in the field of tourism, including [10] and [34], further challenging the applicability of Price's law in tourism.

Based on Figure 1, it can be concluded that 25 papers were published in SSCI journals and 15 in ESCI journals, all of which met the sampling criteria. Papers published in SSCI journals were cited significantly more often, as expected, given that ESCI serves as a preliminary stage for inclusion in the more rigorous SSCI list. The papers included in the sample received a total of 1,147 citations (including self-citations), with an average of 28.7 citations per paper. Of the total number of citations, 980 were for papers published in SSCI journals, while 167 were for those published in ESCI journals. There is also a noticeable fluctuation in the number of citations per year, which is more pronounced in the case of ESCI journals.

Performance analysis

The distribution of papers across journals shows that most of the scientific journals in the sample published only one paper on the topic of tourism safety and security, with an average of 1.7 papers per journal. Higher productivity is observed in the SSCI journals, which published an average of 1.9 papers per journal, compared to 1.5 papers per ESCI journal. It is noteworthy that half of the papers were published in only five (four SSCI and one ESCI journal) of the total 23 journals, indicating a relatively high concentration of papers in a few core journals. This supports the validity of Bradford's bibliometric law, which

Figure 1: Dynamics of paper publishing and citations

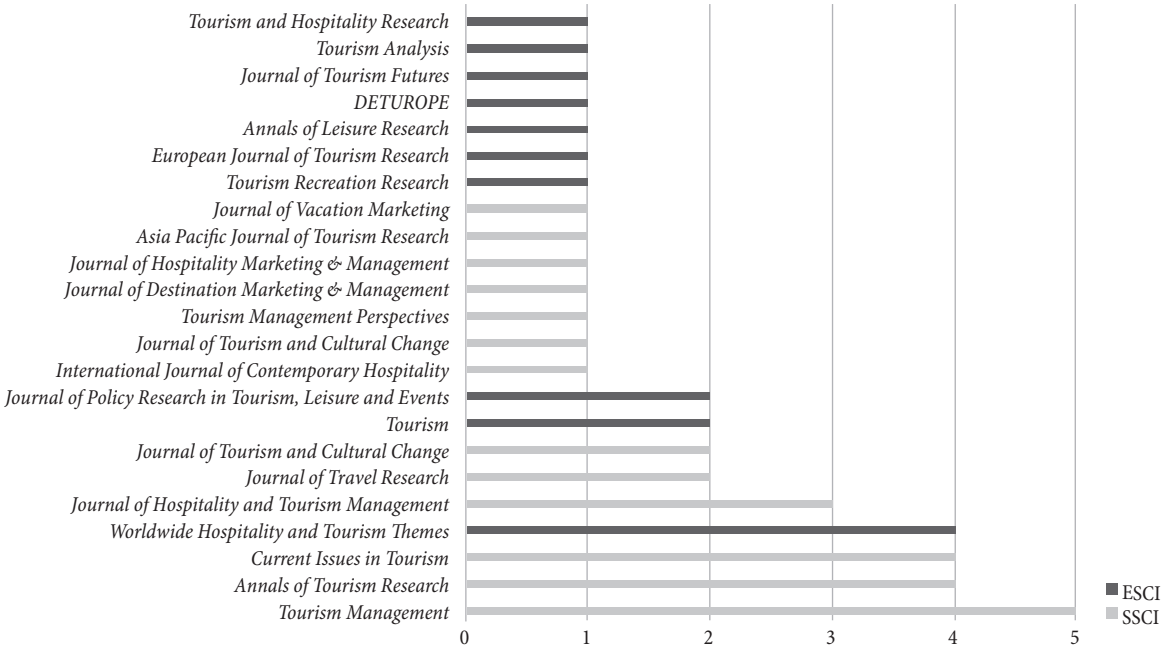


Source: Authors

has also been confirmed in other tourism-related studies [10], [34]. The most productive journal in the field of tourism safety and security is *Tourism Management*, one of the world's leading journals in tourism, accounting for 12.5% of the papers in the sample (Figure 2).

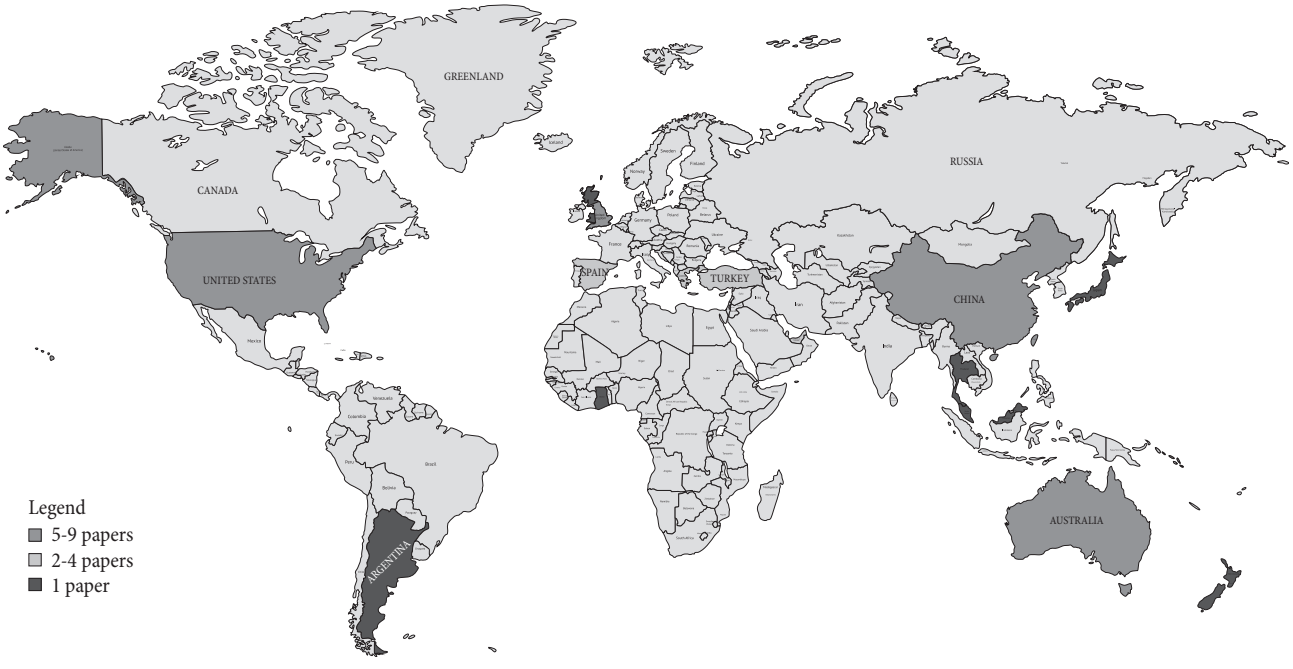
A total of 86 authors were identified in the analysed papers. According to the classification proposed by Crane [28], 88% of the authors belong to the "transients" category, having written only one paper, while the remaining belong to the "aspirants" category with two to four papers. In the latter category, two authors stand out, namely Tingzhen Chen and Ding Xu from James Cook University in Australia, who authored three papers on tourism safety and security. In terms of publication venues, 53 authors have published papers on tourism safety and security in SSCI journals, and 34 authors in

Figure 2: Distribution of papers on tourism safety and security across journals



Source: Authors

Figure 3: Authors by countries of affiliation



Source: Authors

ESCI journals. All ESCI authors belong exclusively to the "transients" category, while 17% of the SSCI authors belong to the "aspirants" category, including the two most prolific authors previously mentioned.

The authors come from 25 different countries, with the United States being the most strongly represented with nine authors, followed by England (six), China (five) and Australia (five). As Figure 3 shows, this illustrates the diverse geographical distribution of researchers contributing to tourism safety and security research. Looking specifically at the SSCI journals, authors are spread across 16 countries, with the majority from the United States (six) and five each from England and Australia. The ESCI journals also have authors from 16 countries,

Table 2: Paper distribution of WoS and Scopus citations

SSCI papers	WoS citations			Scopus citations		
	Total	*per author*	*per year*	*Total*	*per author*	*per year*
Cavlek, N. (2002)	**165**	**165**	7.17	**219**	**219**	9.52
de Albuquerque, K., & McElroy, J. (1999)	**95**	**47.5**	3.65	**138**	**69**	5.31
Brunt, P., Mawby, R., & Hambly, Z. (2000)	**125**	**41.67**	5	**151**	**50.33**	6.04
Bowen, C., Fidgeon, P., & Page, S. J. (2014)	60	20	5.45	67	22.33	6.09
Cruz-Milán, O., Simpson, J. J., Simpson, P. M., & Choi, W. (2016)	25	6.25	2.78	25	6.25	2.78
Alrawadieh, Z., Alrawadieh, Z., & Kozak, M. (2019)	59	19.67	9.83	71	23.67	11.83
Xu, D., Murphy, L., Chen, T.Z., & Pearce, P. L. (2022)	8	2	2.67	10	2.5	3.33
Buda, D. M. (2016)	25	25	2.78	30	30	3.34
Samitas, A., Asteriou, D., Polyzos, S., & Kenourgios, D. (2018)	79	19.75	**11.29**	86	21.5	12.29
Agarwal, S., Page, S. J., & Mawby, R. (2021)	20	6.67	5	28	9.33	7
Hamm, D., & Su, C.-H. (Joan). (2021)	11	5.5	2.75	11	5.5	2.75
Simpson, J. J., & Simpson, P. M. (2017)	27	13.5	3.38	30	15	3.75
Zou, Y., & Yu, Q. (2022)	21	10.5	7	29	14.5	9.67
Millar, M., Collins, M. D., & Jones, D. L. (2017)	11	3.67	1.38	11	3.67	1.38
Zou, Y., & Meng, F. (2020)	54	27	**10.8**	60	30	12
Adam, I., & Adongo, C. A. (2016)	28	14	3.11	28	14	3.11
Chan, C.-S., Nozu, K., & Cheung, T. O. L. (2020)	42	14	8.4	56	18.67	11.2
Xu, D., Murphy, L., & Chen, T. (2022)	2	0.67	0.67	2	0.67	0.67
Xu, D., Pearce, P. L., & Chen, T. (2021)	25	8.33	6.25	27	9	6.75
Petruzzi, M. A., & Marques, C. (2024)	3	1.5	3	4	2	4
Alrawadieh, Z., & Alrawadieh, Z. (2020)	4	2	0.8	5	2.5	1
Zerva, K. (2013)	4	4	0.33	5	5	0.42
Botterill, D., Pointing, S., Hayes-Jonkers, C., Clough, A., Jones, T., & Rodriguez, C. (2013)	28	4.67	2.33	28	4.67	2.33
Maldonado-Guzmán, D. J. (2023)	5	5	2.5	9	9	4.5
Jeuring, J., & Becken, S. (2013)	54	27	4.5	62	31	5.17
ESCI papers	**WoS citations**			**Scopus citations**		
	Total	*per author*	*per year*	*Total*	*per author*	*per year*
Adeloye, D., Carr, N., & Insch, A. (2019)	10	3.33	1.67	13	4.33	2.17
Korstanje, M. E., & Clayton, A. (2012)	**90**	**45**	**6.92**	**124**	**62**	**9.54**
Jurado, K. C., & Matovelle, P. T. (2019)	4	2	0.67	4	2	0.67
Boxill, I. (2012)	3	3	0.23	4	4	0.31
Carvalho, M. A. (2022)	0	0	0	3	3	1
Johnny, L., & Jordan, L. (2007)	11	5.5	0.61	/	/	/
Salman, A., Trupp, A., & Chan, L.-F. (2024)	0	0	0	/	/	/
Tarlow, P. (2019)	1	1	0.17	1	1	0.17
Marton, Z., Ernszt, I., & Birkner, Z. (2020)	1	0.33	0.2	2	0.67	0.4
Polyzos, S., Papadopoulou, G., & Xesfingi, S. (2023)	5	1.67	2.5	7	2.33	3.5
Afonso-Rodríguez, J. A. (2017)	27	27	3.38	33	33	4.13
Ye, B., Zhao, S., Im, H., Gan, L., Liu, M., Wang, X., & Yang, Q. (2023)	1	0.14	0.5	1	0.14	0.5
Fauzel, S., & Seetanah, B. (2023)	2	1	1	5	2.5	2.5
Wilson, J., & Látková, P. (2016)	10	5	1.11	10	5	1.11
Bennett, R. (2017)	2	2	0.25	3	3	0.38

Source: Authors

with Jamaica (four) and the United States (three) being the most represented.

Citation analysis

In order to evaluate the scientific impact and influence of individual papers and journals, a citation analysis was carried out (Tables 3 and 4). Citation data from WoS and Scopus were used, which, "remain today the main sources for citation data" [57, p. 214]. Since citation data can fluctuate, it is important to note that the data was retrieved on May 24, 2024.

In terms of individual papers, the highest number of citations and the strongest influence on the development of the literature on tourism safety and security were attributed to the works of [18], [21], and [31]. Cavlek's paper [21] not only received the highest total number of WoS and Scopus citations, but also the most citations per author. On the other hand, the highest number of citations per year was achieved by [65] and [81]. All of the aforementioned studies are SSCI papers, with only one ESCI paper standing out in terms of influence, namely [45]. The remaining ESCI papers achieved a relatively modest number of WoS and Scopus citations, underlining the expected dominance of SSCI papers over ESCI papers (Table 2).

The citation analysis at the journal level shows that the *Annals of Tourism Research*, *Tourism Management* and *Current Issues in Tourism* have had the greatest influence on shaping scientific thought in the field of tourism safety and security. These journals, which are all listed in SSCI, show an undeniable dominance over the ESCI journals. The only ESCI journal that came close to the SSCI journals in terms of citations and impact in this area is *Worldwide Hospitality and Tourism Themes* (Table 3).

Keyword analysis

The last step in the evaluative bibliometric analysis is the analysis of keywords, which aimed to determine the prevailing topics and dominant research niches that occupy the attention of the authors of tourism safety and security literature. An analysis of the most frequently occurring terms shows that the authors' interests primarily focus on topics such as crime and terrorism, as well as travel intentions and risk perception. No significant differences were found between the dominant keywords in SSCI and

Table 3: Journals distribution of WoS and Scopus citations

SSCI journals	WoS citations		Scopus citations	
	Total	*per paper*	*Total*	*per paper*
Tourism Management (IF 12.7)	**288**	**57.6**	**336**	**67.2**
Annals of Tourism Research (IF 13.2)	**308**	**77**	**413**	**103.25**
Current Issues in Tourism (IF 8)	**161**	**40.25**	**192**	**48**
Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management (IF 8.3)	47	15.67	49	16.33
Journal of Travel Research (IF 8.9)	52	26	60	30
Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change (IF 2.2)	8	4	10	5
Tourism Management Perspectives (IF 8.7)	79	79	86	86
Journal of Destination Marketing & Management (IF 8.4)	21	21	29	29
Journal of Hospitality Marketing & Management (IF 12.5)	11	11	11	11
Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research (IF 5.0)	2	2	2	2
Journal of Vacation Marketing (IF 5.1)	3	3	4	4
ESCI journals	**WoS citations**		**Scopus citations**	
	Total	*per paper*	*Total*	*per paper*
Tourism Recreation Research (IF 4.2)	10	10	13	13
Worldwide Hospitality and Tourism Themes (IF 2.2)	**96**	**24**	**132**	**33**
Tourism (IF 1.7)	4	2	4	2
European Journal of Tourism Research (IF 2.3)	0	0	3	3
Annals of Leisure Research (IF 1.9)	11	11	/	/
DETUROPE – The Central European Journal of Tourism and Regional Development (IF 1)	1	1	2	2
Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure and Events (IF 3.1)	32	16	40	20
Journal of Tourism Futures (IF 6.7)	1	1	1	1
Tourism Analysis (IF 1.8)	2	2	5	5
Tourism and Hospitality Research (IF 3.5)	10	10	10	10

Source: Authors

ESCI papers, suggesting that both groups of publications address similar topics (Table 4).

By examining the average year of publications in which keywords are listed, it is possible to gain an insight into the most current topics, as well as those for which researchers' interest has declined. Figure 4, created using VOSviewer, shows that the earliest publications on this topic, in both SSCI and ESCI papers, focused primarily on the impact of terrorism and crime on tourism, before the focus shifted toward ensuring the safety of tourists and local residents. In more recent publications, however, the interest is on the impact of fraud, harassment and systemic risks on tourists' behaviour and their perception of safety and security when visiting tourism destinations.

Table 4: Most frequently occurring terms in the analysed papers

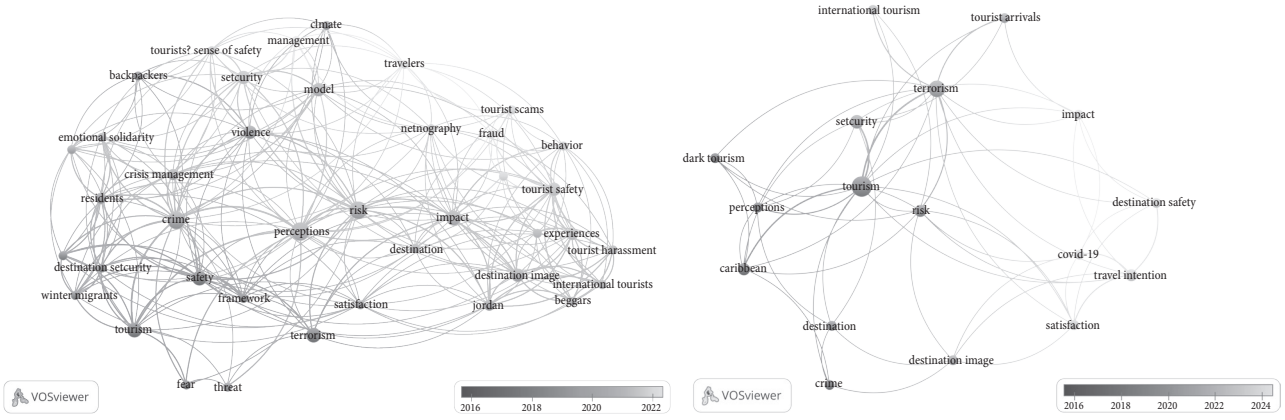
Term	Frequency
SSCI	
safety	23
tourist	14
risk	13
tourism	13
security	11
crime	10
destination	10
perceptions	10
management	9
terrorism	8
ESCI	
tourism	23
risk	8
terrorism	8
destination	7
security	7
safety	6
travel	6
Caribbean	4
intention	4
Covid-19	3

Source: Authors

Since no differences were identified in the topics covered by SSCI and ESCI papers, the next step involved conducting a keyword clustering using the publications from both the SSCI- and ESCI-indexed journals. The aim of this analysis was to identify clusters of keywords, or dominant themes, based on their proximity to each other. The closer proximity of terms within the clusters reflects their stronger relatedness, illustrating the patterns of interconnected topics within the research [66]. Using VOSviewer, four distinct keyword clusters were identified (Figure 5), with the association strength method applied to normalize the strength of the connections between the keywords. In total, 388 connections were identified, with an overall link strength of 524.

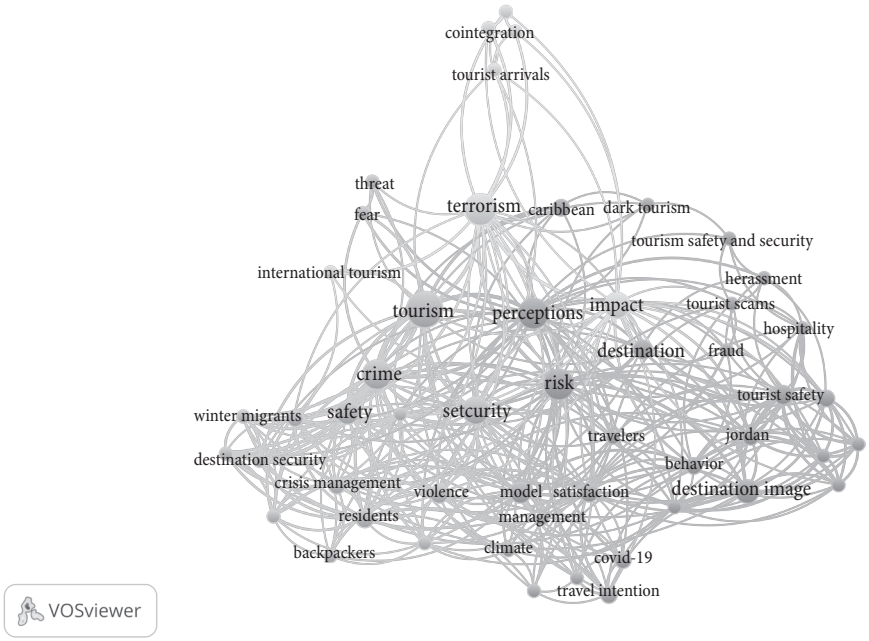
The first cluster (red-coded), contains the largest set of keywords (20) and focuses on topics related to the impact of scams and harassment on tourists' perception of safety and security. The second cluster (green-coded), contains 17 keywords and emphasizes the impact of crime on tourism. The third cluster (blue-coded), deals with the impact of systemic risks on travel behaviour. Finally, the fourth cluster (yellow-coded), includes keywords that examine the relationship between terrorism and tourism. In the following content analysis, each cluster will be examined in detail from the perspective of both SSCI and ESCI papers.

Figure 4: Keyword trend (SSCI keywords on the left, ESCI keywords on the right)



Source: Authors

Figure 5: Keyword clusters



Source: Authors

Content analysis

Topic 1: Impact of scams and harassment on tourists' sense of security and safety

Research on the impact of scams and harassment on tourists' sense of security and safety offers several important insights. First, tourists' perception of safety changes before, during and after the trip and is influenced by interactions with locals and facilities [82]. Emotional bonds between locals and tourists have different effects on the perception of safety, but play a more important role in times of crisis [67]. One study showed that tourists generally feel safe during the day, but not on public transport or at night [42]. Fraud is one of the most common reasons why tourists feel less safe. Scammers use a variety of techniques, such as building trust with tourists, creating a sense of urgency and using local knowledge to mislead victims. Tourists unwittingly engage in practices that make them vulnerable to scams, often due to limited knowledge, curiosity or trust in the legitimacy of the scammers [78]. Aggressive behavior and persistent harassment, especially by street vendors, has an emotional impact on tourists and affect their experience, but contribute little to overall satisfaction [6] and the overall image of the destination [55]. The presence of security forces increases the tourists' sense of security and contributes to their loyalty [29]. Strong tourism security not only protects visitors, but also increases the value of the tourism product by boosting tourism growth and local economies. Tourism-oriented economies thus need to adopt proactive security and recovery plans to mitigate risks and crises, especially in areas where man-made challenges are common [68].

In terms of methodological approaches, both quantitative and qualitative methods were used in the observed studies. SSCI-indexed studies tended to favor qualitative methods, while ESCI studies predominantly used quantitative approaches (Table 5).

Topic 2: Influence of crime on tourism

The second cluster of papers reveal that tourists' actual perception of safety often exceeds their expectations, even in destinations that are considered risky due to crime or political factors [81], [74]. Crime can take many forms, from property crimes such as stealing to more serious threats such as violence and aggravated assault [31], affecting both tourism and the economic growth of the destinations where these threats manifested [12], [15], [41], [53]. Despite this, tourists can still feel relatively safe, as evidenced by studies showing that the existence of crime is not always a significant obstacle for tourists [18], [41].

Furthermore, some tourism organizations even use the presence of negative aspects such as gang culture to attract tourists. In this way, existence of criminal behaviour at the destination is seen as an opportunity rather than a threat [80]. However, some tourists may be more vulnerable to certain crimes due to their background and travel behaviour, highlighting the need for better security measures and pre-travel information about potential dangers [1].

In terms of methodological approaches, the studies often used qualitative and mixed-methods research, with case studies, interviews and secondary data analysis being common research designs. The *SSCI* studies generally prefer quantitative approaches such as surveys and have a more global research focus. In contrast, *ESCI* studies appear to focus particularly on the Caribbean destinations and offer descriptive insights into the relationship between crime and tourism (Table 6).

Topic 3: The influence of systemic risks on travel behaviour

This cluster of papers addresses the impact of systemic risks, such as health pandemics and severe weather events, on tourists. The studies reveal that biological risks such as the COVID-19 pandemic have strongly influenced tourists' behaviour and changed their travel intentions. The phenomenon of "revenge tourism" with tourists seeking to make up for lost travel experiences, has significantly influenced post-pandemic travel behaviour. However, certain factors such as health concerns and the destination safety play an important role in the travel decision-making [64]. Sustainability has also emerged as a priority for some tourists, with an increasing focus on environmentally responsible travel [61]. In the case of natural disasters, such as severe weather, tourists differ in their perception of responsibility for their own protection, with many seeing this as a shared responsibility between themselves and the authorities [40]. Effective management and communication strategies have been identified as essential both for destinations affected by a pandemic to restore their tourism appeal [79] and improve travel intentions [20], and for destinations affected by severe weather events to increase tourists' preparedness and safety during such events [40].

The majority of studies (four out of five) used a quantitative methodology, indicating a preference for data collection using structured questionnaires, while

Table 5: Comparison of SSCI- and ESCI-indexed studies on impact of scams and harassment on tourists' sense of security and safety

Criteria	SSCI (n=11)	ESCI (n=3)
Papers	Alrawadieh & Alrawadieh [6], Alrawadieh et al. [7], Botterill et al. [13], Chan et al. [22], Cruz-Milán et al. [29], Hamm & Su [39], Millar et al. [55], Simpson & Simpson [67], Xu et al. [76], [77], [78], Zou & Yu [82]	Jurado & Matovelle [42], Marton et al. [54], Tarlow [68]
Methodology	Predominantly qualitative (six studies) with quantitative approaches (four studies) and mixed methods (one study)	Primarily quantitative approaches, with one qualitative study
Research design	Diverse designs including surveys, interviews, netnography, Delphi method, case studies and UGC analysis	Surveys, with one case study
Research region	Australia, China, Japan, Jordan, Texas, US, global	Caribbean, Ecuador, Hungary

Source: Authors

Table 6: Comparison of SSCI- and ESCI-indexed studies on crime and tourism

Criteria	SSCI (n=6)	ESCI (n=4)
Papers	Adam & Adongo [1], Brunt et al. [18], de Albuquerque & McElroy [31], Maldonado-Guzmán [53], Zerva [80], Zou & Meng [81]	Bennett [12], Boxill [15], Johnny & Jordan [41], Wilson & Látková [74]
Methodology	Predominantly quantitative (four studies), but includes qualitative study as well (one study)	Predominantly qualitative (two studies) with mixed methods (one study) and quantitative approaches (one study)
Research design	Primarily surveys, but also secondary data analysis, case studies, and interviews	Mix of secondary data analysis, case study, interviews, and surveys
Research region	Caribbean, China, Ghana, Los Angeles, Spain, United Kingdom	Caribbean region (Cuba, Jamaica, Saint Lucia)

Source: Authors

one study applied a qualitative methodology and used a conceptual and a literature review approach (Table 7).

Topic 4: Relationship between terrorism and tourism

Research in the fourth cluster explores the causal relationship between terrorism and tourism and shows that terrorist attacks lead to a significant decrease in tourism demand [62], negatively affecting economic growth, with the most apparent effects occurring a few months after the attack [3], [65]. In some cases, increased tourism development can attract more terrorist incidents as tourists become visible targets [35], although paradoxically these attacks can also give rise to "dark tourism" where tragic sites turn into attractions [45]. Studies also emphasize the importance of managing domestic tourism during crises. As domestic tourism is more resilient to terrorism-related crises compared to international tourism, it represents an opportunity to mitigate economic losses during such events [2]. The findings thus suggest that tourism can coexist with danger [19]. However, developing comprehensive risk management plans to address terrorism is of paramount importance [14], as recovery from a crisis requires significant investment to regain market position [4], [21].

The papers in the SSCI journals in this cluster show a broader range of methodologies (including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method), while the papers in the ESCI journals rely more on quantitative approaches to investigate the relationship between terrorism and tourism. Quantitative research primarily uses secondary data analysis, while qualitative studies rely more on case studies and literature reviews. The mixed-method study combines quantitative and qualitative methodology using survey and interview (Table 8).

Conclusions

With the frequent occurrence of crisis events and the increasing influence of systemic factors on tourism, safety and security have emerged as a key consideration in destination choice [33], [64]. However, the academic community's contributions to understanding this topic remain largely unsystematized and lack detailed analysis. To fill this gap, this paper conducts a bibliometric and content analysis of 40 studies from the Web of Science database. Findings indicate that research to date has focused on four main safety and security issues affecting tourism industry, i.e., fraud and harassment, crime, systemic risks and terrorism. The results show that the impact of scams and harassment on tourist behavior has attracted the most research interest, while the study of the systemic risks effects is still in nascent stage. Looking at the papers depending on whether they were published in journals referenced on

Table 7: Comparison of SSCI- and ESCI-indexed studies on systemic risks and travel behaviour

Criteria	SSCI (n=2)	ESCI (n=3)
Papers	Jeuring & Becken [40], Petruzzi & Marques [61]	Carvalho [20], Salman et al. [64], Ye et al. [79]
Methodology	Quantitative	Predominantly quantitative, with one qualitative study
Research design	Survey	Primarily survey, with one conceptual and literature review paper
Research region	New Zealand, global	China, Portugal, global

Source: Authors

Table 8: Comparison of SSCI- and ESCI-indexed studies on terrorism and tourism

Criteria	SSCI (n=5)	ESCI (n=5)
Papers	Agarwal et al. [4], Bowen et al. [14], Buda [19], Cavlek [21], Samitas et al. [65]	Adeloye et al. [2], Afonso-Rodríguez [3], Fauzel & Seetanah [35], Korstanje & Clayton [45], Polyzos et al. [62]
Methodology	Quantitative and qualitative approaches are equally represented, with one study employing a mixed-methods approach	Predominantly quantitative (three studies), with two qualitative studies
Research design	Mix of secondary data analysis, case studies, interviews, surveys	Primarily secondary data analysis, but also case studies, and literature review
Research region	Conflict zones (Middle East, Africa), Croatia, Greece	Africa, Egypt, Turkey, global

Source: Authors

the SSCI or ESCI list, the previous conclusion does not change when it comes to SSCI-indexed papers. However, in the ESCI-indexed papers, the focus is slightly more on the impact of crime and terrorism and less on other types of risk. The analysis also suggests that this field of study is gradually reaching maturity, as evidenced by a stronger emphasis on quantitative over qualitative approaches [50] in both the SSCI and ESCI papers.

Given the frequency and strong negative impact of natural and man-made crises on tourism, it is to be expected that issues of safety and security in tourism will continue to occupy the attention of both the academic community and tourism policy makers. By systematizing the existing scientific knowledge on tourism safety and security, this study offers valuable insights for both future researchers and destination management organizations. Firstly, by highlighting the most common topics, the methods used and the destinations studied, it serves as a practical guide for authors aiming to publish papers in SSCI or ESCI journals, helping them identify research gaps and new opportunities. Additionally, the literature review includes researchers' recommendations in each topic area, providing destination management organizations with a useful basis for developing strategies to improve a destination's safety image.

This study is not without limitation. The main limitation lies in the sample selection criteria, which may have excluded publications that are important for the development of tourism safety and security research, such as non-English language studies or those indexed in other reputable databases. Future research could address this by expanding the sample to include papers from databases such as the Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) Journal Quality List. Another possible limitation relates to the keywords selected for the literature search. Future studies should consider updating and expanding the keyword list to possibly include a larger number of relevant publications. Additionally, future studies could benefit from the application of social network analysis (SNA) to gain deeper insights into the intellectual structure of this field, particularly with regard to relational networks and the level of collaboration between authors contributing to this area.

Acknowledgement

This research is supported by the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia by the Decision on the scientific research funding for teaching staff at the accredited higher education institutions in 2025 (No. 451-03-137/2025- 03/200375 of February 4, 2025).

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