KONSELOR

Envisioning the Future of Culturally Responsive Counseling: A Bibliometric Perspective

Ela Nur Fadilah•, Mochamad Nursalim, Budi Purwoko, Evi Winingsih, Bakhrudin All Habsy, & Dian Oktaviana
Department of Guidance and Counseling, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, East Java

Correspondence regarding this article should be addressed to:
Ela Nur Fadilah. Department of Guidance and Counseling, Universitas Negeri Surabaya. Jl. Lidah Wetan, Surabaya (60213), East Java, Indonesia. Email: fadilahela@unesa.ac.id

SCROLL DOWN TO READ THIS ARTICLE

KONSELOR

Envisioning the Future of Culturally Responsive Counseling: A Bibliometric Perspective

Ela Nur Fadilah♦, Mochamad Nursalim, Budi Purwoko, Evi Winingsih, Bakhrudin All Habsy, & Dian Oktaviana

Department of Guidance and Counseling, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia

Abstract: Cultural diversity in a global educational environment demands a counseling approach that is able to respond to the social dynamics and cultural identities of students. Multicultural counseling is an important strategy in supporting an equal, inclusive, and social justice-based learning process. This study aims to map the development of culturally responsive counseling theory and practice through bibliometric analysis. A total of 316 scientific articles indexed in the Scopus database in the period 2020–2024 were analyzed using VOSviewer and Bibliometrix R software. The results of the study indicate that multicultural counseling has shifted from a cultural awareness approach to interventions based on evaluation, social justice, and integration of local wisdom. The findings also reveal the dominance of contributions from Western countries, as well as the weak representation of the Asian and Global South regions, which indicates an inequality in knowledge production. This study provides a concrete contribution in formulating the direction of developing a cross-cultural competency-based counselor education curriculum and data-based policy advocacy, emphasizing the need for more equal global collaboration. These findings can be the basis for designing counselor training models and psychosocial service policies that are more contextual and sensitive to cultural diversity.

Key Words: Multicultural counseling; Bibliometric analysis; Cultural diversity; Social justice; Cross-cultural competency

INTRODUCTION

In the era of globalization marked by increasing migration, social mobility, and cross-cultural interaction, counseling practices are required to be more adaptive to cultural diversity. Clients who come to the counseling room bring with them values, language, and cultural experiences that shape the way they understand and express psychological problems. Therefore, a culturally neutral or universal counseling approach is no longer able to answer the psychological needs of a heterogeneous society (Tanaka-Matsumi, 2022). Culturally responsive counseling involves the counselor's ability to understand, appreciate, and integrate the client's cultural values and perspectives into the counseling process. This is not only relevant in the context of interpersonal relationships, but also in dealing with complex global dynamics, such as migration, intercultural conflict, and globalization. Previous studies have highlighted the importance of cultural responsiveness in counseling. S. Sue et al., (2009) introduced the concept of multicultural competence, which includes self-awareness, knowledge of other cultures, and skills to interact effectively with clients from diverse cultural backgrounds. This competence has become the foundation for the development of cross-cultural counseling theory and practice. In addition, counseling that ignores cultural context can perpetuate structural biases and inequities, as highlighted

♦Corresponding author: Ela Nur Fadilah. Department of Guidance and Counseling, Universitas Negeri Surabaya. Jl. Lidah Wetan, Surabaya (60213), East Java, Indonesia. Email: fadilahela@unesa.ac.id

by Pedersen et al., (2015). Integrating cultural sensitivity into counseling practice is essential to fostering equitable therapeutic relationships and addressing the unique needs of diverse clients. This is supported by the explanation of Mulaikal & Hastie (2024) that cultural sensitivity is a key element in strengthening the therapeutic alliance, allowing counselors to understand the client's background, beliefs, and values in depth.

Culturally responsive counseling is a counseling approach that consciously and actively considers the client's cultural background, values, beliefs, and life experiences as important factors in the counseling process. Culturally responsive counselors are aware of cultural differences, avoid ethnocentric bias, and are able to adjust counseling strategies to be culturally relevant. According to D. W. Sue et al., (2007), counselors must have multicultural competence to be able to provide ethical, effective, and inclusive services to clients from various cultural backgrounds. Counselors are aware of their personal values and biases and their impact on relationships with clients from different cultures. Then the counselor understands the values, practices, history, and experiences of various cultural groups and how this affects individual behavior and psychology. And counselors are able to use intervention techniques and strategies that are appropriate to the client's cultural context. On the other hand, U. Schnyder et al., (2016) explain that cultural background variables, such as language and traditions, play an important role in determining the success of the counseling process. Insensitivity to these aspects can trigger miscommunication and result in less effective interventions. With this approach, counselors can be more objective and sensitive to the diverse needs of clients. Additionally, engaging in ongoing cultural competency training ensures that counselors remain informed about changing multicultural dynamics. This training strengthens their awareness and understanding of the influence of culture on counseling practice, ultimately supporting a more inclusive and effective approach (Boyer, 2022).

If cultural aspects are ignored in the counseling process, the consequences that arise can be very serious, ranging from biased perception by counselors, miscommunication between counselors and clients, to significantly reduced intervention effectiveness. Pedersen et al., (2016) emphasized that culture is at the heart of all counseling interactions, and ignoring it can lead to misinterpretation of client behavior, values, and experiences. N. Schnyder et al., (2023) added that a lack of cultural competence in counseling often leads to client alienation and exacerbates inequalities in mental health services. Meanwhile, Mulaikal & Hastie, (2024) showed that cultural insensitivity increases low client risk retention and decreases trust in psychological service institutions. Therefore, cultural sensitivity is not just a professional preference, but an ethical obligation inherent in counseling practice to ensure fairness, relevance, and effectiveness of services. With the right strategies, therapists can ensure that the use of technology in therapy does not exacerbate existing gaps or barriers in mental health services (Murray, 2024).

Integrative and adaptive approaches to culture have also received attention. For example, research by Moodley & Palmer, (2006) proposed a spirituality-based counseling model specifically designed for clients from collectivist cultures. This model emphasizes the importance of integrating spiritual values and close social relationships, which are often central to identity in collectivist cultures. This approach allows counselors to better understand the cultural context of clients, thereby creating a more meaningful and appropriate therapeutic space for them. As technology advances, digital counseling such as teletherapy and online services have become popular alternatives in mental health services, especially post-pandemic. However, the transition to this virtual environment also presents new challenges related to cultural sensitivity that cannot be ignored. In the digital space, nonverbal cues that are important for understanding cultural context are often lost, increasing the risk of miscommunication and intercultural misunderstanding. Murray, (2024) emphasized that online counseling practices tend to ignore the cultural dimension if not accompanied by intentional adaptation strategies. Meanwhile, Medina & Álvarez-Pérez, (2024) underlined that counselors need to develop culturally sensitive digital competencies in order to understand the nuances of clients' cultures in limited communication formats. Therefore, it is important for counseling practitioners to not only be technologically literate but also to build adaptive multicultural competencies in the digital context to maintain the effectiveness and inclusivity of services.

In the face of global cultural diversity, increasing attention is being paid to alternative frameworks in counseling, such as models based on spirituality and collectivist values. These approaches offer a more contextual and holistic perspective, especially for non-Western societies where

spiritual dimensions and social relationships are integral to life and psychological healing. Moodley & Palmer, (2006) emphasize the importance of integrating local wisdom, spiritual practices, and traditional beliefs in cross-cultural therapy, because overly individualistic Western frameworks are often irrelevant to collectivist-oriented societies. In cultural contexts such as Indonesia, many successful counseling practices are precisely those that consider communal values, family relationships, and spiritual aspects such as religiosity or inner harmony. Similarly, in Asia and Africa, approaches that reflect collectivist values have proven more effective in building therapeutic relationships and improving clients' psychosocial functioning. Therefore, adapting local culturally based frameworks not only enriches counseling theory, but also ensures the appropriateness and effectiveness of services in diverse communities.

In recent years, the issue of culturally responsive counseling has become a major concern in various cross-disciplinary studies, reflecting the increasing awareness of the importance of cultural sensitivity in mental health services. Scientific literature discussing multicultural competence, integration of cultural values, and therapeutic approaches based on local contexts is growing, both conceptually and practically. However, systematic mapping of research developments in this field is still limited, especially in the form of bibliometric analysis. This gap is significant because despite the increasing number of publications, little is known about the main trends in the literature, the most influential authors or institutions, and the central themes that dominate scientific discourse Donthu et al., (2021). As a result, the direction of development and map of knowledge in culturally responsive counseling have not been thoroughly documented, making it difficult to develop evidence-based theories, policies, and practices.

This study aims to explore and map the development of culturally responsive counseling studies through a bibliometric approach. By utilizing bibliometric analysis tools such as Bibliometrix (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017) and VOSviewer, this study will reveal scientific citation trends, dominant keyword networks, collaboration patterns between authors or institutions, and emerging and underdeveloped research topics. The results of this study are expected to provide a comprehensive picture of the scientific landscape in the multicultural counseling domain, as well as serve as an important reference for decision-making in curriculum development, professional training, counseling service policies, and future research agendas that are more contextual and inclusive of cultural diversity.

METHOD

This study uses a bibliometric approach with descriptive analysis and network visualization to map and explore the scientific landscape of culturally responsive counseling. Mapping is done by considering four main dimensions: scale (volume), time (temporal), place (geographic), and composition (content and thematic structure). The scale dimension refers to the number of publications and trends in literature growth over time; the temporal dimension evaluates changes in research dynamics based on the year of publication to identify the momentum of discourse development; the geographical dimension analyzes the contribution of countries and institutions to reveal the global distribution and dominance of certain regions in knowledge production. Meanwhile, the composition dimension includes thematic structures in the literature, such as the emergence of keywords, citation patterns, and the relationship between important concepts in multicultural counseling. With this mapping, the study not only provides a comprehensive understanding of the scientific developments that have occurred, but also provides a basis for the development of more culturally relevant counseling practices and policies, as well as opening up space for future collaboration and innovation based on data.

Data Source

This study uses Scopus as the main data source, considering its reputation as one of the largest indexed scientific databases in the world with extensive international coverage, high indexing quality, and the availability of complete metadata needed for bibliometric analysis. Scopus covers reputable journals from various disciplines and provides data export features that are compatible with analysis tools such as Bibliometrix and VOSviewer. The literature search was conducted systematically with a

search period from 2020 to 2024 to ensure coverage of the latest research developments in the field of cross-cultural counseling.
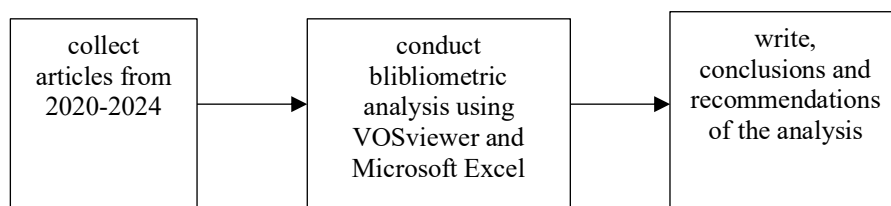
```
┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐
│ collect      │      │ conduct      │      │ write,       │
│ articles from│─────▶│ blibliometric│─────▶│ conclusions and│
│ 2020-2024    │      │ analysis using│     │ recommendations│
│              │      │ VOSviewer and│      │ of the analysis│
│              │      │ Microsoft Excel│    │              │
└──────────────┘      └──────────────┘      └──────────────┘
```

Figure 1. Bibliometrics Process

Research Target

This study aims to explore the development of cross-cultural counseling programs with two main focuses. First, this study identifies related scientific literature published between 2020 and 2024, to understand trends, scientific contributions, and research dynamics in the field of culturally responsive counseling. Second, this study compares the number and characteristics of research focusing on cross-cultural counseling intervention programs in the past eight years, with the aim of evaluating the dynamics of growth, geographic distribution, and changes in thematic priorities over time.

```
        ┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
        │ Research trends on multicultural     │
        │ counseling programs                  │
        └─────────────────────────────────────┘
                        │
        ┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
        │ 316 articles were collected and selected│
        │ 2020-2024                            │
        └─────────────────────────────────────┘
                        │
        ┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
        │ Bibliometric Analysis, VOSviewer,    │
        │ Microsoft Excel                      │
        └─────────────────────────────────────┘
          │         │           │          │
      ┌───────┐ ┌───────┐  ┌────────┐ ┌───────────┐
      │ Scale │ │ Time  │  │ Room   │ │Composition│
      └───────┘ └───────┘  └────────┘ └───────────┘
          │         │           │          │
  ┌────────────┐┌────────────┐┌───────────┐┌───────────┐
  │Descriptive ││Year and Time││Geographical││Network    │
  │analysis:   ││of Publication││Distribution││Visualization│
  │volume of   ││            ││           ││Analysis   │
  │research per ││            ││           ││           │
  │year.       ││            ││           ││           │
  └────────────┘└────────────┘└───────────┘└───────────┘
```
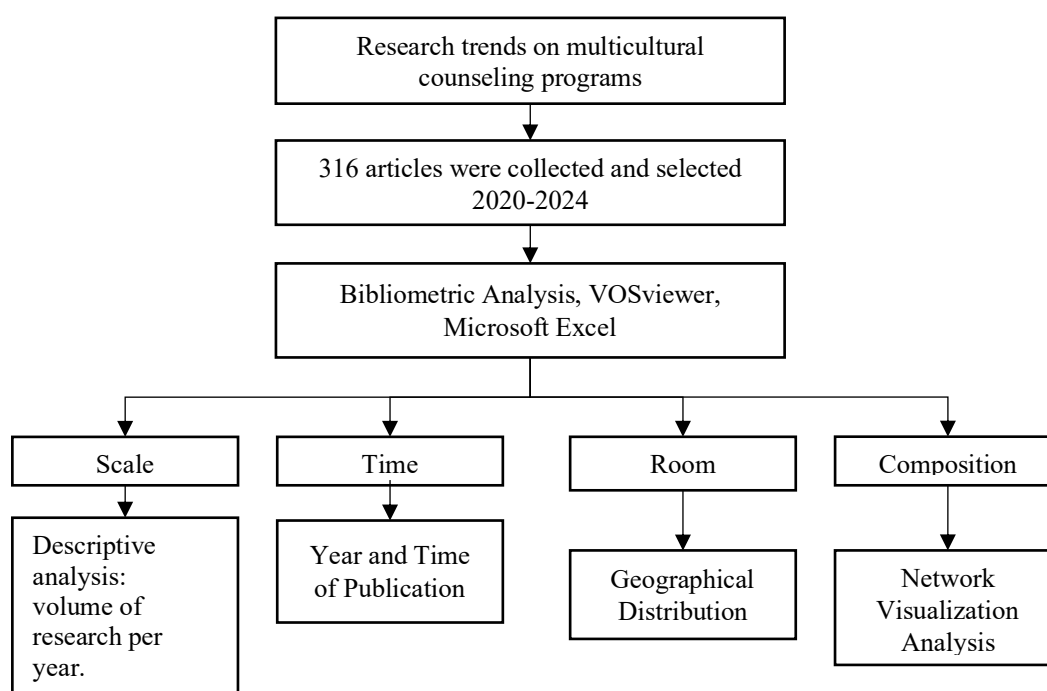
Figure 2. Bibliometrics focussed analysis

An initial search in the Scopus database resulted in 543 articles that matched the Boolean keywords: "culturally responsive counseling", "multicultural counseling", "multicultural education". After going through a screening process based on inclusion and exclusion criteria, only 316 articles were eligible for further analysis. After screening, metadata was extracted from the 316 selected articles. The information collected includes: article title, author name, author affiliation/institution, year of publication, keywords used, related fields of science, number of citations, and links to the original article. This process is done semi-automatically using Microsoft Excel for data management, and supported by Zotero software for reference management and metadata verification. The extracted data

are then used as the basis for descriptive analysis and network visualization using software such as Bibliometrix (R-package) and VOSviewer.

Research Framework

Based on Figure 2, the analytical framework in this study was designed to examine cross-cultural counseling programs through four main dimensions, namely: scale, time, space, and composition. Each dimension is analyzed using relevant methods and tools to gain a comprehensive understanding of the trends and structures of knowledge in the field of cross-cultural counseling. This approach allows researchers to gain a systematic and comprehensive understanding of the scientific patterns that shape the realm of cross-cultural counseling, both in terms of volume, time, space, and relational structure between research components.

RESULTS

This study examines cross-cultural counseling programs across four key dimensions and analyzes research trends related to these programs based on aspects of scale, time, space, and composition.

Scale

This study focuses on the analysis of 316 journal articles discussing cross-cultural counseling programs. In this context, "scale" refers to the number of articles published, depicting the growth and distribution of research related to the topic in the time span of 2020 to 2024. This study aims to identify annual publication trends, explore the correlation of emerging topics, and analyze the research objects discussed. Furthermore, this study also includes a classification of cross-cultural counseling programs described in the selected articles. This approach allows mapping of dominant themes, research relevance to global issues, and innovations in cross-cultural counseling methodologies. From this analysis, the results are expected to provide in-depth insights into academic contributions in understanding, developing, and implementing counseling programs that are adaptive to cultural diversity.

Analysis of the Development of the Number of Articles on Multicultural Counseling Programs by Year

Based on Table 1 this study uses a descriptive analysis approach to 316 studies indexed by Scopus in the period 2020 to 2024. The growth of publication of articles on multicultural counseling in the period 2020 to 2024 shows a fluctuating pattern with a significant increase in certain years. Based on bibliometric data, there were a total of 316 articles published during the six years, with an annual distribution that reflects the dynamics of academic attention to this topic.

Table 1. Analysis of the Development of the Number of Articles

Year	N	Percentage
2020	78	19%
2021	55	13%
2022	52	13%
2023	63	16%
2024	68	21%
	316	100%

Multicultural counseling is gaining increasing attention in academic studies due to its relevance to the growing global cultural diversity. An analysis of the development of the number of articles in the last five years (2020–2024) provides insight into the dynamics of research in this field, both in terms of the number of publications and the annual percentage contribution to the total articles. In 2020, there were 78 articles published, accounting for 19% of the total. This year showed strong initial momentum for the study of multicultural counseling programs. This research was likely driven by the growing

awareness of social justice issues and the need for more inclusive approaches to counseling services. However, the number of articles decreased in 2021 to 55 articles, accounting for 13% of the total. This trend continued into 2022, where the number of articles remained relatively stable at 52 articles (also 13%). This decrease may reflect challenges faced in developing new literature, such as limited research resource allocation or adjusting to global changes during the pandemic.

The year 2023 saw a resurgence with the publication of 63 articles, accounting for 16% of the total. This surge signifies a recovery in interest in the field, likely influenced by the increasing integration of multicultural issues into global education and mental health policies. The peak of development occurred in 2024 with 68 articles, accounting for 21% of the total. This growth illustrates the maturity of the field of multicultural counseling as a major research focus, with more studies highlighting innovative approaches to counseling practice across cultural contexts. Overall, of the 316 articles published in this period, the development of the number of articles showed a fluctuating pattern but with an increasing trend in recent years. This reflects the importance of multicultural counseling programs in responding to the needs of an increasingly diverse global society, while also emphasizing the urgency of further research to strengthen the theoretical and practical foundations of the field.

Journal Article Citations and Their Percentages

A total of 316 Scopus-indexed articles were selected for analysis in this study. The articles were published by 131 research journals, selected based on their relevance and contribution to the development of Multicultural Counseling programs. There were 1785 citations recorded across the articles. In this analysis, the focus was given to popular research journals that were considered to have significant influence in the field of Multicultural Counseling. As part of the analytical approach, the five journals with the highest number of citations in this field were identified. These journals not only have high citation rates, but also consistently publish quality research that provides in-depth insights and innovations in cross-cultural counseling programs. Identification of these journals allows for mapping of trends, thematic influences, and academic networks that support the growth of cross-cultural research. The five journals with the highest number of citations are as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Research Area Subject Analysis

Year	N	Percentage	Quartile	Contributions
Psychology	252	80%	Q1	Theoretical basis of global multicultural counseling
Social Sciences	163	52%	Q1	Studies on cultural identity, discrimination, and ethics
Medicine	86	27%	Q1	Exclusive focus on multicultural practices
Arts and Humanities	29	9%	Q1	Empirical research based on cultural intervention
Business, Management and Accounting	11	3%	Q2	The role of advocacy and inclusive policies

Research Area Subject Analysis

Future culturally responsive counseling requires a multidisciplinary approach that includes psychological, social, medical, arts, and management aspects. Based on the distribution data of research area subjects, Psychology dominates the contributions with 80% of documents, confirming that a deep understanding of human behavior and emotions in a cultural context is the main foundation. Social Sciences, with a contribution of 52%, also provide important insights in understanding the influence of social structures and cultural norms on counseling dynamics. These two fields work together to build counseling models that are able to respect cultural diversity while offering community-based solutions. Meanwhile, Medicine, Arts and Humanities, and Business, Management, and Accounting, although having smaller contributions, still play a strategic role. Medicine, with 27% of documents, supports the development of mental health-based therapies that are rooted in culturally specific needs. Arts and

Humanities (9%) enrich creative approaches such as narrative therapy and art therapy that are relevant to local cultural identities. On the other hand, the field of Business, Management, and Accounting (3%) offers innovative counseling service management models, such as the integration of technology to reach the global community. This cross-disciplinary combination is expected to create holistic, adaptive, and inclusive culturally based counseling.

Table 3. Research Area Subject Analysis

Year	N	Percentage
Psychology	252	80%
Social Sciences	163	52%
Medicine	86	27%
Arts and Humanities	29	9%
Business, Management and Accounting	11	3%

Time

In this section, "time" refers to the development of publications that occurred in a certain period as described in the Figure 3.
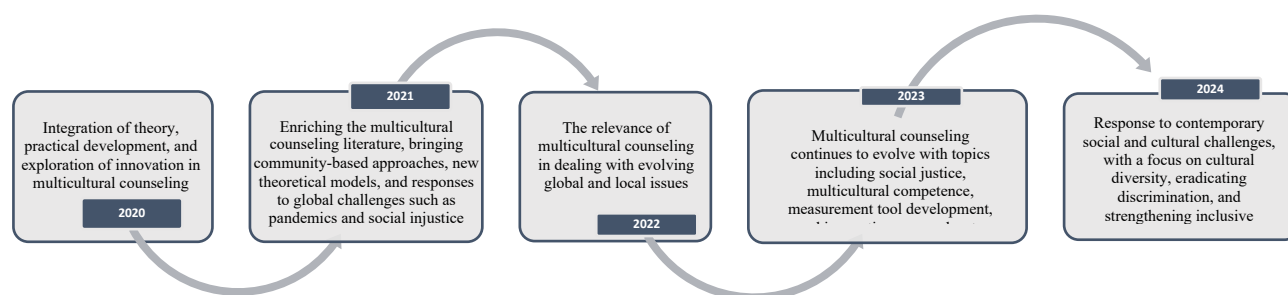

Figure 3. Research Area Subject Analysis

In the orientation of the development of Multicultural Competence and Social Justice Singh (2020) reflects an effort to make multicultural competence more integrated into modern counseling practice. Such research often links the concept of decolonization with the application of social justice-based counseling competencies. In 2021. As shown in the Analysis of Publication Development by Year 2021, the theme of multicultural counseling has expanded and deepened, covering a variety of relevant global and local issues. In that year, multicultural competence became one of the main focuses, as seen in articles such as "Multicultural Counseling Competence: A Construct in Search of Operationalization" and "Rethinking Multicultural Counseling Competence." These articles not only review the theory of multicultural competence but also propose a refinement of the concept to create a more effective counseling approach. A new framework for the development of this competency is presented through "The Process Model of Multicultural Counseling Competence," which adds a processual understanding to the mastery of this competency. Overall, 2021 marks significant progress in the multicultural counseling literature.

Trends include issues of intersectionality, strengthening cultural identity, and adapting counseling methods for marginalized groups. This literature enriches community-based approaches, new theoretical models, and responses to the pandemic and global social injustice. The year 2022 marks a significant milestone in the diversification of publication topics in the field of multicultural counseling. These trends reflect academic responses to issues of social justice, multicultural competence, and attention to specific groups in various global contexts. Here is a summary of key themes by emerging thematic categories: A focus on developing multicultural competence is a major theme, seen in studies such as "Enhancing Multicultural and Social Justice Competencies in Canadian Counseling Psychology Training" and "Development and Initial Validation of the Multicultural Training and Education

Questionnaire." Both underscore the importance of training counselors who are able to address cross-cultural challenges. Additionally, the relationship between mindfulness and multicultural competence is explored in articles such as "The relationship between mindfulness and multicultural counseling competence among mental health practitioners," introducing a new dimension to counseling training.

This year's publication trends show a strong focus on strengthening multicultural competencies, social justice advocacy, and a focus on the needs of marginalized groups. Additionally, the pandemic has spurred the adoption of technology in counseling, as well as the development of culturally-based assessment tools. With these innovative topics, multicultural counseling continues to be relevant in addressing rapidly evolving local and global challenges. 2023 shows a significant increase in research related to multicultural counseling. Topics such as social justice, multicultural competencies, measurement tool development, educational innovation, and the impact of technology are highlighted. This year's research reflects academic responses to global challenges and practical needs in the context of cross-cultural counseling. 2023 saw the development of new measurement tools to assess multicultural competency in counseling practice. Research such as "Development and Validation of the Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies-Inventory" introduces a measurement tool to assess counselors' ability to work with clients from diverse cultural backgrounds. Additionally, "Evaluating the effects of cultural immersion on counselor trainees' multicultural development and intercultural competence" provides insight into the importance of cultural immersion experiences in enhancing counselors' intercultural competence.

Community-based approaches and case studies also feature prominently in the 2023 publications. Articles such as "Urban Neighborhoods and Guidance Counseling in Basic Education: A Spatial Justice Approach" explore spatial justice in the context of educational counseling. Other studies, such as "Service-Learning in Multicultural Counselor Education after Disaster Situations: A Case Study," highlight service-based learning in post-disaster counseling education. In 2024 As the data shows, this year's publications reflect a focus on a range of social, cultural, and educational issues relevant to the needs of modern society. Topics covered include cultural diversity, social justice, innovation in education, and improving mental health services, all contextualized to the evolving challenges of the period. For example, several publications from 2024, such as "Psychometric Validation of the Scale of Ethnocultural Empathy" and "Cultural Empathy in Intercultural Interactions," demonstrate how topics related to the development of ethnocultural empathy are relevant. This signals a response to the need for increased cross-cultural understanding amidst increasing global mobility. Additionally, issues of discrimination and racism are brought to the fore in works such as "Are Training Programs Addressing Anti-Black Racism and White Supremacy?" and "Applying Theater-Based Training Methods to Address Anti-Black Racism," which illustrate the urgency of addressing these issues through innovative, practical approaches. Historically, this period also saw a focus on social dynamics and mental health, as reflected in the studies "Inclusive Mental Health Support for International Students" and "Negotiating the Challenges of an Interracial Marriage." These studies demonstrate how academic publications continued to evolve to address increasingly complex social challenges in the context of a given time. As such, this time period not only illustrates the trajectory of scholarly development but also serves as a reflection of contemporary issues facing the global community. When explored further, these developments provide insight into how research trends change and evolve based on societal needs over time.

Room

The geographical distribution of multicultural counseling program research shows the dominance of Western countries, especially the United States, with a contribution of 236 documents. This figure far exceeds other countries such as Canada (15 documents) and Australia (4 documents). This suggests that the United States has a great interest in the development of multicultural counseling theory and practice, possibly driven by the high cultural diversity in the country. The dominance of Western countries can also be explained by the prevalence of academic publications in English that support the accessibility of research from this region in international databases. On the other hand, Asian and Global South countries, despite having large multicultural populations, show smaller contributions. Malaysia (12 documents), South Korea (11 documents), Turkey (9 documents), and Indonesia (7

documents) reflect a good start but need to be strengthened in research production. The low numbers from these regions may be due to limitations in international publications or lack of access to English-language and Scopus-indexed journal platforms. However, this distribution provides an opportunity for future research to expand the geographical representation, especially from non-Western perspectives, in order to create a more global and inclusive counseling framework.
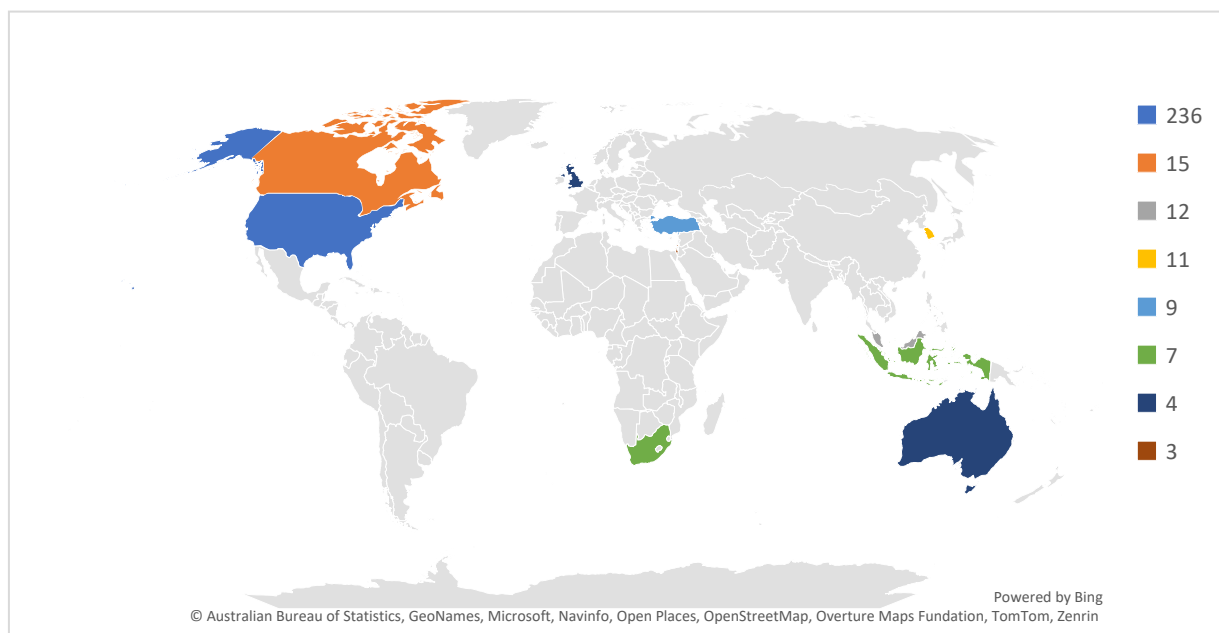

Figure 4. Country Analysis

Composition

In this section, "composition" refers to understanding the structure of professional knowledge in the field of multicultural counseling through the analysis of research topics and citation patterns. The presented visualization depicts the citation structure among studies in the field, showing that research on multicultural counseling programs is not only widely recognized by many academic journals, but is also significantly interrelated.
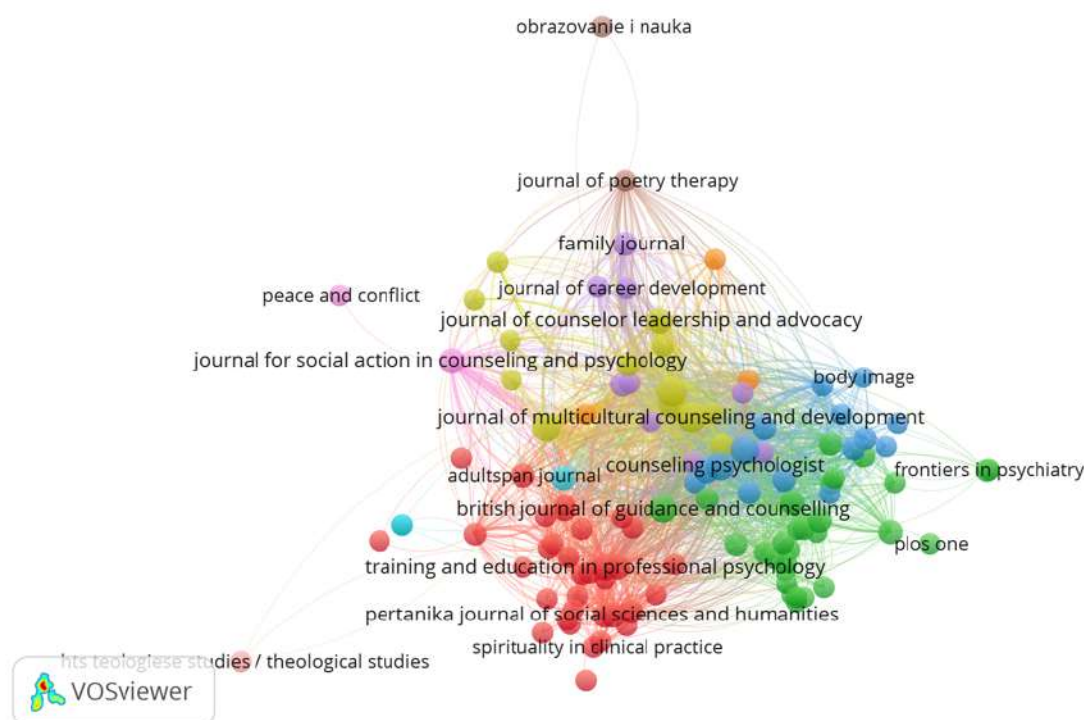
Figure 5. Citation analysis of source title cited

Based on Figure 5, The Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development occupies a central position with the highest number of citations, reflecting its role as a primary and authoritative source in the field. Furthermore, the visualization shows that this journal has strong relationships and extensive influence on other journals, confirming its position as a major platform for the development and dissemination of knowledge on multicultural counseling.

Table 4. Authors and total citations

Ranking	Authors	Citation
1	Owen J.	241
2	Sue DW	223
3	Singh A.A.	201
4	Ratts MJ	169
5	Arredondo P.	168
6	Nassar-McMillan S.	127
7	Butler SK	123
8	McCullough JR	112

Based on the Table 4, Owen J. is ranked first with 241 citations, indicating a significant influence in multicultural counseling program research. In second place, Sue DW with 223 citations is also an important figure whose contributions are widely cited, while Singh AA is in third place with 201 citations, indicating his central role in discussing key issues in cross-cultural counseling. Authors such as Ratts MJ and Arredondo P., with 169 and 168 citations respectively, have made significant contributions, especially in the development of standards of multicultural counseling practice. Other authors such as Nassar-McMillan S. (127 citations) and Butler SK (123 citations) reflect their roles in more specific themes, but still make important contributions to the field. In addition, authors such as McCullough JR (112 citations) show growing influence, while DeBlaere C. (93 citations) and Hook JN (92 citations) show that their contributions have begun to receive more attention in recent years. Overall, these highly cited authors demonstrate significant influence in multicultural counseling research and practice. Their work provides a strong foundation for developing multicultural competency-based frameworks, enhancing culturally informed practice, and creating more inclusive approaches to

counseling. These citations reflect the relevance and impact of their work in the academic and professional communities.
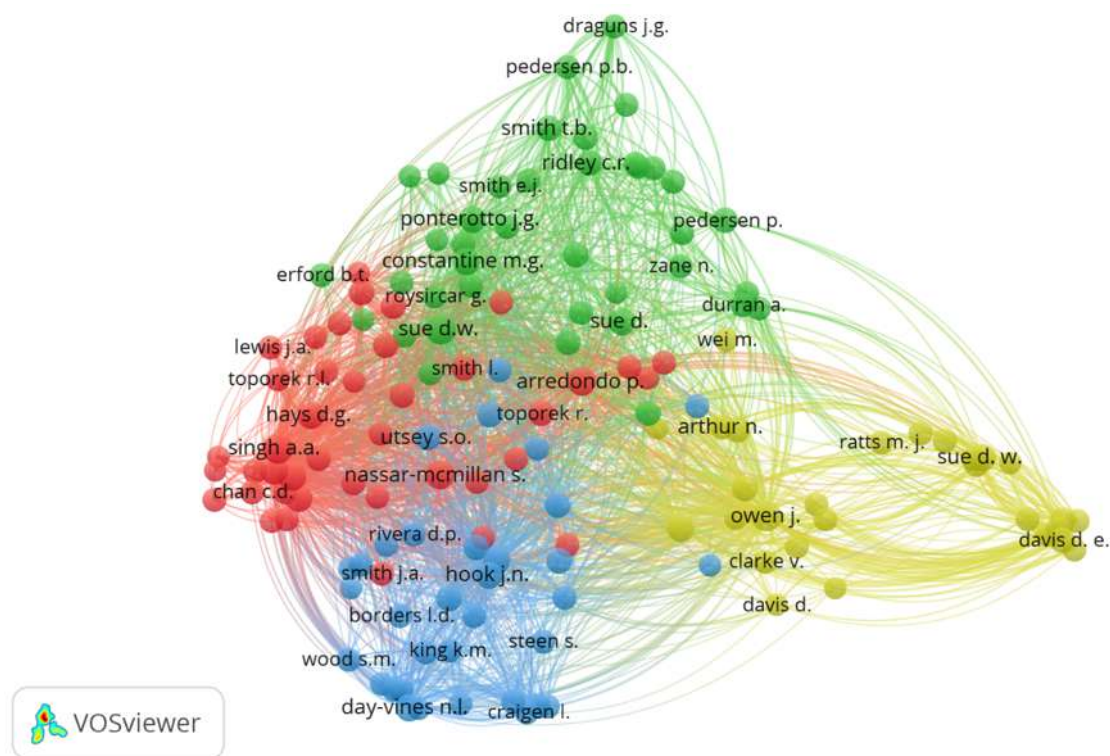

Figure 6. Co-citation analysis of cited authors

Then on the citations in the regional aspect. After being analyzed using VOSviewer, there were 46 regions analyzed. The United States is a region with high citations to multicultural counseling program research with a total of 1576. Next followed by Canada, Malaysia, Australia, Indonesia, University of Pennsylvania, Israel, Turkey, South Africa, and Japan (Table 5). Figure 7 shown more dense dots and stronger connections indicate higher levels of cooperation. There are strong connections between the United Kingdom, Canada, and Belgium.

Table 5. Authors and total citations

Ranking	Countries	Documents	Citations
1	United States	236	1576
2	Canada	15	83
3	Malaysia	12	27
4	Australia	4	23
5	Indonesia	7	15
6	university of pennsylvania	1	11
7	Israel	3	11
8	Turkey	9	10
9	South Africa	7	10
10	Japan	1	8

Figure 7 Bibliographic coupling of countries

Finally, keyword co-occurrence analysis was conducted on studies on Multicultural Counseling programs. Based on Figure 8, there were a total of 979 keywords.
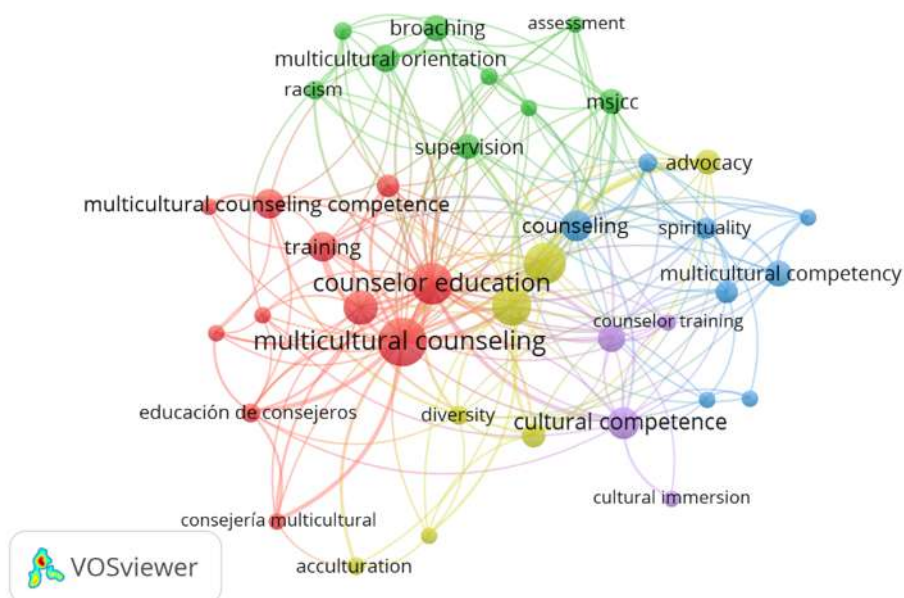

Figure 8. Co-occurrence of authors' keywords

Based on table 6, studies on multicultural counseling show a primary focus on themes such as multicultural counseling, counselor education, and social justice. The keyword multicultural counseling was the most frequently occurring term (42 times), emphasizing the importance of a culture-based approach in counseling services. In addition, counselor education (31 times) and social justice (31 times) highlighted two key dimensions in this study, namely counselor training to deal with cultural diversity and the integration of social justice values into counseling practice. The close relationship between these

three terms, indicated by the high link of strangeness scores, suggests that counselor education and social justice are at the heart of a multicultural counseling approach. Other terms such as multicultural competence (21 times) and cultural competence (19 times) illustrate the concern for counselors' ability to understand and respond to the needs of clients from diverse cultural backgrounds. In addition, innovative dimensions such as creativity in counseling (14 times) and the role of counselors as advocates (advocacy, 11 times) began to receive attention. The concept of MSJCC (Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies) is also an important part, emphasizing the need for theoretical guidelines that integrate multicultural competence with social justice. Overall, this study illustrates a growing trend in multicultural counseling, reflecting the integration of theory, training, and practice to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population.

Table 6. Occurrence of keywords

Ranking	Keyword	Occurrence	Link Of Strange
1	counselor education	31	60
2	multicultural counseling	42	56
3	social justice	31	50
4	multicultural	27	41
5	multicultural competence	21	25
6	cultural competence	19	23
7	msjcc	11	22
8	creativity in counseling	14	21
9	advocacy	11	20
10	counseling	17	20

DISCUSSION

This study reveals that the development of multicultural counseling research in the last five years (2020–2024) shows a growth trend that has not only increased quantitatively, but also enriched thematically and geographically. In terms of scale, despite experiencing a decline due to global disruptions such as the pandemic, publication productivity showed recovery and even acceleration in 2023–2024. This reflects the transition of multicultural counseling from the realm of discourse to practical implementation in mental health policies and cross-cultural education. Temporally (time), thematic evolution indicates a shift from a focus on developing basic competencies and responding to crises (2020–2021), to strengthening measurement tools and contextual reflection (2022), to an emphasis on social justice, diversity, and technological innovation (2023–2024). This shows the maturity of multicultural counseling discourse, from a normative framework to transformative practice. In terms of space (geography), the distribution of research indicates contributions from developed countries, but also reveals the emergence of transnational collaboration and the involvement of institutions from various parts of the world. This pattern shows that multicultural counseling is increasingly viewed as a global issue that demands a collective response across national and state boundaries. Meanwhile, in the analysis of the composition dimension, the network shows close links between authors, institutions, and main themes, especially in the realm of psychology and social sciences. However, contributions from other fields such as medicine, arts, and management broaden the approach, indicating a tendency towards interdisciplinarity and integration of holistic approaches. This pattern of collaboration not only shows cross-knowledge, but also paves the way for the birth of adaptive, community-based, and social justice-oriented multicultural counseling models. Overall, the trends along these four dimensions show that multicultural counseling has transformed into a strategic, reflective, and responsive field of research to global challenges. This study emphasizes the importance of strengthening collaboration across disciplines and regions to shape more inclusive, relevant, and sustainable counseling practices.

Based on the analysis of the development of multicultural counseling publications during the period 2020–2024, it shows that multicultural counseling has evolved from a basic framework to a more systemic and transformative approach. The developing thematic dynamics — from technology

integration and community response (2020–2021), to a focus on social advocacy and anti-racism (2022–2024) — directly affirm and expand theoretical frameworks such as the Multicultural Counseling Competencies (MCC) introduced by (SUE et al., 1992), and the Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies (MSJCC) by (Ratts et al., 2016) The MCC framework, which includes awareness, knowledge, and skills, is an important foundation in cross-cultural counseling practice. However, the results of this study indicate that these competencies now need to be complemented with dimensions of structural awareness, contextual reflection, and response to social inequality, as emphasized in the MSJCC. In practice, this finding demands a reorientation in counselor training, so that it does not only focus on technical competence, but also on the ability to think critically, be empowered, and responsive to the dynamics of power and inequality in society. The MSJCC framework calls for counselors to engage in self-awareness and to address the dynamics of power, privilege, and oppression within the counseling relationship (Ratts et al., 2016) This emphasizes that counselors are not only psychological facilitators, but also agents of social change. Therefore, counselor training needs to include modules on policy advocacy, community-based counseling, anti-racism, and culturally sensitive use of technology as an integral part of the curriculum. From an ethical perspective, contemporary multicultural approaches demand ethical standards that are active and proactive. Counselors are no longer simply "unbiased," but must consciously challenge exclusionary systems, and promote inclusion, representation, and equity in service practice. In this context, (D. W. Sue et al., 2007) emphasized Cultural competence involves the belief that people should not only be treated equally but also differently based on their cultural needs. Further implications also include the development of community-based applied practices, intervention models that incorporate local cultural strengths, and new measurement tools that are cross-culturally valid. This suggests that multicultural counseling is no longer an approach additional, but core framework for responding to complex global social change.

The development of multicultural counseling discourse between 2020–2024 shows a direct response to global events affecting cross-cultural mental health (S. Sue et al., 2009). In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted increased attention to community approaches and the use of technology in counseling education and services (Murray, 2024). 2021 was marked by a surge in global anti-racist movements, such as Black Lives Matter, which strengthened discussions about social justice, advocacy, and antiracism in counseling (Ratts et al., 2016). This period also saw a shift from conceptual approaches to values-based and contextual interventions (Constantine, 2002). 2022 brought a renewed focus on cross-cultural evaluation and measurement tool development, highlighting the importance of empirical validation in multicultural practice (Chao et al., 2012). Furthermore, 2023 and 2024 show an increase in publications related to intersectionality and digital justice, expanding the scope to the dimensions of technology and social structure (Medina & Álvarez-Pérez, 2024).

The distribution of multicultural counseling publications shows a dominance by Western countries, especially the United States, which contributed 236 documents from the total corpus (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017). This dominance is driven by America's long tradition of multicultural psychology research and strong research infrastructure (SUE et al., 1992). Countries such as Canada and Australia are also noted as important contributors, although quantitatively they are still far behind (Zhao & Strotmann, 2015). Meanwhile, representation from Asia and the Global South, such as Malaysia, South Korea, and Indonesia, is still low — not because of a lack of scientific quality, but because of systemic challenges such as limited access to international publications, dominance of the English language, and lack of institutional support (Donthu et al., 2021). Therefore, it is necessary to encourage a more equitable global collaboration structure, as well as recognition of local epistemologies in the development of multicultural counseling (Moodley & Palmer, 2006).

Bibliometric analysis of keywords reveals that terms such as "counselor education", "social justice", and "advocacy" are the center of gravity of multicultural counseling discourse (Ratts et al., 2016). These keywords reflect the profession's orientation towards the formation of counselors who are not only technically competent but also socially aware (Toporek et al., 2009). At the same time, terms such as "intersectionality", "cultural adaptation", and "creativity" appear in the current keyword network, indicating a shift in approaches towards being more interdisciplinary and responsive to the complex dynamics of cultural identity (Owen et al., 2014). This trend suggests that multicultural counseling is no longer positioned as an additional approach, but rather as a core paradigm in professional practice (Chung & Bemak, 2002).

The bibliometric approach used in this study allows for a macro mapping of knowledge structures, but fails to capture the cultural context, local values, and narrative complexity of the articles' content (Zhao & Strotmann, 2015). Other limitations include the use of a single database (Scopus) and the exclusion of non-English publications, which may affect geographical and thematic representation (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017). However, these limitations should be seen as opportunities for further research that combines quantitative and qualitative approaches, such as content analysis or narrative studies (Donthu et al., 2021). In this way, a deeper understanding of the social, ethical, and cultural dynamics of multicultural counseling can be gained in a more contextual and reflective way (Moodley & Palmer, 2006). Future research should strengthen the participation of scholars from the Global South, especially in the context of local and community-based value-based counseling (Pedersen, 2016). This includes support for multilingual publishing, cross-border academic partnerships, and recognition of traditional methodologies (Chung & Bemak, 2002). In addition, mixed methods studies, longitudinal evaluations, and culturally sensitive digital interventions are needed to address contemporary psychosocial challenges (Murray, 2024). Researchers are also encouraged to develop spirituality- or collectivism-based counseling models that are relevant to Asian and African cultures (Moodley & Palmer, 2006).

CONCLUSION

Based on this study, it shows that the development of multicultural counseling research has experienced a significant upward trend in recent years, with peak productivity occurring in 2024. This reflects the increasing attention of academics to the importance of multicultural issues in the context of counseling. This study also shows the dominance of Western countries, especially the United States, in publications, although there is a great opportunity to enrich perspectives with contributions from Asian and Global South countries. The main topics developing in this research include social justice, anti-racism, and multicultural competence, with an increasing number of community-based approaches and responses to global issues.

Multidisciplinary collaboration, involving psychology, social sciences, medicine, and other fields, enriches the theory and practice of multicultural counseling that is increasingly adaptive to global challenges. In addition, the contribution of important figures in the development of theoretical frameworks, such as *Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies (MSJCC)* , becomes the foundation for the development of professional counselor competencies. Overall, this study shows the importance of integration and innovation in multicultural counseling that is able to respond to the ever-changing social and cultural dynamics at the global level, as well as opening up space for non-Western perspectives to enrich the theoretical framework and counseling practice in the future.

REFERENCES

Aria, M., & Cuccurullo, C. (2017). bibliometrix : An R-tool for comprehensive science mapping analysis. *Journal of Informetrics*, *11*(4), 959–975. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joi.2017.08.007

Boyer, W. (2022). Cultural auditing to enhance reflective counseling practices with Indigenous families. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*, *50*(3), 151–161. https://doi.org/10.1002/jmcd.12245

Chao, R. C.-L. , Wei, M. , Good, G. E., & Flores, L. Y. (2012). Race/ethnicity, color-blind racial attitudes, and multicultural counseling competence: The moderating effects of multicultural counseling training. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, *59*(1), 87–97.

Chung, R. C.-Y., & Bemak, F. (2002). The relationship of culture and empathy in cross-cultural counseling. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, *80*(2), 154–159.

Constantine, M. G. (2002). acism attitudes, white racial identity, and multicultural counseling competence in school counselor trainees. . *Counselor Education and Supervision*, *41*(3), 162–174.

Donthu, N., Kumar, S., Mukherjee, D., Pandey, N., & Lim, W. M. (2021). How to conduct a bibliometric analysis: An overview and guidelines. *Journal of Business Research*, *133*, 285–296. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2021.04.070

Medina, M., & Álvarez-Pérez, P. R. (2024). Cultural responsiveness in digital counseling: A framework for adapting virtual mental health services. *Journal of Technology in Counseling*, *45*(1), 21–37.

Moodley, R., & Palmer, S. (2006). Race, Culture and Psychotherapy: Critical Perspectives in Multicultural Practice (Routledge).

Mulaikal, S., & Hastie, C. (2024). Ignoring culture in therapy: Impacts on engagement and treatment outcomes in multicultural populations. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*, *52*(1), 44–59.

Murray, L. E. (2024). Digital therapy across cultures: Challenges and opportunities in online multicultural counseling (pp. 14–38). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-6684-9024-2.ch002

Owen, J., Leach, M., Wampold, B. E., & Rodolfa, E. (2014). Client perceptions of multicultural orientation: Therapist credibility, working alliance, and session depth. *Psychotherapy*, *48*(3), 274–282.

Pedersen, P., Lonner, W., Draguns, J., Trimble, J., & Rio, M. (2016). *Counseling Across Cultures*. SAGE Publications.

Pedersen, P., Lonner, W., Draguns, J., Trimble, J., & Scharron-del, M. (2015). *Counseling Across Cultures*. SAGE Publications, Inc.

Ratts, M. J., Singh, A. A., Nassar-McMillan, S., Butler, S. K., & McCullough, J. R. (2016). Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies: Guidelines for the Counseling Profession. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*, *44*(1), 28–48. https://doi.org/10.1002/jmcd.12035

Schnyder, N., Panczak, R. , Groth, N., & Schultze-Lutter, F. (2023). Cultural competence in mental health care: A systematic review of conceptual models. *International Journal of Mental Health Systems*, *17*(1), 1–18.

Schnyder, U., Bryant, R. A., Ehlers, A., Foa, E. B., Hasan, A., Mwiti, G., Kristensen, C. H., Neuner, F., Oe, M., & Yule, W. (2016). Culture-sensitive psychotraumatology. *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*, *7*(1). https://doi.org/10.3402/ejpt.v7.31179

SUE, D. W., ARREDONDO, P., & McDAVIS, R. J. (1992). Multicultural Counseling Competencies and Standards: A Call to the Profession. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, *70*(4), 477–486. https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1556-6676.1992.tb01642.x

Sue, D. W., Capodilupo, C. M., Torino, G. C., Bucceri, J. M., Holder, A. M. B., Nadal, K. L., & Esquilin, M. (2007). Racial microaggressions in everyday life: Implications for clinical practice. *American Psychologist*, *62*(4), 271–286. https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.62.4.271

Sue, S., Zane, N., Nagayama Hall, G. C., & Berger, L. K. (2009). The Case for Cultural Competency in Psychotherapeutic Interventions. *Annual Review of Psychology*, *60*(1), 525–548. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.psych.60.110707.163651

Tanaka-Matsumi, J. (2022). Counseling Across Cultures: A Half-Century Assessment. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, *53*(7–8), 957–975. https://doi.org/10.1177/00220221221111810

Toporek, R. L., Lewis, J. A., & Crethar, H. C. (2009). Promoting systemic change through the ACA advocacy competencies. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, *87*(3), 260–268.

Zhao, D. , & Strotmann, A. (2015). Analysis and visualization of citation networks. *Synthesis Lectures on Information Concepts, Retrieval, and Services, 7*(1), 1–207.