

Mapping of Doctoral Research Trends in the Faculty of Social Sciences at AMU: A Bibliometric Study (1955-2024)

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Abstract: A Bibliometrics examination of 1109 theses conferred by the “Faculty of Social Science” at “Aligarh Muslim University”, Aligarh (AMU) from 1955 to 2024 shows a consistent rise in the number of theses awarded throughout the study period. The highest quantity of theses was presented in the years 2020 and 2022. Out of the 1109 theses awarded, 625 were presented by male researchers. The highest quantity of theses submitted by researchers occurred during the five-year period of 2019-2023. Merely, a tiny fraction of Theses were presented under the guidance of female faculty. The largest quantity of theses was generated in the field of Business Administration. In the list of five top supervisors, there were 10 supervisors total, of which only three were female.

Keywords: PhD Theses; Bibliometrics; Scientometrics; Aligarh Muslim University; Social Science.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The PhD dissertation is characterized as a document presented to support a candidate's application for an academic degree or professional credential, outlining the author's research and results. The calibre of thesis or dissertation research study may vary between countries, between universities, and even among different evaluators. The PhD dissertation showcases a student's comprehension and represents the culmination of knowledge gained during their academic journey. To earn a PhD, a student must show proficiency in a particular discipline. Research is seen as the basis for future investigation in any field, with universities and research laboratories taking on an important role. In addition to appearing in research journals, doctoral dissertations can serve as indicators to assess the performance of a university or research laboratory in a specific field of study.

“Aligarh Muslim University” (AMU) holds a unique status among universities and higher education establishments in the country. Established in 1920, it developed by the extraordinary visionary and social reformer Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. Since its inception, it has embraced members from all communities nationwide and internationally. “Aligarh Muslim University” embodies a

true approach that is comprehensive, influential, and realistic. Established in 1920 by a Parliamentary Act, “Aligarh Muslim University” is one of the oldest universities in India. The university offers master's, MPhil, and PhD degree programs across various disciplines. The faculty system was created in January 1944 while Dr. Jia-Uddin Ahmed served as Vice Chancellor (1941–1947). Four faculties were established: art, engineering, science, and theology. In 1969, the Faculty of Arts was divided, resulting in the creation of the “faculty of social sciences”, which included economics, sociology, education, history, political science, Islamic studies, West Asian studies, library science, and the Department of Information and Psychology. The Department of Physical Health and Sports Education, Journalism and Mass Communication, Women's Studies, as well as centers for South African and Brazilian studies were then founded. The Faculty of International Studies now encompasses the Department of West Asian Studies alongside South African and Brazilian studies. At present, twelve departments/centers are associated with the “faculty of social sciences”.

II. AIM OF THE STUDY

Thirteen academic faculties, with the Faculty of Social Science recognized globally for its research contributions.

The current study, thus, investigates the outcomes of the research projects carried out by the Social Science faculty at “Aligarh Muslim University” (AMU) regarding doctoral theses conferred from 1955 to 2024.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

➤ *Nilaranjan Barik and Puspanjali Jena (2015)*

The research examined 41 doctoral theses in LIS to uncover trends in doctoral research at universities and discovered that shows an average yearly growth rate variation of 13.14. In 2014 and 2015, the greatest quantity of dissertations was published during each year, representing the peak in yearly productivity. The typical quotation pattern has been recognized as 278.9 per dissertation, with the highest 60.53% of documents referencing magazines.

➤ *Rima Hazarika (2024)*

The book enumerates 4,362 doctoral dissertations from 112 universities, including central institutions in India, offering an analysis that showcases the development of library science research, while emphasizing important contributions and trends over more than seventy years.

➤ *IntechOpen (2023)*

The study examines the texts of 612 PhD dissertations from different Indian universities, including central institutions, covering the years 2011 to 2018, which emphasizes shifts in computer applications and contemporary research fields within core LIS topics.

➤ *M. Vijayakumar, Satish Kumar Ht and M. Trivedi (2018)*

In this letter, the authors aim to illustrate the research inclination in central universities in India across different facets, including the volume of published works, citations garnered through their papers, collaborations both within and outside India with various productive authors, and ultimately, the overall productivity of writers and the fruitful publications of researchers.

➤ *R. Sevukan [et.al] (2007)*

The research examined 348 text records related to plant science sourced from the ISI Science Citation Index - extended over a decade from 1997 to 2006, indicating a consistent rise in plant science literature throughout this duration, apart from the years 1997 and 2002.

➤ *KP Singh, Bebi, and Kailash C. Garg (2014)*

In this letter, the writer offers an analysis of the citation trends observed in PhD dissertations from the University of Delhi in Social Science between 1995 and 2008, showing that books, excluding economics, are the most preferred source for citations, accounting for approximately 55.5% of all quotes.

➤ *Seema Warkade (2024)*

The inclination in doctoral dissertations within LIS presented to Madhya Pradesh universities indicate an increasing focus on the subject, emphasizing research, development patterns, and university productivity.

IV. OBJECTIVES

- To examine the trend of theses awarded over the span from 1955 to 2024 (69 years).
- To examine the distribution of theses granted based on the gender of the scholars who submitted theses during the specified timeframe
- To recognize the most productive guides along with their gender.
- To determine the main departments within the Faculty of Social Science that awarded these Theses.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study used Shodhganga, a repository of Indian ETDs, as the data source. It provides a means for scholars to submit their PhD theses in digital format, making them accessible to the entire scholarly community in the public domain. Shodhganga reflects each university's academic structure in terms of departments, centers, or colleges for ease of navigation. The gender of supervisors was determined using their full names as well as information available on the AMU website. The certificates of the supervisors involved in the theses were also used to determine the gender of the scholars/supervisors. For this, a separate reference card was created for each thesis, and data was carefully collected. To conduct this research, the Shodhganga website was first searched, followed by clicking on the link related to "Aligarh Muslim University," and then searched using the keyword "social sciences." A total of 1109 theses were studied. The summarization aspect is achieved after a thorough examination of each dissertation. A basic statistical method used for data classification focus on different aspects of investigation, and then the classified data is organized into various formats. In this study, information is displayed using analytical techniques. We presented information by supervisor, year by scholar, and subject-specific research output in tabular format and with graphical chart presentation.

VI. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULT

➤ *Distribution of Scholar Theses by Gender and Year*

Table 1 shows that over the span of 69 years, 656 (59.15%) of the awarded theses were presented by male scholars, while the remaining 40.85% (453) were submitted by female scholars. Additional examination of the data shows that the inaugural theses by female scholars were conferred in the year 2015. The quantity of theses presented and granted to female scholars began to rise afterward, hitting a peak period from 2019 to 2023, just trailing behind the theses awarded in the most recent block. This suggests a growing interest among female academics in the social science department. The highest quantity of theses authored by male scholars occurred in 2022, while the largest no. of theses by female scholars was also submitted in 2022.

Table 1 Distribution of Scholar Theses by Gender and Year

S. No.	Theses Awarded Year	Theses Awarded of Male Scholar	Theses Awarded of Female Scholar	Total Awarded Theses
1	2024	53	35	88
2	2023	107	70	177
3	2022	134	86	220
4	2021	88	56	144
5	2020	113	83	196
6	2019	89	81	170
7	2018	41	23	64
8	2017	16	14	30
9	2016	4	4	8
10	2015	5	1	6
11	2014	2	0	2
12	2009	1	0	1
13	1999	1	0	1
14	1966	1	0	1
15	1955	1	0	1
	Total	656	453	1109

➤ *Distribution of Supervisors by Gender*

The information in Table 2 indicates that over the entire span of 69 years (from 1955 to 2024), a total of 1109 theses were granted under the supervision of 1186 mentors,

including co-supervisors, of which 874 (73.69%) were male and merely 312 (26.31%) were female. It also indicates that most of the theses are awarded with male supervisors' guidance.

Table 2 Distribution of Supervisors by Gender

Gender Distribution of Supervisors	No. of Theses Awarded Under the Supervisor
Male	874
Female	312
Total	1186

➤ *Distribution of Supervisors Based on the Count of Students Guided*

As stated previously, 1186 supervisors, which included co-supervisors, mentored 1109 research scholars. Table 3 displays data regarding the number of students supervised by a mentor. A total of 15 theses have been submitted under the supervision of Prof. Mohammed Naved Khan, while

Prof. Nasrin has overseen 14 theses, and Prof. Salma Ahmed, Prof. Akbar Husain, Dr. Asif Akhtar, Prof. Mujibul Hasan Siddiqui and Prof. Mohammed Khalid Azam have each guided 13 theses. Among 10 supervisors, only 3 female supervisors, specifically Prof. Nasrin, Prof. Ayesha Farooq, and Prof Salma Ahmed made it to the list of the top 5 rankings.

Table 3 Distribution of Supervisors Based on the Count of Students Guided

S. No.	Guide Name	No. of PHD Supervision	Department	Gender	Rank
1	Mohammed Naved Khan	15	Business Administration	M	1
2	Nasrin	14	Education	F	2
3	Salma Ahmed	14	Business Administration	F	2
4	Akbar Husain	13	Psychology	M	3
5	Asif Akhtar	13	Business Administration	M	3
6	Javaid Akhter	13	Business Administration	M	3
7	Mujibul Hasan Siddiqui	13	Education	M	3
8	Mohammed Khalid Azam	13	Business Administration	M	3
9	Ayesha Farooq	12	Business Administration	F	4
10	S. M. Imamul Haque	11	Commerce	M	5

➤ *Distribution of Theses Submitted by Designation*

Table 4 shows that out of the list of 1186 mentors included co-mentors, 803 (67.70%) professors have guided research. Associate professor guided 181 (15.26%), assistant professor category includes 197 (16.62%) and Other's 5

(0.42%) mentored dissertations. This shows that the professor category has the highest number of research awards, while the associate professor and other's category has the lowest number of research awards.

Table 4 Distribution of Theses Submitted by Designation

S. No.	Designation's	No. of Theses Guided
1	Professor's	803
2	Associate Professor's	181
3	Assistant Professor's	197
4	Others	5
	Total	1186

➤ *Distribution of Theses Submitted by Departments*

Shodhganga offers the departments within the faculty of Social Science in the table 5. The specialisation of the supervisors present in the faculty of social science was used to identify the departments of the awarded theses, utilizing data from Shodhganga, the AMU website, or the thesis titles. Following this analysis, the theses were categorized into 24 departments as noted in the Shodhganga database.

An examination of data regarding the departments of awarded theses shows that the highest number (154) were submitted in business administration, followed by commerce (132), political science (110), history (108), and education (97). Therefore, approximately 54.19% of theses were submitted in these five departments, while the remainder were submitted in other departments within the faculty of social science.

Table 5 Distribution of Theses Submitted by Departments

S. No.	Department	No. of Awarded Theses
1	English	1
2	Physiology	1
3	Strategic & Security Studies	2
4	Agricultural Economics and Business Management	2
5	Linguistics	2
6	South African and Brazilian Studies	2
7	Home Science	3
8	Library Science	3
9	Museology	3
10	Mass Communication	14
11	Physical Health & Sports Education	20
12	Centre for Women Studies	26
13	Philosophy	26
14	West Asian Studies	35
15	Sociology & Social Work	66
16	Geography	73
17	Law	75
18	Psychology	71
19	Economics	83
20	Education	97
21	Political Science	110
22	History	108
23	Commerce	132
24	Business Administration	154
	Grand Total	1109

VII. LIMITATION

In this study, only 1109 theses out of 1121 existing theses have been included. All research data has been taken from the information available on Shodhganga in the “faculty of social sciences” of “Aligarh Muslim University” uploaded till 20 May 2025. Duplicate dissertations uploaded in this have not been included.

VIII. CONCLUSION

- The study analyses 1109 doctoral dissertations presented in the “faculty of social sciences” at AMU between 1955 and 2024. This suggests that the PhD theses presented in

the “faculty of social sciences” at AMU were few in the initial years, but they started to rise after 2017. The highest number of theses was turned in during 2022. Nonetheless, the thesis pattern presented during the study period is inconsistent.

- The analysis of the data shows that there were no thesis submissions in the years 1956–1965, 1967–1998, 2000–2008, and 2010–2013. The largest quantity (220) of PhD theses was submitted in 2022. In previous years when more than 100 theses were submitted, namely 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, the number of theses presented in subsequent years dropped below 100.
- Out of 1109 theses, 656 were presented by male researchers while 453 were presented by female

researchers. The number of female academics has increased in the last ten years. In 2022, male scholars submitted the most theses (134), while female scholars also submitted the highest number (86) in the same year.

- Out of 1186 supervisors and co-supervisors responsible for 1109 theses, 874 were men and only 312 were women. During the initial 59 years of the university's history, there was not a single female observer. Among female supervisors, Nasreen has guided the highest number of PhD scholars, while among male supervisors; Mohammad Naved Khan has mentored the most PhD scholars.
- The highest number of theses was submitted in the Department of Business Administration in the “faculty of social sciences”, whereas the least was submitted in the Departments of English and Physiology.

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