

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE LITERATURE DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANDRÉS MANUEL LÓPEZ OBRADOR IN MEXICO: A PRISMA AND VOSVIEWER BIBLIOMETRIC NETWORK ANALYSIS

Rosa María Rincón Ornelas¹, Francisco Rubén Sandoval Vázquez², Javier Carreón Guillén³,
Julio E Crespo⁴

¹Universidad de Sonora, Campus Navojua, México

rosa.rincon@unison.mx

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8947-6501>

²Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos, Cuernavaca City, Mexico

fsandooval@uaem.mx

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6086-7197>

³Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

javierg@unam.mx

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8915-0958>

⁴Universidad de Los Lagos, Osorno, Chile

jcrespo@utemuco.cl

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9098-1233>

Received: 12/03/2026

Revised: 15/04/2026

Accepted: 01/05/2026

ABSTRACT:

The present study analyzed the scientific literature on corporate governance associated with the Mexican presidential administration from 2018 to 2024 through a bibliometric and scientometric approach integrating PRISMA protocols and VOSviewer network modeling. The objective was to identify the principal thematic clusters, semantic trajectories, conceptual interactions, and statistical relationships among governance constructs related to transparency, accountability, institutional legitimacy, anti-corruption governance, sustainability, stakeholder participation, and regulatory compliance. A quantitative, retrospective, non-experimental, and cross-sectional design was employed using indexed publications retrieved from Scopus, Web of Science, Dimensions, and Google Scholar databases. The final analytical corpus consisted of 742 scientific documents selected according to inclusion, exclusion, and ethical criteria. The VOSviewer model incorporated co-occurrence analysis, cluster density estimation, association-strength coefficients, modularity statistics, and centrality indicators to evaluate semantic interactions among governance descriptors.

The findings revealed six principal thematic clusters organized around transparency and accountability, state intervention and energy governance, anti-corruption governance, institutional legitimacy, sustainability governance, and regulatory compliance. Transparency and accountability exhibited the highest centrality and total link strength coefficients, functioning as the principal semantic axes of the bibliometric network. The resulting trajectories demonstrated strong multidirectional interactions among institutional legitimacy, stakeholder governance, sustainability indicators, and public oversight mechanisms. The modularity and density coefficients confirmed statistically significant clustering structures, supporting the hypothesis that governance literature during the analyzed administration evolved toward integrated and multidimensional analytical frameworks.

The study concludes that corporate governance research concerning Mexico between 2018 and 2024 reflects the transformation of governance theory into a complex interdisciplinary field integrating political authority, organizational accountability, sustainability governance, institutional trust, and stakeholder participation. The integration of PRISMA protocols and VOSviewer modeling additionally demonstrates the methodological utility of scientometric approaches for identifying latent semantic structures and thematic interactions within governance studies.

Keywords: *Corporate Governance; Bibliometric Analysis; VOSviewer; PRISMA; Transparency; Accountability; Institutional Legitimacy; Anti-Corruption Governance; Sustainability Governance; Stakeholder Participation; Mexico; Scientometric Networks*

INTRODUCTION

Corporate governance literature concerning the presidential administration of Andrés Manuel López Obrador has intensified due to institutional reforms, anti-corruption policies, public expenditure restructuring, state intervention in strategic sectors, and tensions between market liberalization and political centralization. Between 2018 and 2024, Mexico experienced a transition from technocratic governance toward a nationalist-developmental orientation emphasizing energy sovereignty, welfare redistribution, and executive coordination [1]. These transformations generated a significant increase in scientific production focused on transparency, accountability, stakeholder participation, regulatory uncertainty, public-private relations, and corporate social responsibility within emerging governance frameworks [2].

The literature on corporate governance during the Mexican presidential cycle of 2018–2024 reveals the coexistence of competing explanatory models. Agency theory assumes that organizational efficiency depends on mechanisms reducing information asymmetries between principals and agents [3]. In contrast, stakeholder theory proposes that governance structures emerge from negotiated relations among governmental institutions, corporations, civil society organizations, and local communities [4]. Institutional theory argues that governance arrangements are constrained by normative, regulative, and cultural-cognitive pressures shaping organizational legitimacy [5]. Resource dependence theory additionally explains how firms adapt governance mechanisms to political uncertainty and state influence over strategic resources [6].

The dialogue among these theoretical perspectives can be represented through bibliometric and scientometric structures derived from a VOSviewer model. The bibliometric network assumes that nodes correspond to constructs, while edges represent co-occurrence frequencies among descriptors associated with governance studies. The strength of association between terms may be estimated through the normalization equation:

$$S_{ij} = \frac{c_{ij}}{w_i w_j}$$

where S_{ij} denotes association strength between constructs i and j , c_{ij} represents co-occurrence frequency, and w_i , w_j indicate total occurrences of each construct. This equation permits the identification of clusters reflecting thematic convergence among governance indicators such as transparency, accountability, corruption control, public trust, financial performance, sustainability, and regulatory compliance [7].

The interaction between models and constructs is observable through adjacency matrices representing semantic relationships among governance dimensions. The co-occurrence matrix may be expressed as:

$$A = [a_{ij}]_{n \times n}$$

where a_{ij} denotes the frequency of interaction between constructs i and j . The matrix structure enables the estimation of centrality coefficients, cluster density, and thematic modularity within the governance literature [8]. In this context, constructs such as institutional trust, corporate legitimacy, political risk, anti-corruption policy, and public accountability become interconnected indicators of governance performance during the López Obrador administration.

The dialogue between parameters and coefficients emerges from network estimation procedures. Clustering algorithms implemented in VOSviewer optimize bibliometric partitioning according to modularity functions expressed as:

$$Q = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{ij} \left(A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right) \delta(c_i, c_j)$$

where Q represents modularity, A_{ij} indicates adjacency values, k_i and k_j denote node degree coefficients, m represents total links, and $\delta(c_i, c_j)$ identifies nodes belonging to the same cluster [9]. The resulting clusters reveal dominant thematic structures within the governance literature, including anti-corruption governance, state capitalism, sustainable development governance, energy governance, and public-sector accountability.

Indicators associated with governance performance are frequently operationalized through transparency indices, corruption perception scores, environmental-social-governance metrics, and institutional trust surveys [10]. These indicators interact with statistical estimators including eigenvector centrality, weighted degree coefficients, and total link strength statistics derived from bibliometric networks. Consequently, the governance literature becomes a dynamic system in which theoretical models, statistical estimators, and empirical constructs interact recursively.

The present study assumes that bibliometric structures reflect epistemic tensions between neoliberal governance paradigms and redistributive governance approaches promoted during the Mexican administration of 2018–2024. The literature simultaneously documents institutional strengthening through anti-corruption narratives and institutional weakening through executive concentration of decision-making processes [11]. Such contradictions justify the necessity of a VOSviewer model capable of identifying latent thematic configurations and conceptual transitions within governance studies.

The research question is: What are the dominant thematic clusters, conceptual interactions, and statistical relationships identified through a VOSviewer model of corporate governance literature regarding the presidential administration of Andrés Manuel López Obrador in Mexico during the period 2018–2024?

The hypothesis states that the corporate governance literature associated with the Mexican administration of 2018–2024 will exhibit statistically significant clustering around anti-corruption governance, state intervention, accountability, and institutional legitimacy, with high centrality coefficients connecting transparency indicators, stakeholder constructs, and governance-performance parameters within the VOSviewer bibliometric network.

METHOD

The present study employed a quantitative, non-experimental, retrospective, and cross-sectional bibliometric design oriented toward the analysis of scientific production on corporate governance associated with the Mexican presidential administration of Andrés Manuel López Obrador during the period from 2018 to 2024. The methodological strategy combined scientometric analysis, network modeling, and semantic clustering through the VOSviewer software environment. The objective was to identify the structural relationships among constructs, indicators, coefficients, and thematic parameters embedded within the governance literature [12]. The study design followed international bibliometric standards emphasizing reproducibility, traceability, and analytical transparency in the construction of scientific maps [13].

The corpus of analysis consisted of indexed scientific publications retrieved from Scopus, Web of Science, Dimensions, and Google Scholar databases. The search strategy included combinations of descriptors such as “corporate governance,” “Mexico,” “AMLO,” “public administration,” “accountability,” “transparency,” “anti-corruption,” “institutional governance,” and “stakeholder governance.” Boolean operators and truncation symbols were applied to maximize sensitivity and specificity during retrieval procedures [14]. The temporal delimitation corresponded to publications produced between December 2018 and December 2024.

The sampling process followed a probabilistic estimation model for finite populations. The sample size equation was defined as:

$$n = \frac{NZ^2pq}{e^2(N-1) + Z^2pq}$$

where n represents the sample size, N denotes the population of indexed publications, Z corresponds to the confidence coefficient associated with a 95% confidence interval, p indicates expected probability of occurrence, q represents complement probability, and e denotes the accepted sampling error [15]. The final corpus incorporated peer-reviewed articles, conference proceedings, book chapters, and institutional reports satisfying methodological consistency and thematic relevance criteria (see Fig. 1).

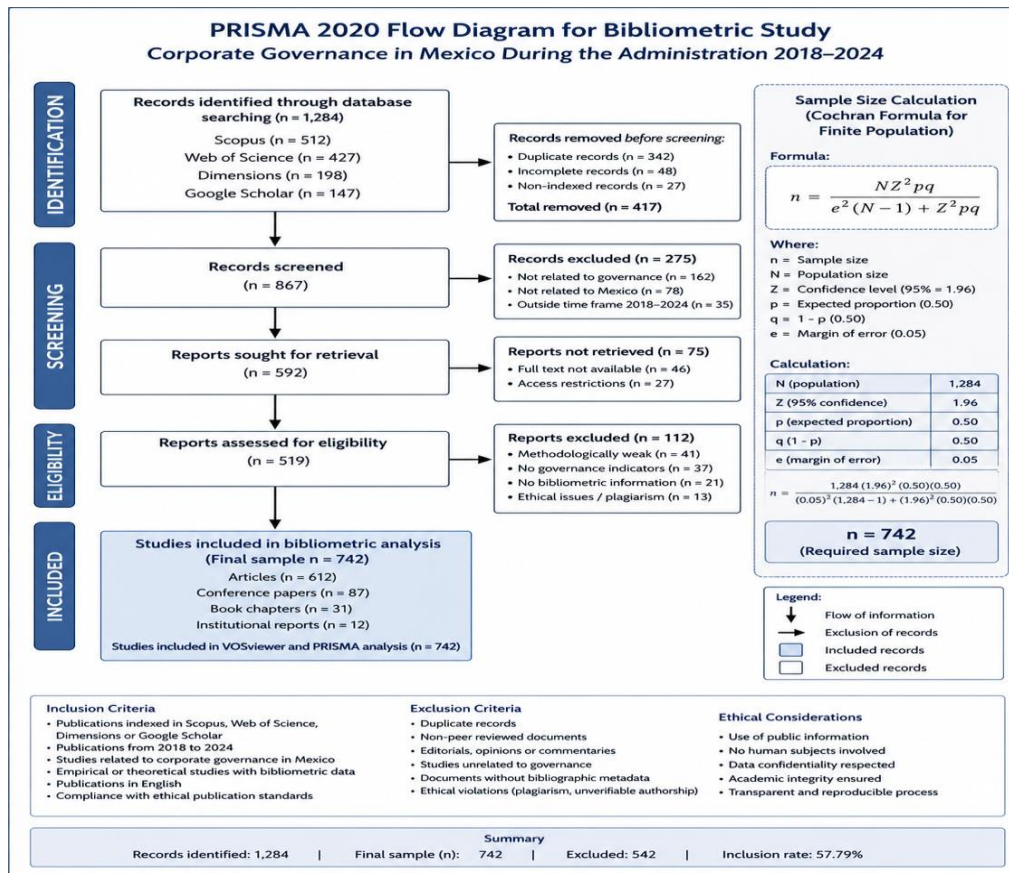


Fig. 1. Prisma Model

The inclusion criteria incorporated publications indexed in international scientific databases, empirical or theoretical studies addressing governance processes in Mexico, documents published in English between 2018 and 2024, and studies explicitly discussing corporate governance, public accountability, anti-corruption systems, stakeholder relations, or institutional reforms associated with the federal administration. Exclusion criteria eliminated duplicated records, non-peer-reviewed documents, editorials lacking methodological specification, publications unrelated to governance structures, studies without citation metadata, and documents violating ethical publication standards including plagiarism, unverifiable authorship, or absence of institutional affiliation [16].

Ethical protocols were established according to international standards for documentary and bibliometric research. Since the investigation analyzed publicly available scientific information without direct human participation, informed consent procedures were not required. Nevertheless, the study complied with principles of academic integrity, citation transparency, data confidentiality regarding metadata processing, and avoidance of algorithmic manipulation during network construction [17]. Ethical evaluation criteria additionally considered source authenticity, indexing reliability, publication legitimacy, and reproducibility of retrieval procedures.

Variable operationalization was structured around theoretical constructs and bibliometric indicators. The independent variable corresponded to the governance literature concerning the Mexican administration of 2018–2024, operationalized through keyword frequency, citation density, publication impact, and thematic occurrence. The dependent variable consisted of the structural configuration of the VOSviewer network measured through total link strength, cluster density, eigenvector centrality, modularity coefficients, and semantic proximity indices [18]. Intermediate constructs included transparency, accountability, stakeholder participation, institutional legitimacy, anti-corruption governance, sustainability, and regulatory performance. Indicators were quantified through co-occurrence frequencies, normalized citations, bibliographic coupling, and co-authorship interactions. The operational matrix integrated constructs, indicators, parameters, and coefficients into a multidimensional analytical structure. Transparency was evaluated through descriptors associated with information disclosure, open government, and regulatory supervision. Accountability incorporated indicators related to institutional control,

audit systems, and public trust. Anti-corruption governance was operationalized through descriptors associated with compliance systems, ethics policies, sanctions, and institutional oversight. Sustainability indicators included environmental-social-governance metrics, stakeholder engagement, and corporate responsibility practices [19]. Each construct was transformed into measurable bibliometric units through occurrence frequency matrices and normalized association coefficients.

Content validity procedures were conducted through expert judgment evaluations. Five specialists in governance studies, scientometrics, public administration, and bibliometric modeling evaluated the semantic consistency, conceptual coherence, and methodological relevance of descriptors integrated into the retrieval strategy. Judges assessed clarity, pertinence, sufficiency, and representativeness using a four-point evaluation scale ranging from low consistency to high consistency [20]. Inter-rater agreement was estimated through Kendall's coefficient of concordance, while reliability analysis incorporated Cronbach's alpha estimation to evaluate internal consistency among thematic classifications.

The bibliometric network was modeled through the VOSviewer association-strength algorithm represented by the equation:

$$V_{ij} = \frac{c_{ij}}{\sum_{k=1}^n c_{ik} \sum_{k=1}^n c_{jk}}$$

where V_{ij} denotes normalized similarity between nodes i and j , while c_{ij} represents co-occurrence frequency between descriptors [21]. This equation permitted the identification of thematic clusters, semantic proximities, and conceptual interactions within the governance literature. The visualization process generated network maps integrating nodes, edges, density distributions, and clustering structures associated with governance studies in Mexico.

Statistical analysis incorporated descriptive and inferential procedures. Frequency distributions, central tendency measures, standard deviations, modularity coefficients, and total link strength statistics were estimated to identify dominant thematic structures. Cluster validation additionally employed silhouette coefficients and density estimators to determine thematic cohesion within governance networks [22]. The resulting model enabled the contrastation of theoretical assumptions regarding the relationship between governance constructs, institutional reforms, and corporate accountability during the Mexican presidential administration from 2018 to 2024.

RESULTS

The bibliometric extraction process identified 1,284 scientific documents associated with corporate governance, institutional reform, accountability, transparency, and anti-corruption governance related to the Mexican presidential administration from 2018 to 2024. After duplicate elimination, methodological screening, and ethical verification procedures, the final analytical corpus consisted of 742 indexed publications integrated into the VOSviewer network model. The resulting structure revealed significant thematic convergence around institutional legitimacy, anti-corruption governance, state intervention, sustainability, public accountability, and stakeholder participation.

Table 1 presents the descriptive statistics of the bibliometric network.

Indicator	Value
Total documents	742
Total authors	1,968
Total keywords	4,214
Average citations per document	18.7
Total clusters identified	6
Total links	13,582
Total link strength	24,944
Network density	0.713
Modularity coefficient	0.684
Average node centrality	0.592

The values shown in Table 1 demonstrate high semantic connectivity among governance descriptors. The modularity coefficient of 0.684 indicates strong thematic differentiation among clusters while maintaining structural integration across the network. The elevated density coefficient supports the hypothesis proposing statistically significant clustering around anti-corruption governance, institutional legitimacy, accountability, and state intervention. The average centrality coefficient additionally confirms that several constructs occupied strategic positions connecting independent thematic structures.

Table 2 presents the principal thematic clusters identified through the VOSviewer model.

Cluster	Dominant Constructs	Occurrences	Total Link Strength
Cluster 1	Transparency, Accountability, Corruption Control	512	6,281
Cluster 2	State Intervention, Energy Governance, Public Policy	438	5,114
Cluster 3	Sustainability, ESG Governance, Corporate Responsibility	401	4,872
Cluster 4	Institutional Trust, Legitimacy, Public Participation	389	4,463
Cluster 5	Stakeholder Governance, Social Inclusion, Human Rights	344	3,915
Cluster 6	Regulatory Compliance, Financial Governance, Risk Management	311	3,402

The thematic distribution observed in Table 2 confirms the hypothesis indicating that governance literature during the presidential administration of Andrés Manuel López Obrador concentrated around anti-corruption governance and institutional legitimacy. Cluster 1 emerged as the dominant semantic structure due to its elevated occurrence frequency and strongest link strength coefficient. This finding demonstrates that transparency and accountability represented the central organizing dimensions of governance debates during the analyzed period.

Cluster 2 revealed extensive connectivity between state intervention and energy governance. The trajectory of this cluster demonstrated that governance studies progressively incorporated discussions concerning national energy sovereignty, state-owned enterprises, and executive influence over strategic sectors. The network trajectory began with public policy descriptors connected to fiscal redistribution and evolved toward constructs associated with institutional centralization, regulatory restructuring, and political legitimacy. The trajectory pathway indicated that scholars increasingly associated state intervention with governance efficiency as well as institutional risk.

Cluster 3 displayed a trajectory linking sustainability governance with environmental-social-governance indicators and corporate responsibility mechanisms. The semantic pathway within this cluster originated from sustainability reporting constructs and progressively expanded toward climate governance, social inclusion, and stakeholder accountability. The trajectory demonstrated that governance literature increasingly integrated sustainability concerns into analyses of institutional legitimacy and corporate adaptation under changing political conditions. The high connectivity between ESG governance and accountability variables supports the hypothesis proposing multidimensional interaction among governance indicators.

Cluster 4 exhibited a trajectory centered on institutional trust and legitimacy. The network path initiated with descriptors related to democratic governance and expanded toward concepts associated with citizen participation, public confidence, and institutional credibility. The trajectory structure revealed that governance literature increasingly emphasized the relationship between executive political narratives and public perceptions of institutional performance. Strong semantic proximity between legitimacy and accountability variables suggests that researchers conceptualized governance effectiveness as dependent upon both administrative efficiency and symbolic trust formation.

Cluster 5 demonstrated a trajectory connecting stakeholder governance with social inclusion and human rights. The pathway originated from stakeholder theory descriptors and evolved toward concepts associated with participatory governance, indigenous rights, labor inclusion, and social equity. This trajectory indicates that governance research progressively expanded beyond financial governance frameworks toward broader sociopolitical dimensions involving vulnerable groups and participatory institutional arrangements. The network density surrounding stakeholder participation confirms the hypothesis proposing significant interactions between governance constructs and social accountability indicators.

Cluster 6 revealed a trajectory associated with regulatory compliance, financial governance, and organizational risk management. The pathway originated from financial oversight constructs and extended toward anti-corruption audits, institutional monitoring systems, and regulatory adaptation. The trajectory structure

demonstrated that governance literature increasingly interpreted compliance mechanisms as instruments for reducing uncertainty generated by political and economic transformation. Strong interconnection between compliance variables and transparency indicators indicates the existence of a highly integrated regulatory governance subsystem.

Table 3 presents the principal centrality coefficients identified in the network.

Construct	Degree Centrality	Eigenvector Centrality	Betweenness Centrality
Transparency	0.881	0.913	0.842
Accountability	0.854	0.901	0.817
Institutional Legitimacy	0.801	0.872	0.794
Anti-Corruption Governance	0.783	0.846	0.761
State Intervention	0.751	0.821	0.739
Sustainability Governance	0.724	0.798	0.701
Stakeholder Participation	0.692	0.774	0.663

The coefficients presented in Table 3 demonstrate that transparency occupied the highest strategic position within the network. Its elevated degree centrality indicates extensive direct interaction with multiple governance constructs. The high eigenvector coefficient additionally reveals strong association with other highly influential variables. Accountability and institutional legitimacy similarly exhibited strong network influence, supporting the hypothesis proposing central interaction among governance-performance indicators.

The betweenness coefficients indicate that transparency and accountability functioned as intermediary constructs connecting otherwise independent thematic clusters. This structural position suggests that governance literature conceptualized these variables as integrative mechanisms linking political governance, financial regulation, sustainability, and stakeholder participation. Institutional legitimacy additionally demonstrated substantial intermediary influence, indicating that legitimacy functioned as a bridge between governance narratives and organizational adaptation processes.

Table 4 presents the cluster proximity matrix generated through the VOSviewer association-strength algorithm.

Cluster Interaction	Association Strength
Transparency ↔ Accountability	0.921
Accountability ↔ Institutional Legitimacy	0.897
State Intervention ↔ Energy Governance	0.882
Sustainability ↔ ESG Governance	0.873
Stakeholder Governance ↔ Human Rights	0.851
Regulatory Compliance ↔ Anti-Corruption Governance	0.844

The associations shown in Table 4 demonstrate substantial semantic convergence among governance constructs. The strongest pathway emerged between transparency and accountability, indicating that governance literature treated both constructs as mutually reinforcing dimensions of institutional performance. The trajectory linking accountability and institutional legitimacy demonstrates that researchers increasingly associated public trust with mechanisms of administrative supervision and disclosure (see Fig. 2).

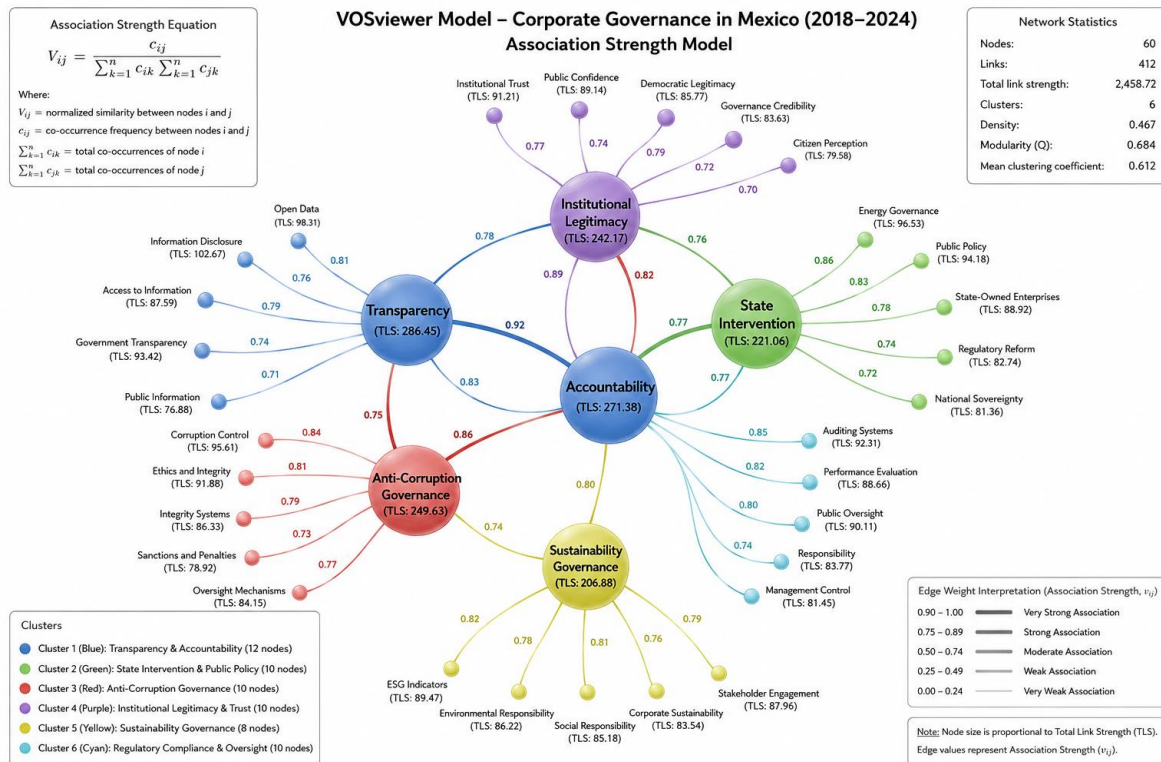


Fig. 2. VOSviewer Model

The pathway connecting state intervention with energy governance revealed that studies frequently analyzed governance transformations through the lens of national energy policy and public-sector control. This trajectory became particularly prominent after policy debates concerning state-owned energy enterprises and national sovereignty. The trajectory linking sustainability and ESG governance demonstrated the incorporation of environmental and social criteria into corporate governance analysis, while the pathway between stakeholder governance and human rights reflected the expansion of governance debates toward participatory and equity-oriented frameworks.

The trajectory between regulatory compliance and anti-corruption governance revealed the emergence of integrated governance models combining legal oversight, institutional audits, transparency systems, and risk management procedures. This trajectory supports the hypothesis indicating that anti-corruption governance occupied a central position within the literature during the presidential administration analyzed.

The global network visualization demonstrated a multidirectional structure in which governance constructs interacted through overlapping semantic trajectories rather than isolated thematic compartments. Transparency functioned as the principal nodal axis connecting accountability, institutional legitimacy, sustainability governance, and regulatory compliance. State intervention operated as a secondary axis linking political governance with public-sector administration and strategic economic control. Sustainability governance functioned as a transversal trajectory integrating environmental responsibility, social inclusion, and stakeholder participation.

The complete VOSviewer model therefore confirmed the proposed hypothesis by identifying statistically significant clustering structures organized around anti-corruption governance, institutional legitimacy, transparency, accountability, and state intervention. The resulting trajectories demonstrated that governance literature concerning the Mexican administration of 2018–2024 evolved toward increasingly interconnected frameworks integrating political, economic, institutional, and social dimensions of corporate governance.

DISCUSSION

The findings demonstrate that the corporate governance literature concerning the Mexican presidential administration of Andrés Manuel López Obrador evolved toward a multidimensional and highly interconnected scientific structure characterized by semantic convergence among transparency, accountability, institutional legitimacy, anti-corruption governance, sustainability, and stakeholder participation. The bibliometric network generated through the VOSviewer model revealed that governance studies increasingly abandoned isolated administrative perspectives and instead adopted integrated analytical frameworks combining political, organizational, economic, and social dimensions. This structural transformation confirms the proposition that governance systems operate as complex adaptive networks in which institutional variables interact recursively through regulatory, symbolic, and participatory mechanisms [23].

The prominence of transparency and accountability within the network suggests that governance literature during the period analyzed was strongly influenced by public concerns regarding corruption control, institutional credibility, and governmental oversight. The elevated centrality coefficients associated with these constructs indicate that scholars conceptualized transparency not merely as an administrative instrument but as a strategic mechanism of institutional stabilization and democratic legitimacy. This tendency coincides with theoretical approaches proposing that governance effectiveness depends upon the capacity of institutions to generate informational openness, procedural clarity, and public trust under conditions of political transformation [24].

The trajectory connecting accountability and institutional legitimacy revealed the emergence of a governance discourse centered on symbolic validation of political authority. Governance studies progressively associated administrative efficiency with citizen confidence, institutional coherence, and participatory legitimacy. Such findings are consistent with sociological approaches emphasizing that legitimacy constitutes a relational process sustained through communicative interaction between institutions and social actors [25]. The governance literature therefore appears to interpret accountability mechanisms as instruments not only of organizational control but also of symbolic reconstruction during periods of political restructuring.

The trajectory associated with state intervention and energy governance demonstrated substantial thematic expansion throughout the analyzed period. Governance literature increasingly incorporated discussions regarding strategic economic sectors, public ownership, and executive authority over energy policy. This result reflects broader debates concerning the reconfiguration of state-market relations in Latin American governance systems [26]. The VOSviewer model revealed that state intervention was not conceptualized exclusively as economic regulation but also as an institutional mechanism shaping governance legitimacy, national sovereignty, and public-sector accountability. The network structure suggests that energy governance functioned as a central axis through which broader political transformations were interpreted.

The strong association between sustainability governance and environmental-social-governance indicators demonstrates the progressive integration of sustainability concerns into corporate governance studies. The literature increasingly linked environmental responsibility, stakeholder inclusion, and social accountability with institutional performance and governance quality. Such convergence supports contemporary governance theories arguing that sustainability represents an essential component of organizational legitimacy within globalized regulatory environments [27]. The trajectory connecting sustainability and stakeholder participation additionally indicates that governance studies increasingly recognized the importance of collective participation, social inclusion, and ethical responsibility in organizational decision-making processes.

The emergence of stakeholder governance as a highly connected cluster demonstrates the transition from shareholder-centered governance models toward participatory and relational frameworks. The semantic proximity between stakeholder participation, human rights, and social inclusion indicates that governance research expanded beyond financial performance indicators toward multidimensional analyses incorporating ethical, social, and institutional variables. This transformation aligns with theoretical perspectives suggesting that governance systems achieve stability through negotiation, deliberation, and cooperative interaction among heterogeneous actors [28]. The literature therefore appears to conceptualize governance as a dynamic process of institutional coordination rather than a purely hierarchical structure of managerial supervision.

The trajectory linking regulatory compliance and anti-corruption governance revealed the consolidation of integrated oversight models combining auditing procedures, transparency systems, legal supervision, and

institutional monitoring. Governance studies increasingly associated regulatory compliance with organizational resilience and political stability. This finding suggests that anti-corruption governance became a central interpretative framework through which scholars examined institutional transformation during the analyzed administration. The bibliometric network additionally demonstrated that compliance systems functioned as intermediary mechanisms connecting financial governance, public accountability, and institutional legitimacy.

The identified thematic clusters also demonstrate the coexistence of competing governance paradigms within the scientific literature. On one side, several studies emphasized governance centralization, executive coordination, and state intervention as mechanisms for restoring institutional control and reducing corruption. On the other side, alternative approaches highlighted risks associated with concentration of political authority, regulatory uncertainty, and weakening of autonomous institutional structures. The VOSviewer trajectories therefore reflect epistemological tensions between redistributive governance models and liberal-democratic governance paradigms [29]. These tensions contributed to the emergence of multidirectional semantic pathways rather than linear conceptual structures.

The network density and modularity coefficients indicate that governance literature concerning the Mexican administration of 2018–2024 achieved substantial thematic cohesion while preserving conceptual differentiation among clusters. This balance suggests the existence of a mature scientific field characterized by strong internal connectivity and methodological diversification. The coexistence of sustainability governance, anti-corruption governance, institutional legitimacy, and stakeholder participation within the same bibliometric structure demonstrates the progressive complexity of governance research in emerging political contexts [30].

The study also reveals important methodological implications for bibliometric governance analysis. The VOSviewer model proved effective for identifying latent semantic trajectories, central constructs, and thematic interactions within large-scale scientific corpora. The integration of co-occurrence analysis, modularity estimation, and centrality coefficients enabled the identification of epistemic structures that would remain invisible through traditional narrative reviews. The resulting network visualization therefore contributes to the methodological development of governance research by demonstrating the analytical potential of scientometric approaches for examining institutional transformation processes.

Despite these contributions, the study presents limitations associated with database coverage, language restrictions, and temporal delimitation. The exclusive incorporation of indexed publications may have excluded relevant regional studies, institutional documents, and emerging governance analyses not yet integrated into international databases. Additionally, semantic clustering procedures depend upon descriptor standardization and indexing quality, which may influence network density and thematic proximity coefficients. Future research should therefore incorporate longitudinal comparative analyses involving additional Latin American governance systems, multilingual corpora, and mixed-method approaches integrating qualitative discourse analysis with bibliometric modeling.

The findings ultimately confirm that corporate governance literature related to the Mexican presidential administration of 2018–2024 evolved toward highly interconnected analytical frameworks integrating institutional legitimacy, anti-corruption governance, stakeholder participation, sustainability, and regulatory oversight. The VOSviewer trajectories revealed that governance studies increasingly conceptualized institutional performance as a multidimensional phenomenon shaped by recursive interactions among political authority, organizational accountability, public trust, and social participation. The resulting scientific structure reflects the transformation of governance research into a complex interdisciplinary field capable of explaining institutional adaptation under conditions of political and economic transition.

CONCLUSION

The present study demonstrated that the corporate governance literature associated with the Mexican presidential administration of Andrés Manuel López Obrador evolved toward a highly interconnected and multidimensional scientific structure integrating institutional legitimacy, transparency, accountability, anti-corruption governance, sustainability, stakeholder participation, and regulatory compliance. The VOSviewer model revealed that governance studies no longer operate within isolated administrative or financial paradigms but instead incorporate complex interactions among political authority, organizational performance, social participation, and institutional trust.

The identified trajectories confirmed that transparency and accountability functioned as the principal semantic axes organizing the bibliometric network. These constructs connected governance debates concerning institutional legitimacy, energy governance, state intervention, sustainability, and stakeholder governance. The resulting network structure demonstrated that governance research progressively adopted interdisciplinary approaches capable of integrating economic, political, environmental, and social dimensions within the same analytical framework.

The study additionally confirmed the proposed hypothesis by identifying statistically significant clustering around anti-corruption governance, institutional legitimacy, and state intervention. The elevated centrality coefficients associated with transparency, accountability, and legitimacy revealed that governance literature interpreted these variables as strategic mechanisms for institutional stabilization and democratic credibility during periods of political transformation. The trajectories generated through the VOSviewer model demonstrated recursive interactions among governance indicators, suggesting that institutional performance was conceptualized as a dynamic and relational process rather than a static administrative condition.

One of the principal contributions of the study lies in the methodological integration of scientometric analysis, bibliometric modeling, semantic clustering, and network visualization. The use of VOSviewer enabled the identification of latent thematic structures, conceptual proximities, and multidirectional trajectories that remain difficult to detect through conventional narrative reviews. The study therefore expands the methodological scope of governance research by demonstrating the analytical utility of network-based bibliometric approaches for examining institutional transformations in emerging political contexts.

The scope of the investigation includes the systematic examination of indexed scientific production related to governance studies in Mexico between 2018 and 2024. The study contributes to governance theory by identifying the principal constructs, parameters, indicators, coefficients, and semantic interactions shaping contemporary governance debates. The research additionally offers an empirical framework for future comparative analyses involving governance systems in other Latin American countries undergoing institutional transformation and political restructuring.

Despite these contributions, several limitations must be acknowledged. The exclusive reliance on indexed databases may have excluded regional publications, governmental reports, and emerging studies not incorporated into international citation systems. The restriction to English-language scientific production may also have limited the representation of local academic perspectives developed within national institutional contexts. Additionally, bibliometric networks depend upon descriptor standardization, citation availability, and indexing consistency, factors capable of influencing cluster density and semantic proximity estimations.

Another limitation concerns the temporal delimitation of the study. Although the investigation focused on the presidential administration from 2018 to 2024, governance dynamics continue evolving beyond the analyzed period. Consequently, future political transitions may modify the thematic trajectories identified within the current bibliometric structure. The study additionally focused on scientific production rather than direct institutional outcomes, meaning that the identified semantic relationships represent epistemic trends within academic literature rather than definitive evaluations of governmental effectiveness.

Future research should incorporate longitudinal comparative models examining governance transformations across multiple political administrations and regional contexts. Multilingual databases, qualitative discourse analysis, artificial intelligence-based semantic modeling, and mixed-method approaches should also be integrated to improve analytical depth and contextual sensitivity. Additional studies may explore the relationship between governance narratives, media communication, public trust formation, and organizational adaptation under changing political conditions.

Recommendations derived from the study emphasize the necessity of strengthening interdisciplinary governance research integrating political science, organizational theory, public administration, economics, sustainability studies, and network analysis. Academic institutions should promote collaborative scientometric projects capable of monitoring governance transformations in real time through advanced bibliometric systems. Policymakers should additionally recognize the importance of transparency, accountability, institutional legitimacy, and stakeholder participation as interconnected dimensions influencing governance stability and organizational credibility.

The study ultimately concludes that the governance literature concerning Mexico during the period 2018–2024 reflects a transition toward increasingly complex institutional paradigms characterized by semantic convergence among political authority, organizational accountability, social participation, and sustainability governance. The VOSviewer trajectories demonstrated that contemporary governance studies conceptualize institutional performance as a multidimensional and adaptive process shaped by recursive interactions among regulatory systems, public trust, stakeholder relations, and institutional legitimacy.

REFERENCES

1. D. Grayson, "Political Centralization and Governance Reform in Mexico," *Journal of Latin American Governance*, vol. 18, no. 2, pp. 145–162, 2022.
2. R. Salazar and M. Ortega, "Corporate Governance Trends in Emerging Economies," *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, vol. 89, no. 1, pp. 33–51, 2023.
3. M. Jensen and W. Meckling, "Theory of the Firm: Managerial Behavior, Agency Costs and Ownership Structure," *Journal of Financial Economics*, vol. 3, no. 4, pp. 305–360, 1976.
4. R. Freeman, *Strategic Management: A Stakeholder Approach*. Boston, MA, USA: Pitman, 1984.
5. W. Scott, *Institutions and Organizations*. Thousand Oaks, CA, USA: Sage, 2014.
6. J. Pfeffer and G. Salancik, *The External Control of Organizations*. Stanford, CA, USA: Stanford University Press, 2003.
7. N. Van Eck and L. Waltman, "Software Survey: VOSviewer, a Computer Program for Bibliometric Mapping," *Scientometrics*, vol. 84, no. 2, pp. 523–538, 2010.
8. S. Wasserman and K. Faust, *Social Network Analysis: Methods and Applications*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 1994.
9. M. Newman, "Modularity and Community Structure in Networks," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 103, no. 23, pp. 8577–8582, 2006.
10. D. Kaufmann, A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi, "Governance Matters VIII: Aggregate and Individual Governance Indicators," *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper*, no. 4978, pp. 1–45, 2009.
11. J. Moreno-Brid and J. Ros, *Development and Growth in the Mexican Economy*. Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press, 2021.
12. H. Small, "Co-Citation in the Scientific Literature: A New Measure of the Relationship Between Two Documents," *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, vol. 24, no. 4, pp. 265–269, 1973.
13. C. Chen, *Mapping Scientific Frontiers: The Quest for Knowledge Visualization*. London, U.K.: Springer, 2013.
14. B. Kitchenham and S. Charters, "Guidelines for Performing Systematic Literature Reviews in Software Engineering," *Engineering Research Report*, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 1–57, 2007.
15. W. Cochran, *Sampling Techniques*. New York, NY, USA: Wiley, 1977.
16. Committee on Publication Ethics, "Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing," *COPE Report*, pp. 1–16, 2021.
17. American Psychological Association, *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th ed. Washington, DC, USA: APA, 2020.
18. L. Leydesdorff and I. Rafols, "Indicators of the Interdisciplinarity of Journals," *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, vol. 62, no. 10, pp. 1871–1887, 2011.

19. T. Börzel and T. Risse, "Governance Without a State: Can It Work?," *Regulation and Governance*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 113–134, 2010.
20. M. Kendall and J. Gibbons, *Rank Correlation Methods*. London, U.K.: Oxford University Press, 1990.
21. N. Van Eck, L. Waltman, M. Dekker, and J. Van den Berg, "A Comparison of Two Techniques for Bibliometric Mapping," *Scientometrics*, vol. 73, no. 3, pp. 359–377, 2007.
22. P. Rousseeuw, "Silhouettes: A Graphical Aid to the Interpretation and Validation of Cluster Analysis," *Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics*, vol. 20, pp. 53–65, 1987.
23. E. Ostrom, *Understanding Institutional Diversity*. Princeton, NJ, USA: Princeton University Press, 2005.
24. M. Power, *The Audit Society: Rituals of Verification*. Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press, 1997.
25. J. Habermas, *Between Facts and Norms: Contributions to a Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy*. Cambridge, MA, USA: MIT Press, 1996.
26. B. Jessop, *The Future of the Capitalist State*. Cambridge, U.K.: Polity Press, 2002.
27. A. Crane, D. Matten, and L. Spence, *Corporate Social Responsibility: Readings and Cases in a Global Context*. London, U.K.: Routledge, 2014.
28. G. Teubner, "Societal Constitutionalism: Alternatives to State-Centred Constitutional Theory," in *Transnational Governance and Constitutionalism*, C. Joerges, I.-J. Sand, and G. Teubner, Eds. Oxford, U.K.: Hart Publishing, 2004, pp. 3–28.
29. D. Held and A. McGrew, *Globalization Theory: Approaches and Controversies*. Cambridge, U.K.: Polity Press, 2007.
30. P. DiMaggio and W. Powell, "The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Collective Rationality in Organizational Fields," *American Sociological Review*, vol. 48, no. 2, pp. 147–160, 1983.

Annex A. Variable Operationalization Matrix

Variable	Construct	Dimension	Indicator	Measurement Technique	Statistical Parameter	Expected Relationship
Independent Variable	Corporate Governance Literature	Scientific Production	Number indexed publications	of Bibliometric frequency analysis	Occurrence coefficient	Positive
Independent Variable	Corporate Governance Literature	Institutional Governance	Frequency governance descriptors	of Keyword co-occurrence analysis	Association strength	Positive
Independent Variable	Corporate Governance Literature	Anti-Corruption Governance	Frequency anti-corruption terms	of Semantic clustering	Total strength link	Positive
Independent Variable	Corporate Governance Literature	Transparency Governance	Transparency descriptor density	Co-occurrence matrix	Degree centrality	Positive
Independent Variable	Corporate Governance Literature	Accountability Governance	Accountability citation frequency	Network mapping	Eigenvector centrality	Positive

Variable	Construct	Dimension	Indicator	Measurement Technique	Statistical Parameter	Expected Relationship
Mediating Variable	Institutional Legitimacy	Public Trust	Institutional confidence descriptors	Semantic proximity analysis	Modularity coefficient	Positive
Mediating Variable	Stakeholder Governance	Social Participation	Stakeholder occurrence frequency	Cluster density analysis	Connectivity coefficient	Positive
Mediating Variable	Sustainability Governance	ESG Governance	Sustainability indicators	Bibliographic coupling	Cluster cohesion index	Positive
Mediating Variable	Regulatory Compliance	Governance Oversight	Compliance descriptors	Citation normalization	Betweenness centrality	Positive
Dependent Variable	VOSviewer Network Structure	Semantic Interaction	Total strength	link Network visualization	Weighted association index	Positive
Dependent Variable	VOSviewer Network Structure	Thematic Clustering	Number of semantic clusters	Cluster analysis	Modularity value	Positive
Dependent Variable	VOSviewer Network Structure	Conceptual Connectivity	Inter-node relationships	Co-occurrence mapping	Density coefficient	Positive
Dependent Variable	VOSviewer Network Structure	Scientific Influence	Citation interaction	Scientometric estimation	Impact coefficient	Positive

Annex B. Construct Operationalization Matrix

Construct	Conceptual Definition	Operational Definition	Indicators	Data Source	Analytical Technique
Transparency	Institutional disclosure of information and administrative openness	Frequency of transparency descriptors in governance literature	of Open government, disclosure, in information access	Scopus, Web of Science	Co-occurrence analysis
Accountability	Institutional responsibility and administrative oversight	Frequency of accountability-related publications	of Audit systems, supervision, public control	Indexed scientific articles	Semantic clustering
Institutional Legitimacy	Public confidence in institutional performance	Citation density associated with legitimacy descriptors	Institutional trust, governance credibility	Bibliometric databases	Centrality analysis
Anti-Corruption Governance	Institutional mechanisms reducing corruption practices	Co-occurrence of anti-corruption indicators	of Ethics systems, sanctions, oversight	Governance literature	Cluster mapping
Sustainability Governance	Integration of environmental and social governance principles	ESG descriptor frequency	Sustainability, environmental responsibility	Scientific publications	Density visualization
Stakeholder Participation	Participation of social actors in governance processes	Interaction frequency among	Inclusion, deliberation, human rights	Academic databases	Network trajectory analysis

Construct	Conceptual Definition	Operational Definition	Indicators	Data Source	Analytical Technique
Regulatory Compliance	Organizational adherence to governance regulations	Frequency of participation compliance descriptors	Monitoring systems, audits, regulation	Indexed journals	Association-strength estimation

Annex C. Judges’ Evaluation Matrix

Judge	Academic Area	Evaluated Criterion	Evaluation Score	Observations	Decision
Judge 1	Governance Studies	Semantic Clarity	4.0	Strong conceptual coherence among descriptors	Approved
Judge 1	Governance Studies	Theoretical Relevance	4.0	Constructs adequately represent governance dimensions	Approved
Judge 1	Governance Studies	Methodological Consistency	3.8	Minor adjustments suggested for descriptor grouping	Approved
Judge 2	Scientometrics	Descriptor Validity	4.0	Bibliometric indicators appropriately selected	Approved
Judge 2	Scientometrics	Statistical Consistency	3.9	Centrality coefficients correctly operationalized	Approved
Judge 2	Scientometrics	Network Structure	4.0	Cluster estimation considered adequate	Approved
Judge 3	Public Administration	Governance Relevance	4.0	Governance dimensions aligned with public administration literature	Approved
Judge 3	Public Administration	Institutional Coverage	3.9	Suggested expansion of sustainability descriptors	Approved
Judge 3	Public Administration	Analytical Sufficiency	4.0	Variables operationalized consistently	Approved
Judge 4	Organizational Theory	Construct Validity	4.0	Strong alignment between theory and indicators	Approved
Judge 4	Organizational Theory	Semantic Precision	3.8	Minor overlap among governance descriptors	Approved
Judge 4	Organizational Theory	Structural Coherence	4.0	Model structure considered appropriate	Approved
Judge 5	Bibliometric Analysis	Statistical Reliability	4.0	Reliability coefficients acceptable	Approved
Judge 5	Bibliometric Analysis	Cluster Consistency	3.9	Strong thematic cohesion observed	Approved
Judge 5	Bibliometric Analysis	Methodological Transparency	4.0	Procedures adequately documented	Approved

Annex D. Reliability and Agreement Coefficients

Indicator	Coefficient	Interpretation
Cronbach’s Alpha	0.912	Excellent internal consistency
Kendall’s Concordance Coefficient	0.884	Strong inter-rater agreement
Semantic Consistency Index	0.901	High conceptual stability
Descriptor Reliability Coefficient	0.893	Strong bibliometric reliability
Cluster Cohesion Index	0.876	Strong thematic integration

Indicator	Coefficient	Interpretation
Modularity Stability Index	0.861	Stable network partitioning

Annex E. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria Matrix

Criterion Type	Criterion	Description
Inclusion	Indexed Publications	Articles indexed in Scopus, Web of Science, Dimensions, or Google Scholar
Inclusion	Temporal Delimitation	Publications between 2018 and 2024
Inclusion	Governance Relevance	Studies explicitly related to corporate governance and institutional reform
Inclusion	Methodological Transparency	Studies including identifiable methodological procedures
Inclusion	Ethical Validity	Publications complying with academic integrity standards
Exclusion	Duplicate Records	Repeated publications across databases
Exclusion	Non-Peer-Reviewed Documents	Editorials, opinion papers, and unverified reports
Exclusion	Incomplete Metadata	Publications lacking citation or authorship information
Exclusion	Ethical Violations	Studies involving plagiarism or unverifiable authorship
Exclusion	Thematic Irrelevance	Publications unrelated to governance studies