

Evolving Dimensions of Senior Citizen Care: A Prisma-Guided Systematic Literature Review

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Abstract: Introduction: Senior citizen care, as a salient concern within society, requires continuous exploration and assessment to adapt to the evolving demands of an aging global population. This study sought to provide a comprehensive understanding of the intricate dynamics and challenges of elderly care by examining the relevant literature.

Methodology: A systematic literature review (SLR) was employed, utilizing the PRISMA flow diagram for article selection. Databases such as Web of Science were extensively scoured using keywords related to senior citizen care. Articles and book chapters published in English from 2010 to 2023 were included, with an emphasis on achieving methodological consistency and avoiding biases.

Results: The analysis covered 466 documents with an average annual growth rate of 8.28%. Major contributing journals included "Frontiers in Psychology" And "Health & Social Care in The Community," among others. Key themes elucidated included care work, elderly care, familial roles, societal expectations, and the impact of regional cultural contexts. Significant emphasis was placed on mental health, with terms like anxiety, depression, and stress making frequent appearances.

Implications: The study offers profound implications for policymakers, caregivers, and researchers, suggesting a holistic caregiving approach. It emphasizes the necessity for updated caregiver training modules, heightened community and governmental support, and culturally sensitive elder care strategies. Furthermore, the inter sectionality of general health and elderly care uncovered encourages healthcare professionals to inculcate an age-inclusive methodology.

1 INTRODUCTION

The world is experiencing a demographic revolution in which the aging population has become one of the leading issues affecting socioeconomic factors and health care. The continuity of elder care as society wrestles with the complexities of an ageing population is a matter of increasing importance. Home care is essentially services and other supports provided to older people by family or designated friends, and it has shifted from being a family problem to a major field of international research, and a topic of massive international policymaking attention.

Through a systematic literature review (SLR) methodology, this study strives to paint a comprehensive picture of elder care by identifying the most prominent themes, institutional collaborations and trends from a global perspective.

As predicted by the World Health Organization, a demographic change is coming: By 2050, individuals over 60 will account for 22% of the world's population, up from 12% in 2015. This impending demographic revolution generates new stylised demands on eldercare infrastructures, which explicitly demand systemic interventions in both healthcare (in its most narrow hierarchical form), social support, and withered soulries in search of healing. Unavoidably, when dealing with such difficulties and lacking resources, academic interest in elderly research is likely to expand. With rich institutional and individual contributions, the epistemic environment of elder care is a candle in a whirlwind, evoking flashes of wisdom gleaned from diverse cultural, contextual and disciplinary sensors.

In this multifaceted domain, the current research aims to extract broader themes from existing research in elderly care. This SLR endeavors to elucidate

emerged patterns that have not manifested in isolated studies by systematically navigating through the vast academic quantity. Through highlighting thematic foci, reinforcing research geographical focal points, and emphasizing co-authorship environments, we aim to provide a consolidated narrative.

The prospective ramifications alone highlight the epistemic gravitas of this research enterprise. We hope that by clarifying active lines of research, we can provide a foundation for future academic inquiry that is grounded in strong epistemic footing, aware of existing gaps, and adds value to both theory and practice. In the crucible of elder care, a field that is as nuanced as it is important on both a macro and micro level such an integrative understanding can help inform everyone from policymakers to practitioners to caregivers alike toward empathetic interventions that can effectively save lives.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY

- **Comprehensive Thematic Analysis:** To examine the prevailing themes, approaches, and trends in elder care research from 2010 to 2023, while comprehending their evolution and importance.
- **Collaborative and Geographical Insights:** To assess the characteristics of academic collaborations by identifying principal contributors and highlighting the geographical distribution and focal areas of elder care research.
- **Gap and Implication Assessment:** To determine the field's current research gaps and the findings' applicability to international elder care policies and practices.

3 METHODS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Process of Study Selection and Techniques Employed

The research analyzed a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method, which provided a systematic and objective selection process of papers, inclusion-lists criteria, and analysis techniques. The article selection was performed following the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) protocol normally recommended

for an SLR [4]. The aforementioned protocol can be visualized in a flowchart with key stages depicted as the steps "Identification", "Screening" and "Inclusion". We respectively apply these stages in our study, described in Figure 1.

Identification includes Definition of search terms, search criteria, relevant databases and data extraction procedure. The primary term was "Senior Citizen Care." To facilitate an extensive search, the parameters included terms such as "Senior Citizen Care," "Elderly Care," "Parent Care," and "Old Age Care."

These terms were entered into the Web of Science database using the logical operator "OR" in between. As per PRISMA's 2020 guidelines, articles once identified require screening. This phase incorporates the tasks of screening, retrieving, and assessing the aptness of each article for inclusion. Articles not adhering to the specified criteria were subsequently discarded. Criteria for considering articles included those of the "article" or "book chapter" type, penned in "English", and published between the years "2010 to 2023". We favored journal articles for SLRs as they maintain a consistent methodological quality, facilitating the extraction of pertinent results and bolstering internal validity.

Utilizing a combination of automated and manual means, the screening was executed. With the assistance of the Web of Science's automated functions, we pinpointed articles that met the aforementioned inclusion criteria. Publications deviating from these criteria, such as research notes, commentary by editors, entire books, book excerpts, book critiques, conference papers, and unpublished materials, as well as those not in English or outside the designated timeframe, were disregarded. Subsequent to this, full versions of the filtered articles were acquired for a deeper level of screening: the evaluation of their relevance.

Relevance evaluation or eligibility assessment leaned on tools offered by the Web of Science database. The focus then narrowed down, prioritizing specific fields like psychology, social science, social work, sociology, family enterprise, societal challenges, legislative studies, and behavioral disciplines.

3.2 Evaluation of Bias Risk in the Study

The integrity of a review can be compromised when biases, either unintentional or deliberate, creep into the processes of article selection and interpretation. By adhering to a rigorously defined review protocol,

and by implementing methodical, impartial procedures for selecting and analyzing articles, the propensity for such biases can be minimized. An additional safeguard against bias is ensuring that multiple researchers independently evaluate the quality of articles, thereby providing a cross-check

mechanism. For this study, we meticulously followed these guidelines and protocols, ensuring that potential biases within the selected articles were duly addressed and negated.

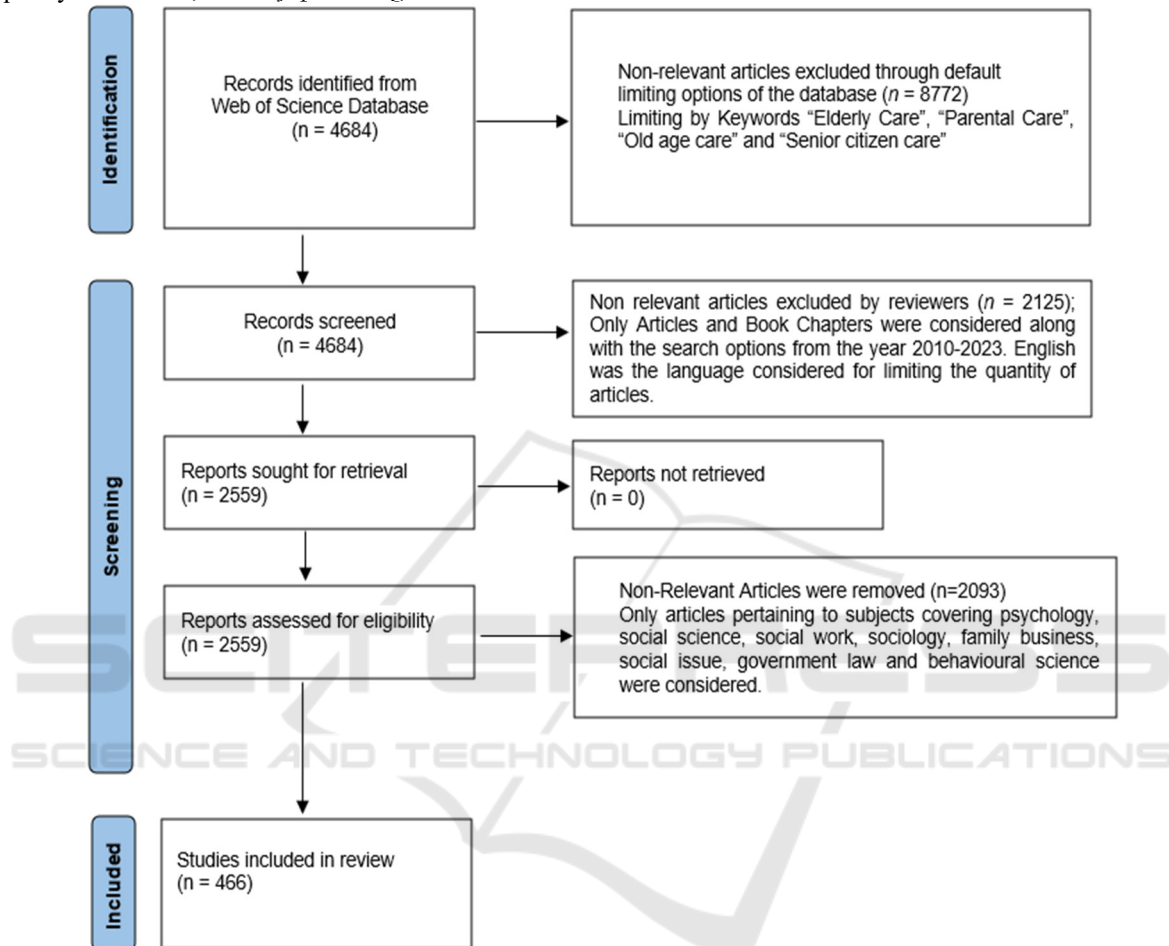


Figure 1: PRISMA Flow Diagram.

4 RESULT AND FINDINGS

4.1 Study Characteristics

The systematic literature review undertaken for this study focuses on the time span between 2010 and 2023, encompassing a comprehensive collection of 466 scholarly documents. These documents, derived from an array of 263 distinct academic sources, predominantly consist of journals and book-based publications, indicating the interdisciplinary nature of the research in this domain. Over the studied period, the literature manifests a notable annual growth rate

of 8.28%, underscoring the burgeoning interest and expanding research frontiers in this field (Table 1).

The academic impact of these documents is palpable, with each paper garnering an average of 12.57 citations, showcasing the resonance and influence of the research within the scholarly community. Further attesting to the depth and richness of the collated literature, these documents cumulatively reference a monumental figure of 20,992 works. In terms of thematic insights, a myriad of 1,192 'Keywords Plus' and an additional 1,483 author-specified keywords have been identified, providing a granular understanding of the research's thematic contours.

Table 1: Primary Information of the Article (Source: Author).

Description	Results
MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	
Timespan	2010:2023
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	263
Documents	466
Annual Growth Rate %	8.28
Document Average Age	5.13
Average citations per doc	12.57
References	20992
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	1192
Author's Keywords (DE)	1483
AUTHORS	
Authors	1274
Authors of single-authored docs	94
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	97
Co-Authors per Doc	2.97
International co-authorships %	20.82
DOCUMENT TYPES	
Article	399
Article; book chapter	67

The collaborative fabric of this domain is robust. Among the 1,274 contributing scholars, a segment of 94 has opted for independent authorship. However, a predominant trend towards collaborative research is evident, with the average document boasting contributions from approximately 2.97 scholars. Furthermore, the dimension of international collaboration is significant, with 20.82% of the contributions reflecting cross-border academic partnerships.

Delineating the nature of these scholarly contributions, a substantial portion, precisely 399, can be categorized as academic articles. Nonetheless, a unique segment comprising 67 documents offers an amalgamation of article and book chapter formats, reflecting the versatile and integrative approaches adopted in the research endeavors of this domain.

In our systematic literature review spanning from 2010 to 2023, it was observed that research contributions are disseminated across various academic journals, highlighting the multifaceted nature of the domain. Leading the charge is "Frontiers in Psychology" with a contribution of 14 articles, indicating its significant role in advancing discourse in this area. In our study, we apply these stages rigorously, as shown in Figure 2.

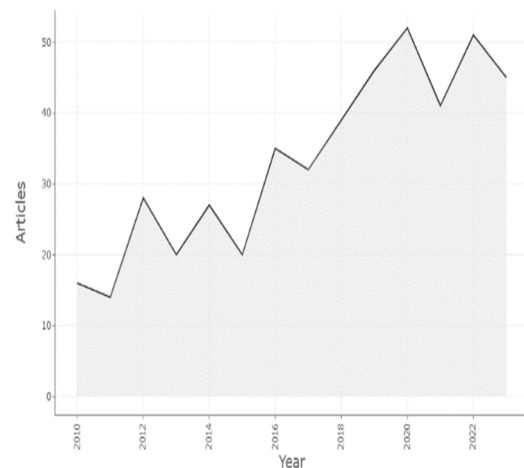


Figure 2: Annual Article Publication.

Close contenders include "Health & Social Care in the Community" and "Journals of Gerontology Series B-Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences", each housing 12 articles. The "Children and Youth Services Review" added another layer to the discussion, bringing forth 11 pertinent articles. On the other hand, "Social Policy & Administration" has played a pivotal role with 9 articles, underlining its influence in the socio-policy domain of the subject.

Several other prominent academic platforms have enriched the literature landscape. "Child Care Health and Development", "European Journal of Social Work", and "Nursing Ethics" each showcased 8 significant contributions. With 7 insightful articles, the "Sociology of Health & Illness" journal elucidates the sociological dimensions of the topic. Finally, "Journal of European Social Policy" cemented its position in the scholarly tapestry with a contribution of 6 key articles.

This distribution across varied journals accentuates the interdisciplinary nature of the research, with insights from psychology, social care, gerontology, child and youth studies, policy-making, ethics, and sociology.

5 RESULT OF STUDY

5.1 Result of authors' keywords analysis

Vos Viewer's output reflects key themes in elderly care research. The most common theme is "elderly care" with 78 mentions placed in the central position as the core and foundation of discussions. Another major theme is "caregiving". Cultural factors are also

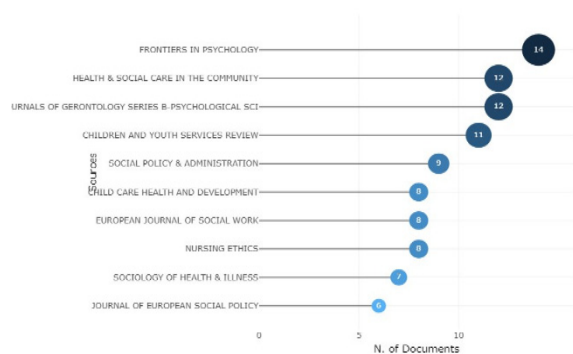


Figure 3: Most Relevant Sources of the Article Publications.

evident, such as "China" (16 times) and "filial piety" (6 times), suggesting the influence of Chinese culture. The psychological dimensions are also represented by the term's "anxiety", "depression", or "dementia". The data also covers aspects of care relationships: The issues of "care work," "children," "parenting," and "parents" all imply family responsibilities for elderly care. Terms such as "long-term care", "social support" and "social work" imply institutional and community assistance. Finally, "gender" (16 times) specifies its impact on the caregiving dynamics. But—summary: the research presents a multidimensional portrait of elderly care from cultural conventions to institutional frameworks. In our study, we apply these stages rigorously, as shown in Figure 3. Based on the authors' keywords, the result offers a six-fold cluster-based ordered perspective of the main themes fundamental to the research corpus. Every cluster reflects a different angle of view on the main theme, probably implying particular areas of concentration or methodological approaches.

5.1.1 Cluster 1 (9 items)

This cluster is mainly characterized by psychological and family aspects of caregiving. Words such as "anxiety", "depression" and "stress" signal the mental and emotional challenges of caregiving and the impact of this on both caregivers and recipients. Intergenerational dynamics may be indicated through "children", "parents", and "caregiving" terms while "culture" may emphasize how cultural determinants drive the perception of caregiving. "Social support" refers to the external networks or structures that can help mitigate some of these challenges.

5.1.2 Cluster 2 (8 items)

Centered on elder care, this cluster delves into family dynamics and societal structures. Keywords such as

"elder care", "family caregiving", and "elderly" position the elderly at the core. "Gender" and "migrant care workers" might address issues of workforce demographics and implications, while "well-being" suggests a holistic view on outcomes. "Social services" might highlight institutional supports.

5.1.3 Cluster 3 (7 items)

Oriented towards systemic structures, terms like "welfare state", "long-term care", and "nursing" denote institutional frameworks and professional care environments. "Migration" could be related to the global movement of caregiving workers or the elderly themselves, while "childcare" introduces an alternative caregiving paradigm. In our study, we apply these stages rigorously, as shown in Figure 4.

5.1.4 Cluster 4 (7 items)

This cluster appears methodologically grounded. With terms like "qualitative research", it might be exploring in-depth, narrative-based insights. "Care ethics" and "informal care" introduce moral and non-professional dimensions, while "dementia" and "elderly care" again centralize elderly needs.

5.1.5 Cluster 5 (7 items)

Geographical and cultural contexts seem dominant here. "China" and "Sweden" suggest regional perspectives, while "filial piety" introduces traditional caregiving values, especially from East Asian contexts. "COVID-19" introduces a temporal and situational element, hinting at research spawned by pandemic challenges.

5.1.6 Cluster 6 (6 items)

With terms like "Attachment", "Foster care", and "Mental health", this cluster seems to veer into niche areas, focusing on specific caregiving environments and their psychological implications, including the satisfaction derived from caregiving roles.

In summary, the clusters illustrate a multidimensional exploration of caregiving. From psychological underpinnings to methodological orientations, systemic structures to geographical contexts, and specific caregiving environments, the research captures a comprehensive and intricate view of caregiving dynamics.

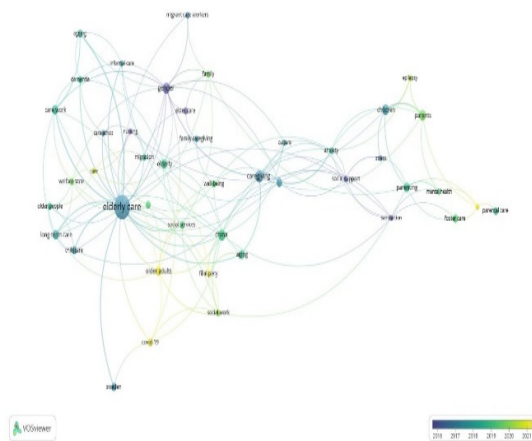


Figure 4: Authors Keyword Analysis.

5.2 The Co-Authorship Analysis

The co-authorship analysis in Vos Viewer provides an insightful breakdown of the collaboration patterns among researchers in the field. Let's delve deeper into understanding these clusters:

5.2.1 Cluster 1 (4 items)

This cluster centers around 'abma, tineke' and 'abma, tineke a.' suggesting that these may be the main authors or different variations of the same author's name. Collaborations with 'dauwerse, linda' and 'widdershoven, guy' indicate a close-knit research team, which likely has consistent scholarly contributions in their specific niche of the domain.

5.2.2 Cluster 2 (4 items)

A collaborative grouping involving 'da roit, barbara', 'naldini, manuela', 'pavolini, emmanuele', and 'rani, costanzo' depicts another research team. Their repeated co-authorship suggests a synergistic working relationship in their specialized research area.

5.2.3 Cluster 3 (3 items)

The trio of 'goedeke, sonja', 'london, jason', and 'shepherd, daniel' seems to be another collaborative group. Their mutual endeavors in research projects underscore a shared interest or complementary expertise.

5.2.4 Clusters 4 to 10

These are single-item clusters, each representing a distinct author. Such solitary clusters can imply various things:

- These authors may primarily work independently or with collaborators outside the current dataset.
- They might be the primary authors in their respective research areas, potentially bringing unique perspectives or expertise.
- Alternatively, they could be entering the field or domain and might develop collaborative patterns in subsequent years.

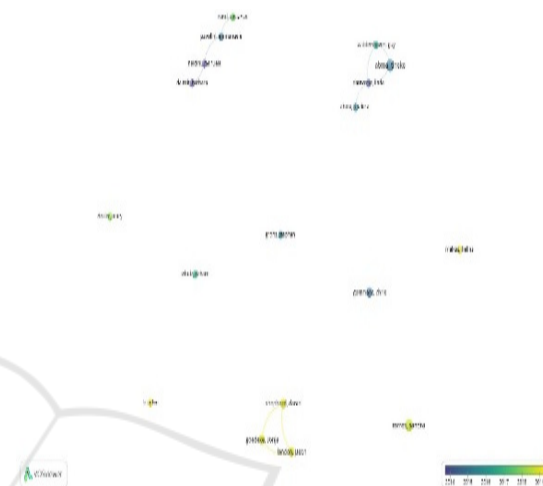


Figure 5: Co-Authorship Analysis.

In essence, clusters 1 to 3 depict core research teams or collaborative groups within the field, suggesting areas of consolidated expertise. In contrast, clusters 4 to 10, being single-author clusters, may indicate individual research paths or potential areas for new collaborations. In our study, we apply these stages rigorously, as shown in Figure 5. The overall co-authorship analysis provides a mapping of the scholarly landscape, offering insights into established collaborations and hinting at potential areas for future research partnerships.

5.3 Country Clustering

The clustering of countries, as depicted by Vos Viewer, can be understood as a representation of certain shared characteristics, methodologies, or collaborative patterns within the research field.

5.3.1 Cluster 1

This cluster includes countries like Austria, Denmark, Finland, and others, predominantly from Northern Europe and parts of Asia like Japan and Taiwan. Their grouping might suggest a shared research methodology or perhaps similarities in their eldercare

systems, reflecting common socio-cultural and policy factors.

5.3.2 Cluster 2

Comprising England, France, Italy, and others, it's largely a blend of Western European nations along with New Zealand and China. The juxtaposition might indicate that these countries have comparable research outputs, methodologies, or eldercare systems that are being studied in the given context.

5.3.3 Cluster 3

This cluster features Australia, Scotland, Singapore, Spain, and Turkey among other more varied nations. Their cooperation may suggest a wider spectrum of research, maybe investigating several approaches and techniques in elder care.

5.3.4 Cluster 4

With Belgium, Israel, and the Netherlands, this cluster may be reflecting a different research perspective or a specific eldercare model known from these nations.

5.3.5 Cluster 5

Another diverse cluster is this group of Canada, South Africa and South Korea. This implies that there could be specific research collaborations or shared elder care challenges and solutions around which there is mutual interest. In our study, we apply these stages rigorously, as shown in Figure 6.

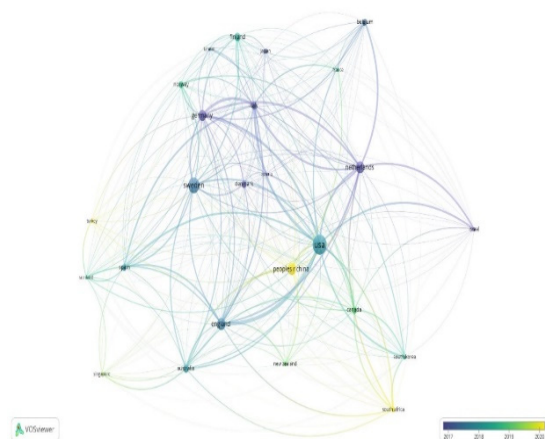


Figure 6: Country Clustering.

In a sense, the clusters can reveal common research methods, practices, and eldercare frameworks.

Furthermore, by studying these patterns, researchers can find commonalities, potential collaborations, or investigate dissimilar eldercare systems across clusters.

6 DISCUSSIONS

We conducted a systematic literature review (SLR) to provide an in-depth understanding of the eldercare domain, to denote the intersection of multiple thematic areas, and to outline the collaboration behavioural among geographical entities. Our triangulated methodology from author keywords to co-authorship and geographical clusters reveals the intricate cartography of eldercare studies. Now, let's dive on a journey of understanding our discoveries.

The study of geographical clusters becomes especially important considering the worldwide aging population problem. Recognized for their strong social welfare systems, northern European nations are inevitably leading front stage in studies on elder care.

Despite the varying social, cultural, and economic matrices of different regions, the clustering together of countries (e.g., Japan and Taiwan) in Cluster 1 speaks to the universal nature of the challenges of aging dynamics across diverse settings. In contrast, the diversity of Cluster 2 may serve as low-key hints toward the paradox in eldercare paradigms although the aging population concerns of Western European countries are quite similar in nature, they are said to arrive at scenarios that are awful (in the sense that these countries have big chronic disease burdens, leading to very high health care expenditure per capita) while China and New Zealand showing off the other faces of the eldercare from which mutual learning could be triggered.

The thematic clusters, built using the keyword analysis reinforce the interdisciplinary nature of eldercare research. And the depth and breadth of eldercare issues are reflected in themes from mental health (anxiety, depression) to the socio-cultural frames of caregiving (gender, migrant care workers). It's interesting to see how much a word like 'caregiving' seems to hit outside of that segment of a more region-specific discussion, such as 'China' or 'Sweden'. Eldercare can be perceived in general and specific terms, and the mix of the two highlights the importance of considering eldercare on both levels.

The co-authorship analysis is equally interesting. The clustering of names shows patterns of collaborators, and demonstrates the global nature of eldercare research. Frequent co-authorship, for instance, as illustrated between Cluster 1 and Cluster

2, may indicate broader institutional or collaborative networks in the emerging research areas. Clusters 4 to 10, however, contained single entities, which may reflect the niche expertise of reporters and would therefore be worth further study.

The contribution from bibliometric tools such as Vos Viewer towards SLR is clear from the detailed insights generated, but there are certain limitations. Co-authorship clusters may not fully represent research dynamics. For instance, an impactful researcher may indeed be collaborating across several themes and their single inclusion in one cluster may be an over-simplification of their contribution. Furthermore, our study focused primarily on articles and book chapters, potentially overlooking significant insights from other forms of academic outputs like conference proceedings or white papers. It's also paramount to recognize that while quantitative analyses like this provide a bird's eye view, the granular nuances of individual research articles and the qualitative depth they bring can sometimes be overshadowed.

In summation, this SLR paints a vivid picture of the state of eldercare research. While Northern European countries emerge as dominant contributors, the challenges and solutions in eldercare are undeniably global. The diverse themes underscore the complexity of eldercare, calling for multidisciplinary solutions. As the world grapples with an aging population, collaborative research endeavors, as reflected in our co-authorship clusters, will become increasingly pivotal. Future studies should strive to integrate both quantitative bibliometric analyses and qualitative evaluations to holistically understand the ever-evolving domain of eldercare.

7 CONCLUSIONS

This systematic literature review 2010-2023 provide a substantive overview of elder care research presenting its multi-dimensional aspects. The key themes, from psychological to societal constructs, indicate the depth and breadth of discussions in this domain. Cross-border collaboration emphasizes the inclusive nature of the subject, spreading awareness across the world. Though a few countries have been consistently involved in research, it has not been without gaps, which are a clear opportunity for improvement in future efforts. However, with an aging world, the take home messages from this review highlight the importance of sustained research interaction and implementation. Another hiatus, yet one unerring aim still rings true: None of us wants to

be neglected and none of us wants other people to neglect our elderly.

8 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- **Database Specificity:** The research relied entirely on the Web of Science database, potentially overlooking significant studies from other databases such as PubMed, Scopus, or Google Scholar.
- **Language Constraints:** Focusing on publications and book chapters only in English could have caused us to overlook important insights from non-English literature, especially from areas with notable elder care research in other languages.
- **Time Frame:** The study restricted its review to publications from 2010 to 2023, potentially overlooking earlier seminal or more recent trailblazing works from outside this time frame.
- **Inclusion Criteria:** The concentration on specific types of publication, such as book chapters, journal articles, etc., may have led to the exclusion of relevant research from white boxes, conference proceedings or other kind of academic correspondence.
- **Automated Screening:** While automated technologies ease the review process, they may exclude potentially significant papers offering original perspectives inadvertently.

9 FUTURE AVENUES OF RESEARCH

A primary recommendation is to pool data through cross-database pooling providing a wide-angle view of the elder care research landscape; As such, it may be used to facilitate a deeper analysis of current themes, but might also open the way for new avenues of investigation. There's also a good case that can be made, and should be, to read literature in other-than-English languages. This process magnifies the extended care and caregiving values derived from cultural and regional plurality, especially from non-western contexts as the replications of subsequent caregiving tenets and rituals.

Also, due to the complex structure of elder care, it is necessary to adopt an interdisciplinary approach.

Exploring the interface of aging with other salient fields, like technology, urban planning, or economics, will yield the broadest challenges and solutions to your research around senior care. And relevance in practice would be enormous, as accelerated tech contexts like AI-assisted living or telehealth have already changed elements of elder care delivery.

Finally, though quantitative data is useful for a macro view, qualitative insights have an irreplaceable richness. Future research could utilize in-depth qualitative methods such as interviews or ethnographic studies to more fully depict the complexities and lived experiences of seniors and their caregivers. This could shed some light, giving practical recommendations that could bridge the gap between the research realm and real-world impact. Taiwan underwent a series of underfunded projects at community level advocacy, we utilize this model in our manuscript not just in the relevance of mental health, but also in the field of a-population, one trying to gather data from multiple sources in a low-income country in an age of an increasingly aging global population and socio-economic dynamics. Finally, researchers adjusted research into this synergizing so that academic activities result in direct propitious hands-on applications within the quality of old age care at the global level.

10 IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

Systematic literature reviews are critical tools in identifying gaps in knowledge and arguing implications in relation to policy-making, caregiving and research as they relate to elder care. This makes the insights extracted predominantly a strong compass for the policymakers to explore, Avenues towards more potency and knowledge-based structures of elder care matching with the current scenario. Moreover, the research emphasizes the necessity for an integrated approach to caregiving by illuminating various aspects of elder support care, from the mental elements to a supportive family dimension. Such a holistic approach may guarantee that elder purpose solution tenders the physical as well as mental health requirements of considerably nursing the aged populace.

Additionally, these findings are invaluable for caregiver training initiatives. By emphasizing the key themes and challenges, there's potential to refine and enhance training modules, equipping caregivers with updated competencies. In parallel, the importance of

these insights for advocacy cannot be understated. Highlighting the pivotal aspects of elder care can drive more community and governmental support, ensuring that the plight and needs of the elderly remain at the forefront of societal discourse.

From an academic perspective, the study acts as a lighthouse, illuminating areas that are well-trodden and those that beckon further exploration. Such directive is invaluable for researchers who wish to focus on those areas with the highest potential for disruptive insights. Furthermore, the expanding relationship between technology and elder care, as noted in the review, points to a fledgling opportunity for tech inventors to tap. Bespoke technical fixes to care for our elders will improve quality of life and autonomy of our ageing population.

Another key theme highlighted by the paper is the importance of cultural/ regional contexts for shaping elder care practices. This cultural sensitivity became a rallying cry for caregivers particularly those working with diverse populations to implement more culturally aware approaches to care. Last, data-informed findings about the intersection of general health and elderly care challenges healthcare professionals to incorporate elderly care considerations into more systems-level health strategies. This integration ensures that a holistic well-being of elderly is covered.

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