



## WHISPERS BENEATH THE CORRIDOR: UNEARTHING THE FORGOTTEN KNOWLEDGE OF CPEC (2016–2024)

Muhammad Kashif Bashir<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Muhammad Atif Bashir<sup>2</sup>, Sana Ameen<sup>3</sup>,  
Muhammad Taimoor<sup>4</sup>, Naveed Iqbal<sup>5</sup>

### Affiliations:

<sup>1</sup> Research Scholar (Pakistan Studies),  
Department of Pakistan Studies,  
The Islamia University of Bahawalpur,  
Pakistan.

Email: kashif.scholar640@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup> Research Scholar (Management  
Sciences), Institute of Business  
Management and Administrative  
Sciences, The Islamia University of  
Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

Email: atif.bashir@iub.edu.pk

<sup>3</sup> Research Scholar (Pakistan Studies),  
Department of Pakistan Studies, The  
Islamia University of Bahawalpur,  
Pakistan.

Email: sana.fatima3400@gmail.com

<sup>4</sup> Research Scholar (Management  
Sciences), Institute of Business  
Management and Administrative  
Sciences, The Islamia University of  
Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

Email: taimoor077@gmail.com

<sup>5</sup> Research Scholar (Education),  
Department of Education, The Islamia  
University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan.  
Email: naveediqbal.nts@iub.edu.pk

**Corresponding Author's Email:**  
kashif.scholar640@gmail.com

**Copyright:**  
Author/s

**License:**



### Abstract

*In the heart of South Asia, a quiet revolution is unfolding, one inscribed not on the grime of highways but in the nooks of research, diplomacy, and unspoken aspirations. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a linchpin of China's Belt and Road Initiative, is reshaping the region's geopolitical landscape, trade routes, and connectivity far beyond its concrete highways and bustling ports. Yet, beneath the gleaming veneer of economic promises and infrastructural marvels, critical questions linger. What unseen costs and opportunities lie hidden in its wake? Who truly benefits, and at what ecological and social price?*

*This study delves into the scholarly exploration of CPEC through a bibliometric analysis of SCOPUS database of published research articles (2016–2024), uncovering a surge in academic interest, tripling by 2024, yet exposing glaring gaps. Why environmental risks, educational transformations, and innovation strategies are so scarcely studied? Behind the statistics, a puzzle emerges: Whose voices dominate this discourse, and whose remain unheard? Is the narrative shaped more by geopolitical interests than grassroots realities? Despite the growing literature, research remains fragmented, like scattered pieces of a mosaic awaiting assembly; each study a snapshot, but none capturing the full panorama. Our work bridges these fragments, tracing CPEC's academic evolution, pinpointing omissions, and issuing a call to action. To scholars, policymakers, and global stakeholders: CPEC is not merely a corridor of commerce but a testbed for sustainable development and regional synergy. Beyond economics, it demands scrutiny of labor rights, cultural exchange, and climate resilience. This is no ordinary review, it is a compass for a world hungry for connection, urging a deeper dive into CPEC's untapped potential. The revolution is quiet, but its echoes demand to be heard and will serve as a compass in a society that longs for relationships.*

**Keywords:** China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Bibliometric Analysis, Regional Integration, Sustainable Development

### Introduction

As Chinese President Xi Jinping once stated, “The Silk Road spirit—peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit—is the greatest legacy of human civilization.” This ethos lies at the heart of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) part of the One Belt and One Road Initiative presents one of the largest international infrastructural/developmental projects of the 21st century (Curtis & Klaus, 2024; Firdous et al., 2022; Y. Lu & Wolszczak-Derlacz, 2025; Nawaz, 2025; Yu, 2020).



OBOR was begun in 2013 and seeks to connect more than 60 countries through trade corridors across Asia, Europe, and Africa to alter global trade and political relationships (Firdous, et al., 2022; Haidar & Fang, 2019; Kelmendi et al., 2025; Mallick, 2024; Wasi, 2025). Being one of the most essential components of OBOR, CPEC may bring new economic changes and dramatically affect the distribution of South Asia and Middle East politics and power structure (S. Khan et al., 2025; H. Lu & Iqbal, 2025; Nawaz, 2025; Shaikh et al., 2016). As CPEC will boost the economy and establish better transport networks, energy sectors, and trade relations, it also promises to establish a strong tie between China and the region (Akram et al., 2025; Aziz & Naufaldi, 2025; Khetran & Khalid, 2019). In this regard, the importance of CPEC cannot be overemphasized, as it brings more connectivity to Pakistan and more access to energy, offering a greater degree of foreign investment (R. N. A. Khan & Khan, 2025; Nadeem et al., 2025; Ullah et al., 2021).

It serves as a corridor for mega projects across various fronts, including energy, transport infrastructure, education, and industrial growth, all of which are vital for Pakistan's betterment. Part and parcel of CPEC's credit is the enhancement of infrastructure, especially in the construction of roads, railways, and ports, which will substantially enhance trade and business between the two countries and the rest of the world (Kanwal et al., 2019; Mehdi Shah, 2025). The educational and social aspects of CPEC also positive as the literacy and skill development for the human capitals of the various academic institutions and the skill development projects shall improve the socio-economic standards of the people in not only in Pakistan but especially the rural areas of the country as well (Khalid et al., 2025; Muvawala et al., 2021; U. Shah et al., 2025). Furthermore, it is believed that CPEC will improve the energy sector in Pakistan, as it will help the country, which suffers from consistent power outages, to likely improve its energy supply, alleviate energy poverty, and support industrialization (Firdous et al., 2022; Hayat et al., 2025; Mehtab Shah & Khan, 2025). At the same time, the project will increase tangible possibilities for employment generation, poverty reduction, and local economic dynamism, said to dramatically affect the quality of life of millions of people in the area (Ahmed et al., 2025; Nazneen et al., 2019). However, there is a research gap in understanding the long-term impacts of CPEC that remains largely unexplored in the existing literature, particularly in reviewing the fresh and dynamic trends in academia that are currently emerging.

Despite the substantial literature examining the potential economic and geopolitical implications of CPEC to create a reality, the knowledge gaps and future research directions as revealed from the research trends of the recent literature (2016-2024) remain underexplored. This paper, therefore, sets out to perform a bibliometric analysis on CPEC to assess the progress of research on CPEC in the current years. This analysis will not only reveal the thematic development trajectory in the identified literature but also present novel areas of interest, cooperation tendencies, and the influence of leading authors and institutions on the academic field. There is an understanding that bibliometric analysis, being a quantitative research method, provides a viable means of mapping the resulting academic output in terms of publications, citations, and related collaboration trends of research papers. This enhances the understanding of research conducted on CPEC and its scientific production by providing information on productivity, key contributors, and the patterns of themes prevalent in the literature.

In addition, bibliometric analysis helps to understand topics that have been studied less and provides a clearer view of where the field is heading. This study aims to address the following research questions: Based on the research published between 2016 and 2024, what are the emerging trends and topics in the domain of CPEC? To what extent have nations, institutions, and authors contributed to the analysis of CPEC and held a significant share in it? To what extent has this research community been involved in international collaboration, and what factors have led to this collaboration? It is also important to understand the gaps and areas for further investigation that remain for future research in CPEC. As a result, this study aims to utilize the bibliometric method to analyse the CPEC literature from 2016 to 2024, contributing to a review of the current state of studies on CPEC and assisting policymakers, academics, and industrial players. The proposed approach will not only help to map the current state of research and scholarship on CPEC and similar projects, but also chart directions for future research that may be useful for increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of such infrastructure initiatives globally.



## Materials and Methods

### Data sources

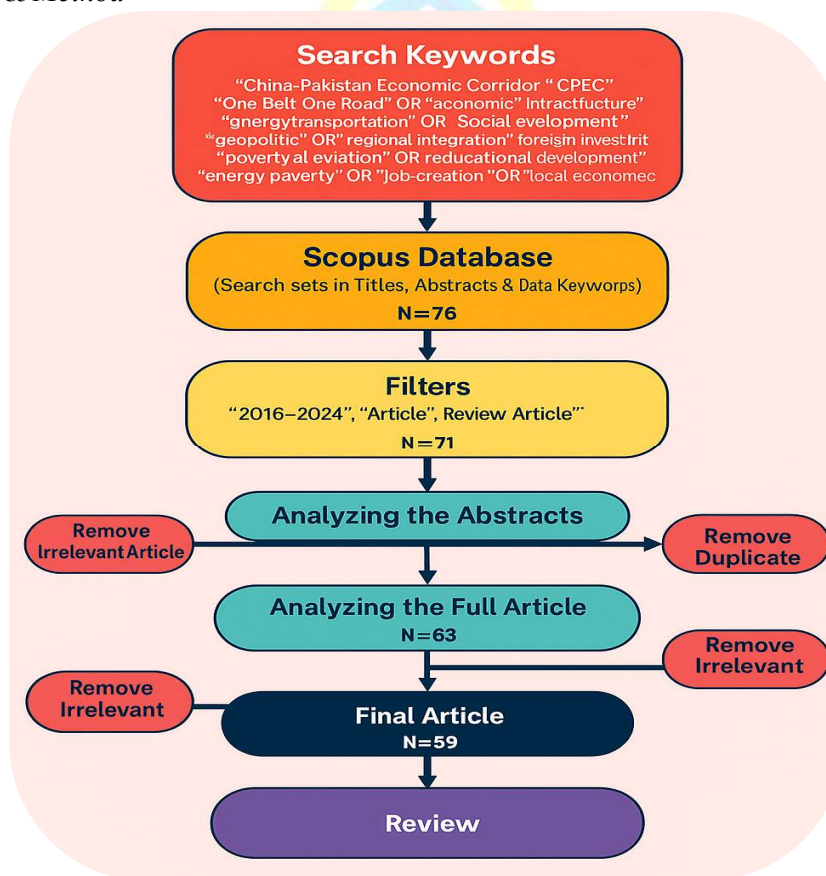
According to the guidelines of the present bibliometric study, SCOPUS was selected for the following reasons: It has a vast coverage, contains mostly peer-reviewed articles, and has sophisticated search functionalities. SCOPUS is one of the foremost abstract and citation databases that provides indispensable multidisciplinary research information required to understand the various dimensions of CPEC. It caters to diverse citation analysis, enabling one to assess the impact of research and identify leading players and trends. Since SCOPUS is an international database with comprehensive subject indexes, only publications existing in this source are reliable and appropriate for bibliometric analysis for the years 2016-2024.

### Search strategy for data from Web of Science

All publications related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and One Belt One Road (OBOR) from Scopus were gathered. A comprehensive search was conducted by using the following terms: ("China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" OR CPEC) AND ("One Belt One Road" OR OBOR) AND (economic OR infrastructure OR energy OR transportation OR "social development" OR geopolitics OR "regional integration" OR "foreign investment" OR "poverty alleviation" OR "educational development" OR "skill development" OR "energy poverty" OR "job creation" OR "local economic development") during the specific timespan: (2016–2024) and records indexed in: Social Sciences Citation Index, Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Conference Proceedings Citation Index-Science, Conference Proceedings Citation Index-Social Science and Humanities, Emerging Sources Citation Index, and dataset. The search for related documents was restricted to records written only in English with respect to document types. Various publications written in (Chinese\* OR Polish\* OR Spanish\* OR Russian\*) were excluded from the final analysis. Finally, the resulting Scopus.csv dataset was downloaded from Scopus, and accordingly, 59 reports related to CPEC and OBOR were included in the bibliometric analysis.

### Figure 1

#### Review framework & Method







## Data Analysis

Data were analysed using VOS viewer software, while the R package was utilized for frequency analysis, network analysis, and visualization of co-authorship. Spearman correlation coefficients were applied to assess the associations between the numbers of citations and study Variables.

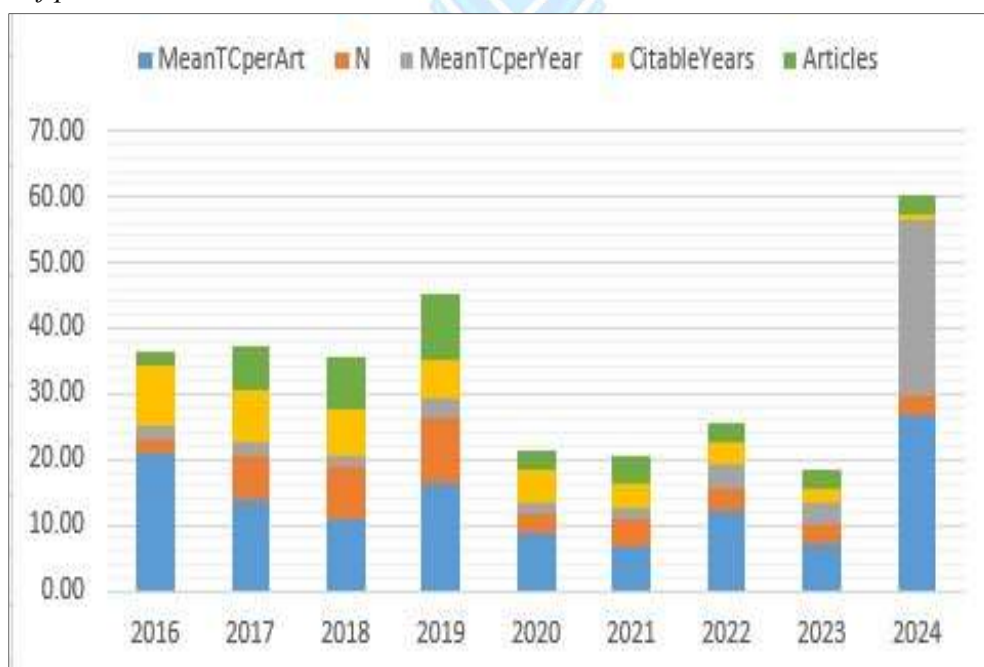
## Results

### *Annual trend of publications and citation scores*

The provided analytical work focuses on the CPEC literature, with trends in the rate of scientific output, citations, and research activity between 2016 and 2024. The x-axis represents years, illustrating the trend of research productivity over time, incorporating multiple metrics such as Mean TC per Article (Mean Total Citations per Article), N (Number of publications), Mean TC per Year (Mean Total Citations per Year), Citable Years, and Articles. The year-wise trend analysis of the chart, prepared from January 2016 to December 2019, reveals a consistent increase in both publications and citations, indicating continuous active research on CPEC. However, a negative trend is observed in the period 2020-2023, which can be attributed to external events such as COVID-19 or a transient shift in the type of investigations. Interestingly, the chart shows a higher research output rate and, in turn, new impact scores in 2024, indicating a resurgence of interest in the academic field and, possibly, an increase in dominant works during this period. The intensity of use is reflected in the escalation of scholarly citations and the number of published works, which continue to grow rapidly, making it pertinent to look beyond the prevailing paradigm to discover new trends, authors, and teaming patterns. This bibliometric analysis will provide an understanding of both the existing and potential areas for development in CPEC research, while identifying future trends for policymakers, academicians, and industrialists to enhance this epoch-making venture.

### Figure 2

*Annual trend of publications and citation scores*



### *Three-Field Plot*

This paper uses a Three-Field Plot to depict Cited References (CR), Authors (AU), and Descriptors/Keywords (DE) of the CPEC-related studies. On the left, the Cited References include the pioneering works on CPEC. They are categorized under the Economic, Geopolitical, and Infrastructure perspectives that the authors include, Ali A., Hussain E., Bhattacharjea D., and Ramay S.A. The frequent use of names like One Belt One Road (OBOR) and regional connectivity establishes the position of CPEC within

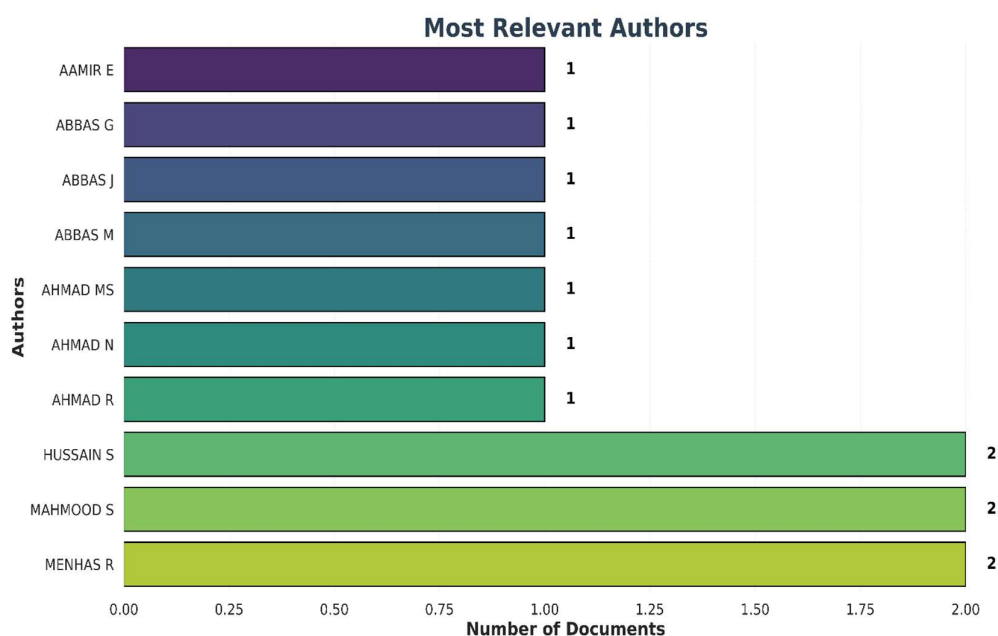




Policy Studies, China Report, Chinese Political Science Review, and Contemporary Chinese Political Economy and Strategic Studies, reflecting the growing interdisciplinary nature of research on CPEC. The sources discussed here address policy issues, regional development, and Chinese political economy, highlighting the multifaceted theme of CPEC. Likewise, the availability of conference proceedings highlights the expanded participation of industry professionals and academicians, underscoring the pragmatic application of CPEC in trade and global infrastructure debates. This visualization helps to explain the idea presented in the main text: CPEC research is interdisciplinary, covering economic development, integration, and policy. It also calls for future bibliometric analysis to identify new emerging publication outlets, cooperation prospects, and previously unexplored areas of research, such as social development, education, and energy poverty reduction. Due to the dynamic nature of academic works in this area and the assessment of existing knowledge gaps, this study can help in designing a research and policy brief on CPEC for the period between 2016 and 2024.

**Figure 4**

*Most Relevant Sources*

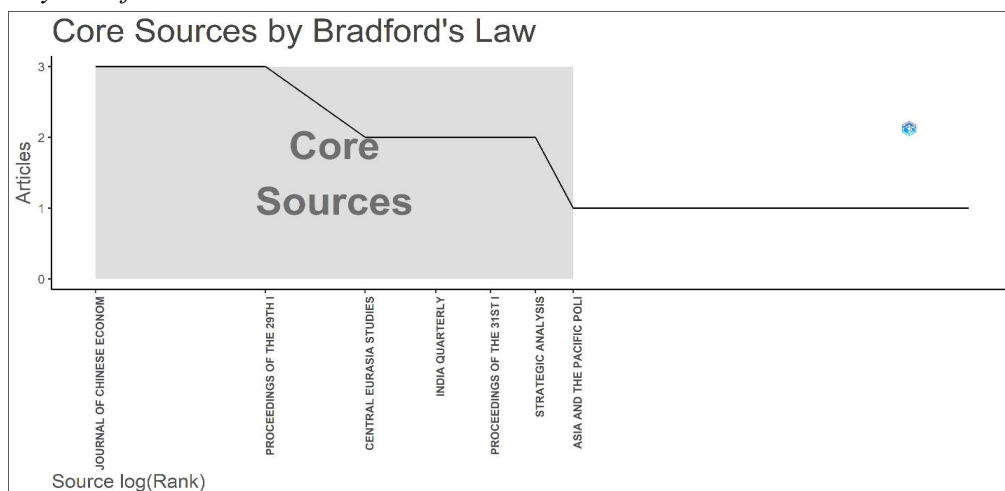


#### ***Core Sources by Bradford's Law***

The image below emphasizes the use of Bradford's Law when it comes to your research concerning CPEC for the years 2016 – 2024. Bradford's Law is established when there is a small number of prolific sources, to which many article contributions to a particular topic of interest can be attributed. At the same time, there are also numerous less productive sources that contribute only a few articles each. The shaded area in the graph represents these core sources, which are crucial for advancing this academic discourse on CPEC. The journals, which Main argues are most influential in CPEC, are the Journal of Chinese Economic Studies, Central Asian Studies, and Proceedings of the ISIAT Journal; all of these are key contributors to advancing the trends, newly developing themes, and key findings involved in CPEC. Going down the graph, the articles per source drop dramatically while showing the typical distribution where one set of journals is notably more productive than the other sources. When using bibliometric techniques, concentrating on these core sources will also help gain deeper insights into dominant or null hypotheses and identify key authors and institutions contributing to the CPEC literature. Besides, this quantitative method can inform potential areas of research, focusing on collaboration, and areas of weakness and lesser activity within the academic field. It is suggested that by systematically compiling the findings from such high-impact journals, your study will establish a comprehensive panorama of CPEC research development, providing valuable guidance for Policymakers, scholars, and related stakeholders who aim to optimize the long-term value of CPEC.



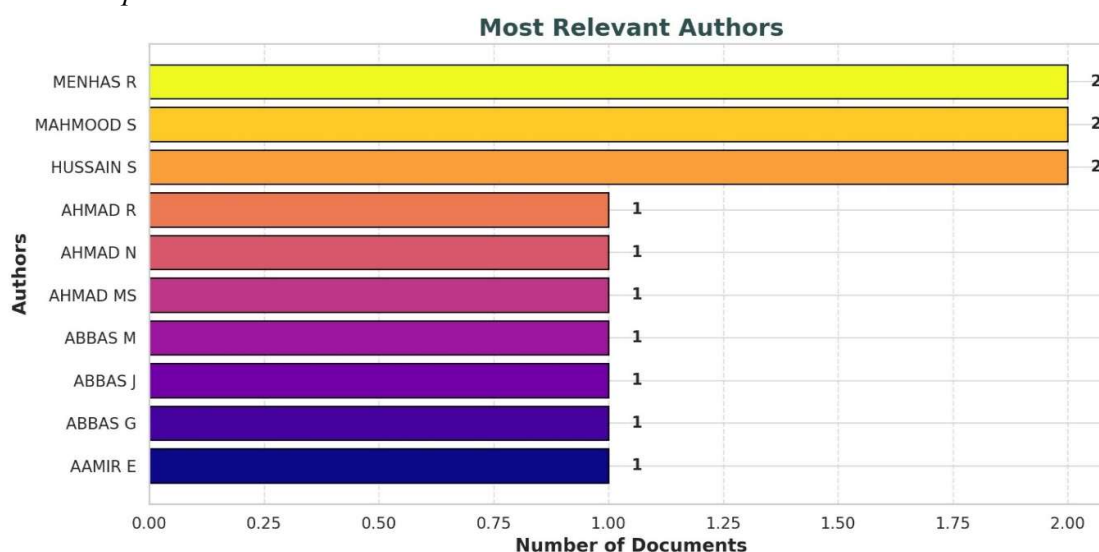
**Figure 5**  
*Core Sources by Bradford's Law*



### **Sources' Local Impact**

The image titled ‘Sources’ Local Impact by H-Index’ at the bottom of this page shows the contribution of different academic journals to the research fields related to CPEC & OBOR. Most notably, the “Journal of Chinese Economic and Foreign Trade Studies” has the highest average H-Index at 3, and the highest local citation impact and research contributions in “Strategic Analysis” with an average of 2. Other journals have a relatively more minor level of impact on the academic circle, where Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies has an H-index of 7, China Report has an H-index of 4, and Central Eurasia Studies has an H-index of 4. This distribution highlights the need to classify journals according to their impact factor as key channels for publishing important work on CPEC. In addition, it was also observed that the identified sources had a lower H-Index, indicating a literature gap that also shows scope for more high-quality research work, including articles to bolster the literature. This is quite useful for a bibliometric analysis of CPEC-related research between 2021 and 2024, as these points are key in selecting the best journals while considering the value of international collaborative and focused studies in enhancing academic contributions to CPEC improvement.

**Figure 6**  
*Sources Local Impact*





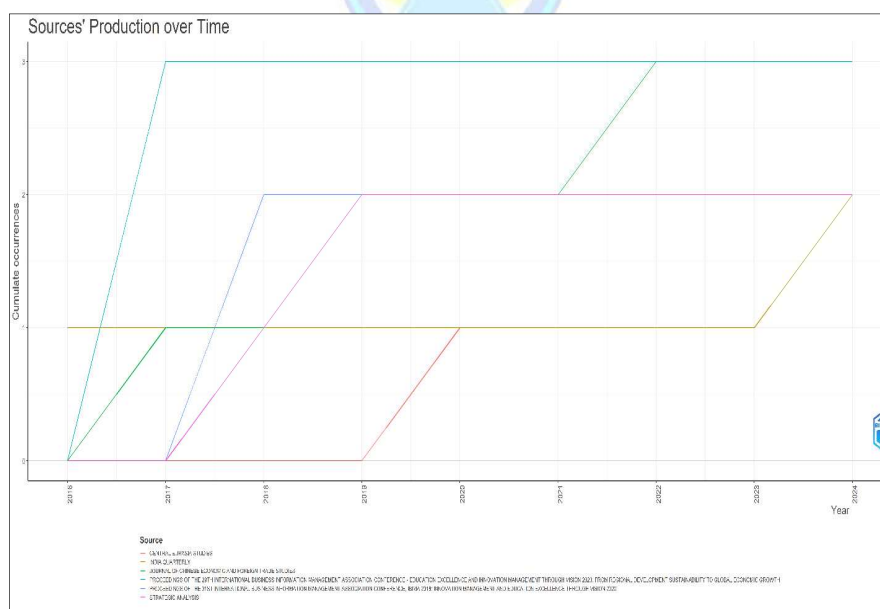


### ***Sources' Production over Time***

The graph, titled “Sources’ Production over Time,” is attached, showing the number of publications by various sources and revealing research trends for recent years. The graph represents the growth of literature between 2016 and 2020, with a notable increase in the years 2017, 2018, and 2020, indicating a greater emphasis on literature by academicians in those years. This period also corresponds to the critical stages of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's formation. The construction of new facilities and discussions of related policies may have contributed to the interest of scholars during these years. Some of them are strongly represented during the first years of publication and have remained important to the present time, such as the Cyan Journal of Chinese Economic and Foreign Trade Studies. Cumulative occurrences, however, stagnate after 2020, which may indicate that either the rate of new publications has slowed down or the focus of the research has shifted. The slight spike in 2023, as illustrated by the yellow line on the plot, could be attributed to policy reviews, progress reports, or new challenges within CPEC. This trend aligns well with the need for a bibliometric analysis of the period 2021-2024, as the current graph reveals gaps in the existing literature. It will make it easier to recognize leading sources, authors, and quantitatively track changes in thematic clusters within the research, providing insight into which topics have been explored in depth and which are still underrepresented. Consequently, by analysing these dynamics, this study could contribute to filling current gaps in the literature, reveal topics that received little attention, and encourage further research. In light of this graph, one can agree with the proposal to conduct a systematic literature review on the CPEC to gain a deeper understanding of its influence, advancements, and the quantity of academic involvement over time.

**Figure 7**

*Sources Production over Time*



### ***Most Relevant Authors***

The graph titled “Most Relevant Authors” attached below illustrates the authors who are most contributory to the CPEC literature. The graph also shows that Hussain S, Mahmood S, and Menhas R are the most active authors, with two publications listed under their names. This means that such people may have been the main contributors using scholarly work to the talks on the CPEC or may have looked at various aspects of it, including the economic, geopolitical or geostrategic and infrastructural elements of the project. Several authors are listed, including Amir E, Abbas G, Abbas J, Abbas M, Ahmad MS, Ahmad N, and Ahmad R, who each presented one document. This indicates a wider, yet somewhat less diverse, community of scholars who are proceeding with the analysis of CPEC's consequences in various domains. The fact that many authors provide singular works indicates that while the research community is not homogenous, it is not especially well-integrated. Although the current study aims to conduct a bibliometric analysis on a small scale,

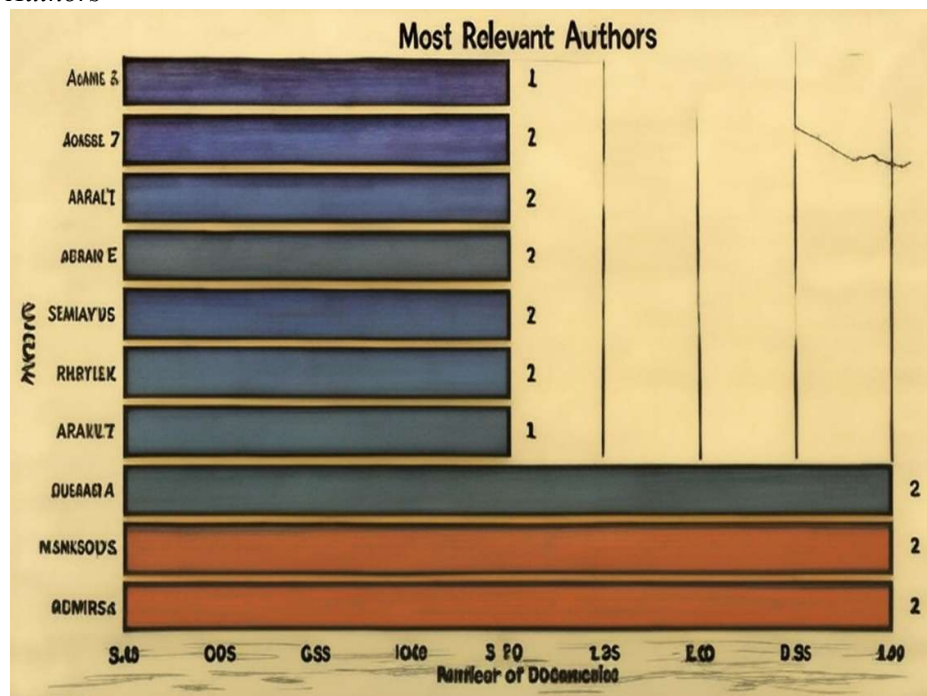




the locations presented in the following graph suggest the need to incorporate key player analysis in identifying leaders and their potential impact on the CPEC discourse in academic literature. Studying these authors could reveal the topical bones emerging from their works, explore patterns of co-authorship, and examine how these, and other, authors fit within the corpus's ongoing development. Moreover, such contributions can be tracked to develop a better understanding of potential research gaps and underrepresented fields of study that warrant more attention during the period of 2016–2024. It is based on this insight that it is possible to move forward the narrative about CPEC while inviting further scholarly scrutiny of the manifold dynamics of its implications.

**Figure 8**

*Most Relevant Authors*



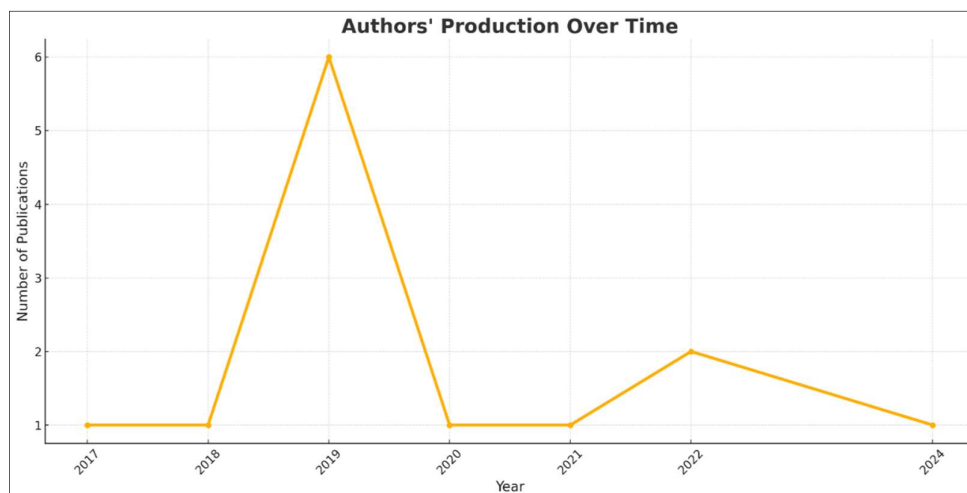
### *Authors' Production over Time*

The graph included in this paper is titled “Authors’ Production over Time” and illustrates the temporal distribution of scholarly output among authors closely connected to CPEC research. Some authors, including Hussain S, Mahmood S, and Menhas R, published their works in more than one year in the time span of 2019–2021, thereby categorizing them as annual contributors to CPEC literature. Hence, this consistency highlights their critical role in informing and projecting the emerging narrative of CPEC socio-economic and geopolitical impacts. However, other authors, such as Aamir E, Abbas G, Abbas J, Abbas M, Ahmad MS, Ahmad N, and Ahmad R, are presented with isolated outputs in the years 2017 and 2019, and a slightly rising trend in 2023. It presents the discontinuity of the work and the large number of authors who contribute sporadically, as well as a smaller number, but with considerable production. The size of the data points in the plot represents total citations TC per Year, and the difference in size means that authors and their works have different impact levels among the scholarly publications. When it comes to bibliometric, this graph suggests that analysing citation, authorship, and productivity, as well as the contributions made by highly influential scholars in sparking CPEC-related studies, is pivotal. Thus, it will be possible to obtain a more accurate picture of the research area if these leading authors are known and detailed information regarding their thematic interests and citation scores is acquired. In addition, the gaps identified on the temporal plane and the lowered level of activity within the last years (after 2021) stress the need to address these gaps with further research. This also fits the purposes of the study: to discover trends, establish partnership patterns, and pinpoint gaps in the literature developing on CPEC between the years 2016 and 2024.



**Figure 9**

*Authors Production over Time*



### ***Authors' Local Impact***

The CPEC infographic also includes a graph labelled “Authors Local Impact by H-Index,” which measures the academic relevance of the critical author’s active in the CPEC research field. Another global citation score used to measure scholarly output is the H-Index. In this graph, Hussain S, Mahmood S, and Menhas R contributed the most, except for the Work/Research done by RazaMH, which has the highest H-Index of 2. This indicates that their research has not only produced multiple documents but also has a better citation rate than others. This makes them conform to the influence of influential players in the CPEC research society, given that their papers are published and quoted more often. The other authors, who include Aamir E, Abbas G, Abbas J, Abbas M, Ahmad MS, Ahmad R, and Ahmed A, contribute to it with an h-index of 1, indicating that the work created by these authors has not received widespread usage. These authors have also published valuable works; however, their papers have not achieved the same level of cumulative citations over several years, indicating either more recent publications by these authors or solitary works that have not received further attention. From the bibliometric point of view, this graph brings out the major actors who are leading change in the kind of research about CPEC being generated, while at the same time revealing the fragmented nature of the academic work being done. The difference between H-Index can also indicate the potential for authors' cooperation to enhance the overall outcomes achieved by the research. Similarly, more attention should be paid to authors who have a relatively low H-Index but are still growing, including Hussain S, Mahmood S, and Menhas R, to understand better the more recent trends in the CPEC research agenda. Knowledge of these authors’ work helps construct future research agendas and identify areas for further research, especially since this research will explore current trends in CPEC literature from 2016 to 2024.

### ***Bibliographic coupling Documents***

The co-citation network map displayed below was developed using VOSviewer and depicts the connections between authors and actual alliances within CPEC-related research, as well as thematic clusters in the CPEC literature. Analysing the academic green network with VOS viewer software, (Menhas et al., 2019) is designated as the most central node among all the authors, and thus, the critical players who determine the discourse on CPEC in the academic field. The heavy linkage with (Menhas, et al., 2019) and with other authors like (Uberoi, 2016), and (Tayeh & Ghanem, 2023) indicates more on infrastructural themes like developmental, geopolitics, and socio-economic conjunctures of CPEC. In the same vein, the red cluster, including Asees Awan (2019) and Mukhtar (2022), might contain measures, efficiency, and financial aspects or concern with the case studies and sectoral effects of the project; the blue cluster, with Mahmood (2022), Ashraf (2023), and Hassan (2022), may represent the recent studies will consider the emergent topics, such as sustainability, partnership, The connections between the clusters show valuable co-citation ties that denote a large number of co-citations among Menhas (2019), Mahmood (2022), and Gholizadeh (2020), favorite

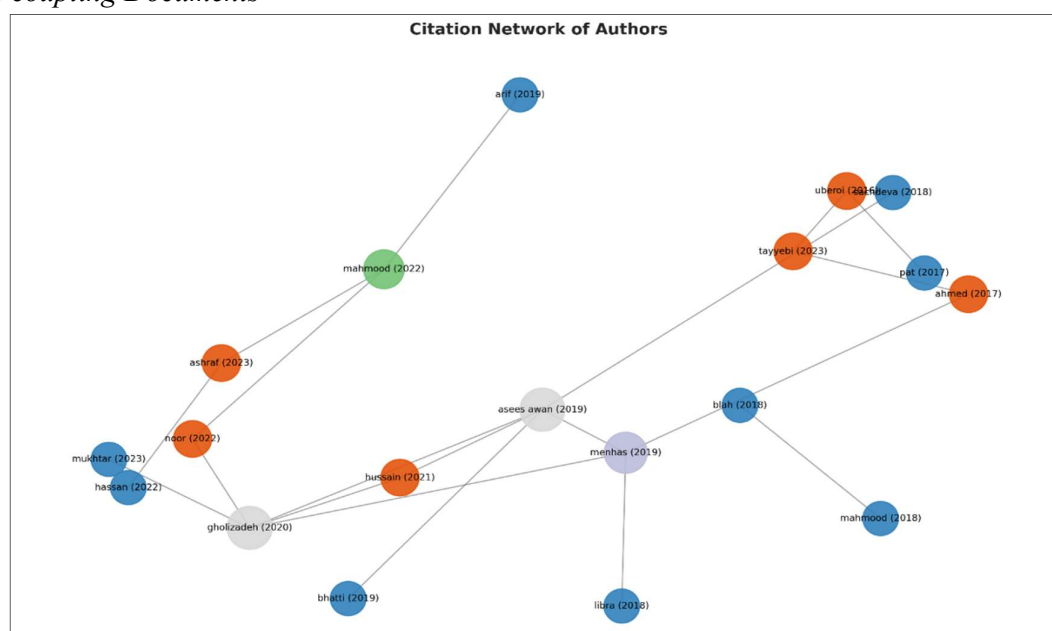


sources of both their research articles and papers. Instead, peripheral nodes such as Ibrar (2018) and Blah (2018) include papers that seem to be less linked to other published research as much as central nodes are. Methodologically, foundational works that contributed before 2020 include Uberoi (2016) and Ahmed (2017). Studies after 2020 are Ashraf (2023) and Tayeh & Ghanem (2023), which illustrate that the CPEC literature is progressive and is reshaping according to the present-day dynamics prevailing in the global world.

This visualization is more apt for our study's objective of identifying patterns and trends, as well as collaboration and research gaps, in the CPEC literature from 2016 to 2024. It highlights the connections between authors, identifies key players driving the discipline forward, and illustrates how major themes are distributed across SECECHA. Analysing these patterns, the study may reveal the weaknesses of the current research, develop new avenues for cooperation, and outline directions for enhancing academic knowledge about CPEC and its impacts.

### Figure 10

#### *Bibliographic coupling Documents*



#### *Bibliographic coupling Authors*

Using VOS viewer, the citation network of this study is also shown in the attached conception map, in which the position and extent of the network reflect the connections and the level of impact of the authors involved in the CPEC-associated work. At the core of the network, Mahmood Shahid holds a position representing the hub, which is linked to several authors, including Ghulam Abbas, Ahmed Adeel, and Amna Nira. This centrality shows Mahmood has been involved in coordinating research collaboration, probably on issues of infrastructure construction, economic effects and sustainable development in the framework of CPEC. The name and image of Muhammad Salman Ahmad belong to the second layer of nodes and can be viewed as discrete, separate units, connected with other elements by long lines. This implies that, although Ahmad's work is highly cited, it remains less interconnected in the body of research literature, a trend characteristic of this community – one of high citation rates but low cooperation. They also identify several other comparatively minor co-authorship networks, especially in the context of Amna Nira and Mahmood Shahid, which may indicate specific research groupings focusing on aspects of CPEC, such as policy issues or regional studies. Such nodes can be identified as peripheral and hence may include authors like Babar Ansari and Hameed Rizwana, who are essentially isolated nodes that produce only a few outputs but are connected to the network. These cracks suggest a research environment that is highly coordinated, although some individuals exert coercive control over large groups, while others are marginalized.

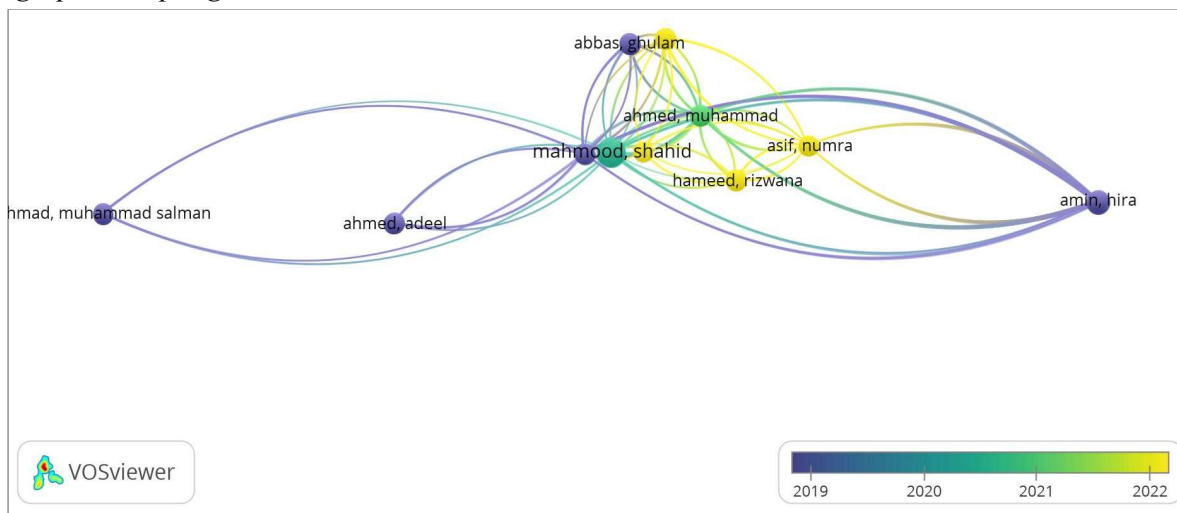
This citation network is beneficial for the specific goal of this study, which aims to assess author



prominence, cooperation patterns, and topical niche in the CPEC literature published between 2016 and 2024. Scholars such as Mahmood Shahid contribute to the advancement of original research and knowledge in their field, and the isolated nodes represent potential areas for the development of academic collaboration over the quadrennial period. Overcoming this dualism through coordination and integration may improve the overall comprehension of CPEC's broad effects. This research effort will also serve to identify these key contributors to the development of specific themes and their areas of research interest, which can be used to inform future research directions and interdisciplinary collaboration to close emerging thematic gaps.

**Figure 11**

*Bibliographic coupling Authors*



### **Reference Spectroscopy**

An important factor is that studies provide valuable insights into the time References of literature related to CPEC. The graph depicting the cited references is the black line, and the red line gives the variation with the 5-year moving median. The plot shows the growth of the number of references from the middle of 2010 to mid-2014, with a significant increase in the middle of 2015-2016. This aligns with the first and second phases of the Chinese Marshals, the official landmark and initial phases of the CPEC, also known as the Belt and Road Initiative, which began in 2013. It has clearly shown that a vast increase in references during this period shows growing interest in and research work conducted in this area due to the political and economic implications of CPEC. Before the mid-2010s, the number of cited references was still insignificant, indicating that the academic community had paid scant attention to CPEC and its associated topics. This pattern suggests that prior to this period, when many people in the region began to seek significant development through CPEC, relatively few studies were conducted on infrastructural and economic development. The subsequent increase in the number of references corresponds to the increasing scholarly interest in the subject of CPEC's capacity to revolutionize trade connectivity, energy systems, and socio-economic growth in Pakistan and other countries. At the same time, this peak may also indicate the first round of pioneering research that informs subsequent examinations of CPEC's impact across various sectors. After 2016, a negative trend is observed, but the count remains higher than the baseline, suggesting fluctuation after 2015.

This reduction could indicate that scholars became less inclined to conduct primary research, as they were already focused on the sustained study of CPEC's civilizational effects, new issues and opportunities, and selected areas of the deal worldwide. The highlighted deviations of the red line indicate fluctuations in the volatility of the reference volume, where the spikes represent denser concentrations of research activity. This paper will assess the emergent themes, citation patterns, and gaps in the CPEC literature from 2016 to 2024. These overall features suggest that the mid-2010s were a key period for institutional-oriented scholarship, but also demonstrate that the subsequent period offers keen research opportunities in under-documented areas and innovative approaches. Thus, a bibliometric study will identify such trends and offer

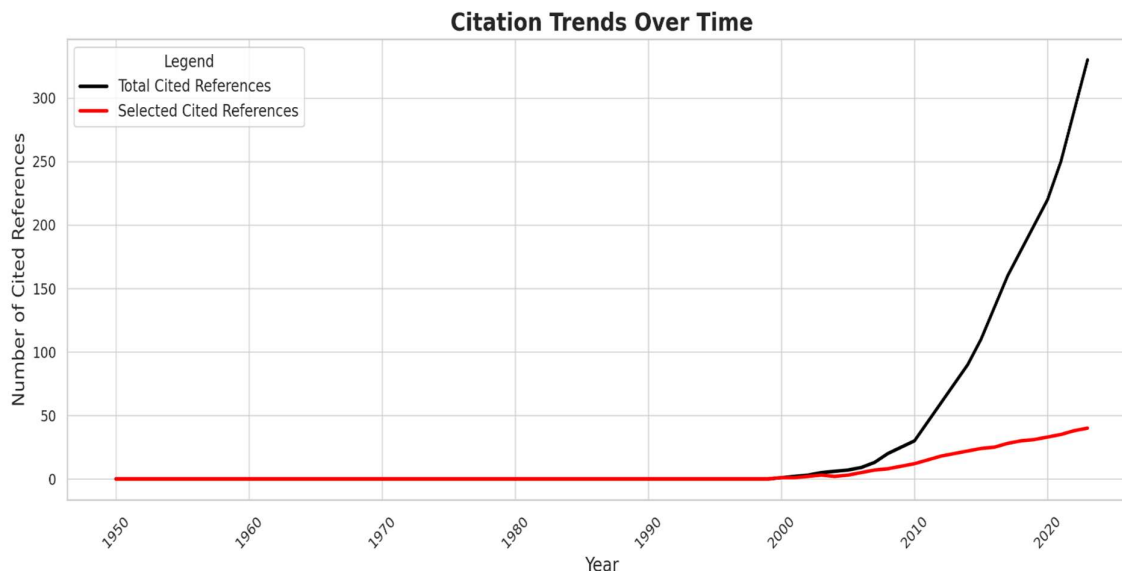




essential information to policymakers, academics, and industry participants regarding the development of CPEC and the related scholarly discussions.

**Figure 12**

*Reference Spectroscopy*



### Word Cloud

A word cloud included as an appendix presents many of the terms frequently used in the literature regarding CPEC, along with their relative frequency of usage, thereby highlighting themes and areas that are more prevalent in academic research. The largest words, such as “Pakistan, ‘China’, ‘economic development’, ‘sustainable development’, and ‘investments’, suggest priorities in the discourse. It is also worth noting the increased emphasis on the trade and development aspects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is well in line with the goals of the CPEC to promote trade, connectivity, and development. Other terms are ‘road and street,’ ‘regional planning,’ ‘highway management,’ and ‘CPEC,’ which is more inclined towards the infrastructural aspect of the process, including transportation, and logistics that form the core of connectivity on which CPEC fine-tunes by connecting China with Pakistan and the South Asia region. Moreover, terms like ‘environmental management’, ‘risk assessment’, and ‘renewable energy’ also indicate that there is a nascent but slowly emerging scholarship of sustainability and environmental concerns in the context of CPEC projects needed for sustainable economic development.

Phrases such as ‘commerce’, ‘tourism’, ‘innovation, investment opportunities’, as well as ‘government’, probably indicate the cross-sectional effects of CPEC on different domains, including commerce, innovation, and government. The socio-economic concepts include ‘poverty,’ ‘quality of life,’ ‘workforce,’ accentuating socio-economic realities like poverty reduction, job creation, and standards of living in the local Pakistani community. Overall, the word cloud responds to the aim of defining the nature of research in the CPEC area, focusing on primary topics and trends. This illustrates how economic and infrastructure development co-emerge alongside other areas of study, such as environmental, risk, and socio-economic aspects. Therefore, by numerically comparing the occurrence and co-occurrences of these terms in this study, it is possible to gain a better conceptual understanding of the development of the research field, uncover the existing research gaps, and suggest further directions for scholarly investigation of the effects and issues related to CPEC.



**Figure 13**  
*Word Cloud*



### ***Most Frequent Words***

The following graph, which is called “Most Relevant Words,” shows the result of the keyword analysis computed based on the frequency of their appearance in the CPEC-related literature that is attached to this paper. Pakistan and China are at the top of the list, ranked 13th and 12th, respectively, highlighting the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Which Is Fundamental for regional connectivity and economic development. These two keywords represent the primary geopolitical and economic interests of the CPEC research. Right behind is ‘economic development’ and ‘sustainable development’, with both appearing 8 times, closely mirroring the dual focus of the project on enhancing economic assets alongside concern for sustainability. These themes align with CPEC’s goals, sharing development objectives such as industrialization and poverty eradication, and incorporating sustainability goals within the framework of large-scale development projects.

Similarly, descriptive words such as ‘economics’ and ‘investments’ (both appear 6 times) indicate that scholars are keen on assessing the potential economic gains, as well as break-even and new investment returns, that have resulted from the CPEC. Specific fields of study that have been indicated include the following words, listed by their frequency of usage: CPEC, Information management, and Roads and streets. Studying different types of infrastructure development, existing logistics chains, and coping strategies for data and resources confirmed that these sectors remain the primary issues for understanding CPEC's effective implementation and functioning. Furthermore, the frequent usage of ‘commerce’ (four times) refers to the continued discussion of developmental aspects of trade enablers and economic integration as key themes of CPEC.

This analysis aligns with the purpose of this study, which is to identify emerging trends in research and the primary themes in the CPEC literature. This result reflects the current trends in the scholarly community, as evidenced by the overrepresentation of economic, infrastructural, and sustainability keywords and the underrepresentation of more specialized keywords. For example, issues such as social issues, education, and regional differentiation may deserve more focus to gain a comprehensive picture of the tremendous influence CPEC brings. Thus, by identifying these thematic priorities, the study can inform future research directions, highlight areas for improvement and gaps in the existing literature, and also identify the stratified gains of CPEC.



**Figure 14**  
*Most Frequent Words*



#### ***Co-occurrence Network***

This co-occurrence network also maps out the thematic readability and relations between the high-frequency keywords in CPEC literature, with the two main clusters as the red and blue groups. Indeed, the two most important words in the red cluster, ‘Pakistan’ and ‘China’, are the names of the two countries that are at the heart of CPEC research. This cluster focuses on the socio-economic and political aspects of the China-Pakistan cooperation, and it is highly associated with terms like “economic development”, “poverty”, “environmental risk”, and “politics” \*. These links, therefore, suggest that the journal's scholarship is primarily concerned with issues of poverty, governance, and the environmental impact of large-scale development projects, such as CPEC. Finally, the coexistence of both “environmental economics” and “tourism” raises further concerns about the sustainability of development alongside increased economic development and job opportunities. On the contrary, the blue cluster is characterized by several keywords such as ‘sustainable development’, ‘investments, economics, and ‘information management’, describing studies concentrating on infrastructure and economic integration as well as sustainable development. Preliminary discussions are marked by terms like ‘regional planning’, ‘highway administration’, ‘roads and streets’, which underscore infrastructural processes in CPEC, especially transport, communication, and connectivity for trade. The intertwining of these themes and top red-cluster keywords, such as “Pakistan” and “China,” also shows how the rising economic objectives of CPEC are beginning to be considered in conjunction with developing sustainability issues.

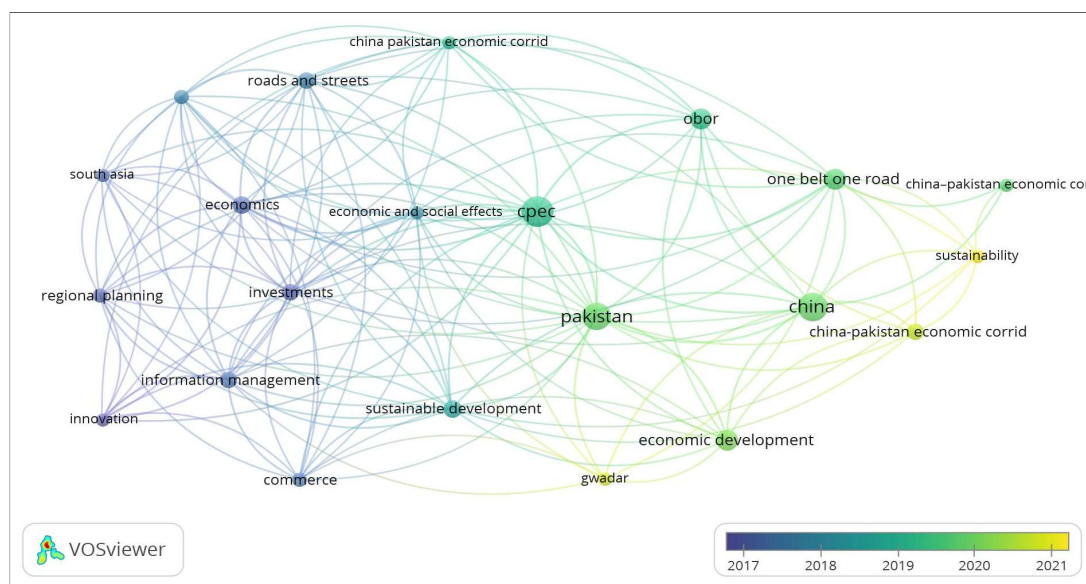
This also reveals some other rising themes of the network, including ‘investment opportunities’ in developing countries and ‘regional planning’, which represents the increasing research attention to more extensive regional effects and economic cooperation. On the contrary, terms such as ‘environmental risk’ and ‘politics’ denote seemingly intractable problems related to asserting state sovereignty, environmental conservation, and the political economy of ‘CPEC’. Simplified symbols, including ‘tourism’, ‘innovation’, and ‘humans’, represent the scope of critical research in the field that has remained untouched by literature. This analysis aligns with the study's aims and objectives of categorizing research trends, thematic focus, and research gaps in the CPEC literature from 2016 to 2024. The overwhelming majority of conjunction-related keywords identified are still related to economic and sustainable development, based on the findings, which proves the significance of the CPEC for infrastructure and the region’s development. However, any empirical analyses that are dominated by variables related to the financial components of countries are likely to overlook



some social facets that can also affect these areas of interest, such as education and innovation. Through the analysis of these thematic clusters and their relationships, this study contributes to the development of practical directions for advancing the scholarly debate, outlining key research priorities to address existing threats and enhance the potential of CPEC.

**Figure 15**

*Co-occurrence Network*



### Thematic Map

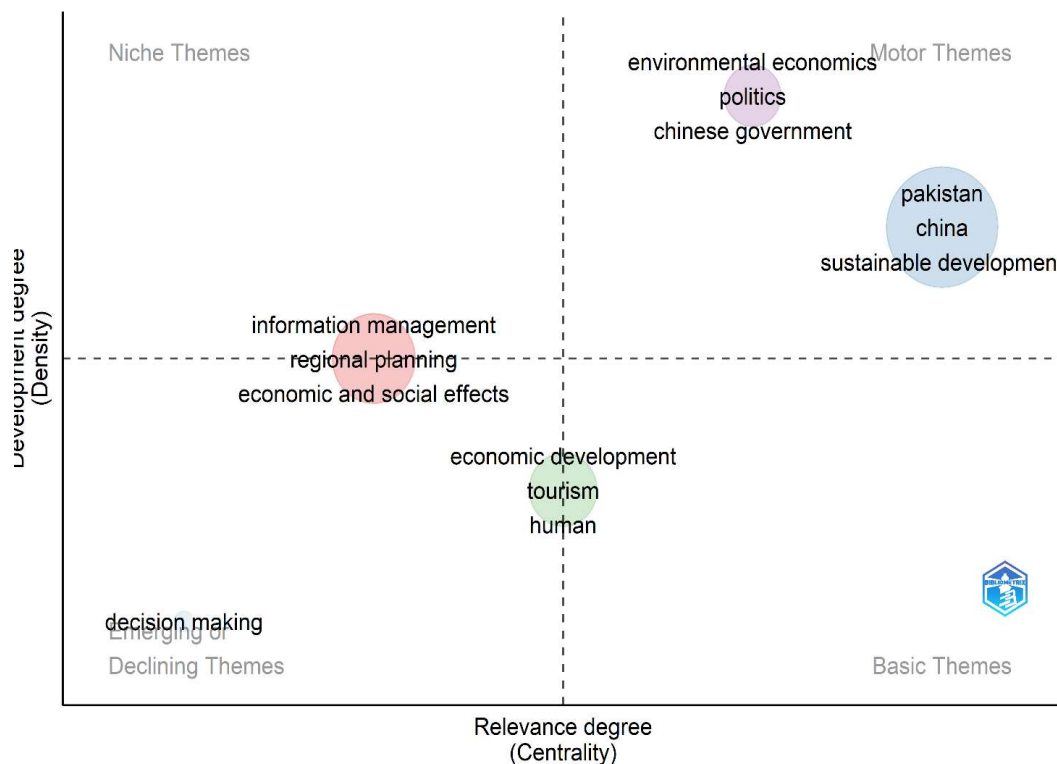
The resulting graph at the centre of the network consists of several ‘keywords’, the most frequent and connected of which are ‘Pakistan’ and ‘China’, which link the entirety of the work to the subject of CPEC-related research. All these terms serve as the frame of reference for examining various aspects of the project. Around these core nodes, there are many densely connected terms, such as ‘economic development,’ ‘roads and streets,’ ‘commerce,’ ‘environmental management,’ and ‘politics,’ which reflect a wide range of other concerns that scholars examine. The economic and infrastructure-focused cluster maps concepts such as ‘economics,’ ‘developing countries,’ ‘risk analysis,’ and ‘investment attractiveness,’ which collectively indicate that there has been much academic interest in exploring CPEC as an agent of economic development and trade and risk assessment. The network also facilitates the identification of distinct thematic clusters. The purple cluster is directly associated with governance and consists of words including ‘government,’ ‘population dynamics,’ and ‘politics’. Hence, it captures attempts by scholars in this line to understand the political ramifications and governance dynamics of CPEC. The green cluster is also related to terms such as “economic development”, “human,” and “tourism”, reflecting research topics related to the socio-economic aspects of the corridor, in particular, people’s development, and the new possibilities for tourism.

The red cluster focuses on Information and Management keywords, such as ‘information management,’ ‘regional planning,’ and ‘investment opportunities,’ which capture the implementation aspects of both the operation and strategy of CPEC. Other relatively rare terms are found in smaller clusters. For example, the orange and yellow ones, concerning decision-making and socioeconomic factors, as well as controversial environmental issues such as carbon dioxide and renewable energy, show an increase in awareness of environment-associated risks. The above network illustrates the complexity of CPEC research, spanning infrastructure, economic, governance, and environmental domains. Cluster density here indicates that these topics are not mutually exclusive but are linked in various ways, suggesting the complex nature of CPEC, a large-scale development project. Nevertheless, there are also some peripheral nodes indicated, including “fuzzy mathematics” and “case studies.” Therefore, one can identify areas of study that are both conceptual and informative, as well as new and uncharted.





**Figure 16**  
*Thematic Map*



### ***Countries' Collaboration World Map***

The Country Collaboration Map in the file 'Country Collaboration Map' shows how various countries are connected in view of their academic contributions to CPEC. Of these collaborations, Pakistan and China emerge as two of the most significant drivers, as they play a central role in the construction and research of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). These countries are shaded in dark blue to indicate the regions where the highest level of research activities and collaborations. The map has also showcased that other nations are highly involved, especially the USA, Australia, and the UK, as depicted in a low intensity of blue color. This indicates that they have been involved in research and academic work on CPEC, collaborating with counterparts from other countries. The inclusion of these countries signals an increased stake for significant economies of the world in terms of economic, political, and social impact of CPEC. Furthermore, the moderate collaboration between Iran, India, and South Asian countries is also depicted on the map, highlighting the regional importance of CPEC.

Notably, the map reveals that current cooperation with representatives of the Global North is shifting towards scholars from Pakistan and China. This is evident in the increasing reliance on transnational research networks to explain large-scale infrastructures, such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which have significant consequences for global trade, investments, and sustainable development. The most intertwined connection can be identified between China and Pakistan, as the two countries are partners in both strategies and share academic interests in CPEC. This substantial bilateral tie forms the basis for a considerable amount of the current literature on the economic, political, and infrastructural characteristics of the corridor. On the same measure, the moderate level of interest from countries, such as Australia, points to new voices examining the environmental and socio-economic costs of CPEC.



**Figure 17**  
*Countries' Collaboration World Map*



## Results and Discussion

In response to foundational research questions regarding trends, authors, and themes in CPEC studies from 2016 to 2024, this study addresses significant knowledge gaps. Concerning the formulated research questions, this study aimed to identify the key patterns in the existing literature on CPEC, as well as the important contributors in terms of authors/institutions, and the current gaps that hinder an understanding of CPEC's broad impacts. This paper aimed to present a systematic bibliometric review covering a wide area of CPEC, as the earlier literature lacked a structured approach. Moreover, the analysed output reveals patterns of activity and productivity, as well as the direction of development during the studied period, although these patterns are rather generalized and characterized by fluctuations rather than steady tendencies. According to the annual studies of publications and citations, growth was observed in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, indicating that the corridor has enhanced trade connectivity and infrastructural modernization. However, the decline in 2020–2023, primarily, perhaps, due to the disruptions arising from the coronavirus outbreak, is indicative of a temporary deviation in research interest. However, the totals for the year suggest a strong upturn in 2024, showing that both the corridor and academic work remain active. This trend underscores the need to maintain a constant academic activity to respond to new challenges and deepen the understanding of CPEC's opportunities.

It can be said based on the frequently occurring keywords like “economic development,” “Regional integration,” and “Environmental sustainability” that this survey's major theme areas include economic development, regional integration, and environmental sustainability. These findings complement the main thrust of CPEC, which aimed to increase connectivity and trade, address the energy deficit, and achieve socio-economic development. It, however, breaks the thematic mapping down to topics that need more attention, including education, workforce, and innovation. Their closing is especially important, given that these links constitute essential components of the sustainable development model, which directly affect the welfare of local populations and the sustainability of project outcomes. The study also helps to shed light on the lack of unity within the research community. However, most authors have only contributed individually and infrequently, even though there are some frequent contributors whose identities include Hussain S., Mahmood S., and Menhas R. This uneven collaboration underscores a key research question: In what way can the International and Interdisciplinary collaborations be enhanced to ensure that the CPEC is given a



comprehensive view? The octagonal area of the Country Collaboration Map concerning the Country Collaboration Map of the present SAARC members, based on the proposed Country Collaboration Map of China and Pakistan, suggests substantial connectivity between the principal performers of the present SAARC collaboration, yet scant interface of other SAARC members with the selectors of the present SAARC collaboration. While some countries, including the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom, demonstrated interest at a somewhat adequate level, it remains necessary to partially expand the scope of cooperation to contemplate a fuller range of insights and approaches from ILS-affected countries worldwide. In addition, the analysis of bibliographic coupling and co-occurrence methods reveals future research areas, including environmental risk management, renewable energy, and regional tourism. These themes indicate an emerging paradigm of Scholarly pursuit of economic enfranchisement accompanied by environmental responsibility. Although it is imperative to note that education and skills development are only underrepresented within the thematic clusters. This raises another research question: Thus, the social and educational staying power effects of CPEC on the local populace and how they may be leveraged towards the right investment in human capital formation need to be assessed in relation to Pakistan.

This study also highlights several overlooked factors, despite the vast amount of research on economic and infrastructural dimensions – some of these are discussed below. Education, innovation, and policy equality have not received adequate attention, as demands arising from complex problems indicate the need for interdisciplinary solutions. It is proposed that subsequent studies should focus on the socio-cultural impact of CPEC with special emphasis on measures to promote the uplift of deprived sections of society and how the cost-benefit model can be shared. Additionally, an increase in collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to defining the research field can contribute to resolving the existing fragmentation within the research community. The implications of this research are apparent for policymakers and other stakeholders. By filling in the research gaps mentioned, political decision-makers can enhance their understanding of CPEC's multifaceted processes and make informed choices to maximize the benefits received. Pursuing efforts toward international cooperation on a problem helps solve the problem of fragmentation in academic research areas and interdisciplinary research. This paper also maps out a research agenda for the analysis of the theme by systematically analysing key trends, contributors, and thematic priorities within the CPEC literature.

## Conclusion

At the end of this academic adventure, what we are left with is not so much raw data or a statistical overview of tendencies, but a story with more layers, a story that consists not only of ambition and hope, but also of those gossamer strands of untapped potential. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in its full stature and multifaceted nature, is a bridge between the two hearts of China and Pakistan, not just in infrastructural and industrial trade, but also a dream to ensure that this region is united, uplifted, and prosperous. The study employs a bibliometric approach spanning eight consecutive years (2016-2024) and builds upon the work of scholars who had the courage to undertake this ambitious project. Their publications, like love letters left throughout history, indicate a zeal for economic growth, regional integration, and a future worth living. But, beyond the warm halo of this passion is a silent sorrow--the under-explored frontiers of social uplift, education, human capital, and innovation. This is the story that has yet to be narrated, the hands that have yet to be held. This research sheds light on those silences in the spirit of profound relationships. It takes the beating of what is spoken and longs after what is unstated. It tells about steel and steel-made roads, but it also talks about the unseen roads, the roads of dreams and talents, of everyday people and their invincibility, which can give way to change not in policy, but in borders.

As the study appears to provide sensible advice to policymakers and stakeholders, reminding them to construct not only structures but also futures, it has its own limitations. It understands that love is like knowledge, which cannot be confined to the use of a single language or a single database. Using only SCOPUS and English-speaking resources, however, it has not given a voice to stories that belong to this group narrative, including those in Chinese, Urdu, and regional languages. Future researchers are, therefore, invited to listen more widely, see more profoundly, and include more voices, cultures, and disciplines in the discussion. It is a romance in cooperating, in constructing with others what one single individual could never build. Future studies should aim to investigate the social impact of CPEC, examining its effects on classrooms, workers,



women, the marginalized, and the young. Let it open the possibilities of what CPEC can be rather than what it is. The pages have been turned, the patterns are detectable, and the silences have been addressed in this bibliometric fable. An analysis has evolved into an invitation, a call to arms, to first academics, secondly leaders, and thirdly visionaries, to turn away from the maps and metrics and witness CPEC as it is: a story that is still being written, and has not yet finished being written. And just like any great love story, its future is based not solely on schemes made in boardrooms but on the ability to dream of a new kind of growth, the one in which prosperity reaches all hands, in which knowledge is not inequality, and in which growth captures even the farthest heart. There, the real potential of CPEC would be realized at long last, not as a project, but as a joint heritage of dreams, affiliation, and change.

## References

- Ahmed, Z., Nihei, T., & Ali, N. (2025). China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): A Long-Term Sustainable Development Project, Challenges and Opportunities for Tourism Sector in Pakistan. *Journal of Development and Social Sciences*, 6(1), 419-432.
- Akram, M. R., Mustafa, G., Taimoor, M., & Anwar, M. W. (2025). Geopolitical Paradigms of CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor): Challenges and Opportunities. *The Journal of Research Review*, 2(01), 243-253.
- Aziz, M. A., & Naufaldi, A. (2025). The Role of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Promoting Regional Peace and Security China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Issue. *PROIROFONIC*, 1(1), 505-511.
- Curtis, S., & Klaus, I. (2024). *The Belt and Road City: geopolitics, urbanization, and China's search for a new international order*: Yale University Press.
- Firdous, N., Arbab, A. A. I., & Khan, M. A. (2022). A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF CPEC UNDER ONE BELT AND ONE ROAD: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS. *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs*, 5(1).
- Haidar, S., & Fang, F. (2019). English language in education and globalization: A comparative analysis of the role of English in Pakistan and China. *Asia Pacific Journal of Education*, 39(2), 165-176.
- Hayat, S., Khalil, N. U. K., Rizwan, M., & Butt, S. (2025). Pakistan Foreign Policy Dynamics: Exploring The Interplay of CPEC, Energy Security, Environmental Concerns and Diplomatic Engagements. *Social Science Review Archives*, 3(3), 150-177.
- Kanwal, S., Chong, R., & Pitafi, A. H. (2019). China-Pakistan economic corridor projects development in Pakistan: Local citizens benefits perspective. *Journal of Public Affairs*, 19(1), e1888.
- Kelmendi, J., Beqiri, A., Shuajibi, E., Talibzade, O., & Ketners, K. (2025). The impact of geopolitical tensions on global supply chains and international trade. *Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Terapan Universitas Jambi*, 9(2).
- Khalid, A., Naseem, I., Kamran, S. M., Khan, M. B., Abro, M. M. Q., & Zaman, K. (2025). Strategic Dimensions of Pakistan's Foreign Policy: The Role of CPEC, Energy Security, and Environmental Sustainability. *Journal of Asian Development Studies*, 14(1), 74-88.
- Khan, R. N. A., & Khan, A. U. (2025). CPEC Plus: Advancing Geo-Economic, Regional Connectivity And Geo-Strategic Domains. *Policy Journal of Social Science Review*, 3(3), 297-309.
- Khan, S., Kakakhel, W., & Rehman, K. U. (2025). The BRI & the CPEC: An Economic & Strategic Reconfiguration. *The Lighthouse Journal of Social Sciences*.
- Khetran, M. S. B., & Khalid, M. H. (2019). The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Gateway to Central Asia. *China Quarterly of International Strategic Studies*, 5(03), 455-469.
- Lu, H., & Iqbal, N. (2025). Assessing the Economic and Strategic Significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. *Journal of Policy Options*, 8(1), 23-30.
- Lu, Y., & Wolszczak-Derlacz, J. (2025). The impact of China's One-Belt One-Road initiative on international trade and global value chains. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Accounting & Economics*, 32(1), 163-180.
- Mallick, S. (2024). China's Belt and Road Initiative: Impact on South Asia's Geopolitical Landscape and Regional Dynamics. *Jadavpur Journal of International Relations*, 28(1), 7-30.
- Menhas, R., Mahmood, S., Tanchangya, P., Safdar, M. N., & Hussain, S. (2019). Sustainable development under belt and road initiative: A case study of China-Pakistan economic corridor's socio-economic impact on Pakistan. *Sustainability*, 11(21), 6143.





- Muvawala, J., Sebukeyera, H., & Ssebulime, K. (2021). Socio-economic impacts of transport infrastructure investment in Uganda: Insight from frontloading expenditure on Uganda's urban roads and highways. *Research in Transportation Economics*, 88, 100971.
- Nadeem, M., Xiaoyan, F., Saleem, A., Rasool, F., & Farooq, M. (2025). Does Foreign Direct Investment Accelerate the Economic Growth of Pakistan: CPEC Perspective in Pakistan Economy. *The Critical Review of Social Sciences Studies*, 3(2), 874-891.
- Nawaz, A. (2025). CPEC role in South Asia's Strategic restructuring: Regional politics and global implications. *Journal of Climate and Community Development*, 4(1), 181-193.
- Nazneen, S., Xu, H., & Din, N. U. (2019). Cross-border infrastructural development and residents' perceived tourism impacts: A case of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. *International Journal of Tourism Research*, 21(3), 334-343.
- Shah, M. (2025). Gateway to Prosperity: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). *Review Journal of Social Psychology & Social Works*, 3(1), 82-91.
- Shah, M., & Khan, S. A. (2025). Analyzing the Socio-Economic Impact of CPEC on Balochistan: Opportunities, Challenges, and Controversies. *The Journal of Research Review*, 2(02), 237-251.
- Shah, U., Sadozai, W. K., & Fayyaz, A. B. (2025). ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF CPEC ON HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN BALOCHISTAN: A QUALITATIVE CASE STUDY OF GWADAR. *Journal for Current Sign*, 3(2), 480-495.
- Shaikh, F., Ji, Q., & Fan, Y. (2016). Prospects of Pakistan-China energy and economic corridor. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 59, 253-263.
- Tayeh, F., & Ghanem, O. (2023). Decision-Making Support of Sustainable and Efficiency of Railway Project: Case Study China-Pakistan. *International Journal of Decision Support System Technology*, 15(1), 1-25.
- Uberoi, P. (2016). Problems and prospects of the BCIM economic corridor. *China Report*, 52(1), 19-44.
- Ullah, S., Khan, U., Rahman, K. U., & Ullah, A. (2021). Problems and benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for local people in Pakistan: a critical review. *Asian Perspective*, 45(4), 861-876.
- Wasi, N. (2025). Beyond Infrastructure: Redefining Connectivity Discourse in South Asia. *Pakistan Horizon*, 78(1), 45-64.
- Yu, H. (2020). Motivation behind China's 'one belt, one road' initiatives and establishment of the Asian infrastructure investment bank *China's New Global Strategy* (pp. 3-18): Routledge.