

Research paper

Judicial Protection and Gender Equality in Ibero-America: A Bibliometric Assessment of Women's Legal Rights

Stefania Velasco Neira* , Wisin Lasso Dávila 

State University of Milagro (UNEMI), ECUADOR

*Corresponding Author: svelascon1@unemi.edu.ec

Citation: Velasco Neira, S., & Lasso Dávila, W. (2026). Judicial protection and gender equality in Ibero-America: A bibliometric assessment of women's legal rights. *Feminist Encounters: A Journal of Critical Studies in Culture and Politics*, 10(2), Article 13. <https://doi.org/10.20897/femenc/18989>

Published: July 22, 2026

ABSTRACT

Scholarly interest in the field of judicial protection, women's legal rights, and gender equality in Ibero-America has increased as part of a larger debate on access to justice, institutional accountability, and structural inequality. This article presents the evolution of this thematic field between 1997 and 2026 with particular emphasis on the transformation from predominantly legal-normative approaches to broader socio-legal and interdisciplinary perspectives. The study is designed as quantitative bibliometrics following the phases of document selection guided by PRISMA, validation of temporal trends, and thematic mapping. The final corpus comprises 134 articles published in journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science belonging to Q1 and Q2 for their respective categories. The results point to a statistically significant increase in scientific production, suggesting that the field has been gradually consolidating within the legal, socio-legal, and gender studies. The thematic map identified nine clusters that were distributed over four quadrants: basic, motor, niche, and emerging or declining themes. In other words, these clusters point to the central position of gender, violence, human rights, and access to justice, along with country-specific research agendas in the literature, as themes that are either developing or receding. Although the field has gained visibility and conceptual maturity, the results also reveal persistent gaps concerning the institutional mechanisms needed to address structural barriers to justice for women. By offering a systematic overview of this body of research, the article contributes to the identification of future comparative, interdisciplinary, and policy-oriented research pathways on gender equality and judicial protection in Ibero-America.

Keywords: gender equality, judicial protection, women's legal rights, Ibero-America, bibliometric analysis, thematic mapping

Judicial protection and equitable treatment for women have been key issues in many of today's legal and human rights discussions within Ibero-America, particularly in an environment that is plagued by persistent structural inequalities which negatively impact women at a disproportionate rate. The latest academic literature suggests that access to justice is one of the most fundamental rights; requiring a person to have effective access to justice to guarantee the formal protection of women's legal rights from revictimization by institutions is essential (Berry & Lake, 2021; Nigam, 2021; Weaver et al., 2025). In this regard, many studies published in the past few years demonstrate that interest in the study and analysis of the role of judicial systems in protecting women's rights from violence, discrimination, and other violations of their rights has been steadily increasing

with more scholars incorporating a gender and human rights perspective into their legal analyses (Medie, 2020; Yang & Henderson, 2024).

The incorporation of international and regional standards into national legal frameworks and judicial decisions on matters such as domestic violence, protective measures, and access to effective judicial remedies is a significant trend identified in the recent literature (Acar, 2025; Berry & Lake, 2021; Sedacca, 2022). Other research has stressed the role of constitutional courts and supranational systems in this respect, i.e. in expanding formal recognition of women's rights but also the gaps that exist between legal development and its application in practice (Dalgaldere, 2026; Skinner-Thompson, 2020). Similarly, new studies that the impact of judicial protection depends, to a large extent, on the institutional capacity, the specialized training of justice system personnel and the existence of gender-sensitive judicial mechanisms (Katz, 2026; Medie, 2020).

The scientific output analysed also shows substantial advances in the implementation of intersectional approaches, which help to understand how poverty, informal employment, migration and family dynamics reinforce the barriers to access to justice for certain groups of women (Gupta, 2026; McDougal et al., 2021). These studies show that despite legal progress, inequalities and exclusion patterns remain, hindering the full exercise of legal rights, especially in domestic violence and legal disputes concerning the domestic sphere (Maucec, 2021; Nehushtan, 2026). In general, the judicial protection of women's rights in Ibero-America has made great progress in normative and discursive terms, but it still faces structural obstacles in its effective implementation. This justifies the need for a systematic bibliometric analysis to identify trends, dominant approaches, and research gaps in the field of gender equality and justice.

Bibliometric analysis is a helpful methodological tool for studying the growth of scientific fields, identifying the patterns of growth in publications, mapping the dominant thematic areas, and detecting emerging lines of research. In the area of gender equality and judicial protection, previous studies have made valuable contributions, especially in the analysis of gender perspectives in judicial decisions in particular national contexts, such as Colombia (Stewart, 2021; Vásquez & Guzmán, 2024). However, the available evidence remains fragmentary and has not yet produced a broader regional assessment of the evolution of scientific knowledge on judicial protection, women's legal rights and gender equality in Ibero-America. This gap justifies the need for a bibliometric study able to integrate temporal, thematic and regional dimensions in order to identify the main intellectual structures and challenges that shape this field.

Against this background, the following main research question is addressed in this article:

How has scientific production on judicial protection, women's legal rights, and gender equality evolved in Ibero-America in terms of growth patterns and thematic structure, and what major thematic domains reveal the principal challenges shaping this field?

The following specific research questions guide the study in answering this key question:

- RQ1. What has been the evolution of scientific production on judicial protection, women's legal rights and gender equality in Ibero-America from 1997 to 2026?
- RQ2. What are the bibliometric trends in publication growth, citation patterns, authorship, and international collaboration in this field?
- RQ3. What are the thematic clusters that organize the literature on judicial protection, women's legal rights and gender equality in Ibero-America?
- RQ4. How do the identified thematic domains inform the main legal, institutional and social challenges shaping women's access to justice in the region?

Therefore, it is proposed the following hypothesis:

H1. Scientific production on judicial protection, women's legal rights and gender equality in Ibero-America has increased significantly in recent years and its thematic evolution is structured around basic, motor, niche and emerging or declining themes reflecting the main challenges shaping the field and the growing incorporation of critical and interdisciplinary approaches.

The article is structured as follows. In Section 2 the theoretical basis of the study is presented. Methodological Design Section 3 provides the methodological design, which incorporates data sources, search strategy, eligibility criteria, bibliometric procedures, trend validation, and thematic mapping approach. In Section 4, the results of the bibliometric and thematic analyses are presented. Section 5 presents findings in connection with the proposed hypothesis and theoretical framework. Finally, Section 6 summarizes the main conclusions and future research directions.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Theory of gendered organizations

Joan Acker's Theory of Gendered Organizations is helpful in understanding the ways in which organizations may reproduce gender inequality in spite of formal support for equality. Its core argument is that organizations

are not neutral spaces. rather, they consist of norms, routines, hierarchies, professional cultures, and symbolic expectations that define who is competent, legitimate, and authoritative. From this perspective, gender inequality is not merely a product of individual prejudice and isolated discriminatory practices. Nor is it simply embedded in institutional arrangements that distribute opportunities, authority, protection, and recognition unequally. One of the most influential ideas in this theory is the figure of “ideal worker”, which traditionally means constant availability, career continuity, and limited caregiving responsibilities. These expectations have traditionally been based on masculine patterns of work and participation, making it more difficult for women to gain access to positions of authority or to be treated under equal institutional conditions. Thus, promotion systems, performance appraisals, leadership structures and decision-making processes can reinforce gender hierarchies through apparently gender-neutral mechanisms, leading to outcomes such as glass ceilings, tokenism and vertical or horizontal segregation (Allemand et al., 2025; Huaman-Morillo et al., 2024).

Recent studies show that the relevance of this theory is not confined to institutional settings. Research in male-dominated fields like industrial work and military organizations demonstrates that informal networks, tokenistic inclusion, and masculine organizational cultures still hinder women's career advancement, even when formal equality policies exist (Kocanci et al., 2025; J. Williams et al., 2024). Similar findings are reported in corporate leadership, higher education, sport management and cultural industries where women's participation has increased, but their influence is still conditioned by institutional hierarchies, unequal access to decision-making power and persistent expectations related to motherhood, care work and linear career trajectories (Allemand et al., 2025; Naidu-Young et al., 2024). The Theory of Gendered Organizations is especially relevant for the purposes of this study, as judicial systems can also be viewed as gendered institutions. Access to justice is not only a matter of laws or formal rights. It depends also on the institutional capacity of the courts, the training and sensitivity of legal personnel, the availability of special mechanisms, and the way in which women's claims are heard, interpreted and processed. Therefore, the theory aids in explaining the shift in scientific literature regarding judicial protection and gender equality, which has progressively moved beyond legal norms to explore the institutional conditions fostering or hindering women's effective access to justice (Podreka et al., 2024; Snickare & Wahl, 2024; Wallenberg, 2025).

Syndemic theory

Syndemic Theory is an interdisciplinary, public health and social sciences-based approach that offers a way of understanding the co-occurrence and synergistic interaction of health problems and adverse social conditions in particular populations. The theory differs from the traditional biomedical models in that it emphasizes the structural contexts in which vulnerability is produced, such as poverty, gender inequality, stigma, violence, discrimination and social exclusion. From this perspective, health and social burdens cannot be understood separately from the conditions that allow risks to accumulate and interact over time. The theory was born from the study of health inequalities, but it is useful for this article because the access to justice for women in Ibero-America is also affected by intersecting forms of vulnerability. Poverty, migration, informal employment, family dependence, ethnic inequality, violence and weak institutional responses may combine in ways which compound barriers to judicial protection.

Recent literature has demonstrated the empirical relevance of Syndemic Theory in different social and institutional contexts. Research on HIV-related stigma, mental health, and social disconnection has shown that overlapping vulnerabilities can compound and compromise quality of life for affected groups (Leung et al., 2026; Weinstein et al., 2025). Anxiety, depression, educational inequality and gendered forms of vulnerability can also feed into each other during periods of crisis, as studies of the COVID-19 pandemic have shown (Bennett et al., 2025; Silver et al., 2025). Studies in African and Asian settings have documented the convergence of HIV and non-communicable diseases and structural poverty, and the need for integrated and culturally responsive approaches (Calderwood et al., 2025; Karbasi et al., 2025). Violence, substance use, stigma, and discrimination can create cumulative barriers to care and institutional protection in other studies of sexual and gender-diverse populations (Duailibe et al., 2025; M. P. Williams et al., 2025). This body of literature together underscores the utility of Syndemic Theory as a framework to understand the interplay of structural vulnerability, institutional barriers, and social exclusion in unequal settings, including in relation to women's legal rights and access to justice (Lodge, Chaudary, et al., 2025; Lodge, Rawat, et al., 2025).

Feminist legal theory

Feminist Legal Theory is a critical approach to law that challenges the assumed neutrality of legal systems, suggesting that they have been historically influenced by male-centered assumptions that perpetuate gender asymmetries. This theory examines how legal norms, legal language, judicial institutions and legal practices can reinforce patriarchal power relations, limit women's autonomy and reproduce unequal access to rights (Turisno

et al., 2025). In this sense, law not only regulates social relations, but also constructs symbolic meanings that may legitimise gender hierarchies. Hence feminist legal theorists call for a structural overhaul of legal systems, including substantive equality, intersectional analysis, legal pluralism and critical re-readings of civil, religious and international norms. These elements are particularly relevant for this study, given that judicial protection is not assessed by the existence of formal rights alone, but also by the capacity of institutions to guarantee those rights in practice.

Recent scholarship has broadened the analytical relevance of Feminist Legal Theory in current legal debates. Studies of civil law reform suggest that formal legal change does not always change the cultural meanings and institutional assumptions that continue to shape the legal status of women.

Feminist methodologies have been used in religious and comparative law to re-read foundational texts and challenge patriarchal interpretations that have historically shaped legal practice (Abu Mukh & Jabali, 2025; Yasmar et al., 2025). Research on reproductive rights and violence against women also demonstrates that legal reforms can be limited when the enforcement of criminal law, institutional capacity, or judicial interpretation do not promote substantive equality (Balkin, 2025; Ulum, 2025). International and regional human rights jurisprudence has helped to establish gender-based violence as a form of discrimination and has called for broader and more transformative approaches to legal protection (Baghirzade, 2025). Finally, recent scholarship on men, masculinities and law has expanded feminist legal analysis by exploring the ways in which legal systems may perpetuate male dominance through formal and informal mechanisms (Decoster, 2025).

Integrative theoretical synthesis and hypothesis development

The final research question and hypothesis in the Introduction are grounded in the articulation of Feminist Legal Theory, Theory of Gendered Organizations, and Syndemic Theory. These perspectives together provide a coherent theoretical framework to understand the expected quantitative growth and thematic diversification of scientific production on judicial protection, women's legal rights and gender equality in Ibero-America.

Feminist Legal Theory supports this hypothesis by arguing that legal systems are not neutral structures, but historically gendered fields, where norms, institutions, judicial practices and legal language may reproduce or challenge patriarchal relations. In this sense, the increasing academic interest in judicial protection and women's rights can be seen as part of a broader academic attempt to explore the limits of formal equality and the necessity of substantive gender justice.

The Theory of Gendered Organizations adds to this argument by highlighting the fact that institutions reproduce gender inequality through routines, hierarchies, professional cultures and decision-making structures. This framework, in the context of judicial systems, serves to explain why access to justice is not reducible to the mere existence of legal norms. It depends rather on institutional capacity, gender-sensitive procedures, specialized personnel and the capacity of justice systems to address the differentiated legal needs of women.

By stressing the interplay of multiple vulnerabilities like poverty, violence, migration, ethnicity, informal employment and social exclusion, Syndemic Theory expands the theoretical justification. This perspective is particularly relevant for Ibero-America, where women's access to justice is often mediated by intersecting structural disadvantages. Thus, the thematic evolution of the field is expected to comprise not only legal categories, but also interdisciplinary concerns regarding public health, social vulnerability, institutional violence and human rights.

All in all, these theoretical standpoints support the assumption that the literature has transcended the merely descriptive legal analysis towards a more critical, interdisciplinary and structurally oriented research field. This is why the hypothesis argues that the volume of scientific production has increased significantly and that its thematic structure can be explained by basic, motor, niche and emerging or declining themes. The thematic areas are supposed to echo the main legal, institutional and social challenges that influence women's access to justice and judicial protection in Ibero-America.

METHODOLOGY

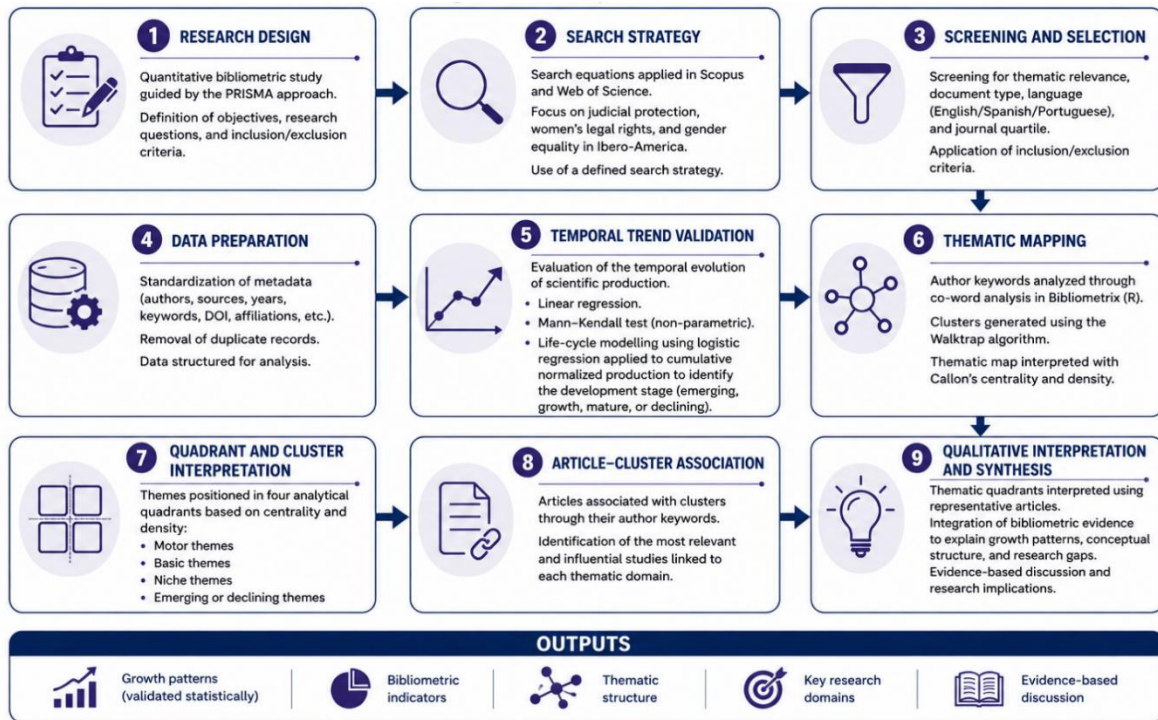
Research design

The aim of this study was to analyze, through a bibliometric approach, the evolution, structure and thematic development of the scientific production on judicial protection, women's legal rights and gender equality in Ibero-American countries. The methodological design involved PRISMA-guided document selection and quantitative bibliometric methods, to secure a transparent, reproducible and analytically consistent construction of the corpus. PRISMA criteria were used to describe the process of identification, screening, eligibility and final inclusion of records. After that, bibliometric methods were applied to investigate the publication trends, citation behaviour, journal distribution, keyword co-occurrence, thematic mapping and the dynamic development of the

field. This combination allowed to characterize the quantitative evolution as well as the conceptual organization of the literature. **Figure 1** summarizes the complete methodological workflow followed in this study.

Figure 1

Methodological workflow of the bibliometric analysis



Data sources, search date, and search strategy

Bibliographic data were collected from the Scopus and Web of Science databases, chosen for their international visibility, multidisciplinary coverage and applicability to bibliometric studies. The search was conducted on June 1, 2026, with the objective of identifying scientific production related to judicial protection, women's legal rights and gender equality in Ibero-American countries. The search strategy included three groups of terms. The first group referred to judicial protection and access to justice; the second group included terms related to women's legal rights, gender equality, gender justice and gender-based discrimination; and the third group delimited the geographical scope to Ibero-America, Latin America, South America, Spain, Portugal and specific Ibero-American countries. The combination made possible the retrieval of documents at the intersection of legal protection, gender equality and regional context. The first retrieval process only considered documents classified as articles. The search resulted in 273 records, 125 from Scopus and 148 from Web of Science. **Table 1** shows the detailed search equations and the number of records retrieved from each database. The retrieved records were exported for further integration, cleaning, and bibliometric processing.

Table 1

Search equation

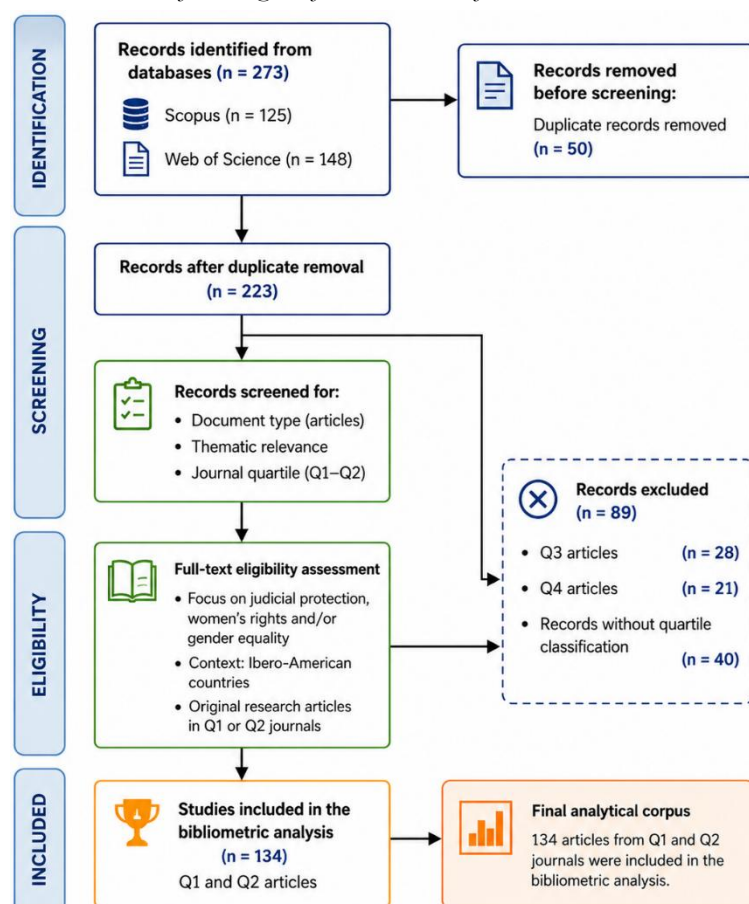
Search equation	Data Base	Document Total.
TITLE-ABS-KEY (("judicial protection" OR "legal protection" OR "access to justice" OR "judicial guarantees") AND ("gender equality" OR "women's rights" OR "gender-based discrimination" OR "gender justice" or woman or women) AND ("Ibero-America" OR "Latin America" OR "South America" OR "Spain" OR "Ecuador" OR "Argentina" OR "Bolivia" OR "Brasil" OR "Brazil" OR "Chile" OR "Colombia" OR "Costa Rica" OR "Cuba" OR "Ecuador" OR "El Salvador" OR "Guatemala" OR "Honduras" OR "Mexico" OR "Nicaragua" OR "Panama" OR "Paraguay" OR "Peru" OR "Republica Dominicana" OR "Uruguay" OR "Venezuela" OR "Portugal"))	Scopus	125
("judicial protection" OR "legal protection" OR "access to justice" OR "judicial guarantees") (All Document) AND ("gender equality" OR "women's rights" OR "gender-based discrimination" OR "gender justice" or woman or women) (All Document) AND ("Ibero-America" OR "Latin America" OR "South America" OR "Spain" OR "Ecuador" OR "Argentina" OR "Bolivia" OR "Brasil" OR "Brazil" OR "Chile" OR "Colombia" OR "Costa Rica" OR "Cuba" OR "Ecuador" OR "El Salvador" OR "Guatemala" OR "Honduras" OR "Mexico" OR "Nicaragua" OR "Panama" OR "Paraguay" OR "Peru" OR "Republica Dominicana" OR "Uruguay" OR "Venezuela" OR "Portugal") Document Types: Article	Web Of Science	148
Total		273

Eligibility criteria, duplicate removal, and Q1–Q2 filtering

PRISMA-based procedures guided the identification, screening, eligibility and final inclusion of documents in the bibliometric corpus. Following the initial search in Scopus and Web of Science, the 273 records retrieved were merged into one database. Metadata was then compared to identify and delete duplicate records by title, authorship, year of publication, DOI and source title where available. This process resulted in 50 duplicate records and 223 unique records for the subsequent screening. Other records were screened based on three eligibility criteria: document type, thematic relevance, and journal quartile. The first step was to filter all the documents to include only original research articles. Second, the records had to be directly related to judicial protection, women's legal rights, gender equality, access to justice or related socio-legal issues in the Ibero-American context. Third, journal quartile information was used to identify articles published in Q1 and Q2 journals. The Q1–Q2 filter was applied to focus the analysis on the most internationally visible segment of peer-reviewed scientific production indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. This criterion allowed the study to prioritize journals with higher relative citation impact and stronger international circulation within their subject categories. After quartile verification, 134 articles classified as Q1 or Q2 were retained for the final analytical corpus. In contrast, 28 Q3 articles, 21 Q4 articles, and 40 records without available quartile classification were excluded from the final analysis. The complete PRISMA-based selection process is summarized in [Figure 2](#). Journal quartile information was verified using Scimago Journal Rank and Journal Citation Reports on June 1, 2026.

Figure 2

PRISMA 2020 flow diagram for the selection of documents



Note: PRISMA 2020 flow diagram adapted for this bibliometric study

Bibliometric indicators and temporal trend validation

After establishing the final analytical corpus of 134 articles published in Q1 and Q2 journals, a bibliometric analysis was conducted to characterize the evolution, structure, and main features of scientific production on judicial protection, women's legal rights, and gender equality in Ibero-America. This phase aimed to examine publication patterns, citation behavior, authorship characteristics, collaboration indicators, and the conceptual structure of the selected literature. The descriptive bibliometric analysis included annual scientific production, mean document age, average citations per document, number of authors, co-authorship patterns, level of

international collaboration, and author keywords. These indicators made it possible to describe the quantitative behavior of the field and to assess its level of scientific development and consolidation over time.

To assess the temporal component of H1, annual publication counts were used to evaluate whether scientific production had increased significantly during the study period. A simple linear regression model was applied to estimate the direction and statistical significance of the relationship between year of publication and number of documents. In addition, the Mann–Kendall non-parametric test was used to detect monotonic trends in the annual publication series without assuming normality. The life cycle of annual scientific production and the cumulative growth curve were also examined to support the interpretation of the longitudinal dynamics of the field.

Thematic mapping, cluster construction, and quadrant interpretation

The thematic component of H1 was assessed through thematic mapping based on author keyword co-occurrence analysis. This procedure made it possible to identify the main conceptual domains of the literature and to examine their relative position within the thematic structure of the field. Author keywords were selected as the unit of analysis as they reflect the conceptual terms that authors have selected to describe the content and orientation of their studies. A thematic map was created using the Walktrap clustering algorithm, which clusters together related keywords based on their co-occurrence patterns within the corpus. Callon's centrality and density measures were used to interpret the resultant clusters. Centrality indicates the degree of the cluster's connection to the entire thematic network, while the density shows the internal development and cohesion of the cluster.

The thematic structure was analysed through four analytical quadrants based on the relation centrality / density: motor themes, basic themes, niche themes and emerging or declining themes. Motor themes are both well developed and central to the field; basic themes are important for the overall structure of the field but less internally developed; niche themes are highly developed but relatively isolated; and emerging or declining themes have low centrality and low density. This framework allowed the study to evaluate not only whether scientific production had increased over time, but also whether its thematic evolution reflected differentiated conceptual domains associated with the main legal, institutional, and social challenges shaping research on judicial protection, women's legal rights, and gender equality in Ibero-America.

Article–cluster association for qualitative interpretation

After the thematic map was generated, the clusters were used as analytical entry points for the qualitative interpretation of the corpus. Each cluster was composed of author keywords grouped according to their co-occurrence patterns. Subsequently, articles were associated with one or more clusters according to the presence of author keywords belonging to those clusters. This allowed to connect the bibliometric structure of the field with the substantive interpretation of the literature. In other words, the interpretation of each quadrant was not based on an arbitrary selection of studies, but on the relation between author keywords, thematic clusters, quadrant positioning and the articles in which those keywords appear.

Article–cluster associations were not mutually exclusive, as some of the articles contained author keywords associated with more than one cluster. Thus, a single article could be assigned to more than one thematic domain, if its keywords were related to different clusters. For the qualitative interpretation of each quadrant, representative articles were selected based on their thematic relevance, citation influence, and contribution to the conceptual meaning of the cluster. This strategy enabled the study to read the thematic map through the content of the most relevant documents related to each cluster and quadrant.

Software and analytical tools

Several computational tools supported the methodological workflow to guarantee data integration, analytical consistency and reproducibility. During the pre-processing step, the bibliographic files exported from Scopus and Web of Science were combined using Python (Python, 2026), metadata fields were harmonized, duplicate records were identified and eliminated, and the final dataset was prepared for bibliometric analysis. The main bibliometric indicators were calculated using R and the library Bibliometrix (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017), such as annual scientific production, document age, citation indicators, authorship patterns, collaboration indices, and author keywords. The thematic map was also built with bibliometrix, analysis of author keywords co-occurrence, Callon's centrality and density measures, and the Walktrap clustering algorithm (Callon, 1993; Callon et al., 1991).

R was used for statistical validation of publication trends. In particular, to evaluate the relationship between year of publication and the annual number of documents, a simple linear regression model was estimated. The

Mann–Kendall non-parametric test was used to detect monotonic trends in scientific production without assuming normality.

RESULTS

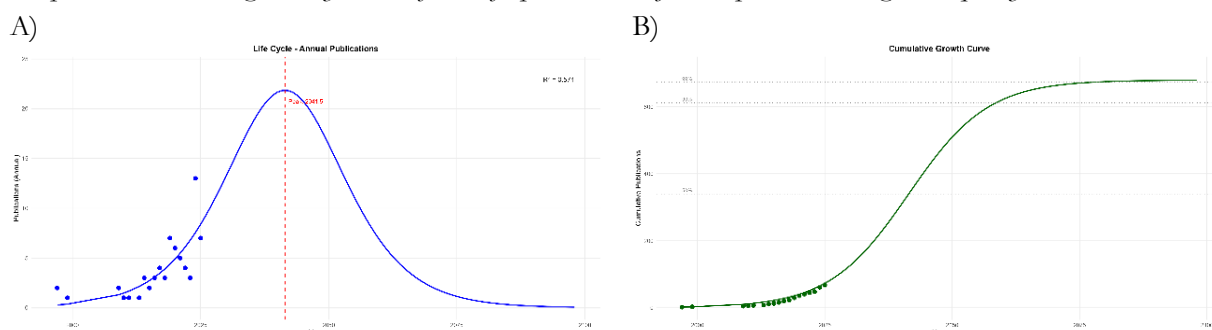
Hypothesis validation and temporal trend analysis

To test H1, we used two complementary procedures on the annual scientific production related to judicial protection, women's legal rights and gender equality in Ibero-America: a simple linear regression model and the non-parametric Mann–Kendall test. In the adjusted regression model, the number of publications was significantly and positively associated with the year of publication. The estimated slope was $\beta = 0.246$ ($p < 0.01$). The coefficient of determination $R^2 = 0.372$ indicates that the passage of time can account for 37% of the variation in the number of publications. The Mann–Kendall test was subsequently applied, which allows the detection of monotonic trends without assuming normality. The result produced a z-value of 3.582, a p-value of 0.00 and Kendall's tau coefficient $\tau = 0.651$. This value confirms a strong and statistically significant upward trend for the period 1997–2026, which is in line with the regression model results.

The visual evidence is consistent with the statistical results shown in [Figure 3A](#) and [Figure 3B](#). Both panels show the evolution of annual publications and the cumulative growth of the corpus over time. The general publication trend on judicial protection, women's legal rights and gender equality shows an overall cumulative growth pattern consistent with the progressive development of the field. Furthermore, the continuous increase in the number of published articles reflects the sustained interest of the scientific community over time in the area of study, as well as the institutionalization of the topic in several research agendas.

Figure 3

Temporal evolution and growth dynamics of scientific production on judicial protection and gender equality in Ibero-America



Note: A) Life cycle of annual scientific publications (1997–2026). B) Cumulative growth curve of scientific output.

Statistical tests and visual evidence provide a coherent interpretation of the evolution of the field over time. They support the conclusion that the increase in scientific production on judicial protection, women's legal rights and gender equality in Ibero-America is statistically significant and reflects a sustained process of academic consolidation.

Analysis of bibliometric measures

The final corpus comprised 134 articles published in 57 sources between 1997 and 2026. These documents were analyzed to describe the bibliometric characteristics of research on judicial protection and gender equality in Ibero-American countries. The annual rate of publication growth was 4.58%, indicating continued scholarly interest in women's legal rights and access to justice ([Figure 4](#)). On average, the documents were 7.04 years old, indicating a relatively recent and developing body of literature. The average number of citations per document was 11.66, indicating a moderate degree of academic influence in this area of research.

Regarding the conceptual content of the corpus, 241 author-defined keywords were identified, reflecting the thematic and methodological diversity of the field ([Figure 5](#)). No keywords generated by the system (Keywords Plus) were identified, suggesting a reliance on tags assigned directly by the authors to represent the thematic lines.

The authorship analysis identified 163 contributing authors across the corpus. The average number of co-authors per document was 2.46, suggesting a moderate level of scholarly collaboration. International co-authorship represented 19.12% of the corpus, indicating that cross-national collaboration remains an area for further development.

Nine separate thematic clusters (see [Table 2](#)) were identified through an analysis of development and relevance. These clusters are distributed in four different quadrants (basic themes, motor themes, niche themes, and emerging/declining themes). This overall distribution provides a framework for interpreting the key conceptual domains influencing judicial protection research, legal rights for women, and gender equality in the Ibero-American region:

Table 2

Clusters

Clusters	Description
Gender Centrality: 0,988 Density: 81,964	This represents the most developed and central thematic core of the field, positioning it as a driving theme.
Violence Centrality: 0,533 Density: 70,926	Highly connected with great density, this axis serves as one of the key driving themes (central to the relationship as well). It denotes the structural component of domestic and institutional violence in discussions surrounding the law, especially in regard to the access to rights.
Ecuador Centrality: 0,5 Density: 54,444	Despite its low centrality and medium density, it is interpreted as a highly specialized theme, suggesting focused case studies and contributions with less connectivity to the global network of concepts.
Mexico Centrality: 0,417 Density: 50	This cluster is also among the basic themes. It represents a geographically consolidated line of research, with studies addressing access to justice, femicides, and women's political participation.
human rights Centrality: 0,354 Density: 43,75	According to its metrics, it presents high centrality but low density, indicating its role as a cross-cutting theme in discussions, although still not very consolidated at the conceptual and methodological levels in the studies analyzed.
access to justice Centrality: 0,294 Density: 53,869	It is positioned as a basic theme, broadly connected to other topics, although with room for further development. It reflects the importance of institutional analysis of judicial systems in the region.
Guatemala Centrality: 0,111 Density: 53,704	It is a cluster, indicating a solid internal thematic development, although still isolated from the network as a whole. It represents a specific research agenda with potential for regional integration.
domestic violence Centrality: 0 Density: 62,5	It is clearly positioned as a specialized or niche theme. Although well-developed in itself, the cluster is poorly connected to other nodes on the map, suggesting a highly specific or sector-based approach
prevention strategies Centrality: 0 Density: 50	This cluster also falls into the category of an isolated or emerging theme. It reflects attempts to conceptualize and analyze strategies to mitigate gender-based violence, but its weak connection to other themes suggests that it is in an early stage of consolidation in the literature.

The basic themes quadrant

The Basic Themes quadrant shows the relationship between conceptual terms defined by authors; in this sense, related research is based on these structures. In the field of judicial protection and gender equality in Ibero-America, these basic themes constitute the conceptual core from which empirical and normative analyses of violence, access to justice, and institutional response are articulated. Among the central themes are intimate partner violence, the vulnerability of victims, judicial protection measures, trust in institutions, and the role of the State in the effective guarantee of rights elements that appear recurrently and transversally in recent literature.

The latest studies show that intimate partner violence is still a systemic problem that needs primary prevention strategies, especially in areas where socioeconomic vulnerability is high because, if not tailored to meet the needs of specific groups or local realities, universal responses are inadequate (Coll, 2021). Research on women who experienced revictimization after receiving protective orders shows that repeated violence is closely linked to socioeconomic factors, limited early risk identification, and weaknesses in institutional support mechanisms (Muñoz-Rivas, 2024).

In addition, research focused on rural Ibero-America illustrates that although there are legal services and clinics available for women to seek access to justice, there are still many barriers such as lack of sufficient information, access to a specified geographic area, and failure to collect adequate statistical data that limit the effectiveness of judicial protection for women in this area (Alvarado-Vélez, 2024). Additionally, other studies examine how media depictions and public perception often shift attention away from trying to obtain justice for women and towards other symbolic issues as a result of poor reporting regarding women's rights; thus removing from public view any notion of inequality and/or gendered violence as serious issues (Santillana, 2024). Additionally, recent research has focused on the lack of protection that judicial systems provide for women and girls in states characterized by impunity and corruption; this research demonstrates that by failing to protect women and girls, these two issues lead to greater levels of inequality within a society and are fundamental root causes of forced migration, thus establishing both impunity and corruption as key components in examining the region as a whole (Gellman, 2025). **Table 3** summarizes the representative studies associated with the Basic Themes quadrant, including their citation counts, thematic focus, and principal contributions to the analysis of women's vulnerability, judicial protection, institutional response, and access to justice in Ibero-America.

Table 3*Representative recent studies in the Basic Themes quadrant*

Study	Citations	Theme	Main contribution
Coll (2021)	13	Intimate partner violence and vulnerability	Identifies women most vulnerable to intimate partner violence and emphasizes the need for prevention strategies adapted to social and territorial vulnerability.
Muñoz-Rivas et al. (2024)	5	Revictimization and protective orders	Shows that revictimization after protective orders is associated with socioeconomic factors, limited early risk identification, and weaknesses in institutional support mechanisms.
Alvarado-Vélez et al. (2024)	1	Rural access to justice	Examines institutional and territorial barriers that limit women's access to justice in rural contexts, particularly where information, geographic access, and statistical records remain insufficient.
Santillana (2024)	1	Feminist protest and media framing	Analyzes how media representations shape public understandings of feminist protest, women's rights, gendered violence, and demands for justice.
Gellman (2025)	0	State capacity, impunity, and protection	Highlights how weak state capacity, corruption, and impunity undermine judicial protection and increase vulnerability among women and girls.

Note. The studies included in this table correspond to the authors cited in the interpretation of the Basic Themes quadrant. Citation counts were taken from the quadrant-specific dataset used for the thematic analysis.

The motor themes quadrant

The Motor Themes quadrant includes the thematic domains that are both highly developed and central to the field. In this study, motor themes reflect a consolidated research core focused on access to justice, gender-based violence, and institutional responses to women's rights violations.

A major emphasis is also placed on investigating gender-based violence and revictimization in contexts with high levels of social vulnerability. Evidence shows that when individuals experience a lack of identification as a victim, a lack of inter-institutional cooperation, and a lack of differentiated approaches, these individuals are likely to continue cycles of exclusion and revictimization, especially when it comes to cases of human trafficking, intimate partner violence, and the criminalisation of survival (Muñoz-Rivas, 2024; Ramos, 2025). Similarly, intersectional analyses are important in illustrating how gender, migration, ethnicity, and social economic status all intertwine to prevent victims from obtaining justice (Abji, 2020, 2020b).

The evaluation of institutional protection systems for women is another important motor theme. The literature highlights the role of specialized prosecution services, women's police stations, and courts addressing violence against women as mechanisms that may reduce gender-based violence and increase reporting and prosecution when they are adequately funded, politically supported, and staffed by trained personnel (Barraza Uribe, 2021; Carrington, 2020). Additionally, women's justice centers have been associated with broader social benefits, including improvements in community well-being and human capital (Sviatschi, 2024).

The overall themes combine a public policy approach and a normative approach that consider human rights and sustainable development goals. These themes create a unified understanding of how to improve the quality of life for women, including their economic independence and mental and physical health, as part of the

structural conditions necessary for creating access to the justice system (Barraza Uribe, 2021; Guaita-Fernández, 2024). **Table 4** summarizes the representative studies associated with the Motor Themes quadrant, highlighting their citation counts, thematic focus, and principal contributions to the analysis of gender-based violence, institutional protection systems, intersectionality, and women's access to justice in Ibero-America.

Table 4

Representative recent studies in the motor themes quadrant

Study	Citations	Theme	Main contribution
Carrington et al. (2020)	39	Women's police stations and access to justice	Shows how women's police stations can widen access to justice, strengthen institutional response, and contribute to the prevention of gender-based violence.
Guaita-Fernández et al. (2024)	15	Gender-based violence and sustainable development	Links gender-based violence to the Sustainable Development Goals, framing women's protection as part of a broader social and policy agenda.
Abji (2020)	14	Migrant justice and criminalization	Examines how migrant women may be punished or criminalized within legal systems that fail to recognize their conditions of vulnerability.
Abji (2020b)	16	Intersectionality and migrant justice	Shows how gender, migration status, criminalization, and institutional exclusion intersect in women's access to justice.
Sviatschi and Trako (2024)	11	Women's justice centers and human capital	Evaluates the effects of women's justice centers on violence reduction, reporting, prosecution, and broader community well-being.
Muñoz-Rivas et al. (2024)	5	Gender-based violence and revictimization	Provides evidence on repeated violence and the institutional weaknesses that limit effective judicial protection for women.
Barraza Uribe and Salinas (2021)	1	Institutional regendering and prosecution services	Examines how specialized prosecution services can reshape access to justice through gender-sensitive institutional reform.
Ramos et al. (2025)	0	Victim protection and mixed exploitation	Shows how invisibility, revictimization, and weak institutional coordination affect the detection and protection of victims of mixed forms of exploitation.

Note. The studies included in this table correspond to the authors cited in the interpretation of the Motor Themes quadrant. Citation counts were taken from the quadrant-specific dataset used for the thematic analysis.

The niche themes quadrant

The Niche Themes quadrant includes specialized research areas that are internally developed but less connected to the broader thematic structure of the field. In studies on judicial protection and gender equality in Ibero-America, these themes are characterized by a high level of analytical specialization and a focus on specific groups, spaces, or regulatory frameworks, which gives them high conceptual density, although they still have a moderate centrality within the scientific field.

A first group of growing research is focused on the articulation between gender, higher education and empowerment, analyzing the structural limitations that women face to transform educational capital into economic autonomy, leadership and effective access to rights. These studies demonstrate how cultural barriers, violence, gender norms, and weak legal protections condition processes of female empowerment, especially in countries like Brazil (Rana, 2024). Along a complementary line, there is an emerging interest in the labor protection of women victims of domestic violence, where the role of international law, soft law, and ILO frameworks in strengthening job stability and economic security as key components of access to justice is analyzed (Almeida de Araujo, 2024).

Another relevant niche theme addresses justice from identity and family perspectives, including studies on mothers in diverse family configurations and LGBTIQ+ communities. This research reveals inequalities in the identification of legal needs, in seeking institutional support, and in the state response, showing that women in situations of greater social vulnerability often face more obstacles in accessing formal justice mechanisms (Guarín, 2024; Tirado-Acero, 2024). Furthermore, critical examinations of violence against women laws demonstrate that many of these laws are designed such that they place a greater value on family unity than on the effective protection of women's rights, and limit the real-world impact of these laws (Menjívar, 2023).

These niche themes also include research on citizens' perceptions of government legitimacy, showing how direct or indirect exposure to violence and limited access to specialized services may weaken institutional trust and democratic legitimacy (Kras, 2022). **Table 5** summarizes the representative studies associated with the Niche Themes quadrant, presenting their citation counts, thematic focus, and principal contributions to the

analysis of women's empowerment, family justice, labor protection, institutional legitimacy, and gender-specific barriers to access to justice.

Table 5

Representative recent studies in the niche themes quadrant

Study	Citations	Theme	Main contribution
Rana et al. (2024)	6	Higher education, empowerment, and sustainability	Examines the barriers that limit women's transition from higher education to empowerment, leadership, economic autonomy, and effective access to rights.
Kras (2022)	4	Intimate partner violence and political legitimacy	Shows how exposure to intimate partner violence may shape political attitudes, weaken institutional trust, and affect perceptions of democratic legitimacy.
Menjívar and Diossa-Jiménez (2023)	3	Familyism and legal protection	Explains how family-centered ideologies may limit the effective implementation of laws designed to protect women from violence.
Almeida de Araujo (2024)	0	Labor protection and domestic violence	Analyzes labor protection as a legal mechanism for strengthening job stability, economic security, and access to justice for women affected by domestic violence.
Guarín et al. (2024)	0	Family justice and custodial mothers	Shows how custodial mothers face specific legal needs and institutional barriers in family-related justice processes.
Tirado-Acero and Valles Romero (2024)	0	Gender and access to justice	Addresses gendered inequalities in the identification of legal needs, the search for institutional support, and access to formal justice mechanisms.

Note. The studies included in this table correspond to the authors cited in the interpretation of the Niche Themes quadrant. Citation counts were taken from the quadrant-specific dataset used for the thematic analysis.

The emerging or declining themes quadrant

The quadrant Emerging or Declining Themes includes topics that are gaining visibility but are weakly connected to the overall thematic structure of the field. These themes guide research lines that are relevant to understand judicial protection and gender equality in Ibero-America but that still require a stronger empirical development, a greater conceptual integration and a more systematic comparison among countries.

Research on the barriers that women face in translating education into economic autonomy, leadership and effective access to rights has been gaining visibility, particularly in research on Brazil. These barriers include cultural norms, gender-based violence, limited legal protection, and persistent gender roles that restrict women's empowerment (Rana, 2024). Barriers come in many forms; some examples include cultural differences, violence towards women, perceived gender roles, and lack of adequate legal protections. More research is also being conducted on the relationship between international law, soft law, and the ILO (International Labour Organisation) as it relates to providing job and financial security for women and their access to justice as a result of experiencing domestic violence (Alvarez, 2021). [Table 6](#) summarizes the representative studies associated with the Emerging or Declining Themes quadrant, presenting their citation counts, thematic focus, and principal contributions to the analysis of long-term violence reduction, women's empowerment, transitional justice, feminist mobilization, media representation, and intercultural approaches to access to justice.

Table 6

Representative recent studies in the Emerging or Declining Themes quadrant

Study	Citations	Theme	Main contribution
Ellsberg et al. (2020)	18	Long-term intimate partner violence reduction	Provides longitudinal evidence on changes in intimate partner violence over time, offering a population-level perspective on prevention and social change.
Rana et al. (2024)	6	Education, empowerment, and legal barriers	Examines the barriers that limit women's transition from higher education to economic autonomy, leadership, empowerment, and effective access to rights.
Alvarez (2021)	2	Sexual violence and transitional justice	Analyzes sexual violence within justice and peace frameworks, contributing to debates on legal recognition, institutional response, and victim protection.
Santillana (2024)	1	Feminist protest and media representation	Highlights how feminist protest and media framing make gender justice claims more visible, although their effect depends on links with institutional change.
Camacho and Olmos (2025)	0	Indigenous justice and sexual violence	Explores organizational processes led by Indigenous women to address intra-community sexual violence and access to justice from an intercultural perspective.

Note. The studies included in this table correspond to the authors cited in the interpretation of the Emerging or Declining Themes quadrant. Citation counts were taken from the quadrant-specific dataset used for the thematic analysis.

Likewise, research that describes social mobilization, women's activism, and media representation has many legitimate demands concerning access to justice but often has little impact or value unless linked to institutional change and/or actual judicial results (Santillana, 2024). As such, a few longitudinal studies have shown significant progress towards reducing intimate partner violence over time but continue to have lower priority on the current research agenda because they are focused more on population-level outcomes rather than how today's judicial system works (Ellsberg, 2020).

Conversely, emerging but not yet fully established topics within the quadrant include research on indigenous justice and sexual violence from an intercultural perspective. Such works offer significant conceptual contributions but do not yet have enough data to be consistently identified as a trend (Camacho, 2025)

DISCUSSION

The results suggest that research on judicial protection, women's legal rights, and gender equality in Ibero-America has gained a more stable place within legal and socio-legal scholarship. The increase observed between 1997 and 2026 is not only visible in the annual production curve but is also supported by the linear regression model and the Mann–Kendall test. This pattern suggests the field has moved from a marginal or exploratory position to a more mainstream academic conversation about access to justice, institutional accountability, gender-based violence and the boundaries of formal legal recognition. In this sense, the growth of the literature reflects a wider concern with how rights are translated into effective protection for women in concrete institutional settings.

This interpretation is enriched by bibliometric indicators. The corpus consists of 134 articles published in 57 sources, with 241 author-defined keywords and 163 contributing authors. The figures indicate a field which is growing, both in size and in conceptual range. The diversity of keywords shows a change from a purely legal perspective to the inclusion of socio-legal, institutional, territorial and intersectional issues. The moderate citation impact and the extent of international co-authorship, however, indicate that there is room for growth for the field in terms of regional dialogue and comparative research. This is especially the case of Ibero-America, where countries share historical and legal traditions, but differ in judicial capacity, institutional design and protection mechanisms.

The thematic map confirms this reading. The nine clusters, spread across basic, motor, niche and emerging or declining themes, imply that the literature has evolved over a number of interrelated agendas. Themes that structure the core of the field include gender, violence, human rights and access to justice. Country-specific and specialized clusters reflect the importance of local contexts, institutional responses and vulnerable groups. This confirms that the protection of the judiciary cannot be seen as a normative problem only. It is also about how institutions respond, how barriers are experienced, and how social inequalities affect women's ability to claim and exercise their rights.

The results are consistent with the theoretical framework of the study. Feminist Legal Theory provides an explanation for the persistent gap between formal equality and substantive protection. The Theory of Gendered Organizations explains how judicial institutions might re-produce inequality through routines, professional cultures and decision making practices. Syndemic Theory also highlights that women's access to justice is limited by intersecting vulnerabilities such as poverty, migration, violence, ethnicity and institutional neglect. In general, H1 is supported: the scientific production has increased considerably, and its thematic structure reflects the main legal, institutional, and social challenges that shape women's access to justice in Ibero-America.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates a steady and significant increase in the research of judicial protection, women's legal rights, and gender equality in Ibero-America from 1997 to 2026. The linear regression model, the Mann–Kendall test, the life-cycle curve and the cumulative growth pattern results indicate that this development is not coincidental. Rather it shows the gradual consolidation of a field that has become increasingly relevant in legal, socio-legal and gender studies. The final corpus of 134 articles published in Q1 and Q2 journals further suggests that the topic has gained visibility in internationally indexed scientific literature, although citation impact and international collaboration still leave room for further development.

The thematic structure shows that the field has not developed in a uniform and linear way. The nine clusters identified in the thematic map reveal a research agenda organized around key concerns such as gender, violence, human rights, access to justice, and country-specific legal realities. Such themes point to an enduring tension between the formal recognition of women's rights and the practical capacity of institutions to provide effective judicial protection. In this sense, the results validate the hypothesis advanced: the scientific production has grown significantly and its thematic evolution is structured by basic, motor, niche, emerging or declining themes

that reflect the main legal, institutional and social challenges that shape the access of women to justice in the region.

Along with its contribution to description, the study underlines the need to shift from thematic mapping to more explanatory and comparative research. Future studies should explore the functioning in practice of judicial protection mechanisms in Ibero-American countries, particularly concerning institutional capacity, specialized courts and gender-sensitive procedures, as well as the gap between legal recognition and effective protection. It is also important to connect key thematic areas such as violence, access to justice and human rights to tangible results, such as reporting processes, protective measures, case resolution, institutional performance and women's lived experiences in justice systems.

The findings also point to under-researched areas that deserve further attention. Future empirical work should continue to address indigenous justice, intercultural approaches to sexual violence, labor protection for women affected by domestic violence, diverse family structures, rural access to justice and the legal needs of LGBTIQ+ persons. Likewise, other bibliometric techniques such as co-citation analysis, institutional collaboration networks, and citation trajectory analysis can be applied to gain a deeper understanding of how knowledge on women's legal rights is circulated across disciplines and jurisdictions. The convergence of these research lines may contribute to a more comparative, policy-oriented and socially embedded understanding of judicial protection and gender equality in Ibero-America.

Acknowledgement

The authors gratefully acknowledge the State University of Milagro (UNEMI) for providing an academic environment that strengthened their professional development and encouraged the production of research that contributes to scientific knowledge.

Funding

This research received no external funding.

Ethical statement

This study was based exclusively on bibliographic records and publicly available scholarly metadata obtained from Scopus and Web of Science. It did not involve human participants, animals, personal or sensitive data, or clinical interventions. Therefore, approval from an institutional review board and informed consent were not required.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Author contributions

SFN: Conceptualization, methodology, investigation, data curation, formal analysis, visualization, writing – original draft, and writing – review and editing. WLD: Conceptualization, methodology, validation, formal analysis, supervision, and writing – review and editing. Both authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Data availability

The bibliographic records analysed in this study were retrieved from Scopus and Web of Science. The processed dataset supporting the findings of this research is available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request, subject to the terms and licensing conditions of the respective databases.

AI disclosure

Artificial intelligence-based tools were used during the pre-review stage of the manuscript to support linguistic correction and to identify potential strengths, weaknesses, inconsistencies, and areas requiring clarification. The manuscript was also assessed using standard questions and evaluation criteria commonly applied during academic peer review. These tools were not used to generate or analyze the bibliometric data, perform the statistical procedures, select the articles included in the corpus, determine the thematic clusters, or independently formulate the results and conclusions. All suggestions produced through these tools were critically reviewed by the authors, who made the final decisions regarding the content and take full responsibility for the integrity and accuracy of the manuscript.

Biographical sketch

Stefania Velasco Neira is a lecturer and researcher at the State University of Milagro (UNEMI), Ecuador. She holds a Master's degree in Law from Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo and a Bachelor's degree in Law with emphasis on business and tax legislation from Universidad Tecnológica ECOTEC. Her research interests include gender equality, women's legal rights, constitutional guarantees, access to justice, public administration, and bibliometric analysis. She has also published research on leadership and administrative and financial management in public institutions.

Wisin Lasso Dávila is a lecturer and researcher at the State University of Milagro (UNEMI), Ecuador. He holds a degree in Agricultural Engineering and a qualification as an Agricultural Technologist from Universidad Agraria del Ecuador. His professional and research experience includes public and private management, entrepreneurship, human talent management, financial risk, sustainable production, and local development. He has published studies on leadership, municipal public management, financial administration, biomass export potential, and risk management in Ecuadorian small and medium-sized enterprises.

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note

The statements, opinions, and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of Lectito Publications and/or the editor(s). Lectito Publications and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to persons or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions, or products referred to in the content.

REFERENCES

- Abji, S. (2020). Punishing survivors and criminalizing survivorship: A feminist intersectional approach to migrant justice in the crimmigration system. *Studies in Social Justice*. <https://doi.org/10.26522/ssj.v2020i14.2158>
- Abu Mukh, H., & Jabali, O. M. (2025). Empowerment through choice: Palestinian women's attitudes towards marriage rights in Islamic Sharia and CEDAW. *Journal of Gender Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2025.2530004>
- Acar, E. (2025). From welcome to surveillance: Intersecting experiences of visibility and vulnerability among international students in the United States. *European Journal of Education & Language Review*, 1(1), Article 3. <https://doi.org/10.20897/ejeler/17571>
- Ali, K. S., Mamdapur, G. M. N., Kaddipujar, M. D., Hadimani, M. B., & Senel, E. (2020). A scientometric analysis of "Journal of Agronomy and Crop Science" (2000–2019) indexed in Web of Science. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 2020.
- Allemand, I., Tran, P. H. H., & Tran, T. H. (2025). Women in power and female employment. *ILR Review*, 78(2), 304–329. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00197939241310870>
- Almeida de Araujo, A. (2024). Labor protection for women victims of domestic violence in Brazil. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-024-10162-y>
- Alvarado-Vélez, J. A., Silva-Conde, D. I., Garcés, G. Y., & Mejía Chavez, V. (2024). Justice for rural women: An exploratory analysis of institutions and mechanisms to access justice in Chimborazo, Ecuador. *Heliyon*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2024.e28234>
- Alvarez, J. (2021). Sexual violence in the light of the law of justice and peace. *Novum Jus*. <https://doi.org/10.14718/novumjus.2021.15.2.4>
- Baghirzade, Z. (2025). Beyond recognition: Rethinking gender-based violence in law. *Baku State University Law Review*, 11(2), 250–268.
- Balkin, M. (2025). Trump 2.0 in a post-Dobbs world: Could the threat of restrictive abortion laws extend to Australia? *Alternative Law Journal*, 50(2), 135–139. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1037969X251334224>
- Barraza Uribe, B., & Salinas, M. I. (2021). Access to justice and institutional regendering: The case of the National Prosecution Bureau of Chile. *Feminist Legal Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10691-021-09449-3>
- Bennett, M., Lopez-Jimenez, T., Medina-Perucha, L., León-Gómez, B. B., Berenguera, A., & Jacques-Aviñó, C. (2025). Risk perception and coping mechanisms by gender identity and education level during the COVID-19 syndemic in Spain. *BMC Psychology*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40359-025-02611-5>

- Berry, M. E., & Lake, M. (2021). Women's rights after war: On gender interventions and enduring hierarchies. *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 17, 459–481. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-lawsocsci-113020-085456>
- Calderwood, C. J., Marambire, E. T., Ngwerume, M., Tshuma, M., Coleman, M. C., Musunzuru, T., Sibanda, S., Muringi, E., Madziva, K., Bhaudi, T., Mbiba, F., Chupa, L., Kavenga, F. N., Timire, C., Mutsvangwa, J., Ferrand, R. A., Fielding, K. L., Dixon, J., & Kranzer, K. A. (2025). Integrated health checks as a person-centred approach to systematic screening of household tuberculosis contacts: A realist-informed mixed-methods study. *PLOS Global Public Health*, 5(11). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0005146>
- Caliman, C. R., & Berryessa, C. M. (2025). Legal defense of autistic defendants in the United States: A qualitative analysis of the experiences of legal professionals. *Journal of Social Issues*, 81(4). <https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.70034>
- Camacho, J. S., & Olmos, A. P. (2025). "Balancing the forces": Organizational processes of indigenous women to address intra-community sexual violence and access to justice in Colombia. *Revista Colombiana de Antropología*. <https://doi.org/10.22380/2539472x.2815>
- Carrington, K., Guala, N., Puyol, M. V., & Sozzo, M. (2020). How women's police stations empower women, widen access to justice and prevent gender violence. *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.5204/ijcjsd.v9i1.1494>
- Coll, C. (2021). Identifying the women most vulnerable to intimate partner violence. *eClinicalMedicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2021.101214>
- Dalgalidere, S. (2026). Generative artificial intelligence in crisis journalism: A comparative analysis of ChatGPT and Gemini news texts. *ISophos: International Journal of Information, Technology and Philosophy*, 8(15), 1–11.
- Decoster, A. (2025). Men in/and law: Developing "critical legal studies of men and masculinities". *Feminist Legal Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10691-025-09573-4>
- Duailibe, F. T., Shen, T., Zhang, W. W., Moore, D. M., Hull, M. W., Barath, J., Magee, C., Lachowsky, N. J., Hart, T. A., Cox, J. J., Grace, D., Lambert, G., Skakoon-Sparling, S. P., Jollimore, J., Dvorakova, M., Gormezano, A. M., & Lima, V. D. (2025). Identifying syndemic factors and their effect on HIV sexual risk behavior among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto. *AIDS and Behavior*, 29(10), 3222–3235. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-025-04769-w>
- Early, J. O., Gordon-Dseagu, V., Breckwich Vásquez, V., Prado, K. Y., & Drury, D. O. (2025). Exploring sexual harassment in agriculture from a socio-ecological perspective: A scoping review. *Health Promotion Practice*, 26(5), 1004–1022. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248399241305393>
- Ellsberg, M., Ugarte, W., Ovince, J., Blackwell, A., & Quintanilla, M. (2020). Long-term change in the prevalence of intimate partner violence: A 20-year follow-up study in León, Nicaragua, 1995–2016. *BMJ Global Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2020-002339>
- Fatima, A., & Raza, S. T. (2025). Subjective well-being and migrant women workers: A comprehensive thematic review. *Sexuality, Gender and Policy*, 8(3). <https://doi.org/10.1002/sgp2.70019>
- Fernández-Sánchez, H., James, J., Zahoui, Z., Ging, L., Vasquez-Ventura, I. S., Stockton, J., & Santa Maria, D. S. (2025). Labor trafficking among migrant populations: A scoping review and qualitative interview study with stakeholders. *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fhumd.2025.1620713>
- García-Muñoz, C. M., Escobar-Escobar, N., Martínez-Idárraga, J. A., & Petro-González, I. R. (2024). Human rights and gender: Contributions from a scientometric review. *Jurídicas*, 21(1), 65–89. <https://doi.org/10.17151/jurid.2024.21.1.4>
- Gellman, M. (2025). Inability to protect: Mexican state capacity and expert witnessing in United States asylum claims. *Latin American Perspectives*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0094582x251316807>
- Guaita-Fernández, P., Martín-Martín, J. M., Ribeiro-Navarrete, S., & Puertas, R. (2024). Analysis of gender-based violence in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. *Sustainable Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2940>
- Guarín, A., Cuesta, L., & Eickmeyer, K. J. (2024). Family issues and custodial mothers' quest for justice: Evidence from Colombia. *Family Process*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12959>

- Gupta, A. (2026). Bodies under scanner: AI, surveillance, and gendered resistance in Manjula Padmanabhan's *Harvest*. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Research in Artificial Intelligence and Society*, 2(1), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.20897/jirais/18487>
- Huaman-Morillo, S. R., Vander Linden, K. L., & Palmieri, P. A. (2024). Metaphors describing the gendered organization in the career advancement of women: An integrative review. *Administrative Sciences*, 14(9). <https://doi.org/10.3390/admsci14090196>
- Karbasi, A. B., Iloegbu, C. A., Ruan, C., Osei-Tutu, N. H., Patel, K., Frerichs, L. M., Patena, J. V., Vieira, D. L., Adenikinju, D., Samuels, L., Gyamfi, J. O., & Pephrah, E. K. (2025). Syndemic interactions between HIV/AIDS, mental health conditions, and non-communicable diseases in sub-Saharan Africa: A scoping review of contributing factors. *PLOS ONE*, 20(8). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0328515>
- Katz, N. (2026). Digital inequality in context: A socio-technical analysis of Arab students' remote learning in Israel. *Asia Pacific Journal of Education and Society*, 14(1), Article 6. <https://doi.org/10.20897/apjes/17975>
- Kocanci, M., Aksoy, B., & Namal, M. K. (2025). Beyond tokenism: Breaking the men's circle for gender equality at male-dominated jobs. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 110. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2025.103097>
- Kras, H. R. (2022). The politics of private violence: How intimate partner violence victimization influences political attitudes. *Latin American Politics and Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/lap.2022.26>
- Leung, Y., Newton-John, T. R. O., Alperstein, D. M., Begley, K., Hennessy, R. M., & Bulsara, S. M. (2026). Psychosocial syndemics and quality of life among Australian people living with HIV. *AIDS Care*, 38(1), 97–115. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2025.2562237>
- Lioi, T. (2025). People and words: Spaces of circulation and political encounters in the experience of Edizioni Oriente (1963–79). *Annali di Ca' Foscari Serie Orientale*, 61, 97–129. <https://doi.org/10.30687/AnnOr/2385-3042/2025/02/003>
- Lodge, W., Chaudary, J., Rawat, S. M., Agénor, M., Dange, A., Anand, V. R., Operario, D., Mimiaga, M. J., & Biello, K. B. (2025). From policy to practice: Syndemic and intersectional challenges to ART adherence for transgender women under India's post-test and treat policy. *Global Public Health*, 20(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2025.2473446>
- Lodge, W., Rawat, S. M., Dange, A., Chaudary, J., Agénor, M., Anand, V. R., Operario, D., Mimiaga, M. J., & Biello, K. B. (2025). Multilevel syndemic profiles impacting optimal ART adherence among trans women living with HIV in Mumbai and New Delhi, India: A latent class analysis. *International Journal of Transgender Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2025.2527828>
- Maučec, G. (2021). The International Criminal Court and the issue of intersectionality—A conceptual and legal framework for analysis. *International Criminal Law Review*, 21(1), 1–34. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15718123-bja10043>
- McDougal, L. P., Krumholz, S., Bhan, N., Bharadwaj, P., & Raj, A. (2021). Releasing the tide: How has a shock to the acceptability of gender-based sexual violence affected rape reporting to police in India? *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(11–12), NP5921–NP5943. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518811421>
- Medie, P. A. (2020). *Global norms and local action: The campaigns to end violence against women in Africa*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780190922962.001.0001>
- Medina, P. C., Guala, N., & Valdés, M. G. (2024). Characterization of the field of studies on gender violence and criminal justice in Latin America. *Justicia (Barranquilla)*, 29(46), 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.17081/just.29.46.7413>
- Menjívar, C., & Diossa-Jiménez, L. (2023). Blocking the law from within: Familyism ideologies as obstacles to legal protections for women in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. *Latin American Research Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/lar.2022.72>
- Mondragón, E. M. B., Quezada Castro, M. D. P., Arellano, M. D. P. C., & Quezada Castro, G. A. (2024). Scientific production on legal translation (1988–2023): A bibliometric analysis. *Journal of Educational and Social Research*, 14(1), 64–76. <https://doi.org/10.36941/jesr-2024-0006>

- Muñoz-Rivas, M. J., Ronzón-Tirado, R., López-Ossorio, J. J., & Redondo Rodríguez, N. (2024). Beyond the initial assault: Characterizing revictimization in intimate partner violence and its implications for women's health. *Psychosocial Intervention*. <https://doi.org/10.5093/pi2024a4>
- Naidu-Young, S., May, A., Pope, S., & Gérard, S. (2024). The experiences of women leaders in the higher education sport sector: Examining the gendered organization through Bourdieu's model of field, capital and habitus. *Sociology of Sport Journal*, 41(3), 255–266. <https://doi.org/10.1123/ssj.2023-0094>
- Nehushtan, H. (2026). Transforming bodies: Gendered stories of embodied change. *Feminist Encounters: A Journal of Critical Studies in Culture and Politics*, 10(1), Article 18. <https://doi.org/10.20897/femenc/17939>
- Nigam, S. (2021). *Domestic violence law in India: Myth and misogyny*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429326974>
- Podreka, J., Antić Gaber, M., & Smrdelj, R. (2024). Unveiling structural barriers: Gender inequality in the academic field (pp. 705–732). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-55897-9_76
- Ramos, R., Dufraix, R., & Guthrie, H. (2025). Invisibility and revictimization: Challenges in the detection and protection of victims of mixed forms of exploitation in northern Chile. *Revista Brasileira de Direito Processual Penal*. <https://doi.org/10.22197/rbdpp.v11i3.1201>
- Rana, M. Q., Lee, A., Bezerra, J. F., & Villas Boas, G. H. (2024). Empowerment and sustainability: Investigating barriers to women's transition from higher education to empowerment in Brazil. *Societies*, 14(11). <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc14110234>
- Rubini, E., Valente, M., Sguazzi, G. P., Trentin, M., Ragazzoni, L., & Gino, S. (2024). Forensic medical examination after conflict-related sexual violence: A scoping review of the literature. *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine*, 106. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2024.102736>
- Santillana, M. (2024). Framing feminist protest: A content analysis of the glitter revolution. *Feminist Media Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2024.2418378>
- Sedacca, N. (2022). Domestic workers, the "family worker" exemption from minimum wage, and gendered devaluation of women's work. *Industrial Law Journal*, 51(4), 771–801. <https://doi.org/10.1093/indlaw/dwac005>
- Silver, R., Makhuvu, S., & Morley, A. (2025). Counternarratives of COVID-19: Girls' stories of disrupted schooling in Malawi. *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*, 56(2). <https://doi.org/10.1111/aeq.12538>
- Skinner-Thompson, S. (2020). *Privacy at the margins*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316850350>
- Snickare, L. K., & Wahl, A. (2024). Still blaming the women? Gender equality work in academic organizations. *NORA - Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research*, 32(4), 292–306. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08038740.2024.2310535>
- Stewart, C. A. (2021). Underrepresentation of women STEM leaders: Twelve women on different journeys using their voices to shape the world through science. *European Journal of STEM Education*, 6(1), 16. <https://doi.org/10.20897/ejsteme/11387>
- Sviatschi, M. M., & Trako, I. (2024). Gender violence enforcement and human capital: Evidence from women's justice centers in Peru. *Journal of Development Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2024.103262>
- Taha, M. M. E., Abdelwahab, S. I., Sahli, K. A., Assiri, A. M., Farasani, A. M., Qadri, M. M., Alarifi, A., Khardali, A. A., Khamjan, N. A., Moshi, J. M., Alsaadi, K. H., Alshahrani, S. M., & Shubaily, H. M. (2025). From telepresence to intelligent convergence: Mapping the global research landscape of remote robotic surgery (1980–2025). *Journal of Robotic Surgery*, 19(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11701-025-02934-w>
- Taha, M. M. E., Abdelwahab, S. I., Sahli, K. A., Assiri, A. M., Farasani, A. M., Qadri, M. M., Alarifi, A., Khardali, A. A., Moshi, J. M., Alshahrani, S. M., & Shubaily, H. M. (2026). Global bibliometric analysis of molecular imaging-guided robotic-assisted surgery: Publication dynamics, thematic evolution, authorship patterns, and disciplinary landscape development (1982–2025). *Journal of Robotic Surgery*, 20(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11701-025-03039-0>
- Tirado-Acero, M., & Valles Romero, Y. (2024). Gender and access to justice. *Via Inveniendi et Indicandi*. <https://doi.org/10.15332/19090528.10677>

- Turismo, B. E., Natalis, A., Al Asy'arie, M. A. H., & Anggayasti, U. H. (2025). Beyond textual reform: A semiotic and feminist critique of Indonesian civil code. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law*, 38(7), 2261–2291. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-025-10314-8>
- Ulum, Ö. G. (2025). Sociocultural and legal dimensions of femicide and gender-based violence in Turkey. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-025-01205-5>
- Uribe Vásquez, G. P., & Urbano Guzmán, M. K. (2024). Gender perspective in the judgments of the Supreme Court of Justice between the years 1992 and 2022. *Revista Derecho del Estado*, (60), 143–171. <https://doi.org/10.18601/01229893.n60.07>
- Viera, W. F., Vera, L., Moya, M., López, D., Vásquez-Castillo, W. A., & Caicedo-Vargas, C. E. (2025). An assessment of scientific productivity: Review in the area of agricultural and biological sciences in Ecuador using scientometrics and Lotka's Law. *Publications*, 13(4). <https://doi.org/10.3390/publications13040059>
- Wallenberg, L. (2025). Representing women: On women's experiences, work and strategies in the Swedish film industry (pp. 130–140). <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781035302567.00023>
- Weaver, S., Shippen, M. E., Derzis, N., Curtis, R. S., Hall, A. L., & Fleming, C. L. (2025). The power of perception: Female inmate views on PREA implementation. *American Journal of Qualitative Research*, 9(1), 52–74. <https://doi.org/10.29333/ajqr/15879>
- Weinstein, E. R., Mendez, N. A., Jones, M. A., & Safren, S. A. (2025). The impact of syndemic burden, age, and sexual minority status on internalized HIV stigma among people living with HIV in South Florida. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 30(3), 421–433. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13591053241249633>
- Williams, J., Yates, S., & Connor, J. M. (2024). Creating a new pathway for change in the military using gender as process. *Gender, Work and Organization*, 31(1), 211–226. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gwao.13049>
- Williams, M. P., Manjourides, J. D., Smith, L. H., Rainer, C. B., Hightow-Weidman, L. B., & Haley, D. F. (2025). Neighborhood disadvantage, syndemic conditions, and PrEP non-adherence in young sexual and gender minority men. *AIDS and Behavior*, 29(8), 2645–2658. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-025-04722-x>
- Yang, P., & Henderson, S. (2024). Race, gender, class, and perceived everyday discrimination. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Studies*, 11(3), 51–66. <https://doi.org/10.29333/ejecs/1801>
- Yasmar, R., Nurmala, M., Nurbayan, Y., Erlina, & Atikah, T. (2025). A rhetorical-legal hermeneutic: Representations of women in the Qur'an through Balaghah and their implications for Islamic law. *Al-Istinbath: Jurnal Hukum Islam*, 10(2), 731–760. <https://doi.org/10.29240/jhi.v10i2.11132>