

Knowledge Mobilization in Research With Equity- and/or Sovereignty-Deserving Communities: A Bibliometric Analysis Protocol


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Abstract

Introduction: Knowledge mobilization (K*)—a term encompassing activities such as synthesis, dissemination, exchange, and application of knowledge—is discussed and cited across disciplines, particularly in research addressing equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities. Despite increasing calls for applied research, significant gaps remain between knowledge generation and its outcomes. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) aims to narrow this gap, especially in contexts marked by historical and systemic exclusion. **Objectives and Methods:** The objectives of this bibliometric analysis are to examine how K* terminology is applied, cited, and connected across disciplines, geographies, authors, and journals, and to produce accessible visual data that highlights patterns related to equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities. Adhering to established bibliometric methods, we will use Covidence to pre-screen records, export relevant records for a search within the Web of Science Core Collection to generate data, and then analyze and visualize citation and authorship trends and keyword occurrences using Excel, VOSviewer, and Gephi. **Results and Discussion:** The findings will reveal the frequently used K* terms, their citation

patterns, and how they cluster across disciplines, geographies, authors, and journals. Network visualizations will highlight influential citations, recurring keywords such as equity and community engagement, and thematic intersections with research involving equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities. The bibliometric analysis will contribute critical insights into how K* is framed and interacts with equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities within the literature.

Conclusion: Our protocol serves as a replicable guide for future bibliometric analyses in this area. By leveraging systematic searching protocols and the rigour of bibliometrics, we can create data visualizations to map influence, reveal hidden connections, and present complex knowledge landscapes in ways that are both analytically robust and accessible to diverse audiences, including equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities.

Keywords: knowledge translation, knowledge mobilization, implementation science, review, community-based research, equity

Introduction

Many disciplines have mechanisms to bridge the gap between the production of academic knowledge and action, policy, and/or practice. While there may be multiple terminologies to describe this process, most involve some form of synthesis, dissemination, transfer, and exchange (Turin et al., 2020). Terms such as *knowledge translation*, *knowledge mobilization*, and *knowledge transfer and exchange* are examples of widely utilized English terms in academia (Azimi et al., 2015). Without consistent nomenclature or metadata across disparate disciplines, examining the gap between knowledge production and its translation into action is fraught with difficulty. Throughout this paper, we have adopted the term *K**, which Shaxson et al. (2012) used to encompass the various terminology associated with knowledge translation and knowledge mobilization.

In the Canadian context, federal research funding agencies predominantly use two terms and definitions for the process in which research knowledge is disseminated and used. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2025) uses the term knowledge mobilization to mean “an umbrella term encompassing a wide range of activities related to the production and use of research results, including knowledge synthesis, dissemination, transfer, exchange, and co-creation or co-production by researchers and knowledge users” (para 4). The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR; 2012) uses knowledge translation and further distinguishes the terms *integrated knowledge translation* (IKT) and *end-of-grant knowledge translation* to describe the temporal commitments to engaging with knowledge users, rightsholders, and interest holders. CIHR defines knowledge translation as “a dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange, and ethically-sound application of knowledge” (CIHR, 2012, p. 1). Both definitions share similar concepts, especially the involvement of knowledge users throughout the research process.

Knowledge-with-Action Gap

While research institutions are increasingly encouraging applied research that involves research users, there remains a gap between the generation of research knowledge—mainly through academia—and the use/uptake of said knowledge. Arguably, non-academic communities are largely motivated to invest time and resources, including human resources, into research that offers valuable K* commitments and benefits back to their own communities. For research intended to have “real world” applications and relevance, research plans and grant applications require naming K* priorities, initiatives, and expected outcomes. That said, the level of community/public (“knowledge users”) engagement, leadership, and governance within research is highly varied and under-reported in academic literature (Nguyen et al., 2020).

A general disconnect between knowledge-user K* needs and research training, practices, and grants (e.g., timeframes, finance administration) has been written about by scholars; however, there is often little description about K* processes and outcomes within peer-reviewed literature on individual studies (Grimshaw et al., 2012; Morton Ninomiya et al., 2022; Turin et al., 2023). Grimshaw et al. (2012) posited that knowledge generated from research has not been successfully turned into health practices and policies. Turin et al. (2020) have suggested that the gap between research findings and application is due to the socio-cultural, organizational, and economic contexts that play a major underlying role during the research and mobilization process. On the other hand, Merga (2021) pointed out that academics may not be prepared to do K* work, or if they are, their already-large workload leaves them with little capacity to do so. Similarly, academics may see no motivational benefit to facilitate K* work that does not advance their own career (Fischman et al., 2018; Sharp et al., 2022). Such disconnections impact community members' perceptions of and investment in research.

Community-Based Participatory Research

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) approaches claim to shift research paradigms in ways that help increase the value and utility of K* in the research process (Jull et al., 2017). Minkler and Wallerstein's (2003) definition of CBPR includes an aim to improve community health through the combination of research and action (e.g., K*). CBPR is especially important pertaining to research intended to improve the health and well-being of people who are structurally and systematically excluded or discriminated against, referred herein as *equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities*, which include but are not limited to Indigenous communities, settled racialized diasporas, sexual orientation and gender identity/expression minority communities, people with disabilities, and people experiencing houselessness, poverty, and/or substance use (Heller et al., 2024; Public Health Association of Canada, 2001). The term "equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving" affirms the inherent rights of communities to justice, dignity, self-determination, and full participation in society.

Traditional research within Eurocentric knowledge systems have been marked by a power imbalance between the researcher and the researched, whereas collaborative and collective research approaches that flatten power hierarchies are often credited as coming from Indigenous and tribal ways of knowing and doing (Christensen, 2012; Ferreira & Gendron, 2011; Wallerstein & Duran, 2018). Christensen (2012) and Morton Ninomiya et al. (2020) have shown the usefulness of CBPR in engaging respectful and culturally appropriate research methods to ensure that research knowledge positively impacts Indigenous communities. K* is what makes research matter. To address equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities, one can argue that it is only ethical to ensure community-driven K* needs and priorities are reflected in K* in CBPR. Despite increased pushes to fund research that promises to inform practices, policies, and decisions through K* efforts, K* is often conceptually and institutionally limited by researchers' and funders' understandings of K* possibilities.

Bibliometric Analysis

Bibliometric analysis is a method of statistically analyzing large volumes of data (Donthu et al., 2021). This analysis provides a quantitative metric of relationships between an author's work and how it is read and used as a reference in another author's work (Donthu et al., 2021). Its availability and usefulness across multiple disciplines have significantly contributed to its popularity. Application and software programs such as VOSviewer and Gephi allow for rich data visualization that can recognize trends and make sense of unstructured data.

Using bibliometric analysis, researchers can see how the diffusion of knowledge is moving through a particular field and represent it visually to better understand publication relationships

(Donthu et al., 2021). These relationships in data can also be quantified and statistically described to extract meaningful information such as the strength of the associations. This method will be instrumental when seeking to understand why and how often the K* gap exists across and within different research disciplines. Additionally, inferences about how the K* gap has evolved over time can be made, allowing for a more macro-level approach (Öztürk et al., 2024). Finally, predictions regarding this gap's future direction can be made with statistical tools such as Microsoft Excel.

Objective

Disconnections between knowledge and action, especially in research with equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities, often mirror systemic oppressions and colonization (Israel et al., 2019; Smith, 2012; Stern, 2019; Tuck & Yang, 2012; Wallerstein et al., 2017). Through a bibliometric analysis, we will identify patterns and observe how (a) K* terminology is used and cited, (b) K* is associated with disciplines, geographies, authors, and journals, and (c) it is influenced by specific authors and citations. Another key objective is to produce easy-to-understand visual data that offers important insights, which will shape future in-depth studies that can further interrogate unexplained phenomena revealed by the bibliometric analysis. Together, we will shine a light on K* commitments that claim to serve equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities. The bibliometric analysis will answer the following research questions:

1. Since 2010, which terms capturing the general concept of knowledge mobilization (K*) are being used and cited across disciplines and geographies over time?
2. What connections can be made between K* terms and disciplines, authors, journals, and geographies?
3. What citations seem to be most influential around K* terms?
4. What are frequent keyword co-occurrences for common K* terms?

Methods

Our bibliometric analysis draws partially on methods described by Donthu et al. (2021) and van Nunen et al. (2018). The data sources for bibliometric analyses and data visualization programs vary from one study to the next. We describe in the forthcoming sections how we will collect, screen, analyze, and report on our bibliometric analysis. This protocol has been registered with Open Science Framework (<https://osf.io/43e8k>).

Search Strategy and Terms

This bibliometric analysis is being conducted in tandem with a scoping review (Barhouche et al., 2025) on the same topic. A search strategy (see Supplementary File 1) was developed with the support of two academic librarians. This search strategy was finalized in MEDLINE (ProQuest) and subsequently translated for PsycInfo (ProQuest), CINAHL (EBSCO), and the Web of Science Core Collection (Clarivate). The search strategy emphasized four central concepts—vulnerable populations, community-based research, K*, and health and well-being—drawing on terminology from previous published approaches (Campbell, 2020, 2022; Cooper et al., 2014; Woodford et al., 2020) and excluding outdated or problematic terms to ensure the search was as inclusive as possible.

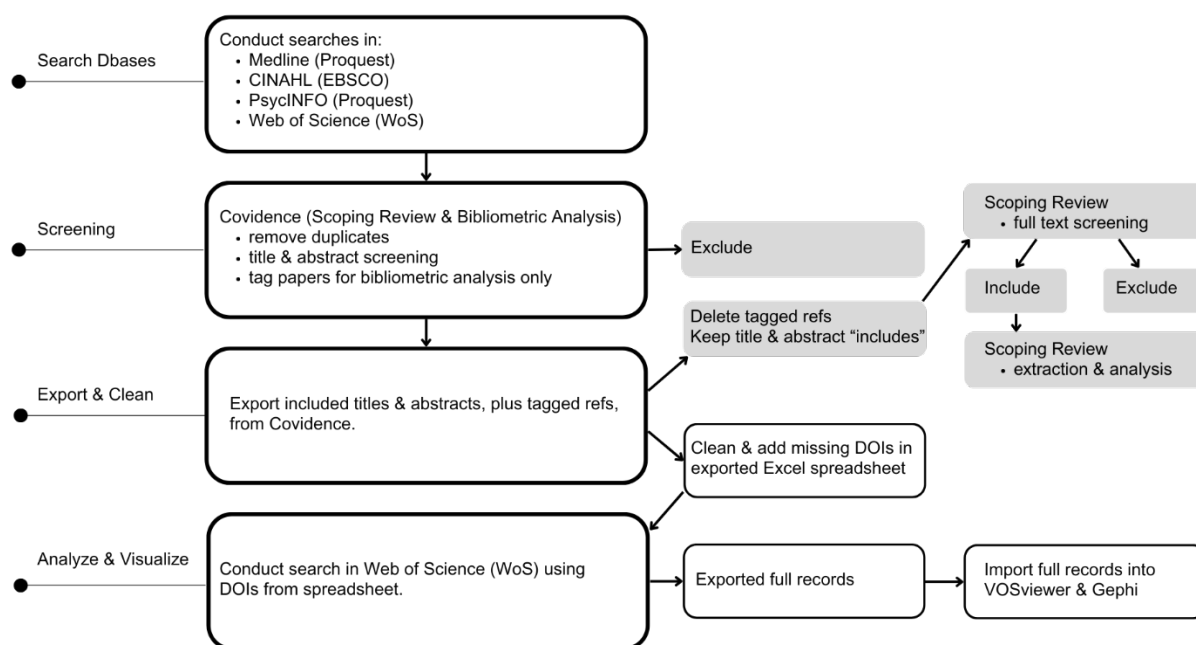
An initial search was conducted in June 2024, and the results were imported into Covidence for deduplication and title and abstract screening. An updated search will be conducted in late 2025. The inclusion criteria at the title and abstract phase of the scoping review and bibliometric analysis are the same, except that the scoping review will include only primary research papers, excluding reviews and discussion papers. For the bibliometric analysis, we want to include all relevant review

and discussion papers, so we are “tagging” them in Covidence before excluding them in the scoping review. References for sources included at the title and abstract screening for the scoping review, plus tagged and excluded review and discussion papers, will be exported from Covidence as an Excel file.

In the Excel file, we will fill in any missing DOIs before running a search in the Web of Science Core Collection using DOIs only. We chose the Web of Science Core Collection over other databases because it covers a wide range of disciplines, includes key studies from different fields, and offers reliable export options with full record data and fewer duplicates, helping reduce errors in the final analysis and visualizations. Figure 1 visually outlines the workflow of the bibliometric analysis in relation to the concurrent scoping review study.

Figure 1

Overview of Data Management for the Bibliometric Analysis and Scoping Review



Note. Shaded boxes indicate additional steps needed only for the concurrent scoping review study.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Eligible literature in the bibliometric analysis will include peer-reviewed papers (conceptual, theoretical, quantitative, qualitative), reports, books, commentaries, theses/dissertations, reviews, and discussion papers that mention K* in the title, abstract, or keywords. Because international discourse and explicit interest in K* in health and wellness research accelerated around 2010, this review will include studies from 2010 onward. During this period, influential frameworks, new funding streams, and specialized journals and communities of practice emerged, making 2010 a logical starting point to capture contemporary understandings, terminology, and applications of these concepts while minimizing the influence of outdated or less-developed discourse (CIHR, 2010; Conklin et al., 2011; Networks of Centres of Excellence of Canada, 2016; Wilson et al., 2010). Only

papers that are about equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities will be included. We define equity-seeking, deserving, or denied groups as people who are structurally, systemically, and socially marginalized or excluded by dominant power structures and who have inherent human rights to self-determination, including Indigenous Peoples; refugees, newcomers, and asylum seekers; racialized diasporas; Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and others whose identities fall outside heteronormative or cis-normative communities (2S/LGBTQIA+); people with mental health conditions, disabilities, and/or chronic illnesses; and older adults (Heller et al., 2024; Public Health Association of Canada, 2001). The inclusion and exclusion criteria and their rationale are listed in Table 1.

Table 1

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria for Bibliometric Analysis of Knowledge Mobilization Terminology

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria	Rationale
Printed in English.	Printed in languages other than English.	English is the only shared fluent language of the research team.
Published in 2010 or later.	Published before 2010 or older.	We want the most up-to-date articles, especially considering the rapid changes in K* literature. We are interested in seeing how it has developed in the past 15 years. Google trends show consistent usage in search terms from 2010 and beyond.
Uses specific terminology to describe K* in their paper.	Papers that do not use a specific term(s) to refer to K* initiatives, even if they describe elements of K* (e.g., implementation science; translational science).	We are interested in terms that people use to name and describe K* initiatives they facilitate.
The study addresses or supports something that aims to improve well-being for equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities.	Studies focused on capitalistic endeavours for monetary gain and power or focused on communities that are not equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving.	We are interested only in K* efforts in studies that aim to improve forms of well-being for communities who do not have equitable access to health and well-being.

Note. K* = knowledge mobilization.

Screening

As described in the search strategy section above, we screened search results from Web of Science (Clarivate), MEDLINE (ProQuest), CINAHL (EBSCO), and PsycInfo (ProQuest) in Covidence. To ensure high inter-rater reliability, researchers screened 25 randomly selected records based on titles and abstracts. If agreement was below 75%, we would have discussed and refined the inclusion and exclusion criteria before independently screening an additional five records. However, the threshold was reached upon first try. Titles and abstracts are being independently screened by two researchers. Based on the title and abstract, if one researcher thinks the record meets the inclusion criteria and the other does not, papers will be put in a “conflict” list. Each item in the conflict list will be resolved with a conversation between the two researchers, and, if consensus cannot be reached, the record will be included for full-text screening. Relevant records will be exported from Covidence with DOIs—missing DOIs manually added—and the finalized list of DOIs will be searched in Web of

Science. Full records and cited references will then be exported as a RIS file for further analysis in (a) Excel after passing through a citation manager, and (b) VOSviewer and Gephi, where data will also be visualized (Donthu et al., 2021).

Data Analysis and Visualization

In Excel, we will have all author names, author affiliations, publication date, article titles, journal names, DOIs, abstracts, and keywords. We will report on the following: (a) number of unique authors who have contributed, (b) number of unique institutions (of first author), (c) number of countries (based on affiliation of first author), (d) number of journals in which the articles were published, (e) total number of articles published per year, (f) leading contributing authors, (g) total numbers of citations of articles per year, (h) average citations per year, (i) most popular keywords and terms used in titles that link to equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities and K* concepts, and (j) clusters of citations around topics and geographies (Donthu et al., 2021; Zhu et al., 2020). Metrics reported in the bibliometric analysis will form a snapshot that informs us of the landscape of the literature in knowledge translation, as well as a baseline for future research to compare against. The extraction table (Table 2) lists which data will be analyzed in Excel, VOSviewer, or Gephi to answer specific questions.

Table 2

Bibliometric Extraction Table for Analysis of Knowledge Mobilization Terminology

Category	Description / Purpose	Data Source / Tool	Aligned Research Question(s)
Record ID	Unique ID for tracking each publication	Web of Science export	Supports internal data management across all questions
Title	Title of the article	Web of Science	Q1 (term usage); Q4 (title keyword trends related to K* and equity)
Authors (Full List)	All listed authors, comma-separated	Web of Science	Q2 (co-authorship patterns, disciplinary spread); Q3 (identify influential authors)
First Author	Name of the first author	Web of Science	Q2 (author-level analysis); Q3 (identify leading contributors)
Author Affiliations	All author affiliations	Web of Science	Q2 (institutional collaboration analysis); Q3
First Author Institution	Institution of first author (used to count unique institutions)	Web of Science	Q2 (institutional influence by geography); Q3
First Author Country	Country of first author's affiliation	Web of Science	Q1 (geographic distribution of K* terms); Q2
Year of Publication	Track publication and citation trends per year	Web of Science	Q1 (temporal trends); Q3 (citation growth over time)

Category	Description / Purpose	Data Source / Tool	Aligned Research Question(s)
Journal Name	Journal in which the article was published	Web of Science	Q2 (disciplinary reach of K*); Q3 (journal influence)
DOI	Digital Object Identifier	Web of Science	Supports traceability and citation checking
Abstract	Abstract text for keyword and contextual analysis	Web of Science	Q1, Q2, Q4 (contextual use of K* and equity-related terms)
Author Keywords	Provided by authors	Web of Science	Q1, Q2, Q4 (identify co-occurrence of K* with equity-related terms)
Keywords Plus	Keywords generated from references	Web of Science	Q1, Q4 (additional term frequency for co-occurrence analysis)
<i>K* Term Present?</i> (Y/N)	Manual flag if article uses a K* term (e.g., KM, KT, implementation science)	Manual in Excel	Q1 (K* terminology identification across the dataset)
<i>K* Term Used (Text)</i>	Specific K* term(s) used in the article	Manual or keyword match	Q1 (granular understanding of term variation by geography/discipline)
Equity/Sovereignty Term Present? (Y/N)	Manual flag for equity or sovereignty-deserving group terms	Manual in Excel	Q4 (detecting thematic linkages between K* and equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving group terms)
Equity/Sovereignty Keywords	Specific keywords related to equity, justice, Indigenous research, etc.	Manual or keyword match	Q4 (used in thematic mapping, clustering of values-based or critical research)
Discipline / Field	Assigned or inferred discipline based on journal or author info	Manual coding / automated	Q1, Q2 (term usage across disciplines; clustering of disciplinary affiliations)
Total Citations (All Years)	Total number of citations for the article	Web of Science	Q3 (identify influential works)
Citations This Year	Annual citation count	Web of Science	Q3 (current relevance of articles)
Average Citations Per Year	(Total Citations ÷ Years since publication)	Derived in Excel	Q3 (relative influence over time)
Co-occurrence Cluster (Keywords)	Thematic groupings of recurring keyword sets	VOSviewer output	Q4 (how often equity terms and K* terms appear together)
Node Size (VOSviewer)	Based on term or author frequency or citation count	VOSviewer output	Q3, Q4 (indicates influence or centrality in the map)

Category	Description / Purpose	Data Source / Tool	Aligned Research Question(s)
Cluster (VOSviewer)	Cluster ID showing grouping of similar terms or articles	VOSviewer output	Q4 (topic clusters based on term similarity and co-occurrence)
Betweenness Centrality	Measures how often a node connects different parts of the network	Gephi	Q2, Q3 (identify bridging institutions/authors or concepts)
Degree Centrality	Number of direct connections a node has	Gephi	Q2 (author/institution collaboration density); Q3 (network prominence)
Modularity Group	Automatically detected community/cluster structure	Gephi	Q2, Q4 (visualizing clusters of terms/authors by geography or discipline)

Note. K* = knowledge mobilization.

Full records from Web of Science will first be imported and analyzed using VOSviewer, a tool specifically designed for bibliometric mapping (<https://www.vosviewer.com/>). To answer our research questions, we will run three analyses in VOSviewer. First, we will conduct a keyword co-occurrence analysis and generate a map showing how frequently different keywords appear together in articles. This will help identify thematic clusters—for example, whether “knowledge translation” appears frequently with terms like “public health” or “implementation.” Second, we will conduct a citation and co-citation analysis to identify the most influential authors, journals, and papers based on how often they are cited. This will reveal the intellectual foundations of the K* field and the actors shaping its development. Third, we will examine authorship and country co-authorship patterns across countries or institutions, identifying which regions are central or peripheral in the global K* conversation.

VOSviewer automatically clusters related terms or authors using colour-coded visualizations. Each node represents an entity (e.g., keyword, author, or publication), and its size corresponds to frequency or citation count. The proximity between nodes shows the strength of their relationship. These maps will be useful for identifying dominant themes and gaps in the literature at a glance.

In addition to importing data into VOSviewer, we will import data into Gephi (<https://gephi.org/>) where we can run a layout algorithm to distribute nodes spatially in a way that reflects their relationships. We will calculate various network statistics, such as degree centrality (how many connections a node has), betweenness centrality (how often a node serves as a bridge between others), and modularity (which nodes naturally group into clusters or communities). These metrics will help us identify key players, tightly connected groups, and structural inequalities within the field. Gephi will allow us to customize visualization attributes—such as country, discipline, or institutional affiliation—and use this metadata to assign colours, shapes, or node sizes. For example, we might colour nodes by geographic region to visualize global participation in K* research, or size nodes by citation count to show influence.

We will interpret the maps by combining insights from analyses in VOSviewer and Gephi, and descriptive statistics from Excel. VOSviewer will provide a high-level thematic overview, while Gephi uncovers deeper structural patterns, such as which institutions dominate the K* conversation or how well equity-related terms are embedded in influential research. We will generate compelling visualizations and evidence-based narratives that shine light on the dynamics of K*. We will reveal patterns that have not yet been widely understood or discussed, the influence of language within

disciplines, and the degree to which K* features with research with equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities.

Discussion

Through our bibliometric analysis, our main objective is to uncover patterns in how K* terminology is used, cited, and associated across various disciplines, geographic regions, authors, and journals. Specifically, we will examine the ways K* language has evolved and circulated in the literature, identify key contributors and influential publications, and analyze how equity-related concepts intersect with reporting of K* research. We will generate accessible and visual data representations that offer a high-level overview of the field, while also revealing deeper structural dynamics that will likely warrant future investigation. This includes exploring how K* discourses align, or fail to align, with the goals of equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities.

This bibliometric analysis offers a systematic and visual approach to understanding how K* has been cited and shaped across disciplines, geographies, and time. To our knowledge, this is the first bibliometric study to map the K* landscape through the lens of research with equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities, building on prior reviews that have addressed related topics such as knowledge translation in policy (Lawrence et al., 2019; Nguyen et al., 2020), implementation science (Middleton, 2017), and Indigenous health contexts (Morton Ninomiya et al., 2022). While previous reviews have offered valuable conceptual and theoretical insights, this study applies a large-scale, data-driven method to trace how K* terms are used in the literature, how frequently they are cited, and how they cluster across author networks, institutions, journals, and geographic regions—over time.

The bibliometric approach enables us to examine important structural patterns in the field, particularly related to the distribution of influence. By identifying the most cited authors, journals, and institutions, we can assess the extent to which K* discourse is shaped by a concentrated group of actors. As we explore geographic differences, we can identify whether certain countries or regions are more represented in the K* literature (written in English) and how this may reflect broader global research dynamics.

Although bibliometrics cannot directly assess the quality or depth of engagement with equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities, it can reveal patterns in how these themes are associated with K* terms. For example, the frequent appearance of terms like “community engagement,” “equity,” or “Indigenous health” alongside K* terminology may suggest emerging thematic intersections. Conversely, their absence or confinement to isolated clusters may signal conceptual fragmentation or under-representation of certain perspectives. These patterns can guide future research by highlighting underexplored intersections or identifying disciplines and journals where equity-related K* work is less visible.

One of the strengths of this approach is the use of visual data to communicate findings. Tools like VOSviewer and Gephi allow us to generate network maps that depict relationships, including temporal relationships, among terms, authors, and regions. These visualizations are not only analytical outputs but also tools for K* themselves by making bibliometric patterns accessible to a range of audiences, including those outside of academia. While these visualizations cannot capture nuance or lived experience, they can help democratize understanding of who is shaping the field and where opportunities for greater inclusion may lie.

The findings from this bibliometric analysis will be complemented by our concurrent scoping review (Barhouche et al., 2025) that is exploring how K* is defined and applied in research with equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities, with particular attention paid to community involvement and reported outcomes related to well-being. Together, the bibliometric analysis and scoping review will deepen understanding of both the conceptual, influential, and practical dimensions of K*. Insights from the bibliometric and scoping analyses will also inform a newly funded

study examining how K* is practised in federally funded community-campus research with equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities in Canada.

Finally, this protocol contributes to the growing field of critical bibliometrics by offering a replicable approach. While bibliometric methods have limitations and do not assess content quality, community engagement, or lived experience, they are well-suited to identifying and visualizing patterns in scholarly communication. By making these patterns visible, we hope this work will support a more reflexive and accountable approach to K*, one that is responsive to the priorities of equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities and that draws attention to systems that reify exclusionary and discriminatory practices and policies.

Strengths and Limitations

Our bibliometric analysis was conducted alongside a scoping review. This methodological choice allows for a rigorous process that saves time and resources. This combined approach also enables us to address a broader range of questions from a shared body of literature. While our bibliometric findings are restricted to citation data (and do not include full text analysis) within Web of Science, they further complement the scoping review, which addresses gaps by examining the following: (a) how terms and concepts around knowledge mobilization (K*) are used, defined, and cited in the literature; (b) how community partners are involved in K* priorities, planning, and efforts; and (c) what well-being-related impacts and outcomes are reported in communities through K* efforts.

The bibliometric analysis will include only papers published in English. There is a lack of uniform terminology on the topic of K* across disciplines, communities, and geographies. As the topic of K* for research involving equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities remains unexplored, there are no consistent subject headings for the research team to reference or use as a guide for the literature searches. Using another citational relation database would also have helped with creation of the data set. Our analysis draws heavily on keywords that we have identified as relevant; however, relying on these keywords introduces bias, as we are the people generating the keyword list and then using that list to elucidate additional terms that are being used.

Conclusion

The meaningful involvement of equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities is essential to advancing research that addresses health inequities and honours the principle of “nothing about us without us.” Yet, the diverse and inconsistent terminology surrounding K* hinders its translation of research-related knowledge into action. This protocol outlines how a bibliometric analysis will map the K* landscape in research with equity- and/or sovereignty-deserving communities since 2010, identifying patterns in terminology, citations, authorship, and geographic distribution. By generating accessible visual data and highlighting structural dynamics, the study aims will support more reflexive and accountable approaches to K* that better align with community priorities and advance inclusive K* practices, such as the creation of visualizations to represent K* accompanied by a Creative Commons license that allows for the reuse, redistribution, and sharing of overall results to communities and the general public.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Declaration of Ethics

Ethics clearance was not required for this work.

Author Contributions

Tse, S: conceptualization, formal analysis, investigation, project administration, writing; Barhouche, R: conceptualization, formal analysis, investigation, project administration; Khalil, J: formal analysis, investigation, writing; Inglis, F: conceptualization, formal analysis, investigation, writing; Chaves, D: conceptualization, formal analysis, investigation, writing; Allison, E: formal analysis, investigation; Colaco, T. W: formal analysis, investigation; Morton Ninomiya, M. E: supervision, funding acquisition, conceptualization, writing.

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