

Political Alienation and Youth Disengagement: A Political Sociological Analysis of Generation Z's Trust in The Political Party System

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ABSTRAK

Studi ini mengkaji fenomena alienasi politik dan meningkatnya keterpisahan Generasi Z dari sistem politik formal, dengan menekankan kepercayaan mereka terhadap partai politik. Penelitian ini menggunakan analisis bibliometrik selama 25 tahun (2000–2025) untuk memetakan evolusi kajian tentang ketidakpuasan politik remaja, dengan mengintegrasikan teori alienasi politik, sosialisasi politik, dan kepercayaan politik. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kerangka kerja tradisional kurang mampu mengatasi kesulitan keterpisahan politik di era digital, di mana ketidakberdayaan, ketidakbermaknaan, dan isolasi muncul dalam bentuk yang kontradiktif. Terlepas dari keterhubungan dan akses Generasi Z yang luas terhadap informasi politik, kepercayaan mereka terhadap lembaga konvensional justru menurun drastis. Penelitian ini menekankan keunggulan kajian Barat dalam ranah ini, sekaligus menekankan kebutuhan mendesak akan investigasi spesifik wilayah di negara-negara demokrasi yang sedang berkembang seperti Indonesia. Penelitian ini menyajikan kerangka kerja analitis yang disempurnakan yang menggabungkan aspek struktural, generasional, dan psikologis untuk memahami alienasi politik remaja.

Kata kunci: keterasingan politik, ketidakterlibatan kaum muda, kepercayaan politik, Generasi Z, analisis bibliometrik

ABSTRACT

This study examines the phenomenon of political alienation and the increasing disengagement of Generation Z from the formal political system, emphasizing their trust in political parties. This research employs a bibliometric analysis spanning 25 years (2000–2025) to chart the evolution of scholarship on teenage political disaffection, integrating theories of political alienation, political socialization, and political trust. The findings indicate that traditional frameworks are insufficiently addressed in the difficulties of political detachment in the digital age, where helplessness, meaninglessness, and isolation appear in contradictory forms. Notwithstanding Generation Z's extensive connectedness and access to political information, their trust in conventional institutions is markedly diminished. The research emphasizes the preeminence of Western scholarship in this domain, while accentuating the pressing necessity for region-specific investigations in emerging democracies like Indonesia. This research presents a refined analytical framework incorporating structural, generational, and psychological aspects to comprehend juvenile political estrangement.

Keywords: political alienation, youth disengagement, political trust, Generation Z, bibliometric analysis



INTRODUCTION

Political alienation and the younger generation's apathy towards the formal political system have emerged as a significant concern in modern political sociology. Generation Z, born between 1997 and 2012, faces complex political challenges that are fundamentally different from those of previous generations (Schwartz, 2017) (Rice & Moffett, 2021). In contemporary democracy, confidence in the political party system serves as a crucial measure of a nation's political stability and legitimacy (Ignazi, 2014). Numerous empirical studies indicate a substantial decline in political confidence among the younger generation, with serious consequences for the viability of the democratic system.

Political alienation, as defined by (Appleton, 2019) and further elaborated by (Clarke, 1991), denotes the psychological condition of persons who perceive themselves as disconnected, impotent, and without significance within the political system. This circumstance affects formal political engagement, such as voting, and the development of political identity and democratic value orientations in the younger generation. This phenomenon is especially pertinent in the Indonesian context due to the recent democratic transition and the ongoing consolidation of political dynamics.

Generation Z underwent political socialization in the digital age, marked by rapid information dissemination, media fragmentation, and evolving modes of political communication. They were raised in an environment characterized by wide access to political information; faith in formal political institutions, nonetheless, exhibited a diminishing tendency. Prior research indicates this generation exhibits heightened criticality, skepticism, and elevated political transparency and accountability expectations. When the performance of the current political party system fails to meet expectations, disengagement or withdrawal from the official political process occurs.

The examination of youth political alienation has undergone considerable advancement over the last twenty years, coinciding with the rise of diverse worldwide political events that affect young individuals' political perspectives. In "Democratic Challenges, Democratic Choices," (Dalton et al., 2004) noted a significant transformation in political involvement patterns, noting that young individuals favor unconventional methods over traditional avenues like political parties.

(Brown, 2022) research on "Bowling Alone" was a vital foundation for comprehending the deterioration of social capital and civic involvement in the United States, subsequently inciting analogous investigations in several countries. This study demonstrated that diminishing participation in civic organizations is associated with reduced political trust and

engagement in the democratic process. However, criticism of Putnam's thesis has come from experts such as SELIGSON (1999), who contend that modes of civic involvement have altered, not gone.

(Bennett & Segerberg, 2012) research on "The Logic of Connective Action" offers a novel perspective on the transformation of political mobilization patterns due to digital technology in the digital generation. Research indicates that young individuals exhibit a greater affinity for horizontally structured collective action via digital networks than conventional hierarchical entities such as political parties. This discovery corresponds with the research conducted by (Hargittai & Shaw, 2013), indicating that adolescents favor more adaptable modes of political participation that correspond with their digital lifestyles.

A comparative study by (Henn et al., 2005) in the UK, it was revealed that while young individuals exhibit significant political interest, they harbor considerable discontent with the official political system and view political parties as unrepresentative of their ambitions. Comparable research conducted by (Benedicto & Ramos, 2018) in Spain, a consistent trend is revealed, indicating that young individuals exhibit low levels of political efficacy and are inclined to cultivate skeptical views towards political elites.

(Amin & Ritonga, 2024) study, elucidates the impact of political polarization on the political orientations of youth within the Indonesian setting. This study indicates that young Indonesians encounter cognitive dissonance between their adherence to democratic values and their discontent with the efficacy of democratic institutions. (Susila et al., 2020) study, elucidates how transactional political behaviors affect young individuals' opinions of the legitimacy of the political party system.

Despite extensive research on the political alienation of the younger generation, substantial gaps persist in the literature that require attention. Primarily, most current studies concentrate on the context of Western nations with established democracies, whereas studies in developing democracies such as Indonesia remain scarce. Secondly, prior research predominantly used quantitative methodologies that assessed involvement and trust levels. However, they fail to thoroughly examine the qualitative aspects of young people's comprehension and interpretation of politics.

Based on the background, objectives, and identified research gaps, the research questions posed in this study are how the evolution of research on political alienation and disengagement of youth, particularly Generation Z, has developed over the period 2000–2025; to what extent structural factors such as the performance of the political party system, the

quality of democracy, and the contemporary political context influence political alienation among Generation Z; how generational characteristics, including values, digital orientation, and formative political experiences, mediate the relationship between structural conditions and political alienation; in what ways individual perceptions of powerlessness, meaninglessness, anomie, and isolation shape Generation Z's level of trust in political institutions, particularly political parties; and how these forms of political alienation correlate with patterns of both conventional and non-conventional political participation in the digital era.

The study of Generation Z's political estrangement holds considerable theoretical and practical importance. This study will enhance political alienation theory by incorporating generational perspectives and the digital context. The findings are anticipated to yield a more thorough theoretical framework regarding the interaction of structural and individual elements in influencing political alienation in the digital era.

The results of this study hold significant significance for public policy and political involvement initiatives. An enhanced comprehension of the factors and traits contributing to Generation Z's political alienation can assist political stakeholders in formulating more effective measures to elevate the political engagement of this younger demographic. This is especially significant given that Generation Z will represent the majority of voters in the forthcoming decades.

The urgency of this research is propelled by current political developments that suggest the possible destabilization of democratic regimes due to rising political alienation. The phenomena of populism, political polarization, and increasing distrust of political institutions in numerous nations underscore the necessity of comprehending the dynamics of political engagement among the youth. In the Indonesian environment, characterized by a substantial youth demographic and a possible demographic dividend, comprehending their political orientation is essential for the future stability and quality of Indonesian democracy.

ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

This study employs an analytical framework synthesizing three primary theoretical perspectives: Political Alienation Theory, Generational Political Socialization Theory, and Political Trust Theory. Integrating these three ideas is essential for comprehending the intricacies of political alienation among Generation Z within the framework of the modern political party system.

Initially formulated by Melvin Seeman in 1959, political Alienation Theory draws upon Marx's notion of alienation and characterizes political alienation as a multifaceted phenomenon

with five principal elements: powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness (anomie), isolation, and self-estrangement. In the political arena, (Seeman, 1959) subsequently operationalized this notion into four dimensions: political helplessness, political meaninglessness, political normlessness, and political isolation. This idea has been further refined by (Mathé, 2018), (Schubert, 2018), and (Uhrich, 2021) to elucidate how individuals perceive detachment from formal political processes.

The Generational Political Socialization Theory, originating from (Cutler, 1976) foundational research on generations, and subsequently elaborated by (Grasso et al., 2019) his theory of value transformation, elucidates how a generation's formative experiences influence its enduring political attitudes. This idea posits that each generation possesses a "political imprint" established during early political socialization (ages 15-25) that often endures throughout one's lifetime. (Lee & Haley, 2020) recognized distinctive traits of Generation Z, such as increased individualism, institutional skepticism, and a preference for horizontal networks rather than hierarchical systems.

Political Trust Theory, articulated by (Richey, 2025) through the notions of "diffuse support" and by (Hooghe et al., 2017) in his examination of political trust, he elucidates that trust in political institutions underpins democratic legitimacy. (Devine, 2024) Subsequently, they elucidated the mechanisms by which political trust is established, evolves, and impacts political conduct. This idea is pertinent to comprehending the evolution and accumulation of Generation Z's cynicism in the political party system, leading to increased political alienation.

The three theories are synthesized within an analytical framework that regards political alienation as a phenomenon influenced by individual psychological factors, structural contexts (political systems, institutional performance), and generational factors (distinct political socialization experiences, generational values, and the digital environment). This framework acknowledges that Generation Z possesses distinct features and political experiences compared to earlier generations, necessitating an analytical approach attuned to these generational disparities.

This comprehensive analytical paradigm is particularly pertinent for examining Generation Z's political estrangement for numerous reasons. Political Alienation Theory offers a robust conceptual framework for comprehending how individuals may feel disconnected from the political process, which is essential to the examined issue. Inside the framework of Generation Z, political helplessness is notably pertinent, as this generation frequently perceives that their political voice and preferences exert no impact within a political system

predominantly controlled by older generations. When major political parties fail to appropriately address issues valued by Generation Z, such as climate change, social justice, or government transparency, it can evoke emotions of impotence that lead to political alienation.

Secondly, Generational Political Socialization Theory effectively elucidates the distinct political orientation of Generation Z compared to preceding generations. This generation underwent political socialization in the digital age, characterized by social media and decentralized information, influencing their expectations for transparency, involvement, and political accountability. Generation Z, familiar with immediate contact via digital platforms, often expresses frustration with conventional political systems that are slow, bureaucratic, and opaque. Loader et al. (2014) demonstrate that this digital generation favors "DIY politics," enabling engagement with political concerns independent of established political party frameworks.

Implementing this analytical framework will involve the creation of a research model that synthesizes variables from the three employed hypotheses. The research model will comprise three interrelated levels of analysis: the structural level, the generational level, and the individual level.

The Structural Level will assess variables about the political system and the efficacy of political institutions, encompassing: (1) Political Party System Performance, operationalized via indicators such as party responsiveness to youth concerns, transparency in decision-making processes, and youth representation in leadership; (2) Quality of Democracy, evaluated through indicators such as press freedom, governmental accountability, and adherence to the rule of law; (3) Contemporary Political Context, which includes political polarization, the prevalence of political scandals, and the government's effectiveness in addressing youth priorities.

The Generational Level will examine the distinct traits of Generation Z and their political socialization experiences, encompassing: (1) Generational Values, defined by measures of individualism versus collectivism, materialism versus post-materialism, and authority versus autonomy; (2) Digital Experience, assessed through the extent of social media engagement for political information, involvement in online communities, and preference for digital political communication; (3) Formative Events, which considers the influence of pivotal political occurrences during Generation Z's political socialization period (such as the reform era, the SBY era, and the Jokowi era) on their political orientation.

The Individual Level assesses dimensions of political alienation and political trust at the individual level, encompassing: (1) Political Powerlessness, defined by perceptions of personal influence in politics, internal and external political efficacy, and the belief in one's

ability to affect public policy; (2) Political Meaninglessness, assessed via comprehension of the political process, clarity of political alternatives, and the significance of politics in daily life; (3) Political Normlessness, encompassing perceptions of political corruption, breaches of democratic norms, and the legitimacy of non-democratic practices; (4) Political Isolation, defined through sentiments of detachment from the political community and the degree of identification with the political system; Political trust, assessed via confidence in political parties, parliament, government, and political leaders.

This study will measure outcome variables related to Political Engagement, encompassing electoral participation (voter turnout, partisan identification), conventional participation (membership in political organizations, involvement in political campaigns), and non-conventional participation (protests, online petitions, digital activism). The research hypotheses to be examined based on this operationalization are: (1) A diminished performance of the political party system in addressing Generation Z's aspirations correlates with an increased level of political alienation; (2) The generational characteristics of Generation Z (post-materialistic values, digital orientation, skepticism of authority) mediate the relationship between political system performance and political alienation; Political alienation exhibits a negative correlation with political trust and traditional political participation, although may demonstrate a positive correlation with unconventional forms of political activity.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a bibliometric analysis to delineate the research landscape concerning political alienation and youth disengagement from the political system, specifically concerning Generation Z and their trust in political party systems. Bibliometric analysis was selected as the principal method for its capacity to provide a thorough and impartial picture of research advancements in this field, elucidating research trends, citation patterns, researcher collaborations, and neglected research gaps and opportunities. This methodology enables researchers to comprehensively comprehend the current body of knowledge and situate their research within a broader academic framework.

The employed research paradigm is post-positivist, focusing on the quantitative examination of bibliographic data. This framework enables researchers to use objective measurements and statistical analysis to identify trends in academic literature, while remaining attuned to the complexities and subtleties of the study domain under investigation. This

bibliometric analysis seeks to generate statistical descriptions of publications and citations while identifying the intellectual framework of the research domain concerning young political alienation and examining the temporal evolution of knowledge in this topic. This methodology incorporates scientific mapping and scientometrics to generate visuals that enhance comprehension of conceptual networks, researcher partnerships, and the progression of research themes. This integration facilitates descriptive and exploratory analysis and predictive analysis of future research trajectories. This study employs a longitudinal approach to examine the evolution of research focus and technique on teenage political alienation from its inception to the present digital age.

This bibliometric study employs a retrospective methodology spanning 25 years (2000-2025) to document the progression of research on adolescent political alienation from the pre-digital to the digital native period. This timeframe was selected because 2000 signified the onset of the expansive internet era and the advent of the inaugural digital generation, while the 2025 cutoff facilitated the incorporation of contemporary publications pertinent to Generation Z, who had attained adulthood.

The search strategy was designed using an iterative method that integrated keyword searching, citation analysis, and expert consultation. The initial phase entailed the identification of fundamental concepts and essential language pertinent to political alienation, political apathy, Generation Z, youth, political trust, and political party systems. The search string was formulated utilizing Boolean operators and wildcards to guarantee extensive coverage of the diverse vocabulary employed across fields and research traditions. The utilized databases comprise Scopus as the principal database for its comprehensive coverage of international journals and strong bibliometric analysis features, the Web of Science Core Collection to guarantee the inclusion of reputable journals and precise citation analysis, and Google Scholar to encompass gray literature and publications potentially absent from commercial databases. The utilization of numerous databases seeks to reduce.

The primary term examined is "political alienation," which serves as the central theme of this research. The theoretical framework established by Seeman and Finifter includes terms such as "political estrangement," "political disaffection," "political cynicism," and "political apathy." Each word possesses distinct nuances yet pertains to the same range of psychological and sociological alienation from political processes. The search query for this topic was formulated as: ("political alienation" OR "political estrangement" OR "political disaffection" OR "political cynicism" OR "political apathy" OR "political disconnect*" OR "civic alienation" OR "democratic alienation").

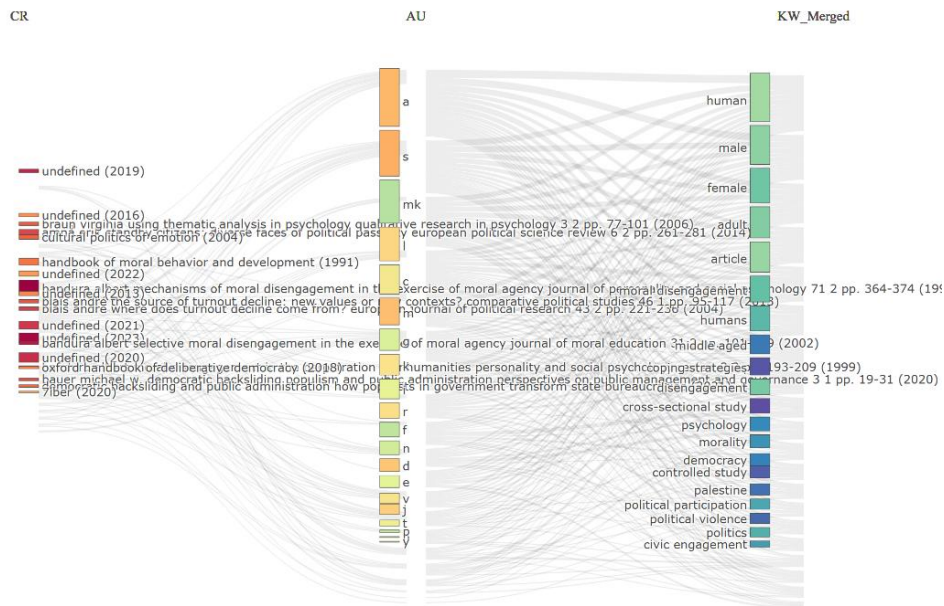
The second notion is "youth disengagement" along with associated terminologies concerning the apathy of young individuals towards politics. The identified phrases encompass "political disengagement," "civic disengagement," "youth apathy," "political withdrawal," "democratic deficit among youth," and "declining youth participation." This variance is significant because diverse research traditions often employ distinct terms to characterize analogous events. The formulated search string was: ("youth disengagement" OR "political disengagement" OR "civic disengagement" OR "youth apathy" OR "political withdrawal" OR "youth non-participation" OR "declining participation" OR "democratic deficit").

The third notion pertains to the target demographic, specifically "Generation Z," and the alternative nomenclature employed to characterize the same generational cohort. The terminology employed encompasses "Gen Z," "iGeneration," "digital natives," "post-millennials," "centennials," along with more general phrases like "young adults," "emerging adults," and "youth." The query for this idea is: ("Generation Z" OR "Gen Z" OR "iGeneration" OR "digital natives" OR "post-millennial*" OR "centennial*" OR "young adult*" OR "emerging adult*" OR "youth" OR "adolescent*" OR "teenage*").

The fourth idea is "political trust," encompassing related notions of confidence in political institutions and the party system. The defined terms encompass "institutional trust," "democratic trust," "trust in government," "political confidence," "legitimacy," and "political support." The formulated search string is: ("political trust" OR "institutional trust" OR "democratic trust" OR "trust in government" OR "political confidence" OR "political legitimacy" OR "political support" OR "trust in parties" OR "party trust"). The fifth notion is "political participation" and the diverse modalities of political activity that alienation may influence. The terminology encompasses "political engagement," "civic engagement," "electoral participation," "voting behavior," "political behavior," and "civic participation." The utilized search string is: ("political participation" OR "political engagement" OR "civic engagement" OR "electoral participation" OR "voting behavior" OR "political behavior" OR "civic participation" OR "democratic participation").

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1. Sankey Diagram of Citation Relationships Among Articles, Authors, and Keywords

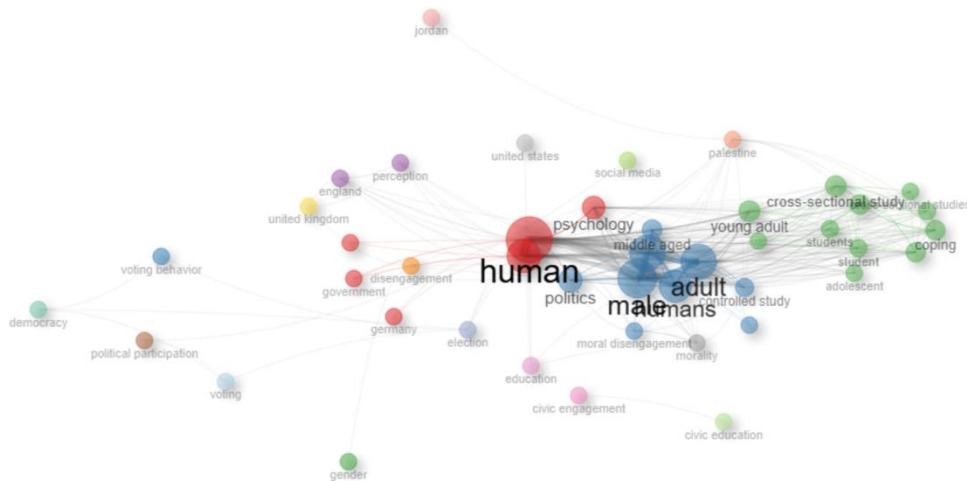


Presents a visual flow chart illustrating the interconnections among cited references (CR), article authors (AU), and keywords/topics (KW_Merged) in the literature of morality, psychology, and politics. This diagram illustrates that research in this domain is predicated on seminal works, such as the Handbook of Moral Behavior and Development (1991) and Bandura's notion of moral disengagement, which are key sources for numerous authors. References labeled "undefined" signify the system's incomplete or unstandardized bibliographic records. Authors denoted by initials such as "a," "s," and "mk" exhibit considerable engagement, as indicated by several associations with essential references and keywords. The findings suggest a pronounced emphasis on themes including morality, psychology, democracy, political involvement, and political violence, with specific contexts such as Palestine, highlighting the geopolitical and case study aspects.

Demographic terms such as human, male, and female are prominently featured, suggesting a psychological framework incorporating identity elements in the investigation. Moreover, methodologies, including controlled and cross-sectional studies, enhance the empirical foundation of this research. The triadic interaction among references, authors, and keywords illustrates a closely interconnected scientific environment, wherein moral and democratic questions are central to multidisciplinary discourse. This graphic offers a thorough

picture of the study environment that amalgamates moral studies, political involvement, and psychological techniques within a modern social setting.

Figure 2. Keyword Co-occurrence Network in the Study



This picture represents the keyword co-occurrence network in literature, emphasizing the interrelation of morality, psychology, and political engagement. Nodes (dots) signify keywords, with the size of each node reflecting the frequency of the word's occurrence in the data corpus. Simultaneously, connecting lines (edges) denote the relationships (co-occurrence) among keywords within the same article, creating clusters or thematic groups.

The central keyword is "human," positioned at the network's core with the largest node size, signifying that the predominant research in this domain prioritizes humans as the principal subject of investigation. Additional keywords that are pivotal and commonly co-occur are "male," "adult," and "psychology," suggesting that these studies predominantly focused on adult male cohorts employing a psychological framework. The terms "cross-sectional study," "controlled study," and "students" signify the prevalence of quantitative methodologies and experimental or survey methods in the research strategy.

This network illustrates the interconnection among keywords like "politics," "democracy," and "political participation," which are grouped with the themes of moral disengagement and civic engagement, indicating a strong correlation between the examination of morality and political involvement within a democratic framework. Additional clusters,

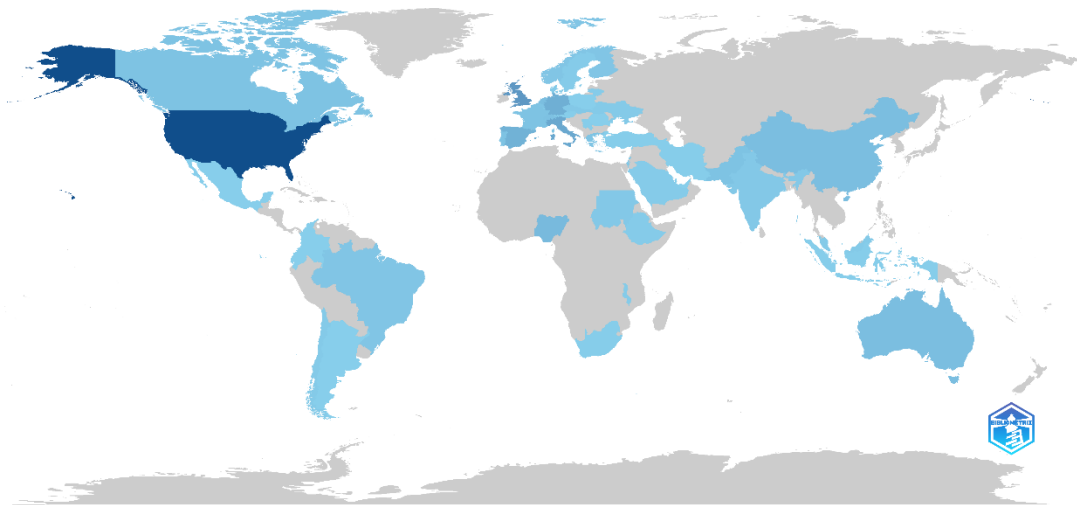
including "Palestine," "Germany," "Jordan," and "United Kingdom," suggest that this research encompasses contextual or comparative cross-national analyses.

The presence of terms like "young adult," "students," and "adolescent" alongside "coping" and "morality" signifies an emphasis on youthful demographics and psychosocial developmental concerns, especially regarding morality and emotional resilience. The term "social media" is positioned as a peripheral node, signifying that, although significant, this issue has not yet attained centrality within the current literature network.

Figure 2 indicates that the examination of morality and political participation is primarily influenced by psychological methodologies applied to adult demographics, featuring a range of subjects that include experimental research, nation-specific circumstances, and matters of democratic engagement. This image elucidates the interconnections among keywords that define the terrain of scientific discourse within the interdisciplinary domains of psychology, politics, and morality.

Figure 3. Global Scientific Production in the Study

Country Scientific Production



This image presents a global map illustrating the distribution of academic output according to each nation's contribution to research, integrating themes of ethics, psychology, and political engagement. The varied intensities of blue denote the degree of academic output; heavier colors correspond to more publications from that country.

The United States (USA) is primarily recognized as the epicenter of scholarly output, as denoted by the dark blue hue, reflecting its global preeminence in academic papers. This signifies that many studies concerning morality, political psychology, and experimental

democracy are derived from American research institutions and universities. Additionally, nations including the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, and France are notable contributors, as evidenced by the lighter yet substantial shades of blue, reflecting the longstanding tradition of social and political psychology research in the West and Europe.

Notably, various nations in the Middle East and Asia, including Jordan, Iran, Turkey, India, China, and Indonesia, engage in academic production, but to a lesser extent. This signifies an increasing scholarly interest and academic involvement from emerging nations in global discussions regarding morality and politics, encompassing their local or regional contexts.

African nations and certain Southeast Asian regions exhibit minimal or absent contributions in this picture, signifying a geographic disparity in the generation of global scientific knowledge. This map illustrates the geopolitical dynamics inside academia, wherein Global North nations persist in dominating mainstream scientific literature, while Global South nations are gradually exhibiting a trend of rising contributions, but inconsistently. Figure 3 visually depicts the power map of global scientific production in interdisciplinary areas, including morals, psychology, and political participation, and illustrates the trajectory of collaboration and potential knowledge integration across disciplines.

This bibliometric research reveals the necessity for a significant reconceptualization of the traditional idea of political alienation concerning Generation Z and the digital age. The political alienation theory posited by (McKay, 2019) is primarily predicated on the notion of a generally stable and linear political framework, wherein individuals maintain precise and predictable interactions with formal political institutions. Generation Z undergoes political socialization in a distinctly different environment, marked by information fragmentation, a plurality of authoritative sources, and democratized access to political communication venues (Suryo & Syafi'i, 2024).

This prompts essential inquiries regarding the adequacy of traditional aspects of political alienation in encapsulating the intricacies of modern political experience. The dimension of powerlessness, as defined in the traditional paradigm, posits that individuals possess a distinct comprehension of the locus of political power and the means by which it can be accessed or impacted. In digital politics, power structures have grown increasingly dispersed and interconnected, characterized by the rise of novel political influence via viral content, hashtag activism, and algorithmic curation. Generation Z may concurrently perceive a lack of

influence in formal political processes while exerting considerable agency in shaping political discourse via digital platforms. This paradox indicates that the conventional dichotomy between political power and helplessness may be insufficient for accurately representing the digital era's complex reality of political activity. The dimension of meaninglessness has experienced substantial modification due to information abundance and algorithmic filtering (M. H. Syafii & Azhari, 2025). The classical approach posits that political meaninglessness stems from a deficiency in comprehension or clarity regarding political options and their repercussions.

Conversely, Generation Z encounters information overload, making the political scene more intricate and conflicting. Algorithmic curating of political content can generate echo chambers that offer both a sense of significance (by confirmation bias) and a sense of futility (due to separation from the broader political context)(M. H. Syafii et al., 2025). This implies that meaninglessness in the digital era may pertain to maneuvering between conflicting narratives rather than merely an absence of knowledge(H. Syafii, 2025).

The isolation aspect has experienced the most profound alteration due to digital connectedness. The conventional understanding of political isolation presupposes physical and social detachment from political communities. Generation Z can be both digitally hyperconnected and detached from in-person political engagements. They can engage in international political discourse via social media while experiencing a disconnection from local political processes. This paradox illustrates the necessity for a revised comprehension of the elements that define political community and relationships within a networked society.

Theory of political trust, formulated in an environment marked by information scarcity and institutional gatekeeping in political communication, encounters significant obstacles at a time defined by information abundance, proliferation of sources, and diminishing institutional power. (Weller & Beer, 2023) differentiation between specific support (assessment of individual leaders or policies) and diffuse support (allegiance to the political system) presupposes a relatively stable informational context where citizens can develop consistent evaluations of political performance.

Generation Z navigates an information landscape marked by conflicting narratives, pervasive misinformation, and algorithmic filtering, which can lead to significantly divergent conceptions of political reality among its members. This indicates that conventional metrics of political trust may reflect distinct occurrences from those initially intended. The apparent decline in political trust may signify enhanced skill in information assessment or an adaptive

reaction to the information landscape, necessitating a more cautious stance towards all political information sources.

(Cook & Cook, 2021) The assertion that diminishing political trust diminishes the propensity to endorse government policies and adhere to governmental authority presupposes trust functions predominantly through affective or emotional processes. Research indicates that Generation Z's relationship with political authority is likely more utilitarian and context-dependent. Individuals may endorse particular policies irrespective of their confidence in the institutions executing them, or adhere to governmental orders based on an independent assessment of facts and outcomes rather than relying on authority.

The idea of institutional legitimacy necessitates revision to reflect the impact of digital technology on the connection between citizens and political institutions. Conventional models suggest that legitimacy derives from institutional efficacy or procedural equity. In the digital era, legitimacy is increasingly challenged through various channels and assessed according to diverse criteria, such as transparency, responsiveness, and alignment with ideals that may be globally influenced rather than locally sourced.

CONCLUSION

This study establishes that political alienation in Generation Z is not merely a consequence of apathy but a multifaceted reaction to the inadequacies of a political system that does not fulfill the aspirations of the digital generation. Bibliometric analysis indicates that traditional theoretical models, such as those proposed by Seeman and Finifter, require reconstruction to elucidate the emergence of political helplessness, meaninglessness, and isolation in the context of algorithms and digital connectedness. Generation Z may perceive a lack of involvement in formal political processes; nonetheless, they actively impact political discourse via social media and horizontal connectedness. This situation necessitates that researchers and policymakers reevaluate their strategies regarding youth political engagement, considering the socio-digital milieu that influences their political ideals and orientations. The findings of this study establish a basis for developing political involvement tactics that are more inclusive and attuned to the needs and attributes of the younger generation. In the context of growing public skepticism towards political institutions, comprehending and addressing the political alienation of youth is essential for preserving democratic legitimacy, especially in emerging democracies such as Indonesia.

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