ELECTORAL FRAUD AS AN OBSTACLE TO DEMOCRACY STABILIZATION: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract

The research is aimed at identifying the current electoral fraud that, in this study, is believed to disrupt the stability of the most democratic states from 2019 to 2024. The research method used in this study is a systematic literature review based on the use of 269 scientific articles sourced from the Scopus database that have been organized and restricted according to the context of related topics. The article review process was carried out using the Vosviewer application. Of the 269 scientific articles on electoral fraud that have been processed, it was revealed that from 2019 to 2024, there has been a decline in the interest in research on electoral fraud, which can be proved by the number of articles that are less stable in the scopus database. The results of this research have contributed to the development of political science that specifically deals with various electoral fraud practices. The research has the limitation that the data analyzed only comes from the Scopus database, so the findings of this study cannot comprehensively describe electoral fraud studies around the world. Further research needs to be balanced with the use of scientific articles, which are not only sourced through the Scopus database but also from internationally renowned databases such as the Web of Science and Dimensions Scholars.

Keywords: Democracy, Election, Fraud

Abstract

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi penipuan pemilu saat ini yang, dalam studi ini, diperkirakan akan mengganggu stabilitas negara-negara yang paling demokratis dari 2019 hingga 2024. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah ulasan literatur yang sistematis berdasarkan penggunaan 269 artikel ilmiah yang berasal dari basis data Scopus yang telah diatur dan dibatasi sesuai dengan konteks topik terkait. Proses review artikel dilakukan menggunakan aplikasi Vosviewer. Dari 269 artikel ilmiah tentang penipuan pemilu yang telah diproses, ditemukan bahwa dari tahun 2019 hingga 2024 telah terjadi penurunan minat dalam penelitian penipu pemilu, yang dapat dibuktikan oleh jumlah artikel yang kurang stabil dalam database skopus. Hasil penelitian ini telah berkontribusi pada pengembangan ilmu politik yang secara khusus menangani berbagai praktik penipuan pemilu. Penelitian ini memiliki batasan bahwa data yang dianalisis hanya berasal dari basis data Scopus, sehingga

temuan penelitian ini tidak dapat secara komprehensif menggambarkan studi penipuan pemilu di seluruh dunia. Penelitian lebih lanjut perlu diimbangi dengan penggunaan artikel ilmiah, yang tidak hanya berasal dari basis data Scopus tetapi juga dari database terkenal internasional seperti Web of Science dan Dimensions Scholars.

Kata Kunci: Demokrasi, Kecurangan, Pemilu

INTRODUCTION

Representative democracy is based on free and fair elections. But in many developed democracies, populist figures and language have been attacking elections more and more recently, casting doubt on the legitimacy of the democratic process. Although expert polls measuring and recording the objective integrity of the various elections have received most of the attention from academics thus far, a thorough understanding of citizen-elected integrity views and their consequences for political behavior is still missing (Schnaudt, 2023). The political elite views electoral fraud as a cover for examining the validity of the results and the variables that could account for their divergent views on the matter (Schnaudt, 2023b). A prevalent accusation of manipulating votes in the 2020 US presidential election, for instance, revolves around Dominion Voting Systems' technology (Herron, 2023).

Technology is becoming more and more necessary to suit human needs, so using it wisely is essential. The increased usage of technology has brought new challenges to modern democracies, where public confidence in governments is eroding and elections play a significant role. Elections are important because they choose a nation's or organization's future leader. However, the lack of transparency in some automated voting systems has drawn criticism. Because of the current voting systems' vulnerability to abuse and lack of transparency, fostering public confidence in the government is an extraordinarily difficult endeavor. Because of these flaws, both the current and traditional digital selection systems are unsuccessful (Preiya et al., 2023).

Numerous intricate issues, including high rates of poverty, a lack of public knowledge of monetary policy and its implications, a lack of oversight mechanisms, and ineffective legal systems, all contribute to electoral fraud. Institutions, both formal and informal, need to be deliberately developed and improved in order to address these problems. The election committee should be the first, with responses coming in from all the way down to the village level. Establishing anti-monetary political villages is also advised as a way to support legal sovereignty and promote political education (Adlin et al., 2022). However, certain authoritarian elections have long since resisted democratization. the way that the executive election system affected the democratic shift away from electoral authoritarianism. More so than under a presidential system, autocrats can thwart democratization in a parliamentary system. This is due to the fact that a system based on Parliament obliquely permits electoral manipulation—such as gerrymandering and misreporting—to result in a victory in the polls. The legislative system also hinders opposition party coordination and encourages ruling and authoritarian elites to participate in power struggles, which institutionalizes the ruling party (Higashijima & Kasuya, 2022).

With the aid of formal political theory and rational choice, some of the most

significant claims regarding democratization have been produced over the course of the last 25 years. Formal theory has essentially looked at two groups of fundamental mechanisms. The first views elections as both the cause and the answer to issues of commitment, while the second places emphasis on how democratic institutions lessen conflict. Both of these mechanisms share the trait that democracy does not seem like an aim in and of itself but rather as a means of lowering the costs associated with political and economic transactions, the main causes of which are asymmetry in knowledge, commitment problems, and violent acts. From a methodological standpoint, this research advances communication and knowledge acquisition in political science as well as other fields by advancing the creation of clear and analytically repeatable theoretical arguments (Svolik, 2019). In addition, addressing electoral fraud requires not only institutional reforms but also broader societal changes to tackle underlying structural issues. Strengthening transparency and accountability at all levels of governance is essential for building trust in electoral processes and empowering citizens to safeguard their integrity.

The most researched theory, that electoral fraud is a chance to conduct fraud, is currently the weakest in a range of literature before delving deeper into a full debate. Finally, we talked about how electoral fraud will change from 2019 to 2024. This was possible because there is a lot of research on the topic in the Scopus database. This research was then processed using the Vosviewer application to find the most commonly discussed keywords and how common those terms are in relation to voting fraud and voting systems. We also disclosed that trends in the scientific community's interest in studying electoral fraud had declined. There were 45 documents made available in 2019. There are just 38 of these documents as of 2020. With the publication of roughly 45 documents in 2021, the public has once again garnered attention. With 65 publications produced in 2022, public interest has sharply increased. The trend of increasing numbers continues in 2023, reaching previously unheard-of levels. But as of right now, in 2024, interest among scholars hasn't been as high as it was in the past. Impact of our research and contend that, by raising interest in studying electoral fraud, present initiatives are critical to enhancing voting security.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Several studies address electoral fraud; Winger (2023), for example, argues that democracy is not just about who wins an election but also about whether the results are recognized as valid. The study's objective was to evaluate the challenges American election officials face in convincing voters of the security of voting procedures—problems that countermessages did not address—with partisanship emerging as a glaring predictor of growing mistrust of election security. The results underscore the systemic risks posed by election disinformation and outline the challenges faced by electoral officials in persuading the public of the legitimacy of the election.

Nevertheless, in the majority of major democracies, administrative efforts are focused on enhancing election credibility and decreasing electoral fraud. It is uncertain, nevertheless, if the policy initiative has a positive feedback loop on political rivalry. Following the implementation of voting reforms brought about by technology in India, the perception of election legitimacy was proven to have a substantial impact on political rivalry. The Verified Paper Audit Trail of Electors (VVPAT) is a new layer of

transparency that electronic voting machines in India are required to cover (Chatterjee et al., 2023).

According to Starbird (2023) research, promoting public engagement is crucial to preventing the potential for participatory disinformation or behavior. In order to achieve this, the study used a mixed analytical approach to analyze social media data in order to look into three incidents of false claims pertaining to voting fraud. In contrast to the widely held belief that elites direct and/or manage campaigns, the study reveals a more complex type of campaigning. This study demonstrates hybrid dynamics, implying interactions that are more akin to improvisation and cultivation from the top to the bottom as well as from top to bottom.

According to certain research findings by Biggers (2023), is it possible to lessen concerns about election fraud and boost presence by raising public knowledge of vote tracking systems and other election safety measures? Petrusenko (2024) research provides a partial response to the question by emphasizing how the art of Russian protest uses the history of dissent and revolution to explain large participation in protests. As evidenced by the protest artwork created by artists of all political views, a common historical understanding helps to rouse citizens who were previously apolitical and to bring the previously divided opposition together. From voter manipulation to Russian intervention, the wave of conspiracy theories surrounding the elections has been raging on social media since the 2016 U.S. presidential election, reaching alarming proportions. Recent research reveals interesting results: individuals with strong levels of political affiliation and deeper knowledge tend to be more inclined to support conspiracy theories, with a more significant impact seen on the conservative side than on the liberal side. Furthermore, the study suggests that increased political participation can reduce the level of support for conspiracies among conservatives while at the same time increasing support for liberal views, affirming the important role of political involvement in shaping perceptions of conspirators between the two political forces (Jiang, 2023).

Another study explains that reversing election results is often the main motivation for many candidates, but not a few also use the courts for other strategic purposes. They do so to strengthen prospects for future elections or in the framework of negotiations for government posts. Post-election disputes that do not respond seriously to fraud and misconduct can threaten democracy by undermining the legitimacy of the courts and increasing the vulnerability of the judiciary to political interference. In this context, we have developed a classification scheme aimed at identifying the various motives behind candidates filing general election petitions (Erlich et al., 2023). The findings were reinforced by Kusdarini (2022) findings, which highlighted that both the government and the general election participants were often involved in unknown administrative violations. The relevant courts used administrative legal proceedings to defeat administrative fraud in the general election after the collapse of the New Rules Age. This administrative violation not only caused losses to the participants but also sparked administrative conflict that affected both sides. It does not automatically indicate an escalation of illegal manipulation or fraud during those periods. However, it affirms the need for (i) auditors to pay extra attention to the quality of accounting data in critical periods and in a particular environment; and (ii) the importance of voters and the media in assessing the financial performance indicators of entities as a reflection of the administrative efficiency of the politicians in

office (Capalbo et al., 2023).

Khan (2023) research has revealed the significance of a fraud-free electoral system in determining a country's future. The focus of this research is to design and build an electoral system that is free from mistakes and attempted manipulation throughout the process, from the registration stage to the end of the electoral cycle. Suttmann-Lea & Merivaki (2023) argued that state investments in voter education not only strengthen voter confidence but also enhance their experience and create a culture of voter education, both of which simultaneously pave the way for greater transparency in the electoral process. Electoral lists definitively determine who is eligible to participate in elections, but the quality of the lists often varies significantly from country to country. This raises concerns about the presence of de facto eligible voters but excluded on election day, as well as the possibility of non-eligible voters or even fictitious names appearing on the list, which may open a gap for electoral fraud. Attention to this policy is rising, especially in 2023, according to the authors of Informa UK Limited, which operates as part of the Taylor & Francis Group (James & Garnett, 2023). Does electoral fraud stabilize or weaken authoritarian rule? Evaluations of candidates from fraudulent regimes frequently influence voters' choices. These fraudulent practices not only diminish public confidence in the regime but also potentially undermine the regime's core support in the election. For authoritarian rulers, cheating is not only expensive because it triggers protests but also because it can tear down the foundations of support they built during the elections. Because many of their loyal supporters want a transparent and honest election process, the regime has a strong motivation to hide or limit the use of electoral fraud (Reuter & Szakonyi, 2021).

In the area of electoral integrity, recent studies have highlighted various aspects of electoral fraud and its implications. The challenge faced by American election officials is instilling public confidence in voting procedures, especially in the face of growing party mistrust. Similarly, public involvement in combating participatory disinformation. Furthermore, Petrusenko's findings highlight the role of historical narratives in mobilizing protest movements, showing the complex dynamics of political involvement. At the same time, the various motivations behind the election-related dispute highlight the potential threat that post-election disputes pose to democracy.

Meanwhile, the important role of the fraud-free electoral system in shaping the future trajectory of a country is prompting comprehensive reforms to protect the integrity of the electoral process. These studies collectively emphasize the importance of transparency, public engagement, and systemic reform to combat electoral fraud and strengthen democratic principles around the world. To understand the digital maturity of government as a whole, this research framework is built on the ideas and results of previous research for the maturity of e-government throughout the world, reflected in the adoption of digital technology by governments in various countries which was stated by previous researchers that election fraud is facing a new round of results. globalization. This research opportunity is promising that the application of digital technology at the government level is very dependent on solid public policies, including technology regulations, data management, cyber security, and digital inclusion to suppress and create government governance arrangements to anticipate election fraud.

METHODS

The Systematic Literature Review, or

SLR, method is being used in this investigation. Given the paucity of research on the topic of reviewing scientific literature about electoral fraud, the SLR approach was used. Authenticity trends and the global presence of research on a given topic or connected issue can be observed through SLR itself.

By employing this technique, you can respond to inquiries about the evolution of research on electoral fraud, among them through the following subquestions:

1. What are the patterns in the year, author, region, and subject of scholarly papers about electoral fraud?

2. How is the research theme spreading from 2019 to 2024 based on the cluster of scientific papers related to the topic of digital electoral fraud?

The PRISMA procedure, which stands for Preferential Reporting Items of Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses, is followed when doing research. Screening, including the Scopus database, and identification are the steps carried out in accordance with the methodology. Starting with the first stage of article search and adding keywords to the scopus search column, the identification process gets underway. Currently, 944 items are visible. These are thoroughly checked until duplicates of 57 articles are discovered. Verify that the articles are in line with the selected topic, the scientific standards, the journal types, the English-language articles, and the simple access to the entire document.

A method is also in place to find digitally accessible publications in the form of RIS that are closely related to election fraud subjects. Finding articles that have a strong degree of relevance to the topic of Election Fraud and are available in the form of RIS files; creating a valid and accurate report regarding the number of articles to be selected to be established as references for

review articles; and identifying 269 articles that are strictly ferivicated and validated are all part of the screening stage, which is the stage to determine the number of articles recorded from the scopus database as well as in accordance with the chosen topic of study.
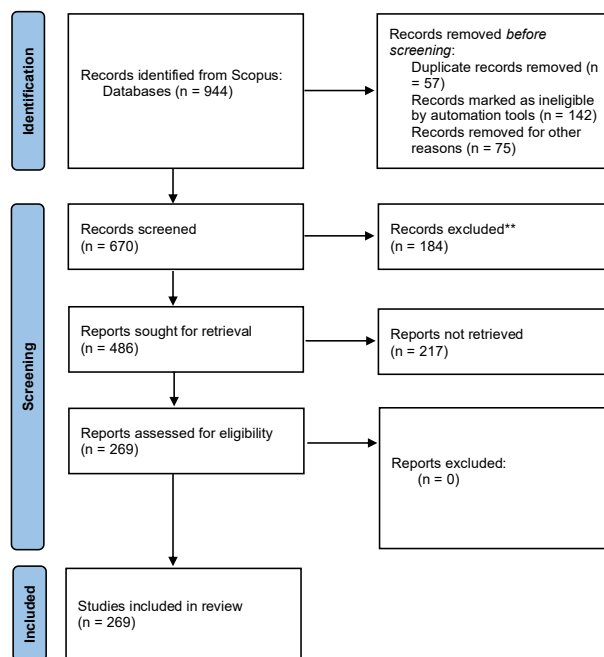
Figure 1: PRISMA Flow Chart of study selection

Establishing a writing theme is a crucial first step in starting a scientific writing process. This selection of themes allows the author to determine the direction of the study and the scope of the problem or issue to be investigated. In the context of research, once the theme has been chosen, the next step is to find relevant data using information sources such as Scopus. This process ensures that the chosen data source is in line with the given theme, enabling researchers to gain a solid foundation for their research. Next, to step into the data analysis phase, the data that has been collected has to be processed using utilities like Mendeley and Vosviewer. This is a crucial step in managing and organizing the data before moving on to the further

evaluation and interpretation phase of the data.

The next step in the research process is data analysis, which requires a focus on the evaluation of the data that has been collected. Here, the author must conduct a thorough analysis of the data to understand trends, patterns, and important findings that may arise. This analysis process can involve a variety of techniques and methods, depending on the nature of the data collected and the purpose of the research. The importance of this stage of data analysis is to generate a deep understanding of the research topic and to compile significant findings in the context of relevant theory. Thus, this stage plays an important role in validating or rejecting an early hypothesis, as well as developing new insights that can contribute to a better understanding of the topic under investigation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

According to the analysis, the Scopus database will provide precise data on electoral fraud themes from 2019 to 2024. Throughout that year, a large number of researchers have been working in the field of election fraud, with 2023 having produced the most writing with 70 articles uploaded to the scopus databases. However, by the start of 2024, the consequences had decreased, and there were fewer researchers discussing them. Naturally, it is anticipated that since electoral fraud is a topic that interests people greatly, studies on the subject will only increase. The following description illustrates the analysis and cluster results:
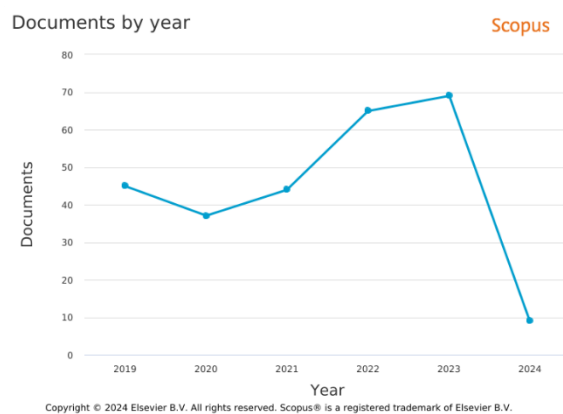
Figure 2. Table of writing data based on the year of publication

The data above shows that the development of research groups tends to decline in 2024. This reduced interest from researchers is not because the topic of election fraud is no longer interesting, but rather the conditions at the time this research was conducted were still at the beginning of 2024. Research trends in 2023 will be the dominant year for dealing with election fraud because everyone is still talking about the elections that will be held in 2024. There are around 57 countries that will hold elections in 2024. Of course this is interesting for the author who will discuss the election fraud that will be carried out. Meanwhile, an in-depth discussion of electoral fraud can provide an understanding of how the process of conducting elections is not independent of the existence of the practice of fraud. This indicates that honest elections are an illusion that is very difficult to create because everyone wants to be in power and wants to get a position through elections.

Despite progress in democratic practice, electoral fraud continues in many countries around the world. A thorough examination of electoral fraud reveals its widespread nature and highlights the complex dynamics underlying the electoral process. It becomes clear that the conduct of elections is closely linked to the prevalence of fraudulent practices, emphasizing the challenge of ensuring a truly transparent and

fair electoral system. These findings underline the nature of avoiding fair elections, as the pursuit of power and positions often encourages individuals and entities to engage in fraudulent activities to ensure election victories.

Election fraud is a topic of great discussion in the United States, and it is inextricably linked to the incident. Due to his suspected involvement in attempts to rig the 2020 US presidential election, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis ordered Donald Trump's arrest on August 14, 2023. This law draws attention to a number of earlier occurrences. Early in August 2023, charges of employing racketeering laws to manipulate the outcome of the 2020 US election in Georgia were brought against Trump and eighteen other individuals. Nonetheless, US Attorney General William Barr declared on December 2, 2020, that the Department of Justice had not discovered any proof to back Donald Trump's allegations of electoral fraud. Regarding the election's integrity, this statement sparked debate. In actuality, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) committee verified on November 11, 2020, that there was no proof of any major vote loss or election system tampering. Trump's detention therefore illustrates the ongoing discourse over the validity of the US election in 2020 as well as the disagreement over the involvement of Trump and his associates in the problem. The image below provides evidence of American writers' interest in the subject of electoral fraud:
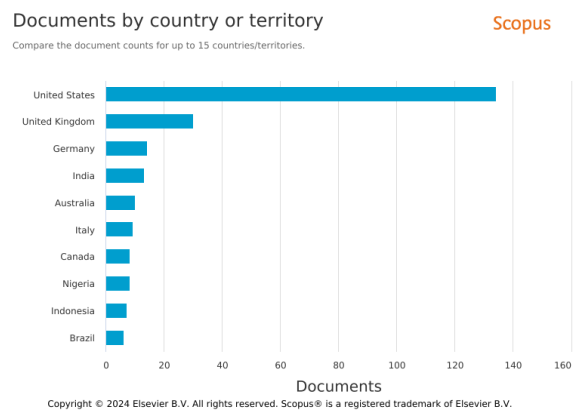
Figure 3. Country Data table related to the topic

According to the following diagram, authors in the United States are more interested in writing about electoral fraud than authors in other nations, with 135 articles published in the scopus database. Germany is ranked third, and the United Kingdom is ranked second in terms of electoral fraud. The ranking is based on the number of articles that were published in the Scopus database between 2019 and 2024. With 50 states and one federal district, the State of the United States (United States) is a federal constitutional republic. After China, Russia, and Canada in terms of area, the United States is the fourth largest nation on Earth. The United States of America encompasses the majority of the northern region of the American continent, as well as the islands of Hawaii in the Pacific and Alaska in the Northwestern section. The West, Midwest, South, and Northeast are the four main regions that make up the United States. This will undoubtedly encourage candidates to "legalize" any means by which they might win this nation's elections. And this would pique the interest of numerous writers of articles for discussion. The image below displays the articles that the researchers have published and discussed, together with the number of their works that stand out among those of other authors.

Figure 4. Table of article writing data by author

Based on the previously provided facts, the author's Scopus database diagram shows how authors from different parts of the world have similar interests. It implies that even if individual writers may focus on different facets of the topic of election fraud, wri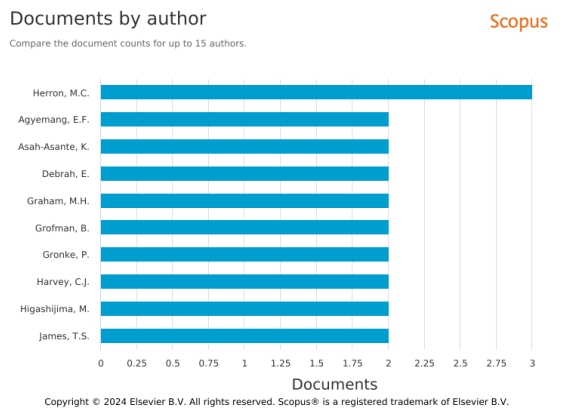ters from a range of backgrounds are nevertheless drawn to the issue overall, with the topic of election fraud acting as the overarching theme for their work. In research on election fraud, it was found that Herron was the author with the most works among other authors, with 3 articles uploaded to the Scopus database. In their writings, the authors present a fresh perspective on science, which informs their ideas and serves as the foundation for their writing process on the theories they employ all the way to the conclusion. Furthermore, it is impossible to overlook how they handle contentious matters within and outside of their nation.

According to Herron (2023) study, Dominion Voting Systems' technology is at the heart of one of the most pervasive claims of voting fraud in the 2020 presidential election. In particular, then-President Donald Trump asserted during the election that millions of votes cast in support of him were eliminated because of the Dominion system utilized across the nation. This is a highly devastating assertion, considering how many jurisdictions in the US rely on Dominion technology. There is no proof in Wisconsin that the proportion of voters who support Trump in 2020 is lower in jurisdictions that use Dominion technology, nor is there any proof that the Republican candidate for Congress will have a smaller percentage of votes in the same jurisdictions by 2020. Therefore, Wisconsin does not provide any proof that the Dominion Voicing System's use in voting has harmed Donald Trump in 2020, and as a result, there is no proof that the claims of voice manipulation associated with the system are just hoaxes.

Moreover, independent audits and investigations conducted in various states, including Wisconsin, have failed to uncover evidence of widespread voter fraud or manipulation related to Dominion Voting Systems. Despite Trump's statements and his legal challenges, these audits consistently reaffirm the integrity of the electoral process and the accuracy of the voting technology used. It underlines the importance of relying on factual evidence and strict surveillance in evaluating allegations of electoral fraud, as opposed to unfounded allegations and speculation.

The picture below, which provides an understanding of the subject area that is the focus of various authors' research and its implications for the subject, captures the interesting discussion above, which is not apart from the important topic of discussion about electoral fraud in various countries.
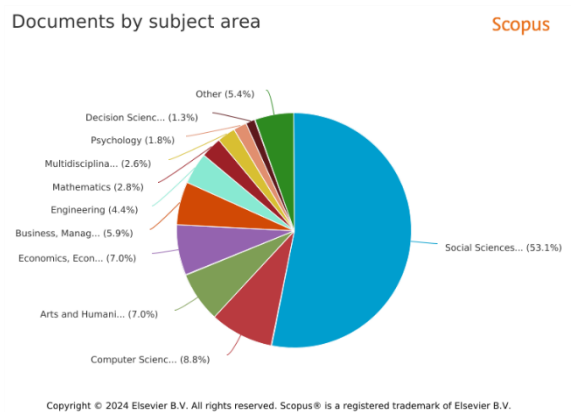
Figure 5. Table of article writing data by Subject Area

Based on the image above, it raises questions about the research patterns contained in 269 literature regarding election fraud. The data shows that the author's interest is in the social sciences which cover 53.1% of the total topics. The data indicates that the author's interest is in the social sciences, which make up 53.1% of the total topic area. It demonstrates how closely social science is related to the subject of election fraud because social science tracks unabated occurrences in the scientific sphere. On the other hand, he made note of the fact that election fraud is frequently carried out by state leaders who have an authoritarian inclination by forcing the populace to submit to the wishes of the nation's leader. Naturally, this is predicated on the ambition of current and potential leaders to govern a nation. In addition, a lot of academics have focused on subjects that they utilize as a springboard for their study, such as voter fraud, voting systems, manipulation, conspiracy theories, and observation. which can be seen from the image below, which is the result of the analysis of the Vosviewer application.
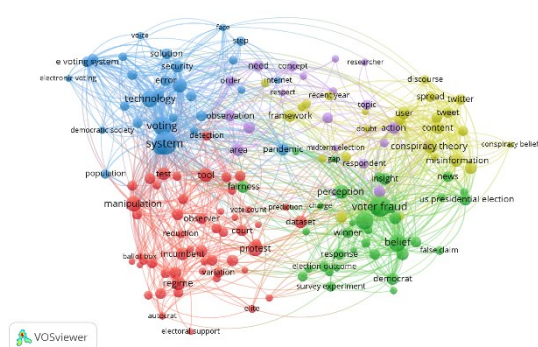
Figure 6. Vosviewer Networking Data Mapping

The data in the graph above show that the blue root represents the discussion of the voting system, the yellow root represents conspiracy theories, the red root represents manipulation, the green root represents voter fraud, and the purple root represents observation. It demonstrates how the problems raised by the subject have bearing on the notion of election fraud. In the context of election fraud, there are links between every hot topic that cannot be broken. For instance, there will be a great degree of manipulation either in the nomination process for the election or prior to the election if the voting system is too vulnerable to manipulation because of the way the system is enforced. The frequency of voter fraud will draw researchers to observe the phenomenon of electoral fraud in greater detail, so there is a strong correlation between voter fraud and observation. Naturally, every topic that is discussed also gives rise to doubts about numerous notions that either become conspiracy theories or are unpalatable to everyone. To provide you with a more detailed understanding of a more focused cluster division, the table below lists the various keywords associated with each cluster.

cluster 1 consisting of 52 keywords including: Aftermath, author, authoritarian regime, autocrat, ballot box, benefit, control, caurt, credibility, dataset, democratic election, detection, distribution, dictrict, electoral malpractice, electoral manipulation, electoral support, electoral system, electoral violence, elite, fair election, favor, high level, higher level, incumbent, international observer, irregularity, likelihood, machine, manipulation, municipality, national election, observer, opposition, opposition party prediction, presence, presidency, protest, quality, reduction, reform, regime, region, rule, sense, test, tool, variation, vote count, vote share, voter turnout. On claster 1, the dominant keyword is manipulation, which is drawn on the red root. The correlation with the previous explanation of electoral fraud is that the dominant keywords in this cluster highlight various aspects associated with fraud in the general election

process. These include elements such as electoral manipulation, electoral violence, inertia, international observers, and electoral violations, all of which are potential indicators of violations in the democratic process. Thus, these clusters provide insights into the various elements that need to be taken into account in analyzing or detecting possible electoral fraud.

cluster 2 consisting of 36 keywords including: american democracy, attitude, belief, charge, claim, democrat, election administration, election day, election outcome, exixtence, fairness, fake news, false claim, gap, independent, influence, insight, intervention, loser, message, news, opinion, partisanship, perception, political elite, president, public, public opinion, response, rhetoric, sentiment, supporter, survey experiment, us presidential election, voter fraud, winner. The connection with the explanation of election fraud can be found in several dominant keywords in Cluster 2, which describe green roots. For example, voter fraud and election administration highlight issues related to the integrity of elections and their administrative management. Additionally, false claims, fake news, and rhetoric show how false narratives and manipulation of information can influence public perceptions of the honesty and fairness of elections. Additionally, words like belief, perception, and public opinion show how political propaganda and inflammatory rhetoric can influence people's opinions about elections.

cluster 3 consisting of 29 keywords including: access, accuracy, application, ballot, cost, democratic society, e voting, e voting system, effectiveness, electronic voting, error, face, importance, internet, interview, pandemic, population, possibility, principle, scope, security, solution, step, system, technology, transparency, voice, voting, voting process. Keywords in cluster 3

that describe the blue roots highlight various aspects of elections, ranging from the technology used in electronic voting systems (e-voting) to the principles of democracy and transparency in the voting process. For example, keywords such as voting system accuracy, error, and transparency highlight the importance of accurate and clear voting to ensure the integrity of the elections. Moreover, the cost and effectiveness keyword shows practical considerations related to the application of e-vote technology in the election, while the pandemic keyword highlights the additional challenges faced by the electoral process during the COVID-19 pandemic period. Thus, these keyword clusters reflect the complexity and diversity of factors involved in discussions about elections, including issues related to electoral fraud that may arise in the context of technology and electronic voting processes.

cluster 4 consisting of 25 keywords including: combination, comparison, conspiracy belief, conspiracy theory, content, discourse, disinformation, doubt, dynamic, fact, framework, future, methodology, misinformation, popularity, recent year, resistance, social medium, society, spread, tweet, twitter, us election, user. Cluster 4, which depicts the yellow root that explains the correlation of these keywords with previous explanations, indicates that this cluster focuses on the analysis and discussion of conspiracy theories, disinformation, and doubts related to general elections as they happen in the United States. It shows the importance of understanding social and media dynamics in understanding and addressing the challenges associated with electoral fraud and the dissemination of misinformation.

cluster 5 consisting of 20 keywords including : action, age, area, concept, different, emergence, knowledge, midterm

election, need, observation, order, participant, researcher, respect, respondent, student, subject, technique, topic, widespread fraud. On cluster 5, representing purple roots, it has been seen that the most dominant weight point on this cluster lies in observations that indicate that in collecting relevant and accurate data related to the general selection process, including the potential fraud that may occur, Observations can be carried out by researchers, election participants, or other related parties who have access to and expertise to observe various stages of a general election, such as campaigns, voting, and voting counting. In the context of research on electoral fraud, observations can help in documenting suspicious events or actions, like voter intimidation, vote manipulation, or breaches of the rules by an electoral officer or political party. By focusing on careful and systematic observations, researchers can gather strong evidence to assess the extent to which election fraud has occurred and how it affects the election outcome.

Of all the interrelated roots, there are some of the most dominant keywords among others that can be seen through the picture below:

Figure 7. Vosviewer Networking Data Mapping

It is evident from the aforementioned graphic that the two primary subjects that academics frequently concentrate on in the field of electoral fraud study are voting fraud and voting systems. (fraudulent voting). Because they underpin the entire general election process and have a big bearing on the legitimacy of the election results, these issues have gained a lot of attention. Scholars frequently look into the technology employed in voting systems, the voting process, and how well these systems represent the preferences of the electorate. However, because voting fraud has the potential to undermine democratic integrity, it is a topic of great concern. Scholars frequently investigate several forms of fraudulent activities, encompassing voice counterfeiting and electronic system manipulation, with the objective of pinpointing vulnerabilities within the system that facilitate these illicit activities.

According to the image, voting fraud and the voting system are viewed as two interconnected sides of the same coin as well as a topic of discussion. By thoroughly examining the voting mechanism, researchers can find possible weaknesses that could be used to perpetrate fraud. In contrast, assessing how well voting systems work to stop and identify unfair activities is a common part of studies on voting fraud. Researchers might offer a more thorough understanding of the complexities of the general election process and develop suggestions to enhance the integrity and dependability of the voting system going forward by combining studies on voting systems and vote fraud.

CONCLUSION

Numerous academics from a variety of fields, including the social sciences, computer science, engineering, arts and humanities, business economics, energy, medicine, psychology, and the environment, are becoming interested in the study of electoral fraud in diverse democracies. It implies that interdisciplinary approaches can

explain research on electoral fraud in various democracies, demonstrating that election fraud studies are no longer only relevant to social science disciplines like political science and sociology. Studying electoral fraud in different democracies can be divided into five topic clusters: collective action, voter fraud, voting system, conspiracy theory, and observation. Of these, manipulation is the most frequently used cluster of themes in election fraud studies.

Studies on electoral fraud have benefited from the growth of this study. Not covered in this article, other related topics of study on election fraud may be the subject of future research. The mapping of references and topics in this article using the VOSviewer application can be used as a foundation for determining and developing studies on electoral fraud, even though this article only allows the use of data from the Scopus database. This will help in the next phase of research, where the electoral field that deals with election fraud increasingly attracts the attention of many scholars, who further imply the development of electoral implementation both conceptually and practically. Data from other reliable worldwide databases, like the Web of Science and EBSCO, must be used in future studies.

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