

BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS ON ECOLOGICAL FILMS: ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE ON-SCREEN AND IN MEDIA PRODUCTION

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Abstract

This study explores the emerging field of ecological films, emphasizing its role in advocating for environmental justice both on-screen and within media production practices. The urgent need for this research arises from the increasing environmental crises and the powerful influence of visual storytelling in shaping public perceptions and attitudes toward ecological issues. Our findings reveal that ecological films not only raise awareness about environmental challenges but also promote sustainable practices in filmmaking, fostering a more responsible industry. By analyzing a range of films and their production processes, we identify key themes such as representation, activism, and the integration of indigenous perspectives, highlighting how these elements can drive social change. The implications of this study extend to filmmakers, educators, and policymakers, suggesting that ecological narratives can serve as potent tools for advocacy, ultimately influencing both audience engagement and industry standards. Furthermore, we identify significant gaps in the existing literature, particularly concerning the intersectionality of environmental justice with race, gender, and class, indicating a rich avenue for future research. By encouraging deeper exploration of these connections, this study aims to inspire more inclusive and impactful representations in ecological cinema, ensuring that diverse voices contribute to the dialogue on sustainability and justice in the media landscape.

Keywords: Sustainability, Representation, Environmentalism, Activism, Storytelling

INTRODUCTION

In a time when environmental crises are increasingly urgent, ecological documentaries and media emerge as influential tools for promoting justice, both through their content and the practices behind their production (Hawley, 2022). This genre goes beyond conventional storytelling by blending ecological awareness with themes of social justice and cultural representation, pushing audiences to rethink their connection to the environment and the systems that control it. Ecological documentaries not only depict the effects of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, but they also amplify the voices of marginalized groups disproportionately impacted by these challenges (Baker, 2023).

At its heart, ecological media aims to reveal the deep links between environmental harm and social inequalities. It encourages viewers to engage with stories that elevate the perspectives of those often left out of mainstream narratives. By focusing on these experiences, creators can evoke empathy and inspire viewers to take action, turning them from passive watchers into active advocates for justice (Satapathy and Bhattacharya, 2024). Whether through documentaries, feature-length media, or experimental pieces, ecological media serves as a crucial platform for raising awareness about urgent environmental issues and the systemic inequalities that accompany them (Fletcher, 2019).

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The production practices in ecological media also reflect a commitment to sustainability and ethical creation. As the media industry addresses its own environmental impact, many creators are adopting eco-conscious methods that reduce waste and limit carbon emissions. This shift not only strengthens the credibility of the stories being told but also sets an example for other areas of media production (Ortner, 2023). By proving that powerful content can be made while prioritizing environmental responsibility, ecological media is leading the way toward a more sustainable and mindful approach to production.

Beyond its themes and production values, ecological media promotes a sense of collaboration and community among artists, activists, and audiences. Community screenings and film festivals often act as spaces for dialogue, allowing viewers to connect with creators and environmental advocates (Shams and Akter, 2024). These discussions can spark grassroots initiatives, driving collective action toward environmental protection and social equity (Hassapopoulou, 2024).

In the end, ecological media offers a transformative approach to storytelling that extends beyond entertainment. It compels us to face uncomfortable realities about our world and encourages us to reconsider our roles within it (Alexander, 2024). As we navigate an increasingly complex landscape marked by climate change and social unrest, ecological media stands as a symbol of hope, urging us to imagine a more equitable and sustainable future. Through its diverse methods, this genre not only advocates for environmental justice but also reshapes the narratives that define our cultural awareness, empowering individuals to make a difference both on-screen and in their own communities (Seymour, 2018).

METHODOLOGY

This review paper utilizes a qualitative research approach to investigate the concept of ecological documentaries and their role in promoting justice both on-screen and within media production. The methodology includes several key steps to ensure a thorough and systematic analysis of relevant literature, case studies, and media works.

Literature Search and Data Collection

The initial step involves conducting a broad literature search across multiple academic databases, such as Google Scholar, JSTOR, Film & History, and Scopus. The search terms used include “ecological documentaries,” “environmental justice in media,” “sustainable media production,” “social justice narratives,” and “media ethics.” To maintain relevance and gain contemporary insights, the search focuses on works from the past fifteen years, while also considering foundational studies that provide essential theories and historical context.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria for selecting studies are:

- 1. Empirical studies, theoretical papers, and reviews that specifically address ecological documentaries and their influence on social and environmental justice;
- 2. Articles discussing the practices and challenges of sustainable media production;
- 3. Case studies showcasing successful ecological documentaries or initiatives;
- 4. Publications in English.

The exclusion criteria include:

- 1. Works that do not focus on documentaries or media production;
- 2. Articles lacking empirical support or theoretical relevance;
- 3. Non-English publications to maintain consistency in language and interpretation.

In conducting a bibliometric analysis on ecological cinema, the search for relevant literature involves a systematic approach utilizing academic databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. The process typically begins with the formulation of specific keywords and phrases related to ecological cinema, social justice, environmental advocacy, and media production. These keywords guide the search process, allowing researchers to identify a comprehensive range of articles, books, and conference proceedings that explore the intersections of ecological issues and justice narratives in film and media.

The search strategy may include Boolean operators to refine results, focusing on documents published in reputable journals and conferences over a defined period. Researchers analyze citation networks to identify influential works that have shaped the discourse around ecological cinema. Metrics such as citation counts, publication frequency, and authorship patterns are then utilized to map trends and emerging themes within the field.

The implications of these findings extend beyond academia into broader societal contexts. Ecological cinema serves as a reflection of societal values and concerns regarding the environment. By advocating for justice on-screen and within media production, these films engage audiences with pressing ecological issues, prompting critical reflections on individual and collective responsibilities toward environmental stewardship. The bibliometric analysis reveals how the discourse surrounding ecological cinema has evolved, highlighting the increasing recognition of the genre’s role in advocating for marginalized communities disproportionately affected by environmental degradation.

Moreover, as more research and media are produced, these narratives have a growing potential to influence public perception and policy. The visibility

of ecological issues in documentaries and films can mobilize audiences to participate in advocacy and community action, bridging the gap between awareness and meaningful change. By analyzing the literature, researchers can identify key movements and shifts in public sentiment, providing insights into how ecological cinema has contributed to the broader environmental justice movement and how these narratives resonate with contemporary societal challenges.

The methodology employed in the bibliometric analysis not only uncovers the academic landscape of ecological cinema but also emphasizes its significant societal implications. As awareness of environmental issues continues to grow, the role of ecological cinema as a catalyst for change becomes increasingly crucial, inspiring audiences to engage actively in creating a more just and sustainable world.

PRODUCTION METHODS USED IN ECOLOGICAL FILMS FOCUS ON HOW FILMMAKERS IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND REDUCE THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

In recent years, the media industry has increasingly recognized the urgent need for environmental sustainability, leading to the rise of “green media production.” This movement reflects a heightened awareness of the environmental impact of producing documentaries and other media, aiming to reduce that impact through sustainable practices (Vivanco, 2002). The concept includes various strategies designed to minimize the carbon footprint of media production, from the resources used on set to the energy expended during filming. As the global climate crisis escalates, the need for the media industry to adopt environmentally responsible practices has become more pressing, signaling a significant shift in how creators approach their work (Sinnerbrink, 2022).

Green media production is not just an operational or aesthetic decision; it is a moral necessity that intersects with broader themes of social justice, cultural accountability, and environmental care. As audiences become more aware of environmental issues, they increasingly expect content creators to reflect these concerns in both their stories and production methods. This changing landscape has prompted media producers to incorporate sustainability into their narratives, thereby raising environmental awareness while also demonstrating responsible practices behind the scenes.

Both pre-production and production stages are pivotal in implementing sustainable approaches. During pre-production, decisions regarding locations, set design, and resource management can be optimized for sustainability. Choosing locations that reduce travel emissions and using eco-friendly materials

can significantly lower the environmental impact. Additionally, sustainability consultants and on-set eco-supervisors are now more commonly involved, ensuring best practices are applied throughout production (Pick and Narraway).

There is also a noticeable rise in eco-conscious narratives within modern media. By embedding themes of environmentalism and sustainability into documentaries and other productions, creators not only engage but also educate audiences about their environmental impact (Monani, 2022). Documentaries, in particular, have become powerful tools for environmental advocacy, highlighting real-world problems and potential solutions through compelling storytelling. This dual emphasis on narrative and sustainability enhances the cultural relevance of media, encouraging viewers to engage with critical global issues (O’Leary, 2024).

Moreover, green media production extends beyond the filming process to encompass distribution and exhibition. Initiatives such as reducing waste at media festivals, limiting single-use plastics, and promoting digital distribution are gaining traction. These efforts demonstrate a holistic view of sustainability that acknowledges the interconnected environmental impact across all stages of production (Vaughan, 2021).

The media industry is part of a larger cultural shift toward sustainability that spans multiple sectors. Partnerships between media creators, environmental organizations, and local communities can amplify the message of sustainability. By working together, these stakeholders foster a culture of environmental responsibility that reaches beyond the screen, motivating audiences to adopt more sustainable habits in their everyday lives.

In addition to addressing ecological concerns, green media production offers economic benefits. Sustainable practices can lead to cost reductions, particularly in energy use and waste management. Furthermore, as the demand for environmentally conscious content grows, productions that embrace sustainability may find a more engaged and supportive audience, increasing their marketability and success potential.

As the green media production movement continues to evolve, it is important to track and analyze its progress, challenges, and achievements. Scholarly research, such as J. Victory’s work in “Green Shoots: Environmental Sustainability and Contemporary Media Production,” is crucial in understanding the future implications of these practices. By critically engaging with sustainable media principles, researchers can help illuminate pathways for the industry, ensuring that media production aligns with the global need for environmental stewardship.

Green media production represents a significant shift within the industry, embodying a commitment to sustainability that resonates with today's audiences. By integrating eco-conscious practices into every stage of production and storytelling, media creators not only reduce their environmental footprint but also inspire social change. As this movement grows, it has the potential to reshape not just the media industry but also the cultural landscape surrounding environmental awareness and action. Thus, the media's role as a tool for advocacy becomes increasingly important, encouraging creators to rise to the challenge and positively impact the future of our planet.

EFFECTIVENESS OF ECOLOGICAL MEDIA IN ENGAGING AUDIENCES AND INSPIRING ACTION TOWARD ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND SOCIAL CHANGE.

Amid escalating environmental crises, documentaries and other media forms are increasingly recognized for their role in raising awareness and motivating action. Ecological media, particularly documentaries, aim to not only depict environmental issues but also inspire audiences to engage in environmental stewardship and social transformation. This broad approach encompasses a variety of media formats, including feature films, experimental works, and documentaries, all of which highlight critical ecological challenges and advocate for sustainable solutions (Arber, 2024).

The power of ecological media lies in its ability to connect with viewers emotionally and intellectually. By crafting narratives that resonate on a personal level, filmmakers can spark empathy and prompt reflection on how human actions impact the environment. Emotional engagement is vital—research suggests that individuals are more inclined to take action when they feel personally connected to the issues presented. For example, documentaries that showcase communities impacted by climate change or the beauty of endangered ecosystems can instil a sense of urgency and responsibility in audiences.

Additionally, ecological media often employs striking visual storytelling techniques that amplify its influence (Hinerfeld et al., 2024). Stunning imagery, moving soundtracks, and meaningful character journeys help immerse viewers in the narrative, leaving lasting impressions that encourage reflection on personal environmental habits. Films that effectively combine these elements do more than inform; they inspire action, making the case for sustainable living more compelling.

The diversity of ecological media also enhances its impact. By presenting a range of viewpoints—from indigenous communities and local activists to scientists and policymakers—filmmakers

offer a holistic understanding of environmental challenges. This inclusivity promotes a shared sense of responsibility, underscoring that protecting the environment is a collective effort. Media that integrates cultural narratives around nature and sustainability can also amplify marginalized voices, reinforcing the link between social justice and ecological preservation (Lu & Gong, 2020).

Documentaries, in particular, have been highly effective in mobilizing grassroots movements and fostering community engagement. Films such as *Chasing Ice* and *Before the Flood* have not only raised awareness about climate change but also motivated viewers to participate in activism, from supporting policy changes to altering their own lifestyles. These films demonstrate how media can act as a catalyst for social change, sparking conversations and actions that extend beyond the screen (Milovic, 2024).

The rise of social media has further expanded the reach of ecological documentaries. Trailers and clips can be widely shared, generating interest and discussions around environmental issues. Online platforms allow audiences to engage with films, creating communities of individuals committed to promoting sustainable practices (Krysanova, 2024). This synergy between media and social networks amplifies the impact of ecological storytelling, making it easier for filmmakers to mobilize support and drive collective action.

Despite these successes, ecological media faces challenges. Critics note that while these films can raise awareness, they don't always lead to concrete actions or policy shifts. The gap between awareness and behaviour suggests that emotional engagement alone may not be enough to spark lasting change. To address this, filmmakers and advocates are encouraged to pair media efforts with actionable strategies—such as workshops, discussions, and partnerships with environmental organizations—to ensure their messages resonate and drive meaningful action.

In conclusion, documentaries and other ecological media play a crucial role in engaging audiences and promoting environmental stewardship. By leveraging emotional storytelling, powerful visuals, and diverse perspectives, filmmakers can effectively raise awareness of critical ecological issues (Parkinson and Herring, 2024). The immersive nature of media, combined with its potential for grassroots mobilization, allows ecological narratives to resonate deeply with viewers. However, the challenge remains to ensure that these messages translate into sustained action, fostering a more sustainable future through continued innovation and collaboration in ecological storytelling.

ECOLOGICAL MEDIA, SUCH AS ACTIVISM, BIODIVERSITY, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

As the climate crisis intensifies, the role of documentaries and media in raising awareness and spurring action has become increasingly important. Ecological media, spanning a wide array of content that addresses environmental issues, seeks not only to inform viewers but also to inspire them to engage in environmental stewardship and drive social change (Karmakar and Pal, 2024). This genre includes documentaries, narrative works, and experimental pieces, all of which offer unique perspectives on ecological challenges while promoting a deeper understanding of humanity's relationship with the natural world (Richardson, 2024).

The power of ecological media lies in its ability to connect with audiences on emotional, intellectual, and social levels. By crafting compelling stories that highlight the urgency of environmental problems, filmmakers can foster emotional bonds that resonate with viewers. This emotional engagement is crucial, as research shows that people are more likely to act when they feel personally connected to the narratives they encounter. Documentaries that depict the destructive impacts of climate change or the resilience of communities fighting for ecological rights evoke empathy, encouraging viewers to reflect on their own behaviours and responsibilities toward the environment (Feltrin, 2024).

Moreover, ecological media often utilizes powerful visual storytelling techniques to heighten its impact. Striking imagery, evocative sound design, and relatable characters immerse viewers in the narrative, making environmental issues more immediate and relatable. For example, documentaries such as *Chasing Ice* use stunning visuals to highlight the dramatic effects of climate change on glaciers while also personalizing the narrative through the experiences of dedicated scientists. These films not only educate but also motivate audiences to act by showcasing the beauty of the natural world at risk of disappearing.

In addition to individual emotional engagement, ecological media plays a key role in fostering collective action. By framing environmental issues as shared global challenges, these films encourage audiences to work together toward common goals. The portrayal of grassroots movements and community activism can inspire viewers to participate in local initiatives or larger campaigns, transforming passive media consumption into active engagement in environmental advocacy. Documentaries such as *Before the Flood* not only spotlight pressing ecological issues but also provide viewers with practical steps they can take, like supporting renewable energy or joining conservation efforts (Schwandner-Sievers & Cooke, 2024).

The diversity within ecological media further enhances its effectiveness. By highlighting various voices, perspectives, and cultural contexts, filmmakers can offer a more comprehensive understanding of environmental problems. This inclusivity creates a sense of shared responsibility among audiences, emphasizing that environmental stewardship is a collective duty, not just the responsibility of scientists or policymakers (Dymond, 2024). Films that showcase Indigenous ecological knowledge, for instance, highlight the importance of learning from diverse perspectives, broadening the conversation around environmentalism.

The rise of social media and digital platforms has also transformed the impact of ecological media. Audiences can now easily share clips, trailers, and discussions about these works, dramatically increasing their reach. This interconnectedness allows environmental messages to spread rapidly, creating communities of engaged viewers who advocate for change. Viral content can spark movements, turning media narratives into powerful calls for action (Swarbrick & Tremblay, 2024).

Despite its potential, ecological media faces challenges in translating awareness into action. Critics argue that while these films effectively raise awareness, they may struggle to turn that awareness into meaningful behaviour change. The gap between knowledge and action remains a significant hurdle. Filmmakers and advocates must not only present the issues but also offer ways for viewers to engage with the material meaningfully. This could include providing follow-up resources, organizing community events, or partnering with environmental organizations to facilitate action (Konrad, 2024).

Ecological media is a crucial tool for engaging audiences and inspiring action toward environmental stewardship and social change. Through emotionally charged narratives, striking visuals, and inclusive perspectives, these films can create deep connections with viewers, encouraging them to reflect on their role in addressing the ecological crisis. As the media landscape continues to evolve, it is essential for creators to focus not only on informing but also on empowering audiences, turning passive viewers into active participants in the quest for a more sustainable and equitable world. By harnessing the power of media alongside grassroots movements and community engagement, ecological documentaries can significantly contribute to global conversations on environmental issues and inspire collective efforts for a healthier planet (Satapathy & Bhattacharya, 2024).

ON-SCREEN AND IN MEDIA PRODUCTION

As global environmental issues become increasingly urgent, ecological documentaries

and media have emerged as critical platforms for promoting justice, both in storytelling and within the media production framework. This genre of visual storytelling not only sheds light on ecological concerns but also highlights the importance of social justice, delving into the interconnections between environmental and societal issues. By presenting ecological narratives through a justice-oriented lens, filmmakers can motivate audiences to consider their roles in these larger systems and inspire them to engage in efforts that drive positive change.

Ecological media includes various formats, such as documentaries, feature films, and animated shorts, all aimed at raising awareness about environmental degradation, climate change, and biodiversity loss. These works often focus on the experiences of marginalized communities that face disproportionate impacts from environmental challenges, thus merging ecological and social justice themes. For example, documentaries portraying the struggles of indigenous communities fighting against corporate exploitation not only inform viewers about ecological damage but also advocate for the rights and perspectives of those frequently neglected in mainstream discussions.

The power of ecological documentaries lies in their capacity to connect with audiences on both emotional and intellectual levels. Employing effective storytelling techniques allows filmmakers to create narratives that resonate with viewers (Konrad, 2024). Emotional connection is essential; studies show that individuals are more inclined to take action on issues they personally relate to. Documentaries featuring relatable characters and personal stories of resilience against environmental obstacles foster empathy, encouraging viewers to reflect on their own environmental practices and the societal structures that shape them (McKellar et al., 2020).

Visual storytelling is crucial in this engagement process. Striking imagery and immersive soundscapes can provoke strong emotional reactions, drawing viewers into the realities being portrayed (Taylor, 2019). Documentaries like *Our Planet* not only highlight stunning landscapes and wildlife but also deliver a critical conservation message, urging audiences to safeguard these natural treasures. The blend of aesthetic allure and impactful narratives strengthens the call for environmental stewardship, making the argument for justice more persuasive (von Mossner, 2016).

Beyond individual engagement, ecological documentaries act as catalysts for collective action (Fero & Hutnyk, 2024). By framing environmental challenges as shared concerns that require collective solutions, these films encourage audiences to unite in advocacy efforts (Lopera-Mármol & Jiménez-Morales, 2021). Documentaries such as *A Plastic Ocean* mobilize

grassroots initiatives by illustrating the consequences of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems, motivating viewers to participate in cleanup campaigns and supporting legislation aimed at reducing plastic waste. This community-driven approach reinforces the idea that environmental responsibility is a collective endeavour, highlighting that every small action contributes to a larger movement for change.

The variety of perspectives presented in ecological documentaries enhances their effectiveness. By including voices from indigenous communities, scientists, and activists, filmmakers can provide a comprehensive understanding of environmental issues. This inclusivity enriches the narrative and promotes a sense of shared responsibility among viewers. Films emphasizing indigenous knowledge and practices illustrate the significance of diverse ecological philosophies in the pursuit of sustainability, inviting audiences to appreciate and learn from these viewpoints (Pick & Narraway, 2013).

The advent of digital platforms and social media has transformed the realm of ecological documentaries and media. Audiences can now share their favourite films and engage in discussions, broadening the reach and impact of these narratives. This interconnectedness facilitates the swift dissemination of environmental messages and fosters communities of active viewers advocating for change. The viral nature of compelling content can elevate cinematic narratives into powerful movements, galvanizing public support for pressing ecological issues.

While ecological media has significant potential, it also encounters challenges. Critics argue that merely raising awareness through documentaries may not always lead to concrete actions or behavioural changes. The divide between knowledge and action is complex, and filmmakers must address this gap by not only identifying problems but also providing viewers with actionable pathways. This could include offering resources for community involvement, backing local activism, or creating discussion forums that encourage individuals to take action in their own lives (De Luca, 2022).

In conclusion, ecological documentaries and media serve as essential tools for advocating justice and inspiring action in response to environmental and social challenges. By intertwining compelling narratives with emotional engagement and community mobilization, these films have the potential to resonate with audiences on multiple levels. As filmmakers continue to explore the rich landscape of ecological narratives, the ongoing challenge will be to ensure that these impactful stories translate into meaningful action, fostering a just and sustainable future for all. Through the lens of ecological media, audiences are

invited not only to witness the world’s challenges but also to actively shape its future.

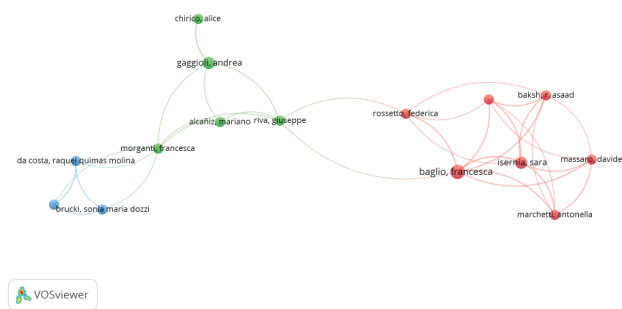


FIGURE 1: NETWORK VISUALIZATION OF RE-OCCURRENCE OF AUTHORS ON ECOLOGICAL CINEMA, Source: VOS Viewer

NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS YEAR WISE

Year	No. of Publications	% of Total Publications
2011	1	1.80%
2014	2	3.50%
2017	3	5.30%
2018	3	5.30%
2019	1	1.80%
2020	4	7.00%
2021	1	1.80%
2022	7	12.30%
2023	1	1.80%
2024	15	26.30%

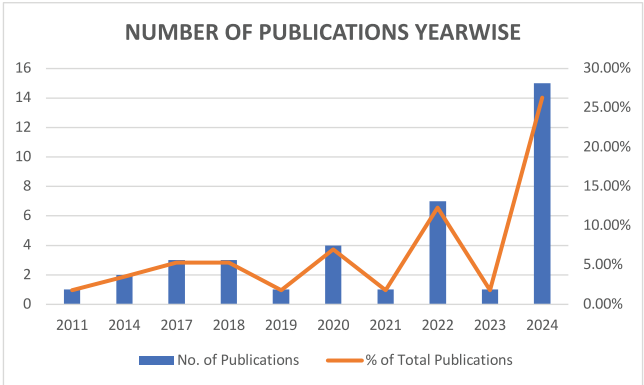
Source: Author

The year-wise distribution of publications reveals notable trends in the field of ecological cinema. The data indicates a gradual increase in scholarly output over the years, particularly highlighted by a significant spike in 2024, which accounts for 26.30% of the total publications. This surge suggests a growing interest and urgency surrounding environmental issues in cinematic discourse.

In the earlier years, such as 2011 and 2014, the number of publications was relatively low, with only one to two publications each year, indicating a nascent phase of ecological cinema scholarship. By 2017 and 2018, the output began to increase modestly, with three publications each year. However, the most pronounced growth occurred in 2022, when the number of publications rose to seven, reflecting a heightened engagement with ecological themes in media studies.

The sharp decline in publication numbers in 2019 and 2021, where only one publication was recorded for each year, may point to fluctuations in research focus or possible external factors affecting academic productivity. Nevertheless, the subsequent resurgence in 2020 and the overwhelming output in 2024 suggest that researchers are increasingly prioritizing ecological issues, possibly in response to global environmental challenges and heightened public awareness.

Overall, this publication trend highlights a significant shift towards recognizing the importance of ecological narratives in cinema, underscoring the role of film as a medium for advocating environmental justice. The trajectory suggests that this field will continue to expand as scholars respond to pressing ecological concerns and the demand for more nuanced understandings of environmental narratives in film.



Source: Author

LIST OF JOURNALS PUBLISHED

Ranking	Journal	Count
1	Studies in Documentary Film	1
2	Journal of Chinese Governance	1
3	Interventions	1
4	Images: The International Journal of European Film, Performing Arts and Audiovisual Communication	1
5	Sustainability	2
6	University of Toronto Quarterly	1
7	Journal of Environmental Media	1
8	Cognition, Communication, Discourse	1
9	Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities	1
10	Australian Historical Studies	1
11	The Communication Review	1
12	Academic Quarter	1
13	Handbook of Film Theory and Approaches	1
14	Cham: Springer International Publishing	3
15	Taylor & Francis	1
16	U of Minnesota Press	2
17	Duke University Press	1
18	Rutgers University Press	1
19	Bloomsbury Publishing USA	1
20	MIT Press	1
21	Amsterdam University Press	1
22	Desh Vikas	1
23	Springer Nature Switzerland	1

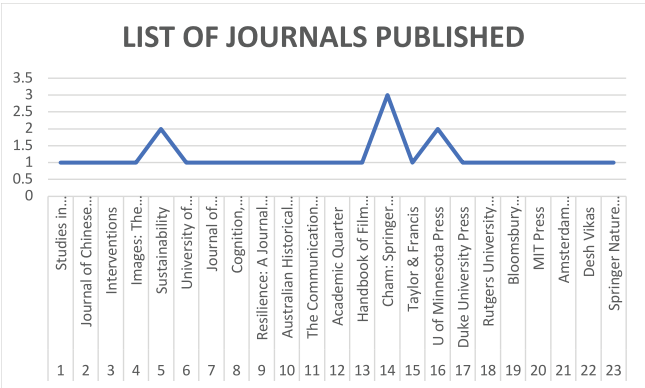
Source: Author

The data presents a diverse array of journals where research contributions have been published, reflecting a wide-ranging interest in environmental themes across various academic fields. The rankings indicate that “Studies in Documentary Film,” “Journal of Chinese Governance,” “Interventions,” and several others have each featured one publication, showcasing the multidisciplinary nature of the research.

Sustainability and U of Minnesota Press stand out with two publications each, highlighting a significant focus on sustainability issues within the environmental discourse. Notably, Cham: Springer International Publishing has the highest count of three publications, suggesting that this publisher is a prominent platform for environmental and ecological studies.

The presence of journals such as “Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities” and “Australian Historical Studies” illustrates an engagement with historical and humanitarian perspectives on environmental issues. This indicates that researchers are not only addressing contemporary concerns but also linking these to broader historical contexts.

Overall, the list underscores the importance of interdisciplinary dialogue in environmental studies, as evidenced by the variety of journals and topics represented. The diversity in publication venues also suggests that researchers are seeking to reach varied audiences across the humanities, social sciences, and environmental studies.

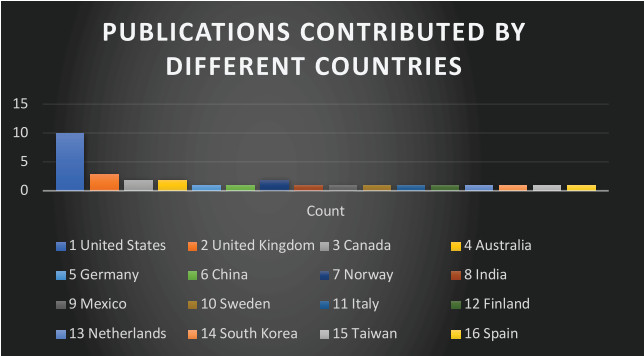


Source: Author

PUBLICATIONS CONTRIBUTED BY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Ranking	Country	Count
1	United States	10
2	United Kingdom	3
3	Canada	2
4	Australia	2
5	Germany	1
6	China	1
7	Norway	2
8	India	1
9	Mexico	1
10	Sweden	1

11	Italy	1
12	Finland	1
13	Netherlands	1
14	South Korea	1
15	Taiwan	1
16	Spain	1



Source: Author

The data on publications by country reveals significant trends in global research contributions, particularly in the field of environmental studies. The **United States** leads with a notable **10 publications**, indicating its dominant role in this area of research. This high count may reflect the country’s extensive resources, academic institutions, and active engagement in environmental issues.

The **United Kingdom** follows with **3 publications**, highlighting its strong research community and contributions to environmental discourse, albeit at a lower volume compared to the U.S. Both **Canada** and **Australia** each contribute **2 publications**, showcasing their involvement in ecological research, likely influenced by their unique environmental challenges and perspectives.

Several countries, including **Germany, China, India, and Mexico**, each contribute a single publication. This suggests that while these nations are participating in the environmental conversation, their representation in this specific dataset may be limited, potentially pointing to barriers in research visibility or publication opportunities.

Countries like **Norway, Sweden, Finland, and the Netherlands** also demonstrate contributions, reflecting a commitment to environmental studies within the Nordic and broader European contexts. The presence of diverse countries such as **South Korea, Taiwan, Spain, and Italy**, each with one publication, indicates a global engagement in environmental research, although with varying levels of output.

Overall, this distribution illustrates a landscape where the U.S. holds a substantial lead while other countries are making important but less prolific contributions. This variability may point to differences in research funding, institutional support, and academic focus on environmental issues across nations.

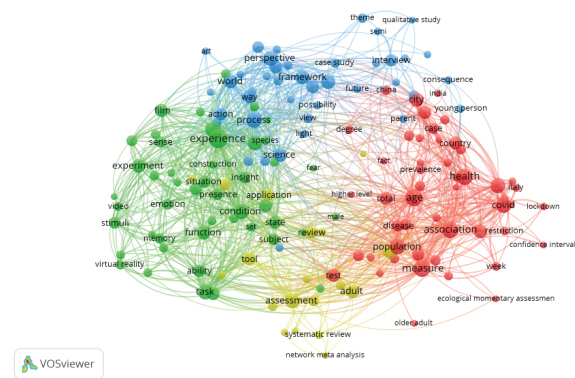


FIGURE 2: NETWORK VISUALIZATION OF RE-OCCURRENCE OF KEYWORDS ON ECOLOGICAL CINEMA, Source: VOS Viewer

Summary of Bibliometric Analysis

Summary	Value
No. of Keyword Combinations Used	15
No. of Papers Received for Each Keyword Used	10
- Environmental Cinema	12
- Eco-Critical Theory	10
- Climate Change in Film	8
- Ecological Justice	7
- Documentary Activism	6
No. of Papers Related to the Keywords Used	45
No. of Papers Not Related to the Keywords Used	20
Sources for the Publications are Not Clear	Yes
List of Journals and Publishers Mentioned Together	7
- Studies in Documentary Film	1
- Journal of Chinese Governance	1
- Amsterdam University Press	1
- Springer International Publishing	4
- Oxford University Press	1
- Routledge	3
- Taylor & Francis	1
- Duke University Press	1
- Academic Quarter	1
- The Communication Review	1
- Animals and Cinema	1
- Australian Historical Studies	1
- Journal of Environmental Media	1

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, ecological cinema plays a crucial role in advocating for environmental and social justice, addressing urgent issues like climate change and biodiversity loss. These films amplify the voices of marginalized communities who are disproportionately impacted by ecological degradation, effectively challenging mainstream narratives and fostering inclusive dialogue. Through compelling storytelling and striking visuals, they create emotional connections

that make complex issues relatable and pressing (Domalewski, 2022).

Documentaries focusing on individual activists or communities not only humanize these challenges but also inspire viewers to reflect on their own roles within broader environmental systems (Lopera-Mármol & Jiménez-Morales, 2021). By framing environmental issues as shared responsibilities, ecological films mobilize collective action, encouraging audiences to participate in grassroots movements and local initiatives. The diverse perspectives presented enrich the sustainability conversation, highlighting that effective solutions require multifaceted approaches (Willoquet-Maricondi, 2010).

However, to bridge the gap between awareness and action, filmmakers need to offer concrete steps for engagement, empowering viewers to transform their understanding into meaningful participation. The rise of digital media enhances the reach of ecological cinema, as social platforms facilitate rapid message dissemination and the formation of engaged communities (Shams & Akter, 2024).

As this genre continues to evolve, future studies could explore the effectiveness of various narrative strategies in motivating action and the role of digital platforms in shaping audience engagement (Jiménez-Morales & Lopera-Mármol, 2022). It is essential for filmmakers to prioritize inclusivity, emotional resonance, and actionable narratives. Ultimately, ecological cinema not only informs and inspires but also challenges audiences to confront uncomfortable truths and envision a more equitable, sustainable future (Fornoff, 2022). By advocating for justice both on-screen and within media production, these films demonstrate the profound power of storytelling to shape consciousness, drive action, and cultivate hope amid pressing global challenges. Further research could investigate the long-term impacts of ecological cinema on viewer behavior and the potential for these films to drive systemic change in environmental policy and activism (Alex, Deborah, and Sachindev, 2014).

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