#### Rutgers Oxford EO Symposium August 2024

Cooperative Social Responsibility Research: Mapping the Field and Shaping the Future <image>

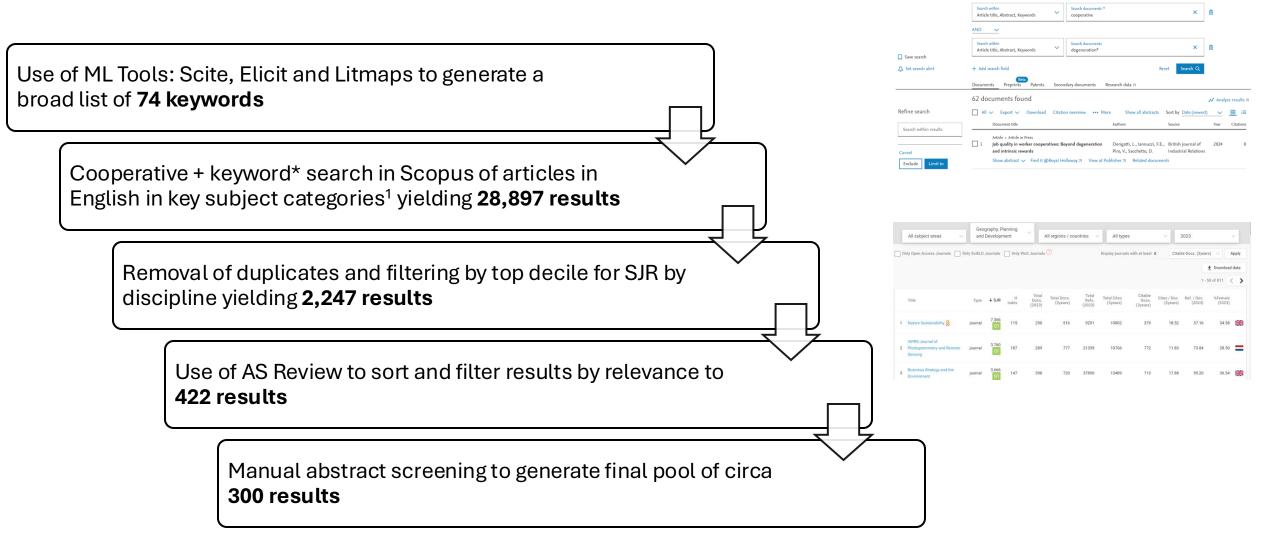
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### Paper Aim & Method



- Existing work has often implicitly dealt with the intersection of ethics and cooperativism
  - Degeneration/regeneration debate (Cornforth et al, 1988, Bretos & Errasti, 2017) and potentiality of cooperatives for economic reform (Paranque & Wilmott, 2014)
  - Use of cooperatives as incidental contexts for broader work on ethics and CSR (Davila & Molina, 2017, Nicholson et al, 2020) and employee outcomes
- But... this work is fragmented...
- **Our aim:** Critically analyse and map the intersection between cooperatives and ethics/social responsibility and <u>highlight the multi-disciplinary field of</u> <u>**Co**operative **S**ocial **R**esponsibility (CoSR)</u>
- Working definition of CoSR: 'the responsibility of a cooperative to fulfil the values of *self-help*, *self-responsibility*, *democracy*, *equality*, *equity*, *and solidarity* to meet the needs and aspirations of their members'
- Machine learning approach, adaptable tools which can be taught to find patterns within datasets, is a novel way to approach integrative reviewing:

## **Review Method**



# Findings (....so far)

Research can be split along two axes: Societal vs Organisational level; Design & Governance of Cooperation and Outcomes of Cooperation

#### Key themes:

- Longstanding political debate around the ability of cooperatives to reshape the economy and society (Gunn, 2011; Van Bueren, 2006)
- Significant discussion of outcomes of cooperativism for members, particularly relating to poverty, equality and variable outcomes therein (Elias & Arora-Jonsson, 2017)
- Outside of management research considerably more analysis of the stakeholder impacts of cooperativism (Mohammed & Inoue, 2014)
- **Governance mechanisms,** sustenance of these over time and broad definitions of cooperative performance (Bretos & Errasti, 2017)

	Design & Governance of Cooperation	Outcomes of Cooperation
	Cooperative social transformation	Cooperative stakeholder value creation
Societal Level	<ul> <li>Conceptualisations of cooperativism</li> <li>Theoretical potential of cooperatives for social transformation</li> <li>Substantive examples of cooperative socio- economic transformation</li> <li>Impact of regulatory regimes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Forms of value created for stakeholders and associated mechanisms</li> <li>Barriers to stakeholder value creation</li> </ul>
	Cooperative values maintenance	Cooperative member value creation
Organizational Level	<ul> <li>Cooperative governance design</li> <li>Diffuse manifestations and drivers of degeneration and mechanisms for regeneration</li> <li>Cooperative performance</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Barriers/opportunities for participation within cooperatives</li> <li>Ex/Inclusion of social groups in terms of outcomes (e.g. economic, democratic)</li> <li>Experiences of the working lives of members</li> </ul>