

Socially Responsible Investment: A Systematic Literature Review

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Socially Responsible Investment: A Systematic Literature Review

Abstract: This comprehensive literature review synthesizes topics examined in research articles on socially responsible investment. This study identifies trends, gaps, and opportunities for further research in socially responsible investment. This study aims to discover these tendencies and deficiencies. In this literature analysis, 1045 articles were identified; however, only 203 were chosen for thematic interpretation. Seven recurring themes emerged from the critical analysis of a sample of publications in this review. This paper examines the practical and academic implications of SRI through a comprehensive analysis of the future trajectory for several topic areas. We specifically examine the ramifications of SRI within the academic sphere.

Key Words: SRI, Sustainability, Risk-return, Performance, ESG, Financial crisis.

1. Introduction

This systematic qualitative literature review focuses on empirical academic research on Socially Responsible Investment (SRI). Investment based on social and environmental criteria is considered a socially responsible investment (Wagemans et al., 2013). Socially responsible investment refers to an investment strategy that considers not only the financial but also the social, environmental, and ethical implications of investment. This idea has practical and administrative implications because of its diverse applications and relevance. This topic is relevant amid the emergence of climate change and the adoption of sustainability practices to combat it. Climate change and greenhouse gases severely affect individuals' lifestyles and economic activities worldwide, limiting the availability of natural resources such as food, materials, and fuel and potentially depleting resources for future generations (Busby et al., 2014). Climate change has adversely affected resource sustainability (Abbass et al., 2022). Sustainability has been one of the most discussed topics at global summits for developed and developing nations recently (Scoones, 2007). Although sustainable development is impossible by focusing on a few variables, it requires work across social, environmental, and economic areas (Mensah, 2019). A new dimension of sustainability is green finance and investment, which focuses on changing perceptions of business social responsibility so the scarcity of resources can be managed in an organized manner worldwide (Beisenbina et al., 2023). Green projects through green financial bonds, green banks, carbon market tools, other new financial instruments, new policies, fiscal policies, a green central bank, fintech, community-based green funds, and increasing the financing of investments that offer environmental and social benefits are necessary to create sustainability (Xue et al., 2023). By integrating social and environmental considerations into their investment strategies, businesses can drive sustainable development, enhance their reputation, and contribute to the well-being of their stakeholders and society. This approach aligns with ethical standards and supports long-term business success and resilience. Researchers have conducted numerous studies on Socially Responsible Investment (SRI). Moreover, socially responsible investment encompasses concepts aimed at benefiting society, yet it can be understood in various ways, such as ethical investment and socially responsible investment (Kölbel et al., 2020). Therefore, it is crucial to categorize the pertinent areas relevant to investing in socially responsible companies. The study aims to identify what research articles say about SRI funds to help fill gaps in the literature and provide real-world examples of socially responsible investing. This study also aims to identify trends, gaps, and areas for future research. Our study is structured as follows: it will also help readers understand the issues raised by various studies in Section 2 that pertain to socially responsible investment. To do this, we will follow the steps that Xiao and Watson (2019) define for qualitative analysis. We extracted data from the Scopus database, keeping 203 articles for

deep insight into the selected area. We selected 203 articles from economics, econometrics, finance, and management to analyze various aspects of SRI, as elaborated in Section 3. Section 4 describes the themes, which represent SRI's limitations and labels. Section 5 describes the research gap that emerged from the thematic analysis. Section 6 provides a future map and outlines the study's limitations.

2. Literature review

This article critically reviews SRI research and explains why investors prioritize their social and financial goals. Growing concern over ethical issues has largely driven the rise in SRI. To achieve broader societal goals, socially responsible investing is viewed as a path to align investment strategies, particularly in response to societal and environmental challenges. According to Renneboog et al. (2008), further research is needed to fully understand how CSR affects investor behavior and shareholder value. This review reexplores various dimensions of SRI to contribute to the ongoing discussion on CSR. Brammer et al. (2012), who examine SMEs' environmental management practices, find that many small enterprises participate in environmental initiatives, though these activities vary widely. However, smaller businesses gain less profit from this kind of participation than medium-sized businesses, suggesting that pressures and incentives around environmental issues are more pronounced in large and medium enterprises and raising questions about how SRI can effectively influence SMEs. The literature shows that engagement levels differ across sectors, as do the challenges small businesses face in adopting SRI practices compared with large and medium-sized enterprises. Wagemans et al. (2013) elaborate on SRI challenges, highlighting the various players, goals, and tactics involved. While SRI strives to enhance the ESG performance of public firms, its applicability remains limited. In addition, it offers a study agenda focused on engagement tactics and activities carried out by various stakeholders and identifies factors that impede effectiveness. The authors suggest more research on engagement tactics and the role of different stakeholders in SRI practices. Furthermore, the lack of comprehensive frameworks prevents evaluation of the long-term effectiveness of SRI practices. Brooks & Oikono Oikonomou (2018) review recent research on ESG disclosures and their impact on firm value. The research underscores the importance of the link between investors' confidence and corporate transparency in its understanding. In their study, they examine ESG practices to identify key research gaps and suggest new directions for studying socially responsible investment and its impact on investors' choices. Chun Shin (2018) demonstrated the beneficial relationship between analyst coverage and corporate social performance (CSP) in Korea, particularly for non-chaebol corporations. This study also highlights that analysts employ CSP to boost a company's reputational capital, especially in low-reputation organizations, where corporate giving is a significant concern for developing nations. To gain visibility in the SRI landscape, the study suggests that analysts' impact on CSP may vary by company size and reputation, indicating that smaller or less well-known companies require additional support. With an emphasis on three interconnected pillars—environment, economy, and society—Mensah (2019) develops and explains sustainable development (SD), which appears to encompass intergenerational and intragenerational equity. All key stakeholders, including the UN and governments, should rely on sustainable practices when making thoughtful decisions. This holistic view of sustainability shows the need for more inclusive decision-making processes that incorporate the requirements of all stakeholders, including businesses, civil societies, and governments. Thus, the research shows the importance of sustainable practices in investment decisions and the need for an integrated approach to SRI. According to Kölbel et al. (2020), sustainable investing can influence social goals in three ways. These are

indirect effects, capital allocation, and shareholder participation. Although the evidence for indirect effects is limited, the author provides evidence supporting shareholder participation and partial support for capital allocation. The article is useful for investors and policymakers seeking to increase investor influence by implementing specific methods. However, evidence for some of the proposed SRI mechanisms remains limited. This means SRI needs more research to determine how it can help society and the environment. Bhuiyan et al. (2021) have identified the corporate governance elements that influence environmental investment in European companies. Their findings suggest that elements such as independent directors, female directors, chief executive bonus plans linked to environmental performance, and environmental subcommittees all positively affect investment levels. Their insights are significant for institutional investors and environmental investors, as they highlight the importance of the CG structure. However, the study focuses on Europe, so its results cannot be generalized to other regions; future research should explore the corporate governance factors that drive environmental investment across different regulatory contexts and cultures. Beisenbina et al. (2023) show that traditional investment methods are giving way to green instruments and ESG integration. Their study identified several research gaps related to ESG factors, financial performance, and long-term SRI performance. Zhu & Ning (2023) examine R&D inputs and innovation outputs among the benefits of digital reform for business strategic investment. The study identifies management vision as a key intervening mechanism driving this effect. The effects of digital reform are particularly noticeable where local government and business cooperation is stronger. This study limits the broader applicability of SRI by primarily focusing on the interaction between local governments and businesses.

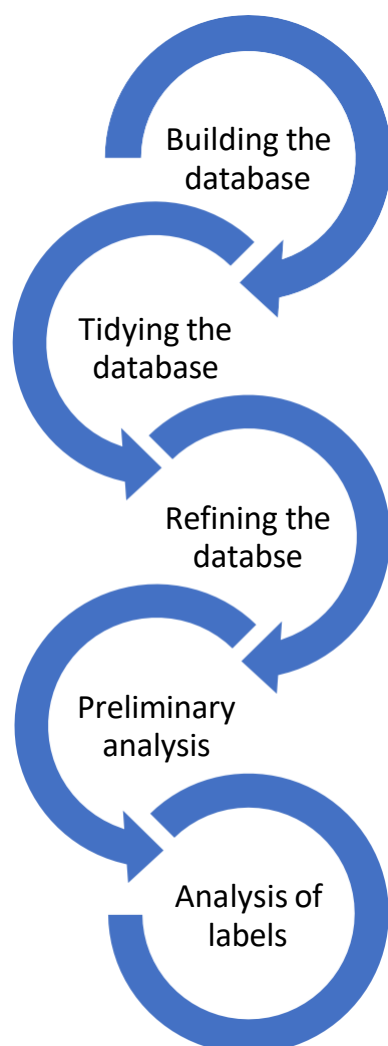
SRI literature reveals an evolving and complex field where governance structures, ethical considerations, and market dynamics intersect. Climate change has created a need for socially responsible investment. The literature review considers various aspects when investing in Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) funds. This includes things like socially responsible investments on a national or international level, how SRI helps with sustainability, what factors affect SRI, the financial crisis and SRI, risk diversification, comparison with traditional securities, and how social securities of companies affect the financial performance of companies. The focus of SRI is to gain a comprehensive understanding of financial institutions. The literature review aims to analyze the various scenarios on socially responsible investment under which researchers are working.

3. Methodology: This study employed the same methodology as several systematic literature reviews. Qualitative research also needs trustworthiness and strong results, so it is best to use relevant and authentic qualitative analysis methods (Nowell et al., 2017). Xiao & Watson (2019) provide guidance on conducting thematic analysis in systematic literature reviews. This study aims to identify themes in socially responsible investment. Not every method fits every study (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2020). Qualitative research has become complicated over the years. O'Neill (2018) suggests following pedagogical steps while using literature review software. Qualitative analysis is different from narratology. We extracted 1045 articles from the Scopus database for further analysis.

3.1 Data collection: Figure 1 represents the procedure used for the collection and summarization of data. This explains the procedure used to reduce the sample from 1045 articles to 802; refining the data resulted in a final sample of 203 articles. The search term used to identify the articles was "socially responsible investment." The search used only singular and plural terms, which is one limitation of this study (Gao et al., 2021). This study used only Scopus to search for articles. The Scopus database has a huge collection of high-quality peer-reviewed literature, including a huge

number of indexed scientific journals from many different fields. This ensures users can easily find trustworthy research sources. We also employed additional filtering criteria to finalize the sample papers. We used only academic journal databases to capture empirical research that used the term socially responsible investment.

Search items: “socially responsible investment”



We consulted the Scopus database and found 1045 PDFs.

- The subject area determines the inclusion of DS.

‘Business, Management, and Accounting’ and

‘Economics, Econometrics, and Finance...

Removal of articles not written in English: (802 documents considered)

- We only included articles and journals.

Document type: Only articles included.

Source type: Only journals are considered. (587 articles considered)

- After removing unclassifiable keywords, we only took journals that were relevant for our study.

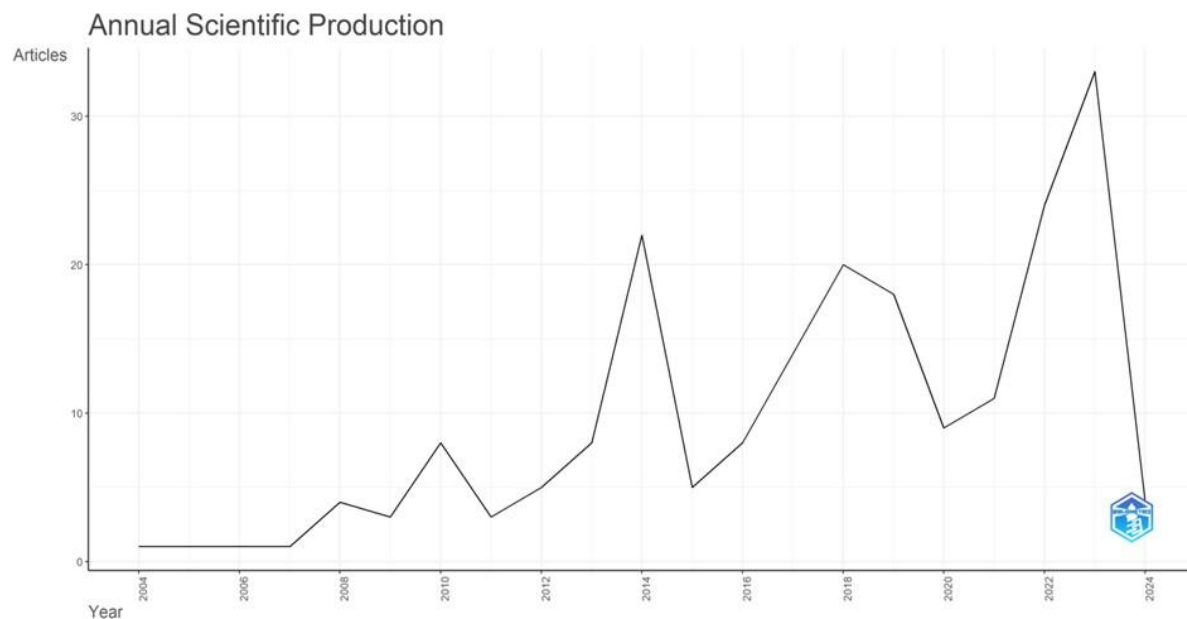
(203 articles considered)

- We divided the 203 articles into seven different themes.

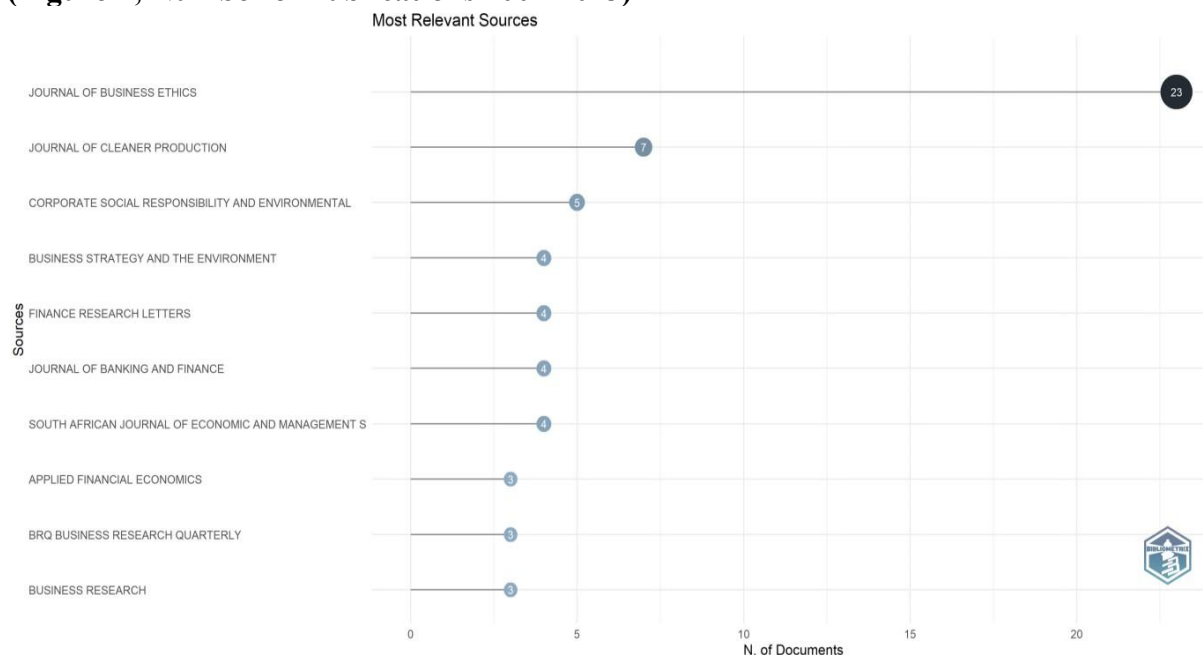
(After classifying findings/relationships, 7 themes emerge naturally.

(Figure 1; Process of Article Selection)

Figure 2 illustrates a significant increase in annual scientific production on socially responsible investment from 2004 to 2023. Figure 3 illustrates the names of major academic journals and the number of publications that use the term "socially responsible investments."



(Figure 2; Number of Publications 2004-2023)



(Figure 3; Major Academic Journal)

3.2. Analysis and categorization of selected papers.

We applied an additional filter to finalize the sample, focusing on empirical research on socially responsible investing. The studies that were mostly about ESG scores were left out because they were mostly about ESG-related topics, like the ESG premium, how ESG affected savings during the COVID-19 pandemic, the ESG criteria used by Dutch pension funds, and conceptual studies that looked at ESG challenges (Ciciretti et al., 2023; Beloskar & Rao, 2023; Wagemans et al., 2018; Efthymiou et al., 2023). Studies that examined corporate social responsibility (CSR) response models (Nicolosi et al., 2014) or CSR practices (Rampersad & Skinner, 2014) were also excluded because they did not relate to the topic of this review, which was SRI. The final selection consisted of 203 articles that defined or explored the concept of SRI. Table 1 grouped many studies into categories. These groups looked at things like how socially responsible investments help the environment, how SRI indices compare to regular investment funds, and the link between risk and return on SRI,

The link between ethical investments and companies' financial performance, the international aspect of SRI, factors affecting investment decisions in SRI indices, and the global financial crisis. We grouped the selected articles by similar results, findings, and objectives. We conducted this classification after an extensive analysis of 203 articles that had similarities or conflicts in their respective fields of work.

Themes	Mentioned by
Socially Responsible Investment Contributing to Sustainability	(Pástor et al., 2021; Dorfleitner & Nguyen, 2016; Fiordelisi et al., 2023; Dam & Heijdra, 2011; Baker et al., 2022)
SRI indices as compared with Conventional investment funds	(Crifo & Forget, 2013; Wins & Zwergel, 2016; Managi et al., 2012; Risalvato et al., 2019; Meunier & Ohadit, 2022; Sliwiński & Łobza, 2017; Latinovic & Obradovic, 2013)
Risk-return on SRI	(Praseeda, 2018; van Dooren & Galema, 2018; Morales & Rajmil, 2023; Chen & Scholtens, 2018; Gill & Mathur, 2018; Belghitar et al., 2014; Fabretti & Herzel, 2012)
Socially responsible investment and financial performance of companies	(Kobo & Ngwakwe, 2017; Badía et al., 2021; Zulkafli et al., 2017; Tosun, 2017; Svanberg et al., 2023)
International aspect of Socially responsible investment	(Majoch et al., 2017; Brzeszczyński et al., 2021; Miralles-Quirós et al., 2019; Lesser et al., 2016; Horobet et al., 2012)
Factors impacting SRI	(Cudjoe et al., 2019; Ortas et al., 2014; Leitão et al., 2023; Capelle-Blancard & Monjon, 2012; Nilsson et al., 2010; Arnold, 2023; De la Torre Torres & Martínez Torre Enciso, 2017; Girerd-Potin et al., 2014)
Financial Crisis	(Nakai et al., 2016; Brzeszczyński et al., 2022; Beloskar & Rao, 2023; Jawadi et al., 2019)

(Table 1; Themes generated from various articles)

4. Discussion and analysis of themes

Analysis of 203 articles generated 7 themes, providing information on problems related to socially responsible investment. We selected studies based on their effectiveness in addressing the topic of the literature review. We prioritized these seven themes because they were most closely aligned with the core research objectives. Out of the articles summarized in Table 1 (Nakai et al., 2016; Chen & Scholtens, 2018; and Belghitar et al., 2014), there were discrepancies in terms of risk aversion, social investment relations, and the CSR rating agencies' basis for ratings, while ESG is taken as a measure of an SRI firm's productivity (Saadaoui & Soobaroyen, 2018; Sciarelli et al., 2021). The selected themes allow for a deeper analysis and interpretation of socially responsible investment. (Table 1) gives readers insight into problems arising in SRI, in ascending order from least to most difficult themes.

4.1 Socially Responsible Investment Contributing to sustainability

Sustainability encompasses social goals through sustainable investment, as firms employing green finance can achieve positive social impact through green productivity (Pástor et al., 2021). Allocating a portion of their money to sustainable investments satisfies most investors. According to Dorfleitner & Nguyen (2016), investors blend conventional and socially responsible investments, suggesting that a certain level of environmentally and ethically responsible investing is adequate to meet their goals. Climate change signals and returns on investments in socially conscious exchange-traded funds (ETFs) with a sustainability theme are positively correlated. This suggests that conscientious investors respond to climate change by reallocating their portfolios to more sustainable assets (Fiordelisi et al., 2023). Dam &

Heijdra (2011) argues that the combined effects of public abatement programs and household SRI practices can lead to mixed outcomes for economic growth and environmental quality. Additionally, Baker et al. (2022) indicate that green financial instruments may change who invests in polluting companies, but they do not necessarily reduce pollution levels, underscoring the need for further investigation into investor attitudes towards sustainable funds.

4.2 SRI Indices as compared with conventional investment funds

A substantial body of research compares SRI indices with conventional investment funds, aiming to assess differences in performance, risk, and investor behavior. Independent funds, which actively seek investors, are more likely to adopt socially responsible practices compared to captive funds (Crifo & Forgot, 2013). Wins & Zwergel (2016) categorize investors into three groups: conventional investors interested in SRI funds (INT), sustainable investors (SR), and conventional investors uninterested in SRI funds (CONV). The study highlights that SR investors resemble INT investors more than they do CONV investors, suggesting that ethical investing is often driven by personal belief rather than financial performance alone. Ethical and sustainable indices have outperformed conventional indices, especially during financial crises such as the 2007 financial crisis (Managi et al., 2012). Strong environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices are associated with long-term wealth creation, which in turn improves ethical funds' performance (Risalvato et al., 2019). However, while all groups agree that sustainable practices positively affect stock values, SR funds perform worse than conventional funds. People in the US and the UK hold several misconceptions about SRI, such as that it is new, underperforms, is rejected by Wall Street, and requires higher management fees (Meunier & Ohadit, 2022). To fully understand the differences between SRI funds and regular funds, you need to look at how ESG and sustainable practices affect the value of SRI indices. On risk and return, some studies show little difference between regular indexes and socially responsible indexes (SRIs). This is true even when global risk levels are considered (Śliwiński & Łobza, 2017). In the US, UK, and Japan, Latinovic & Obradovic (2013) discovered no statistically significant difference in the means and volatilities between SRI indexes and conventional indexes.

4.3 Risk-return on SRI

This theme explores the relationship between SRI risk and return and how it has evolved over time. Historically, SRI emphasized ethical investing, but in recent decades, new investment vehicles, such as microfinance, have emerged as stable, low-risk options within the SRI space (Praseeda, 2018). However, research by Van Dooren & Galema (2018) suggests that socially responsible investors show a greater disposition effect than conventional investors, meaning they are more likely to hold onto losing stocks longer and sell winning stocks prematurely. These behavioral differences highlight how ethical considerations can influence investment decisions. In the risk-return analysis of SRI, another important question is whether the pros of investing in socially conscious mutual funds outweigh the cons. This means that being moral may not always lead to higher returns. When choosing an investment, risk, costs, and opportunity costs matter. Passively managed SRI funds may be a better way to save money than actively managed funds because their expense ratios are usually lower (Chen & Scholtens, 2018). Belghitar et al. (2014) suggest that risk-averse investors may increase their utility by investing more in conventional indices, which have historically provided higher returns and lower variance compared to SRI indices. Fabretti & Herzel (2012) support this view, arguing that investors may compensate for expected losses by limiting investments to socially responsible assets.

4.4 Socially responsible investment and financial performance of companies

SRI performance significantly affects a company's value, employment, and profitability when making investment decisions. According to Kobo & Ngwakwe (2017), the share price and sales turnover of companies engaged in socially responsible investing (SRI) are positively and significantly correlated with corporate social investment (CSI). This study found no discernible correlation between CSI and return on equity (ROE). Regional differences exist in the financial success of SRI investments. Asia-Pacific performs negatively, whereas North America and Europe perform neutrally (Badía et al., 2021). According to Zulkafli et al. (2017), social screening for SRI is incompatible with the notion that portfolio selection restrictions lead to subpar performance. However, focusing on corporate social responsibility, governance, the environment, and social responsibility can enhance SRI performance. For every unit increase in a company's CSR score, particularly in areas like employee relations and society, mutual funds that are categorized as socially responsible investments (SRIs) increase their ownership by roughly 15% (Tosun, 2017). Through sustainable development, higher ESG ratings can lead to better social performance, benefiting societies and organizations (Svanberg et al., 2023).

4.5 The international aspect of socially responsible investment

Stakeholders must evaluate various factors when making responsible investment decisions, including the organization's legitimacy, moral and financial influence, and management principles (Majoch et al., 2017). Writers analyze ethical investment practices internationally from multiple perspectives. Brzezczński et al. (2021) argue that Central and Eastern Europe is a lower-risk market than other regions, while SRI businesses take on disproportionate risk. Miralles Quirós et al. (2019) assert that investors can assess a company's impact on sustainable development goals through engagement in international funds. Investor behavior toward socially responsible investing (SRI) differs across regions (USA, Europe, Asia-Pacific), especially during the subprime mortgage crisis, resulting in sustainable indexes exhibiting lower risk premiums than conventional indexes. Analyzing the distinct behaviors of domestic and foreign market participants can clarify how developing economies integrate into socially responsible investing (SRI). In contrast to US funds, internationally invested socially responsible funds lack crisis protection (Lesser et al., 2016). The US market is the most influential and significantly impacts other national markets such as Australia, Canada, Japan, and the UK. SRI fund managers can continue to gain advantages from international diversification despite certain market segmentation challenges. This reduces the likelihood of shocks propagating between countries (Horobet & Belaşcu, 2012).

4.6 Factors Impacting SRI

When implementing socially responsible investment indexes, firms must overcome various obstacles (Cudjoe et al., 2019). Since they include businesses impacted by market changes, SRI Indexes are particularly vulnerable (Ortas et al., 2014). Studies show that a wide range of factors influence managers' and investors' decisions to make socially responsible investments. Managers and policymakers adopt socially responsible investment strategies in response to environmental and technological innovation. (Leitão et al., 2023). Securities analysis also impacts SRI performance (Capelle-Blancard & Monjon, 2012). Nilsson et al. (2010) note that SRI investors require information on social responsibility, ethics, and the environment. Despite this, if alternatives to participating in the financial market exist, SRI is objective (Arnold, 2023). Investing in social funds is comparable to broad market investing (De la Torre Torres & Martínez Torre Enciso, 2017). Evidence suggests investors are willing to take on less risk or do beneficial things for others, which makes the financial market react to SR factors (Girerd-Potin et al., 2014). Styles, alternatives, ESG, incentives, and technological advancements are among the variables influencing SRI choices.

However, more research is needed to better understand the variables influencing the choice and application of SRI indices.

4.7 Financial Crisis

The financial crisis also affected SRI equities. SRI funds in Japan showed stronger resistance to the 2008 global financial crisis compared to conventional funds, particularly during the Lehman Brothers collapse. International funds, which benefited from greater diversity than domestic funds, were primarily responsible for SRI funds' durability (Nakai et al., 2016). Jawadi et al. (2019) examined how the financial crisis affected socially indexed securities. Researchers have conducted numerous studies on the COVID-19 financial crisis to understand its impact on socially responsible enterprises (SRIs). According to Brzeszczyński et al. (2022), during the COVID-19 pandemic, the beta coefficient indicated that the systematic risk of socially responsible enterprises (SRIs) increased in most countries. However, SRI companies in East Asia demonstrated a drop in systematic risk, in contrast to increases in other regions. Because their returns declined less than those of non-SRI stocks during the COVID-19 crisis, SRI stocks offered downside protection. During the pandemic, ESG performance was found to lower SRI stock return volatility. Additional ESG data may predict future stock performance, particularly in times of crisis (Beloskar & Rao, 2023).

We have divided the articles into various themes based on their purpose, findings, and future implications. The articles summarized and analyzed under these themes differ because they examine different facets of SRI. The main focus of contributing to sustainability is SRI's broader social and environmental impact. The second theme in comparing conventional and SRI indices is the ethical screening of SRI funds. The SRI and financial performance themes examine how SRI activities can affect a company's financial performance. They examine metrics such as return on assets (ROA), return on equity (ROE), and more. We also scrutinize the risk-return dynamics of SRI analysis, highlighting how risk affects investors investing in SRI indices. The theme examines global variations in SRI procedures. The factors that influence SRI center on those that propelled its expansion. The financial crisis examines how SRI handles economic difficulties. The topics outline SRI's objectives, tactics, performance, and global environment while emphasizing its complexity compared with more conventional investment methods.

5. Research gap

This review highlights the critical role of governance, disclosure practices, and investor behavior in shaping the effectiveness and performance of socially responsible investments. Integrating ESG strategies into SRI strategies can build investor trust and contribute to sustainable finance. This can help investors reduce the volatility of SRI stock returns, a favorable indicator of future performance and resilience during crises (Beloskar & Rao, 2023). However, investors, managers, and small businesses lack awareness and support, as these ethical practices yield less profit for SMEs than for large-scale enterprises. Some studies show that SRI does not perform as well as traditional indices, but research remains divided on how SRI indices compare with traditional indices (Fabretti & Herzel, 2012; Crifo & Forget, 2013; Risalvato et al., 2019). This inconsistency requires further investigation. However, major gaps remain in our understanding of how risk and return work in socially responsible funds, what drives investors to invest in SRI indices, and how well SRI indices compare with traditional ones. Analyzing risk and return in SRI also requires understanding what compensation investors need when they bear the loss, risk, and high costs of socially responsible investment. The financial crisis theme also shows that environmental, social, governance, and corporate social responsibility practices play a vital role in improving

sustainability. However, small firms often fail to implement these practices, indicating the need to understand how government and local authorities can enhance SR practices in SMEs. Future research that fills these gaps can help improve SRI practices by corporations, help SRI investors better understand SRI risk and return, and help policymakers make choices that lead to a more sustainable and responsible investment landscape.

6. Conclusion

This literature review collected all the empirical implications of socially responsible investment themes. Two aspects emerge from this literature review: first, the relevance of companies' governance and disclosure practices, and second, investors' behavior towards SRI. Integrating ESG (environmental, social, and governance) progress with SRI strategies is crucial for building investor trust and supporting sustainable finance. These practices play a vital role in improving performance on SRI indices, i.e., CSR, ESG, and sustainable business practices (Sciarelli et al., 2021; Tosun, 2017). Positive progress in these practices helps developed nations address financial crises, including Australia, Canada, Japan, the UK, and the US (Horobet et al., 2012; Kathrin Lesser, 2016). SRI can achieve sustainability by fostering a positive attitude among investors towards sustainable, socially responsible funds. Socially responsible investment contributes to the ethical, moral, and environmental causes for which people invest in these funds (Kobo & Ngwakwe, 2017; Donath et al., 2018; Dam & Heijdra, 2011). Future research can address the gaps identified in the themes covered in section 5 of this systematic literature review, as well as gaps in other disciplines not covered in this study. This study must acknowledge several limitations. First, the research reviewed here uses various keywords to describe socially responsible investments, including SRI, ethical investment, ESG investing, and sustainable investment. We selected "socially responsible investment" as the key term for

this literature review to extract data from the Scopus database. Other databases, such as Web of Science and Google Scholar, contain many sources that do not meet the academic standards required for this review. This review focuses on articles directly addressing the research topic, and the themes identified here primarily pertain to SRI. However, the themes could potentially be classified into other research fields, as the scope of socially responsible investment spans a wide array of academic disciplines.

Declarations

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Human Ethics and Consent to Participate: Not applicable

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