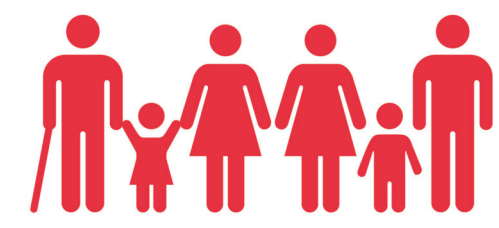


# Breaking Barriers: An Analysis of Biases Hindering Progress Towards the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



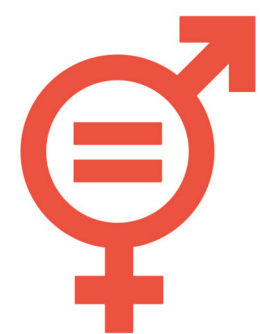
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



## 1. ABSTRACT

Despite the global commitment to the UN's 17 SDGs, various challenges such as competing priorities, conflicts of interest, and resistance to change persist. By employing a mixed methods approach, **this study identifies at least two biases for each SDG** that policymakers need to address to enhance the practical implementation of these goals. The findings underscore the importance of understanding these biases to foster more effective and equitable policy-making.

These biases range from *omission* and *compassion fade* to *stereotyping* and *loss aversion*, affecting various aspects of policy and implementation. **Addressing these biases is crucial for achieving the targets set by the SDGs** and ensuring sustainable development across different regions and sectors. Through a comprehensive content analysis using ATLAS.ti, **the research systematically codes and categorizes** specific aspects of the content in the data to uncover trends and patterns. This method allows for a detailed examination of the biases present in policy documents, reports, and media articles, providing a **robust framework for understanding the barriers to SDG implementation**.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

The research conditions include a **systematic literature review and content analysis of 3.816 papers, policy documents, and reports related to the SDGs**.

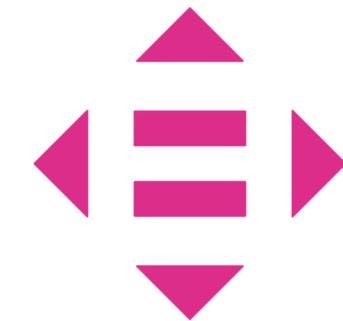
The studies were selected based on their relevance to the 17 SDGs and their focus on identifying biases in policy-making and implementation. The analysis covers a wide range of papers to **ensure a comprehensive understanding of the cognitive, unconscious and biological biases affecting each goal**.

The study model integrates **behavioral economics, evolutionary biology, and evolutionary psychology** to explain **how these biases influence decision-making processes**. By understanding the underlying mechanisms of these biases, the research provides insights into how they can be mitigated to **improve policy outcomes**.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



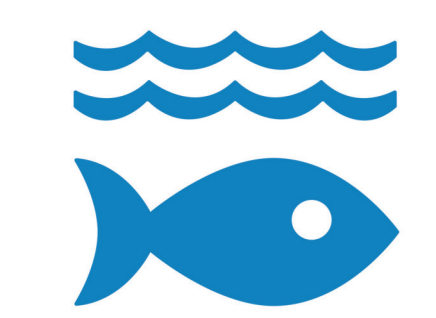
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



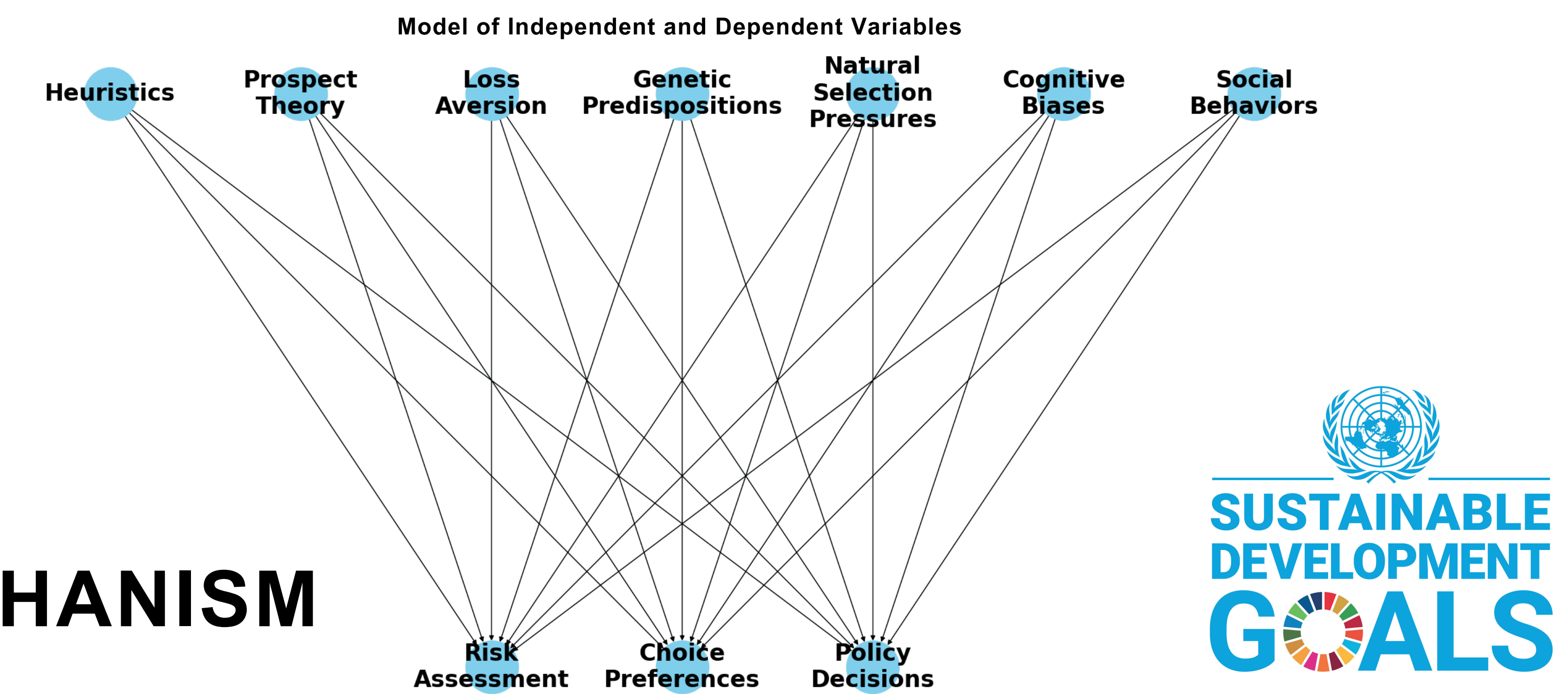
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



## 3. METHODS

The study employs **content analysis** with the qualitative data analysis software ATLAS.ti. This method involves **systematically coding and categorizing specific aspects of the content in the data to uncover trends and patterns**. The AI-powered coding feature of ATLAS.ti assists in generating meaningful codes based on the context of the documents. The process includes document selection from Web of Science, a systematic literature review of selected papers, AI analysis, code generation, interactive review and refinement.

## 4. MECHANISM

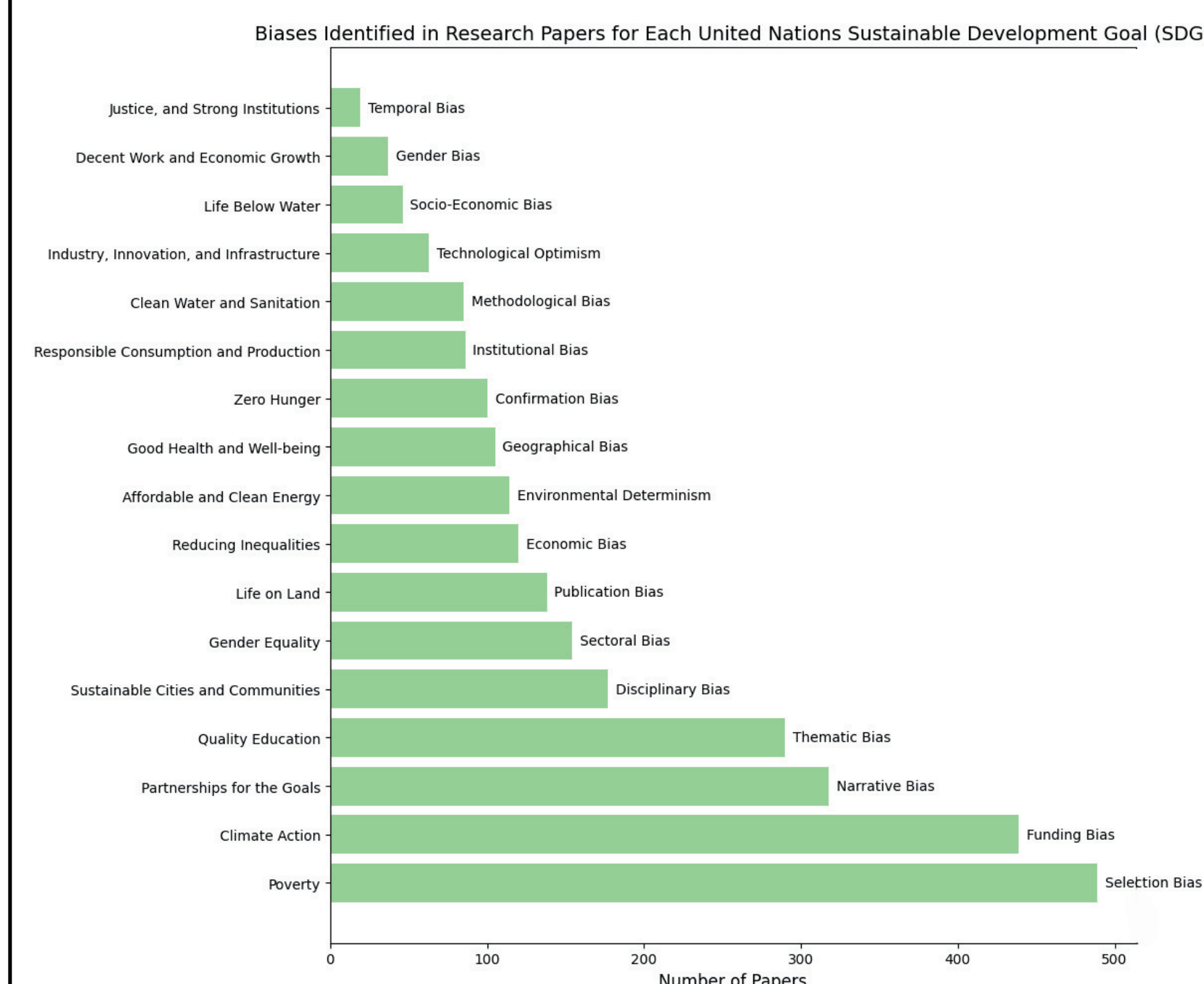


## 5. ROBUSTNESS & META-ANALYSIS

Results are robust to:

- Robustness ensured through meta-analysis of coded data.
- Cross-referencing results with literature and empirical studies.

## 6. RESULTS



## 7. CONCLUSIONS

The integration of behavioral economics, evolutionary biology, and evolutionary psychology into policy analysis provides a deeper understanding of how these biases operate and influence decisions. This **interdisciplinary approach can help create more adaptive and resilient strategies**, ensuring that the SDGs are met in a way that is both equitable and sustainable.

## 8. REFERENCES

United Nations (27 July 2023 - 24 July 2024). Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2024.pdf>

World Health Organization. (N.D.) The Global Health Observatory. <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/sustainable-development-goals#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20Sustainable%20Development,achieve%20by%20the%20year%202030>

Web of Science Searches.