My title*

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First sentence. Second sentence. Third sentence. Fourth sentence.

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1 Introduction

Despite changing norms and perceptions, women are largely still missing from elected office in the United States (U.S.), Canada, and across the world. In 2023, the U.S. elected a historic

*Code and data from this analysis are available at: https://github.com/InessaDeAngelis/Perceptions_of_Women_in_Politics

number of women to the House of Representatives with 125 (or 28.7%) and 25 to the Senate (or 25%) (American Women and Politics 2023). The current Vice President, Kamala Harris, is the first woman to hold this office. Although the number of women elected to the highest levels of government in the U.S. is inching toward gender-parity, progress is slow and hard fought. Womens' credibility and perceived power as politicians is impacted by gendered framing by traditional media, priming members of the public to hold biased views about their qualifications (Geus et al. 2021). Framing refers to how information is chosen, interpreted, and presented by the media regulates the audience's perception of it as important and can shape people's own decision making procedures (Bashevkin 2009). Previous research has shown that the American public is open to voting for a female president and that gender stereotypes are playing less of a role in the construction of public image and voting behaviours (Holman 2023). However, gender stereotypes continue to be a factor in perceptions of the viability of women to serve as elected officials.

To gain a further understanding of the gendered stereotypes about the perceived emotional viability of women to serve in politics, I tracked responses by political party affiliation and ideology, using data obtained from the General Statistical Survey (GSS) from NORC (NORC 2022) at the University of Chicago. These perceptions of women in politics are then analyzed to understand their correlations with demographic factors such as gender and age, as well as tracking the perceptions over time.

`My analysis emphasizes that perceptions of women in politics have generally improved over ti`

In the remainder of this paper, I commence with the Data section which outlines the nature of the data obtained, limitations, and cleaning procedures. In the Results section, I present trends found during the analysis process. Then, in the Discussion section, I provide further insights and future areas of study. In the Conclusion, I summarize the main findings. Lastly, the Appendix contains a supplemental survey which proposes additional questions to study perceptions of women in politics.

2 Data

The data used in this paper was retrieved from the US General Social Survey (GSS) from NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC 2022). I obtained both demographic data and data relating to the perceived emotional viability of women in politics, political party affiliation and ideology, from 1974 to 2022.

2.1 Data Cleaning

Data was collected, cleaned, and analyzed using the statistical programming software R (R Core Team 2023), using functions from `tidyverse` (Wickham et al. 2019), `ggplot2` (Wickham

Table 1: Sample of Cleaned Respondent Demographic Information

Year	ID	Age	Gender
1974	1	21	Male
1974	2	41	Male
1974	3	83	Female
1974	4	69	Female
1974	5	58	Female
1974	6	30	Male
1974	7	48	Male
1974	8	67	Male
1974	9	51	Female
1974	10	54	Female

2016), `dplyr` (Wickham et al. 2023), `readr` (Wickham, Hester, and Bryan 2023), `tibble` (Müller and Wickham 2023), `janitor` (Firke 2023), `KableExtra` (Zhu 2021), `knitr` (Xie 2014), `ggbeeswarm` (Clarke and Sherrill-Mix 2023), `ggrepel` (Slowikowski 2023), `labelled` (Larmarange et al. 2023), `haven` (Wickham, Miller, and Smith 2022), and `here` (Müller and Bryan 2020).

2.2 Respondent Demographic Information

2.3 Perceptions of Women in Politics

2.4 Political Preferences

3 Results

4 Discussion

5 Conclusion

Appendix

The supplemental survey is available here: https://forms.gle/EFj72QiGS3fo186z5

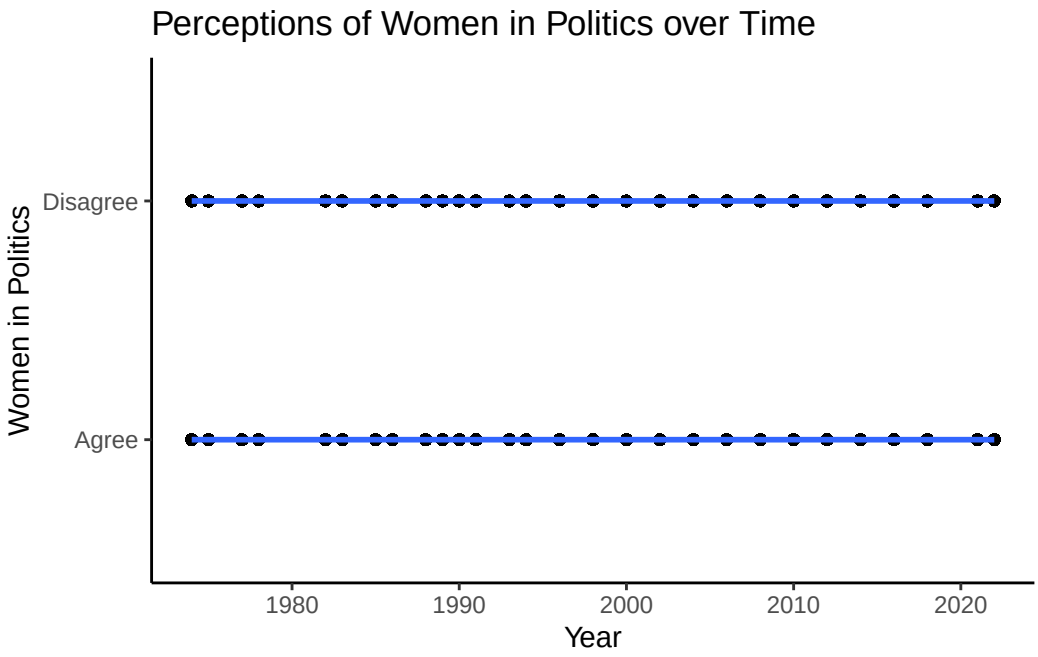

Figure 1: Perceptions of Women in Politics over Time

5.1 Survey Preamble

The General Social Survey collects information and maintains a historical record of respondents' attitudes, experiences, concerns, and practices. In order to strengthen the understanding of perceptions of women in politics, these questions are designed to better understand what socio-economic, cultural, and political factors and conditions contribute to a person's notion of whether women are fit to serve in elected political office, lead efforts to advance specific policy agendas, and increase the number of women elected to all levels of government.

This survey is voluntary and responses are anonymous. If you decide to participate, you can skip questions and withdraw at any time. Individual responses will be recorded in my dataset using a user identification number.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please contact inessa.deangelis@mail.utoronto.ca if you have questions or require any further information.

5.2 Survey Questions

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