

God, women, and emotions: How present are referenced in the most prominent schools of philosophy?

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Introduction

Have you ever wondered how present God's concept is in primary texts in the history of philosophy? In what schools of philosophy are more recurrent references to God? What about the presence of words referencing women? What are the schools of philosophy that most recurrent mention words describing women? How is the balance between men's and women's words? How is the balance of words referencing logic and emotions? A unique and fascinating data set allowed us to explore the great texts in the history of philosophy.

The **Philosophy Data Project** (see <http://philosophydata.com/index.html> (<http://philosophydata.com/index.html>)) is a data science project that explores the history of philosophy through the primary schools of thought. This fascinating data set allows us a data-driven exploration of philosophical texts.

Context

The dataset contains 13 schools of philosophy which give a broad overview of different ideas about the world, representing more or less the entire history of philosophy.

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kable(table.schools)
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school

plato

aristotle

empiricism

rationalism

analytic

continental

phenomenology

german_idealism

communism

capitalism

stoicism

school

nietzsche

feminism

For each school of thought, there are specific philosophical texts chosen to represent the intellectual tradition.

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kable(table.summary)
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| school | author | title |
|---------------|---------------|---|
| plato | Plato | Plato - Complete Works |
| aristotle | Aristotle | Aristotle - Complete Works |
| empiricism | Locke | Second Treatise On Government |
| empiricism | Locke | Essay Concerning Human Understanding |
| empiricism | Hume | A Treatise Of Human Nature |
| empiricism | Hume | Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion |
| empiricism | Berkeley | Three Dialogues |
| empiricism | Berkeley | A Treatise Concerning The Principles Of Human Knowledge |
| rationalism | Spinoza | Ethics |
| rationalism | Spinoza | On The Improvement Of Understanding |
| rationalism | Leibniz | Theodicy |
| rationalism | Descartes | Discourse On Method |
| rationalism | Descartes | Meditations On First Philosophy |
| rationalism | Malebranche | The Search After Truth |
| analytic | Russell | The Analysis Of Mind |
| analytic | Russell | The Problems Of Philosophy |
| analytic | Moore | Philosophical Studies |
| analytic | Wittgenstein | Philosophical Investigations |
| analytic | Wittgenstein | Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus |
| analytic | Lewis | Lewis - Papers |
| analytic | Quine | Quintessence |
| analytic | Popper | The Logic Of Scientific Discovery |
| analytic | Kripke | Naming And Necessity |
| analytic | Kripke | Philosophical Troubles |

| school | author | title |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| analytic | Wittgenstein | On Certainty |
| continental | Foucault | The Birth Of The Clinic |
| continental | Foucault | History Of Madness |
| continental | Foucault | The Order Of Things |
| continental | Derrida | Writing And Difference |
| continental | Deleuze | Difference And Repetition |
| continental | Deleuze | Anti-Oedipus |
| phenomenology | Merleau-Ponty | The Phenomenology Of Perception |
| phenomenology | Husserl | The Crisis Of The European Sciences And Phenomenology |
| phenomenology | Husserl | The Idea Of Phenomenology |
| phenomenology | Heidegger | Being And Time |
| phenomenology | Heidegger | Off The Beaten Track |
| german_idealism | Kant | Critique Of Practical Reason |
| german_idealism | Kant | Critique Of Judgement |
| german_idealism | Kant | Critique Of Pure Reason |
| german_idealism | Fichte | The System Of Ethics |
| german_idealism | Hegel | Science Of Logic |
| german_idealism | Hegel | The Phenomenology Of Spirit |
| german_idealism | Hegel | Elements Of The Philosophy Of Right |
| communism | Marx | Capital |
| communism | Marx | The Communist Manifesto |
| communism | Lenin | Essential Works Of Lenin |
| capitalism | Smith | The Wealth Of Nations |
| capitalism | Ricardo | On The Principles Of Political Economy And Taxation |
| capitalism | Keynes | A General Theory Of Employment, Interest, And Money |
| stoicism | Epictetus | Enchiridion |
| stoicism | Marcus Aurelius | Meditations |
| nietzsche | Nietzsche | The Antichrist |
| nietzsche | Nietzsche | Beyond Good And Evil |
| nietzsche | Nietzsche | Ecce Homo |

| school | author | title |
|-----------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| nietzsche | Nietzsche | Twilight Of The Idols |
| nietzsche | Nietzsche | Thus Spake Zarathustra |
| feminism | Wollstonecraft | Vindication Of The Rights Of Woman |
| feminism | Beauvoir | The Second Sex |
| feminism | Davis | Women, Race, And Class |

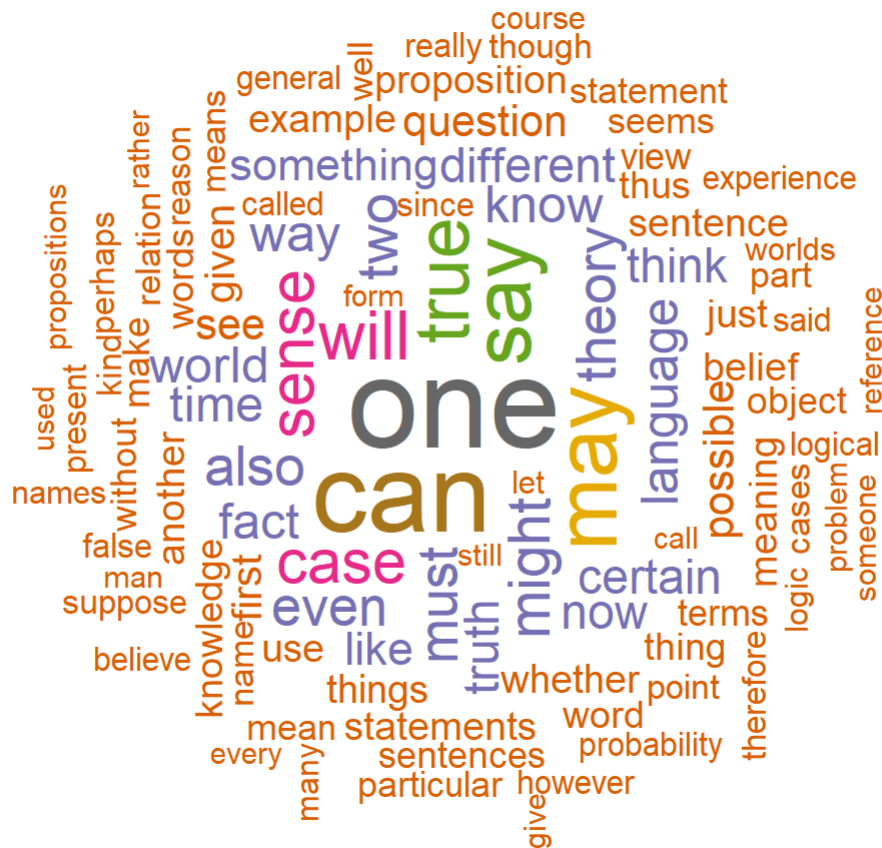
Data Exploration

Before starting the analysis of specific concepts present in each school of thought, I will give you a quick summary of the most prominent terms for each philosophical tradition through word clouds.

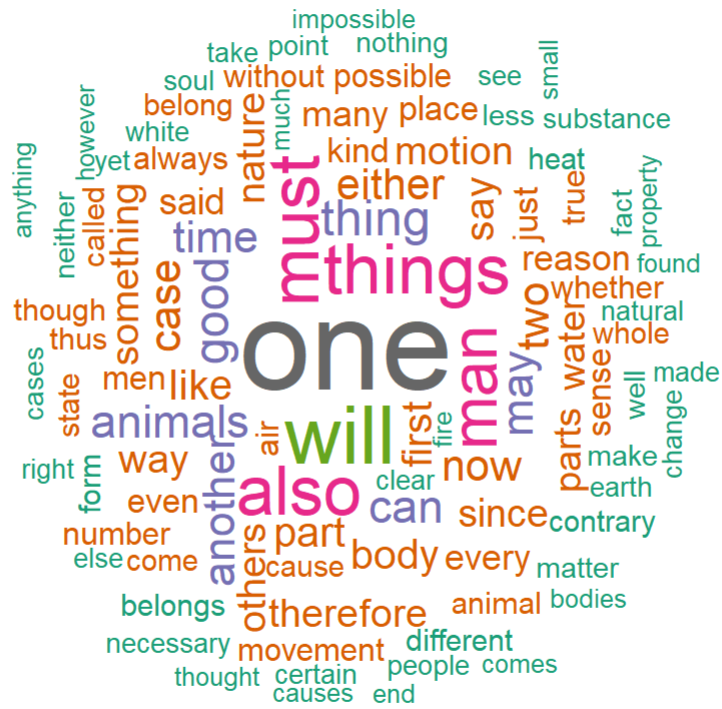
Word clouds

A word cloud is a collection, or cluster, of words depicted in different sizes. The bigger and bolder the word appears, the more often it's mentioned within a given text and the more important it is.

Analytic



Aristotle



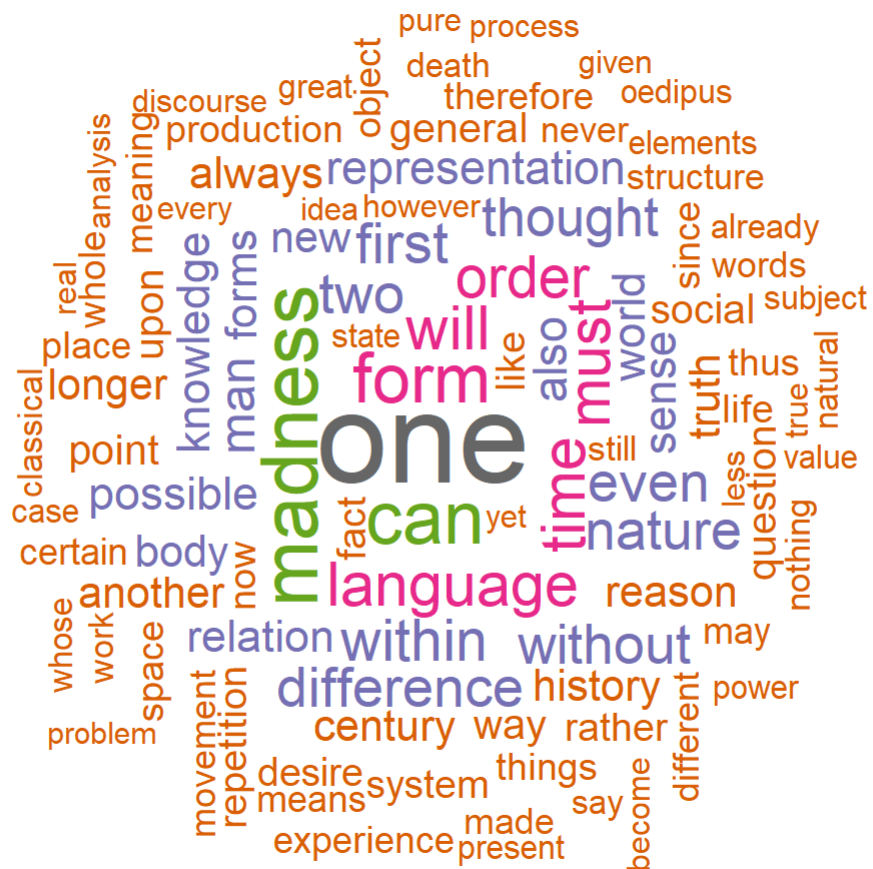
Capitalism



Communism



Continental



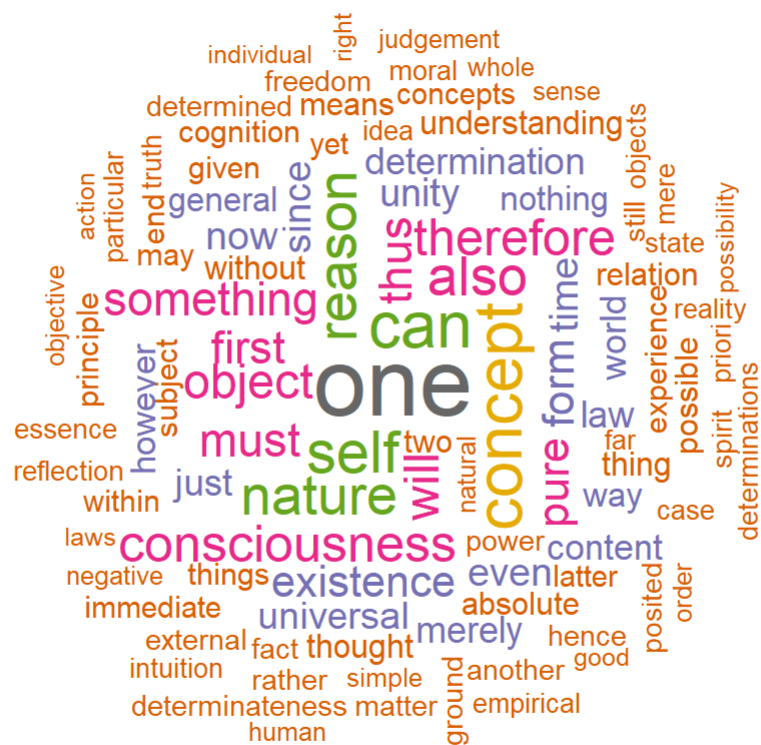
Empiricism



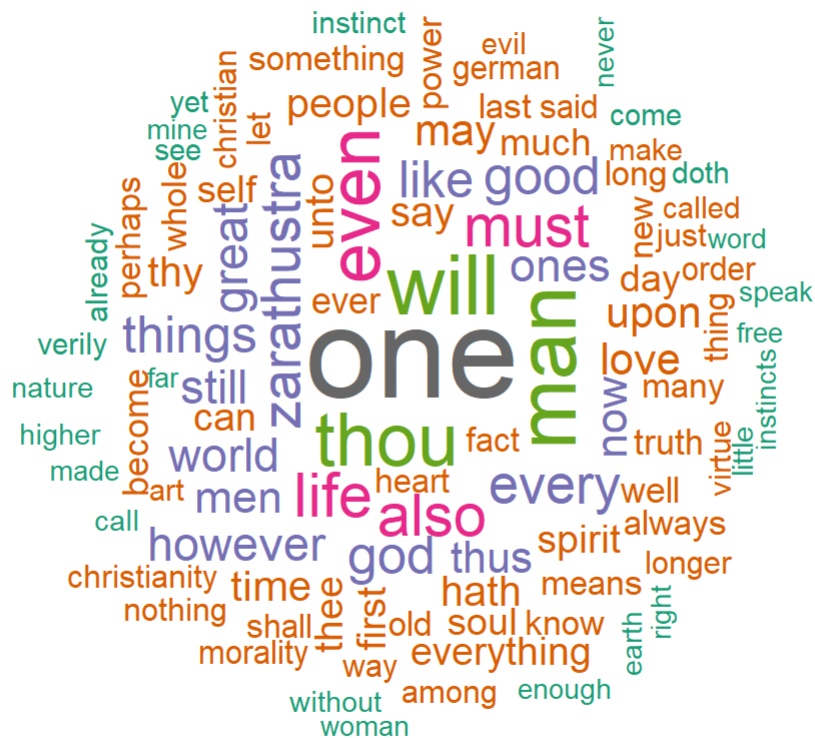
Feminism



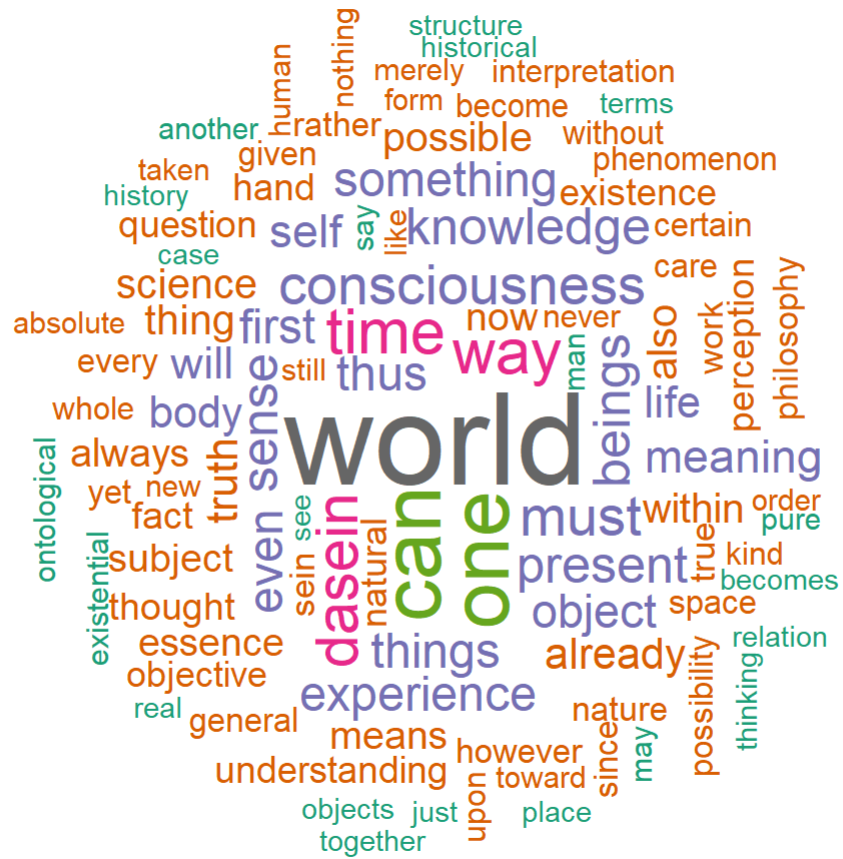
German Idealism



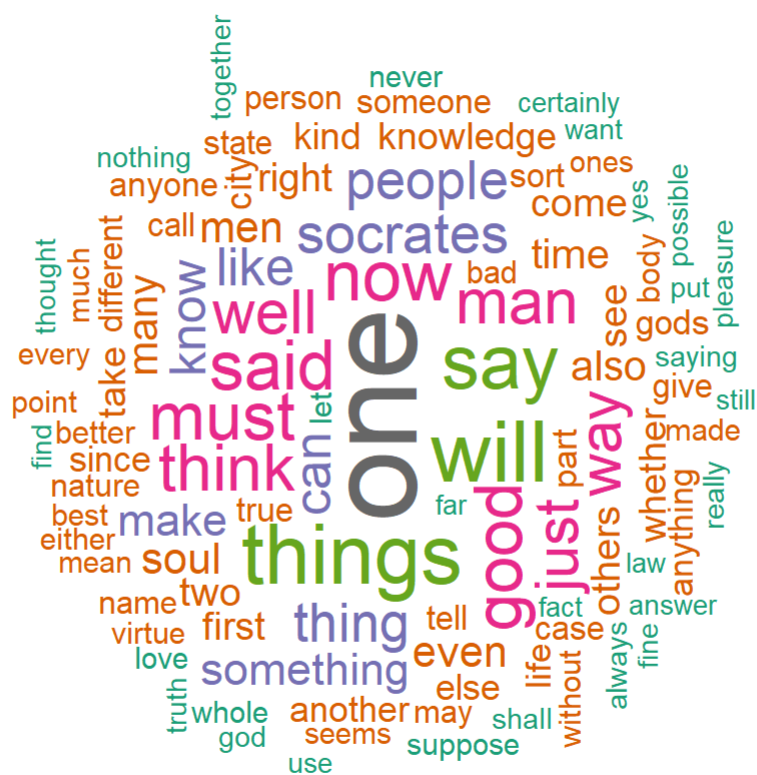
Nietzsche



Phenomenology



Plato



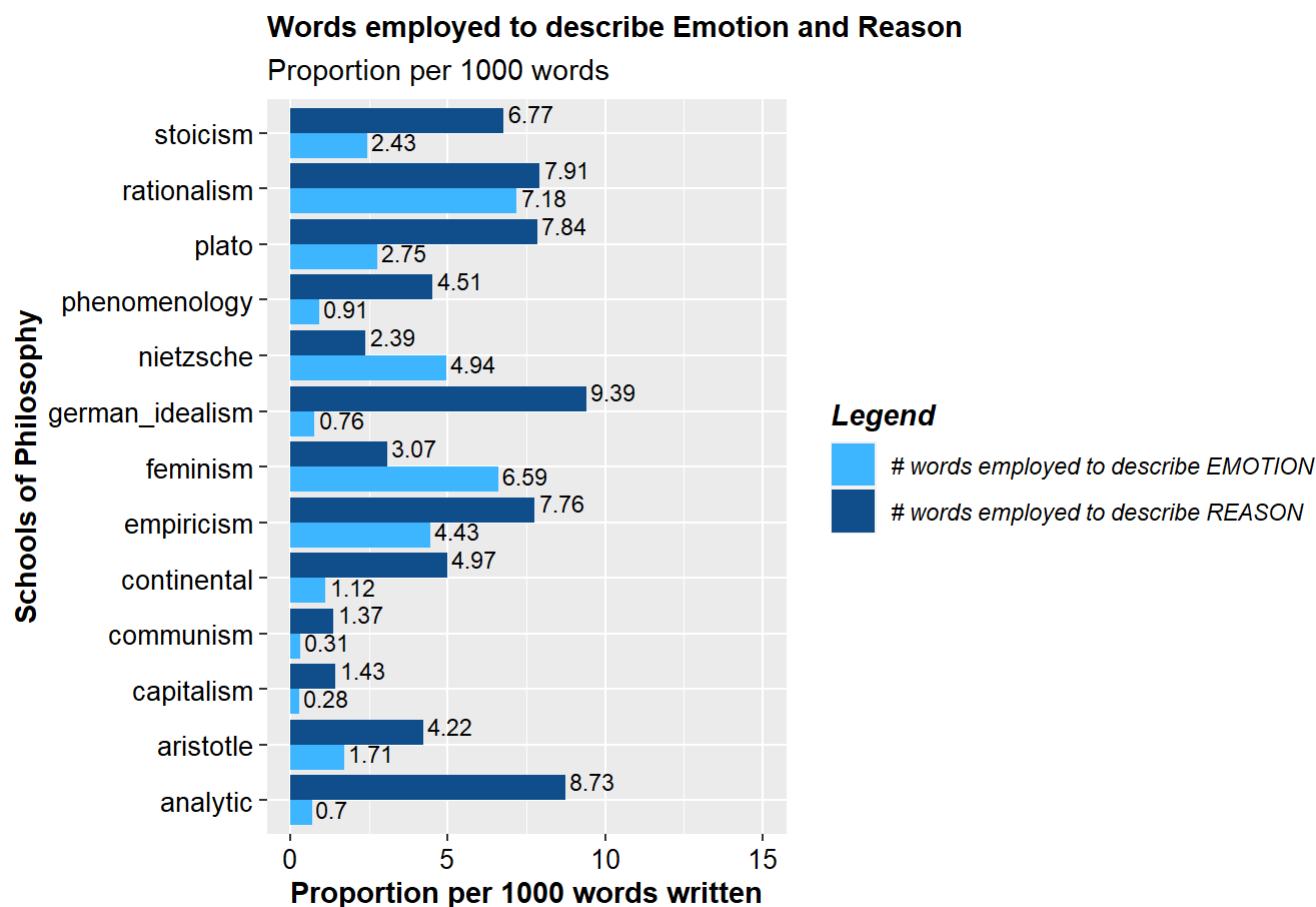
Rationalism



Stoicism



Logic and emotion are the two elements that make for perfect persuasion. We can be persuasive using only logic or emotion, but the effect will be short-term and unbalanced. In this analysis, I will show you what is the proportion of words referring to both concepts for every school of philosophy.



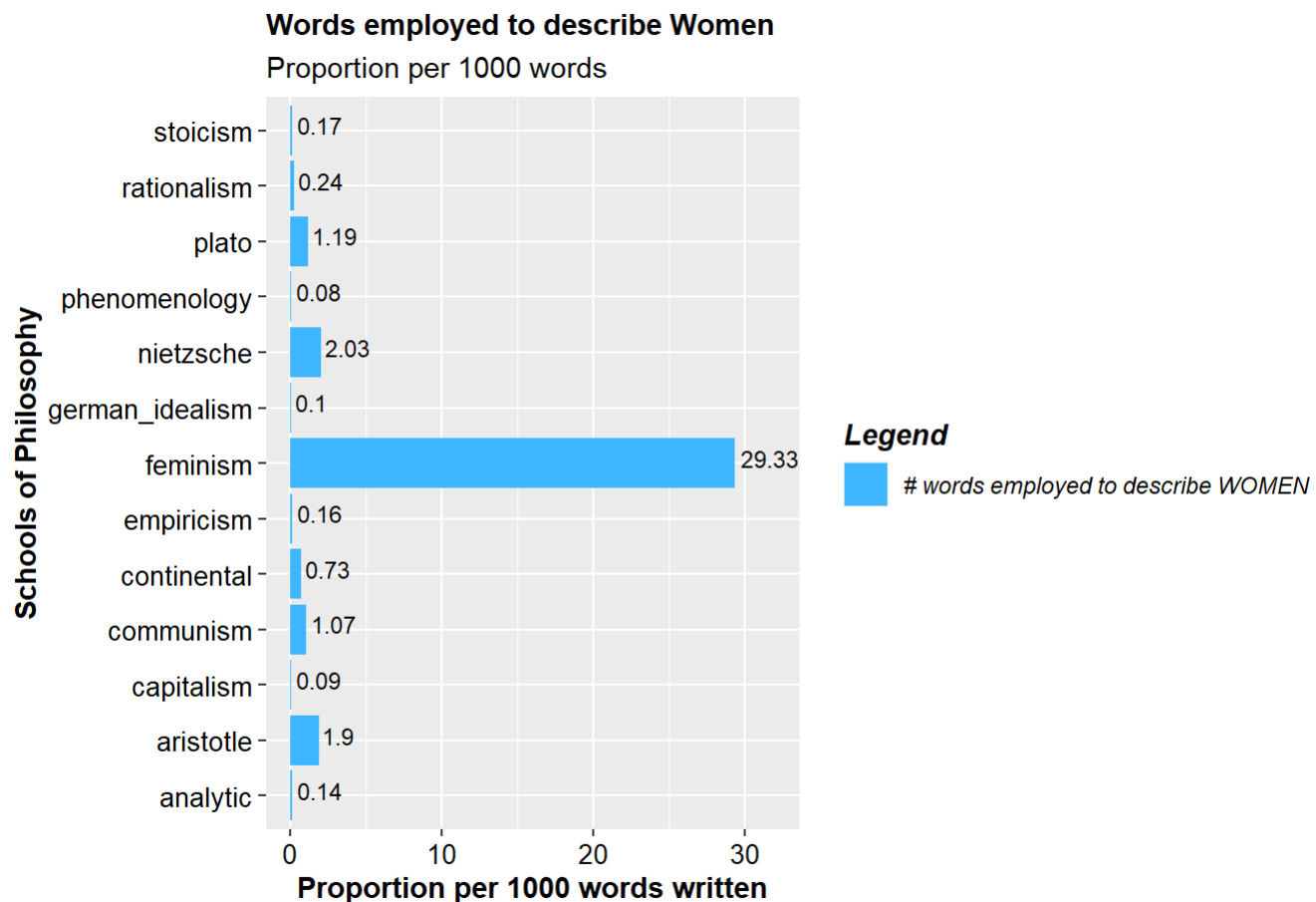
Source: Prepared by the author using data from The Philosophy Data Project

Surprisingly, **rationalism** is the school of thought in which the proportion of words referring to emotions and reasons is more similar (7.18 vs. 7.91 words per 1000, respectively). This similarity could be related to the fact that rationalism is a theory in which the criterion of the truth is not sensory but intellectual and deductive. Thus, its texts discuss emotions and feelings to disregard them and then base its theory on pure logic. On the other hand, the **analytic** school of philosophy is the thought in which the proportion of words describing emotions and reasons is more different, being the ratio of logic words 12.47 times than that of emotional expressions.

Prominence of women

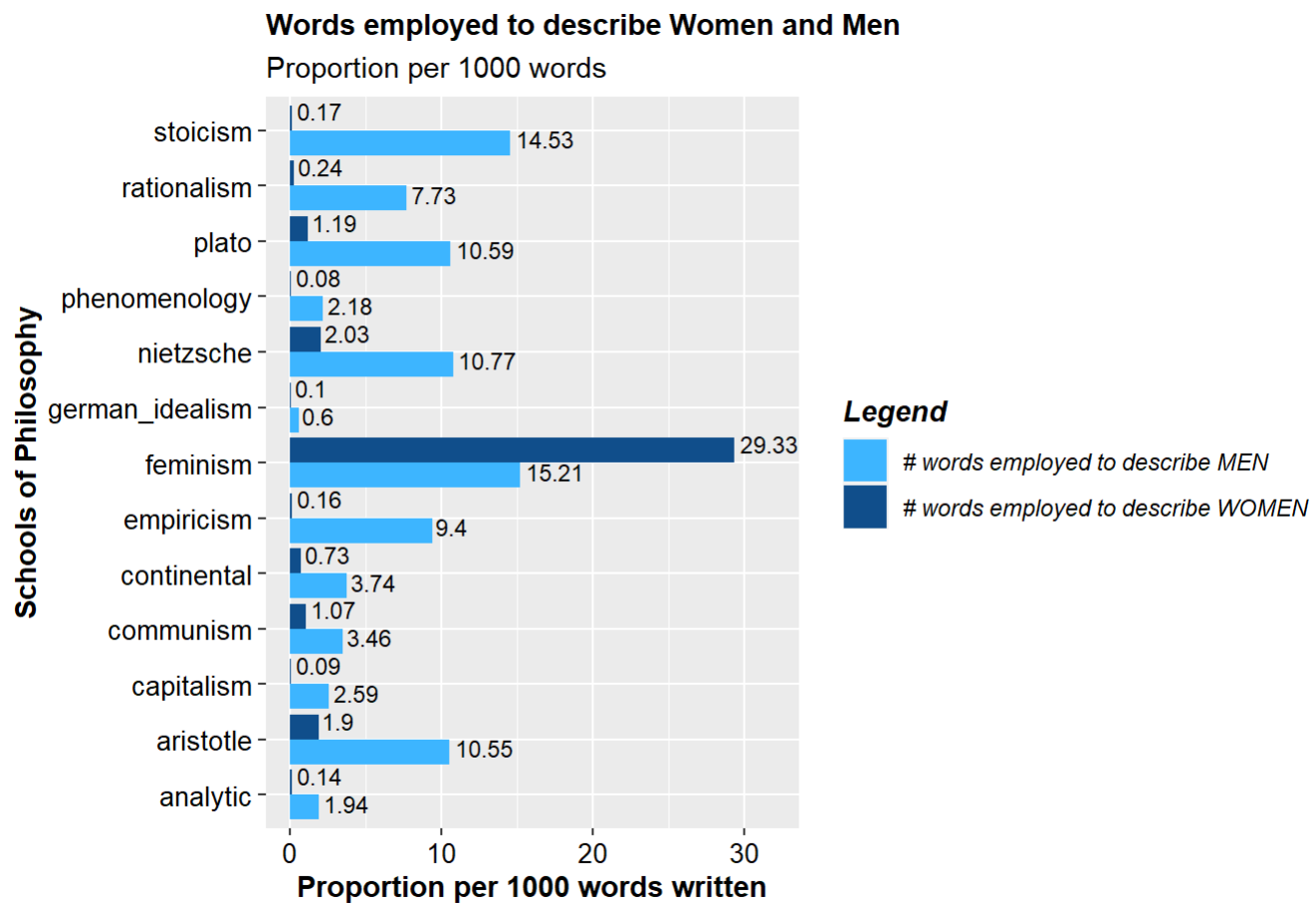
This analysis measures the proportion of words referring to women in the central philosophy books and compares this number to the ratio of terms employed to describe men.

In the early to mid-twentieth century, women were experiencing a transformation in their role in society. With the suffragette movement and the advent of females in the workforce during the war, the role of women in society was expanding. Thus, this analysis can help us understand which schools of thought were most closely related to this phenomenon.



Source: Prepared by the author using data from *The Philosophy Data Project*

It is no surprise that **feminism** is the school of philosophy in which women's words are most prominent. On the other hand, **phenomenology**, the philosophical study of the structures of experience and consciousness, is the one with the lowest proportion of words describing women.

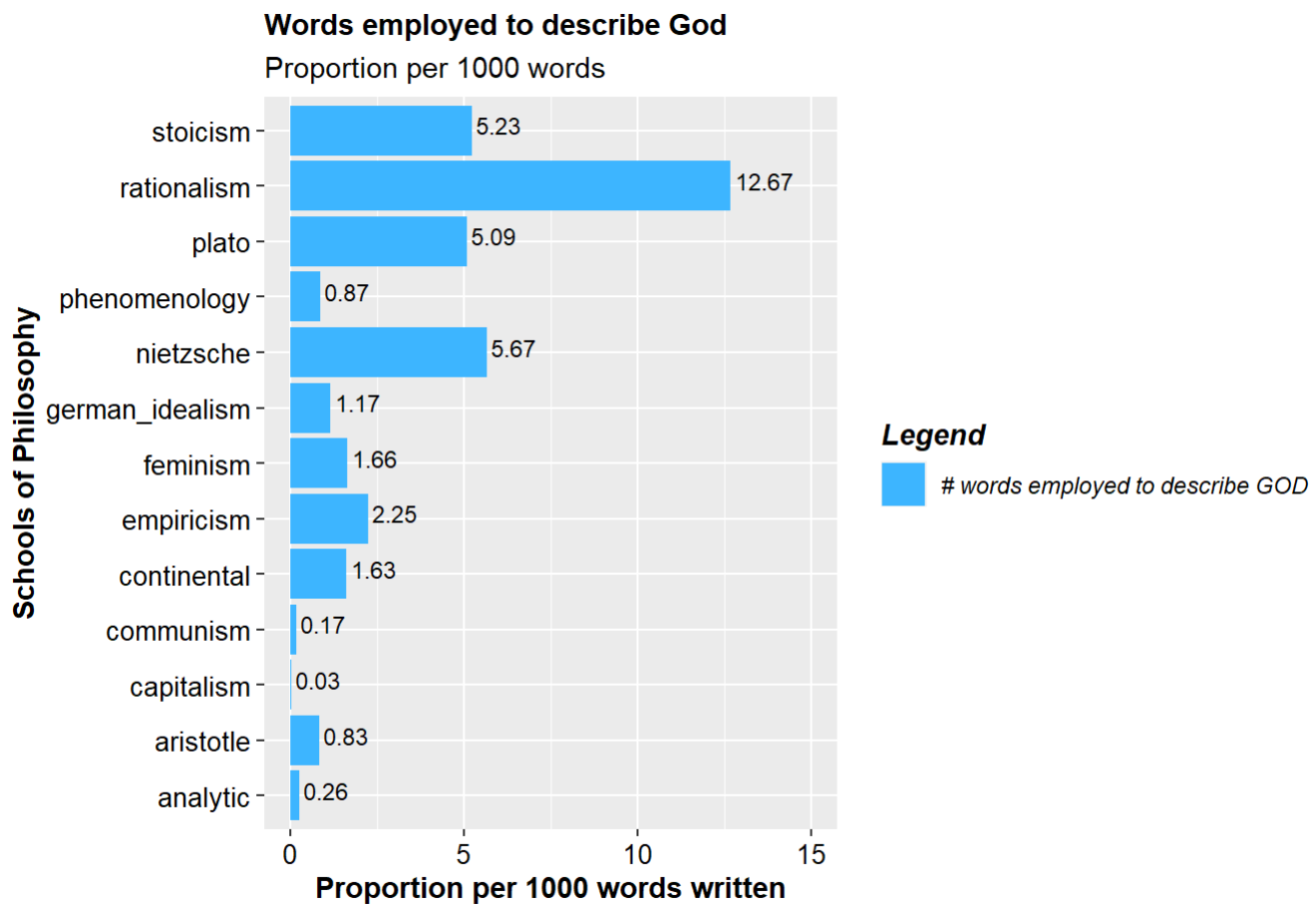


Source: Prepared by the author using data from The Philosophy Data Project

Comparing women and men proportions, it is interesting to highlight that **feminism** is also the one with the highest proportion of men's words

God presence

Finally, I will study references to God and divinity in the data set. This analysis is fascinating because references to God in the different schools reflect the culture and identity the beliefs of each one of the authors.



Source: Prepared by the author using data from *The Philosophy Data Project*

Rationalism is the school of thought with the highest proportion of words describing God. Nevertheless, this effect is caused by the fact that some of the books spanning this philosophy are dedicated to arguing against God's existence (see <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/spinoza/> (<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/spinoza/>)).

Finally, **capitalism** is the school of philosophy with the lowest proportion of words referring to God (0.03 per 1000 words).