

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

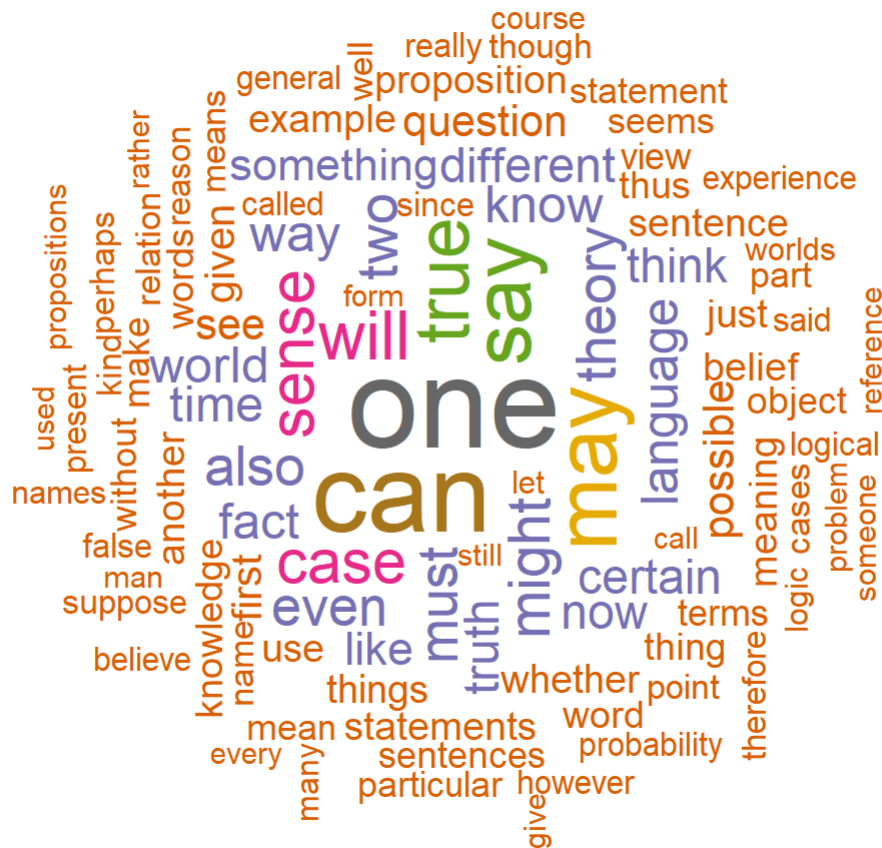
Data Exploration

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 though word clouds.

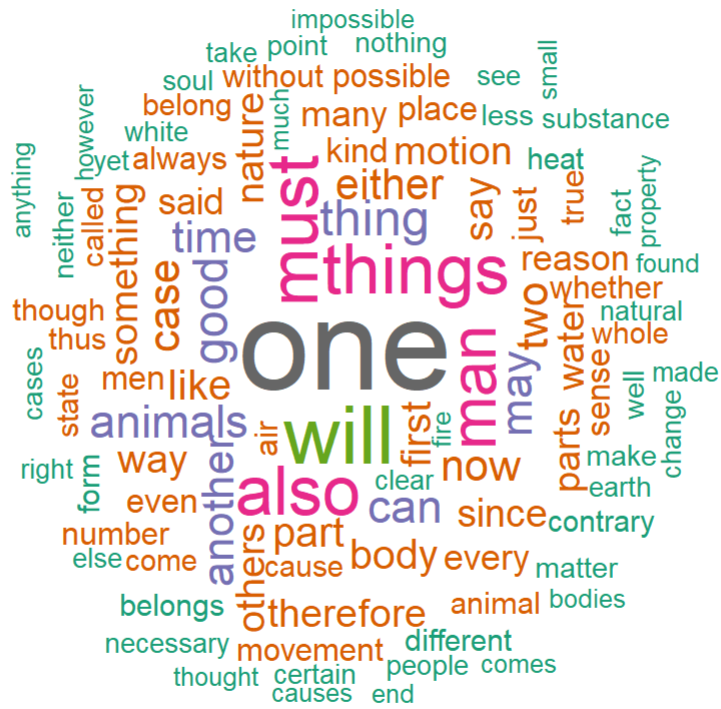
Word clouds

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

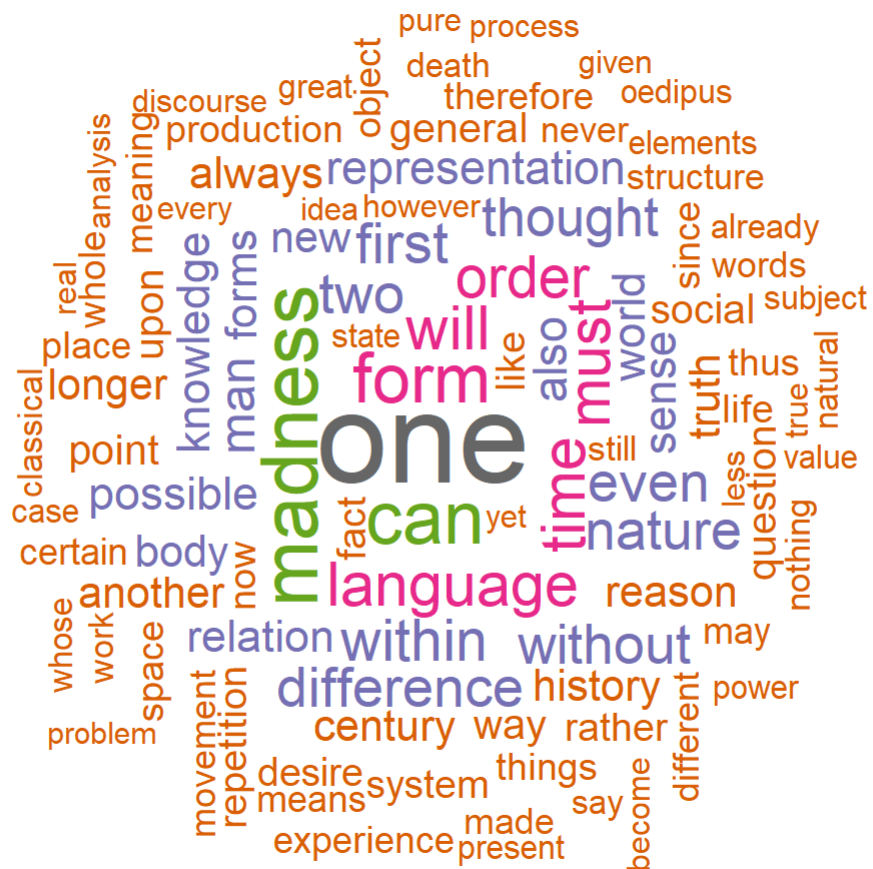


Capitalism





Continental



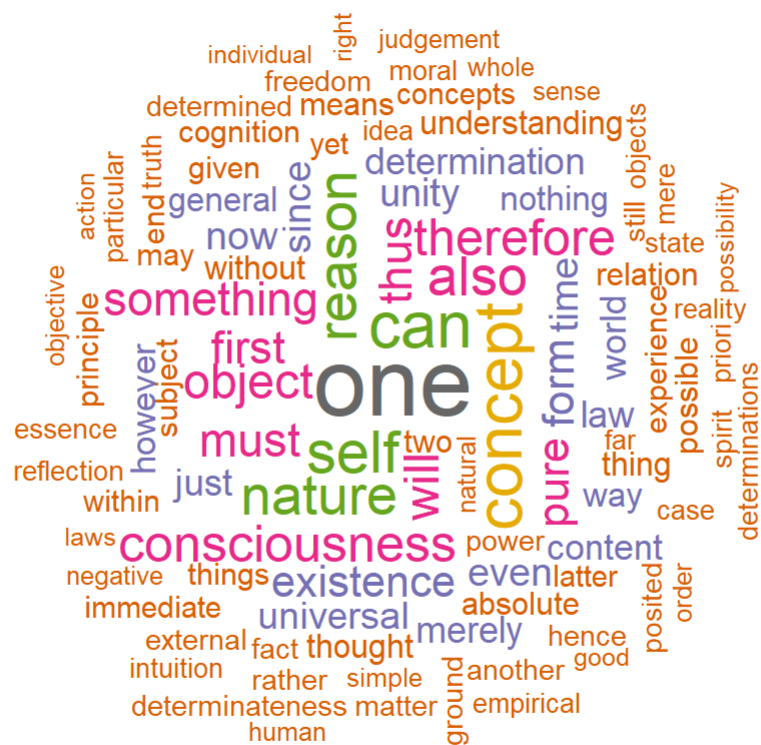
Empiricism



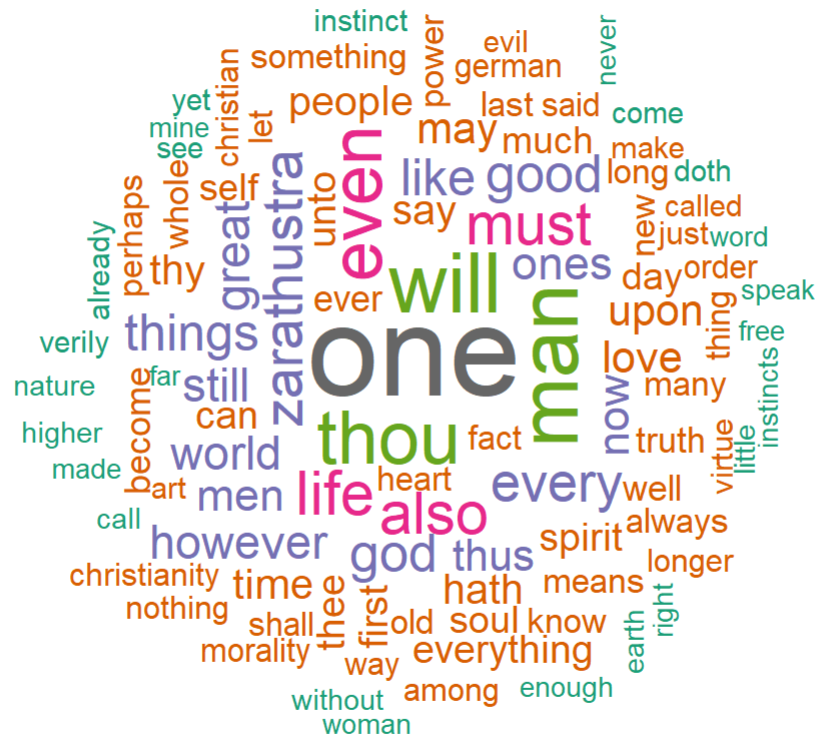
Feminism



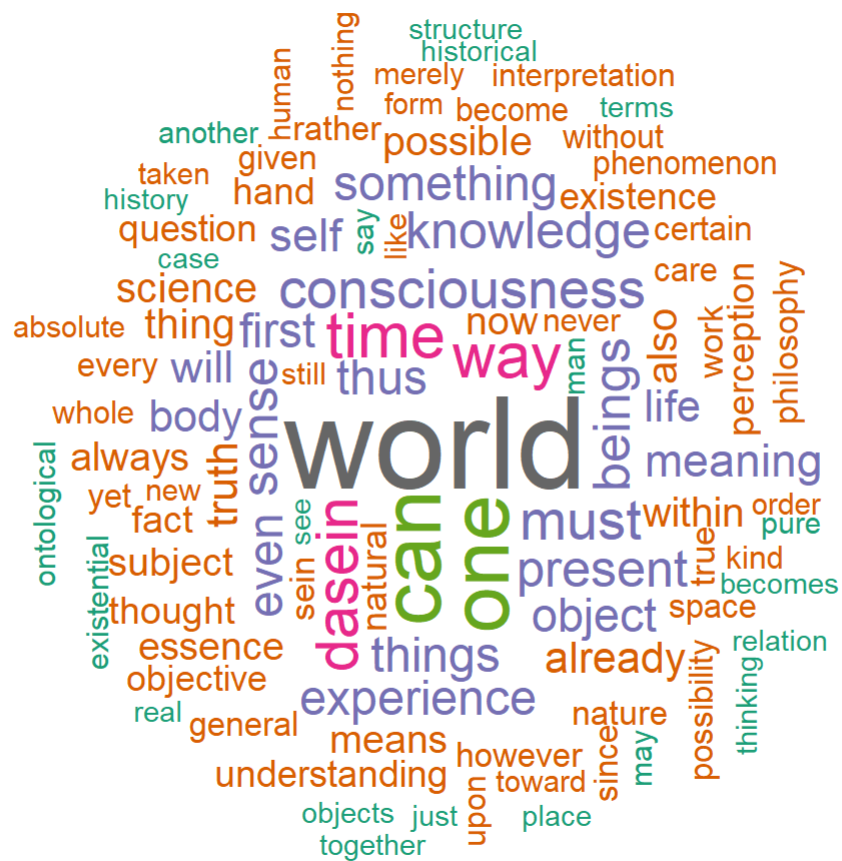
German Idealism



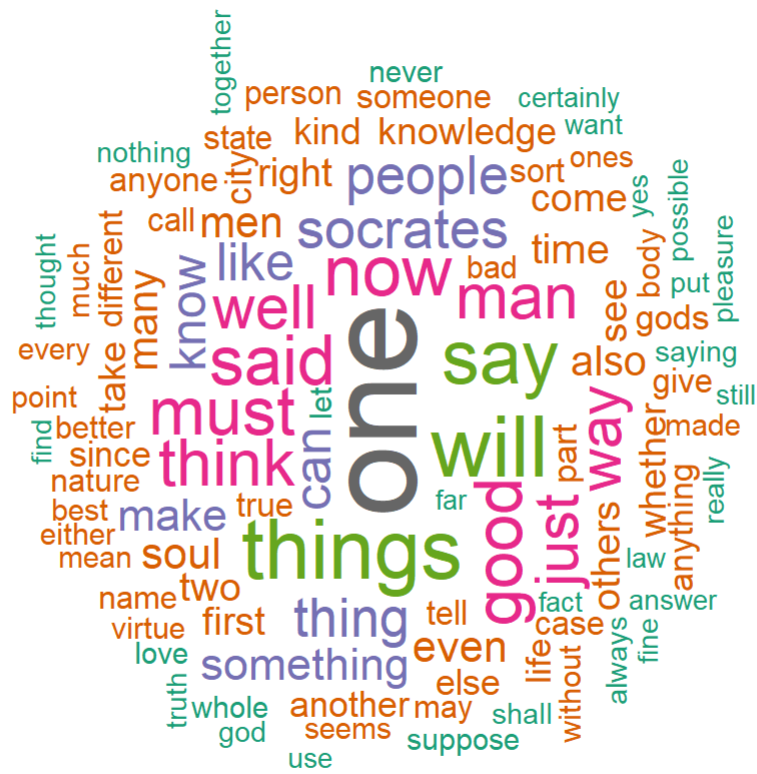
Nietzsche



Phenomenology



Plato



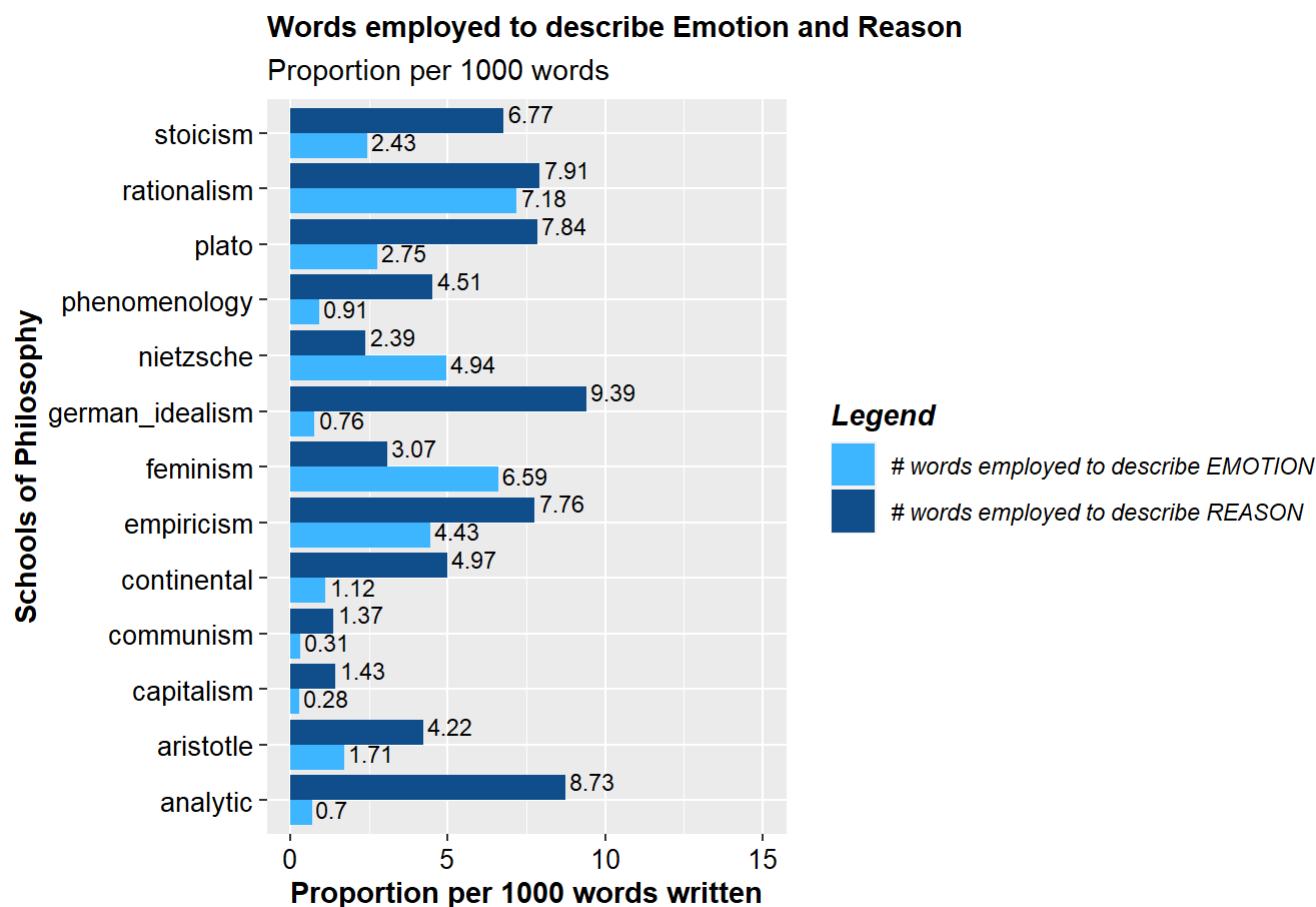
Rationalism



Stoicism



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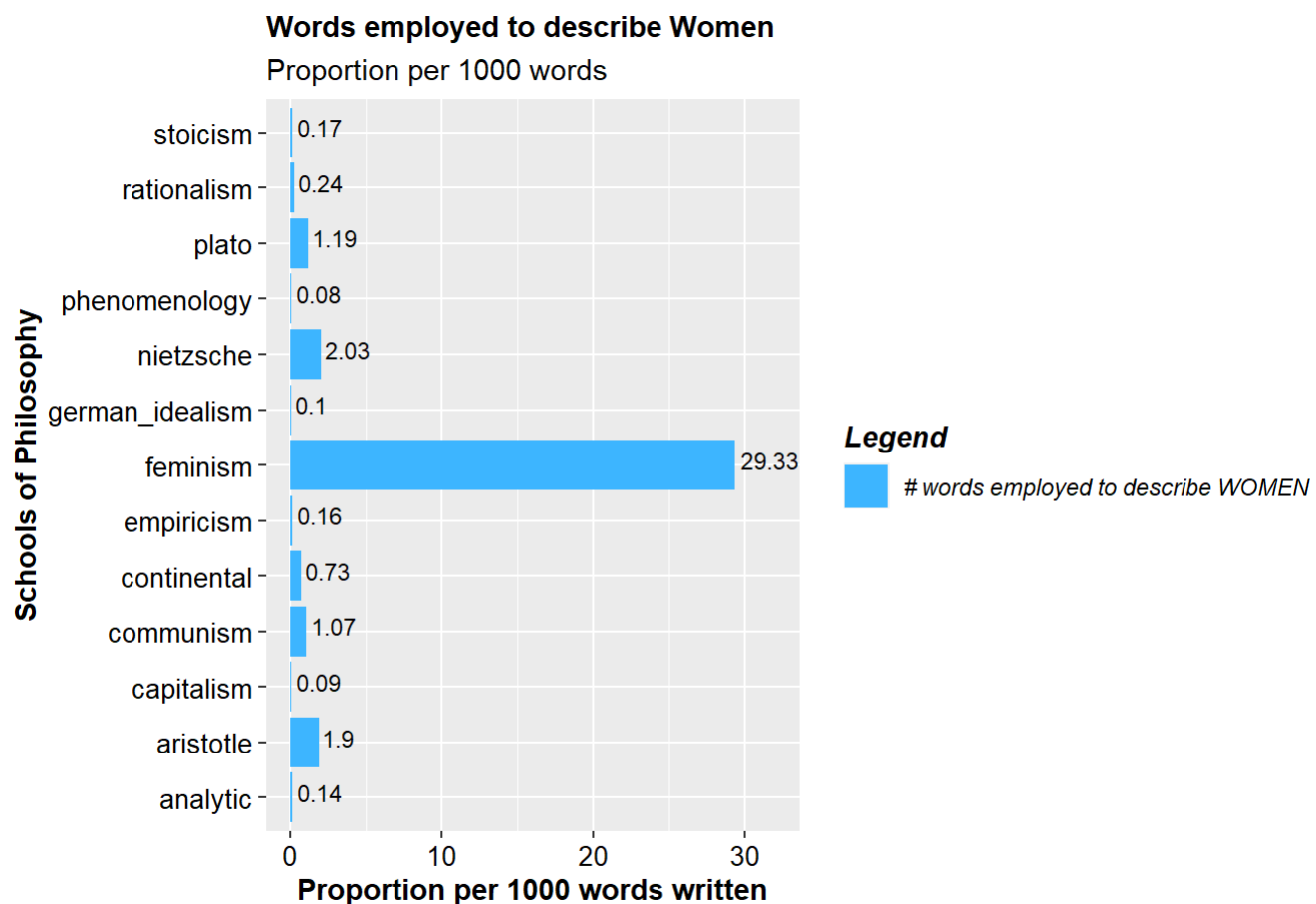
Source: Prepared by the author using data from The Philosophy Data Project

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

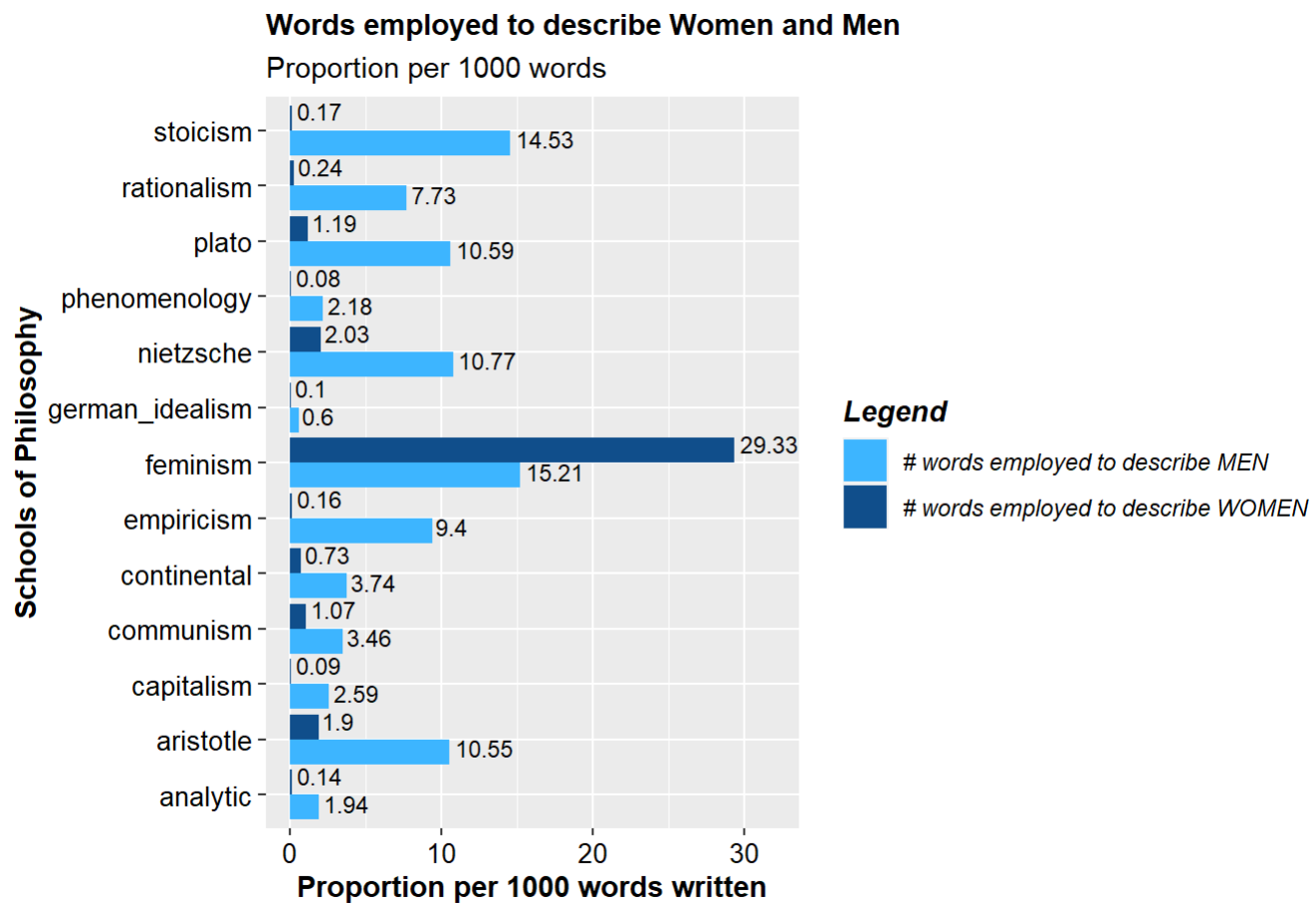
This analysis measures the proportion of words referring to women in the central philosophy books and compares this number to the ratio of terms employed to describe men.

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.

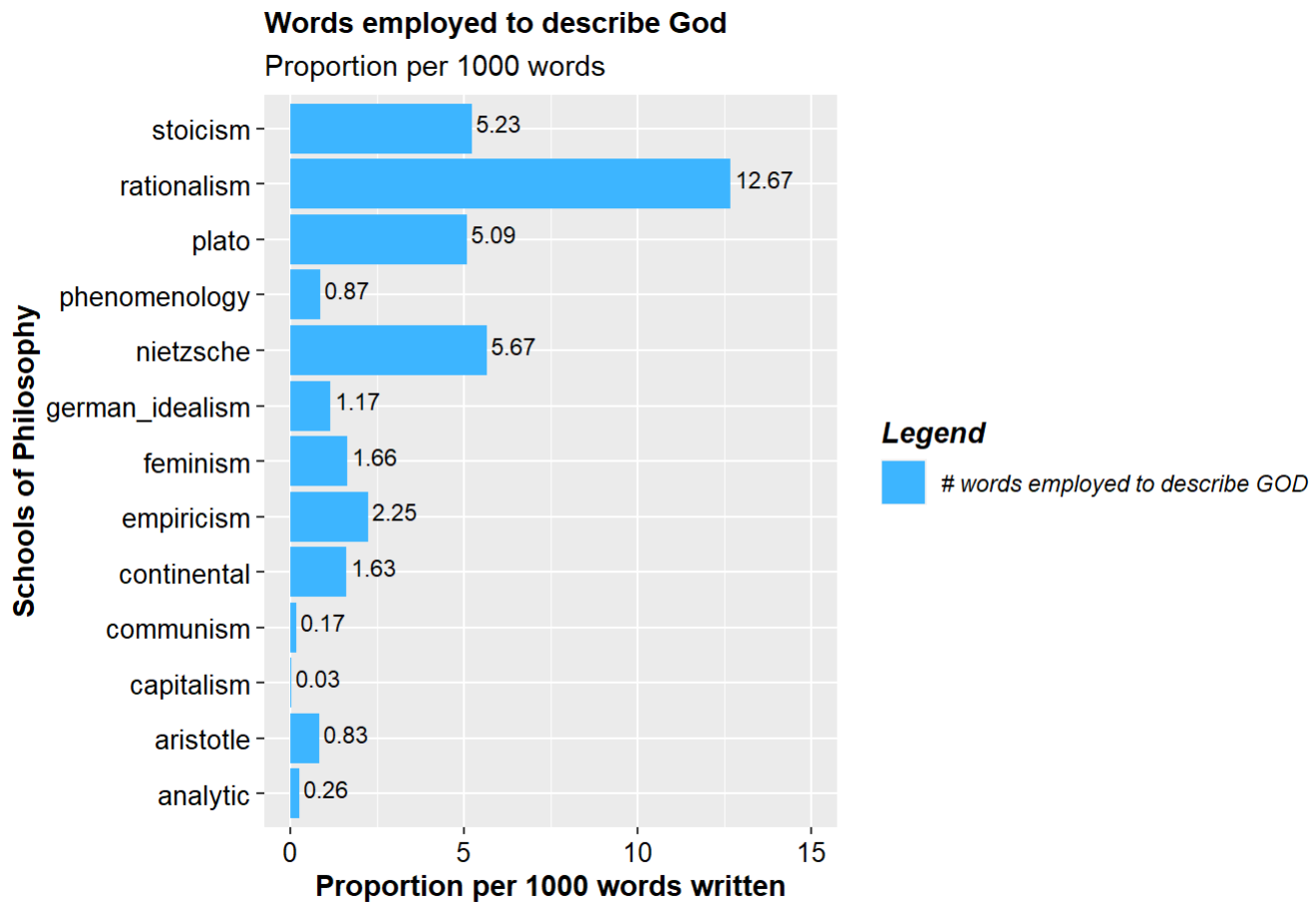


Source: Prepared by the author using data from The Philosophy Data Project

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).