The History of Feminism

Jingshu Zhang February 3, 2023

1 The History of Feminism

It is widely discussed in 2023 that the inequality between men and women is around everywhere in terms of salary and job opportunities in the workplaces, the political movement, and so on. Feminism has the position that male point of view is prioritized, and for most of the time, females are treated in an unjust way.

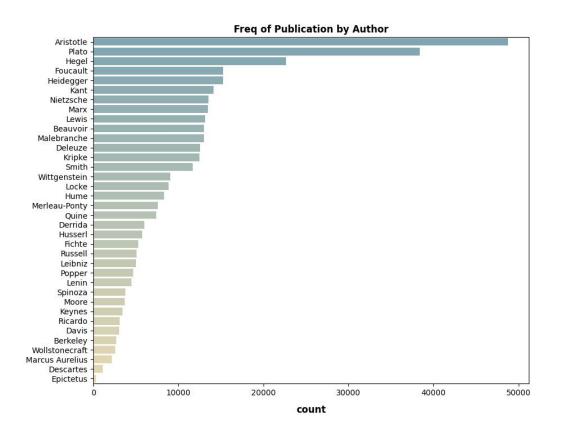
But how was it in the long history?

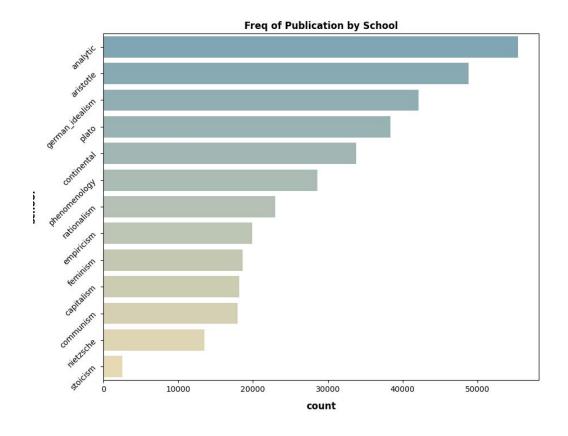
how did authors think and express their emotions to advance the rights and social status of women?

What did they have in common and how are they different?

All of these quesions would be answered in this analysis by exploring dataset. Wollstonecraft, Davis, and Beauvoir are discussed in this story, and the analysis is compiled based the History of Philosophy dataset on Kaggle.

1.1 Exploratory Data Analysis on Whole Dataset

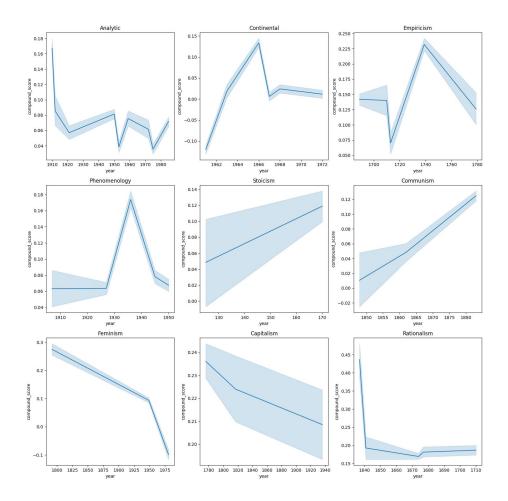




It can be seen that Aristotle and Plato contributed most compared to other authors, and it has a nearly 1000-fold between most-contributed and least contributed authors.

Analytics and German idealism are mostly discussed within the given dataset. Aristotle and Plato should be excluded in this case since they are authors instead of the schools.

1.1.1 Why Feminism? - Sentiment Analysis across different schools over time



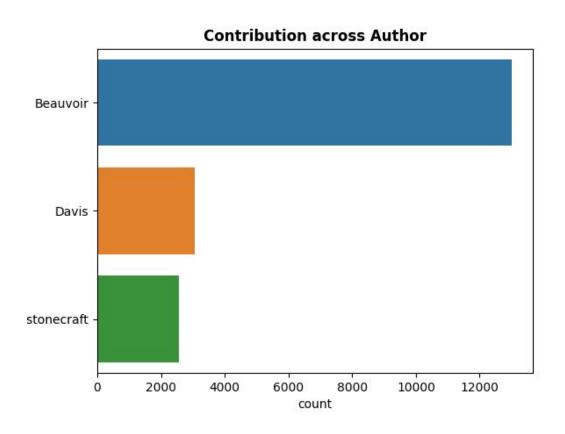
Feminism is the only school that has the negative compound score up until the most recent publication, and the rest of other schools hold a relatively positive sentiment except for the continental being neutral.

1.2 Exploratory Data Analysis - Feminism

1.2.1 Who contributes to feminism?

	year	author	title
342173	1792	Wollstonecraft	Vindication Of The Rights Of Woman
344732	1949	Beauvoir	The Second Sex
357749	1981	Davis	Women, Race, And Class

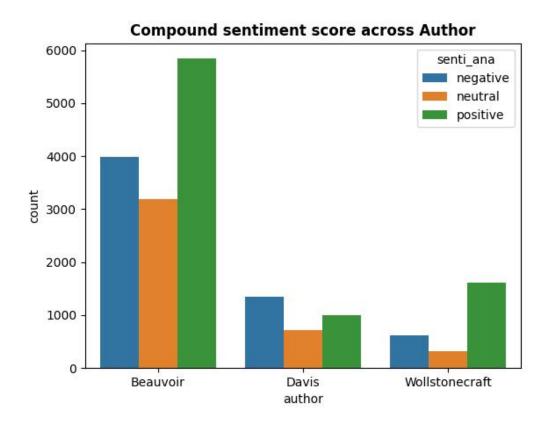
There are total three authors contributing to the development of feminism since late 18 century.



The authors were Mary Wollstonecraft, Simone de Beauvoir and Angela Davis. a set includes one book for each author. Mary Wollstonecraft wrote the book called "Vindication of its of Woman" in 1792. Simone de Beauvoir wrote "The Second Sex" in 1949 and Angela Davis wrote "Women, Race, And Class" in 1981.

Beauvoir had the greatest contribution to the feminism relative to that of other authors by counting the frequency of publication. The number of publication of Davis and Wollstonecraft is basically the same.

1.2.2 What sentiments did each author have?



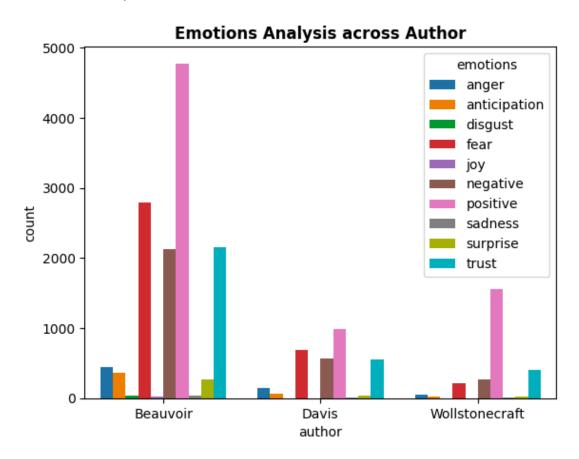
Still, the sentiments from Beauvoir seems more than the sum of that of Davis and Wollstoncraft. From this plot, it can be seen that both Beauvoir and Wollstonecraft expressed positive sentiments more than negative sentiments. It is probably because that there are less sentiments expressed by Davis. For all of these three authors, neutral sentiments were the least expressed. Davis hold much more negative positions on the feminism.

The difference between negative and positive sentiments is significant in Wollstonecraft's work, with positive sentiments being doubling negative sentiments and two times more than neutral sentiments. Wollstonecraft might have the strong position on the process of feminism

In contrast, the margin is quite low between negative and positive sentiments expressed, which means Davis basically expressed in an equal way.

Let us look at what specific emotions they were trying to say in each case:

1.2.3 How did they feel with feminism?



This plot shows that fear and trust are the most frequent emotions expressed by all of three authors except for the sentiments. All of them had anger more than anticipation.

Beauvoir has some surprise which is rarely seen in other two authors. None of these three authors has joy emotions with respect to feminism.

1.2.4 What Topics did they mention to lead to respective emotions?



Other than word related to gender like women, men and so on, the word love, desire, mother, time, pleasure, world, and body are at a high frequency. We might summarize that the topic of her work is about discussing the relationship and role in marriage and how it is related to the whole world and society. It is not surprised to see some of these words given that we have already noticed that Beauvoir has some surprise emotion in her publication. In general, it is along the way that she has more positive sentiments than negative sentiments since we barely see any pessimistic words

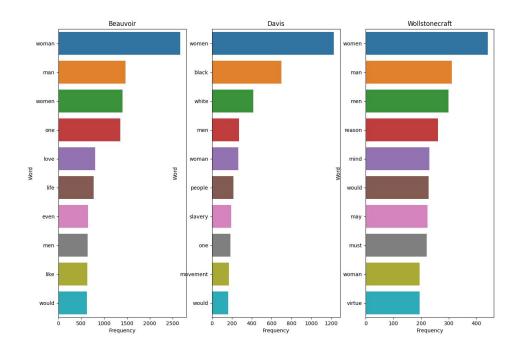


From high frequency work of Davis, black, white, movement, worker, slave, south, rape and struggle, it is not hard to conclude that her work is more about the gender inequality across color and area. It makes more sense for Davis to be more negative than positive with considering another dimension of racial problem together with gender inequality..



As it can be seen from the word cloud, reason, mind, virtue, love, heart, life, and children are mostly used words except for gender words. It might be concluded that Wollstonecraft paid more attention to the life and trying to find the intuition behind them. These words express a feeling of being optimistic towards life, which is consistent with her sentiments.

1.2.5 Summary: What did they express in common and how were they different?



In summary, the reason why the compound sentiment score of feminism over time suggested a declining trend is that Davis with publication in 1981 has expressed much more negative sentiments than positive sentiment than the other two previous authors. Comparing the word frequency across author, it is common for them to use gender-related word like woman, man and their plural form. But the topic differentiates since they might focus on areas like racial problem, the gender relations in the marriage, the role of being a wife and husband in the whole society. It is the reason they express the sentiment and emotions in a different way since some topic is definitely more complicated to solve and has a long way to go.