Mapping the Notability of Female Sportspeople in the 20th Century

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Motivation

- In recognising the notability and recognition gap for prominent females on Wikipedia, we wanted to explore the extent to which this was present in one of the most male-dominated fields: Sport & Games

- The 20th century brought about many freedoms and improvements in the lives of women, including suffrage, the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and generally increased involvement of women in political life.

- The 20th century, however, also included a number of autocracies that attempted to diminish the role of women in society, and we wanted to measure the impact that such actions had on female notability.

Research Question

- To what extent did female notability in sports & games increase throughout the 20th century, in both South America and South Asia, and how did the presence of autocratic regimes and political unrest influence this ranking?

Hypotheses

- We expected to see a general increase in the notability of women over time, although perhaps at a slower pace than in other fields, given the male-heavy nature of Sport and Games.

- We expected to find major decreases in notability over decades in which political unrest or autocratic regimes took place, taking into account the birth dates of women, and when they would be “of age” to be at the peak of their sport.

Background: Latin America

Chile

- Dramatic population growth: 3m - 15m in the 20th century
- Transitioned from a rural to urban society, with women incorporated into working and political life, with full rights.
- Military dictatorship from 1973-1990 under Augusto Pinochet
- Thousands of people were detained or exiled, with women faced with forced abortions, rape, or punishments for not conforming to certain ideals.

Argentina

- Population grew 5 times faster than world average, due to influx of migrants from Italy and Spain
- Women's suffrage came about in 1951
- Several military juntas/transitional governments occurred in the first half of the 20th century.
- Full military dictatorships from 1966-173 and 1976-1983. 30,000 people disappeared.
- Late 1970s and early 1980s saw women leading protests against the dictatorship. Many were shot, or "disappeared".

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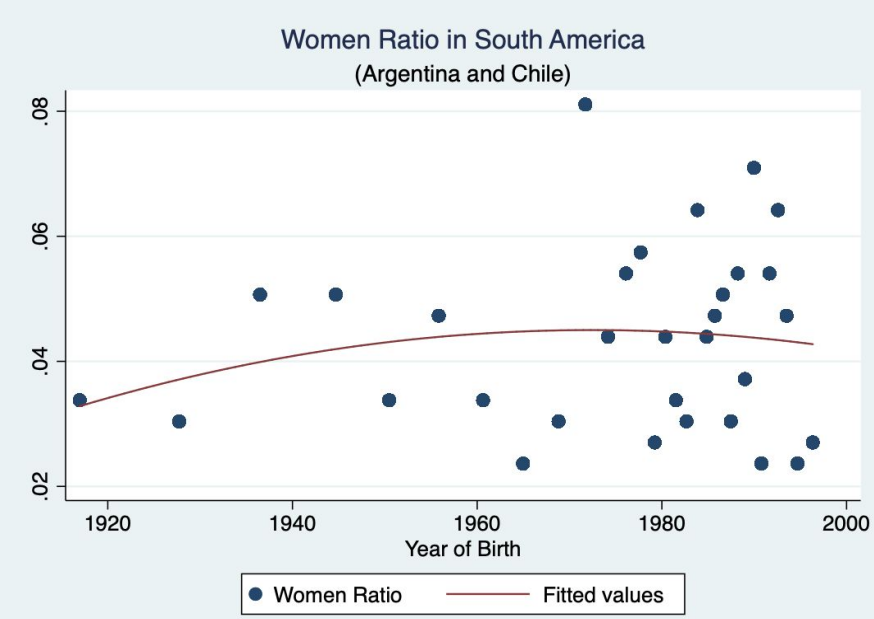
Technical Approach

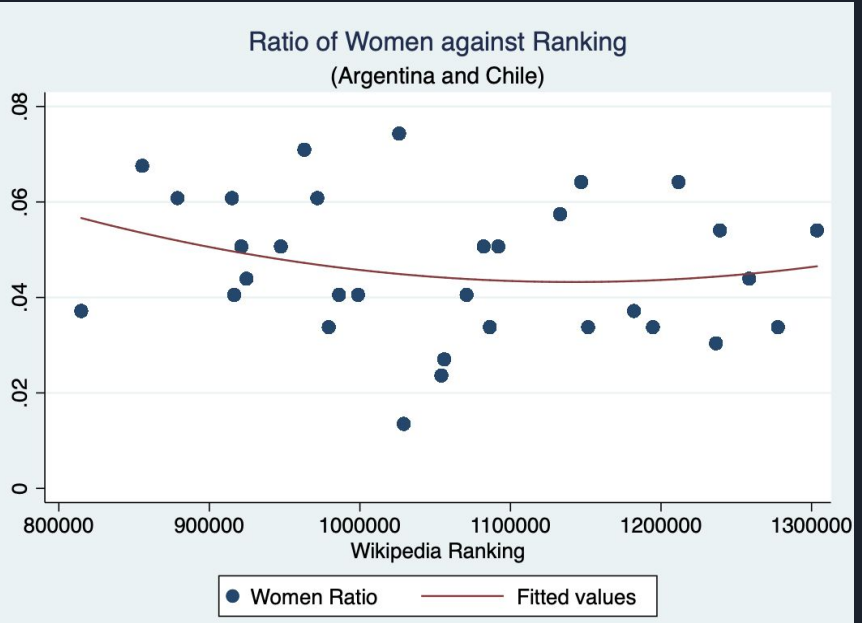
- Area of Attachment
- For “final_Occupation” and “gender”, an integer value is randomly generated by using in-built Stata function “encode”
- Dataset of each region is divided into equal intervals to find:
  - Ratio of women
  - Ranking and Notability of Women in Sports
  - Navigate correlation of women’s Ratio and Ranking
- Using the cleaned data, following were produced b/w variables
  - Regression between variables
  - Scatterplots
  - Histograms, and
  - Line graphs

```
use DataSub.dta
sort birth_b
keep in 181/270
sum z
return list
gen y = r(mean)
list y
sum birth_b
gen x=r(mean)
list x
sum ranking_final_b_5
return list
gen w=r(mean)
save DataSub3, replace
```

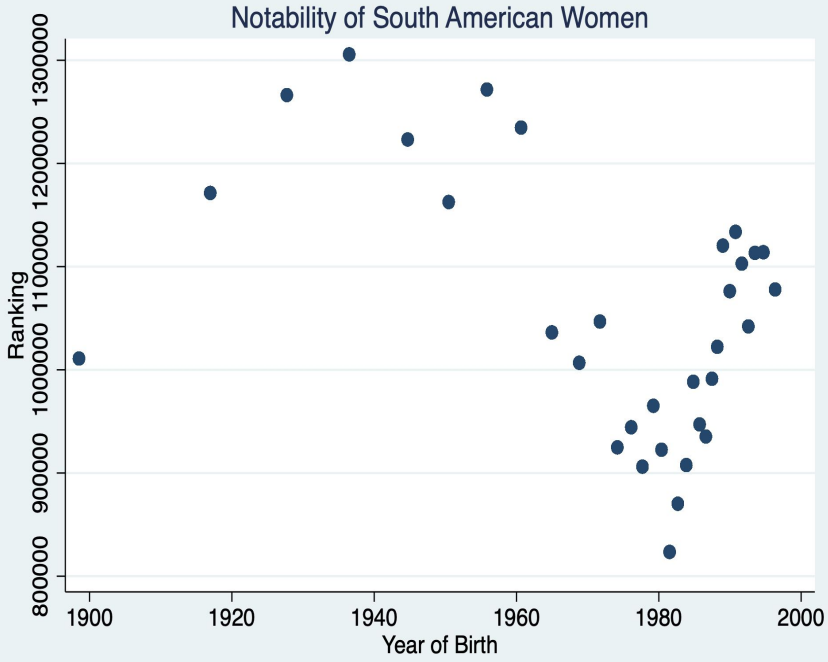
Code Piece to find mean of different variables in each interval

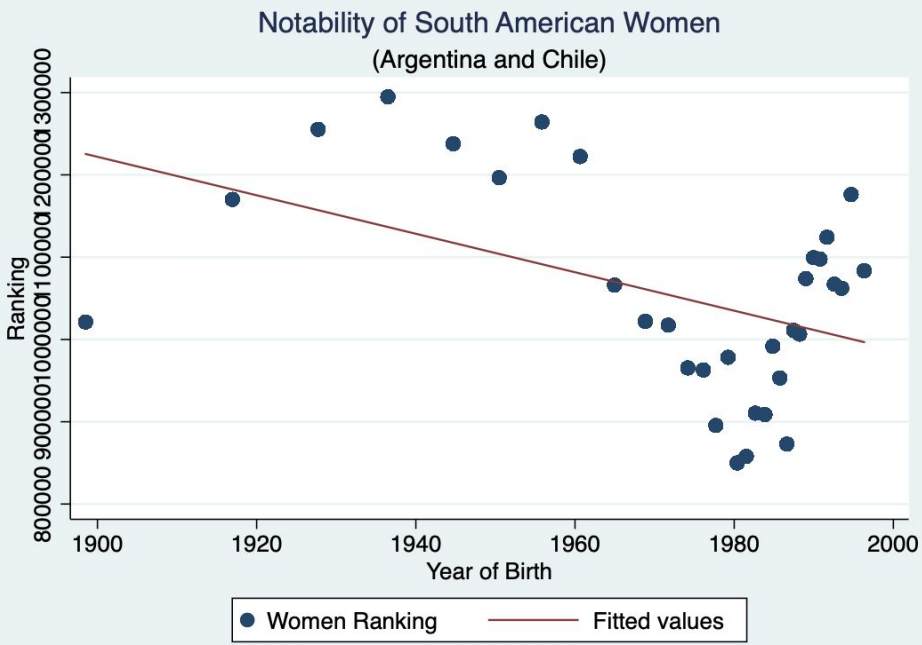
Findings: South America

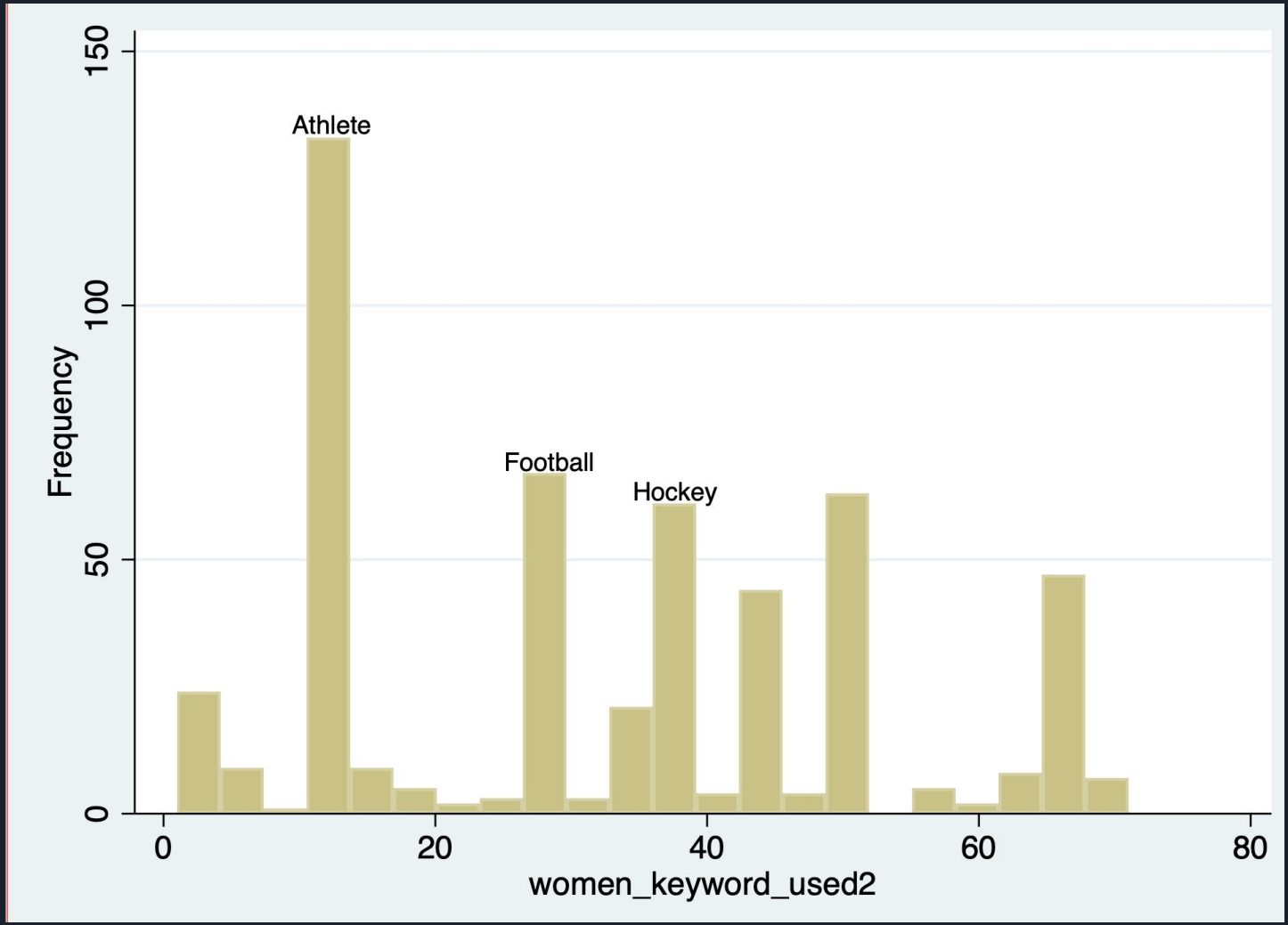




Findings Cont.






Athlete
Football
Hockey
Frequency
0
50
100
150
0
20
40
60
80
women_keyword_used2

Background: South Asia

Pakistan

- Population increase from 23m to 200m
- Dictatorships from 1958-1972 and 1977-1988
- Bhutto governments from 1988-1990 and 1993-1996, first female Prime Minister
- Bhutto signed the International Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
- Major domestic violence campaign

India

- Population increase from 238m to 1 billion
- Never fully autocratic, but democracy suspended from 1975-1977.
- Women only received the same status as men in 2005
- Indira Ghandi, first female Prime Minister of India, served from 1966-1977 and 1980-1984. This coincided with a rise in feminist class consciousness.

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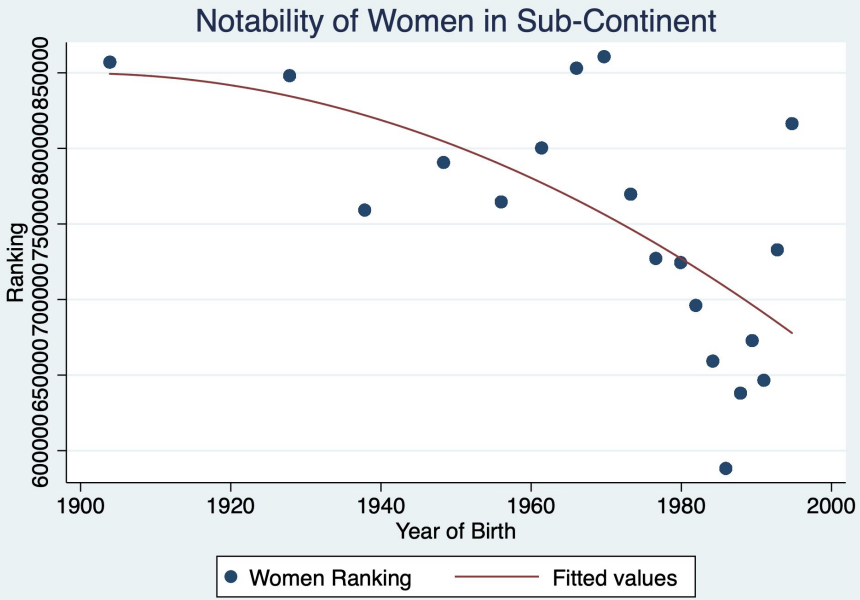
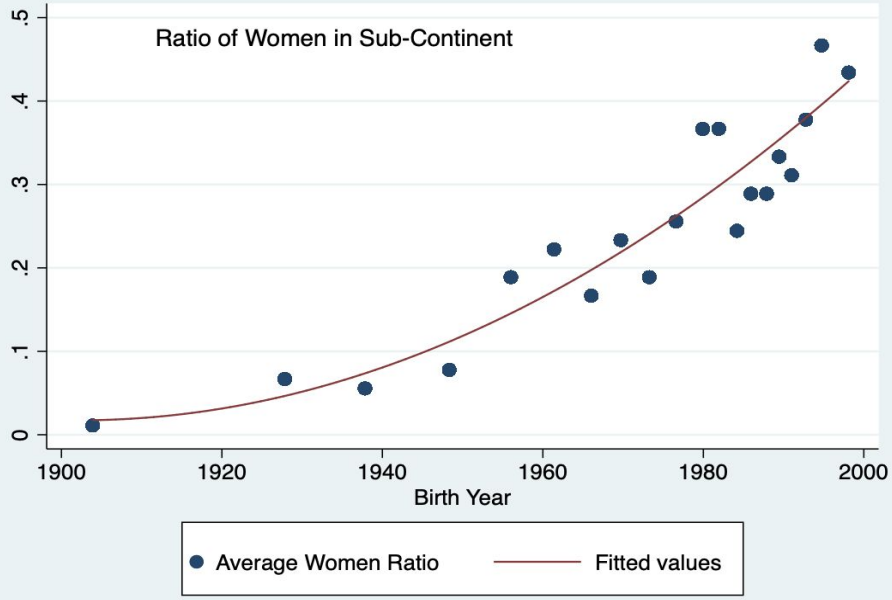
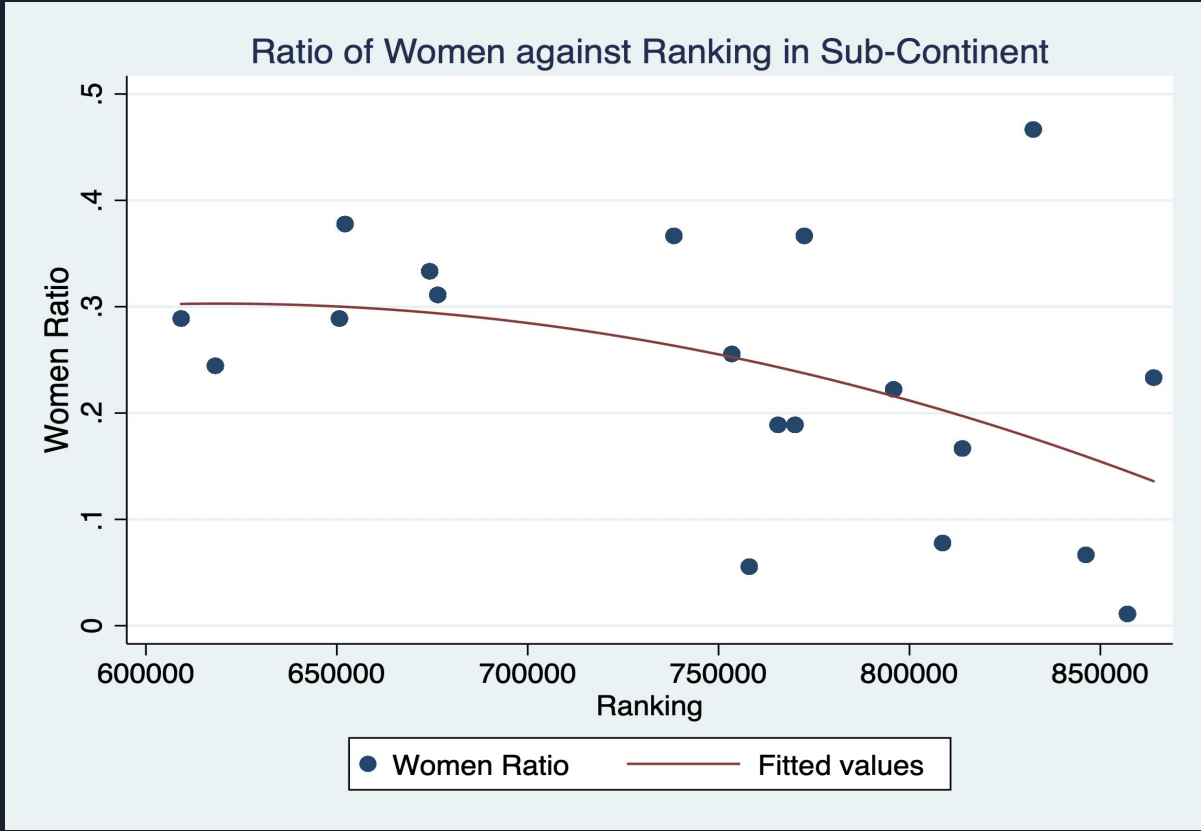
Findings

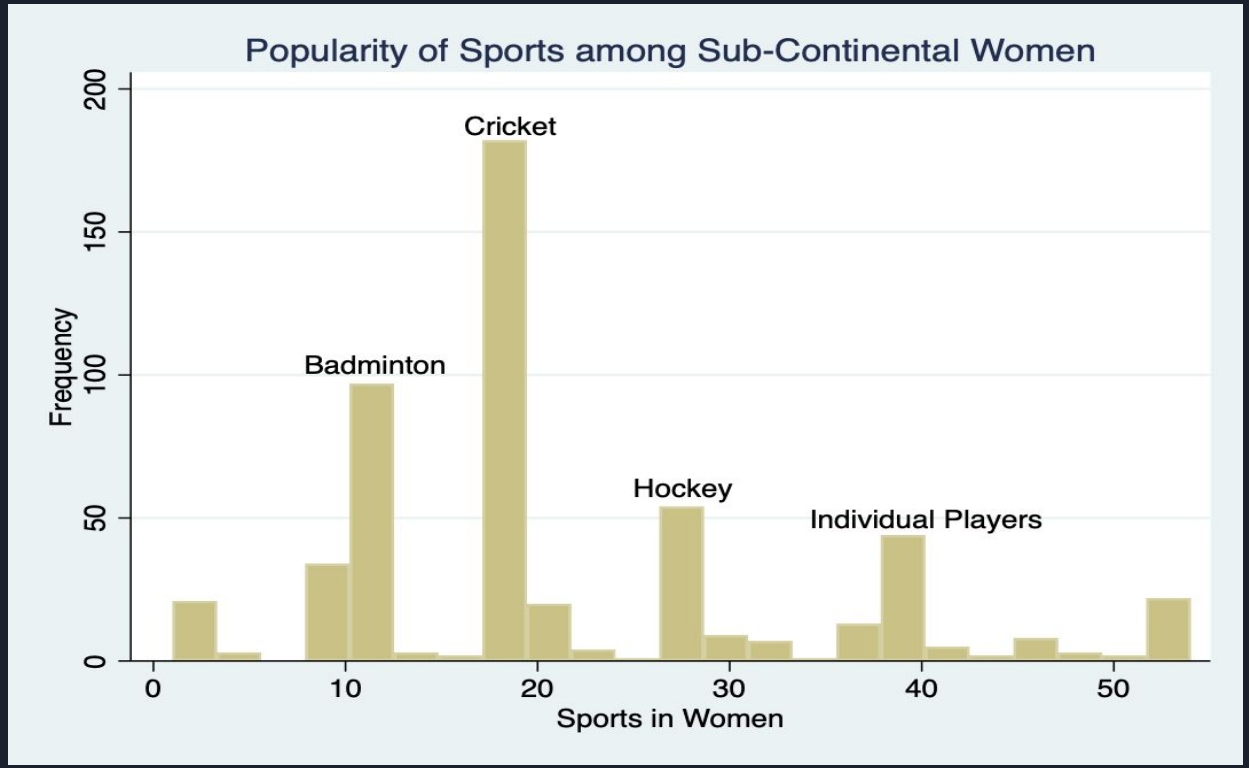

Notability of Women in Sub-Continent
Ranking
600000
650000
700000
750000
800000
850000
1900
1920
1940
1960
1980
2000
Year of Birth
Women Ranking
Fitted values


Ratio of Women in Sub-Continent
0
.1
.2
.3
.4
.5
1900
1920
1940
1960
1980
2000
Birth Year
Average Women Ratio
Fitted values

Findings


Ratio of Women against Ranking in Sub-Continent
Women Ratio
0
.1
.2
.3
.4
.5
600000
650000
700000
750000
800000
850000
Ranking
Women Ratio
Fitted values

Findings


Popularity of Sports among Sub-Continental Women
Frequency
0
50
100
150
200
Cricket
Badminton
Hockey
Individual Players
0
10
20
30
40
50
Sports in Women

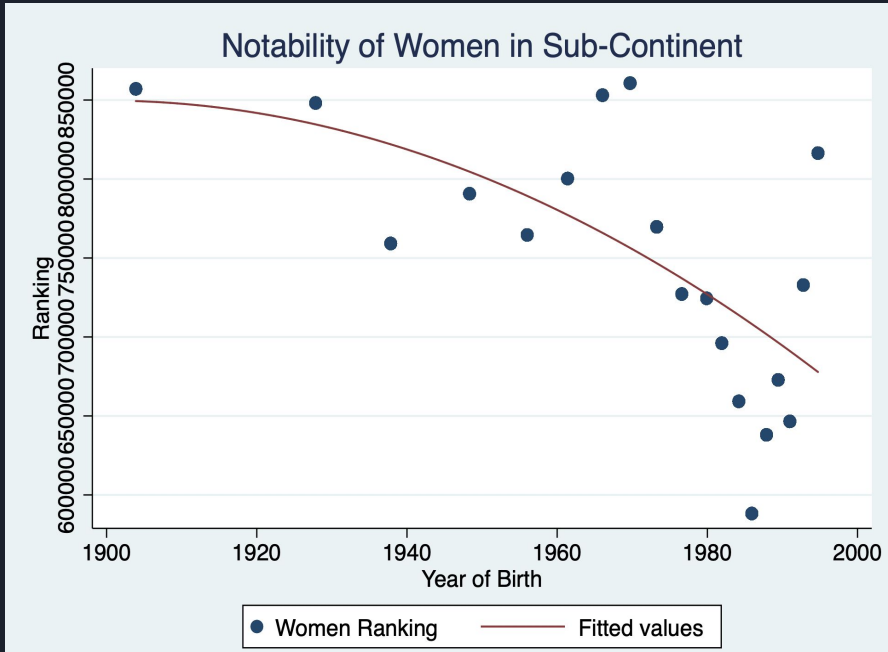
Comparison

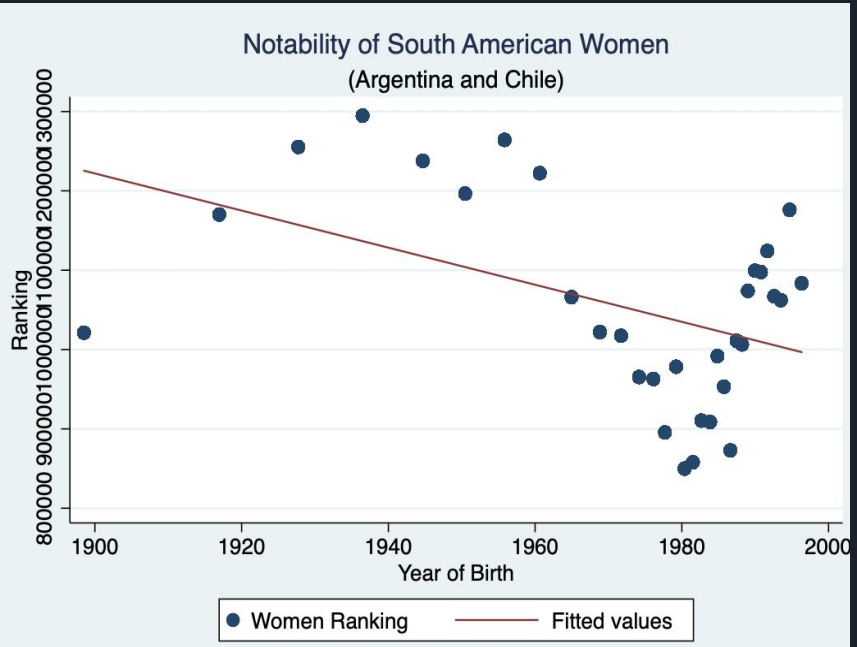
- Female notability did not decrease as dramatically following the major increase in South Asia, however, this effect was clear in South America.

- Players are nucleated around a few sports in South Asia, while the selection is more diverse in South America. Given the #1 sport is cricket, this suggests it would be harder for female sportspeople to compete with the celebrity status of South Asian male cricketers.

- Less mid-level notable sportswomen in South Asia, suggesting women need to be superstars to be considered notable.

Notability Comparison





Challenges

- Citizenship vs Location: Area of attachment was difficult to parse, given the boundaries drawn following Pakistani/Indian independence from British rule.
- Changing the String variables into the integers to produce scatter plots and histograms.
  - Used in-built Stata function “encode” to overcome
- Producing equal sub-dataset intervals and finding mean Birth year & ranking
- For the histogram of keywords, “athlete” is the most frequent value and therefore, there is data missing on individuals, or they are notable for sports that are not recognized.

Concluding remarks

- Even in moments of liberation, increased freedoms and an overall improvement in the lives of women, political unrest limits their ability to succeed outside of “traditional” family roles.
- Women in Sport & Games still struggle to reach heights of true notability
- The exact levels of discrimination, and its effects on women during the various dictatorships outlined, are very difficult to measure. Mapping the notability of women is one possible window into how pervasive these restrictions were.
- Women born during dictatorships, or coming of age at the end of a dictatorship, were likely to be more notable. General increase in civil liberties can be associated with an increase in notability.

Bibliography

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Thank you

Gratitude to Professor Etienne for providing us with the dataset.