

Gender Studies Final

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To access the code and pictures for this project you can go to the following link:

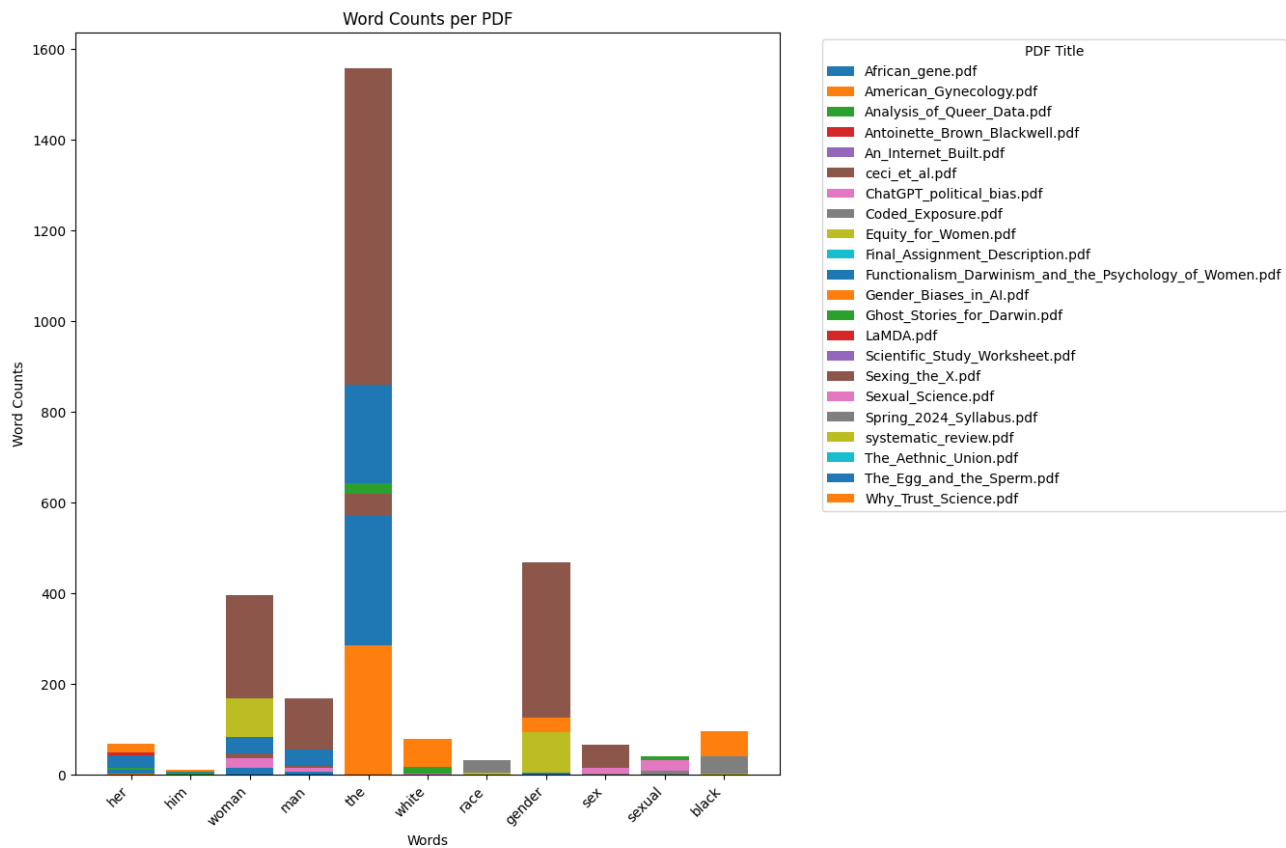
Github Repository

For my final project, I decided to transform our readings into readable PDF files. I did this so that I can process each PDF to analyze and extract information from our assigned materials. I decided to focus on recognizing important keywords and their prevalence in our texts to highlight the bias present in said texts. I developed a computer program capable of reading through each document, parsing by word and then tallying the occurrences of each specific word. After finishing the tally, I decided on a list of words that I believed showcase the bias present in our readings. After outputting the tally, I inputted the counts into a program that would output the graphs that are showed below.

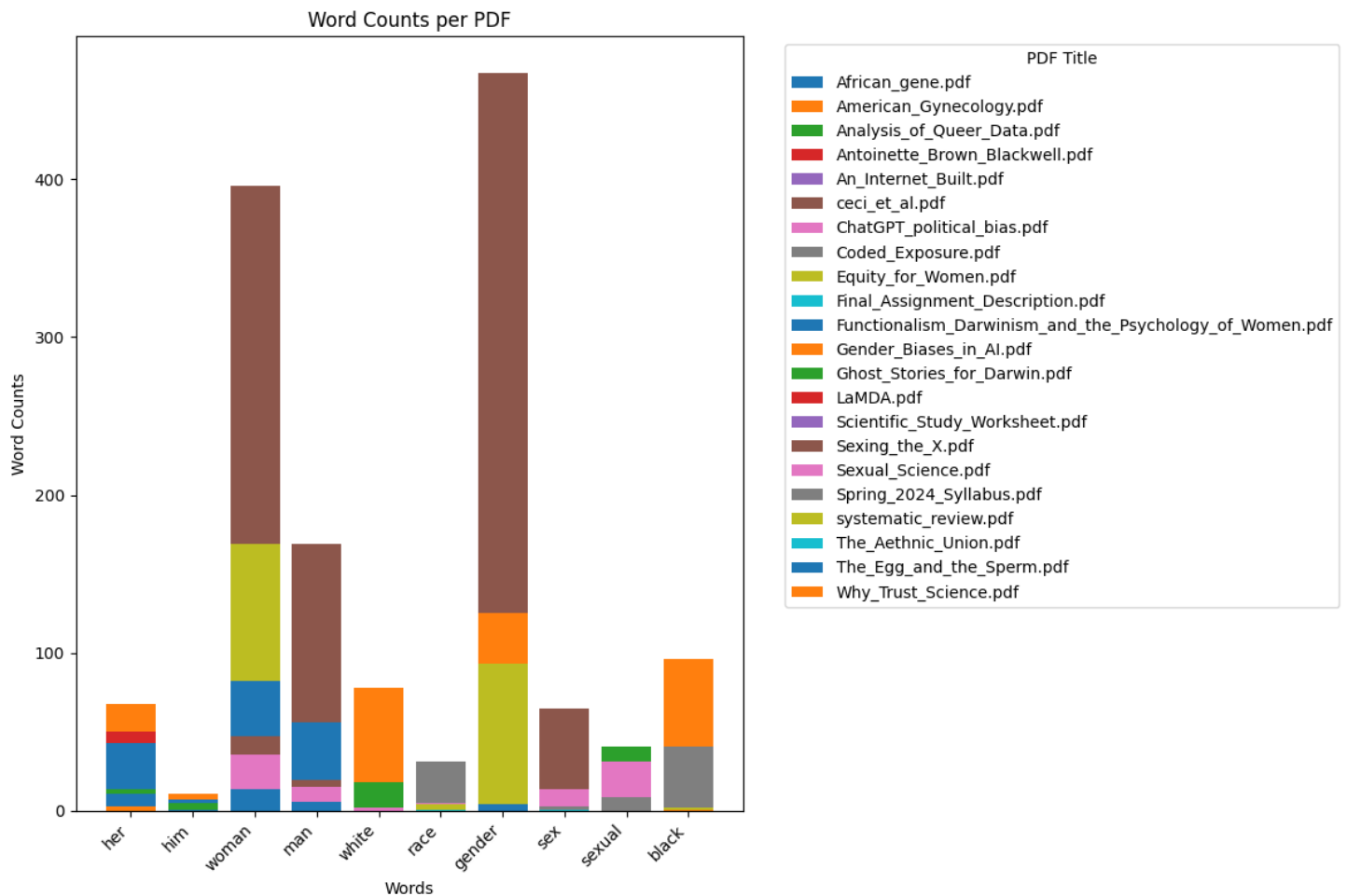
I decided to create this program as a way to identify and analyze reoccurring words and themes present in our readings. I compiled a short list of words to focus on to highlight this: "her," "him," "woman," "man," "white," "black," "race," "gender," "sex," and "sexual." I attempted to shed light on any underlying patterns of occurrence of feminine words vs masculine words and any racial bias as well. These terms were selected because I believe they present a balance of gender and racial phrases that will accurately portray the bias I'm hoping to showcase.

After running my program and generating the word counts, I was able to internalize my findings. One notable observation was the differences in gender-specific pronouns and adjectives. The female pronouns and adjectives such as "her" and "woman" consistently appeared twice as often as their male counterparts, "him" and "man." This discovery showcased the representation of gender within our readings and showcases the bias in our readings. Obviously, as a gender and science class, it makes sense that we would hear more about female's in our readings than males but I still thought that the direct bias in readings was interesting to portray in the graphs below.

To visually represent my findings, I created a graph to showcase the word counts of the chosen words as well as a control word in "the". Because of the prevalence with which the word "the" shows up in most writings, I believed that it would showcase the frequency with which other words are appearing. This graph is meant to visualize the word counts and biases in a way that is readable and understandable:



The other graph I decided to showcase, was one without our control word as I wanted the inherit bias to be able to speak for itself and i believed it was important for you to be able to see the comparisons in word counts without the distraction of our control word count:



Overall, my project showcases my engagement with this class because I thought of this idea during our classes where we were looking at the bias in recommendation letters as well as bias in the science field as a whole. Through the development of my computer program, I hoped to shed light onto the bias in the readings in our class. I also very much enjoyed writing this program as I will be able to reused it for other purposes and in other classes