

# Understanding Archaeological History Through Textual Macroanalysis: The Role of Feminism in Gender Research

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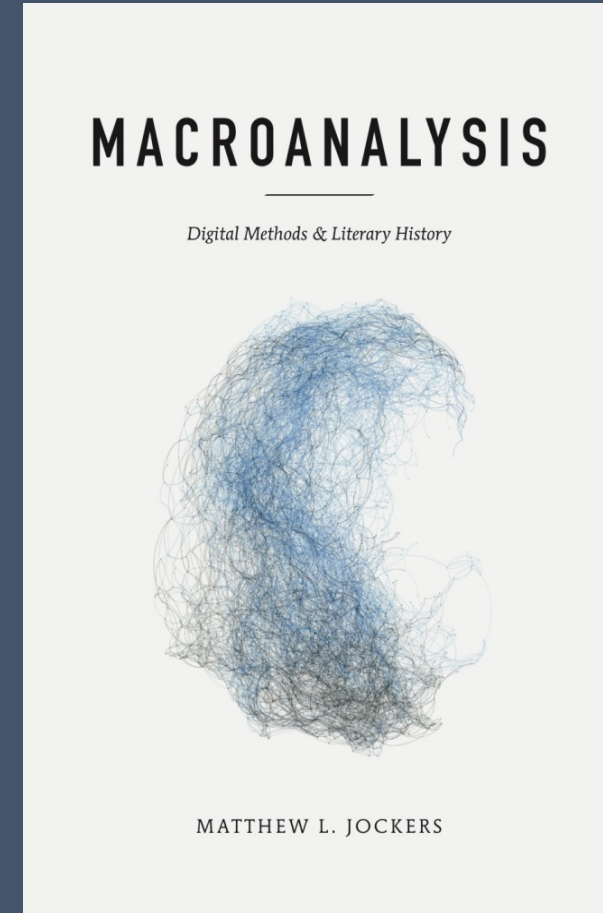
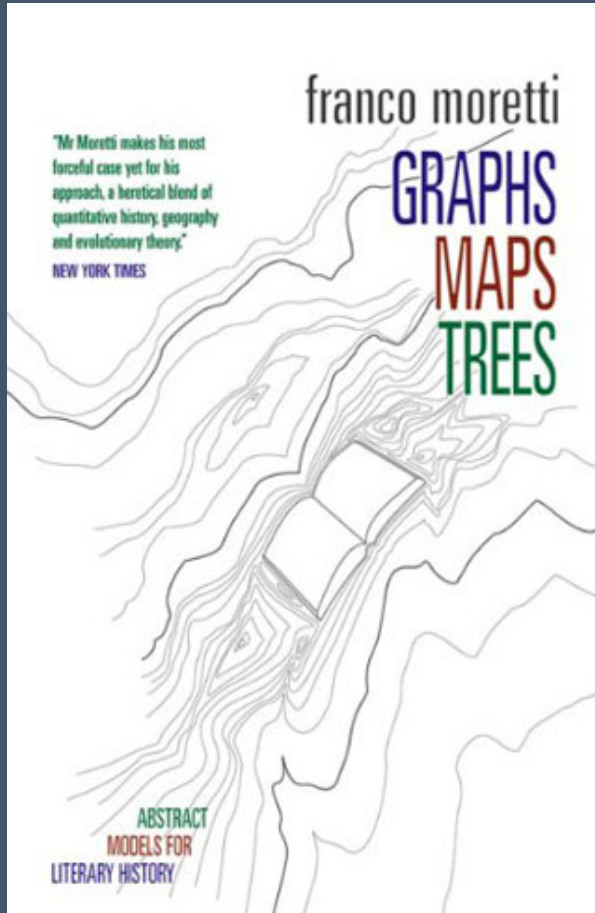
University of Washington



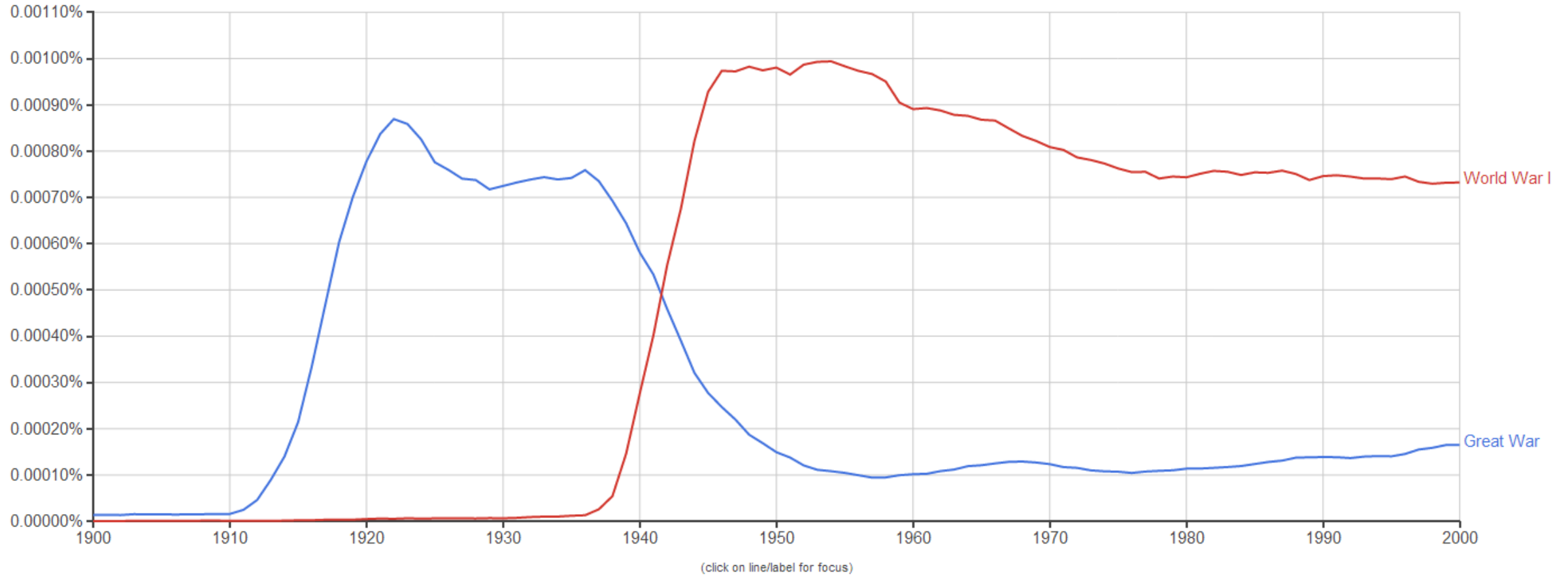
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL



# What is Textual Macroanalysis?



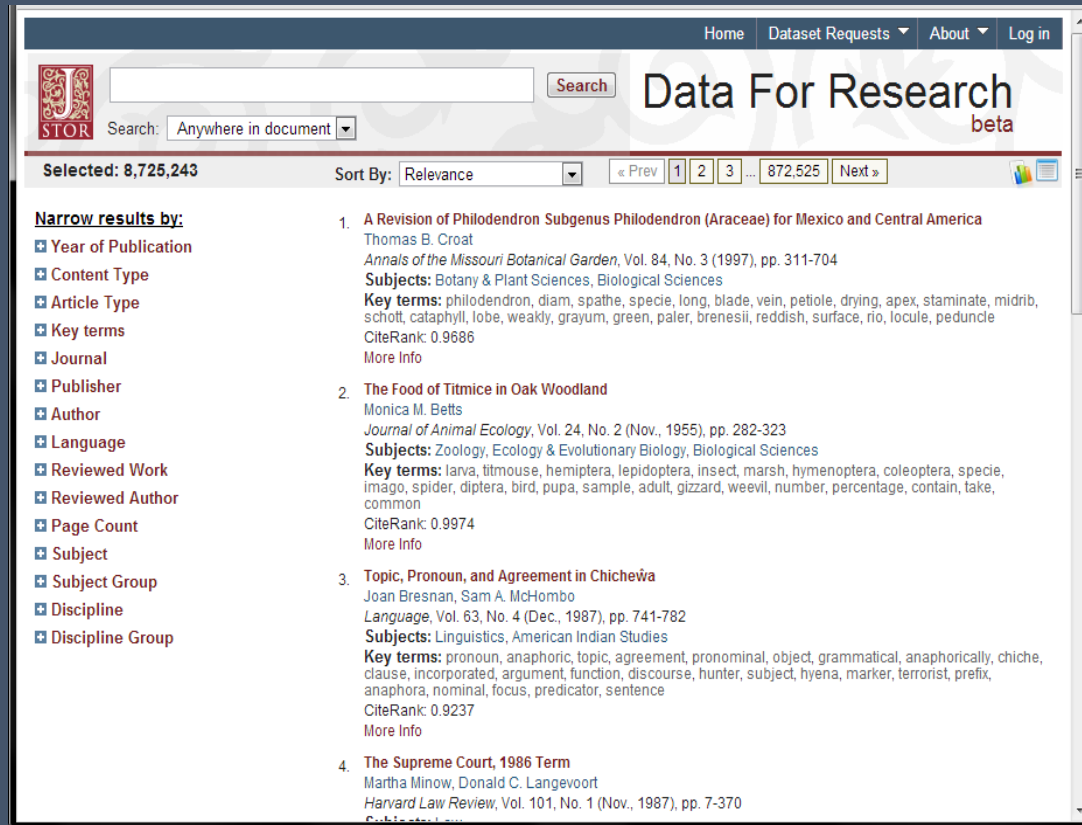
# What is Textual Macroanalysis?



[books.google.com/ngrams](https://books.google.com/ngrams)

How can we use textual  
macroanalysis in archaeology?

# The JSTORr Package and R



dfr.jstor.org

github.com/benmarwick/JSTORr

# A Brief Case Study: Gender Research and the Role of Feminist Theory

Hanen and Kelley (1992)

- 1989 “The Archaeology of Gender” Chacmool Conference
- “Feminism / feminist” in <20% of abstracts

Geller (2009)

- 2004 “Que(e)rying Archaeology” Conference
- “Feminism / feminist” in 4% of abstracts
- 16% of presentations focused on divisions of labor

# A Brief Case Study: Gender Research and the Role of Feminist Theory

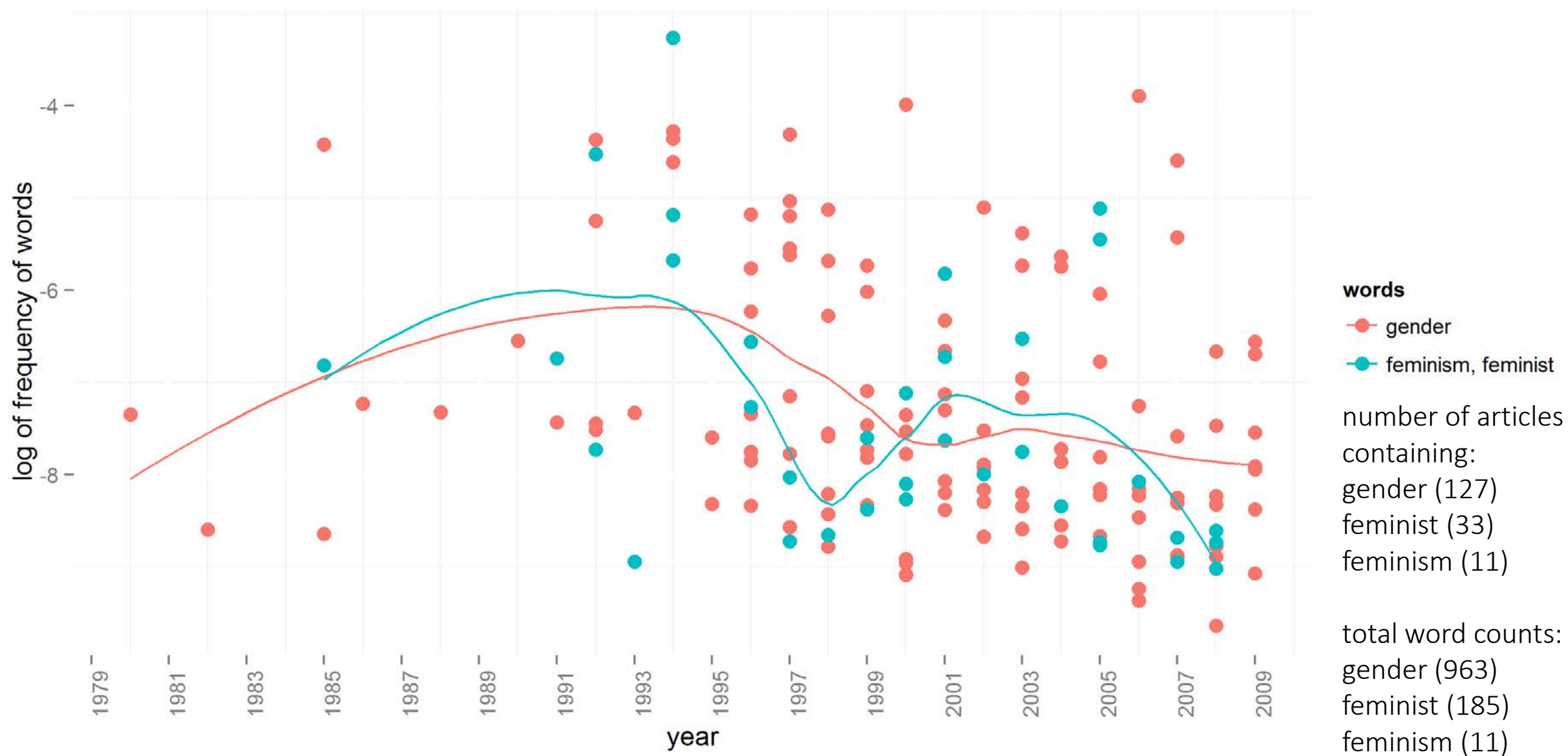
Are the patterns identified by these quantitative studies  
apparent in the work of archaeologists more broadly?

## A Brief Case Study: Gender Research and the Role of Feminist Theory

- 1) “Gender” would be mentioned in more articles and with a higher relative frequency than “feminism / feminist” through time
- 2) Words associated with key feminist concepts would not be highly correlated with “gender” through time



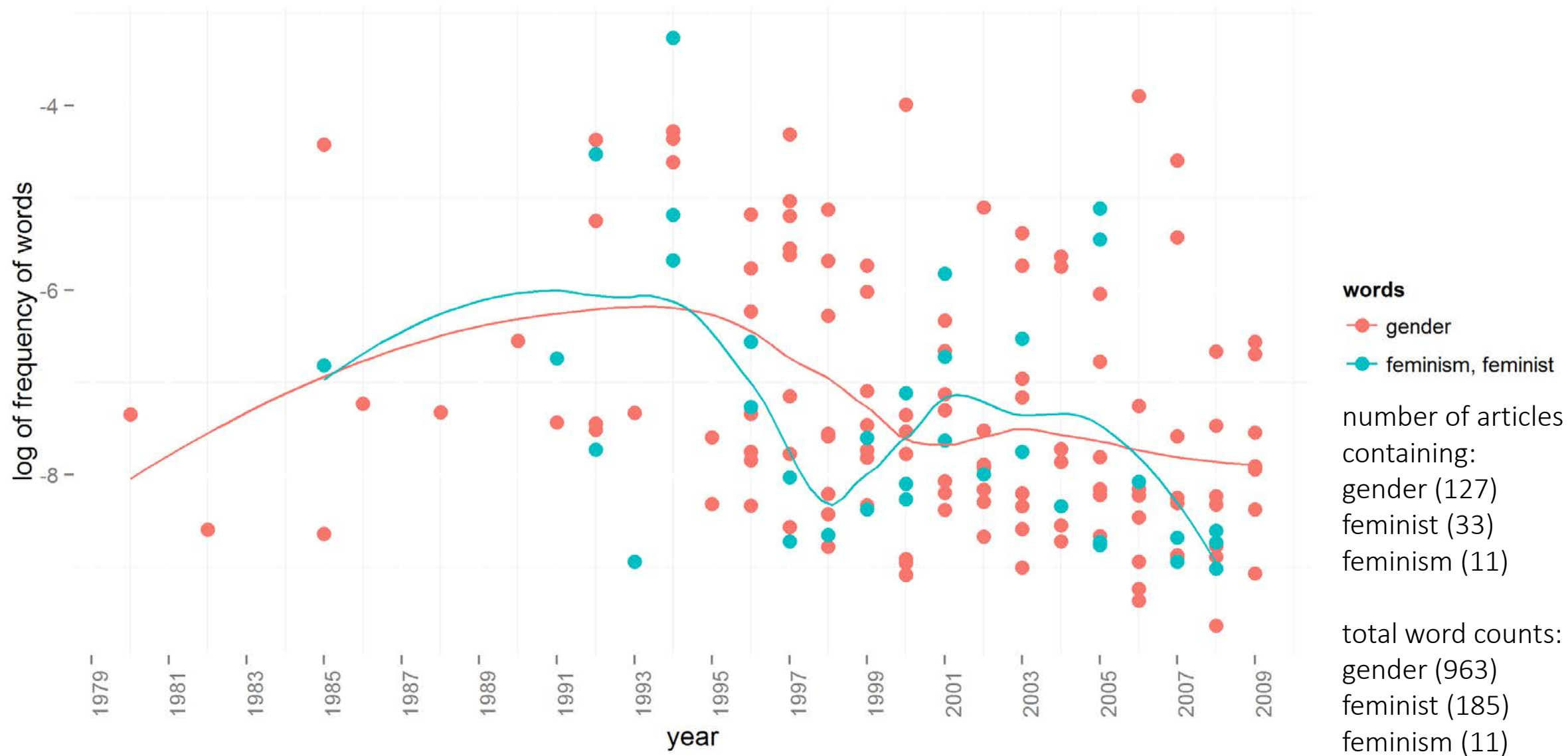
# Results



“feminist researchers, are attentive of the need to be critical of **where theories come from**...a lack of vigilance toward the context of discovery has historically favored **androcentric biases**” (Hutson 2001:354)

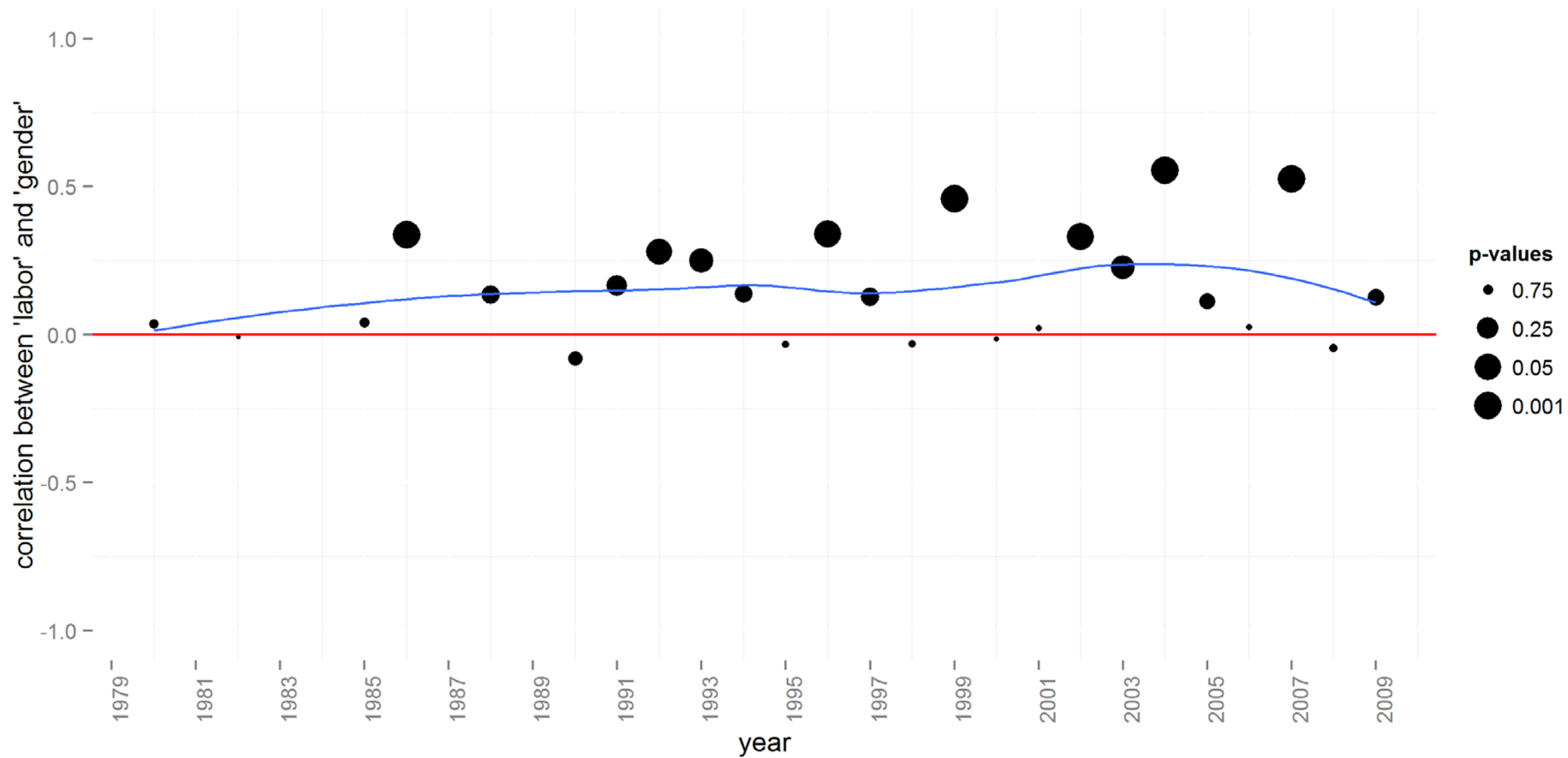
“Feminist scholars point to the androcentric biases of the ethnographic genre, and archaeologists who employ these studies as sources of analogical insight commonly project these biases into the past” (Stahl 1993:250)

“while postprocessualism has opened up a space for an archaeology of gender, postprocessualism may not be sustainable as a critique or approach without a feminist archaeology” (Little 1994:540-541)



# Recent Developments within Feminist Theory

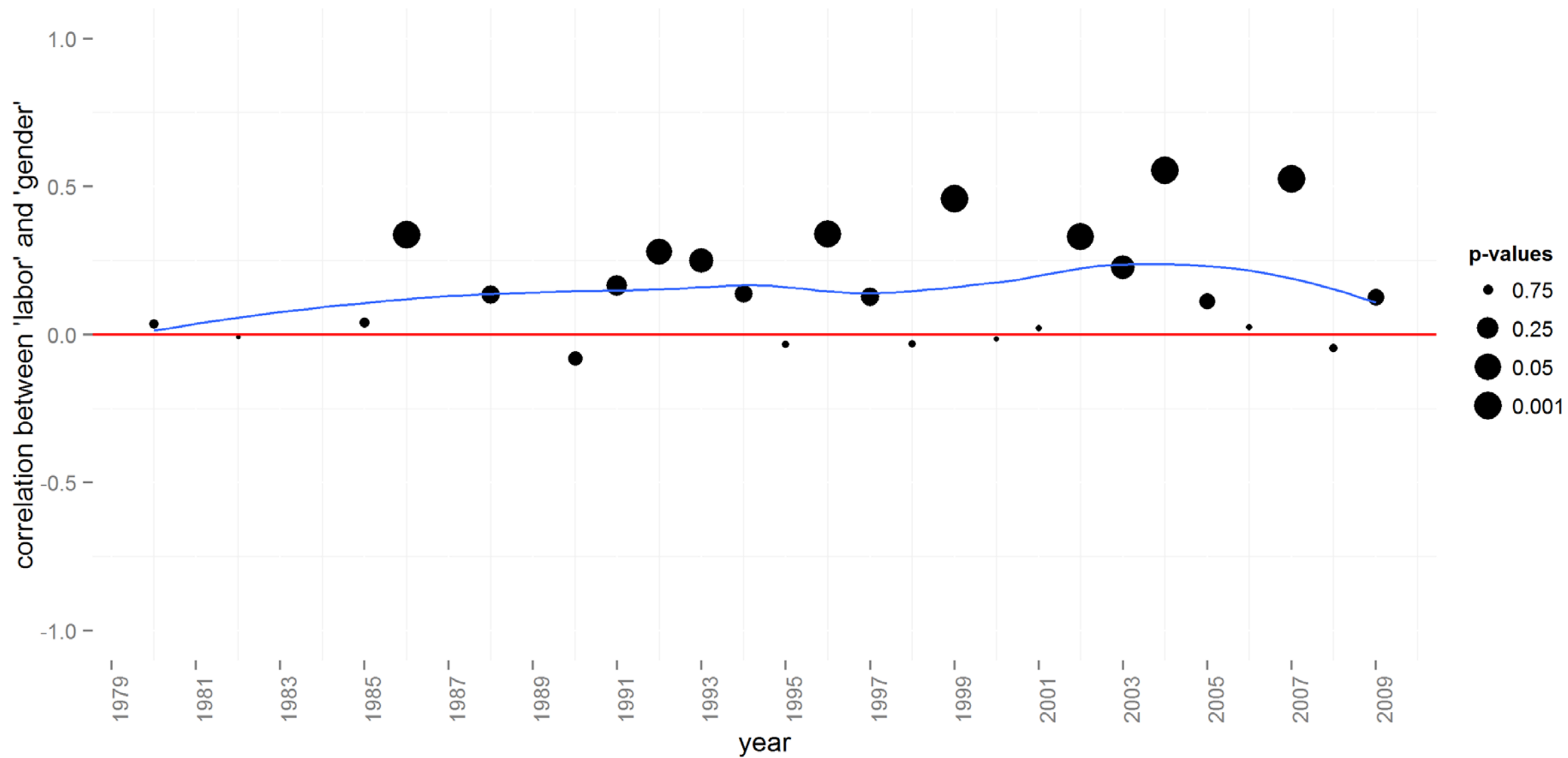
- 1) Problematized investigations of sexual/gendered divisions of labor
  - key words: labor, task, role, hunt, gather
- 2) Highlighted the lack of attention to intersecting modes of power and oppression beyond gender
  - key words: identity, ethnicity, queer, engender, representation, visual, symbol, sexuality

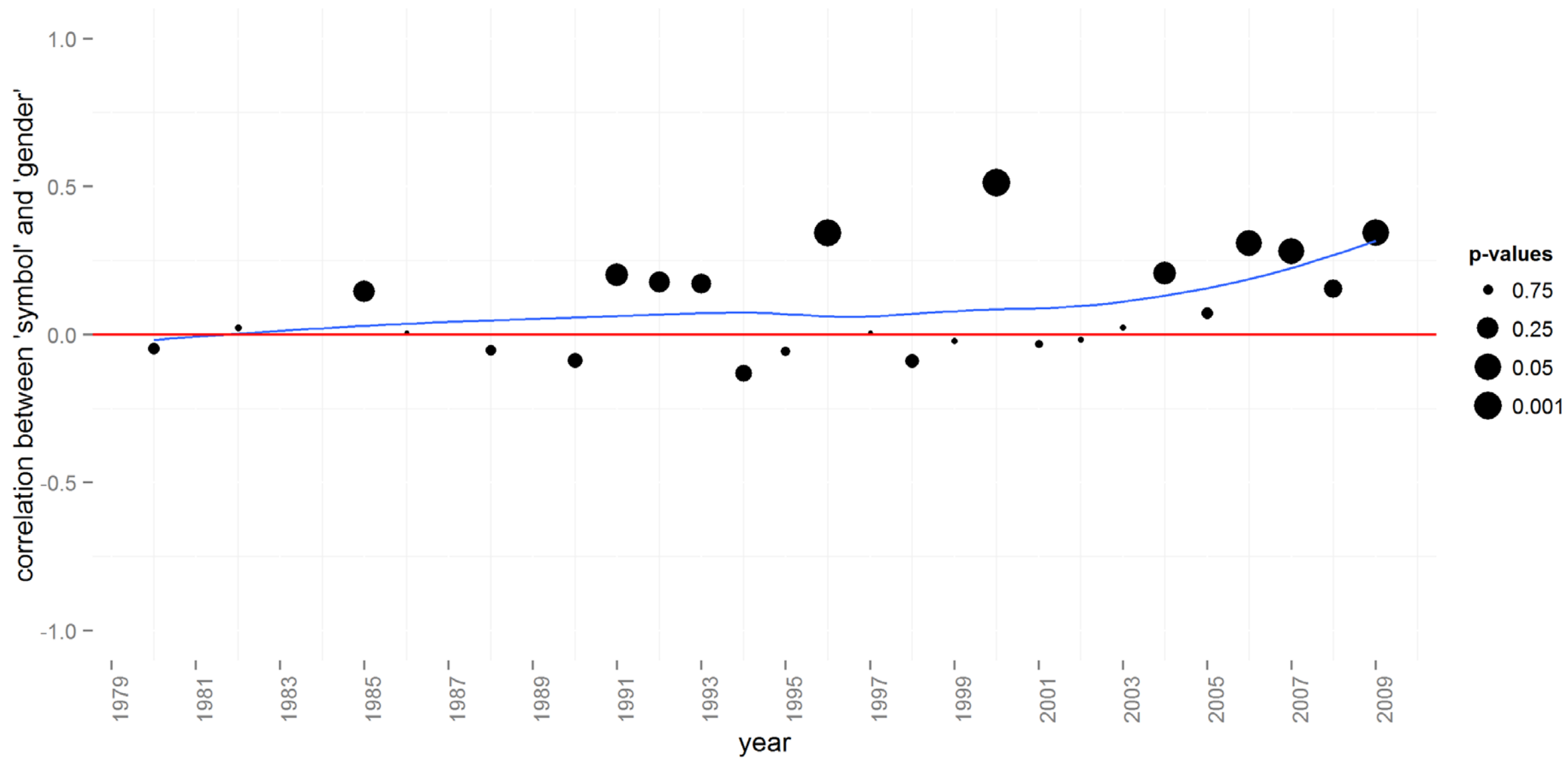




men hunted, fished, and manufactured fishing paraphernalia, while women gathered, processed, and manufactured carrying and storage implements (Jones 1996:245)

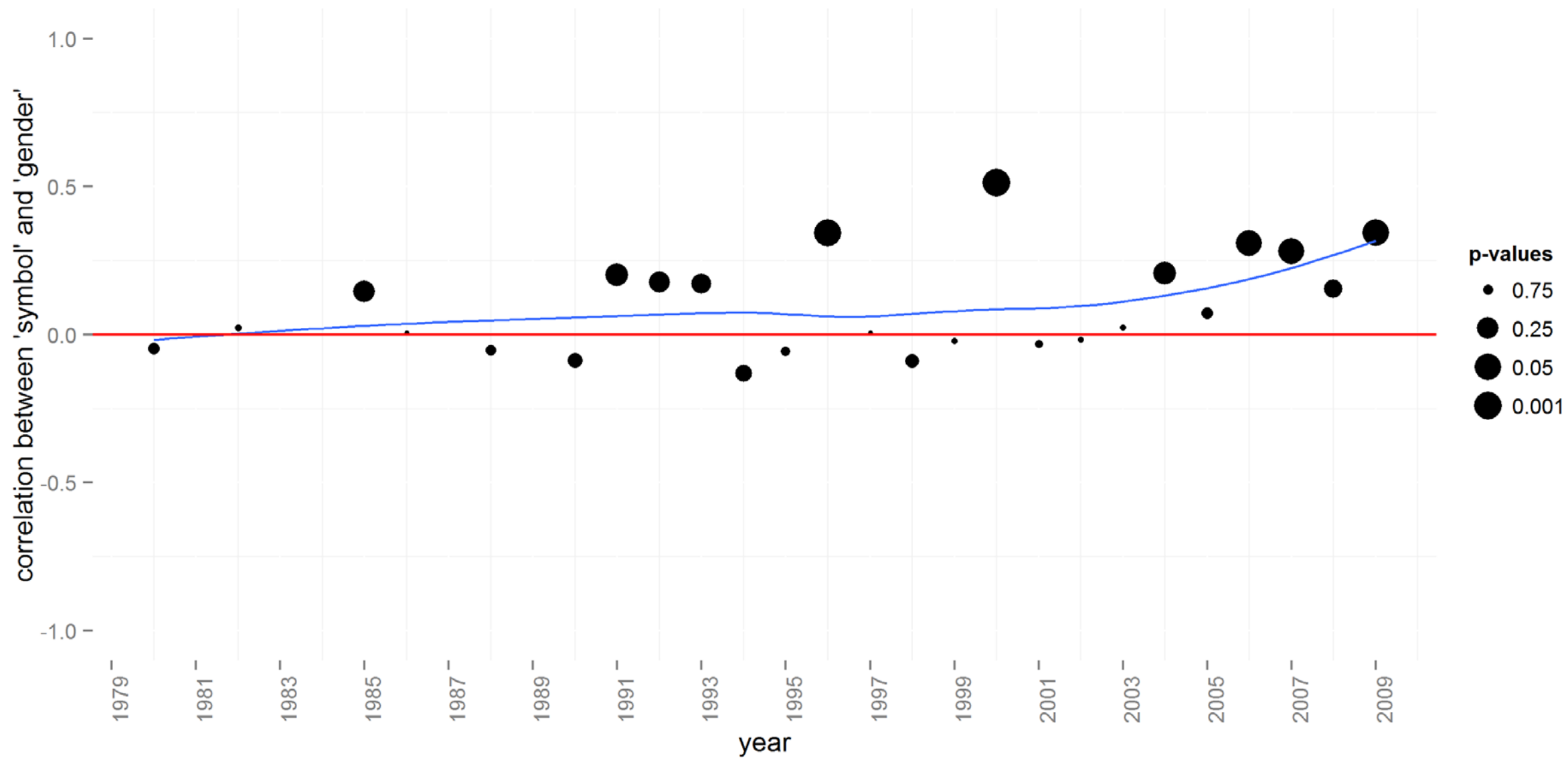
“women shifted focus to grasses and other small seeded plants...men continued targeting large game” (Janetski et al. 2012:153)





“Although gender conflict can be shown to exist throughout the world, the quality (arrangements and intensity), meaning, and struggles also can be shown to vary in different social formation” (Ensor 2000:18)

“The Old Baton Rouge Penitentiary was a place where race intersected with class and gender” (Nobles 2000:12)



## Conclusions and Next Steps

Results complicate our understanding of the history of gender research in archaeology

Do these results reflect the work of archaeologists more broadly or only those publishing in *American Antiquity*?

# Textual Macroanalysis in Archaeology

Track the emergence of new ideas in archaeological literature

Evaluate shifts in writing style, modes of explanation, and use of evidence through time

Construct accounts of archaeological history that reflect the work of archaeologists broadly rather than a select group of theorists



# Useful Links

[books.google.com/ngrams](https://books.google.com/ngrams)

[dfr.jstor.org](https://dfr.jstor.org)

[github.com/benmarwick/JSTORr](https://github.com/benmarwick/JSTORr)

[github.com/benmarwick/kretzler-and-marwick-saa2014](https://github.com/benmarwick/kretzler-and-marwick-saa2014)

Ensor, Bradley E.

2000 Social Formations, Modo de Vida, and Conflict in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 65(1):15-42.

Geller, Pamela L.

2009. Identity and Difference: Complicating Gender in Archaeology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 38:65-81.

Hanen, Marsha, and Jane Kelley

1992 Gender and Archaeological Knowledge. In *Metaarchaeology: reflections by archaeologists and philosophers*. Lester E. Embree, ed. Pp. 195-225. Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Hutson, Scott R.

2001 Synergy through Disunity, Science as Social Practice: Comments on Vanpool and Vanpool. *American Antiquity* 66(2):349-360.

Janetski, Joel, with Mark L. Bodily, Bradley A. Newbold, and David T. Yoder

2012 The Paleoarchaic to Early Archaic Transition on the Colorado Plateau: The Archaeology North Creek Shelter. *American Antiquity* 77(1):125-129.

Jones, Terry L.

1996 Mortars, Pestles, and Division of Labor in Prehistoric California: A View from Big Sur. *American Antiquity* 61(2):243-264.

Little, Barbara J.

1994 Consider the Hermaphroditic Mind: Comment on "The Interplay of Evidential Constraints and Political Interests: Recent Archaeology Research on Gender." *American Antiquity* 59(3):539-544.

Nobles, Connie H.

2000 Gazing upon the Invisible: Women and Children at the Old Baton Rouge Penitentiary. *American Antiquity* 65(1):5-14.

Stahl, Ann Brower

1993 Concepts of Time and Approaches to Analogical Reasoning in Historical Perspective. *American Antiquity* 58(2):235-260.