

Who Represents ‘Immigrant Women’?

An Empirical Evidence from Local Council Proceedings in South Korea

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Introduction

Introduction

- **RQ**

- Which ‘women’ are represented in Korean local councils?
- By whom and to what extent ‘immigrant women’ are represented in Korean local councils?

- **Motivation**

- Discussions on women’s political representation
- Previous studies analyzing the correlation between legislators’ attributes and pol enactment or representation
- Uncertainty regarding representation of minority attributes in legislators lacking specific attributes

Introduction

- **Positioning of This Study**

- Delving into the characterization of ‘women’ in South Korean local government legislatures
- Focus on ‘immigrant women’ as a significant intersectional minority group
- Examining local governments actively engaged in immigration policy to compare cases within Korea

Literature Review

Literature Review

- Importance of Political Representation in Parliament

- Examination of institutional changes with the rise in female politicians (Celis et al 2008)
- Exploring correlation between descriptive and substantive representation (Brattc and Ray 2002; Ennser-Jedenastik 2017; Kobayashi and Kamahara 2019; Yoon and Osawa 2017)
- Emergence of alternative theories for gender-equitable policies (Beckwith and Cowell-Meyers 2007; Smith 2014; Annesley 2010; Lee 2022; Lanfranconi and Valari 2014; Holli 2008; Stetson and Mazur 1995; Waylen 2007)

Literature Review

- Challenges in Previous Research
 - Critical role of political representation in parliaments
 - Impact of representation on female legislators ([Höhmnn 2020b](#), [2020a](#))
 - Who represents immigrant women and other intersectional attributes in Congress where there are no foreign-born politicians?

Methods

Case

- **Unique South Korean Context**

- Near absence of foreign-born legislators in South Korea
- Addressing gaps in previous research on representation by politicians lacking specific attributes

- **Immigration Policy Context**

- Potential intensification of immigration policy in South Korea due to low birth rate and labor shortages
- Local governments providing support to immigrants, leading to policy variations
- Implications on political representation across municipalities

Data Collection

- **Collection Process**

- Gathering council meeting minutes from Seoul, Busan, and Daegu Metropolitan C
- Keyword searches focusing on ‘women(여성)’ discussions

- **Processing Steps**

- Organizing collected minutes and extracting relevant statements
- Tokenizing text data using Quanteda for quantitative analysis
- See Appendix for tokenization procedure

Topic Estimation and Integration

- **Analysis Methodology**

- Utilizing a **semi-supervised** learning model (Seeded Sequential LDA, to estimate primary topics in statements([Watanabe and Baturo 2023](#))
- Development of an independent dictionary based on qualitative categorization of parliamentary proceedings([Yoon and Osawa 2017](#))

- **Data Integration and Exploration**

- Merging legislator data with statement data
- Exploring associations between attributes, gender, party affiliation, and election system(Just a descriptive analysis)

Seed Words

Topic	Seed Words
Women_rights	“Equality”, “Discrimination”, “Human rights”, “Rights”
Safety	“Sexual violence”, “Sexual crimes”, “Prostitution”, “Sexual harassment”, “Domestic violence”, “Victims”
Marriage_and_birth	“Marriage”, “Childbirth”, “Pregnancy”
Childcare	“Childcare”, “Children”, “Child-rearing”, “Child”, “Kid”
Medical_Health	“Health”, “Medical”, “Hospitals”
Education	“Schools”, “Education”, “Students”
Young_labor	“Youth”, “Young adults”, “Jobs”, “Occupation”, “Labor”, “Wages”, “Unemployment”, “Young”

Translated into English. See paper for Korean.

Seed Words

Topic	Seed Words
Business	“Enterprise”, “Industry”, “Digital”, “Startup”
Disabled	“Disability”, “Wheelchair”
Old age	“Elderly and frail”, “Elderly”, “Caregiving”, “Euthanasia”
Urban	“Construction”, “Park”, “Subway”, “Restroom”, “Parking lot”
Research	“Research”
Foreigner	“Multicultural”, “Foreigner”, “Immigration”, “Immigrant”, “Marriage immigration”, “International exchange”

Translated into English. See paper for Korean.

Topic estimation by Seeded LDA (up to 40 feature words)

Women_rights	Safety	Marrige_and_birth	Childcare	Medical_Health	Educ
목적	피해	가장	어린이집	존경하	학교
설치	상담	전국	지원	병원	교육
법률	방향	비율	아동	건강	학생
행정사무감사	가장	비해	복지	비롯	프로그
제정	사회	출산	아이	주시	대상
인권	변화	인구	보육	적극	참여
사용	사회적	영향	대상	주요업무	일반
용어	안전	현황	가정	직원	운영하
마련	개념	통계	가구	실음	교원

Women_rights	Safety	Marrige_and_birth	Childcare	Medical_Health	Educ
권리	인식	상대적	시설	의료	보내
방안	일들	결혼	가족	주요	평생교
성평등	환경	나타나	찾아가	간부	실시
각종	시대	최초	취약계층	인사	교육도
명칭	안심	비중	저소득층	평소	위주
조사	일어나	저출산	종사자	행복	능력
조제	성폭력	지표	자녀	소개해	청소년

Women_rights	Safety	Marrige_and_birth	Childcare	Medical_Health	Educ
양성평등	관계	분석	지역아동 센터	진심	활동
주요	역할	현상	아동학대	모시	역량
개정조례안	예방	증가	생활	안전	설문조
실효성	피해자	방안	아동들	모습	참여할
공무원	성희롱	미만	지원하	성원	방과후
대상	경찰	절반	보육료	이어	성교도
보호	목소리	열악	국공립어 린이집	참조	연계하
실음	분위기	차지	확충	배부해	일자

Women_rights	Safety	Marrige_and_birth	Childcare	Medical_Health	Educ
제도적	관점	신혼부부	어르신	뜻깊게	강좌
조에서	성범죄	해운대	노숙인	반영해	저소득
주요내용	범죄	고려해	어린	행정사무감사	찾아가
전반	구조	많은데	돌봄	대구의료원	희망
실시	존경하	남성	보호	애정	자원봉
실태	경찰청	비슷	사회복지 시설	진료	교육프 램
실태조사	왔던	방향	인가구	유인물	키우

Women_rights	Safety	Marrige_and_birth	Childcare	Medical_Health	Educ
성인지	직장	높게	처우개선	소개	교육기
현황	각종	차지하	사회적	간부소개	경험
기본	배려	많기	어린이회 관	새해	희망하
시책	가질	출산율	지원사업	마치	나누0
기능	교통	구조	실태조사	드리게	이경이
소속	들거든 요	임신	찾동	격려	연계
증진	자치경 찰	반면	복지본부	아낌없	예방고
유인물	실질적	목표치	쉼터 <small>KPSA 70731 Annual Conference@Korean National Diplomatic Academy(국립외교원)</small>	게시	고려하

Example Text(see Appendix for Korean)

	Topic	Statement
text28888	Safety	...And the other thing is that in the end, the most important thing in these cases is the protection of the victims, and when the victims are aware of these things in the organisation, the first priority is to protect the victims from further harm and the secondary harm caused by it, In the process of receiving the report last time, it was confirmed through the consultation of the Human Rights Centre that the victim continued to be victimised at the time of the awareness and afterwards...
text38491	Childcare	...but the private daycare center near her house didn't have a teacher who could take care of children with special needs, so she went to a public daycare center,

Topic	Statement
	<p>which is not all public daycare centers, but a daycare center that can accept children with special needs, so she went farther away from home, when they're calm, they can be in the corner of the house all day by themselves, and you never know where they're going to go at any given moment...</p>
text453464 Foreigner	<p>...On the occasion of the ASEAN-Korea Special Summit, I would like to reflect on whether Busan's policies are on the right track with regard to the lives and human rights of migrants living together in Busan...</p>

Results and Discussion

Summary

- **‘Women’ Statements**

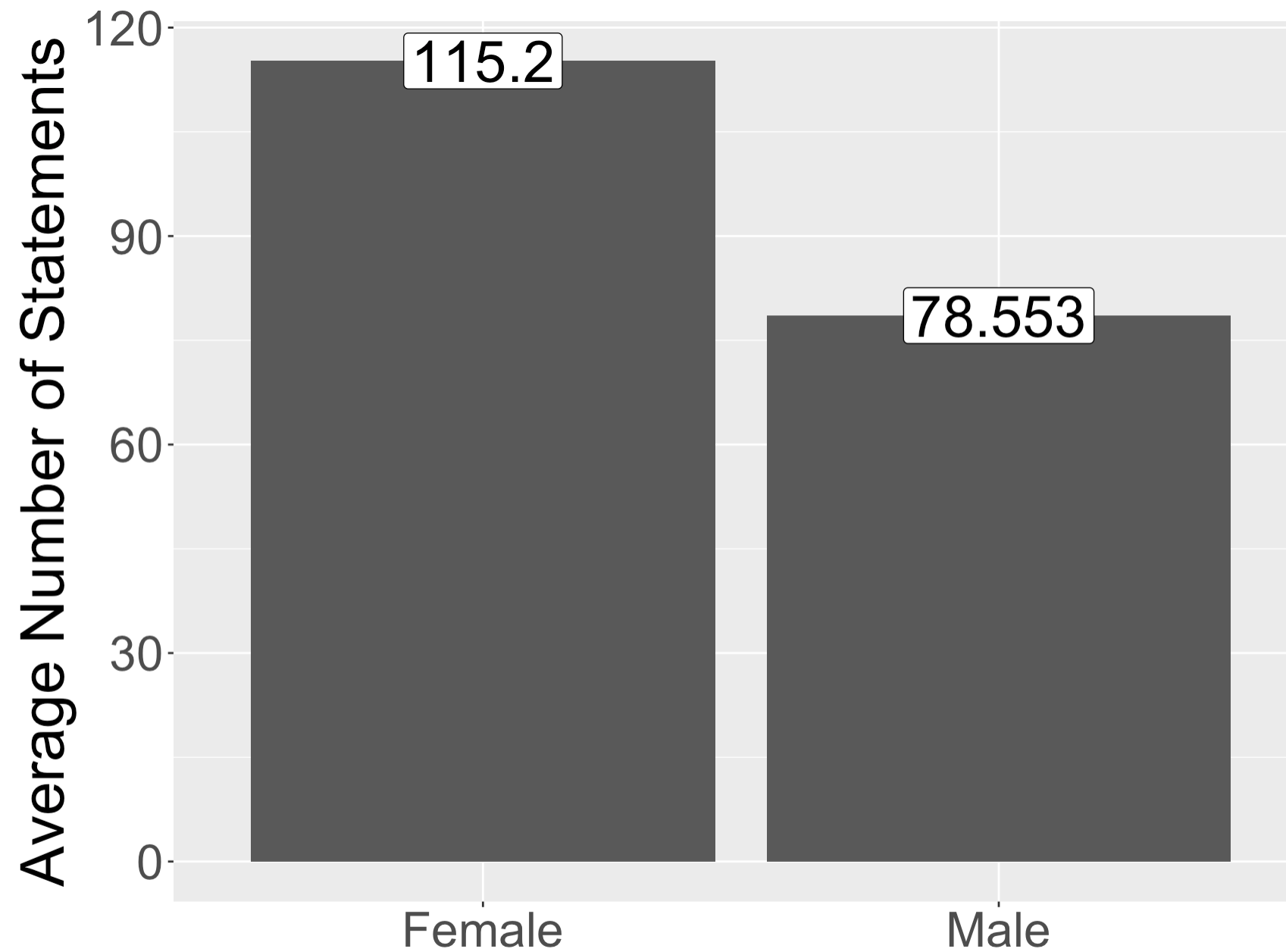
- Varied frequency in ‘women’ statements by councilors
- Large gender gap in the amount of ‘women’ statements
- The ‘women’ statements are diverse and include a few statements about immigrant women

- **‘Immigrant Women’ Statements**

- Large gender gap in the amount of ‘immigrant women’ statements (but the difference is small compared to the ‘women’ statement)
- Proportional representation (PR) elected officials make more “immigrant women” statements than majority representation (MR) elected officials (but there are gender differences)

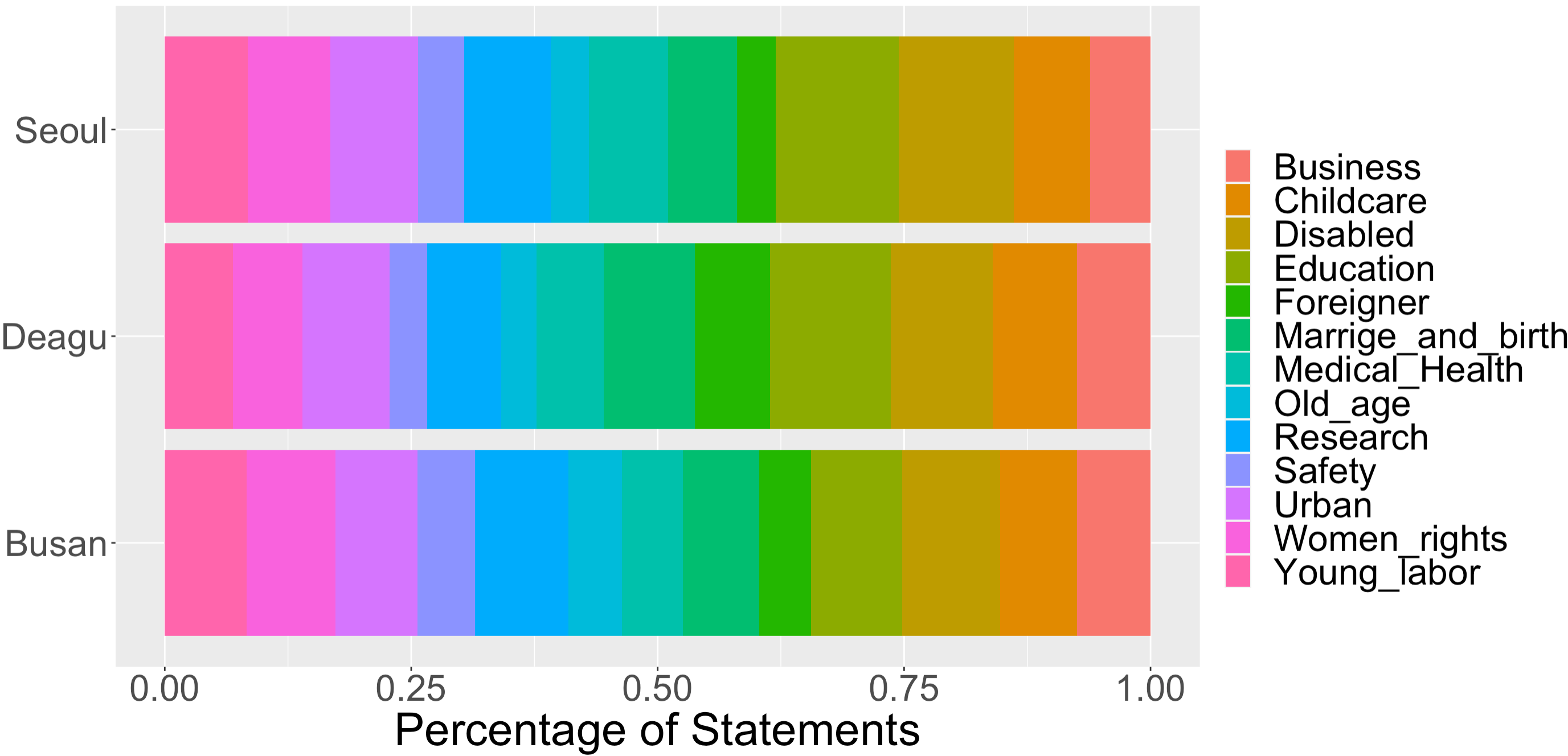
Gender-Based Frequency

- Females MPs tend to make more 'women'-related statements than male MPs



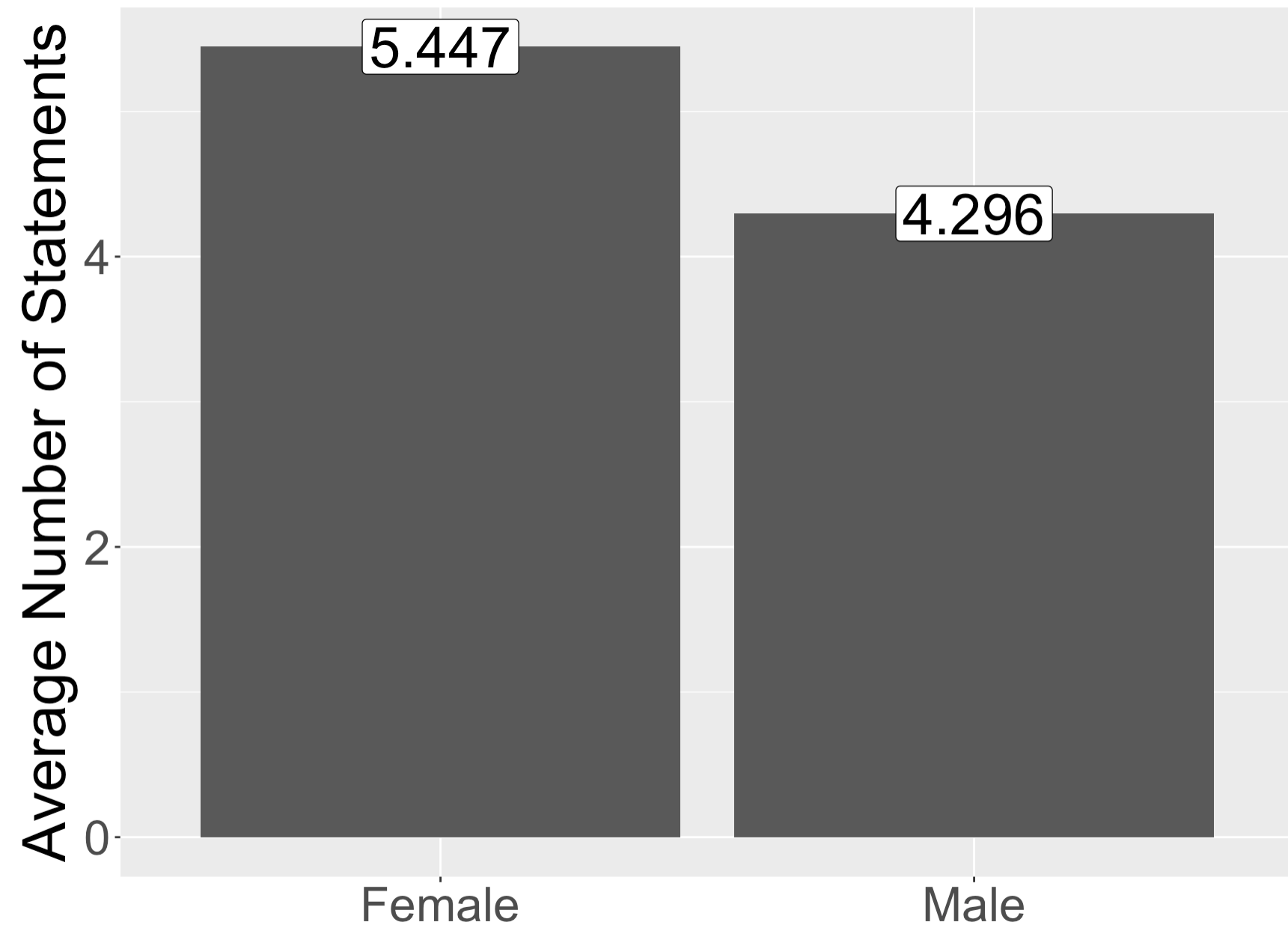
Specific ‘Women’-Related Topics

- Significant variation in topics across municipalities in ‘women’-related discussions



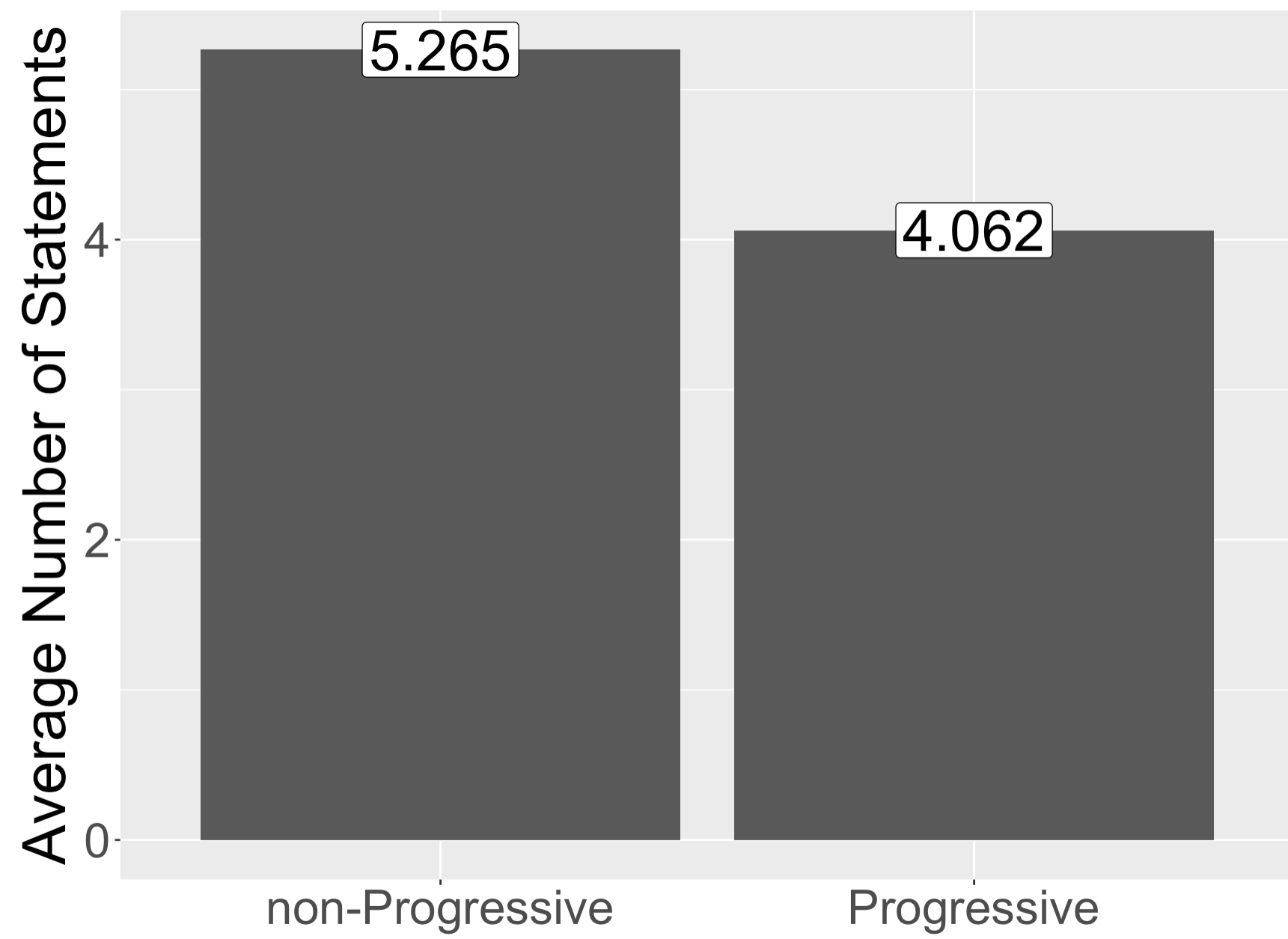
Gender Distribution and ‘Immigrant Women’

- Gender disparities in discussions regarding ‘migrant women’, reduced compared to broader ‘women’ issues



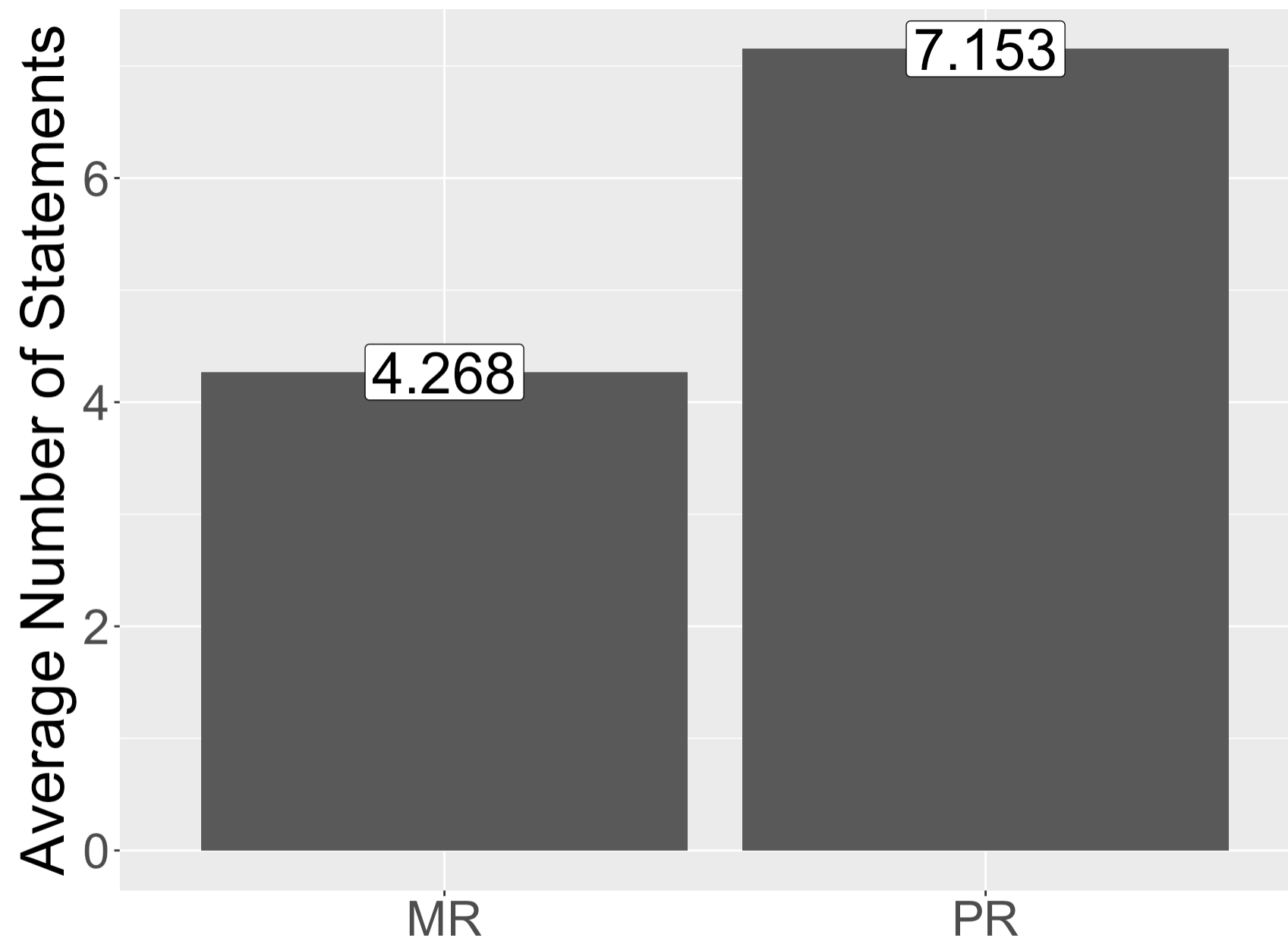
Party Affiliation and Representation

- Non-conservative party members more actively represent ‘immigrant women’ compared to progressive parties



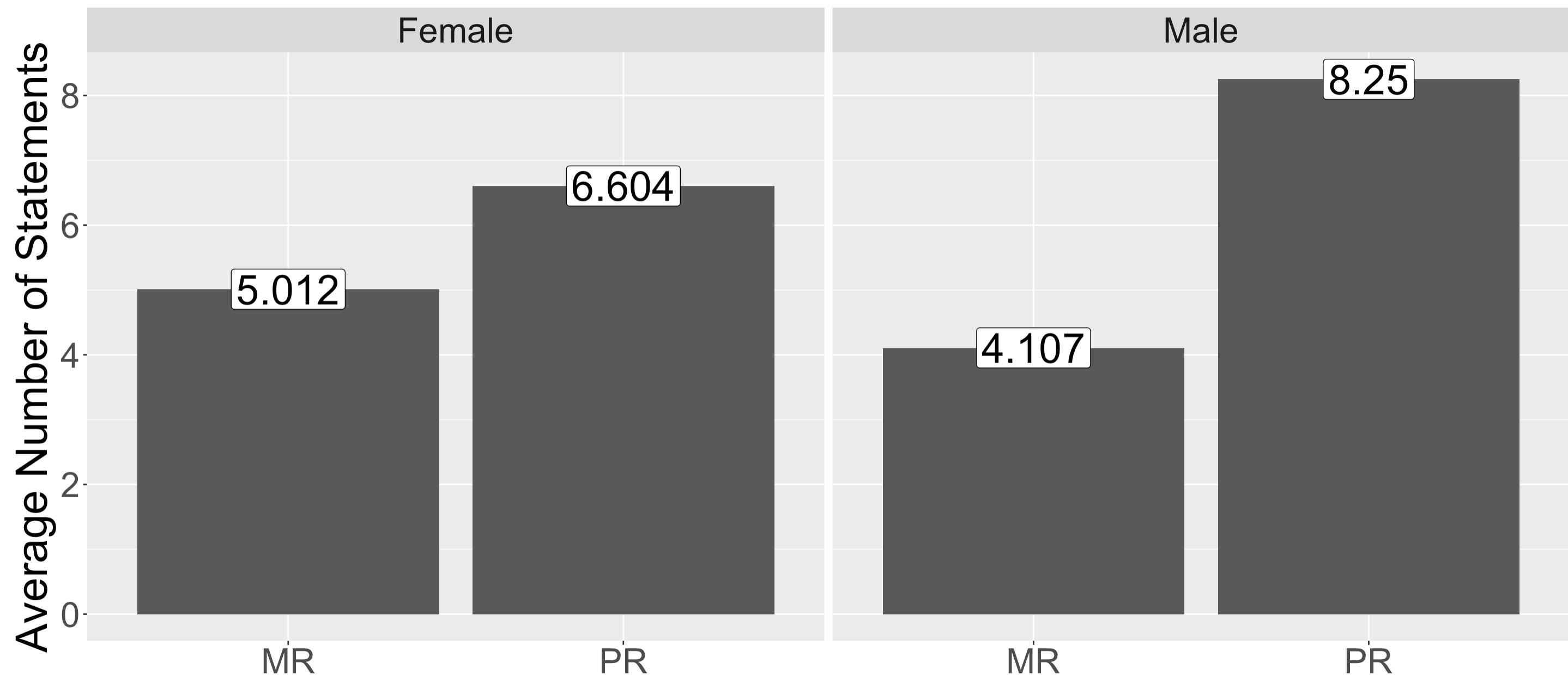
Electoral Districts and Representation

- Prevalent trend among proportionally represented MPs advocating for ‘immigrant women’



Electoral Districts and Representation

- Clear gender-based differences in representation methods affecting ‘immigrant’ issues



Conclusion

Conclusion

- **Variation**

- Diversity of “Women” Represented in Korea’s Local Legislatures

- **Gender and Electoral system**

- Female members more likely to reference ‘immigrant women’ compared to males
- But the difference is smaller than the overall “women” statement
- Electoral system effects vary by gender

Conclusion

- **Implications and Political Discourse**

- Need for some examinations considering ‘men’ and LGBTQ+ community in politic discourse
- Impact of emerging anti-feminist and radical feminist movements on perceptions representation
- Insights from political representation discussion for addressing political fragmentation in Korea

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