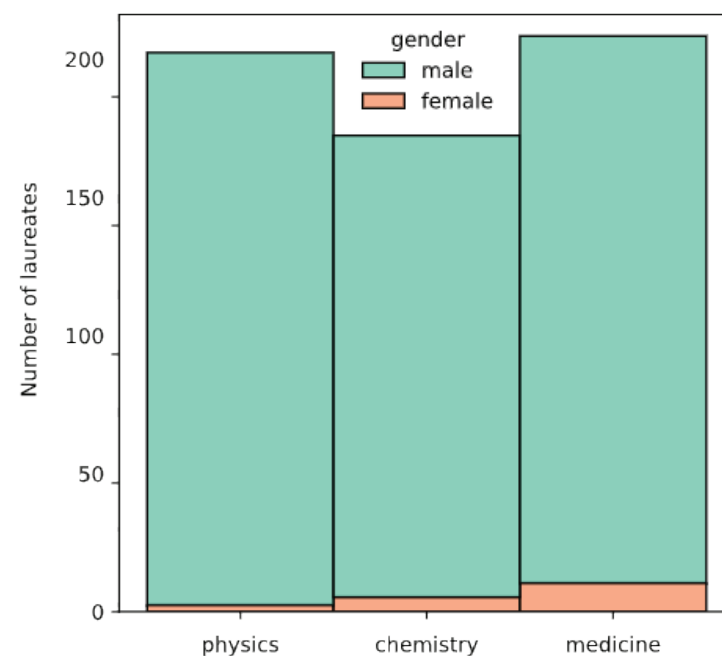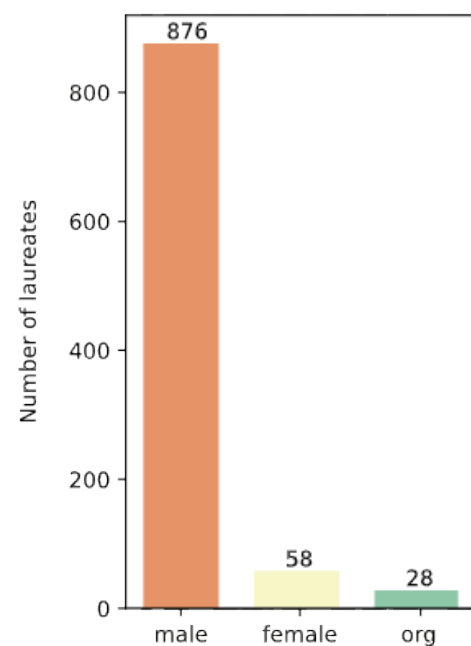# NOBEL PRIZE DATA ANALYSIS

Teele Tani & Tuule Tani

It was interesting to explore the Nobel prize dataset because in recent years there has been a lot of discussion about how outdated the prize has become and what can be done to eliminate biases, especially in the science prizes.
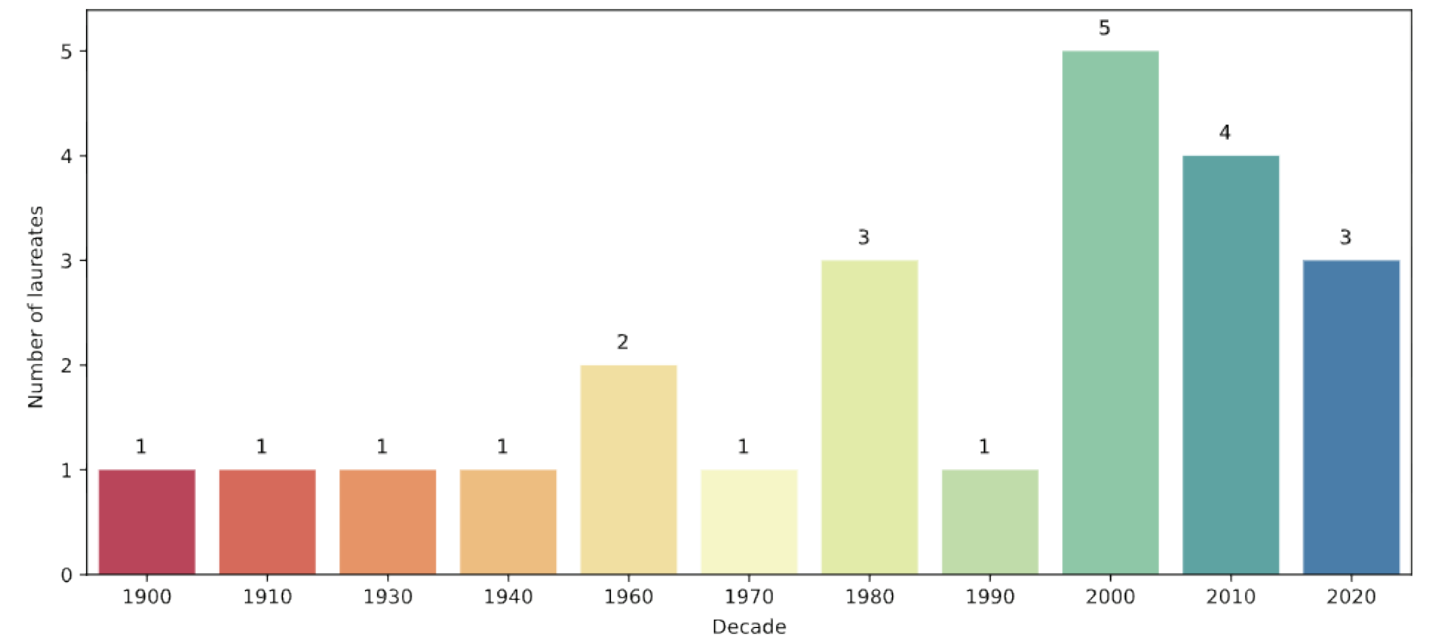
In our analysis we looked for meaningful changes in the gender, age, and country distribution of Nobel prize laureates, and apart from a slow upward trend in the age of the laureates, did not really find any noteworthy changes. For the time being, Nobel laureates are still overwhelmingly male. On average, they are getting older. And most of them are from the US or Europe.

Let's look at some of the data. For example, how many Nobel prizes have women received in total, and how many in the science fields. How does it compare to the totals?

In the past the academia was a male-dominated field, therefore it is not unexpected that there are far more male than female Nobel laureates. However, the ratio of women in scientific professions has increased in all fields of science over the last decades. Does the Nobel prize reflect that change?

The overall numbers have definitely improved in recent decades but the improvement is so small that it is difficult to say whether this is a sign of progress or whether it has happened merely by chance.

The Nobel prize is biased and it is important to acknowledge this. The prize is associated with power and prestige. It gets you publicity, funding, and fame. Nobel laureates become role models and spokepersons. It is the ultimate prize but unfortunately also out of step with the modern world.