



Nobel prize data analysis

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INTRODUCTION

The Nobel prizes are the creation of Alfred Nobel, a Swedish inventor of dynamite. In his testament he declared that his fortune be used to annually reward the persons "who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to mankind" in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace. An economics prize was added later.

The history of the Nobel prize is full of controversies and in recent years it has tried to address the imbalance in gender and ethnicity among winners.

MOTIVATION

The Nobel prize is a curious paradox. It has become the world's most famous award for positive contributions to humanity, yet positive change is something that the prize itself really struggles with. The biases of the Nobel prize have been acknowledged by the Nobel Committee and changes to nomination procedures have been introduced, but have there actually been any significant shifts or changes over the recent years in terms of diversity? Or is it too early to tell? Let's find out.

DATA

The source of this project's data is the Nobel Foundation's detailed dataset. Nobelprize.org offers open data through the Nobel prize API. The data is free to use and contains information about Nobel prizes and laureates.

CONCLUSION

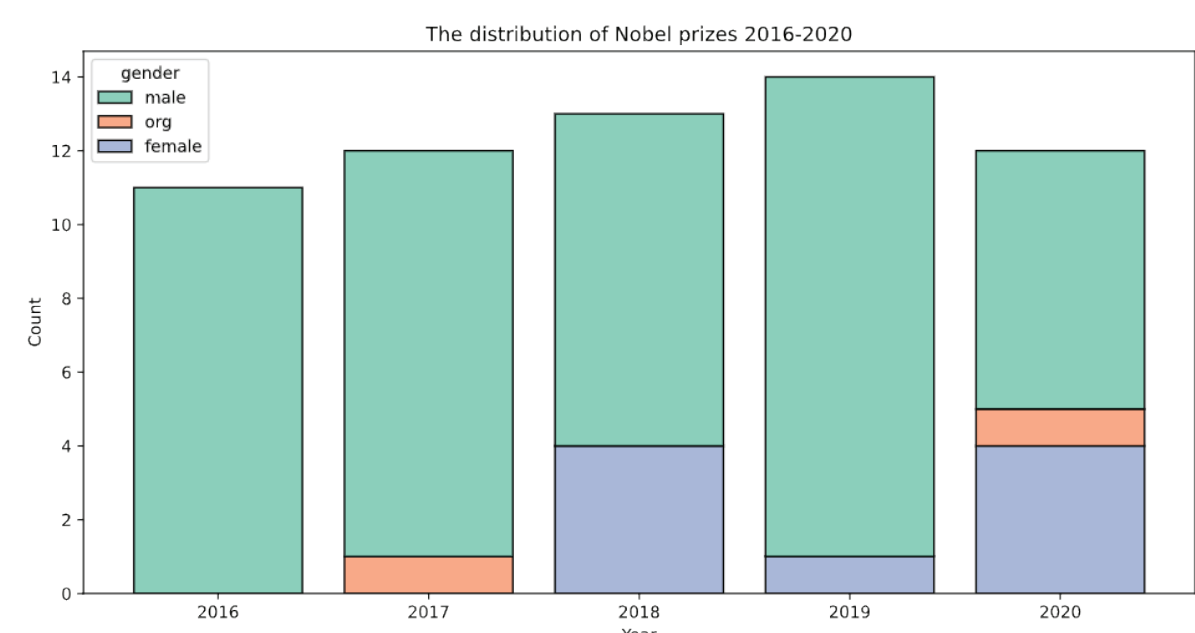
In our analysis we did not find any meaningful changes in the gender and country distribution of Nobel prize laureates. We did find a slow upward trend in the age of the laureates. Therefore, for the time being Nobel laureates will be overwhelmingly male. On average, they will be getting older. And most likely they will be from the US or Europe.

DID YOU KNOW?

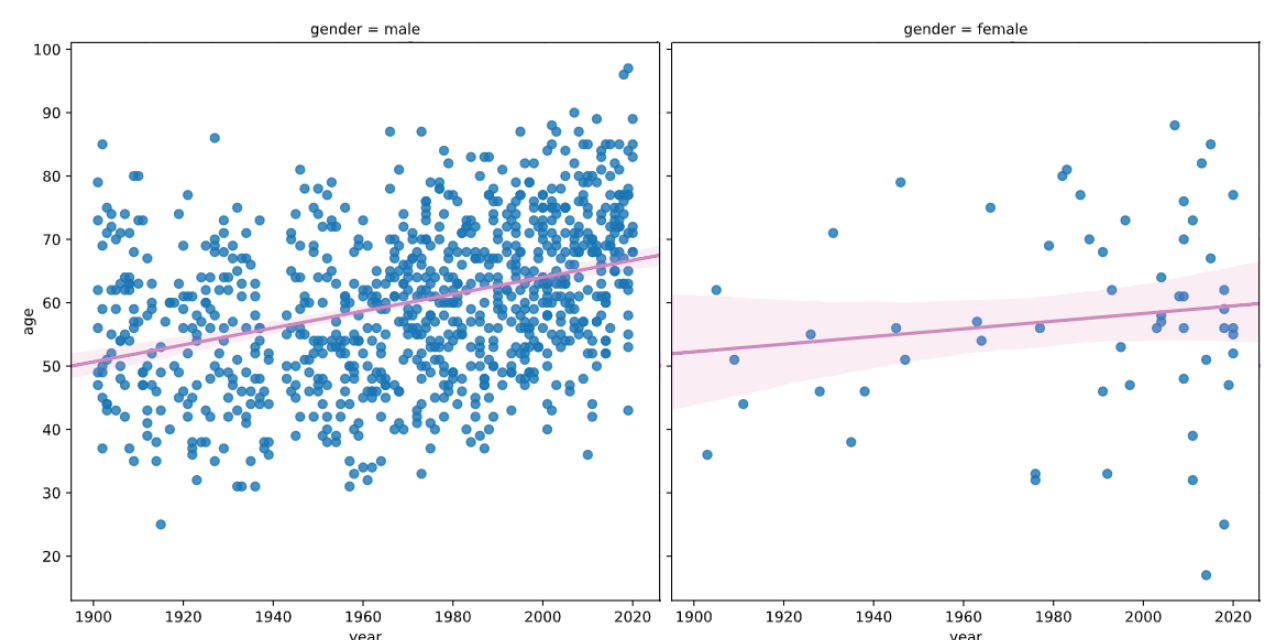
- Out of 962 Nobel laureates only 58 have been women and 28 have been organisations.
- Women have won the Nobel peace prize 17 times but the economics prize only 2 times.
- The average Nobel laureate is 60 years old.

RESULTS

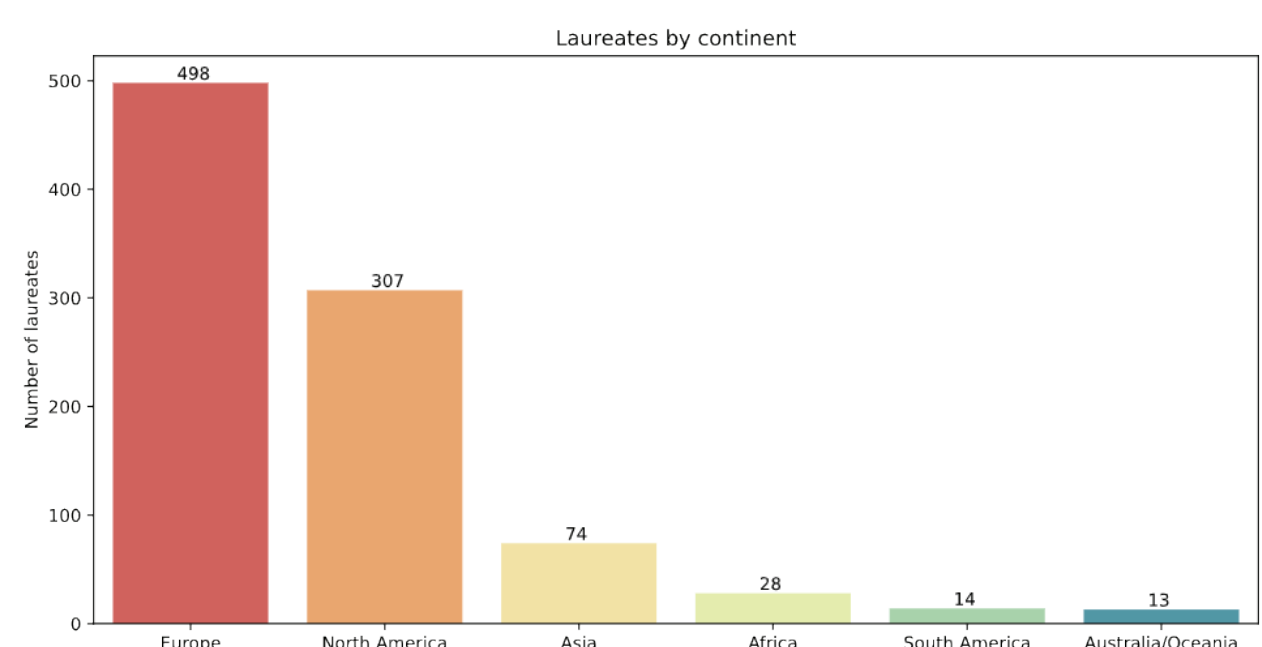
Given that in the past the academia was a male-dominated field, it is not unexpected that overall there are far more male than female Nobel laureates. What is surprising, however, is that when you look at the ratio of female and male Nobel laureates over the last 5 years, there seems to be no improvement in the matter. There is still a significant gender gap.



Data shows that there is a clear trend of Nobel laureates winning prizes later in life. When Nobel recognition comes, it does so later in life, at the end of a distinguished professional career, and most likely for research and work done decades earlier.



When we look at which part of the world the laureates are from, it is evident that outside of Europe and North America there are not that many Nobel prizes to go around. Asia, the most populous region in the world, has received only 74 Nobel prizes in total.



OUR PROJECT: <https://github.com/tee1e/Nobel-prize-stats>