



Mapping Gender and Political Studies: An Analysis of Recent Research Trends

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Abstract

In recent years, studies on gender inequality in politics have increased, addressing topics such as the right to vote, political participation, and leadership. This research analyzes the evolution of these studies over time. To this end, a systematic literature review was conducted following PRISMA guidelines, using the Scopus database, which allowed for the analysis of 141 records. The results are presented based on indicators of quantity, quality, and publication structure, considering the most cited authors, journals, and countries. Additionally, co-authorship and keyword co-occurrence networks are constructed to analyze recent trends. The findings reveal a current focus on topics such as gender identity, inclusive feminism, human rights, and feminist political movements. It is suggested that future research should focus on political science, global inequality, and intersectionality.

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Introduction

In the last three decades, there has been a marked increase in research on the intersection of gender and politics. This growth can be attributed to heightened political participation and representation of women on a global scale (Medie & Kang, 2018). Nevertheless, gender inequality in political rights endures, as evidenced by the recent granting of the right to vote to women in countries such as Saudi Arabia (Paxton et al., 2007; Pilotti et al., 2021). Recent literature underscores gender disparities in political activities such as voting, campaigning, and holding office, emphasizing the role of gender in shaping political behavior and perceptions of leaders (Schneider & Bos, 2019).

The struggle for women's enfranchisement emerged concurrently with the abolition of slavery and gained significant momentum during the progressive reform era. In the 20th century, women's demands extended beyond mere voting rights to include a desire to influence legislation and secure political positions, despite facing opposition rooted in traditional gender roles (DuBois, 2020). In the contemporary era, the integration of women into the political landscape has yielded positive ramifications, manifesting in the formulation of policies that have enhanced societal well-being (Cascio & Shenhav, 2020).

The visibility of women's right to vote has attained significant global prominence, as evidenced by its presence in democratic states, the rulings of the OHCHR and the Inter-American Human Rights Council, and national policies that guarantee women's human and political rights under conditions of parity (Escalante López & Ávalos Méndez, 2020). This progression is influenced by the actions of influential states and international organizations, such as the United Nations, which have advocated for gender equality (Medie & Kang, 2018). The term "high politics" is a broad category that includes areas such as foreign policy, security, defense, and military strategy. It is closely associated with the survival of the state. Women are frequently excluded from these domains, both in discourse and policy formulation, due to traditional gender roles that associate men with strength and authority (Ataç, 2019; Kozhakhmetova, 2022). This exclusion perpetuates an imbalance in representation and undervalues women's contributions in critical decision-making processes.

Contemporary feminist theories advocate for the equitable participation of women in politics, emphasizing the importance of achieving a "critical mass" of women in political office (Ataç, 2019; Kozhakhmetova, 2022). This concept underscores the notion that once a critical mass of women's involvement is attained, their voices can wield substantial influence on policies that redound to the benefit of their group. Absent such representation, women risk being perceived as mere "tokens," thereby limiting their collective impact (Dobija et al., 2022).

The presence of a critical mass is associated with increased legislative attention to women's issues. However, achieving this critical mass necessitates the mitigation of various barriers, including but not limited to party identity, sexism, institutional positioning, gender dynamics

within political systems, and connections with civil society groups, which have the potential to impede women's involvement in policy-making (Childs & Krook, 2006).

Research on gender and politics was initially marginalized within political science, with early studies emerging in response to critiques regarding the exclusion of women as political actors (Lovenduski & Norris, 1993). These critiques emanated from the United Kingdom and subsequently influenced feminist discourses on a global scale, including in India, where the feminist movement aspired to establish an inclusive platform for diverse voices (Menon, 1999).

In Russia, Wood (1997) explored the role of women in politics after the revolution, focusing on the experiences of female communist party members. This study underscored the challenges confronting these women and introduced the concept of "gender as an organizing principle," thereby offering a more profound comprehension of gender's role in society.

In her seminal 1996 study, Reynolds examined the role of women in French society during times of war, exploring their impact on demography, education, and the labor market. The study underscores how women's engagement in formal politics emerged from the autonomy of action that was attained during interwar periods. It employs a critical lens, examining traditional conceptions of women through Machiavellian perspectives and modern interpretations (Pitkin, 1999). Building upon these findings, Baron (2005) and subsequent studies have explored the history of women in politics and the impact of gender despite their exclusion from state governance.

These contributions have shifted the discourse from viewing "sex" as a demographic variable to understanding "gender" as an analytical category, emphasizing the influence of institutions and societal structures (Barnett et al., 2022). Segal's (1999) work further contextualizes the evolution of feminist activism, exploring its historical themes, modern portrayals, and broader relevance to feminist scholarship.

According to Mohajan (2022a), feminism can be defined as both an ideology and a socio-political movement advocating for equal opportunities and resources for women. This ideology has been instrumental in propelling the suffrage movement and underscoring women's involvement in politics, a fundamental tenet of feminist attitudes (Heger & Hoffmann, 2021). A comprehensive understanding of the role of feminist activism is imperative for a nuanced analysis of women's political participation and the evolving trends in gender and politics studies.

Materials and Methods

To achieve the objective of the research, an exploratory review study of scientific literature on gender and politics is proposed, based on the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for

Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses) international declaration, for the execution of reviews in a systematic and standardized way, defining parameters/minimum information that must be included by the authors (O’Dea et al., 2021), establishing the following items:

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

The inclusion criteria, which refer to the minimum parameters that must be considered in academic articles to be subjected, in the particular case, to quantitative analysis. For the present investigative study, the studies that, in their title, include the terms “gender” and “politics” are considered, from the year 2010 to the present, so that the results allow us to understand the most recent positions in the theme.

Likewise, the exclusion criteria pursue two different phases, as detailed in O’Dea et al. (2021), the first called screening, which consists in the initial exclusion of erroneously indexed articles, which have incomplete bibliographic information, which are in process, which do not meet the minimum methodological rigor required for literature reviews according to the standards of PRISMA publications, as well as those for which full text is not available. These criteria guarantee the potentiality of complete analysis. The second exclusion phase is called eligibility, which basically consists of the exclusion process of articles that do not mention the direct or indirect incidence of gender in political discussions, as well as those texts that are not relevant to the subject.

Source of information

According to the suggestions of the PRISMA declaration, it is essential to mention the source of information, so that the methods are more replicable. In this sense, the international SCOPUS database is used as a secondary source of information, since, according to Visser (2021), it is positioned as the main academic and scientific database in terms of proportion of scientific metadata.

Searching strategy

Likewise, as evidenced by O’Dea et al. (2021), once the source of information for the literature review has been selected, the search strategy must be detailed, therefore, for the present investigative study, the following specialized search equation is established, which was executed in the searches advanced within the SCOPUS database:

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( TITLE ( gender OR genre ) AND TITLE ( statecraft OR politics ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2022 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2021 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2020 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2019 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2018 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2017 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2016 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2015 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2014 ) OR LIMIT- TO ( PUBYEAR , 2013 ) OR LIMIT- TO ( PUBYEAR , 2012 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2011 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR, 2010 ) )
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As evidenced, the advanced search equation was designed exclusively based on the previously defined inclusion criteria, that is, it will yield articles that, based on their title, address gender and political issues, based on their multiple combinations in English, taking into account, on the one hand, the use of recognized thesauri such as UNESCO, and on the other hand, that its equivalences are in English, since it is a database of international scientific information.

Data management

The application of the search strategy in the selected information source, that is, in the SCOPUS international database, yielded an initial total of 1,415 related documents, on which the exclusion criteria defined in the first phase of the search were applied. This rigorous process of information analysis was carried out using the Microsoft Excel® office tool, which according to Teng et al. (2019) is ideal for data analysis and management processes.

Once the exclusion criteria were applied in its two phases, a total of 141 related scientific articles were obtained, to which bibliometric indicators of quantity, quality and structure were applied, which according to Durieux and Gevenois (2010) allow us to understand the behavior of scientific activity. In addition, an analysis of keywords was carried out that would allow understanding the current state of literary development, as well as its investigative trends.

Selection process

Finally, based on the route detailed in the PRISMA parameters, the selection, analysis and exclusion process are summarized from a flow diagram, as seen in Figure 1, so that the methodology is clear, rigorous, detailed and replicable.

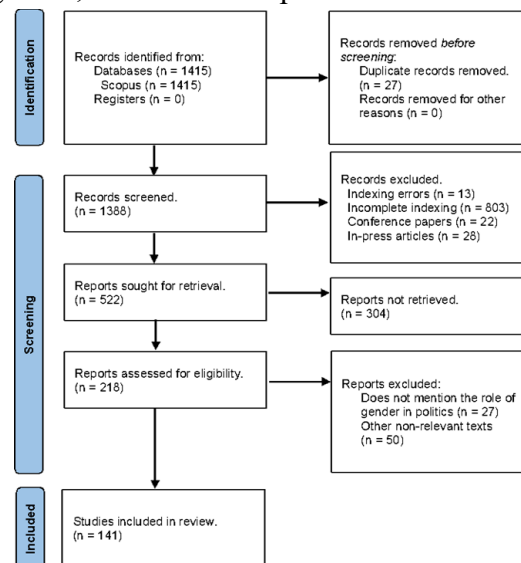


Figure 1. PRISMA flow chart. Self-made

Results

Quantity indicators

The bibliometric indicators of quantity are those that allow, based on the total number of publications, the measurement of the annual scientific productivity, as well as that of the different authors, journals, and countries, as identified in Romanelli et al. (2018). For this reason, Figure 2 allows us to glimpse the studies on gender and politics indexed in the Scopus database between the years 2010 and 2022.

There is evidence of a significant growth in the rate of publications in recent years, as seen below, the year that accounts for greater academic productivity is the year 2018 with a total of 36 publications, a year where the publications were characterized by addressing media aspects, of power and knowledge around gender politics (Litchfield et al., 2018; Medie & Kang, 2018). This is closely followed by the year 2019 with a cumulative of 18 publications related to the central theme, where its most representative articles focused on understanding the relationship between transformational leadership and job satisfaction, gender being a moderating factor, as evidenced in Dappa et al. (2019). Third, the years 2020 and 2017, where a total of 17 studies were published each one.

Conversely, the surge in the frequency and volume of publications dedicated to the study of gender and politics is statistically substantiated. In the last 5 years, approximately 65% of the publications (217) have been generated, and over the past 10 years, 95% of the total publications (127) are related to the subject. Notably, a significant peak is evident in 2018, during which 26% of all publications were generated, followed by a subsequent decline in production in the subsequent years.

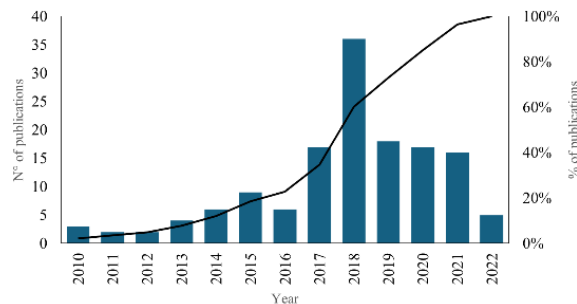


Figure 2. Publications by year. Self-made

The quantitative analysis of citations makes it possible to identify the impact that the publications of the authors, journals or countries have had on the academic and scientific community (Aksnes et al., 2019). In this order of ideas, according to Figure 3, the main

research referents are identified in terms of academic impact in studies on gender and politics. The analysis of authors' impact show that the first 7 authors, that is, Ellen Daley, Nolan Kline, Laura Merrell, Zeev Rosberger, Erika Thompson, Cheryl Vamos and Gregory Zimet, have a total of 58 citations, which correspond to the joint participation in the study entitled "The feminization of HPV: How science, politics, economics and gender norms shaped U.S. HPV vaccine implementation" that studied the intersection between science, politics, economics and the gender norm in all phases of the HPV vaccine (Daley et al., 2017).

In terms of statistical analysis using quartiles, it reveals that a mere 0.44% of the total authors, specifically 9 individuals, have garnered 25% or less of the total citations in the field (about 228 citations). Furthermore, a slightly larger proportion, totaling 1.11% or 23 authors, is responsible for 50% or less of the total citations in studies focused on gender and politics (about 456 citations). Another subset, comprising 2.57% or 53 authors, accounts for 75% or less of the citations (about 685 citations). Contrary to expectations, the Pareto Law is not observed, as 3.05% of authors hold 80% of the citations on the subject.

The Pareto Law, also known as the 80/20 rule, states that roughly 80% of effects come from 20% of causes. In various contexts, it suggests that a small percentage of inputs or efforts often yield the majority of results or outcomes (Knowlson et al., 2022).

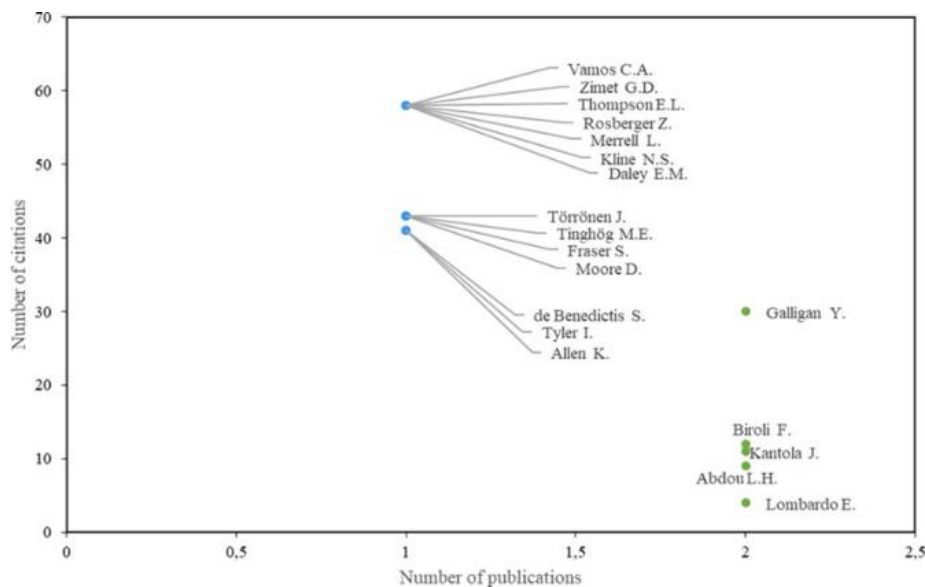


Figure 3. Main authors. Self-made

The evaluation of academic impact was based on the number of citations received, while the productivity analysis was based on the number of publications. The analysis considered the number of publications and citations received to categorize authors, journals, and countries prominent in the academic field. The references were analyzed taking into account these two main factors.

The analysis of the main journals makes it possible to identify, through Figure 4, the journals that have published the most academic and scientific content on gender and politics at present, as well as those that have obtained the most citations in these publications. In this sense, the journal that has the greatest scientific productivity, as well as the greatest academic impact, is the English journal *European Journal of Politics and Gender*. It focuses on aspects related to gender, political science, and international relations, as evident from publications that address issues of power and gender politics in the global south (Medie & Kang, 2018), gender equality in times of economic recession (Kantola & Verloo, 2018) as well as women's participation in national parliaments (Childs & Dahlerup, 2018).

On the other hand, there is a segment of journals that, although they are not listed among the journals with the highest scientific productivity, are among those with the greatest academic impact, as is the case of the Netherlands journal *Papillomavirus Research*, with important contributions such as Daley et al. (2017) on the regulatory, scientific and gender policy aspects that affect the generation of medical treatments based on Human Papillomavirus vaccines.

Another outstanding journal within this subgroup is the *American Journal Demography* with a total of 47 citations in research related to the study of gender and politics, manifesting itself in publications related to the study of the behavior of women in private public spaces from political, familiar and gender perspectives (Desai & Temsah, 2014) and the relationship between female political representation and the general health of the population (Macmillan et al., 2018).

In contrast, among the group of journals distinguished for their scientific productivity, *Gender, Place and Culture* stands out prominently. It has contributed significantly to the field with a cumulative total of 4 investigations related to the study of gender and politics. Noteworthy contributions include Henry and Natanel (2016) work discussing militarization as the diffusion of gender policies, and Cook (2015) study identifying the links between sex work, gender, and victimization.

Statistically, it was possible to glimpse that a total of 13 journals, equivalent to 9.22% of the total, have made 25% or less of the total publications. In turn, a total of 47 journals, or 33.33% represent 50% or less of academic productivity focused on gender and politics, and those 82 journals, that is, 58.16% of them, give account of 75% or less of publications. Finally, considering that 63.12% of journals have made 80% of publications on the subject, it is evident that the Pareto Law is not complied with.

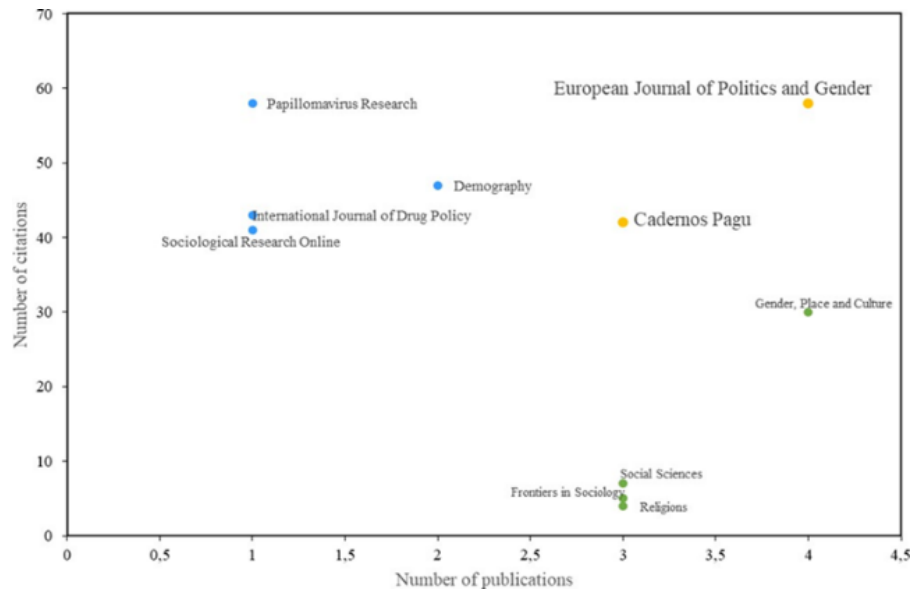


Figure 4. Main journals. Self-made

In global terms, the results of this bibliometric analysis made it possible to show, as indicated in Figure 5, the countries that stand out both in terms of productivity, as well as academic and scientific impact, in relation to the publication of research papers on gender and politics. In this sense, it can be seen that the main reference is the United Kingdom with 48 publications and 385 related citations, finding emphasis in recent years on research that addresses gender policy in digital dynamics (Cardo, 2021), as well as research in gender and politics as a subfield of emerging political science (Ahrens et al., 2021), among many approaches, while the main publications have studied, from feminist perspectives, the relationship between the media representations of people who currently live in poverty, with the gender policies of austerity (Allen et al., 2014).

In second place is the United States, which currently accounts for a total of 21 investigations on gender and politics, which positions it as the second most productive country, and 251 citations, being the second most cited; In the American context, multiple related aspects have been addressed, where the most recent studies have identified the role of women in protest politics (Matthews, 2022), as well as the segregation of American women in the digital context (Friesen et al., 2021). The most relevant of these studies have comparatively investigated the behavior of women in particular contexts such as India from the public and private spheres to understand the origin of family and gender norms in the context of community identity politics (Desai & Temsah, 2014), as well as the value of the capitalization of naked life in the context of countries outside the United States, such as Taliban Afghanistan (Fluri, 2012).

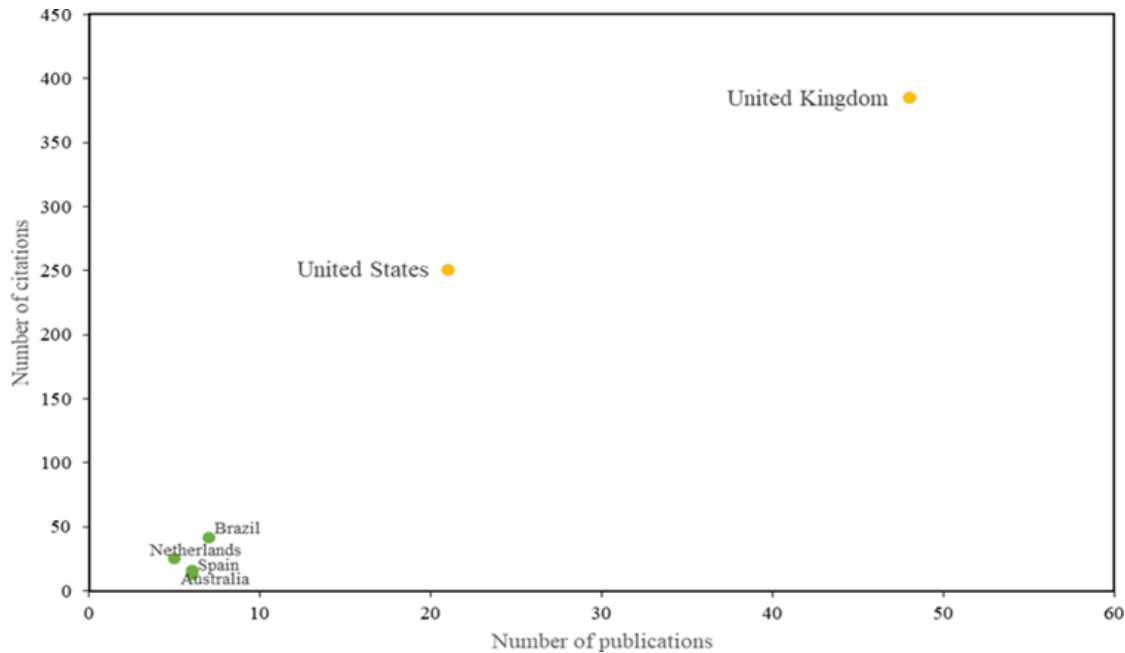


Figure 5. Main countries. Self-made

Quantity indicators

Bibliometric indicators of structure or structural indicators refer to the measurement of networks or connections between publications, authors and even between different research areas, creating thematic and research affinity Valérie and Pierre (2010). In this sense, Figure 6 can be observed, which shows a co-authorship network of the main authors in the scientific production on gender and politics, differentiating them into 6 thematic clusters segmented from different colors. Here, it can be noted that the main network of co-authorship on the subject is the one raised in the red cluster, made up of authors such as Emanuela Lombardo, Johanna Kantola, Silvia Erzeel, Tania Verge, Petra Meier and Mieke Verloo, who have jointly studied issues associated with the discursive policies of gender equality (Lombardo et al., 2010), as well as research on gender from the European context (Ahrens et al., 2021).

Subsequently, the green cluster is made up of the authors Petra Ahrens, Karen Celis and Liza Mügge, who have worked together on scientific research that studies the new horizons that political science imprints on the relationship between gender and politics (Ahrens et al., 2018). Likewise, there is the dark blue cluster, with the authors Karen Ross, Melanie Jansen and Khursheed Wadia who have co-authored articles that have tried to understand the components of gender and politics in the digital age (Bürger et al., 2020), as well as in the media world (Ross et al., 2020).

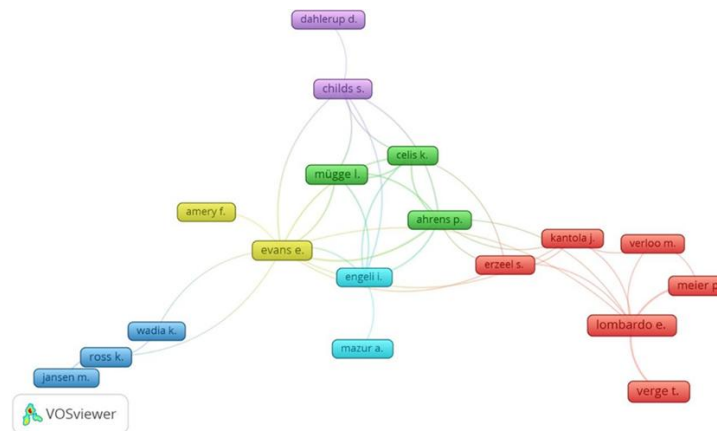


Figure 6. Co-authorship network of the main authors. Source: self-made

Likewise, the structure indicators make it possible to identify international co-authorship in scientific production around gender and politics, having, through Figure 7, red as the main co-authorship cluster, which presents the association of leading countries on the subject such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Turkey (identified among the most productive countries and those with the greatest impact, according to figures 5 and 8, respectively), as well as South Korea and France. This international association has been characterized by approaches related to the genealogy of gender politics (Corrêa, 2018), as well as the existing gender bias in school textbooks (Asadullah et al., 2018), among multiple aspects.

Subsequently, there is the green cluster, made up of Hong Kong, Germany, the Netherlands and Hungary, whose international co-authorship has presented frame-works related to legislative patterns on gender and politics (Shim, 2021), while the light blue cluster, made up of Switzerland, South Africa, Sweden and Poland, has focused more on issues associated with the political and gender aspects of international marketing (Sulle & Dancer, 2020).

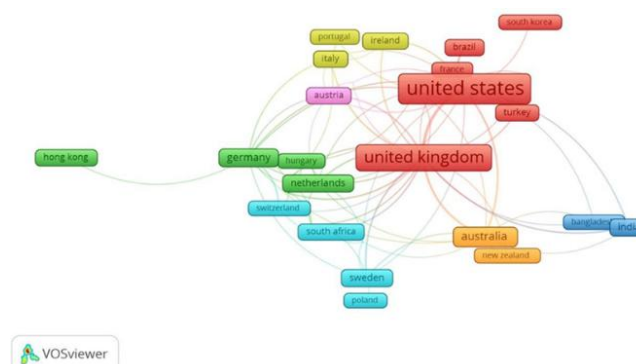


Figure 7. Co-authorship network of the main countries. Source: self-made

Likewise, among the structural bibliometric indicators, there is the keyword co-occurrence network that, according to Lozano et al. (2019), allows identifying the relationships that may

exist between the keywords used to define the structure of the research papers. In this sense, from Figure 8 it can be seen that the main thematic cluster is red, made up of concepts such as sexuality, masculinity, femininity, gender identity, neoliberalism, among others, related to the way of dealing with sexuality and gender identity based on concepts such as femininity and masculinity in the political and economic context of neoliberalism. On the other hand, there is the green thematic cluster, characterized by terms such as women, gender equality, gender mainstreaming, transgender and representation, among many others, which address the incorporation of gender equality perspectives that are associated with the dynamics of representation of segments of the population that have historically been discriminated against, such as women and transgender people.

On the other hand, there is the dark blue thematic cluster, made up of feminism, human rights, civil society, patriarchy, violence and migration and which has been relevant in studies on gender and politics, since it raises predominantly feminist positions for the defense of the human rights of people who, in patriarchy as a social system, have been victims of all kinds of violence and discrimination, which among so many repercussions, has led to migratory phenomena. Then there is the yellow cluster with terms such as gender quotas, power, gender and politics, Northern Ireland and nationalism that help in understanding the gender quotas that have been adopted, mainly, by nationalist parties to increase power and female participation in the legislature, which has manifested itself in the context of Northern Ireland, among many others.

Finally, the least significant clusters are found, such as light blue, orange and pink, where the first is made up of intersectionality, development, and gender inequality, in the understanding of interrelated factors, such as race, socioeconomic class, age, sexual orientation, among others, that generate gender inequality, in discrimination against women, as mentioned in Bose (2012); the second is made up of political science, gender studies and film and explains, as detailed in Fisher and Mobley (2021), aspects of gender, nature, power and politics, typical of gender studies in political science, in the cinematographic context, while the pink one, made up of race and space, helps to understand the geographical aspects of racism.

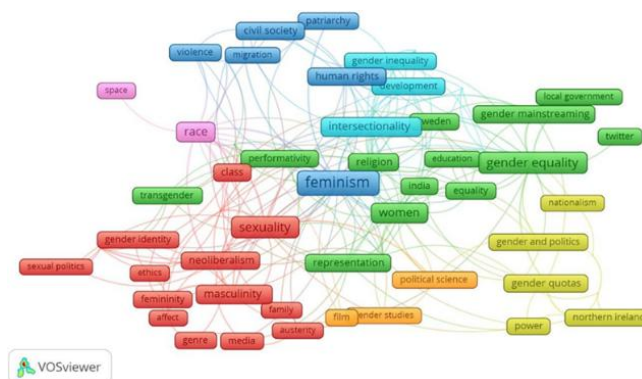


Figure 8. Network of co-occurrence of the keywords. Source: self-made

Keyword analysis

Subsequently, the bibliometric analysis focused on the keywords, allowed redistributing them from a Cartesian plane that would allow us to understand both their frequency of use, having the X axis, as well as the average year of use that determines the validity of each concept, in the Y axis or vertical axis, as can be seen in Figure 9. This division by axes allows a comparison to be made between four different quadrants, where quadrant 4, due to its position in the Cartesian plane, characterizes the keywords that, although they have been frequent, their validity is not current, so they are categorized as decreasing words, however, in this specific case there are no concepts in this quadrant.

Then there is quadrant 3, with concepts that are not very prominent or consolidated in the scientific literature on gender and politics, since they are not positioned among the most frequent, nor among the most used in recent years, having keywords such as identity, elections, civil society, intersectionality, sex work, race, austerity, or human rights, among other concepts.

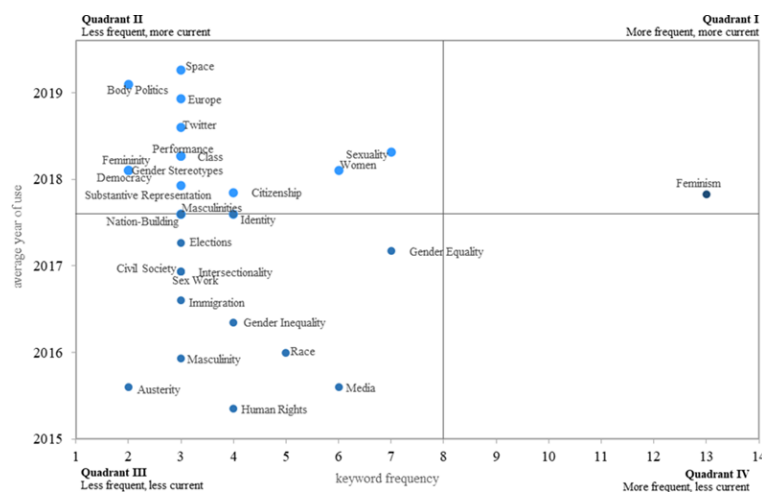


Figure 9. Validity and relevance of the keywords. Source: self-made

On the other hand, there is quadrant 2, where, although the most investigated concepts in the scientific literature are not positioned, they are among the most relevant in recent years, which is why they are considered emerging keywords in the research field. In this quadrant, there are valuable concepts such as space, body politics that introduces, according to Hines (2020), the issue of bodily materiality; Europe, a context in which discussions of racialization and sexualization have been presented based on intercontinental moral, cultural, and social differences between Eastern and Western Europe (Krivonos & Diatlova, 2020), Twitter, sexuality that, in the same terms of Ashe (2019) contributes to the development of the impacts of the conflict and its transformation in sexual minorities, as well as gender associated with the dynamics of identity; democracy, gender stereotypes and citizenship, which talks about

citizen participation in social demands in the face of political rhetoric (Finnsdottir & Hallgrimsdottir, 2018).

Finally, there is quadrant 1, through which the leading and growing concepts of scientific literature are positioned, as they are the most frequent and current in the scientific body. In this quadrant there is only the concept of feminism, which, according to Waldby (1995), is key to understanding the characteristics of gender domination and inequality today, based on the critical submission to the ownership and purpose of knowledge, which shape the social relations of power, as well as the inherent analysis of feminist activism, where there are important discourses on gender and politics, which include issues of sexual wars and transgender issues, as understood in Hines (2020), who consider the aspects of sex and gender both as conceptual categories, as well as lived experiences.

Discussion

Research on gender has flourished due to the influence of feminism. Previously, the term 'sex' was predominantly linked with biological characteristics, while “gender” was understood as a cultural construct, a distinction highlighted by feminist theory (Hines, 2020). Feminism can ultimately struggle to progress in an ideological and affective landscape that cannot and does not want to include women in politics, however, a more race-sensitive vision of feminism seeks to defend the rights of trans people, set aside of predominantly white, liberal and anti-trans feminism (Dean & Manguashca, 2021).

Gender identity has become a central theme in recent research on political participation, revealing a correlation between female political identity and engagement in political activities. Consequently, future studies on this research topic are likely to be framed under this premise (Dastoori et al., 2022). Moreover, the study's findings underscore the importance of attending to the emerging trans liberation movement, suggesting a need for a reorientation of both clinical and political work. This shift is seen as a means to counteract systems of oppression and domination, aligning with the feminist principle that “the personal is political” (Farr, 2022).

Despite the progress made in recent years in terms of gender equality and human rights, as MacLeavy (2018) explains, entrenched gender roles are maintained to the disadvantage of women, and in general, of the LGBTIQ+ community. Therefore, there is a need to increase activities that raise public awareness of gender conventions rooted in continuing patterns of discrimination. For this, a conception must be given to the terms of reproduction, gender, and sexuality from feminist principles under a consensus that links social justice, gender justice and erotic justice (Corrêa, 2018). Following this analysis, rights-based approaches should guide the repoliticization of gender and identity construction. Under this, the question then arises about the relationship between citizenship and politics and how these can recognize gender and sexuality as inherently political (Crossouard & Dunne, 2015).

As the phenomenon of feminism is taking place in the world, research on the subject is also increasing. In 1980, research related to gender and politics was almost non-existent; with the passage of time they have increased exponentially in a wide range of journals, some of which, in fact, have specialized in the discipline. Such growth has opened the doors to investigate publication patterns and trends in order to broaden and diversify the issue of gender and politics in science (Barnett et al., 2022).

Therefore, it is crucial to emphasize the various waves of feminism. The first wave, epitomized by the concept of “the new woman,” challenged the constraints imposed by the sexist society of the 19th and early 20th centuries. This movement advocated for women's rights to work, study, and suffrage (Malinowska, 2020). Moving forward, the second wave of feminism emerged in the 1960s and extended into the 1990s. This phase heightened researchers' interest in women's participation in politics and campaigned for equal opportunities in education and employment. It addressed critical issues such as maternity leave, birth control, and the right to abortion (Mohajan, 2022b).

At the same time, the findings of previous studies in this field offers a reflection on the position of researchers of women and politics in the social sciences and how historically they have been represented in science as participants in politics (Childs & Krook, 2006). In addition, they support the idea that the patriarchal discourse disseminates, produces and reproduces biased knowledge about the social roles of women, especially in social networks. This demonstrates the need to challenge the discourse and create greater alternatives for political participation and gender equality in all countries (Demirhan & Çakır-Demirhan, 2015).

Regarding the practical implications of this study, the results allow us to identify how the participation of women in politics is perceived from a point of view of social sciences and political sciences. Therefore, decisions can be made regarding the political discourses of feminist activist groups that participate in political movements to argue that, historically, the role of women has been relegated to reproduction, home and childcare. However, the new currents of research that go hand in hand with feminist theories represent an alternative in the participation of women in the creation of public policies aimed at benefiting this group and the LGBTIQ+ community.

Some limitations are also recognized, such as gender bias in academic production. Although it was found that the majority of publications in the field are written by women, it is important to consider whether this bias affects the representation of different perspectives and approaches in the research. The study focused primarily on research trends in countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States, which may limit the representativeness of

perspectives and experiences from other regions of the world where important debates about gender and policy are also taking place.

Another limitation is the lack of intersectional perspectives; although issues such as intersectionality and diversity of gender identities were addressed, there may have been limitations in the depth with which these perspectives were explored, which could affect the full understanding of people's experiences in different contexts. Temporal limitations are also recognized: although the evolution of research trends over time was analyzed, the study focused mainly on the period between 2010 and 2018, which could leave out from the analysis more recent trends that could be relevant. to understand the current panorama of gender and political studies.

Conclusions

The objective of this study has been to analyze, from a general point of view, the behavior of studies in gender and politics in recent years and how it has evolved over time. The results allowed an analysis to be carried out from 141 documents on the subject of gender and politics. The last decade has recorded the largest records of publications on this subject along with the advancement of feminist activism and the participation of women in political decisions in the world. The most productive and cited authors were identified. This highlights the fact that most of the publications developed in this area of knowledge have been written and published mostly by women. Therefore, it has been women who have published the most and who have been most cited.

The most productive and cited countries were also identified and in both indicators the countries of the United Kingdom and the United States stand out, countries that have historically promoted feminism and from there the ideas have spread to other continents. Therefore, they are considered referents on the subject. In the same way, the journals were analyzed. In these, it was found that the most influential are specialized magazines in the discipline of gender and politics. This demonstrates the importance of research on this topic in recent years, becoming a formal field of study.

At the same time, co-authorship networks in the field of study were analyzed in terms of researchers and countries. The collaborations are framed within the themes associated with the discursive policies of gender equality, the participation of women in politics in the European context, the new horizons that political science imprints on the relationship between gender and politics, the gender components and politics in the digital age and in the media world, the genealogy of gender politics, the gender bias in school textbooks, legislative patterns on gender and politics, and the political and gender aspects of international commercialization.

Within the thematic trends, distinct thematic clusters have been identified, offering insights into the patterns observed in current research. These clusters shed light on the nuanced exploration of sexuality and gender identity, particularly in the context of neoliberalism's impact on political and economic realms. In alignment with feminist theory, the concepts of femininity and masculinity are approached with a focus on rights and social, gender, and erotic justice.

Additionally, another thematic cluster focuses on the incorporation of egalitarian gender perspectives. This involves examining the dynamics of representation for historically marginalized populations, including women and transgender individuals. This reflects a shift towards a more inclusive feminism, aiming to address the multifaceted challenges faced by these segments of the population.

Similarly, feminist stances are evident in the pursuit of defending the human rights of individuals who, within the patriarchal social system, have become victims of various forms of violence and discrimination. These experiences have, among other consequences, contributed to migratory phenomena (Magliano & Arrieta, 2021).

In a parallel vein, feminist political movements have advocated for gender quotas, predominantly adopted by nationalist parties, as a strategy to enhance female participation and influence in legislative bodies. The multifaceted factors contributing to gender inequality, such as race, socioeconomic class, age, and sexual orientation, are also underscored within the context of discrimination against women perpetuated by patriarchal discourse.

Moreover, recognizing the geographical dimensions of racism becomes crucial in understanding its impact on the participation of women and LGBTIQ+ communities in collective political decision-making. Regarding the society evolution over time, there is evidence of interest in research on the topics of politics, feminism, sexuality, social networks, and women in the period between 2010 and 2018. Subsequently, the interest gradually leaned towards the feminism issues that are still valid today and arousing interest due to the complexity of nature and the role it continues to play in the fight for the human rights of women and the LGBTIQ+ community. Finally, among the most current and growing topics that could mark future lines of research are political science, global inequality, and intersectionality.

For future research, it is essential to examine the impact of gender quota policies on women's political representation and participation, as well as the dynamics of power and resistance within feminist movements, taking into account the diversity of experiences and perspectives. Furthermore, it is urged to explore the increasingly important role of digital media in shaping public opinion on gender and political issues, and to conduct comparative and transnational studies to understand how gender politics and feminist struggles manifest

and confront different cultural and political contexts around the world, which could enrich the understanding of the complex intersections between gender and politics at the global and local levels, as well as inform policies and actions that.

Limitations of the research are identified, such as gender bias in academic production and a focus on the United Kingdom and the United States, which limits global representativeness. It also notes the lack of in-depth exploration of intersectional perspectives and the temporal focus on the period between 2010 and 2018, which may leave out more recent trends in gender and politics studies.

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