

Race, gender and inclusiveness within political science: *a content analysis of authors' impact
on themes and methods within the journal European Political Science*



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Abstract

Previous studies within the political science field have demonstrated that female authors are more likely than male authors to focus on themes like marginalization and to use qualitative methods. Building upon these studies, this thesis aims to map the inclusivity within the political science field further, using the central theme, the scientific method, and the selected respondents of articles as indicators of inclusive political science. Within this study, these indicators are connected to the race and gender of the authors. Authors of color and female authors were expected to focus in a greater extent on marginalization than their counterparts, as a result of their own experiences with marginalization and their choice of mentors. Furthermore, these authors were expected to use qualitative methods more often, based on the effects of socialization and stereotype threat. A quantitative content analysis, using 557 articles from the journal *European Political Science*, confirmed that authors of color and female authors were more likely to focus on themes like marginalization in their studies and that this relationship weakens over time. Additionally, female authors were more likely to use a qualitative method in their articles than male authors. This implicates that by increasing the share of authors of color and female authors, the inclusivity of political science as a whole will be strengthened, for the themes and methods of research will be more inclusive as well. Further implications of these findings for the inclusivity within the particular journal and the general political science field are discussed.

Keywords: authors' race and gender, choice of theme and method, inclusive political science, quantitative content analysis

Contents

Introduction	5
Theoretical Framework	7
Authors and Themes.....	8
Authors and Methods	8
Authors and Respondents.....	9
Methods and Data.....	13
Research Strategy and Data Collection	13
Operationalization of Measures	13
Methodological Approach and Analyses	16
Ethics and Privacy Statement.....	17
Results	17
Descriptive Statistics	17
Analyses with the Variable Theme	20
Analyses with the Variable Method	21
Robustness Checks.....	23
Discussion	26
Conclusion.....	26
Strengths and Limitations.....	28
Implications	30
Reference List	32
Appendix 1: Checklist Ethical and Privacy Aspects of Research.....	37

Introduction

At the beginning of 2021, approximately a year before I started this research, the journal *European Political Science* published an article on the occasion of its 20th anniversary (Stockemer et al., 2021). The article raised attention to the accomplishments and challenges of the journal over the years. Amongst other topics, the authors focused on the diversity of authors within their journal, specifically the gender diversity. They discovered that more male scholars than female scholars were authors within the journal. This lack of diversity in academic writing is a societal issue as it comprises an absence of inclusivity, with which I mean the practice within the journal of providing equal access to opportunities and attention to people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized. This study will enhance the observations made by the journal *European Political Science* in two ways. Firstly, this study will focus on race in addition to gender. Although attention has been raised to the underrepresentation of authors of color within academia (Alexander-Floyd, 2008; Kamau et al., 2021; Rollock, 2021; Stockfelt 2018; Wong et al., 2020), and the political science specifically (Reid & Curry, 2019), further research on the influence of race on inclusivity lacks. The second addition is connecting author demographics with three other aspects of research, which serve as indicators of the inclusiveness of the political science field. These indicators are the central theme, the research method, and the selected respondents. These indicators are chosen for they can map aspects of inclusivity in academic journals and articles, and combined with author demographics, will be able to give an overview of the inclusivity in the field.

The three indicators each contribute to mapping inclusivity in a different way. First, the central theme can indicate whether researchers, and also the journal, incorporate topics related to race and/or gender. Having topics such as racial bias, gender relations, and minority representation as central themes can increase inclusivity within political science since in these cases the experiences of people of color and females are accounted for. Next, the research

method is also used as an indicator of inclusivity. Qualitative research creates more room for diversity due to it often entails to research and report variations in experiences. Quantitative research, on the other hand, has more of a generalizing nature. As a result, inclusivity tends to be more prevalent within qualitative research as opposed to quantitative research. Finally, the demographics of selected respondents is an indicator of inclusivity in research. Each person experiences social reality differently as a result of their position within it (Cundiff, 2012). Having a respondent set that is equally distributed according to demographics, increases the likelihood of accounting for the experiences of minorities. In this way, it is an indicator of the inclusivity of the field as well. An analysis of the connection between the social identity of authors and the three aforementioned indicators will lead to an overview of the relationships within inclusive academic scholarship, hence it will give more insight into the linkages between the indicators and the different aspects of an author's identity. Ultimately, this analysis might even contribute to answering the question how inclusivity in academic writing could increase.

Researching these relationships is important, not only regarding its scientific relevance but also for the sake of our society. Unequal distributions of themes, methods, and respondents, lead to skewed results within political scientific research, decreasing the credibility and validity of scientific results as a consequence. This could directly lead to the development of less effective policies. With this study, more knowledge of how indicators of inclusivity are connected to the social identity of authors is gained. By doing so, this study could provide more tools and ways to increase inclusivity within the field and help combatting potentially skewed results and less effective policies.

The scientific relevance of this study mainly consists of the way this research approaches inclusivity, as it encompasses three aspects of research and connects this with the race and gender of the authors. Previous studies in the political science field found a link between the gender of authors and research themes (Breuning & Sanders, 2007; Key & Sumner,

2019; Shames and Wise, 2017), and between the gender of authors and scientific methods (Breuning & Sanders, 2007; Evans & Moulder, 2011; Key & Sumner, 2019; Shames & Wise, 2017; Teele & Thelen, 2017). However, the relationship between the gender of authors and the selected respondents is less researched, although found in other fields (Cundiff, 2012; Hughes, 2005). Moreover, research regarding the influence of racial demographics of authors in political science is scarce. By studying the relationships between the race and gender of authors and the three described indicators, this thesis can hopefully contribute to filling this gap within literature, and provide tools to measure inclusivity in academic research on a broader scale.

The aim of this thesis is to gain more insight into the inclusiveness of the political science field. It does so by connecting three indicators of inclusive science with demographics of the authors. This leads to the central research question: ‘Does higher representation of authors of color and female authors lead to more inclusive political science, regarding a) central themes, b) research methods and c) selected respondents?’. This research question will be answered by conducting a quantitative content analysis, using articles published in the journal *European Political Science* from 2012 through 2022. Regarding the rest of the thesis, first the theoretical framework is outlined, including the formulation of hypotheses. Afterward, the used methods and data are described, whereafter the outcomes of the analyses are set out in the result section. In the end, a discussion of those results is provided.

Theoretical Framework

In this section, each indicator of inclusivity is related to the demographics of the authors. The provided theoretical considerations for these relationships are not tested in this study, but serve as argumentation and lead to the formulation of hypotheses. Afterward, the effects of time and intersectionality on the relationships are described. In the end, the theoretical framework is displayed graphically in conceptual models.

Authors and Themes

As mentioned in the introduction, this study focuses on the specific topics race and gender. According to previous research within political science, female authors are more likely to have these topics as their central theme than male authors (Breuning & Sanders, 2007; Key & Sumner, 2019; Shames & Wise, 2017). Studies regarding the relationship between the race of authors and the research themes could not be found, but theoretical argumentations for a possible link will be included next.

This study uses two perspectives which can explain a race and gender variation. According to previous research, authors of color and female authors could be more interested in issues such as identity and marginalization due to their own experiences (Shames & Wise, 2017). As a consequence, those authors are expected to be more likely choosing a topic like race or gender for their research than white or male authors do. For example, an author of color could perhaps have experiences with racism, which could lead them to be more aware of and interested in marginalization, and choose a theme related to this. The second reasoning is called the mentorship perspective, which entails that students more often choose a mentor that shares demographical factors with them. Students are often likely to focus on themes their mentor is interested in, causing the variation to become self-perpetuating. This is found for female students (Bos & Schneider, 2012), but could also be applied to students of color. Altogether, the two theories lead to the following hypothesis (H1): female authors (a) and authors of color (b) more often have race and/or gender as their central theme than white and male authors do.

Authors and Methods

The second relationship entails the influence of the race and gender of authors on the choice of scientific method. Previous studies show that within the political science field, female authors tend to use a qualitative approach more often than male authors (Breuning & Sanders, 2007; Evans & Moulder, 2011; Key & Sumner, 2019; Shames & Wise, 2017; Teele & Thelen,

2017). In the following, possible reasons for this variation are explicated. Studies on the race of authors and the method they use could not be found, but the theoretical considerations on a possible link will be presented.

Starting off with the argumentation for the gender variation, for which the socialization of female authors could be used. Females are more likely to be socialized into being less entitled and less capable to practice math, which can cause them to be less inclined to conduct quantitative research than males do, due to the mathematical nature of that approach (Shames & Wise, 2017). Moreover, females typically communicate on a more in-depth level than males (Wu & McLaughlin, 2013; Yilmaz et al., 2011), which could be derived from their socialization to attain more communicative qualities. Because these skills are often useful for research with a qualitative method, female authors are expected to be more likely to conduct this type of research. Regarding racial differences, the theory of stereotype threat could be explanatory. This theory entails that individuals from stigmatized groups are afraid that their behavior might confirm negative stereotypes imposed upon their group, and experience anxiety. Research demonstrates that ethnic minorities experience this type of anxiety when it comes to math (Beasley & Fischer, 2012; Osborne, 2001). In this way, authors of color are expected to conduct more qualitative research than white authors, for that research needs less mathematical skills than quantitative research. The explanations lead to the formulation of the next hypothesis (H2): female authors (a) and authors of color (b) more often use qualitative methods than white and male authors do.

Authors and Respondents

The influence of the race and gender of the authors on demographics of their selected respondents is the last researched link. Literature on this relationship is scarce. Research in other fields reveals that female authors more often enclose female respondents in their research

than male authors (Cundiff, 2012; Hughes, 2005). In the following, some reasons are provided why this relationship could be found, as well as for authors of color and respondents of color.

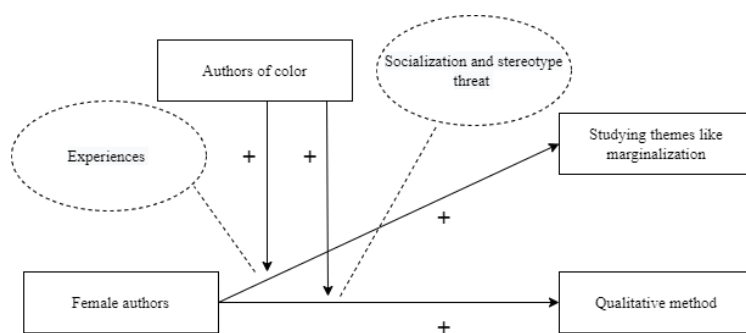
Two theories are used to substantiate a possible relationship. The first reasoning on why authors would have more respondents that share demographics with them, refers to the access of authors to certain groups in society. Authors of color could have more access to individuals of color to take part in their research than white authors, and female authors could have more access to female individuals to take part in their research than male authors. The second theory entails that authors could be more likely choosing respondents similar to them as a result of psychological reasons. The so-called in-group-favoritism, shortly explained as the idea that people tend to favor those who look similar to them (Everett et al., 2015), could lead to authors selecting respondents that are like them. These two reasonings result in the following hypothesis (H3): authors of color have more respondents of color in their sample than white authors (a); female authors have more female respondents in their sample than male authors (b).

So far, the influence of the race and gender of authors on the themes, methods, and respondents are theorized and the resulting hypotheses are shown. In addition, two more relationships will be examined. The first one regards the interaction between the gender and race of the author set, which follows from an intersectional approach. Intersectionality entails that social reality of an individual is represented by the interaction, instead of the isolation, of axes of their identity (Carbado et al., 2013; Crenshaw, 1989). This idea is applied to the first two hypotheses in the following way. Firstly, female authors of color would be more likely to focus on topics like marginalization, not only because of them being a women or of color, but due to the interaction of their race and gender. Their experiences with marginalization, the base for this hypothesis, would be different and probably more prevalent, causing them to be more likely to focus on such topics than white female authors or male authors of color. Secondly, female authors of color would be more likely to use qualitative methods, not only because of them being a women

or of color, but due to the interaction of their race and gender. The arguments why female authors would be less likely to conduct quantitative research interact with the arguments for why authors of color would be less likely to. A female author of color would maybe have more experiences with socialization and experiences of anxiety, not only because of her race or gender, but because of the interaction. This would lead them to be more likely to use qualitative methods than white female authors or male authors of color. These considerations lead to the following hypothesis (H4): the relationships formulated in H1 (a) and H2 (b) are stronger for female authors of color than for male authors of color or white female authors. Figure 1 illustrates this interaction effect.

Figure 1

The Conceptual Model of the Interaction Effect between Gender and Race

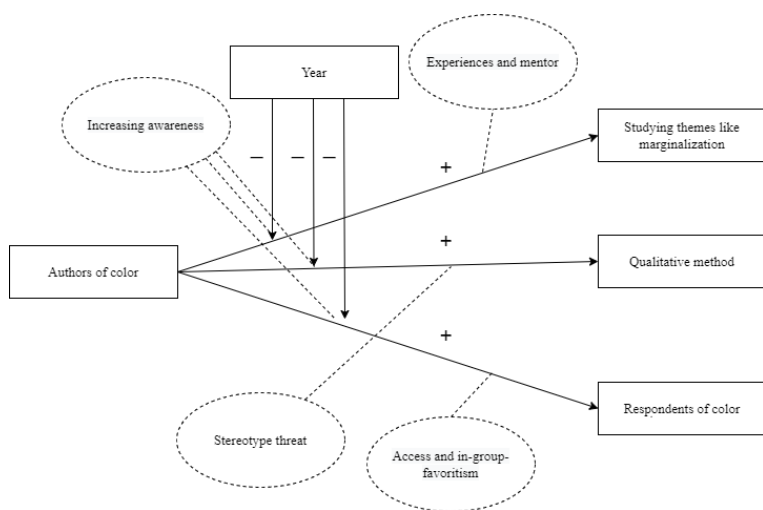


The second influence on the relationships focuses on changes over time. Due to increasing attention for diversity, the theorized relationships could be changing. For example, the Black Lives Matter Movement increased the attention to white privilege in society (Sobo et al., 2020), and gained more attention within academia as well (Bell et al., 2021). This could result in white authors being more aware of the influence of race on multiple aspects of life, leading them to focus more on themes like race or gender, or to use qualitative methods. Furthermore, the MeToo Movement raised attention to gender differences, which has influenced the academia as well by raising attention for this problem, see for example Veer et al. (2021). Male authors in that case could be made more aware of gender differences, and

increasingly focus on themes like race or gender, or use qualitative methods in their research. These considerations lead to the formulation of the last hypothesis (H5): over time, the effects formulated in H1a (a), H1b (b), H2a (c), H2b (d), H3a (e), and H3 (f) become smaller. Figure 2 and Figure 3 displays the graphic depictions of the theoretical framework, respectively on the race and gender of authors, including the influence of time on these relationships.

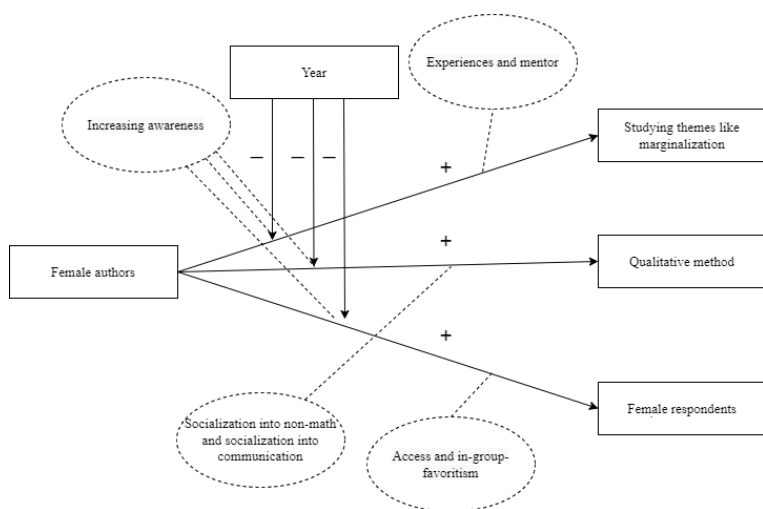
Figure 2

The Conceptual Model of the relationships with Authors of Color



Figure

The Conceptual Model of the relationships with Female Authors



Methods and Data

Research Strategy and Data Collection

In order to answer the research question, a quantitative content analysis has been conducted. In the introduction of this thesis the appropriateness for qualitative research on themes regarding diversity was emphasized. This is however a general hypothesized pattern, and because this study focuses on relationships between variables, a quantitative approach was deemed most appropriate. The data used in this study consists of articles from the journal *European Political Science*. This journal was chosen since the current research aims to extend the beforementioned study, which was conducted a year ago and focused on the gender diversity within the journal (Stockemer et al., 2021). The content analysis consisted of articles from 2012 until the latest available issue, May 2022. In this way, it was expected enough data would be gained to test differences over time. All articles were found on the website of the journal. Leaving articles that were announcements or adaptations out of the data set, the total of articles used in the analyses was 557.

Operationalization of Measures

In the following, first the independent variable authors is operationalized, followed by the dependent variables theme, method, and respondents. Since the variables used in this research are relatively new, quite extensive information is given on their operationalizations.

Authors The variable authors is operationalized in the two demographics race and gender. The measurement of race is named Authors of Color, shortened to AC, and the measurement of gender is named Authors Female, shortened to AF. Percentages of zero to hundred are used, with zero percent meaning all authors of an article are white or male, and hundred percent meaning all are of color or female. For example, when from the five authors of an article three authors were of color and two authors were white, the AC was sixty percent. Authors were looked up on the internet and coded based on their photos. Of the 916 analyzed

authors, one author could not be found and received missing scores. Important to mention is the subjectivity involved for this variable, especially for the AC, with the internet as the only source available and only one researcher coding. Furthermore, a dilemma arose during the coding of authors of color. Many scholars, often from Japan, China, or South Korea, did their bachelor in their country of origin. In general, this would make them less treated as a minority, causing the theoretical framework not to apply for them. On the other hand, it is still possible they feel like a minority in the political science overall, and perhaps especially for this journal, which focuses on Europe. This led to the decision to create two variables. One was named after the original variable, authors of color (AC), and this variable excluded the authors of color who studied in their home country. The other one was named authors of color broad (AC-B), and this variable consisted of all authors of color. For example, one author was from China and did her bachelor in China, and worked afterwards at an university in Finland. The theoretical framework of racial variation would not apply that much for her, for it considers marginalization and stereotype threat the reasons for the decision of theme and method. She then is coded as of color for the variable AC-B, but not coded as such for the variable AC. To check whether the AC variable is indeed a more proper way to operationalize this instead of the alternative variable AC-B, checks for robustness were carried out, and the outcomes are demonstrated in the result section.

Theme The central theme of the articles, the first dependent variable, is assessed in the following way. Since this research specifically focuses on the inclusion of race or gender, as described in the theoretical framework, the variable is operationalized into two groups, resulting in a dummy variable. Articles with a central theme of race or gender received a score of 1, and articles with no such central theme received a score of 0. Every article received a score for this variable. An example of a theme with score 1, is the diversity of a particular council regarding ethnicity, since this falls under the theme race. Contrarily, an example of a theme with score 0, is an article that focuses on increasing the motivation of students. Although the authors

incorporated reasons for gender differences in their article, this was not the central theme. However, during coding, similar cases were found in the data, in which race or gender was actively incorporated but not the central theme. This led me to create a separate alternative variable: the mentioning of race or gender.

Mentioning The mentioning of race or gender in an article was operationalized as a dummy variable as well, with code 1 meaning race or gender was mentioned in an article, and code 0 meaning it was not. By mentioning I mean actively incorporating race or gender in the article, instead of a mere mentioning it with or no further information or argumentation. While the first described example still can function as an indicator of inclusivity, the second one does much less. For example, an article that focused on political representation and used ethnicity as a control variable, but only said something about that in one sentence, received a score of 0. However, the example mentioned in the variable theme, received for this variable a score of 1, because it incorporated an argument for possible gender differences. This variable is included as an alternative variable of the variable theme, and a robustness check is carried out with these variables. The findings and interpretations are shown in the result section.

Method The scientific method used in the articles, the second dependent variable, is again a dummy variable. Articles with qualitative methods received score 1, and those with quantitative methods score 0. For example, when in an article the authors made use of in-depth interviews, this was coded as 1, and when they made use of a survey, this was coded as 0. When authors did not focus on a particular method, for example often for reviews or symposia, the article received a missing score. From the 557 articles analyzed, 283 scored missing. Articles with mixed methods were dealt with in the following way. In case the quantitative analysis that was used was very mathematical and quite complex, for example a research that used survey data with multiple interactions complemented with interviews, this was coded as quantitative. This was chosen because the theoretical framework demonstrated that often the complexity of

quantitative research leaves female authors and authors of color to choose for qualitative research. It made most sense then to code mixed methods with complex mathematical analyses as quantitative. Mixed method articles with a much less complex quantitative part, for example, articles that used focus groups, complemented with a small survey, were coded as qualitative.

Respondents The selected respondents, the final dependent variable, was assessed in terms of whether or not it was a representative set of respondents regarding gender and race, creating a dummy variable as well. However, many authors did not use respondents at all, and when they did, often no information was provided on their demographics. In the end, only in 9 articles information was given on the race/ethnicity of the respondents, and 40 on gender. Furthermore, from those last 40 articles, 92 percent was coded as representative. Due to the data not being large nor diverse, I made the decision it was not enough to conduct analyses with this variable, and therefore was left out of it.

Methodological Approach and Analyses

This research followed a quantitative approach. First, each article was coded in accordance with the operationalizations above. To reduce potential biases, the dependent variables were coded first and then the authors were searched on the internet and coded. After coding, multiple analyses were carried out using SPSS. Because the dependent variables are all dummy variables, only binary logistic regressions are used in the analyses.

H1 is tested by using the variable theme as the dependent variable, and AC and AF as independent variables. Likewise, H2 is tested by having AC and AF as independent variables, but with the method as the dependent variable. H3 is not tested due to the described issues with the data. The hypotheses with the moderators are tested in the following way. H4 is tested by running two binary logistic regressions. Both regressions included AF and AC as independent variables, and the interaction variable of AF and AC. One regression had the variable theme as dependent variable (H4a), and the other one had the variable method as dependent variable

(H4b). Next, H5 is tested by running four binary logistic regression analyses. Two of those regressions are done with the dependent variable theme. One analysis entailed the dependent variables AF and AC, and the interaction between AF and time (H5a). The other analysis involved the dependent variables AF and AC, and the interaction between AC and time (H5b). These analyses are done in the same way with the dependent variable method (H5cd), making the total of analyses for this hypothesis four. For each dependent variable, one interaction at a time has been entered in the regressions, since conducting an analysis with all interactions would compromise the results due to the relatively low sample.

Ethics and Privacy Statement

Because this research did not use participants, it is considered to be following the privacy guidelines of Erasmus University. As for ethical considerations, this assessment of gender and skin color of authors could feel narrow and like pigeonholing. However, this is necessary to do to gain more insight into inclusivity within the political field. An ethics and privacy checklist, provided by Erasmus University, is included as Appendix 1.

Results

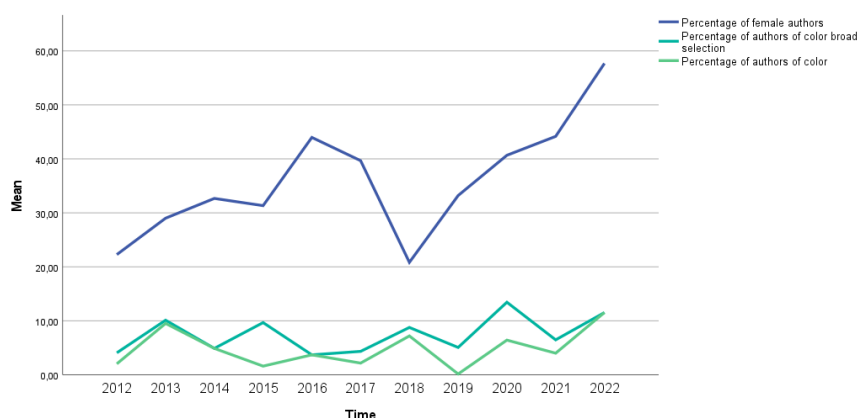
In the following section, the descriptive statistics are shown. The findings for the analyses are presented afterwards, respectively for the variables theme and method. In the end, the results of the conducted robustness checks are demonstrated.

Descriptive Statistics

Graph 1 depicts the mean percentages of authors of color and female authors within the journal *European Political Science* for each year between 2012 and 2022. The overall share of female authors was 34.4 percent. As can be seen from the graph, the share of female authors has increased over time and was in 2022 even over 50%. However, only one issue of that year was published, so these outcomes could be the result of coincidences rather than actual change. Either way, the representation of female authors is getting equivalent to that of male authors.

Graph 1

Mean Percentages of the Race and Gender of Authors over Time



In contrast, as illustrated in Graph 1, the share of authors of color appears to not have changed over time. Furthermore, compared to female authors, deciding whether the number of authors of color is representative of the population is less easy, derived from the lack of a clear percentage of people of color in the European population. This is due to countries not collecting data on citizens with an ethnic minority background (Council of Europe, 2016). On the other hand, in most articles is stated that around 10 percent of the European population consists of people with an ethnic minority background, see for example Morgan (2020). The main variable of authors of color (AC), which excludes authors of color with an Asian background who did their bachelor in their country of origin, made up 6.1 percent of all the authors within the journal. For the alternative variable (AC-B), which comprised a broad selection of authors of color, this was 7.3 percent. These percentages are lower than the estimated percentage of the population, and indicate an underrepresentation of people of color within the journal.

Next, a check for statistical assumptions was carried out, and the distributions for the variables authors of color (AC) and female authors (AF) appeared to be uneven. In order to check for these distributions in more detail, the variable was recalculated in three categories. These consisted of articles that had no AC/AF, articles that had partly authors AC/AF, and authors that had all AC/AF. Table 1 displays the frequencies for the categories.

Table 1*Frequencies of Authors of Color and Female Authors per Category*

	No Authors	Partly Authors	All Authors	Total
AC	522	18	16	556
AF	313	100	143	556

Table 1 shows that most author sets did not contain authors AC/AF. Contrastingly, only a few had a combination of demographics and fell under the category partly AC/AF. This reveals a skewed distribution, and this problem of normality had to be dealt with. I chose to operate the variables as dummy variables, operationalized as score 0 meaning no AC/AF, and score 1 partly AC/AF or all AC/AF. The idea behind this division is that for author sets that contained partly authors of color or female authors, the theoretical bases are expected to still apply since a part of the authors can influence the theme and method. It made most sense to divide the dummy variables accordingly. The following table, Table, 2, displays the descriptives of the variables, including the mean, standard deviation, range, and frequency for each variable.

Table 2*Descriptive Statistics for Each Variable*

	Mean	SD	Range	n
AC	6.12	46.01	0 – 100	556
Dummy AC	.06	.24	0 – 1	556
AF	34.37	42.89	0 – 100	556
Dummy AF	.44	.50	0 – 1	556
Theme	.11	.31	0 – 1	557
Method	.27	.45	0 – 1	274

Analyses with the Variable Theme

Starting with the analyses for the dependent variable theme. Table 3 displays the outcomes of the conducted binary logistic regressions. Model 1 shows the results of the binary logistic regression which tested the effect of female authors on the theme, which yielded a significant positive effect. This means that female authors were more likely to focus on race or gender as their central theme than male authors. Hypothesis 1a can therefore be accepted. The variable authors of color was entered in model 2, and a significant positive effect was found as well. This signifies that authors of color were more likely to focus on race or gender in their research than white authors. Consequently, hypothesis 1b is accepted.

Table 3

Predictor Coefficients for the Dependent Variable Theme

(N = 556)

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
AF	1.85 **	1.88 **	2.31 **	2.72 **	1.94 **
AC		1.31 **	2.68 **	1.36 **	3.08 **
AF * AC			-2.29 *		
AF * Time				-.14 *	
AC * Time					-.31 *

Note. * = $p < .05$, ** = $p < .01$.

After these analyses, binary regression analyses were conducted to test the effect of the moderator variables on these relationships. In model 3 the interaction variable of AC and AF is included, and a significant negative effect is found. This means that the positive effect of AF in model 2 decreases in strength when it is combined with AC, rejecting hypothesis 4a and indicating a different relationship. It implies that female authors of color are less likely than

white female authors to focus on themes like race or gender. Possible post-facto explanations for this finding are an inadequate operationalization of intersectionality, and experienced pressure of female authors of color to conduct research in a particular existing form. These theoretical remarks will be extended in the conclusion.

Next, model 4 includes the interaction between AF and time. The outcome shows a significant negative coefficient, indicating that over time, the relationship between female authors and theme declined in strength. This results in the acceptance of hypothesis 5a. The last model, model 5, entails the interaction between AC and time. This reveals a significant negative effect, which means that over time the relationship between authors of color and the dependent variable theme declined in strength. As a consequence, hypothesis 5b is accepted as well.

Analyses with the Variable Method

Secondly, the analyses with the dependent variable method were conducted. Table 4 displays the results of these binary logistic regressions.

Table 4

Predictor Coefficients for the Dependent Variable Method

(N = 273)

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
AF	.61 *	.60 *	.74 *	1.08 *	.63 *
AC		.78	1.75	.81	-2.28
AF * AC			-1.58		
AF * Time				-.08	
AC * Time					.43

Note. * = $p < .05$.

First, a binary logistic regression analysis was conducted to test the effect of female authors on the dependent variable method. Model 1 demonstrates the results of this analysis, and a significant effect was found. This means that female authors were more likely to use a qualitative method than male authors. This leads to the acceptance of hypothesis 2a. Next, the independent variable AC was entered in model 2. This variable did not yield a significant effect, indicating that authors of color are not more likely to use a qualitative method than white authors. As a consequence, hypothesis 2b is rejected. This could have something to do with the used studies for the stereotype threat theory focusing on students. Since the current research focuses on graduated scholars, the theoretical framework was possibly not fitting. This is more broadly reflected upon in the conclusion.

Afterward, binary regression analyses were conducted to test the effect of the moderator variables. In model 3 the interaction between AC and AF is entered, and it presents a small and non-significant coefficient. This means that the positive effect of AF in model 2 does not change in strength combined with AC, and hypothesis 4b is rejected. Female authors of color are not more likely than white female authors or male authors of color to conduct qualitative research. The theoretical considerations used for the outcome of this interaction with the variable theme, apply here as well. These explanations entailed the operationalization of intersectionality and experienced pressure of female authors of color to fit in a particular norm within academia. This is further explained in the concluding section.

Next, the interaction between AF and time is included in model 4, which did not yield a significant result. This indicates that the relationship between female authors and the dependent variable method did not change over time, resulting in the rejecting of hypothesis 5c. Furthermore, no significant effect was found for the interaction between AC and time, as depicted in model 5. Hypothesis 5d is by that rejected as well. A possible explanation for these outcomes is that the awareness for inclusivity of white authors and male authors, did not result

in more qualitative research because for most authors this is perhaps not an obvious aspect of inclusivity. In the conclusion this is further elaborated.

Robustness Checks

Robustness checks have been carried out for the variables theme and mentioning, and for the variables AC and AC-B. In the following, the results of each are presented.

Starting off with the variables theme and mentioning. Because it was not entirely clear which variable was the best way of operationalizing the thematic focus of authors, the effects on the variable mentioning are demonstrated here to show the alternative operationalization of the variable theme. The variable mentioning is a broader operationalization of the variable theme. Within 137 articles race or gender was incorporated, from which 61 had it as their central theme. The results of the analyses with the variable theme can be found in Table 3, which was presented previously. Table 5 displays the results of the conducted binary regression analyses with the variable mentioning.

Some differences regarding the effects of authors of color and the interactions are found. While authors of color are more likely to use race or gender as their central theme than white authors, this is not the case for mentioning these themes, as can be seen in Table 5. This means that white authors are more likely to incorporate race or gender in their articles, than having this as their central theme. This is important to note, as it illustrates that a central theme is not the only way to increase inclusivity, and the mentioning of race and gender can also be higher for white authors than they having it as their central theme. However, due to the considerations reflected upon in the operationalization, the main findings are done with the dependent variable central theme.

Table 5*Predictor Coefficients for the Dependent Variable Mentioning*

(N = 556)

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
AF	1.60 **	1.61 **	1.73 **	2.00 **	1.64 **
AC		.62	1.33 *	.63	2.11 *
AF * AC			-1.36		
AF * Time				-.06	
AC * Time					-.25

Note. * = $p < .05$, ** = $p < .01$.

A few differences in interaction effects are found. Table 5 shows no significant coefficients in model 3 and 5, while these were found for the variable theme. This could be due to the lack of a relationship between AC and mentioning, which could make an interaction effect also less likely. The interaction effect between AF and time on mentioning, displayed in model 4, is non-significant as well. This indicates that over time, the effect of female authors on the mentioning of race or gender stayed the same, while this effect on the variable theme declined in strength. This is quite remarkably, because an effect would also be expected for the variable mentioning. A possible explanation is that female authors who did not have race or gender as their central theme, did incorporate it in their article, causing the gender variation to stay approximately the same over time for the variable mentioning.

Next, a robustness check is carried out with the two operationalizations of authors of color. Table 6 presents the outcomes of regression analyses done with AC-B, which is the broad operationalization of authors of color. Table 3, 4 and 5, which were displayed previously, show the outcomes with the main variable AC.

Table 6*Predictor Coefficients for Theme, Method, and Mentioning, with Independent Variable AC-B*

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Theme				
AF	1.85 **	1.86 **	2.29 **	1.92 **
AC-B		.74	2.02 **	2.44 **
AF * AC-B			-1.98 *	
AC-B * Time				-.20
Method				
AF	.61 *	.62 *	.61 *	.64 *
AC-B		.62	.59	-.07
AF * AC-B			.94	
AC-B * Time				.13
Mentioning				
AF	1.6 **	1.63 **	1.85 **	1.61 **
AC-B		.93 **	1.65 **	.36
AF * AC-B			-1.42 *	
AC-B * Time				.04

Note. * = $p < .05$, ** = $p < .01$.

Two main findings of the alternative variable AC-B differ with those of the variable AC. Firstly, Table 6 displays a non-significant effect for the variable AC-B on the dependent variable theme, as shown in model 2 of this variable. This effect however was significant for the analysis with the main variable AC, depicted in model 2 of Table 3. Secondly, Table 6 shows a significant effect for the variable AC-B on the dependent variable mentioning, as shown in model 2 of this variable. This effect on the other hand, was non-significant for the

analysis with the main variable AC, depicted in model 2 of Table 5. The differences between the variables AC-B and AC on these two dependent variables, can be interpreted in the following way. Authors of color with an Asian background who studied in their home country, would be less inclined to have race or gender as their central theme because in general they experienced less marginalization than other authors of color. However, they could have experiences of marginalization when being an international researcher, writing for a journal which is focused on Europe. That could lead them to incorporate issues with marginalization in their research, but not have it as their central theme. In the end, these variations are important to depict here, however due to the theoretical framework suits the variable AC better, this has been used in the main analyses.

Discussion

Within this last section, a conclusion will be provided, in which the results are summarized and reflected upon using the theoretical framework and new theoretical considerations. Next, the strengths and limitations of this study are explicated. Lastly, based on this research the implications for the scientific and societal field are described.

Conclusion

A content analysis using articles from the journal *European Political Science* has been conducted to answer the central research question of this research, which was formulated as the following: ‘Does higher representation of authors of color and female authors lead to more inclusive political science, regarding a) central themes, b) research methods and c) selected respondents?’. Due to lack of data, the relationships with the selected respondents could not be studied. In the following therefore, only the results of the relationships with the central themes and research methods are reflected upon. This research demonstrated that authors of color and female authors are in general more likely to focus on themes like race or gender than their counterparts, which matched the theoretical considerations as depicted in the theoretical

framework. These considerations included the influence of past experiences of marginalization and the influence of a mentor on authors of color and female authors, which would lead them to focus more on themes like race or gender than their counterparts.

Furthermore, it was found that female authors were more likely to use a qualitative method within their articles than male authors. This matched the theoretical considerations presented in the theoretical framework, which consisted of the socialization of females in having good communicative skills and less affirmation with mathematical themes, which would lead them to focus more on qualitative research than males. In contrast, authors of color were not more likely to use a qualitative method than white authors. This was expected based on the stereotype threat theory, which encompasses that people of color experience anxiety when practicing math, for they are afraid their behavior might confirm negative stereotypes. An explanation this expectation was not found, is that the literature on the stereotype threat theory focused on students (Beasley & Fischer, 2012; Osborne, 2001), instead of graduated researchers. These studies revealed that minority students who did experience stereotype threat, were more likely to leave university. It is a possibility that people of color that already have become researchers and authors are those who have had fewer feelings of stereotype threat or had ways to combat this, and stayed at the university. Later in their career, they could also have less negative associations with mathematical themes, and as a result would not be more likely than white authors to focus on qualitative research.

This study also followed an intersectional approach, and the influence of the intersection between race and gender was studied. Female authors of color were expected to be more likely to focus on themes like race and gender and to use qualitative methods, than white female authors or male authors of color. However, female authors of color were not more likely to use a qualitative method, and even were less likely to focus on themes like race and gender, than white female authors or male authors of color. This finding can be explained in the following

way. The operationalization of intersectionality is considered to not match the theoretical explanations as depicted in the framework. The variables AF and AC are coded based on the complete author set, and not based on individual authors, which was the starting point of theoretical considerations. In this way, the operationalization of intersectionality was not in line with the theoretical framework. Furthermore, within the political science field, female scholars of color experience being pushed into an existing form of research, more so than for male authors of color or female white authors (Brown, 2019). This entails choosing traditional central themes which could exclude focusing on marginalization, and using a quantitative research method. In this way, female authors of color can be less likely to focus on race or gender or to use a qualitative method than what was expected.

Regarding changes over time, the influence of the race and gender on the choice for a central theme declined. This means that authors of color and female authors show more similarities in their research topics with their counterparts over the years. As set out in the theoretical framework, this could be due to increasing awareness amongst male and white authors to marginalization. These changes over time were not found for the research method, which was expected to be following from this awareness as well. It is possible that awareness only affected the relationships with central theme, for perhaps a more obvious point for white and male authors is focusing on race or gender in their articles when wanting to increase inclusivity. Using a qualitative method can perhaps be considered a less obvious way to do this, which is why the choice of method in relation to the gender and race of authors did not change over time.

Strengths and Limitations

One aspect of this study that can be considered a strength, is the incorporation of both race and gender. Previous research focused mostly on the influence of gender on the choice of theme or method. Connecting the race of the authors with the theme, method and respondents,

was quite explorative and required reflection, adaptations, and transparency over the course of the study. This led to a great social and scientific relevance. Furthermore, although the interaction between the race and gender of the authors did not yield significant results, it did result in the reflection upon the operationalization and recommendations for other research.

On the other hand, this study certainly had limitations as well. Three aspects of this research which can be considered limitations are the lack of attention to the order of authors, the operationalization of intersectionality, and having not enough cases for analyses with the variable respondents. The first limitation of this study entails the lack of incorporation of the order of authors. Generally, the order of authors is a sign of who had most influence on an article, with the first author having most input. By not paying attention to the order of the authors within articles, the results of the relationships could perhaps be different. For example, when within an author set a white author was the first author and an author of color the third, this got in this study the same score as a study in which this was the other way around. Accounting for this difference, like other studies did before (Breuning & Sanders, 2007; Evans & Moulder, 2011; Hughes, 2005), would have strengthened the validity of this research. Secondly, the operationalization of intersectionality can be considered a limitation of this study. This could have been more accurate and fitting to the theoretical framework, because the codes for the race and gender of the authors were according to the author set instead of individual authors. Coding each author separately, could have solved this problem regarding intersectionality. The third limitation involves the lack of data on selected respondents. This is not a limitation in itself, but the number of cases could have been higher if I had checked beforehand how many articles of the journal *European Political Science* did use respondents. It would have been clear beforehand that many articles did not use respondents and another journal with more articles that include respondents could have been analyzed.

Implications

The results of this research imply various things for the wider societal and scientific debate on the inclusion of females and people of color in science. As for the societal implications, the findings indicate that by including females and authors of color, the themes and methods of a journal become more inclusive as well. Authors of color and female authors focused more on themes like gender and race than their counterparts, and female authors were more likely to use qualitative methods than male authors. By raising the share of authors of color and female authors within the journal *European Political Science* and other journals, the inclusivity will be higher on multiple aspects of research. How to do this has been discussed and researched before. According to previous research, the female scholars leaving academia was the greatest cause of the low representation of female authors in the political science field (Cassese & Holman, 2018). It appears that one of the most effective ways of increasing the share of female authors within political science journals, is helping them boost their productivity by introducing peer mentoring writing groups and other mentoring (Argyle & Menderlberg, 2020; Cassese & Holman, 2018). Networking workshops are a valid way as well to raise the share of female authors (Argyle & Menderlberg, 2020). Moreover, research within political science has been conducted as well on how to increase the share of female authors of color specifically. Often this focuses as well on how to keep scholars at the university. Solutions point to networking events focusing on female authors of color (Means & Fields, 2022; Michelson & Lavariega Monforti, 2021). Moreover, regularly monitoring academic climate and providing departmental trainings would be a way to strengthen inclusivity (Alexander-Floyd, 2015). Over time, the relationships on the themes declined in strength, which could be a sign of more awareness among white and male authors. By raising attention for race and gender differences seems to have effect, for the awareness of male and white authors seemingly have risen. Awareness then still needs to be given to these topics, in order to increase inclusivity.

Secondly, based on the findings of this research, three recommendations are made for future studies: research on the mechanisms underlying the relationships; research to the interaction of race and gender within author sets; and research these relationships within other journals, especially on the indicator selected respondents. Firstly, future research must focus on the mechanisms underlying the found relationships. Within this research, the focus was on formulating bases for hypotheses, but not testing these theoretical considerations. Other studies can further unravel underlying mechanisms of the researched relationships. This can be done by conducting interviews with scholars that write for political science journals, to capture the reasons for their interests and methods. In this way, a deeper understanding on these relationships could be gathered and possibly more tools to strengthen inclusivity are provided. Secondly, future research should focus on the interaction between the race and gender of authors, since this research had some difficulties regarding the operationalizations. This can be done quantitatively, using this research as the base. Lastly, this approach could be applied to other journals, for this study only focuses on one journal. Specifically, these studies should focus on the relationship between the race and gender of the authors and that of their selected respondents, since this was not researched in this study resulting from lack of data. When still too little information of the respondents is available, interviews or surveys with authors could be conducted, in which they are asked whether and how they have a representative respondents.

Altogether, this research provided an overview of the inclusivity within the political science field, by connecting three indicators of inclusive science with demographics of the authors. Furthermore, tools for academia are provided on how to increase inclusivity, and various recommendations for future research are made. Although more research is needed to map inclusivity further, this research has increased the knowledge on the impact of authors' on the themes and methods as indicators of inclusivity within the political science field.

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Appendix 1: Checklist Ethical and Privacy Aspects of Research

Instruction

This checklist should be completed for every research study that is conducted at the Department of Public Administration and Sociology (DPAS). This checklist should be completed *before* commencing with data collection or approaching participants. Students can complete this checklist with help of their supervisor.

This checklist is a mandatory part of the empirical master's thesis and has to be uploaded along with the research proposal.

The guideline for ethical aspects of research of the Dutch Sociological Association (NSV) can be found on their website (http://www.nsv-sociologie.nl/?page_id=17). If you have doubts about ethical or privacy aspects of your research study, discuss and resolve the matter with your EUR supervisor. If needed and if advised to do so by your supervisor, you can also consult Dr. Jennifer A. Holland, coordinator of the Sociology Master's Thesis program.

Part I: General Information

Project title: Race, gender and inclusiveness in political science: a content analysis of authors' impact on themes, methods, and respondents in the journal European Political Science

Name, email of student: Fij de Graaf, 625058fg@student.eur.nl

Name, email of supervisor: Jeroen van der Waal, vanderwaal@essb.eur.nl

Start date and duration: February 7th, 2022 until June 19th, 2022 (duration 4 months)

Is the research study conducted within DPAS **YES**

If 'NO': at or for what institute or organization will the study be conducted?
(e.g. internship organization)

Part II: Human Subjects

1. Does your research involve human participants. **NO**

If 'NO': skip to part V.

If 'YES': does the study involve medical or physical research? **YES - NO**
Research that falls under the Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act ([WMO](#)) must first be submitted to [an accredited medical research ethics committee](#) or the Central Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects ([CCMO](#)).

2. Does your research involve field observations without manipulations that will not involve identification of participants. **YES - NO**

If 'YES': skip to part IV.

3. Research involving completely anonymous data files (secondary data that has been anonymized by someone else). **YES - NO**

If 'YES': skip to part IV.

Part III: Participants

1. Will information about the nature of the study and about what participants can expect during the study be withheld from them? YES - NO
2. Will any of the participants not be asked for verbal or written 'informed consent,' whereby they agree to participate in the study? YES - NO
3. Will information about the possibility to discontinue the participation at any time be withheld from participants? YES - NO
4. Will the study involve actively deceiving the participants? YES - NO
Note: almost all research studies involve some kind of deception of participants. Try to think about what types of deception are ethical or non-ethical (e.g. purpose of the study is not told, coercion is exerted on participants, giving participants the feeling that they harm other people by making certain decisions, etc.).
5. Does the study involve the risk of causing psychological stress or negative emotions beyond those normally encountered by participants? YES - NO
6. Will information be collected about special categories of data, as defined by the GDPR (e.g. racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a person, data concerning mental or physical health, data concerning a person's sex life or sexual orientation)? YES - NO
7. Will the study involve the participation of minors (<18 years old) or other groups that cannot give consent? YES - NO
8. Is the health and/or safety of participants at risk during the study? YES - NO
9. Can participants be identified by the study results or can the confidentiality of the participants' identity not be ensured? YES - NO
10. Are there any other possible ethical issues with regard to this study? YES - NO

If you have answered 'YES' to any of the previous questions, please indicate below why this issue is unavoidable in this study.

What safeguards are taken to relieve possible adverse consequences of these issues (e.g., informing participants about the study afterwards, extra safety regulations, etc.).

Are there any unintended circumstances in the study that can cause harm or have negative (emotional) consequences to the participants? Indicate what possible circumstances this could be.

Please attach your informed consent form in Appendix I, if applicable.

Continue to part IV.

Part IV: Sample

Where will you collect or obtain your data?

Note: indicate for separate data sources.

What is the (anticipated) size of your sample?

Note: indicate for separate data sources.

What is the size of the population from which you will sample?

Note: indicate for separate data sources.

Continue to part V.

Part V: Data Storage and Backup

Where and when will you store your data in the short term, after acquisition?

Since the data used in my research are articles from a scientific journal, they are retrieved from the internet. I did start with this in March, and I will save them on my device.

Note: indicate for separate data sources, for instance for paper-and pencil test data, and for digital data files.

Who is responsible for the immediate day-to-day management, storage and backup of the data arising from your research?

Me.

How (frequently) will you back-up your research data for short-term data security?

Every week the gathered data is backed-up, in order to make sure to not lose the progress that has been made.

In case of collecting personal data how will you anonymize the data?

Note: It is advisable to keep directly identifying personal details separated from the rest of the data. Personal details are then replaced by a key/ code. Only the code is part of the database with data and the list of respondents/research subjects is kept separate.

Part VI: Signature

Please note that it is your responsibility to follow the ethical guidelines in the conduct of your study. This includes providing information to participants about the study and ensuring confidentiality in storage and use of personal data. Treat participants respectfully, be on time at appointments, call participants when they have signed up for your study and fulfil promises made to participants.

Furthermore, it is your responsibility that data are authentic, of high quality and properly stored. The principle is always that the supervisor (or strictly speaking the Erasmus University Rotterdam) remains owner of the data, and that the student should therefore hand over all data to the supervisor.

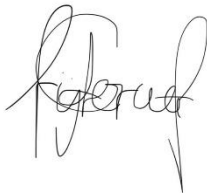
Hereby I declare that the study will be conducted in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the Department of Public Administration and Sociology at Erasmus University Rotterdam. I have answered the questions truthfully.

Name student: Fij de Graaf

Name (EUR) supervisor: Jeroen van der Waal

Date: June 18th, 2022

Date: June 18th, 2022

Handwritten signature of Fij de Graaf in black ink.Handwritten signature of Jeroen van der Waal in black ink.