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# A Proposal for a Modern Measure of Feminist Identity

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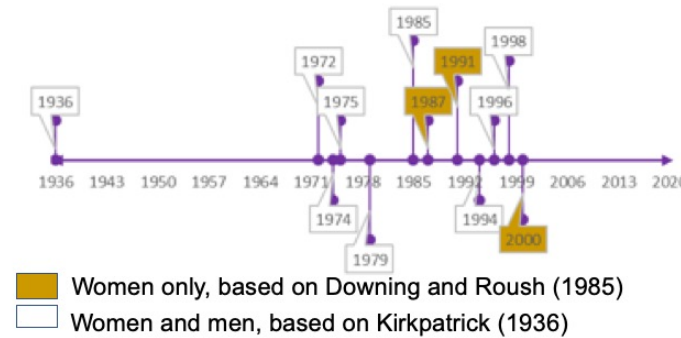
## Introduction

This poster describes limitations of existing measures of feminism and a proposed study to validate a new measure of feminism. Scales measuring feminism must consider the struggles and beliefs of those who do not meet the traditional definition of a feminist. This population includes men, as well as gender non-conforming, transgender, and gender fluid individuals. Our aim is to understand the extent to which current feminism scales measure feminist values among people who do not identify as women, as well as create and validate a new feminism measure designed to measure feminism in all gender identities.

## Background

- Approximately 60% of women identify as feminists (Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation, 2016).
- Figures on feminism in populations other than women are less clear (Tarrant, 2009; Nelson, 2016).
- Previous measures of feminism:
  - Exclude or limit participants who are not female
  - Use outdated language that does not relate to the current society
- Current measures of feminism:
  - Fail to address contemporary gender equality concerns (such as gender rights for non-binary individuals).
  - Continue to exclude men and non-binary individuals from samples.
- Of the 12 measures of feminism researched for this project, only nine were normed on men or individuals identifying outside the gender binary (see figure 1); however, each of the nine is over 20 years old.
- Eight of the scales are based on a study by Kirkpatrick conducted in 1936. Three scales based on recent research (Downing & Roush, 1985) only used female participants (Bargad & Hyde, 1991; Fischer et al., 2000; Rickard, 1987).
- With more people identifying as feminists and the development of the idea that anyone can be a feminist, the measures used for research need to be updated to address gender equality for women, men, and individuals outside of the gender binary.

Figure 1. *Feminism Scales Over Time*



## Participants

- Participants for this study will be ~300 undergraduate students at West Chester University.
  - The process of determining sample size for validation studies is largely unstandardized. However, it is generally accepted that 300 participants are required for validity studies (Roquette & Falissard, 2011).
- Data will be collected primarily through the SONA website during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.
- Undergraduate students are appropriate for this research because of their developmental trajectory.
  - The typical undergraduate student is moving away from home, becoming more independent, and exploring their own values for the first time.
  - They are having new experiences with a more diverse population which could further shape their views.



For references,

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## Proposed Methods

This cross-sectional study will consist of a collection of electronic surveys to ask participants about their gender equality beliefs, views on feminism, and aspects of their identity (such as gender identity and identification with the label of "feminist"). Utilizing quantitative data, the following will be assessed:

- Implicit gender attitudes
- Explicit gender attitudes
- Contemporary gender attitudes

Measures:

1. Likert scales made from 1974-2000 to assess convergent validity as well as discriminant validity.
2. Additional questions help to assess the individual opinions on gender equality and gender roles.
3. Proposed scale to be analyzed with the previous measures.

## Potential Implications

- By evaluating how different measurements assess students' beliefs about feminism and gender, we hope to:
  - gain a better understanding of WCU students' views on feminism
  - improve the understanding of gender equality to improve awareness of gender prejudice on the WCU campus.
- By understanding how people of all genders think about feminism, the field can move toward a more complete understanding of equality, prejudice, and empowerment.
- This study, and the new measure that will utilize gender-inclusive language, will help the field move away from the outdated language found in feminism scales and discussion.