

Feminism is generally defined as the belief that men and women should be treated equally. However, unfortunately, that definition does not encompass the complexity of the ideology. In the current study we examined an ideology called White feminism. This ideology is exclusionary in nature. bell hooks is a woman of color who has spoken out publicly about the exclusionary nature of White Feminism, focusing on the issues that White women face, and ignoring the plight of other marginalized groups of women, describing the ideology as White-centric. Unfortunately, this may have important social implications such that individuals endorsing this White feminist ideology may favor social policies that only benefit White women, ignoring the plight of women of color who face the same issues White women face compounded with racial discrimination. The goal of my research is to create a scale which accurately measures White feminism. In this scale, I am differentiating White feminism from intersectional feminism. Specifically, while the two will likely overlap in some areas (e.g., equal pay for women and men), they will likely diverge in other areas (e.g., support for scholarships for women of color). Data collection is still ongoing. However, based on preliminary analyses for the current abstract, it appears that our data will allow us to identify clusters of feminists, differentiating between White feminists and intersectional feminists.

Extending this research, we predict that these clusters will predict differential support for public programs aimed at promoting the advancement of women generally (which typically take a White-centric focus) versus women of color. We predict that White feminists will have negative views of outgroup members and policies which benefit outgroup members exclusively while having more favorable views of policies that support White women (or that they perceive as not excluding White women). With this research, we can begin to understand the exclusionary nature of historical feminism and the outcomes associated with White feminism. This will allow

us to begin to research ways to dismantle outdated, and potentially prejudicial views in modern feminism. The research could begin to shift the conversation, and give a much-needed, and deserved voice to an underrepresented population.