**Feminist Attitudes of Nonlabelers**

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**Introduction**

Background

There may be differences in women who identify as feminists compared to women who do not identify as feminists, but still hold feminist ideologies, called "nonlabelers". Nonlabelers' ratings of universality, conformity, and tradition are statistically equivalent to those of nonfeminists, while being significantly different from feminists (Zucker & Bay-Cheng, 2010).

Large differences between nonlabelers and feminists regarding participation in activism (Yoder et al., 2011)

Highly significant differences between feminists, egalitarians (nonlabelers), and nonfeminists on several constructs such as rejection of sex discrimination, power discontent, and activism behaviors (Zucker, 2004)

Even within nonlabelers, diversity exists in feminist attitudes (Fitz et al., 2012)

The Current Project

Examined the differences between feminists, nonlabelers, and nonfeminists

Compared the three groups on levels of feminist attitudes

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**Methods**

Participants

- 337 undergraduate college women from two universities
- Age ranging from 18-56 (M=20.51, SD=4.498), primarily European American/White (86.35%) and heterosexual (94.10%)

Measures

- Feminist Identity Composite Scale
- Core feminist beliefs
  - "Girls and women have not been treated as well as boys and men in our society"
  - "Women and men should be paid equally for the same work"
  - "Women's unpaid work should be more socially valued"
- Create three statuses
  - Feminists: identify as feminists and agree with three beliefs
  - Nonlabelers: do not identify as feminists but agree with three beliefs
  - Nonfeminists: do not identify as feminists and disagree with at least one belief

Procedure

Participants signed up to participate for extra credit in psychology classes and completed the surveys online

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**Results**

MANOVA found significant differences among feminists, nonlabelers, and nonfeminists on the FIC subscales, F(2, 285) = 21.862, p < .001, Wilks's lambda = .56, η² = .249

One-way ANOVAs and Tukey post-hoc tests showed differences on all subscales (See Table 1 and Figure 1)

- Nonlabelers and nonfeminists higher in PA than feminists, F(2, 334) = 34.572, p < .001, η² = .172
- Feminists higher in REV than nonlabelers and nonfeminists, nonfeminists higher than nonfeminists, F(2, 334) = 56.016, p < .001, η² = .251
- Feminists score higher in EE than nonlabelers and nonfeminists, nonfeminists higher than nonfeminists, F(2, 334) = 54.138, p < .001, η² = .245
- Feminists higher in SYN than nonlabelers and nonfeminists, F(2, 334) = 7.578, p < .001, η² = .043
- Feminists higher in AC than nonlabelers and nonfeminists, nonfeminists higher than nonfeminists, F(2, 334) = 61.508, p < .001, η² = .269

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**Conclusions**

Discussion:

Nonlabelers fall between nonfeminists and feminists, but are more like nonfeminists regarding accepting traditional roles, denying that sexism is a problem, and the idea of individualism

One possibility for why nonlabelers are more like nonfeminists in several areas is that nonlabelers may lack personal negative experience regarding sexism

Nonlabelers commonly believe in equality, but some may think that women are already equal and that sexism is no longer an existing problem

The belief in equality could be why nonlabelers differ from nonfeminists on Revelation, Embeddedness-Emanation, and Active Commitment

Application:

- Helping to understand the difference and similarities between feminist, nonlabelers, and nonfeminists
- Understanding the difference between feminist attitudes and feminist identity
- Applying to women's well-being
- Exploring possible attitudes and identities with clients

Future Research:

- Exploring why feminists and nonlabelers differ
- Examining what experiences are correlated with a feminist versus a nonlabeler identity
- Testing whether nonlabelers have different or less experience with sexism than feminist
- Looking at different measures of feminist attitudes to see how feminists, nonlabelers, and nonfeminists differ
- Wider sample involving feminist views outside of college women

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**Table 1: Means and Standard Deviations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Feminists</th>
<th>Nonlabelers</th>
<th>Nonfeminists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passive Acceptance</td>
<td>2.59</td>
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<td>Revelation</td>
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<td>Active Commitment</td>
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</tbody>
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**References**