The Relationship Between Political Efficacy and Online Political Participation Among Women: A Systematic Literature Review

Hubungan Antara Efikasi Politik dan Penglibatan Politik Atas-Talian Dalam Kalangan Wanita: Suatu Soroton Kajian Sistematik

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Abstract: Despite persistent challenges in women's political participation, online political participation (OPP) has created new opportunities, with women's efficacy in changing political processes. However, the results of the studies on OPP and political efficacy (PE) among women are varied. While existing literature suggests a strong correlation between political efficacy (PE) and OPP behaviours, a systematic analysis of women as a marginalised group is lacking. This study addresses this gap by critically examining the types, theories, variables, and research frameworks related to PE and OPP among women, aiming to construct a comprehensive causal framework. Using the PRISMA, the researchers systematically reviewed ten peer-reviewed articles (2014-2023) from Web of Science (WOS) and Scopus. The analysis revealed diverse dimensions of PE and OPP. PE encompassed internal (IPE), external (EPE), online (OPE), and collective political efficacy (CPE), with IPE most frequently studied. OPP behaviours were categorised into active and passive forms, with online political expression predominating. The theoretical frameworks covered five theories across psychology, political science, and mass media. Results indicated that while OPP did not predict PE, PE significantly predicted OPP. The study identified differences based on democratic contexts, suggesting the need for subtle approaches in future. This review contributes to the field by synthesising current knowledge, elucidating the interplay of relevant variables, and highlighting critical gaps in the literature. By providing a holistic understanding of the PE-OPP relationship among women, this study offers valuable insights for researchers and policymakers.

Keywords: Online political participation, political efficacy, systematic literature review (SLR), women;

Abstrak: Terdapat cabaran berterusan penglibatan politik dalam kalangan wanita, tetapi penglibatan politik dalam talian (OPP) telah mencipta peluang baharu, bersama efikasi wanita dalam mengubah proses politik. Walau bagaimanapun, terdapat dapatan kajian berbeza mengenai penglibatan politik dalam talian dan keberkesanan politik (PE) dalam kalangan wanita. Kajian sedia ada mencadangkan korelasi yang tinggi

antara efikasi politik dan tingkah laku penglibatan politik dalam talian, namun analisis sistematik mengenai wanita sebagai golongan terpinggir masih terhad. Kajian ini menangani jurang ini dengan mengkaji jenis, teori, pembolehubah, dan rangka kerja penyelidikan yang berkaitan dengan keberkesanan politik dan penglibatan politik dalam talian dalam kalangan wanita, secara kritis untuk membina rangka kerja penyebab yang komprehensif. Pengkaji menggunakan PRISMA untuk membuat sorotan sistematik ke atas sepuluh artikel yang telah dikaji semula secara setara (2014-2023) daripada Web of Science (WOS) dan Scopus. Analisis mendedahkan pelbagai dimensi keberkesanan politik dan penglibatan politik dalam talian. Keberkesanan politik merangkumi keberkesanan dalaman (IPE), luaran (EPE), dalam talian (OPE) dan keberkesanan politik kolektif (CPE), di mana keberkesanan politik dalaman adalah aspek yang paling kerap dikaji. Tingkah laku penglibatan politik dalam talian dikategorikan kepada aktif dan pasif, dengan keutamaan kepada ekspresi politik dalam talian. Rangka kerja teori pula merangkumi lima teori merentasi bidang psikologi, sains politik dan media massa. Hasil kajian menunjukkan walaupun penglibatan politik dalam talian tidak meramalkan keberkesanan politik, ia dapat meramalkan penglibatan politik dalam talian dengan signifikan. Kajian ini juga telah mengenalpasti perbezaan berdasarkan konteks demokrasi dan mencadangkan keperluan untuk pendekatan terperinci pada masa hadapan. Kajian ini menyumbang kepada bidang berkaitan dengan mensintesis pengetahuan semasa, menjelaskan hubungan antara pembolehubah yang berkaitan, dan mengenalpasti jurang kritikal dalam kajian. Ia juga membantu membentuk pemahaman holistik tentang hubungan PE-OPP dalam kalangan wanita dan menawarkan pandangan yang berharga untuk penyelidik dan penggubal dasar.

Kata kunci: Penglibatan Politik Atas Talian, Efikasi Politik, Sorotan Kajian Sistematik, Wanita;

Introduction

Over the past decade, the use of digital media for political participation has rapidly expanded (Oser & Boulianne, 2020). This has opened up a number of new platforms for those previously marginalised from offline political participation, particularly women (Alsahafi, 2019; de Vries & Majlaton, 2021; Leggett, 2017). Meanwhile, studies on the differences in OPP due to gender differences have received much attention and debate from researchers (Bode, 2017). The meta-research shows a significant relationship between online political participation (OPP) and political efficacy (PE)(Oser et al., 2022). Surprisingly, the findings on the relationship between OPP and PE among women have varied widely.

Differences in the types of PE and OPP may have led to different relationships in the final validation (Boulianne, 2009; Kenski & Stroud, 2006). Due to varying definitions of OPP, the types have been expanded indefinitely. This is one of the reasons for the various findings of OPP (Ruess et al., 2021; Theocharis & Deth, 2018). Some scholars have measured only passive OPP behaviours, such as online political discussion or expression among women, finding that the relationship between PE and OPP is highly significant(Hu et al., 2021; Lilleker et al., 2021; ULUĞ et al., 2020). Others, however, have examined both active and passive OPP behaviours of women and concluded that PE and OPP are not correlated (Fenn et al., 2023). In addition, different types of PE may impact the relationships. Since PE has been defined as "the feeling that individual political action does have, or can have an impact upon the political process" (Campbell et al., 1954). There are various perspectives on PE measurement(Boulianne et al., 2023). Internal Political Efficacy (IPE) and External Political Efficacy (EPE) are used in many studies (Grasso & Smith, 2022; Lilleker et

al., 2021). Other studies have been conducted from both online and collective perspectives (Lee, 2010; Sasaki, 2016). Women with high Online Political efficacy (OPE) seem more likely to engage in OPP. Nevertheless, women with high EPE are more likely to engage in traditional political participation offline and less likely to engage in OPP. Therefore, different types of PE may also affect the results. Moreover, the theories used for PE and OPP can lead to changes in causal relationships. The civic volunteer model considers psychological engagement as a prerequisite for political participation, and women's PE determines whether they participate in OPP (Grasso & Smith, 2022). Some scholars, however, have relied on social cognitive theory to argue that the OPP behaviour of women can contribute to their psychological perception of the impact on the political process (Guo, 2022; Reich & Bachl, 2023).

Therefore, the current study aims to provide an established knowledge base by conducting a systematic literature review (SLR) on the relationship between PE and OPP among women. The SLR is "a review of a formulated question that uses systematic and explicit methods to identify, select, and critically appraise relevant research, and to collect and analyse data from the studies included in the review" (Wright et al., 2007). As a result, SLR is a process that objectively analyses, chooses and evaluates past research to answer a study's topic (Mohamed Shaffril et al., 2020). A protocol or strategy for SLR is set prior to the review process. A coordinated, transparent technique is used to search different databases. It is possible for other researchers to duplicate and repeat a similar procedure. It employs an exhaustive search method that enables researchers to respond to a specific topic (Bramer et al., 2018).

Some review studies have attempted to examine the relationship between PE and OPP. Nevertheless, the focus has not been on women as a specific group in OPP. For example, in the meta-analysis of the relationship between PE and online and offline political participation, it was found that OPP, like offline political participation, can be correlated with both internal political efficacy (IPE) and external political efficacy (EPE) (Oser et al., 2022). Similarly, Boulianne et al.'s (2023) meta-analysis and systematic review of the relationship between PE and digital media usage demonstrated that online information contributes to PE, which leads to OPP (Boulianne et al., 2023). Whereas these studies have shown a high correlation between PE and OPP, they have overlooked marginalised groups in OPP. Due to obstacles such as cultural and structural aspects, women tend to have lower levels of OPP than men (Gerards & Xenidis, 2021; Han, 2018). The PE and political participation among women should be highlighted (Deth, 2001; Verba et al., 1997). Furthermore, their PE includes not only IPE and EPE but also the online political efficacy (OPE) and collective political efficacy (CPE) of feminists in social media nowadays when engaging in online collective political actions(Hoffmann & Lutz, 2021; ULUĞ et al., 2020). These characteristics of women's OPP and PE urgently require researchers to conduct an SLR.

Throughout this research, the following broad study issues are addressed:

1. What are the types of PE and OPP among women identified in previous studies?
2. What are the theories of PE and OPP among women proposed in previous studies?
3. What are the relationships between PE and OPP among women in previous studies?

To advance current knowledge, this study conducts an SLR on the types, theories or models, and relationships between women's OPP and PE. The SLR protocol is specified in the methodology section before the review process.

Methodology

This study used the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) as review methodology. The employed retrieval procedure is shown in Figure 1. Resources Web of Science and Scopus were the two well-known databases used in this investigation. The academic journals in the databases were searched using the Population, Exposure, Comparison, Outcome (PECO) format to identify articles that obtained the keywords(Counsell, 1997; Morgan et al., 2018).
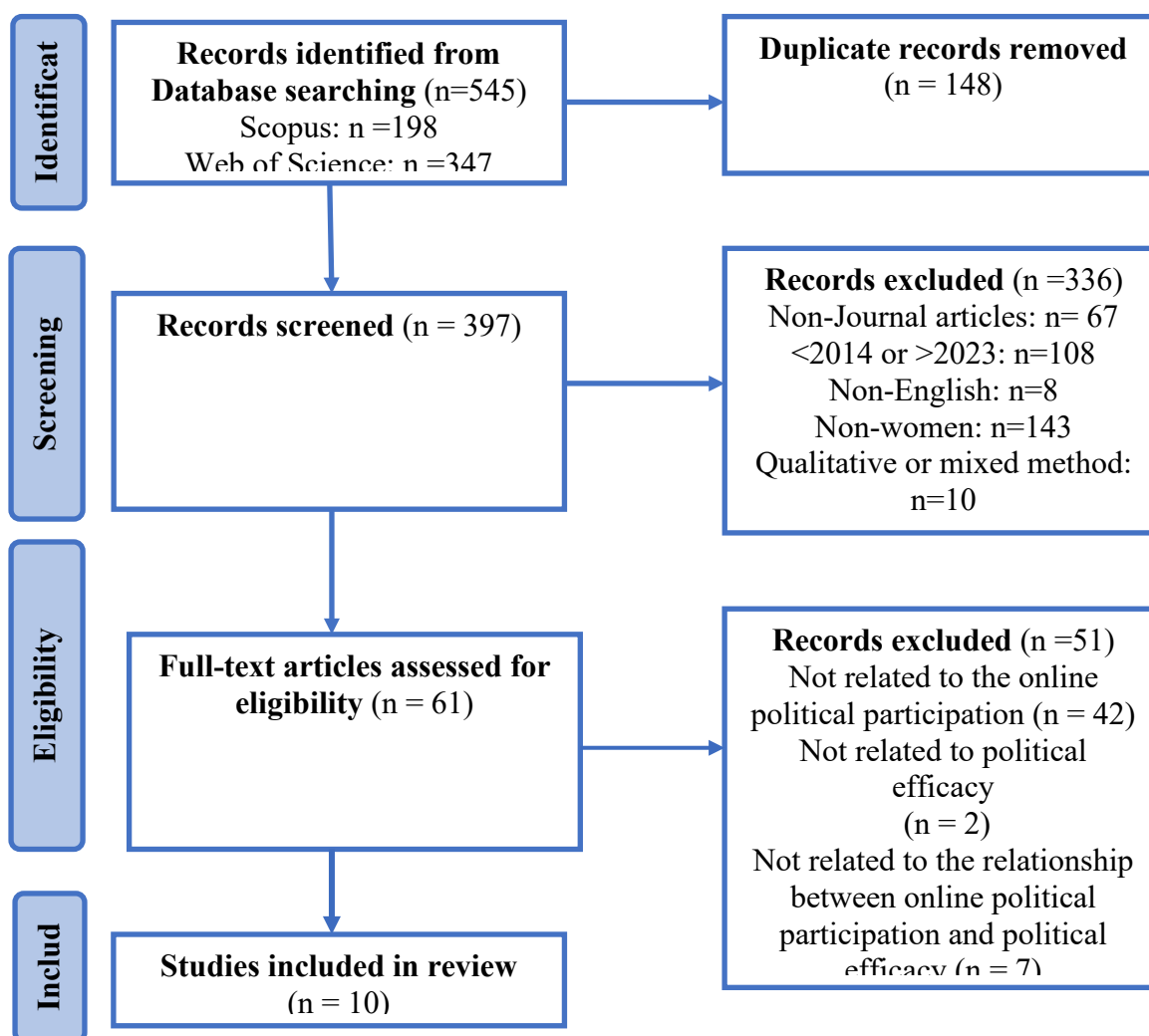
Identification

The identification phase is a process that searches for synonyms, related terms and various terms related to the main keywords in this study, which are women, online political participation, and political efficacy. Previous studies, thesauruses, dictionaries, and keyword synonyms suggested by databases enriched the main keywords and provided a list according to Table 1. Using the Boolean operator (OR, AND), the first stage was conducted in June 2024, which retrieved 198 documents from Scopus and 347 from WOS. After the automated tool Zotero removed de-duplicating items, 397 valid documents remained.

Table 1. Databases, keywords and information search strategy

Databases	Keywords
Scopus	TITLE-ABS-KEY((women OR woman OR female OR feminist OR gender) AND ("social media" OR "digital media" OR Internet OR online OR "social network") AND ("political participation" OR "political engagement" OR "political involvement" OR "civic participation" OR "civic engagement" OR "civic involvement" OR "public participation" OR "public engagement" OR "public involvement" OR protest OR volunteer OR "political discussion" OR "political expression") AND efficacy)
Web of Science	TS=((women OR woman OR female OR feminism OR gender) AND ("social media" OR "digital media" OR Internet OR online OR "social network") AND ("political participation" OR "political engagement" OR "political involvement" OR "civic participation" OR "civic engagement" OR "civic involvement" OR "public participation" OR "public engagement" OR "public involvement" OR protest OR volunteer OR "political discussion" OR "political expression") AND efficacy)

Figure 1. Flow PRISMA diagram for the process adapted from Page et al. (2021)

Screening

The 397 articles selected in the identification have reached the screening stage. Table 2 shows five selection criteria chosen by the SLR. Due to the past decade's advancements in digital technology and significant social movements like #MeToo have fundamentally transformed women's OPP, necessitating a focus on recent literature to understand these changes (Jackson et al., 2020; Theocharis & Deth, 2018). The timeline was within control for a decade, from 2014 to 2023. Only English-language publications were included to overcome language barriers and minimise distortions of meaning caused by translation. The publications that mentioned "women" or "gender" as the study's subject were included since the focus of the study was women. The articles utilising quantitative research approaches were considered since the aim was to explore the causal framework. Overall, 61 articles were identified for eligibility.

Table 2. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Criterion	Included	Excluded
Timeline	2014-2023	<2014 or >2023
Literature type	Journals (research articles)	Review journals, books, preprints, book chapters, series, lecture notes, dissertations or theses, and conference proceedings
Language	English	Non-English
Research object	Women	Non-women

Research method	Quantitative	Qualitative or mixed methods

Eligibility

In the third step of the process, the researcher reviewed the title, abstract, findings, and discussions to determine whether the article was relevant to the needs of the study. Fifty-one articles were excluded for failing to meet the requirements. These articles were disqualified because they did not address the causal relationship between the two variables or exclusively addressed the OPP or PE. As a result, only ten selected articles eventually proceeded with the review process.

Result

Types

The ten selected articles included four main categories of PE: IPE and EPE, IPE only, EPE only, OPE only and CPE only in Table 3. Four studies used IPE and EPE as types of PE for women, and three studies used only IPE. In addition, the three remaining studies focused on EPE, OPE, and CPE. Two were cross-national studies: Nine European countries(Grasso & Smith, 2022), the USA, the UK and France (Lilleker et al., 2021). Three studies were conducted in the USA(Fenn et al., 2023; Hu et al., 2021; Hynes et al., 2022), and three studies were conducted in Germany (Heger & Hoffmann, 2021; Hoffmann & Lutz, 2021; Reich & Bachl, 2023). One study was conducted in China (Guo, 2022), and one in Turkey. Of the 15 articles, one was published in 2020, four in 2021, three in 2022, and two in 2023.

Table 3. Political efficacy types

No	Title	Reference	PE Type	Country
1	Civic Engagement and Well-Being Among Noncollege Young Adults: Investigating A Mediation Model	(Fenn et al., 2023)	IPE	The USA
2	Do Sexist Comments Hinder Participation in Online Political Discussions? :A Preregistered Experiment	(Reich & Bachl, 2023)	IPE	Germany
3	Tweeting And Retweeting: Gender Discrepancies in Discursive Political Engagement and Influence on Twitter	(Hu et al., 2021)	IPE&EPE	The USA
4	Gender Inequalities in Political Participation and Political Engagement Among Young People in Europe: Are Young Women Less Politically Engaged Than Young Men?	(Grasso & Smith, 2022)	IPE&EPE	Europe (France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, The UK)
5	How Does Social Media Influence Young Chinese Females' Government Trust? A Chain Mediation Study Compared with	(Guo, 2022)	EPE	China

Young Male Group

6	Post Or Protest? : Factors Influencing White Women's Engagement in Activism	(Hynes et al., 2022)	IPE	The USA
7	Feminism! What Is It Good For? The Role of Feminism and Political Self-Efficacy in Women's Online Political Participation	(Heger & Hoffmann, 2021)	IPE&EPE	Germany
8	Digital Divides in Political Participation: The Mediating Role of Social Media Self-Efficacy and Privacy Concerns	(Hoffmann & Lutz, 2021)	OPE	Germany
9	Women Learn While Men Talk? : Revisiting Gender Differences In Political Engagement in Online Environments	(Lilleker et al., 2021)	IPE&EPE	The USA, The UK and France
10	Voices Against Misogyny in Turkey: The Case of A Successful Online Collective Action Against A Sexist Commercial	(ULUĞ et al., 2020)	CPE	Turkey

Regarding the types of OPP behaviour, six of these articles dealt with active participation in women's OPP (see Table 4). Each of the four articles focused on women's OPP on contacting and communal as the two most popular types. Comparatively, consumerism was the most neglected, with only two articles addressing political boycotts or consumerism. Passive OPP was the type of behaviour most often used, with all ten articles addressing political expression, while the four articles focused on discussion and the three articles focused on online news attention. The specific actions of OPP are summarised in Table 5. The most common OPP behaviours were online political expression, including six actions; political party campaigning with four actions; and contacting, communal and political discussion with three actions each. Protest, political consumerism, and news attention each had two behaviours.

Table 4. Online political participation types

References	Active Participation					Passive Participation		
	Party Campaign Activities	Protest	Contacting	Communal	Consumerism	News Attention	Discussion	Expression
1	√		√	√		√		√
2							√	√
3								√
4	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
5	√		√					√
6		√			√			√
7		√	√	√			√	√
8				√				√
9						√		√
10							√	√
Total	3	3	4	4	2	3	4	10

Table 5. Online political participation actions

Active Participation						Passive Participation	
Party Campaign Activities	Protest	Contacting	Communal	Consumerism	News Attention	Discussion	Expression
Following a political account online	Signing a petition or public letter online	Contacting a political account online	Starting a political group online	Buying products for political or ethical reasons online	Searching for information about a political issue online	Discussing political issues on social media platforms	Posting political content on online platforms
Donating money to a political organisation or party online	Attending the rally or protests about political issues online	Visiting a political account online	Founding political groups online.	Boycotting certain products for political or ethical reasons online	Visiting the website of a political party or a politician	Discussing political issues on websites of newspapers, TV shows, or radio broadcasts	Forwarding, sharing, replying to, commenting, liking political content on online platforms
Calling/Texting for a political or social group or candidate		Participating in virtual events (conferences or live chats) with a social organisation leader, politician, or government official	Joining a political group online			Discussing political issues in political groups on social media platforms	Displaying a political or campaign logo or badge on online platforms
Signing a campaign appeal online							Sending an e-mail or e-letter to the editor of a newspaper, radio, or TV

Table 6. Theories, models, and hypothesis

Theories	References	Amount
SCT	(Heger & Hoffmann, 2021; Hoffmann & Lutz, 2021; Hynes et al., 2022; Reich & Bachl, 2023)	4
SIT	(Hu et al., 2021; ULUĞ et al., 2020)	2
TPB	(Guo, 2022)	1
CVM	(Grasso & Smith, 2022)	1
KGH	(Lilleker et al., 2021)	1
None	(Fenn et al., 2023)	1

Theories

Table 6 summarises the five theories adopted in the ten articles. Four articles adopted the Social Cognitive Theory (SCT). Two articles used the Social Identity Theory (SIT). One used the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB). Meanwhile, Grasso and Smith (2022) used a civic voluntarism model (CVM). The knowledge gap hypothesis (KGH) was used to examine the comparative study of the three countries(Lilleker et al., 2021). Nevertheless, one article did not use theories or models to support the relationship between these two variables.

Relationship

The relationship between women's PE and OPP was divided into two main categories: PE leading to OPP or OPP leading to PE, as shown in Table 7. Three studies hypothesised that women's OPP would result in PE, but all the data results were not supported. The remaining seven articles hypothesised that PE leads to the OPP. There were four papers that dealt with the prediction of OPP by EPE. In these four researches, Grasso and Smith (2022) showed a negative correlation, but the remaining three articles did not correlate. Five articles supported the idea that women's IPE explained their OPP. One supported women's CPE predicted OPP and one for OPE predicted OPP.

Table 7. The variables relationship

References	PE Variable	OPP Variable	Relationship	Result
1	The Second Mediator Variable	The First Mediator Variable	OPP--->IPE	×
2	Dependent Variable	Independent Variable	OPP--->IPE	×
3	Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	IPE--->OPP	+
			EPE--->OPP	×
4	Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	IPE--->OPP	+
			EPE--->OPP	-
5	The Second Mediator Variable	The First Mediator Variable	OPP--->EPE	×
6	Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	IPE--->OPP	+
7	Mediator Variable	Dependent Variable	IPE--->OPP	+
			EPE--->OPP	×
8	Independent Variable	The Second Mediator Variable	OPE--->OPP	+
9	Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	IPE--->OPP	+
			EPE--->OPP	×
10	Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	CPE--->OPP	+

×: The absence of a statistical causal relationship between the two variables.
+: The positive and statistically significant causal relationship between the two variables.
-: The negative and statistically significant causal relationship between the two variables.

Discussion

Types

The systematic review revealed significant differences in the conceptualisation of PE in the selected studies. The categories identified, including IPE and EPE, IPE only, EPE only, OPE only and CPE only, emphasise the multidimensional nature of women's PE in the online arena. This diversity reflects the complexity of women's perceptions of their ability to influence the political process and highlights the need for a profound understanding of efficacy. The prominence of studies that focus only on IPE suggests a focus on women's confidence in their ability in OPP. This emphasis may indicate the importance of self-perception and confidence in influencing women's OPP. Understanding the factors influencing IPE is critical to developing strategies to enhance OPP. The relatively limited focus on OPE and CPE in the literature makes further exploration possible. This calls for a more comprehensive investigation into PE among women.

The analysis of OPP behaviour reveals exciting patterns. Active participation, mainly contacting and communal, emerged as the central theme. The apparent

ignorance of political consumerism suggests a potential gap in understanding women's OPP in economic and consumption-related online activities. The prevalence of online political expression as OPP's most commonly researched aspect demonstrates the importance of digital spaces as platforms for women's voices. This aligns with broader discussions about the democratising potential of online platforms and highlights the need to explore how different forms of expression can contribute to shaping political discourse.

Theories

Since all the literature in the final review was quantitative, it usually follows a deductive approach, where known theories or hypotheses are tested in a specific context (Blaikie, 2000; Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Therefore, five theories are addressed in psychology, political science, and mass media.

Social Cognitive Theory (SCT), formulated by Albert Bandura, assumes a triangular relationship among environmental, personal, and behavioural factors, each interacting reciprocally to form a causal model (Bandura, 1977, 1986, 1991). According to SCT, an individual's cognitive and emotional personality, such as perceived efficacy, and behaviour are reciprocal. Applying SCT in the current study may explain the relationship between efficacy and participation behaviour (Heger & Hoffmann, 2021). Those individuals with socially marginalised identities may feel less validation in their ability to effect change due to past experiences of discrimination within the system they seek to improve. This is particularly disturbing because IPE and EPE have been linked with OPP (Heger & Hoffmann, 2021; Hynes et al., 2022).

Social identity theory (SIT) explains how individuals form their identities, arguing that identities develop through social interactions. Minority groups consciously or unconsciously adapt their language or behaviour to fit the social norms established by the majority group as part of social identity (Palomares et al., 2016). A new model, the Social Identity Model of Collective Action (SIMCA), has been developed based on SIT, emphasising that identity, efficacy, and injustice are critical to collective action (Van Zomeren, 2016; van Zomeren et al., 2008). According to the SIMCA, individuals are likely to fight for social justice if they are aware of some form of injustice in society, strongly identify with the collective representing transformation, and recognise their efficacy in bringing about that transformation. The model is, therefore, often applied to make predictions about the digital collective action of marginalised groups by their efficacy (Thomas et al., 2020; ULUĞ et al., 2020).

The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) is a psychological theory proposed by Icek Ajzen (1985) that aims to connect individual beliefs and behaviour (Ajzen, 1985). It integrates Attitude Intention, Subject Norms, and Perceived Behavioural Control (PBC) to shape individual behavioural intentions and behaviour (Ajzen & Madden, 1986). PBC, comprising self-efficacy and outcome expectations, shapes intention and behaviour. Self-efficacy is the belief in one's ability to perform a behaviour (Ajzen, 1991) successfully. It is essential for behavioural change, as people's actions are significantly influenced by their confidence in their capability to execute the behaviour (Ajzen, 2002; Fenn et al., 2023). This theory elucidates the connection between PE and OPP among women.

The Citizen Voluntarism Model (CVM) proposed by Sidney Verba (1995) is utilised in political science to predict political participation behaviour (Verba et al., 1995). The model's primary purpose is to explore "the reasons why people do not engage in political participation" (Almond & Verba, 1963). It suggests that the absence of resources (time, money, and civic skills), psychological engagement (political interest, political information, PE, and family influences), and recruitment networks constitute political participation barriers. Verba found that among these factors, psychological engagement, especially gender differences in political information, political interest, and PE, contributes significantly to lower political participation among women than men (Verba et al., 1997). Consequently, Grasso and Smith (2022) addressed the relationship between low efficacy and insufficient OPP behaviour among women.

The Knowledge Gap Hypothesis (KGH), also known as the Knowledge Gap Theory, is a mass communication theory that posits that individuals with higher socioeconomic status tend to acquire information from mass media more rapidly than those with lower socioeconomic status (Donohue et al., 1975; Lind & Boomgaarden, 2019). This disparity leads to an increasing gap in knowledge. The hypothesis identifies that communication skills, stored information, relevant social contacts, and information retention contribute to the knowledge gap (Gaziano, 2016; Miyo, 1983; Tichenor et al., 1970). The theory suggests that the uneven distribution of knowledge in society arises from the greater accessibility of information to wealthier and more educated individuals, further widening the knowledge gap. KGH suggests that women may acquire political knowledge at a slower pace than men, potentially reducing women's PE, affecting their confidence and belief in their ability to engage in political participation, and consequently influencing their

OPP (Ahmed & Madrid-Morales, 2021; Lilleker et al., 2021).

Relationship

The results of the variable relationship analysis were in two categories, with three articles hypothesising that increased OPP enhances PE and seven articles hypothesising that an increased PE leads to OPP, demonstrating the diversity of theoretical perspectives. Nonetheless, the empirical studies show significant differences, with the latter hypothesis being confirmed while the former is difficult to prove. This divergence highlights the complexity of understanding the causal relationship between PE and women's OPP.

IPE was found to be a predictor of OPP behaviour. Six articles consistently supported the hypothesis that increased IPE leads to OPP, suggesting the significance of personal confidence in influencing women's participation in digital political activities. Using EPE to predict OPP behaviour is challenging. The four articles that attempted to predict OPP behaviour through EPE encountered challenges, with results showing either insignificant or negative correlations. This finding implies that relying only on EPE may not be sufficient to explain differences in women's OPP. Further exploration is needed to understand the subtle interplay between EPE and OPP. A breakthrough in women's OPE and CPE was identified. Researchers found that women's CPE and OPE predicted OPP, introducing a collective and online dimension to the relationship. This suggests that when women are aware of the collective ability to influence the political process, their OPP positively affects them. Understanding the role of CPE and OPE in shaping OPP is critical to developing interventions that promote women's collective empowerment on the internet.

Conclusion and recommendation

Using the PRISMA methodology, this study provides an in-depth review of the relationship between women's PE and OPP behaviour as constructed by the main types of variables, theories, and models used and the causal framework of the ten articles in the Scopus and WOS databases from 2014 to 2023.

This SLR has meticulously explored the intricate relationship between PE and OPP among women. The multifaceted nature of women's PE, the diverse forms of OPP, and the theoretical frameworks underpinning these phenomena are revealed. By analysing selected studies, this review identifies different types of PE (IPE, EPE, OPE and CPE) and their impact on various categories of women's OPP (passive and active). The findings affirm the crucial role of IPE in promoting women's

participation in the digital political landscape. A search of OPP behaviour reveals a clear emphasis on passive forms of participation, namely political expression, while highlighting the relative neglect of political consumerism. This difference marks a potential pathway for further research into the comprehensive scope of women's OPP. Theoretical explorations covering SCT, SIT, TPB, CVM, and the KGH provide a multidisciplinary perspective for studying psychology, political science, and mass media research. Future research should aim to develop comprehensive models that integrate the core principles of the examined theories. This approach could offer a more profound understanding of the multifaceted barriers to political participation and provide a framework for addressing these issues holistically. Crucially, the relationship between PE and OPP is bidirectional, although the proposition that enhanced PE leads to increased OPP received stronger empirical support. This distinction emphasises the complexity of causality in digital politics and the need for a nuanced understanding and further investigation of the interplay between women's PE and OPP.

Considering these findings, this review calls for a concerted effort to deepen understanding of how different forms of PE influence various types of women's OPP. Future research should bridge identified gaps, such as exploring external, online and collective efficacy, political consumerism, and other under-researched behaviours in online environments. A holistic approach encompassing different theories, models, and hypotheses is necessary to capture the changing nature of women's OPP fully.

In conclusion, this SLR highlights the importance of IPE in facilitating women's OPP and opens new paths for exploring the collective dimensions of political participation in the digital age. By fostering inclusive online political discourse, there is an opportunity to amplify women's voices and ensure their active participation in shaping the political landscape. As the digital sphere continues to evolve, sustained research and targeted interventions are critical to empowering women's OPP and strengthening democratic processes in the digital age.

Finally, the researchers of this study have identified other limitations. This SLR focused only on articles published in well-known databases. Selection bias became a limitation of this study. The researcher believes articles were excluded from this study because they were not published in high-impact journals. Another restriction of this study is the geographical area covered by the selected articles. Most of the articles chosen were concentrated in Western countries, where the origins and rise of the women's movement were centred. It is

recommended that similar studies centred on other perspectives be conducted in the future.

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