# The Course of "Women's Participation in the Olympic Games": Endogenous Power and Future Trend

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#### Abstract

This paper discusses the process and driving force of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" by means of interdisciplinary research and data analysis, and speculates on the future trend. It is considered that the exclusion of women in the early stage of the Olympic Games is a historical mistake. The source power of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" is women's strong pursuit of sports rights and feminist philosophy and its evolution. The evolution of the IOC's policy on "women's participation in the Olympic Games" is in line with the historical law and basically correct. Women's participation in the Olympic Games has achieved basic equality with men But it also paid a heavy price at the expense of "femininity". Logically, it is proposed that "equality between men and women, isomorphism and heterogeneity" will become the main theme in the future, which may lead to the separation of gender systems, appreciate the "more beautiful" side of Olympic women, and there will be a win-win situation for men and women and the Olympic movement.

**Keywords**: "Olympic Games", "Women's participation in the Olympic Games", Feminist philosophy, Endogenous power, Course, Future trend

#### I. Preface

At the beginning of the creation of the modern Olympic Games, women were excluded from the world ideologically and structurally. This is a historical mistake and sorrow. Over the past 120 years, the strong pursuit of sports rights and the beautiful longing for the Olympic Games have prompted awakened women to break through the Olympic Games and ended the history of men's dominance of the Olympic Games. Generation after generation of female athletes and feminists held high the banner of "women's entry into the Olympic Games", comprehensively impacted the male system of the Olympic Games, and finally competed for all major events. The number and number of minor events have been basically equal to that of men, but they also paid a heavy price at the expense of "female characteristics". Reviewing, analyzing and thinking about the process of "women's entry into the Olympic Games" and exploring its source power are of great research significance to the Olympic movement and women's liberation movement.

Most of the existing studies focus on the Olympic Games or women's single perspective, less use of interdisciplinary research methods, and the results are slightly weak" The course of "women's entry into the Olympic Games" itself is a game process between women and the IOC. The policy evolution of the IOC to deal with "women's entry into the Olympic Games" should be a major focus of the research, but the existing research is less involved; The existing studies only demonstrate or explain the causal and corresponding relationship between "women's entry into the Olympic Games" and women's liberation movement from the perspective of subjectivity and sensibility, which is not rigorous enough. In addition, research is not only an analysis of the past, but also an expectation of the future, which is also a special deficiency of existing research. Based on the official data of the IOC, we will try to accurately locate each stage of "women's entry into the Olympic Games" by using data analysis and interdisciplinary research methods; Using the curve coincidence comparison, this paper determines the causal and corresponding relationship between "women's entry into the Olympic Games" and women's liberation movement, explores its source power and traces its historical origin; It also discusses the IOC's policy response to "women's entry into the Olympic Games" and the pros and cons of both sides of the game. On this basis, it is logically proposed that in the future Olympic Games, women's characteristics and talent potential will be developed more reasonably, and human limits will be

challenged with different standards and angles than men. "Equality, isomorphism and heterogeneity between men and women" will become the main theme; the thinking method of dividing one into two, the logic and action of binary separation will be carried out in turn; the phenomena of equality, decentralization and decentralization will occur repeatedly. The weakening of male system and power and the enhancement of female power will lead to the equal distribution of "gender equality" in quality and quantity, and may also lead to the separation of men and women in system; The global audience will cheer with more fervent enthusiasm and appreciate the "more beautiful" side of Olympic women, resulting in a win-win situation for both men and women and the Olympic movement.

## II. ''Women's Participation in the Olympic Games'' is the Most Profound Factor Affecting the Olympic Games

## 2.1 Three factors that have the greatest impact on the Olympic Games

From the historical process of the Olympic movement, the three factors that have the greatest impact on the modern Olympic Games are "women's participation in the Olympic Games", "ice and snow sports participation in the Olympic Games" and "professional athletes' participation in the Olympic Games".

### 2.1.1 "Participation in ice and snow sports"

When the modern Olympic Games were founded in 1896, there were no ice and snow sports. The first figure skating competition in the artificial ice rink was the London Olympic Games in 1908; Ice hockey was added to the 1920 Olympic Games. A large number of enthusiastic spectators who love ice and snow sports express strong dissatisfaction with only two ice and snow competitions. Under the pressure, the International Olympic Committee separated the ice and snow sports of the Paris Olympic Games in 1924 and held the "ice and snow sports week" in Chamonix in winter, that is, the first Winter Olympic Games later recognized. The Olympic Games have been divided into the summer and Winter Olympic Games, and the original Olympic Games have been renamed the summer Olympic Games. Since the first Winter Olympic Games, the number of participating countries and athletes has increased by 5 times and 10 times respectively.

#### 2.1.2 "Professional athletes participate in the Olympic Games"

The ancient Olympic Games highly praised the "amateur spirit" of athletes. The modern Olympic Games advertised the "amateur spirit" as the noble status and prominent status of athletes, and strongly excluded all the working class from participating in the sports of the middle and upper classes. From the founder Pierre de Coubertin to the fifth chairman brendach, they all adhere to the "amateur principle". Thorpe (1912 Olympic Games), once the champion of all-round 5 and 10 events, was recognized as a "professional player" because of his identity, and the champion medal was deprived after the game.

By the 1980s, the Olympic Games had developed into a world event with the largest scale and the highest level in the world. However, the "amateur spirit" principle that professional players are not allowed to participate in the competition excludes the athletes with the tip of the "pyramid", which is undoubtedly not worthy of the name of "the best performance on earth". After two amendments to the Olympic Charter in 1981 and 1990, all the provisions of "amateur spirit" were deleted [1]. Professional ice hockey stars, tennis stars and basketball stars who appeared in the 1986 Winter Olympic Games, 1988 and 1992 Olympic Games won warm applause from hundreds of millions of audiences around the world. More than 30 years of high-level professional athletes participating in the Olympic Games have created an unprecedented prosperity of the Olympic movement. It has achieved the best goal of winwin for hundreds of millions of Olympic spectators and professional athletes.

## 2.1.3 "Women's participation in the Olympic Games"

In the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, all events were men's events, women were strictly prohibited from participating, and the tradition of the ancient Greek Olympic Games was completely inherited. In the subsequent

2nd-4th Olympic Games (jointly organized with the World Expo), although 19, 8 and 36 women participated in informal events (such as archery), the IOC did not recognize it. At the 1920 Antwerp Olympic Games, despite the fact that there were 65 female athletes on the field, Coubertin still stressed that "women's participation in the Olympic Games" was illegal and insisted on expelling women from the Olympic field.

In 1924, the International Olympic Committee first adopted a resolution allowing "women to participate in the Olympic Games" at the Paris plenary session, which was the first official recognition of the opening of the Olympic Games to women. Ten years later, in 1934, skating, skiing, fencing, gymnastics, swimming and track and field officially became women's events at the Athens plenary session of the International Olympic Committee. In 1975, 50 years later, the International Olympic Committee first announced the principle of "gender equality" and declared to the world that male and female athletes should be treated equally. In 1994, at the 100th anniversary congress of the Olympic Games held in Paris, the newly revised Olympic Charter was added to the new entry of "it is necessary to promote women's participation in sports at all levels", and the "women's participation in the Olympic Games" was fully realized.

The scale of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" took 50 years (1896-1956) from 0 women in the first Olympic Games to 10% of the total number of athletes; The proportion increased from 10% to 20%, which took 20 years (1956-1976); The proportion increased from 20% to 30%, which took 20 years (1976-1996); It took eight years (1996-2004) for the proportion to increase from 30% to 40%. In the 2012 London Olympic Games, the proportion of women increased to 44%. Among the 10568 athletes, 5892 were men, equivalent to the total scale of the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games; 4675 women, equivalent to the total size of the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games (see Table 1).

Table 1 Total number of athletes, number and proportion of men and women in previous Olympic Games

| Number<br>of<br>sessions | Particular<br>year | Host city   | Total number of athletes Man Proport |      | Proportion /% | Woman | Proportion /% |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------|-------|---------------|
| 1                        | 1896               | Athens      | 241                                  | 241  | 100           | 0     | 0             |
| 2                        | 1900               | Paris       | 1019                                 | 975  | 96            | 22    | 4             |
| 3                        | 1904               | St. Louis   | 651                                  | 645  | 99            | 6     | 1             |
| 4                        | 1908               | London      | 2008                                 | 1971 | 98            | 37    | 2             |
| 5                        | 1912               | Stockholm   | 2407                                 | 2359 | 98            | 48    | 2             |
| 6                        | 1916               | Suspend     |                                      |      |               |       |               |
| 7                        | 1920               | Antwerp     | 2626                                 | 2561 | 98            | 65    | 2             |
| 8                        | 1924               | Paris       | 3089                                 | 2954 | 96            | 136   | 4             |
| 9                        | 1928               | Amsterdam   | 2883                                 | 2606 | 90            | 277   | 10            |
| 10                       | 1932               | Los Angeles | 1332                                 | 1206 | 90            | 126   | 10            |
| 11                       | 1936               | Berlin      | 3963                                 | 3632 | 92            | 331   | 8             |
| 12                       | 1940               | Suspend     |                                      |      |               |       |               |
| 13                       | 1944               | Suspend     |                                      |      |               |       |               |
| 14                       | 1948               | London      | 4104                                 | 3714 | 90            | 390   | 10            |
| 15                       | 1952               | Helsinki    | 4955                                 | 4436 | 90            | 519   | 10            |
| 16                       | 1956               | Melbourne   | 3155                                 | 2791 | 88            | 364   | 12            |
| 17                       | 1960               | Rome        | 5338                                 | 4247 | 89            | 611   | 11            |
| 18                       | 1964               | Tokyo       | 5151                                 | 4473 | 87            | 678   | 13            |
| 19                       | 1968               | Mexico city | 5516                                 | 4735 | 86            | 781   | 14            |
| 20                       | 1972               | Munich      | 7134                                 | 6075 | 85            | 1059  | 15            |
| 21                       | 1976               | Montreal    | 6084                                 | 4824 | 79            | 1260  | 21            |
| 22                       | 1980               | Moscow      | 5179                                 | 4064 | 78            | 1115  | 22            |
| 23                       | 1984               | Los Angeles | 6829                                 | 5263 | 77            | 1566  | 23            |

| 24 | 1988 | Seoul     | 8391  | 6197 | 74 | 2194 | 26 |
|----|------|-----------|-------|------|----|------|----|
| 25 | 1992 | Barcelona | 9356  | 6652 | 71 | 2704 | 29 |
| 26 | 1996 | Atlanta   | 10318 | 6806 | 66 | 3512 | 34 |
| 27 | 2000 | Sydney    | 10651 | 6582 | 62 | 4069 | 38 |
| 28 | 2004 | Athens    | 10625 | 6296 | 59 | 4329 | 41 |
| 29 | 2008 | Beijing   | 10942 | 6305 | 58 | 4637 | 42 |
| 30 | 2012 | London    | 10568 | 5892 | 56 | 4675 | 44 |

Data source: IOC official website. Http://www.olympic.org

## 2.2 "Women's participation in the Olympic Games" has the greatest impact on the Olympic Games

"Ice and snow sports participation in the Olympic Games", "professional athletes participation in the Olympic Games" and "women participation in the Olympic Games" were not considered at the time of the establishment of the modern Olympic Games, and did not appear in the Olympic Charter. However, different from the "ice and snow sports" due to climatic conditions, "professional athletes" and "women" are clearly prohibited, which is a specific behavior caused by ideas.

The number of the three factors was 0 at the 1896 Olympic Games, but the development process was very different" "Ice and snow sports" have been actively accepted and separated from the mother earlier" Although "women's participation in the Olympic Games" and "ice and snow sports" were recognized in the same year (1924), due to the passive and forced response, the process was long, and it was basically realized after 70 years" "Professional athletes" are the most seriously excluded. They did not participate in the Olympic Games in good faith until 90 years after the first Olympic Games, and the "amateur spirit" clause was completely deleted from the Olympic Charter until 1990.

The scale of the three factors was 0 at the 1896 Olympic Games, but the subsequent development had a very different impact on the scale of the Olympic Games. The Winter Olympic Games have been divided in the early stage, which has no impact on the super scale of the summer Olympic Games in the future. High level professional athletes are top athletes, which are rare, so they have little impact on the scale of the Olympic Games" "Women's participation in the Olympic Games" in the first Olympic Games is 02012, and the proportion of women in the London Olympic Games has increased to 44%. In recent years, the sharp rise in the proportion of women is more obvious in the Olympic powers: in the 2012 London Olympic Games, the number of men and women in the United States was 261:269, and there were 8 more women. This is the first time that there are more women than men in the United States. The number of men and women in China is 171:225, with 54 more women. In the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, the number of men and women in the United States was 263:292, with 29 more women; the number of men and women in China is 160:256, with 96 more women. At the Rio Olympics, Australian women accounted for more than half for the first time, while the number of Japanese men and women was close to half.

Therefore, it can be considered that "women's participation in the Olympic Games" has the most important, direct and profound impact on the Olympic Games, and it is necessary to make further quantitative analysis.

2.3 "Women's participation in the Olympic Games" has increased the proportion of women in the total number of Olympic Games from 0 to nearly 50%

The modern Olympic Games have gone through more than 120 years since 1896. In the first 60 years (1896-1956), the proportion of women in the total number of Olympic Games only increased slowly from 0 to 10%; In the first two 20 years of the latter 60 years (1956-1976 and 1976-1996), the proportion increased slowly by 10%, but they were equal to the level of the previous 60 years; In the third 20 years, at the level of 3000 female athletes, the proportion increased by nearly 20%, with a year-on-year increase of more than 50%. So far, the quantity level of male and female athletes has been basically equal. At the level of 4750 female athletes in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, its scale is equivalent to that of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.

2.4 "Women's participation in the Olympic Games" increased the proportion of women in major events in the Olympic Games from 0 to 100%

At the 2012 London Olympic Games, with the official entry of women's boxing into the Olympic Games, women have all participated in 26 major sports of the Olympic Games, accounting for 100% from 0 in 1896, which indicates that women have been equally divided with men in major sports and completed equal amount. As the major sport is the structural framework of the Olympic Games, it has developed from a single-sided framework in the founding period to a double-sided framework, which plays an internal, essential and irreversible role in promoting the scale of the Olympic Games (see Table 2).

Table 2 Number and proportion of major events, minor events, minor events and mixed events of men and women in previous Olympic Games

| in previous Olympic Games     |                     |                |                                 |                    |           |                   |                      |                   |                        |                   |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Numb<br>er of<br>sessio<br>ns | Particul<br>ar year | Host city      | Large<br>numb<br>er of<br>items | Mino<br>r<br>items | blen<br>d | Proporti<br>on /% | Men's<br>proje<br>ct | Proporti<br>on /% | Women<br>'s<br>project | Proporti<br>on /% |
| 1                             | 1896                | Athens         | 9                               | 43                 | 0         | 0                 | 43                   | 100               | 0                      | 0                 |
| 2                             | 1900                | Paris          | 17                              | 85                 | 1         | 1                 | 82                   | 97                | 2                      | 2                 |
| 3                             | 1904                | St. Louis      | 14                              | 94                 | 0         | 0                 | 90                   | 96                | 4                      | 4                 |
| 4                             | 1908                | London         | 20                              | 109                | 5         | 4                 | 100                  | 92                | 4                      | 4                 |
| 5                             | 1912                | Stockhol<br>m  | 13                              | 102                | 11        | 11                | 86                   | 84                | 5                      | 5                 |
| 6                             | 1916                | Suspend        |                                 |                    |           |                   |                      |                   |                        |                   |
| 7                             | 1920                | Antwerp        | 19                              | 155                | 20        | 13                | 127                  | 82                | 8                      | 5                 |
| 8                             | 1924                | Paris          | 17                              | 126                | 9         | 7                 | 107                  | 85                | 10                     | 8                 |
| 9                             | 1928                | Amsterda<br>m  | 14                              | 108                | 7         | 6                 | 85                   | 79                | 16                     | 15                |
| 10                            | 1932                | Los<br>Angeles | 14                              | 116                | 7         | 6                 | 94                   | 81                | 15                     | 15                |
| 11                            | 1936                | Berlin         | 19                              | 129                | 8         | 6                 | 105                  | 81                | 16                     | 13                |
| 12                            | 1940                | Suspend        |                                 |                    |           |                   |                      |                   |                        |                   |
| 13                            | 1944                | Suspend        |                                 |                    |           |                   |                      |                   |                        |                   |
| 14                            | 1948                | London         | 17                              | 136                | 6         | 4                 | 111                  | 82                | 19                     | 14                |
| 15                            | 1952                | Helsinki       | 17                              | 149                | 6         | 3                 | 119                  | 80                | 25                     | 17                |
| 16                            | 1956                | Melbourn<br>e  | 17                              | 151                | 11        | 7                 | 114                  | 75                | 26                     | 18                |
| 17                            | 1960                | Rome           | 17                              | 150                | 10        | 7                 | 111                  | 74                | 29                     | 19                |
| 18                            | 1964                | Tokyo          | 19                              | 163                | 11        | 7                 | 119                  | 73                | 33                     | 20                |
| 19                            | 1968                | Mexico<br>city | 18                              | 172                | 18        | 10                | 115                  | 67                | 39                     | 23                |
| 20                            | 1972                | Munich         | 21                              | 195                | 20        | 10                | 132                  | 68                | 45                     | 22                |
| 21                            | 1976                | Montreal       | 21                              | 198                | 19        | 9                 | 130                  | 66                | 49                     | 25                |
| 22                            | 1980                | Moscow         | 21                              | 203                | 19        | 9                 | 134                  | 66                | 50                     | 25                |
| 23                            | 1984                | Los<br>Angeles | 21                              | 221                | 15        | 7                 | 144                  | 65                | 62                     | 28                |
| 24                            | 1988                | Seoul          | 23                              | 237                | 14        | 6                 | 151                  | 64                | 72                     | 30                |
| 25                            | 1992                | Barcelona      | 25                              | 257                | 12        | 5                 | 159                  | 62                | 86                     | 33                |
| 26                            | 1996                | Atlanta        | 26                              | 271                | 11        | 3                 | 163                  | 61                | 97                     | 36                |
| 27                            | 2000                | Sydney         | 28                              | 300                | 8         | 3                 | 172                  | 57                | 120                    | 40                |
| 28                            | 2004                | Athens         | 28                              | 301                | 7         | 2                 | 169                  | 56                | 125                    | 42                |
| 29                            | 2008                | Beijing        | 28                              | 302                | 7         | 2                 | 169                  | 56                | 126                    | 42                |
| 30                            | 2012                | London         | 26                              | 302                | 8         | 2                 | 162                  | 54                | 132                    | 44                |

Data source: IOC official website. Http://www.olympic.org

## 2.5 "Women's participation in the Olympic Games" increased the proportion of women in small events in the Olympic Games from 0 to nearly 50%

The increase or decrease of Olympic sports must be approved by the IOC general assembly; however, the increase or decrease of minor sports can be approved by the Executive Committee, which determines that the growth of major sports is more difficult. There were 20 major events in the 1908 London Olympic Games. 100 years later, the Beijing Olympic Games only increased to 28 major events, and the 2012 London Olympic Games was reduced to 26 major events due to Rogge's "slimming plan". Because the major event is the key and the minor event is the goal for athletes to win gold and silver, the competition of all stakeholders is mainly focused on the minor event. International individual sports organizations, mass media and host countries are important power sources for the rapid expansion of small events, but they are far less than the driving force of "women's participation in the Olympic Games". The proportion of women's items in the total number of men's and women's items increased from 0 to 10% in 1896, which took 30 years, and then increased to 20% for nearly 40 years. After the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, the growth rate accelerated: from 20% to 30% in only 24 years, while from 30% to 40%, it took only 12 years to increase 48 women's events! Compared with 0 events in 1896 to the first 49 women's events in Montreal Olympic Games in 1976, it will take 80 years, which can be described as "moving forward at an extremely high speed". By 2012, the number of women's events in the London Olympic Games had increased to 132, accounting for 44%, which was the same as that of women athletes in the total number of athletes, indicating that the level of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" has been basically the same as that of men. At the same time, it also shows that "women's entry into the Olympic Games" has the greatest impact on the Olympic Games, whether measured from the two indicators that are significantly and positively correlated with the Olympic Games, namely, the total number of athletes or sports events.

## III. The Source Power and Historical Origin of "Women's Participation in the Olympic Games" and the Policy Evolution of the International Olympic Committee

3.1 Stages and source power of "women's participation in the Olympic Games"

One of Coubertin's original intentions in founding the modern Olympic Games is to hold the pure men's games like the ancient Olympic Games. However, at the beginning of its establishment, it was impacted by women, and the wave of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" rose one after another, becoming more and more intense. Today, it has been equally divided with men in the Olympic Games. So where does the driving force of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" come from?

From the historical perspective of the world women's liberation movement, the feminist movement has a profound impact on the occurrence, development and future changes of "women's participation in the Olympic Games". The feminist movement and its evolution should be the source power of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" [2].

According to the data analysis of the scale of "women's participation in the Olympic Games", this paper puts forward that 1896-1956 is the first stage (accounting for 0% to 10%), 1956-1996 is the second stage (accounting for 10% to 30%), and 1996 is the third stage (accounting for 30% to 44%) towards gender equality.

The history of the world women's liberation movement shows that so far, there have been three climaxes of the feminist movement in the middle of the 19th century, the 1960s to 1970s and the 1980s to 1990s. In view of the fact that the development of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" is not completely consistent with the waveform of the three waves of the feminist movement, this paper prefers to choose the highly consistent feminist philosophy as the power source [3]. The power sources in line with the three stages of this paper correspond to the feminist philosophical thoughts of liberalism, radicalism and ecologism respectively.

### 3.2 Initial stage (1896-1956)

3.2.1 At the beginning of the establishment of the modern Olympic Games, it came down in one continuous line with the ancient Olympic Games and excluded women.

When Coubertin founded the modern Olympic Games, the prohibition of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" came down in one continuous line with the ancient Olympic Games and the ancient Greek tradition. His definition of modern Olympics is: "a solemn and periodic display of male sports spirit based on internationalism, by means of loyalty, by art as the environment and by women's cheers as rewards" [4].

Coubertin's definition has sufficient historical basis, because in ancient Greece, women could not watch the Olympic Games specially set for men, let alone participate in it. The ancient Olympic history is the history of men's sports hegemony. This has formed a historical scene from the ancient Olympic Games to the early stage of the modern Olympic Games: women can neither compete nor have the right to watch [5]. Such a provision that openly deprives women of their right to participate in sports is clearly a wrong policy contrary to the Olympic spirit. It is a historical tragedy that the IOC and its previous three presidents should strictly implement it.

Coubertin was particularly stubborn in sticking to his mistakes. In 1920, when 65 women participated in the Olympic Games, he still insisted on driving female athletes out of the stadium; In 1925, after the resolution of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" was officially adopted at the Paris plenary session of the International Olympic Committee in 1924, he continued to say that "women's participation in the Olympic Games is illegal" [4] 48. What is more surprising is that in 1928, in his congratulatory letter to all the athletes of the Amsterdam Olympic Games, including 277 female athletes, he said: "as for the issue of allowing women to participate in the Olympic Games, I still firmly oppose it. More and more female athletes are allowed to participate in the competition, which is against my will "[4] 89. Brendach is even better. Among the eight new policies drafted by him after he became the president of the IOC in 1952, item 7 is "cancel all women's events" [6]. It can be seen how strong and stubborn the founders and early leaders of the IOC are to maintain the modern Olympic Games as a pure male Olympic Games!

## 3.2.2 1900-1908: the helplessness of the IOC in the state of losing power and out of control

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Olympic Games in 1900, 1904 and 1908 were held in Paris, St. Louis and London at the same time as the World Expo. The competition period was as long as five months. The fundamental reason lies in Coubertin's view: the Olympic Games lacked financial and organizational strength at that time and had less influence; The World Expo has become famous all over the world. Only with the help of the influential World Expo can the Olympic Games be promoted. Only the Olympic Games can hope to move from Greece to the world. Because of the weakness of the Olympic Games, Coubertin had no chance to enter the leadership. The strong Expo organizers have absolute control over the Olympic Games. The Olympic Games are only for the World Expo, so the competitions are held in different regions according to the industrial category of the World Expo. In order to attract the audience, the competitions of the three Olympic Games have too much entertainment, game and performance. The organizers of the World Expo allow women to participate in the tennis, archery and golf competitions of the Olympic Games in order to greatly improve the viewing [7]. This is the helplessness of the IOC in the state of losing power and out of control. At this time, women's events are not only recreational and decorative activities, but also illegal, performing and attached competitions.

## 3.2.3 1908-1928: official recognition of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" for the first time

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, women's liberalism adhered to the belief that "rights are higher than good", and required women to have basic rights, including sports, in the name of fairness, and enjoy the same equality as men in "opportunities" and "rights" to participate in sports activities. In view of the IOC's exclusion of "women's participation in the Olympic Games", the French women's Sports Federation and the international women's Sports Federation (FSFI) were successively established in 1917 and 1921, led by French

women's Liberalist arist Julia. In 1922, "all women's Olympic Games" was held in Paris, following the project and interval of the Olympic Games; Since then, three more "World Women's Games" renamed "all women's Olympics" were held in Gothenburg (1926), Prague (1930) and London (1934). At most, 19 countries participated, and the influence gradually spread from Europe to the world [8].

The open rivalry of the feminist movement has put the modern Olympic Games in a dilemma. The IOC was very angry but helpless and was forced to adjust from refusing to admit to a positive response. In June 1924, the Paris plenary session of the International Olympic Committee officially adopted the resolution of "women's participation in the Olympic Games", and decided to try to establish a limited women's track and field competition in the 1928 Olympic Games. Because there were too few women's events, dissatisfied European women organized a boycott of the 9th Olympic Games, creating two firsts: the first boycott of the Olympic Games and the first boycott organized by women. Looking at this period of history, first, women have made a major breakthrough in striving for "gender equality" in international sports. Second, the IOC has made a positive policy of "active and promising" for "women's participation in the Olympic Games" for the first time, which has become a key step for the modern Olympic Games to break through self isolation, keep pace with the times and move towards civilization and opening up.

### 3.2.4 1928-1956: stagnation stage

From the data analysis, it can be seen that the proportion of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" has made a quantitative transition from 1924 (4%) officially recognized by the IOC for the first time to 1928 (10%), but it has remained at 10% for 24 years in the next six sessions. Why?

This article does not agree with the majority of views that it is the inaction of the IOC or the violation of the public and the negative. It is believed that although the IOC is still backward in concept, it is correct and has made greater progress in the follow-up women's sports policy, the most important of which is the "no restriction on women's participation in competitive sports" program adopted by the 9th Olympic Congress held in Berlin in May 1930; After World War II, at the Rome plenary session of the International Olympic Committee in 1949, the old practice of determining women's events before each Olympic Games was held was changed. In the revision of the basic rules of the Olympic Charter, it was clear that women's events were track and field, gymnastics, skiing, figure skating, fencing, kayaking and artistic performance.

Therefore, the stagnation of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" should be analyzed from the power source. In terms of time correspondence, it was the first time that the women's Movement entered a trough: the world economic crisis in the 1930's brought the women's employment policy back to the cold palace. The Cruel World War II destroyed all progressive women's organizations. In the "cold war", the Western camp led by the United States desperately suppressed the workers and women's movement on the grounds of anti communism. Especially in the United States in the 1950s, the government and public opinion strongly opposed women's participation in social and public activities, and the women's movement disappeared [9]. It can be said that without the continuous and progressive women's sports policy of the IOC, it is possible for the scale of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" to regress to the starting point.

#### 3.3 Opening stage (1956-1996)

## 3.3.1 1956-1976: Women's radicalism comprehensively impacted the men's events of the Olympic Games

In the 20 years since 1956, the proportion of "women participating in the Olympic Games" has doubled to 21%, and the number has increased from 364 to 1260. This process corresponds to the female radicalism movement in the United States in the 1960s. The landmark document is the United Nations Declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women (1967). In coordination with this, the proposal on women's participation in the Olympic Movement (1964) was adopted at the Tokyo plenary session of the IOC. This revolutionary breakthrough has promoted "women's participation in the Olympic Games" from the entanglement of projects one after another to

the active and open level of women's full participation in the Olympic Games.

From the very beginning, female radicalism pointed directly at the gender system and believed that women's reproductive and family responsibilities and even femininity were used to limit women's development "as a complete person". It is strongly required that women dare to express masculinity or "androgyny". It opposes men blocking women's free choice of sports, especially against the expulsion of women with "male" sports, and believes that it is purely male hypocrisy to build sports with "femininity". Only by striving to develop masculinity and surpassing women's physiological limitations can women achieve equality between men and women. To make the world truly recognize "women", the only sign is women's extraordinary achievements and records in the Olympic Games. Inspired by female radicalism, women occupied one "male" item after another in the Olympic Games and turned it into a female item. The number of female items increased from 26 in 1956 to 49 in 1976, almost doubling. At the same time, women created one new Olympic record after another in the Olympic Games, which shocked the whole world!

## 3.3.2 1976-1996: from impact sports to impact sports system

The female radicalism movement continued to expand the battlefield after achieving phased major victories Firestone, Daley and others try their best to advocate "wild women", that is, surpassing both male and female temperament, and then completely eliminating sexual differences in a hermaphroditic society. At this moment, the female radicalism movement began to focus its struggle on the "patriarchy" of FIFA and the International Olympic Committee, calling for changing the "ceiling" situation that men dominate and women can't enter the leadership; It is considered that the sports values such as competition, strength and aggression advocated by FIFA and IOC are created around male characteristics and expectations, and the organization based on this structure only represents male chauvinism culture. Only by first breaking the values and organizational system of "patriarchy", and then making a new construction on the principle of equality between men and women, can women be truly liberated [10].

Driven by the feminist movement, the United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women was adopted in 1979, becoming the highest level international convention to safeguard women's legitimate rights and interests. The United Nations also held the first and second world conferences on women in 1975 and 1980, which greatly improved women's international political status. In 1981 and 1990, the International Olympic Committee twice revised Article 46 of the Olympic Charter, that is, the access standards for sports. The focus of the two revisions was to relatively reduce the access conditions for women's large and small events on the premise of improving the access conditions for men's large and small events. This is a very obvious protective policy aimed at increasing the probability of "women's participation in the Olympic Games". In response to the strong call of the women's radicalism movement to completely change the current sports values and organizational structure, the IOC put forward a new goal in the Olympic Charter revised in 1994: "the IOC actively encourages women to participate in sports at all levels and structures, especially in the management of national and international sports organizations, Strictly implement the principle of equality between men and women"

Compared with the previous 20 years, in the 20 years from 1976 to 1996, the proportion of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" increased from 20% to 30%, and the number of women's minor events increased from 49 to 97, all exceeding the ratio in the previous 20 years. The number has increased from 1260 to 3512, nearly three times the expansion. What is particularly exciting is that two women, heigman (Finland) and frosava (Venezuela), became members of the new IOC at the 11th Olympic Congress (1981), realizing a breakthrough in women's entry into the leadership of the IOC.

- 3.4 Stage towards gender equality (1996-2012)
- 3.4.1 The rise of feminist ecologism and the pursuit of differentiated equality

With the development of politics and science and technology, driven by the female radicalism movement, women's

development in sports is booming. It not only appears in all the events of the Olympic Games, but also the technical level and competition results change with each passing day. The records of various competitions at all levels have been constantly refreshed, and the results of a considerable number of similar events have been close to men. However, when the female radicalism movement stormed the front and raided cities and lands, because its theory was too radical and too limited, it obviously ignored the unique value of women's quality in the struggle against gender inequality, resulting in the gradual cooling of the movement. Since the 1990s, the women's movement began to fade from the fixed thinking of political struggle, replacing movement with thinking and struggle with moderation; From simply attacking men and eliminating the differences between men and women, it has changed to praise women's unique temperament, value and culture. As a result, feminist ecologism with more feminine cultural spirit and ecological flavor of the times came into being.

Feminist ecologism points out that sports is a practical activity that both men and women can integrate into, but there are differences between men and women. It is very necessary to face up to the differences in nature. Women should abandon the pursuit of absolute equality and turn to the pursuit of differentiated equality; We should abandon the revolution only aimed at gender and turn to the pursuit of gender harmonious development. Susan • Griffin and other scholars examined the past from the perspective of ecological ethics and pointed out that the utilitarian methods of training with male standards and intensity, even using stimulants or androgens, and training naked with ultraviolet light, not only greatly hurt women's physical and mental health, but also violated the Olympic spirit and moved towards alienation. It is understandable for women to develop their potential with the help of science and technology, medicine and biotechnology. However, it is women's sorrow rather than glory to despise the laws of nature and challenge the limit with the separation of spirit and flesh.

## 3.4.2 IOC inertia promotes "gender equality"

Although the rise of feminism is profoundly affecting and changing the direction of women's movement, the IOC seems to ignore it and move forward inertia along the previous policy path to complete the historical mission of "gender equality". In 1996, the World Conference on women and sports, the world's highest level women's sports conference, was opened and held every four years. At the same time, in 1996, the Atlanta plenary session of the International Olympic Committee required that the composition of the leadership of the Olympic Committee and its subordinate organizations at all levels ensure that women account for more than 10% of the total by the end of 2000 and 20% by the end of 2005, which is the famous "10% - 20% goal". In 1998, the IOC took the lead in achieving the target of 10% ahead of schedule, and the proportion of female members reached 10.2%. However, after the proportion rose to 12.4% in 1999, it fell back below 10% again after 2000. Although the number of female members rose to 12 in 2005, accounting for 10.3%, it is still far from reaching the target [11]. To this end, in March 2004, the IOC established the women and Sports Committee at the 3rd World Conference on women and sports, which has the same status as other special committees. The newly revised Olympic Charter, which entered into force on September 1 of the same year, focuses on "encouraging and supporting the promotion of women's participation in sports at all levels and institutions in order to implement the principle of equality between men and women".

With the exit of women's radicalism and the mainstream of women's ecological movement, the large-scale military expansion of women in the number and projects of the Olympic Games began to slow down. Although the number of people still increased by 10% to 44% and the proportion of minor items increased by 8% to 44% in these 20 years, the number of people increased from 3512 to 4675, an expansion of only 1.3 times, which is different from the expansion of nearly three times in the previous 20 years. However, the IOC's inertia action, Jacques Rogge, the former president of the IOC who resigned in 2013, still promotes gender equality in a historical mission. He strongly supported the new event of "women's boxing" in the 2012 Olympic Games, thus realizing that women have all the major events of the Olympic Games for the first time in history. He also vigorously promoted Brunei, Qatar and Saudi Arabia to agree to let female athletes participate in the Olympic Games for the first time, thus realizing the reunion of women in the Olympic family for the first time in London [6] 103.

In addition, for the first time, there are more women than men among athletes from the United States, China and Russia. It should be said that such women's expansion is obviously contradictory and sharply opposed to the "Olympic slimming plan" that Rogge is trying to promote, but Rogge has unswervingly completed the historical mission of "women's participation in the Olympic Games". As Rogge said, "this is an important step to promote gender equality. Let's remember 2012."[12]

### IV. The Future Trend of "Women's Participation in the Olympic Games"

4.1 Logical path: after the quantitative standard of "equality between men and women" is realized, it will inevitably develop to qualitative equality

Based on the data analysis of the number of male and female athletes and large and small events in the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, it can be considered that the standard of "gender equality" in the Olympic Games has been basically realized [13]. But as Judith Butler pointed out: in the past, women's "subjectivity" was also "obedience" when it was realized "The "subjectivity" realized by women's participation in the Olympic Games is, to some extent, the "obedience" to men's projects and rules. At the same time, it sacrifices femininity or even women's physiological signs, and the equal price is "gender assimilation" and "personality alienation" [10] 94. At the London Olympic Games, women's incontinence in weightlifting competition made all the audience, especially women, ashamed and angry. Looking back on the "difficult and dangerous" events such as weightlifting, wrestling, boxing, taekwondo, triathlon and modern pentathlon added in the Olympic Games after 2000, this "gender equality" should not be the result pursued by women participating in the Olympic Games. Therefore, the future path of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" will logically develop to qualitative equality. They will inevitably focus the reform of "women's participation in the Olympic Games" on designing Olympic events that adapt to women's physiological and physical characteristics. That is, reasonably develop women's talent potential, fully reflect the promotion of women's characteristics, challenge human limits with different standards and angles from men, and let athletes and spectators enjoy the experience of physical and sensory pleasure. In fact, driven by ecological feminism, there were once events specially designed for women in the Olympic Games, such as women's rhythmic gymnastics and synchronized swimming in 1984 and women's softball in 1996. However, it did not become a common practice from point to surface, but women's softball was cancelled in 2012. Therefore, stepping out of the "obedient" eaves and heading for a new world of "equality in difference" is the future path.

4.2 Logical expectation: the development towards qualitative equality may or must be limited by male system and power

Although the IOC has done a good job in promoting equality between men and women in the historical mission, even a little over corrected, this equality still only stays in "quantity" rather than turning to "quality"; in dealing with the challenge of feminism, it has always been relatively slow and backward, and the policy inertia is also strong. The new women's softball set up in 1996 modified the field and equipment in terms of rules (the field was reduced, and the ball was large and soft), which was deeply loved by women, but it was cancelled in 2012. The famous "10% -20% target" stipulated that in 2005, women members of the IOC still accounted for only 10.3%, far from reaching the goal of 20%. This makes female ecologists have to doubt that they may or must be limited by male system and power in the development towards qualitative equality. It can be expected that "women's participation in the Olympic Games" will first make a breakthrough in participating in the formulation of game rules, which will not only provide further rights protection, but also provide strong support for the sustainable development of women's Olympic projects. To truly implement and realize, expanding the proportion of women in the decision-making level until it is equivalent to the number of female athletes is the most reliable organizational guarantee. Therefore, the game of restriction and anti restriction, breakthrough and anti breakthrough will continue, and the phenomena of decentralization, decentralization and equal rights will occur repeatedly. The weakening of men's system and power and the enhancement of women's power will lead to equality between men and women in terms of quality and quantity, and may also lead to the separation of men and women in the system.

4.3 Logical trend: the internal driving force of women's return to the truth may promote institutional differentiation

Feminist Ecologism and the whole postmodern feminism will bring the feminist movement to the visible future. From the perspective of history and logic, the "women return to the truth" proposed by feminist ecologism makes it most possible to give full play to women's characteristics and create a female cultural form combining body, spirit and rationality in the future.

In addition to emphasizing personality equality, the "gender identity" pursued by women in the future will pay more attention to gender differences, pay more attention to maintaining femininity, give women more freedom of choice, and promote the Olympic women's movement to fully reflect women's gender characteristics [14]. For example, for the slogan "faster, higher, stronger" used so far in the Olympic Games, feminist ecologism may not be fully accepted. They may add "more beautiful" that can better reflect women's physical and mental characteristics, and hold high "faster, higher, stronger and more beautiful". Once "obedience" is abandoned and male rules are abandoned as the only benchmark, the collapse of male reference frame is a high probability event, and women's construction of rules and systems to adapt to their own standards will also be a high probability event. In fact, the purpose of establishing the competition system based on the Olympic Games is based on the nature and talents of nature and mankind - such as the natural attributes of summer and winter, such as the human attributes of adults and youth - so the Olympic Games have three competitions in summer, winter and youth. Human beings are composed of men and women. Therefore, gender attribute is the most powerful indicator to divide human beings. For example, FIFA has classified "World Cup Men's football" and "World Cup women's football" according to gender attribute, which should also be a possibility and expectation for the development of the Olympic Movement.

#### 4.4 Logical result: comprehensively promote equality between men and women

The purpose of the Olympics is to give full play to human nature and talent. Marxism believes that the "most basic and natural relationship" of mankind is gender relationship, from which the civilization degree of human and social development can be revealed [15]. The ultimate goal of sports is human development. Both women and men should have their own position and value in sports, rather than the coercion and transformation of one party to the other, leading to alienation. No matter whether the physiological gender differences are determined or not, or the elimination of gender characteristics, these thoughts and practices violate the laws and laws of nature. It is expected that the history of "men and women are the same" in large and small events of the Olympic Games may have come to an end. The thinking method of dividing into two, the logic and action of binary separation will be carried out again and again, "equality, isomorphism and heterogeneity between men and women" will become the main melody, and the global audience will cheer with more enthusiasm and appreciate the "more beautiful" side of Olympic women. At a time when a more profound wave of women's sports is sweeping in, the IOC must come up with more and more members to meet the requirements of women. It must greatly expand the authority and scale of the women and Sports Committee, achieve the equal status of men and women at the decision-making level, and make organizational preparations for the future trend of women. It is conceivable that "equality between men and women, isomorphism and heterogeneity" has become the main theme, which can comprehensively promote the equality of men and women, and it is a comprehensive win-win for men and women, which will have a profound and long-term impact on the future of the Olympic movement.

## V. Conclusion

Using the method of data analysis, this paper makes a quantitative analysis on the proportion of female athletes in the total number of athletes, major sports and minor sports in the Olympic Games from 1896 to 2012. We can clearly see the obvious changes of "female participation in the Olympic Games" from scratch, from slow to fast, and from weak to strong. With the Olympic time cycle, it can intuitively express the intensity and peak valley of "women's participation in the Olympic Games".

With the interdisciplinary research method and the time cycle of the Olympic Games, this paper analyzes the climax and trough of various feminist philosophy and sports, and makes a comparative analysis with the proportion of "women's participation in the Olympic Games", so as to determine that the feminist philosophy with the highest consistency is the power source of "women's participation in the Olympic Games".

Based on the data analysis of "women's participation in the Olympic Games", combined with the relevant policy responses of the IOC and the changes and development of feminist philosophy, it is proposed to take 1896-1956 as the first stage (the proportion increased from 0 to 10%), 1956-1996 as the second stage (the proportion increased from 10% to 30%), and 1996 to now as the third stage (the proportion increased from 30% to 44%).

It is logically expected that "women's participation in the Olympic Games" will develop towards the qualitative equality of "male and female athletes" in the future; However, it may or must be limited by the male system and power; Therefore, under the internal promotion of women's return to the truth, it may be proposed to separate the "men and women" system, so the global audience will appreciate the "more beautiful" side of Olympic women.

While achieving the above original results, the deficiency of the research is that the literature is mostly limited to China, the original literature of European and American feminist philosophy and movement is less read, and the theoretical depth and breadth of analysis are not enough. There is still a lack of regular and profound analysis of the phenomenon highly consistent with "women's participation in the Olympic Games".

With the continuous improvement of the scale and importance of women in the Olympic Games, the research on "women's participation in the Olympic Games" will be further deepened. The research focus may be on two points: first, whether the proportion of women in the decision-making level of the IOC is equivalent to the number of female athletes; second, will it lead to the institutional separation of men and women, just as FIFA has divided "World Cup Men's football" and "World Cup women's football" by gender attribute. In addition, in addition to natural gender, transgender people, especially transgender athletes identified as women, will also constitute a new research direction.

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