

Gender gaps in Economics: ability, preferences, and assessment

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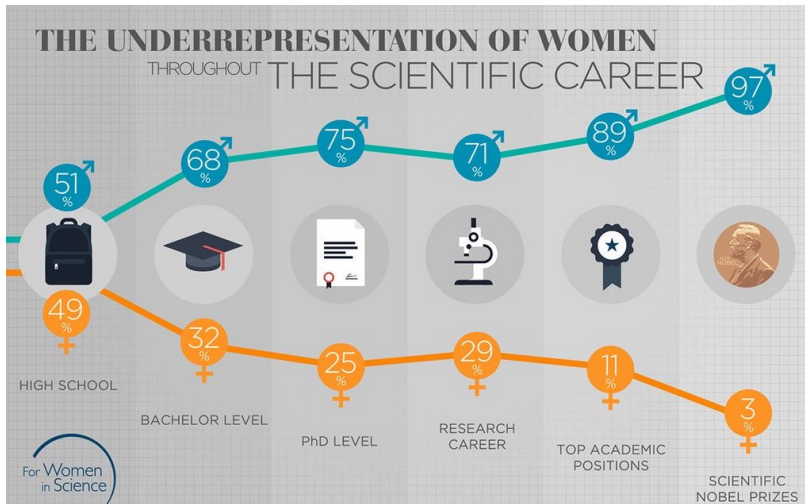
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Women in Social Science, 03 April 2019

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Women in Science

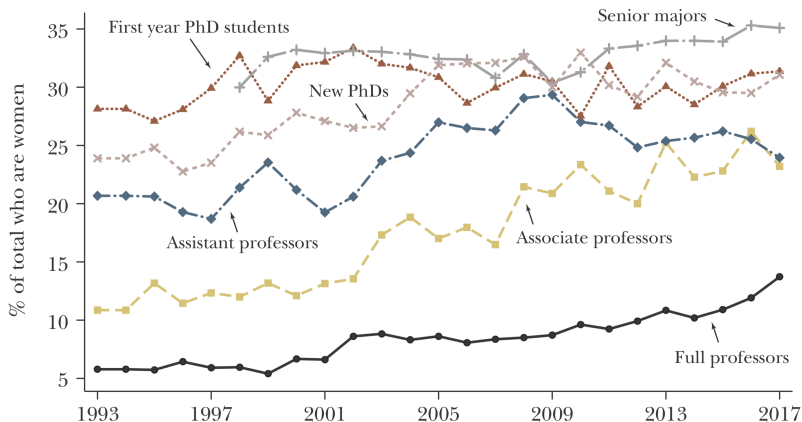
Figure 1: The gender gap along the career in science



Gender gaps in Economics: ability, preferences, and assessment

Women in Economics

Figure 2: Representation of women in Economics



source: Lundberg and Stearns (2019)

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Potential causes:

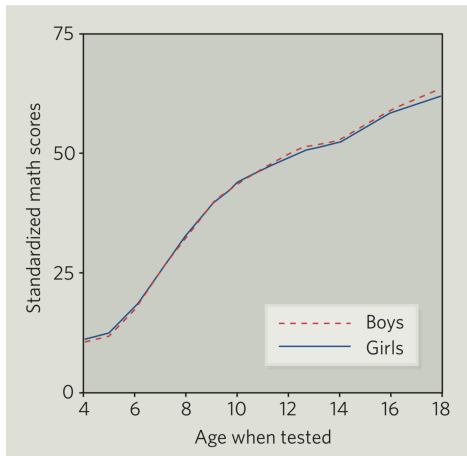
- Innate difference in ability (may not be changed)
- Different preferences (may or may not be changed)
- Differential assessment (may be changed)

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Potential causes:

- Innate difference in ability
- Different preferences
- Differential assessment

Figure 3: Maths-test scores for ages 4 to 18



source: Leahey and Guo (2001)

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Different preferences

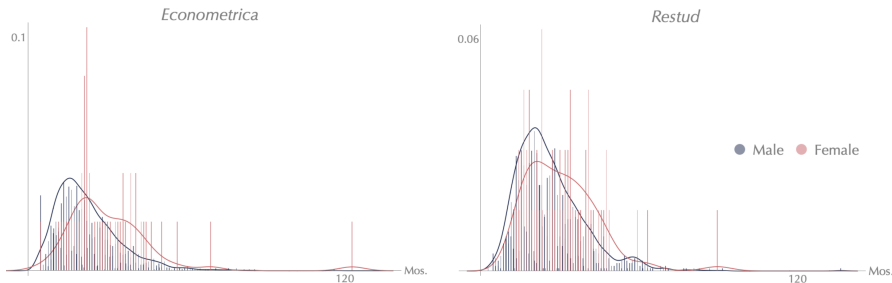
1. Risk preferences: limited co-authorship networks (Ductor et al, 2018)
2. Competitive preferences: non-competitive activities (Croson and Gneezy, 2009)
3. Social preferences: volunteering for low promotable tasks (Babcock et al, 2017)

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Differential assessment

1. Receiving less credit for co-authored works (Lundberg and Stearns, 2019)
2. Facing higher standards for research grants (Wenneras and Wold, 2001)
3. Facing higher standards for publications (Hengel, 2019)

Figure 4: Distribution of review times at two top Economics journals

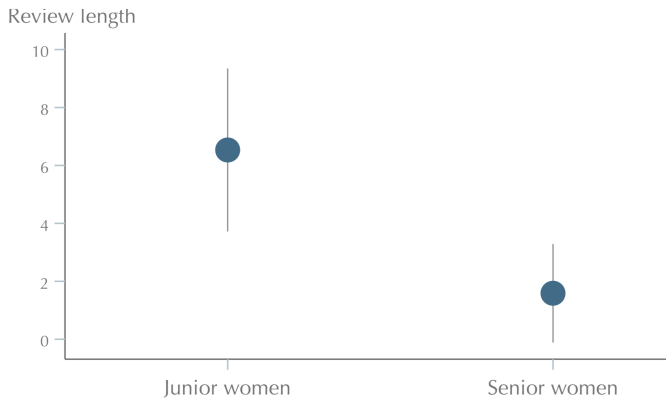


source: Hengel (2019)

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The standards are even tougher for junior women.

Figure 5: Time under review by junior and senior women



source: Hengel (2019)

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From **Barbara 'Barriers'** to **Ben Barres**

Professor of Neurobiology, Stanford University

"Ben gave a great seminar today, his work is much better than his sister's."



"I was the only person in a large class of nearly all men to solve a hard maths problem, only to be told by the professor that my boyfriend must have solved it for me."

Nature, 2006

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Take-away: What can be changed?

Figure 6: Discontinuity at the entry

