

Undergraduate Research Symposium May 19, 2017 Mary Gates Hall

Online Proceedings

POSTER SESSION 2

Balcony, Easel 94

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Are Women Less Likely to Show Interest in Engineering Career When Advised to Follow Your Passion than Men?

Jennifer Bohyun Ko, Senior, Psychology

Mentor: Sapna Cheryan, Psychology

Mentor: Helena Rabasco, Psychology

Gender differences exist in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, as women are underrepresented in some STEM fields than others and continue to face discrimination even in fields in which women are better represented (Cheryan, 2016). Will using different American ideologies help to explain gender disparities in interest in STEM fields in the U.S.? This study examined this question by exploring differences in expressing interest in engineering careers between men and women. Specifically, we designed a study to investigate whether women are deterred from engineering when advised to “follow their passions.” Eighty undergraduate students completed a questionnaire, in which they are asked how interested they would be in pursuing a career in engineering based on listening to the advice to follow their passions or based on following the advice to do what is practical. We hypothesized that women will report less interest in engineering career when asked to base their decision on the advice of following their passions versus when asked to base their decision on the advice of doing what is practical; the difference for men will be weaker. This study explores how popular American ideologies may contribute to gender gaps in STEM.

SESSION 2J

MCNAIR SESSION - THE ART OF LEARNING: FROM ALGEBRA TO PREJUDICE

Session Moderator: Stewart Tolnay, Sociology

MGH 258

3:30 PM to 5:15 PM

* Note: Titles in order of presentation.

How Experience with Oppression Influences Diversity Initiative Evaluations

Mi'lexus Nychelle (Mi'Lexus) Milton, Junior, Psychology, Communication

McNair Scholar

Mentor: Helena Rabasco, Psychology

This study will be presenting participants with either an interpersonal or structural initiative for racial progress and examining whether Whites and people of color differ in their support. We will also look at the experiences of oppression and discrimination as a possible predictor. We expect to see people of color have a preference for structural initiatives due to the fact that the oppression they experience structurally has more consequences than interpersonal relationships. However, Whites will prefer interpersonal initiatives, as structural oppression does not affect them to the same degree. The implications of this study would provide insight into what matters most to people of color, making the move towards progress more intersectional in the sense that it will center around the oppressed for a solution instead of equating the oppressed (people of color) and the oppressor (whites), in their need of interpersonal resolve.