

Taking the “Broad” Out of Impact: The Marginalization of Psychology Journals Whose Titles Contain the Words Women, Gender, Sex, and Feminism

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Introduction

Robust evidence of bias against women in academia (Moss-Racusin et al., 2012). • Research by women (Knobloch-Westerwick et al., 2013), research on bias against women (Cislak et al., 2018), and tasks and domains associated with women (Gutiérrez y Muhs et al., 2012) are marginalized.

Psychological science has been female-dominated at the undergraduate level since the 1970's (NSF, 1993; NSF, 2015).

- An increasing number of women with master's and doctorates has transformed psychological science from a male- to female-dominated field.
- Women remain underrepresented on first author publications in top journals (Brown & Goh, 2016), in awards received by divisions (Brown & Goh, 2016), in eminence (Eagly & Miller, 2016), and in tenure-track positions (OSU, 2011).

Psychological specialties remain highly gender-segregated (Kite et al., 2001).

- Because female-dominated careers are associated with lower prestige (Glick, Wilk, & Perreault, 1995), segregation might have unintended consequences.
- The psychology of women and gender consists almost entirely of women (APA, 2006).
- Gender research is often assumed to be “women’s research” (e.g., gender is perceived as synonymous with women; Carver, 1996).

Hypotheses

Psychology journals whose titles contain the words women, gender, sex, or feminism (WGSF) versus matched other-specialty psychology journals (OS) would have less reach (Study 1) and be perceived as less favorable, lower quality, less necessary for the university to maintain, and/or less likely to share on social media (Studies 2-4).

Method

Study 1:

- 4 WGSF and 4 OS journals matched on impact factor:
 - WGSF: *Women & Therapy*; *Feminism & Psychology*; *Sex Roles*; *Psychology of Women Quarterly*.
 - OS: *Journal of Psychology in Africa*; *Military Psychology*; *Group Process & Intergroup Relations*; *Personality and Individual Differences*.
- Altmetrics data for articles published from January 2012-2015.
 - The number of articles publicly shared per journal (news sources, Tweets, Facebook pages, blog posts, Google + posts, and Reddit [articles mentioned], and Altmetrics' total weighted sum articles score).



Method Continued

Study 2:

- Statewide telephone poll of Florida Voters (probability sampling).
 - Response rate=13.8%.
- Data was weighted by partisan registration, gender, race, age, and education.
- 537 observations (49.5% females; 62.5% White, 16.8% Latino, 14.4% Black; 2% Asian, 3.4% Mixed; ages 18-92 [median= 31.19]; 2.6% <high school degree; 15.9% high school graduates; 46.7% some college; 21.4% college degree; 13.3% postgraduate degree).
- Heard about either a WGSF or OS journal:
 - WGSF: *Psychology of Women Quarterly*; OS: *European Journal of Psychological Assessment*.
- Rated the favorability, importance, subscription maintenance, and the likelihood of sharing findings from the journal on social media.

Studies 3-4:

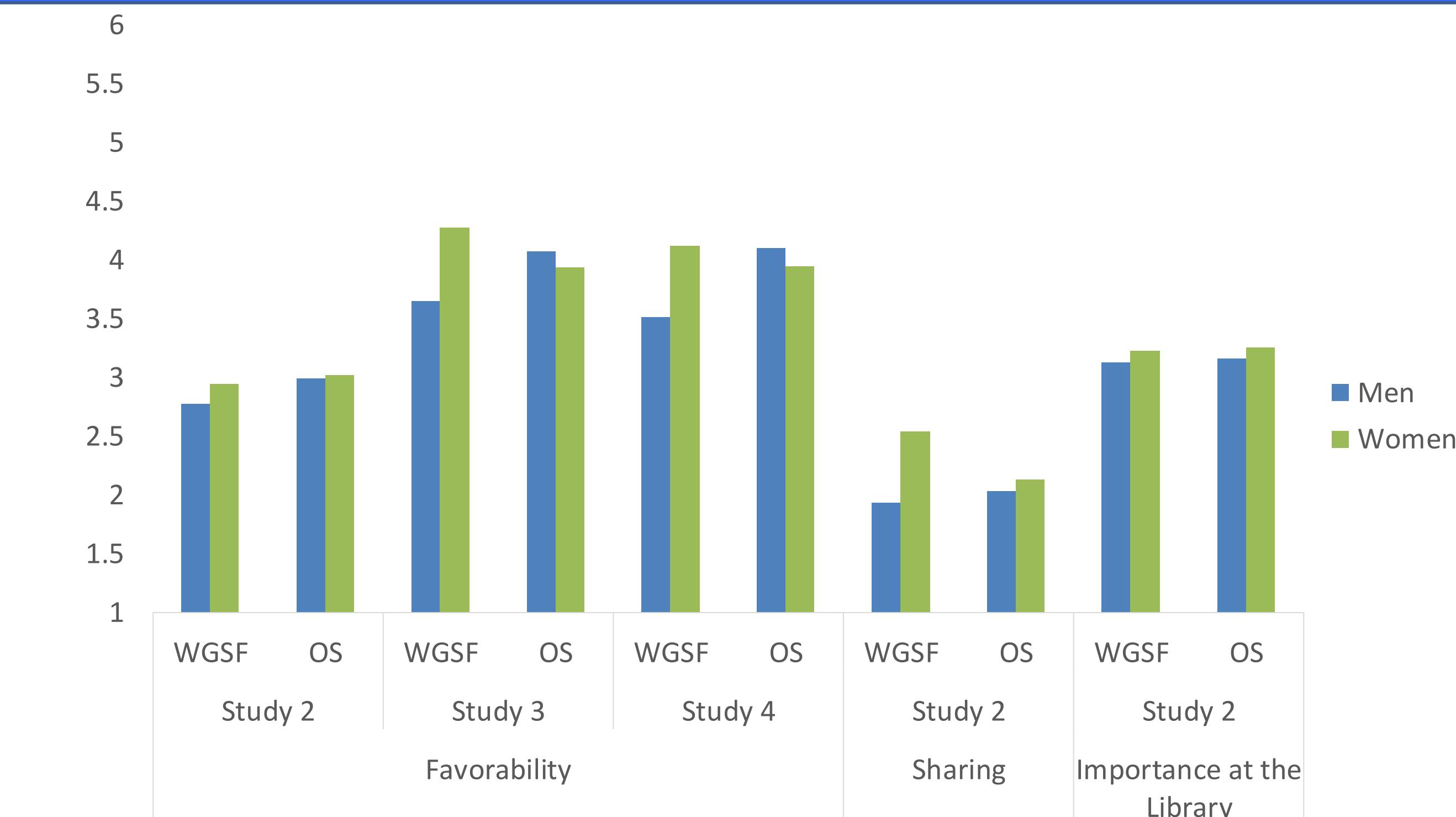
- Undergraduate students:
 - Study 3: 104 (51.92% women; 83.65% White; ages 18-32 [median=19]; 11.53% psychology majors).
 - Study 4: 386 (68.13% women; 70.16% White, 8.97% Latino, 8.7% Black; 5.52% Asian, 2.62% Mixed; ages 18-60 [median= 20]; 36.11% majoring in psychology [first or second major]).
- 4 WGSF and 4 OS journals:
 - Study 3 (same as Study 1).
 - Study 4 (matched on 5 year impact factor):
 - WGSF: *Women & Therapy*; *Feminism & Psychology*; *Sex Roles*; *Psychology of Women Quarterly*.
 - OS: *Psychologia*; *Journal of Classification*; *Thinking & Reasoning*; *European Journal of Psychological Assessment*.
- Participants read the title, read the description, and rated:
 - Favorability (Handley et al., 2015; $\alpha \geq .88$): “To what extent is this journal important to have at our library.”
 - Quality ($\alpha \geq .81$): “I would rank this journal in the _____ percentile on quality.”
 - Maintain a subscription to the journal ($\alpha \geq .64$): “...likelihood that the [university’s initials] Library would maintain this journal subscription relative to all journals in psychology.”

Results

Study 1	WGSF		OS		<i>d</i>
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	
News stories	60.25	82.85	47.75	85.02	-0.15
Tweets	536.00	535.95	1289.50	2283.21	0.45
Facebook	53.50	46.49	83.75	134.06	0.30
Blog posts	43.75	48.54	94.25	167.73	0.41
Google +	8.75	9.07	59.25	113.85	0.63
Reddit	4.25	3.86	7.00	12.08	0.31
Articles mentioned	212.25	211.13	322.75	529.46	0.27
Sum of Articles Score	1248.50	1457.76	2130.50	3791.05	0.31

Note: The number of articles publicly shared per journal was tallied from news sources, Tweets, Facebook pages, blog posts, Google + posts, and Reddit stories. The articles mentioned variable was computed by summing how many articles from each journal were publicly shared across media modalities. The sum of article score was the average of Altmetrics' total weighted score of mentions of the article per journal.

Results Continued



Discussion

Study 1: WGSF versus OS journals received *lower* sum article scores and *less* public attention but news outlets shared them *more*.

Study 2: Voters did not differ in their perceptions of the WGSF or OS journal.

Studies 3-4: WGSF versus OS journals were perceived *less* favorably, of *lower* quality, and were *less* likely to be recommended for subscription maintenance (Study 4).

- Men viewed WGSF versus OS journals *less* favorably, of *lower* quality, and were *less* likely to recommend maintaining the subscription; women viewed WGSF versus OS journals *more* favorably (Studies 3-4).
- Decreased favorability/quality beliefs about WGSF versus OS journals were associated with decreased subscription maintenance recommendations (Studies 3-4).

As knowledge and experience with psychology increased so did bias against WGSF journals.

- Knowledge is important in advancing discovery, innovation, and creativity in psychology and other disciplines.

Future research should examine what processes underlie these findings and examine how to make WGSF journals more respected.