



Gender Inequalities in Scientific Authorship and Peer Review

Gender inequalities in scientific authorship refer to differences in publishing opportunities, visibility, and career advancement within the academic community between women and men. Research shows that papers authored by women may take longer to pass through the peer review process, which can affect the pace of publication and academic career development.

Examples of gender inequalities in scientific publishing

- papers authored by women, on average, **spend more time in the peer review process**
- the difference in review duration is approximately **7–15%**
- longer review times may **slow down the publication of research results**
- slower publication can **affect citation rates and career advancement**

Consequences of gender inequalities

- gender differences in publishing can lead to **cumulative inequalities** over the course of an academic career



Why this matters

- it ensures a **fair and transparent** peer review system
- it increases the **visibility of women researchers** in science
- it contributes to the **quality and diversity** of scientific output
- it promotes **gender equality** in the academic community

Aim

- **to identify gender inequalities** in scientific authorship and **encourage the development of fairer and more transparent publishing systems**



The role of information professionals

- **monitor data** on the peer review and publishing process
- **promote** transparent and fair peer review practices
- ensure **equal representation** of authors and reviewers

Target groups: Library staff, Teaching staff, Students

References

Alvarez-Ponce, D., et al. 2026. **Biomedical and life science articles by female researchers spend longer under review than those by male researchers.** PLOS Biology.

Helmer, M., Schottdorf, M., Neef, A. i Battaglia, D. 2017. **Gender bias in scholarly peer review.** eLife, 6, e21718.

GEDIS project context

This resource is part of the European project GEDIS (Gender Diversity in Information Science), which promotes open educational tools to tackle gender inequalities in higher education, with an emphasis on disciplines related to Information and Library Science.

GEDIS - Gender Diversity in Information Science: Challenges in Higher Education. <https://ub.edu/gedis>

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