

Research Mentorship and Publishing Bias in the ACBS Community



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Background

- For many decades, there have been empirically documented disparities in gender and ethnicity within the scientific community (Ginther et al., 2011; Lariviere et al., 2011; Long, 1992)
- Minimizing gender and ethnic disparities in academic publishing has become a goal in research communities in recent years.
- While some claim that the gap is closing, researchers still notice inequity in research and related activities (Huang, Gates, Sinatra, & Barabasi, 2020; Lundine et al., 2018).

Objectives

- To examine the presence of gender and ethnicity patterns in publishing within the ACBS community, including in the Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science (JCBS)
- To investigate patterns in research mentorship related to publishing barriers

Methods

Participants

Adults (N=282) were recruited from the ACT for Professionals Listserv of ACBS to participate in the study.

Methods and Measures

Participants were emailed a link to an anonymous survey about research mentorship, publishing, and perceptions of bias within the broader scientific community as well as in the *Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science* in the Fall of 2018.

Statistical Analyses

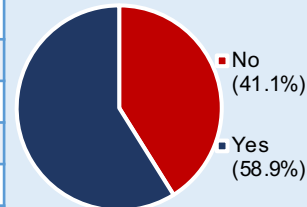
Chi-square tests were conducted in SPSS to determine frequency relationships among nominal and ordinal data.

Results

Demographics (N=282)

Variable & Range	n	%
Gender: Female	201	71.3
Ethnicity		
African American	5	1.8
Asian	21	7.5
Caucasian/European	212	75.2
Hispanic	23	8.2
Multi-ethnic	9	3.2
Other	11	3.9

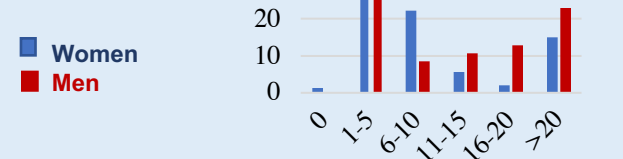
Research Participation



Descriptive Statistics and Chi-Square Analyses

Gender Differences in Publishing

- Men reported publishing significantly more than women, ($X^2 [5, 159] = 15.04, p = .01$).



Gender Differences in Publishing Barriers

- Women more frequently reported experiencing publishing barriers related to lack of adequate research mentorship and collaboration in other scientific journals, ($X^2 [1, 281] = 5.11, p = .03$), as well as in JCBS, ($X^2 [1, 281] = 4.81, p = .028$).
- In JCBS, Men more frequently reported experiencing publishing barriers related to embargos, ($X^2 [1, 281] = 7.619, p = .006$), and not having appropriate research, ($X^2 [1, 281] = 7.619, p = .006$).

Results, cont'd

Top Barriers to Publishing

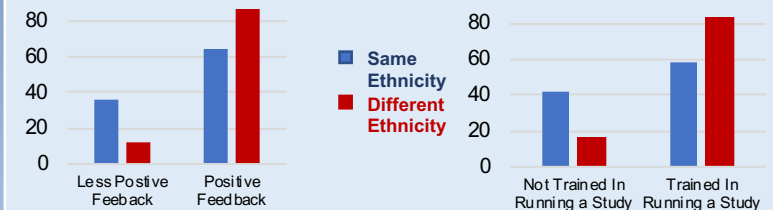
- Regardless of gender or ethnicity, respondents reported the top barriers to publishing as lack of time (41.5%), lack of institutional support (29.4%), and lack of funding (18.9%).

Research Mentorship & Gender

- Having the same gender as one's primary research mentor did not relate to any areas of training (e.g., grant preparation, study design, statistical analysis, career advice, encouragement, goal-setting, and work/life balance).

Research Mentorship & Ethnicity

- Having the same ethnicity as one's mentor related to lack of training in running a study, ($X^2 [1, 281] = 5.11, p = .03$), and receiving less positive feedback, ($X^2 [1, 86] = 4.43, p = .04$), compared to those with non-matched ethnicity.



Gender, Ethnicity, & Publishing

- Having matched gender or ethnicity with one's mentor did not relate to publishing variables.

Conclusions and Implications

Men continue to report publishing more than women in academic journals. Women report lack of adequate research mentorship and collaboration as a publishing barrier. Better research mentorship may diminish the publishing gap between men and women.

Interestingly, different ethnicities between mentee and mentor led to more positive feedback and training in running a study. Ethnically-matched mentors should become aware of these differences and increase training in these areas.