

Week 6 Extra Credit

POPULAR CONCEPTIONS OF GENDER DIFFERENCES IN SOCIAL BEHAVIOR: HOW ARE MEN AND WOMEN DIFFERENT?

Purpose: This exercise is a replication of Swim's (1994) investigation of people's perceptions of the sizes of gender differences. Her study compared people's estimations of gender differences with the results of meta-analytic studies.

Instructions: Recruit two women and two men who are willing to complete a short questionnaire that assesses popular conceptions of the gender differences that have been studied by psychologists. Select a variety of participants for this project. Include four people who vary not only by sex but by other social categories (for example, age, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, social class, etc.). Be sure to describe each participant by indicating her or his sex, age, and social attributes (for example, race or ethnicity, social class, etc.) at the top of each interview form.

Explain to your volunteers that the questionnaire contains descriptions of six traits or behaviors. Your participants should read each description and think about whether they believe men and women differ on each attribute. Then, they should provide their estimation of the size of the gender difference using this scale.

- 3: Women are more likely than men to exhibit this trait or behavior. There is a large gender difference favoring women.
- 2: Women are more likely than men to exhibit this trait or behavior. There is a moderate gender difference favoring women.
- 1: Women are more likely than men to exhibit this trait or behavior. There is a small gender difference favoring women.
- 0: No difference. Women and men are equally likely to exhibit this trait or behavior.
- +1: Men are more likely than women to exhibit this trait or behavior. There is a small gender difference favoring men.
- +2: Men are more likely than women to exhibit this trait or behavior. There is a moderate gender difference favoring men.
- +3: Men are more likely than women to exhibit this trait or behavior. There is a large gender difference favoring men.

Participant A

Sex _____

Age _____

Characteristics/Comments _____

Psychologists have studied whether men and women differ on each of the following behaviors or traits. In some cases large gender differences have been found. In others, small to no gender differences have been established. Read each of the following descriptions and provide your estimate of the degree to which women and men (as a group) differ on each trait or behavior.

1. *Leadership*: In groups composed of men and women, who is most likely to be selected as the leader? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

2. *Helping in the Presence of Others*: When a group of onlookers is present, who is most likely to assist someone in distress? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

3. *Helping When Alone*: In cases where someone needs assistance and no one else is around, who is most likely to help? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

4. *Aggression*: Are women or men more likely to be physically and verbally aggressive?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

5. *Happiness*: Who is happier? Women or men?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

6. *Influence by Group Pressure*: Conformity has been measured by a person's willingness to change their opinion when faced with opposing opinions held by other members in the group. Who is more likely to be influenced by group pressure to conform? Women or men?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

Participant B

Sex _____

Age _____

Characteristics/Comments _____

Psychologists have studied whether men and women differ on each of the following behaviors or traits. In some cases large gender differences have been found. In others, small to no gender differences have been established. Read each of the following descriptions and provide your estimate of the degree to which women and men (as a group) differ on each trait or behavior.

1. *Leadership*: In groups composed of men and women, who is most likely to be selected as the leader? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

2. *Helping in the Presence of Others*: When a group of onlookers is present, who is most likely to assist someone in distress? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

3. *Helping When Alone*: In cases where someone needs assistance and no one else is around, who is most likely to help? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

4. *Aggression*: Are women or men more likely to be physically and verbally aggressive?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

5. *Happiness*: Who is happier? Women or men?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

6. *Influence by Group Pressure*: Conformity has been measured by a person's willingness to change their opinion when faced with opposing opinions held by other members in the group. Who is more likely to be influenced by group pressure to conform? Women or men?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

Participant C

Sex _____

Age _____

Characteristics/Comments _____

Psychologists have studied whether men and women differ on each of the following behaviors or traits. In some cases large gender differences have been found. In others, small to no gender differences have been established. Read each of the following descriptions and provide your estimate of the degree to which women and men (as a group) differ on each trait or behavior.

1. *Leadership*: In groups composed of men and women, who is most likely to be selected as the leader? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

2. *Helping in the Presence of Others*: When a group of onlookers is present, who is most likely to assist someone in distress? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

3. *Helping When Alone*: In cases where someone needs assistance and no one else is around, who is most likely to help? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

4. *Aggression*: Are women or men more likely to be physically and verbally aggressive?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

5. *Happiness*: Who is happier? Women or men?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

6. *Influence by Group Pressure*: Conformity has been measured by a person's willingness to change their opinion when faced with opposing opinions held by other members in the group. Who is more likely to be influenced by group pressure to conform? Women or men?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

Participant D

Sex _____

Age _____

Characteristics/Comments _____

Psychologists have studied whether men and women differ on each of the following behaviors or traits. In some cases large gender differences have been found. In others, small to no gender differences have been established. Read each of the following descriptions and provide your estimate of the degree to which women and men (as a group) differ on each trait or behavior.

1. *Leadership*: In groups composed of men and women, who is most likely to be selected as the leader? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

2. *Helping in the Presence of Others*: When a group of onlookers is present, who is most likely to assist someone in distress? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

3. *Helping When Alone*: In cases where someone needs assistance and no one else is around, who is most likely to help? Men or women?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

4. *Aggression*: Are women or men more likely to be physically and verbally aggressive?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

5. *Happiness*: Who is happier? Women or men?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

6. *Influence by Group Pressure*: Conformity has been measured by a person's willingness to change their opinion when faced with opposing opinions held by other members in the group. Who is more likely to be influenced by group pressure to conform? Women or men?

Estimation of gender difference: _____

