Figures and figure supplements

Gender inequalities among authors who contributed equally

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Figure 1. Proportion of various gender combinations among joint first authors in scientific papers published between 1995 and 2017. We studied papers in which two or more authors shared the first author position: ‘fm’, ‘ff’, ‘mf’ and ‘mm’ represent papers in which two authors shared the first author position, with the actual order of the authors being female-male, female-female, male-female and male-male. For papers in which more than two authors shared the first author position, ‘all f’ means that all these authors were female, ‘all m’ means they were all male, and ‘f+’ or ‘m+’ means that the first author listed in a mixed-gender combination was female or male respectively. The plot shows that the proportion of combinations in which a male author is listed first (various shades of blue) is decreasing over time.

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Figure 1—figure supplement 1. Distribution of papers analyzed per year in this study.
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Figure 2. Gender bias in the first author position over time. Temporal trend in gender bias among two equally contributing authors of different gender: the y-axis is \( \log\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) \) where \( p \) is the probability of bias; the x-axis is publication year. In the absence of bias, \( \log\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) \) would be zero.

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Figure 3. Percentage of papers with two or more authors contributing equally as a function of time. Points denote the percentage of papers with where more than two authors claimed equal contribution. Trendline $R^2$ value as 0.4857.

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Figure 4. Gender bias in first authorship by year and geography. Predicted probabilities of male first authorship by year for three geographical regions (USA: blue; Europe: green; Other: red) among papers with two equally contributing authors of different gender (N = 972).

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