

# Political Sociology Lectures: Gender

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- ▶ Inequality
- ▶ Representation
- ▶ Political Participation
- ▶ Electoral Behaviour
- ▶ Conclusions

# Gender Inequality and Trends over Time I

Substantial pay gap even within occupations (Kolby Table 3.15).

- ▶ Declining over time in US, from 35% in 1970s to 25% in 1990. Likewise in Europe but unclear whether this trend is being maintained.

BRITAIN IN EUROPE (Tony Spiby, ed, 1997)

TABLE 6.3 Female earnings as a percentage of male earnings across Europe, 1980-91

	<i>Manual workers</i>		<i>Non-manual workers</i>	
	<i>1980</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>1991</i>
Belgium	70.2	75.6	61.9	65.2
Denmark	86.0	84.5	n/a	n/a
Germany	72.4	73.4	66.0	67.1
France	78.3	80.2	61.1	67.2
Greece	67.5	79.2	n/a	68.5
Ireland	68.7	69.5	n/a	n/a
Italy	83.2	79.3	n/a	n/a
Luxembourg	64.7	68.0	49.7	55.2
Netherlands	73.0	76.2	59.1	64.8
Spain	n/a	72.2	n/a	60.9
Portugal	n/a	70.8	n/a	70.7
UK	69.8	67.2	54.5	58.3

Source: Derived from European Commission (1994: 8)

Note: The '1991' figure is in fact from 1990 for Netherlands and Luxembourg and 1989 from Italy; n/a indicates data not available. Data for Germany before 1989 is for the Federal Republic only.

Pay differentials are greatest in non-manual occupations. For those countries with available data, non-manual employees in Luxembourg and the UK fared the worst. Female manual workers in Denmark have achieved the highest level of 'equality' in relation to earnings levels.

Figures 6.4a and 6.4b evidence high levels of job segregation in clerical and service occupations across Europe. Around 70 per cent of employees in service occupations in Denmark, the UK, France, the Netherlands and Luxembourg are women.

# Gender Inequality and Trends over Time II

## STAGNATION AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY

Table 3.15

Median Income of Various Occupations, 1993, by Sex

Occupation	Annual Pay <sup>a</sup>		Female Pay as % of Male Pay
	Male	Female	
Executive, administration, and management	42,722	28,876	68
Professional specialty	45,136	31,906	71
Technical and related support	35,048	26,324	75
Sales	32,327	18,743	58
Administrative support, including clerical	26,746	20,683	77
Precision production, craft, and repair	27,653	21,357	77
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	23,378	15,379	66
Transportation and material moving	26,532	19,652	74
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, laborers	17,556	14,826	84
Service workers	20,860	13,126	63
Private household	—	8,460	—
Service workers, except private household	20,860	13,419	64
Farming, forestry, and fishing	15,655	10,581	68

<sup>a</sup> Figures shown are salaries for full-time, year-round workers only.

Source: Kolby 1999 - *Inequality, Power and Development*

## THE DECLINE OF UNIONS

# Representation of Women & Welfare State

	Parliament %	Cabinet %	Family Policy
AUL	3.5	5.6	1
AUT	12.3	21.8	7
BAH	2.9	26.1	.
BAR	5.7	13.6	.
BEL	7.5	15.9	10
BOT	5.1	8.4	.
CAN	7.8	18.7	2
COL	6.7	11.5	.
CR	9.4	10.5	.
DEN	24	32.1	8
FIN	29.3	40	9
FRA	5.7	11	11
GER	13.4	17.4	7
GRE	4.5	5.6	.
ICE	13.1	10	.
IND	5.7	5.7	.
IRE	6.7	16.7	1
ISR	7.5	10.6	.
ITA	9	10.1	6
JAM	8.4	9.6	.
JPN	1.8	4.8	2
LUX	12.7	22	.
MAL	2.8	0	.
MAU	4.9	4	.
NET	16.8	25	4
NZ	10.9	9.6	2
NOR	29.1	42.1	9
PNG	.9	0	.
POR	6.9	9	.
SPA	9.4	19.9	.
SWE	30.4	40.5	11
SWI	10.9	14.3	2
TRI	12.7	12.7	.
UK	5	8.9	5
US	5.7	20.5	3
VEN	5	12.3	.

Source: Lijphart(1999)

# Factors associated with under-representation of women in parliament

- ▶ Attitudes to women as political leaders (Paxton and Kunovich, 2003)
- ▶ Years of democracy
- ▶ Religion
- ▶ Welfare system
- ▶ Female education and economic activity
- ▶ Electoral System
- ▶ Party Quotas

The first of these tends to be the most powerful.

## Under-supply of female candidates

Fox and Lawless (2011) look at a sample of US men and women from the professions that yield the highest proportion of political candidates for congressional and state legislative positions: law, business, education, and political activism.

They find that women are less likely to see themselves as qualified for political office than men with similar backgrounds (see following slide).

**TABLE 3 Gender Differences in Perceptions of Skills, Traits, Campaigns, and the Electoral Environment**

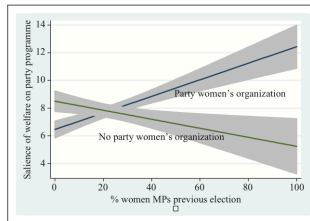
	Women	Men
<b>Perceptions of Political Skills</b>		
Knowledgeable about public policy issues.	46%**	59%
Professional experience relevant to politics.	66**	74
Good public speaker.	57**	66
Connected to the political system.	21**	27
Good fundraiser.	13**	21
Good self-promoter.	17*	21
<b>Perceptions of Personal Background and Traits</b>		
Has thick enough skin.	52**	71
Has a lot of skeletons in his or her closet.	10	11
<b>Perceptions of Engaging in Typical Campaign Activities</b>		
Deterred by soliciting contributions.	30	22
Deterred by dealing with party officials.	15	11
Deterred by going door-to-door to meet constituents.	19*	14
Deterred by dealing with the press.	15*	10
Deterred by potentially having to engage in a negative campaign.	45**	30
<b>Perceptions of Gender Bias in the Political Arena</b>		
Believe it is more difficult for a woman than a man to be elected.	78**	57
Believe it is harder for women than men to raise money for a campaign.	65**	38
<b>Perceptions of Electoral Competition</b>		
Perceive local elections as highly competitive.	58**	46
Perceive congressional elections as highly competitive.	61**	49
N	862	1,003

Notes: For "Perceptions of Skills and Traits," entries indicate the percentage of respondents who self-assess as possessing the skill or trait. For "Perceptions of Engaging in Typical Campaign Activities," entries indicate the percentage of women and men who report that they view the activity so negatively that it would deter them from running for office. For "Perceptions of Gender Bias in the Political Arena" and "Perceptions of Electoral Competition," entries indicate the percentage of respondents who answered affirmatively. Sample sizes vary slightly because some respondents omitted answers to some questions. Significance levels of chi-square tests comparing women and men: \*\*p < .01; \*p < .05.

# Does descriptive representation of women affect policy?

Campbell et al (BJPS 2010) argue that in Britain women have more feminist attitudes to gender equality than men, and this is reflected among parliamentary candidates.

Kittilson (2011) looked at 124 parties from 24 countries between 1990 and 2003 and found that the more women MPs a party had the more important welfare policy was in the party manifesto, but only if the party has a women's organization.



**Figure 6.** The mediating effect of women's organizations on women MPs on the salience of welfare state expansion in party programmes

Still no clear evidence on government policy though.



# Mass Political Participation I

Although men no longer seem to vote more than women in post-industrial societies, they do still tend to be more active than women in other forms of political activity.

But the size and nature of the gap varies between countries (e.g. Dalton, 2008) and over time.

Most notably gaps are larger in less developed countries.

## Mass Political Participation II

Explanations for the gender gap in participation are classified by Norris (2007) as follows.

### *Supply-side*

- ▶ **Resources:** e.g. education, time, income, and civic skills.
- ▶ **Cultural:** e.g. efficacy, interest, ambition, gender roles.

### *Demand-side*

- ▶ **Agency:** e.g. mobilizing organizations such as churches and unions, and also media and social networks.
- ▶ **Institutional:** rules and procedures that make it easier for men to participate.

Supply-side explanations are the most dominant, and there is limited evidence for the demand-side, especially institutional factors, though note . . .

## Mass Political Participation III

Waylen (1994) describes

- ▶ how women's protest activity was permitted in otherwise repressive regimes in Latin America, and contributed to the process of democratization, and
- ▶ how women were encouraged to participate in communist regimes in Eastern Europe, but female political activity declined with democratization and the return of traditional values.
- ▶ This illustrates the importance of institutions and political opportunity structure (Kriesi, 1992).

Burns et al. (1997) show that male control of resources within households is associated with greater male political participation without affecting female participation rates.

## Gender differences in political concerns motivating participation I

In addition to finding no gender differences in overall participation, Schlozman et al (1995) in their study (of US in 1989) found few gender differences in the issues motivating participation. But,

- ▶ the education effect is explained by women more likely to have schooled children in the household.
- ▶ the basic human needs effect may be driven by differences in dependency.

## Gender differences in political concerns motivating participation II

**Table 4. Percentage of Issue-Based Political Activity Motivated by Concern about Particular Issues**

	Advantaged <sup>a</sup>		Disadvantaged <sup>b</sup>	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Basic human needs	9	9	27	12**
Taxes	8	16**	13	15
Economic issues (except taxes)	14	15	4	5
Abortion	13	12	6	0**
Social issues (except abortion)	1	1	6	0**
Education	24	14***	17	8
Children or youth (except education)	5	3	9	5
Crime or drugs	8	5	15	6*
Environment	5	10*	0	4
Foreign policy	7	9	2	4
Women's issues	2	<sup>c</sup>	<sup>c</sup>	0
Number of respondents	197	228	297	182
Number of issue-based acts	326	338	113	72

<sup>a</sup> Advantaged: At least one year of college and family income at least \$50,000.

<sup>b</sup> Disadvantaged: No college education and family income less than \$20,000.

<sup>c</sup> Less than 1%.

\* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$ ; \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

## Gender and Voting I

Duverger (1955) found women were more conservative and linked this to their greater religiosity.

De Vaus and McAllister (EJPR 1989) found that women are more likely to place themselves on the right in 10 out of 11 countries they studied.

*Women are now increasingly voting for the left in many countries and there appears to be a gender generation gap. (Inglehart and Norris 2003)*

## Gender and Voting II

TABLE 4.2. *Trends in the voting gap in the 1980s and 1990s*

	1981 Gap	1990 Gap	1995 Gap
The Netherlands	.08	.51 **	
Belgium	-.39 **	-.08	
France	-.39 *	-.09	
Canada	.01	.23	
Britain	-.25	-.03	
West Germany	-.06 *	.16 *	.05
Ireland	-.28	-.20	
United States	.14	.15 **	.35 **
Spain	-.08	-.21 *	-.28 **
Denmark	.84 **	.69 **	
Italy	.39 **	.05	

*Note:* The difference between the mean position of women and men on the ten-point voting scale. A negative figure represents women more conservative than men; a positive figure represents women more left-leaning than men. Sig. \*\*  $p = .01$ , \*  $p = .05$ .

*Source:* WVS/EVS, 1981-95.

Inglehart and Norris (2003) say that this is because

- ▶ In older generations women are more Conservative while in younger generations (especially post-war) women are more Labour.
- ▶ This trend is linked to the post-materialism thesis and impact of feminism.
- ▶ for Britain see Norris (1999)
- ▶ following slide from Inglehart and Norris 2003 shows big cohort differences and a switch in the gender gap in postindustrial societies.



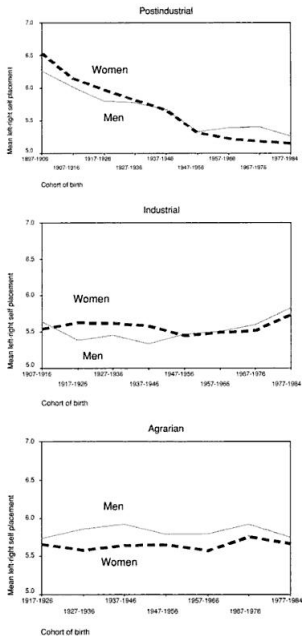


FIGURE 4.3. Ideological left-right self-placement by gender and type of society.

## A gender gap because of feminism? I

- ▶ While there has been increasing support for the women's movement
- ▶ But it has been among men as well as women, at least up to the 1990s.
- ▶ So this doesn't help explain the gender gap.
- ▶ Following table from Dalton *Citizen Politics* (in which the starred numbers are those for which there is a significant difference between men and women) shows few differences on women in politics issues in bottom two rows.
- ▶ Similarly, although Davis and Robinson (ASR, 1991) show that in Austria, W Germany, GB and US, women are more aware than men of gender inequality in work and education and are also more likely to support efforts to reduce inequality, the differences are not substantial.

# A gender gap because of feminism? II

Table 6.5 Attitudes toward Gender Equality (in percentages)

	United States	Great Britain	France	West Germany	East Germany
Situation of women has improved	70	68	60	68	—
<i>Work and Family</i>					
Working/nonworking mothers can establish same relationship with children	70*	68	73	39*	56
Having a job is best way for woman to be independent	55*	65*	76*	67*	70*
Preschoolers suffer if mother works (Disagree)	47	45	33	15	21
A job is all right, but women really want home/children (D)	40*	49*	29*	42*	46
Being a housewife is as fulfilling as a job (D)	24*	35*	35*	39*	60*
Average	47	52	49	40	51*
<i>Political Attitudes</i>					
Approve of women's movement	81	63	62	62*	76
Country would be better governed if more women politicians	57	51	59	51	—

Source: 1990–91 World Values Survey; first and last items are from the “Men and Women Study 1995.”

# Vote by gender etc.: Britain in 2010

	Voting				Con lead over Lab ±%	Turn- out	Change since 2005				Con- Lab swing
	Con	Lab	LD	Oth			Con	Lab	LD	Turn- out	
	%	%	%	%		±%	±%	±%	±%	%	
<b>All</b>	37	30	24	10	7	65%	+4	-6	+1	+4	5.0
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	38	28	22	12	10	66%	+4	-6	0	+4	5.0
Female	36	31	26	8	4	64%	+4	-7	+3	+3	5.5
<b>Age</b>											
18-24	30	31	30	9	-2	44%	+2	-7	+4	+7	4.5
25-34	35	30	29	7	4	55%	+10	-8	+2	+6	9.0
35-44	34	31	26	9	4	66%	+7	-10	+3	+5	8.5
45-54	34	28	26	12	6	69%	+3	-7	+1	+4	5.0
55-64	38	28	23	12	10	73%	-1	-3	+1	+2	1.0
65+	44	31	16	9	13	76%	+3	-4	-2	+1	3.5
<b>Men by Age</b>											
18-24	29	34	27	10	-4	50%	-4	0	+2	+11	-2.0
25-34	42	23	30	6	18	56%	+13	-10	+3	+7	11.5
35-54	36	28	23	13	8	67%	+5	-8	+1	+3	6.5
55+	41	29	16	14	12	76%	+1	-4	-4	+2	2.5
<b>Women by Age</b>											
18-24	30	28	34	9	2	39%	+8	-15	+8	+4	11.5
25-34	27	38	27	8	-11	54%	+6	-5	-1	+6	5.5
35-54	33	31	29	8	2	67%	+6	-9	+4	+6	7.5
55+	42	30	21	7	12	73%	+1	-4	+1	0	2.5
<b>Social Class</b>											
AB	39	26	29	7	13	76%	+2	-2	0	+5	2.0
C1	39	28	24	9	11	66%	+2	-4	+1	+4	3.0
C2	37	29	22	12	8	58%	+4	-11	+3	0	7.5
DE	31	40	17	12	-10	57%	+6	-8	-1	+3	7.0
<b>Men by Class</b>											
AB	44	23	27	7	21	76%	+7	-4	-1	+7	5.5
C1	40	28	22	10	12	67%	+1	-1	0	+3	1.0
C2	33	33	19	15	0	58%	+1	-6	+1	+1	3.5
DE	32	35	13	20	-3	59%	+8	-12	-4	+4	10.0
<b>Women by Class</b>											
AB	34	29	31	6	5	75%	-2	0	+2	+4	-1.0
C1	39	28	25	8	10	66%	+5	-7	+2	+5	6.0
C2	41	25	25	9	17	58%	+7	-15	+5	0	11.0
DE	29	45	19	7	-15	56%	+4	-4	+1	+2	4.0
<b>Housing Tenure</b>											
Owned	45	24	21	11	21	74%	+1	-5	+1	+3	3.0
Mortgage	36	29	26	9	7	66%	+5	-7	+1	+6	6.0
Social renter	24	47	19	11	-23	55%	+8	-8	0	+4	8.0
Private renter	35	29	27	9	6	55%	+8	-7	-1	+4	7.5

Base: 10,211 GB adults aged 18+ (of which 5,927 were "absolutely certain to vote" or said they had already voted), interviewed 19 March-5 May 2010.

Source: Ipsos MORI

## A gender gap because of female employment?

- ▶ Manza and Brooks (1999) argue that increased female Labour Force Participation helps to explain the increased gender gap in the US.
  - ▶ Women's participation increased from 37% to 75% between 1950 and 1994.
  - ▶ This results in greater female exposure to wage inequality, segregation and increasing need for child care and income maintenance.
  - ▶ Since the Democrats attend to these issues, they benefit.
- ▶ The importance of labour force participation is also supported cross-nationally in left-right self placement (De Vaus and McAllister, EJPR 1989).

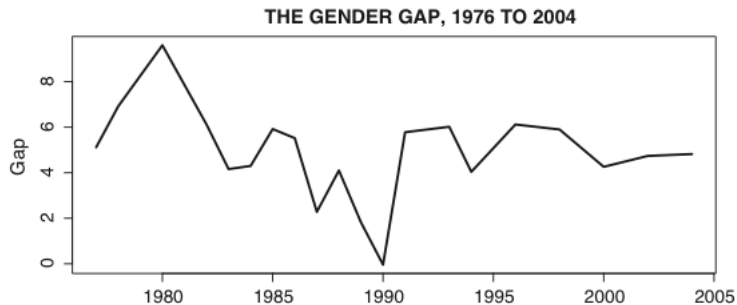
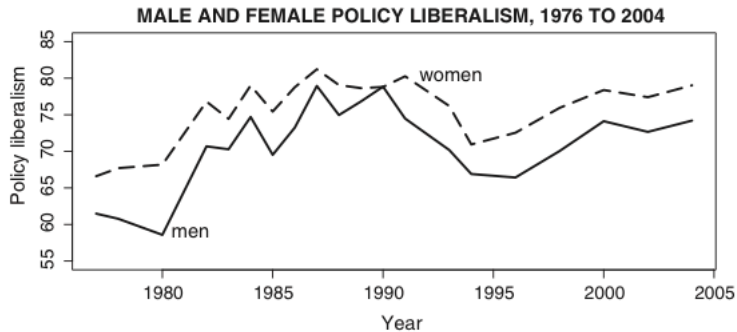
## Differential responsiveness: Kellstedt et al. 2010 I

More detailed evidence from US on policy preferences does not show such a steady trend towards women having more socialist policy preferences as you would expect if female labour force participation were the cause.

Kellstedt et al. 2010 show the gender gap in policy mood has changed over time and argue that the changes are explained by greater responsiveness to policy output by men.

E.g. when Clinton became president and policy moved to the left, people became less likely to demand a shift to the left, but men moved quicker than women.

## Differential responsiveness: Kellstedt et al. 2010 II



# Conclusion

By comparison with other social cleavages, gender is striking because . . .

- ▶ the majority group is the one that does worst, and
- ▶ there are substantial inequalities in wealth and power, but
- ▶ it is only mildly politicized.

Large potential for conflict, but little in practice.