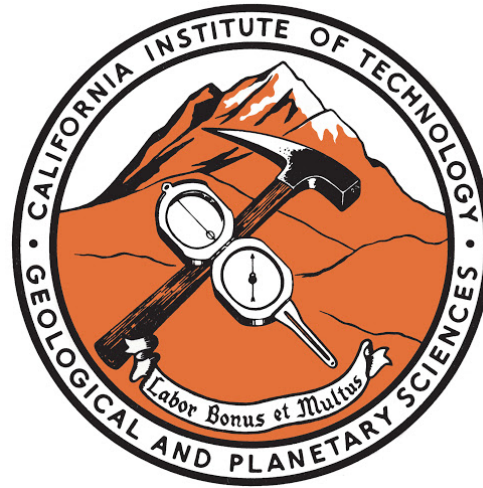


Gender, academia, and the COVID-19 pandemic

Giuliana A Viglione, PhD

23 July 2020 | CSHL WiSE Journal Club

About me



WING
CALTECH WOMEN IN GPS

nature

The tweet that sparked it all:



Elizabeth Hannon

@EI_Dritch

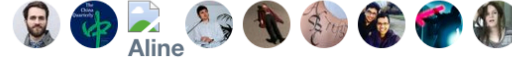
ಹಿಂಬಾಲಿಸು



Negligible number of submissions to the journal from women in the last month. Never seen anything like it.

04:15 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ - ಎಪ್ರಿ 18, 2020

992 ಮರುಪೋಸ್ಟ್‌ಗಳು 2,581 ಇಷ್ಟಗಳು



83



992



2.6K



Elizabeth Hannon @EI_Dritch · ಎಪ್ರಿ 20



Obviously the sample size here is v small and it will be interesting to see how things pan out. For example, will more women find themselves getting into a rhythm with the various kinds of work they're juggling, and so next month we'll see an increase in papers from women?



3



4



57

Initial reports suggested a problem...

Women academics seem to be submitting fewer papers during coronavirus. 'Never seen anything like it,' says one editor.

Men are submitting up to 50 percent more than they usually would

No Room of One's Own

| Early journal submission data suggest COVID-19 is tanking women's research productivity.

By Colleen Flaherty

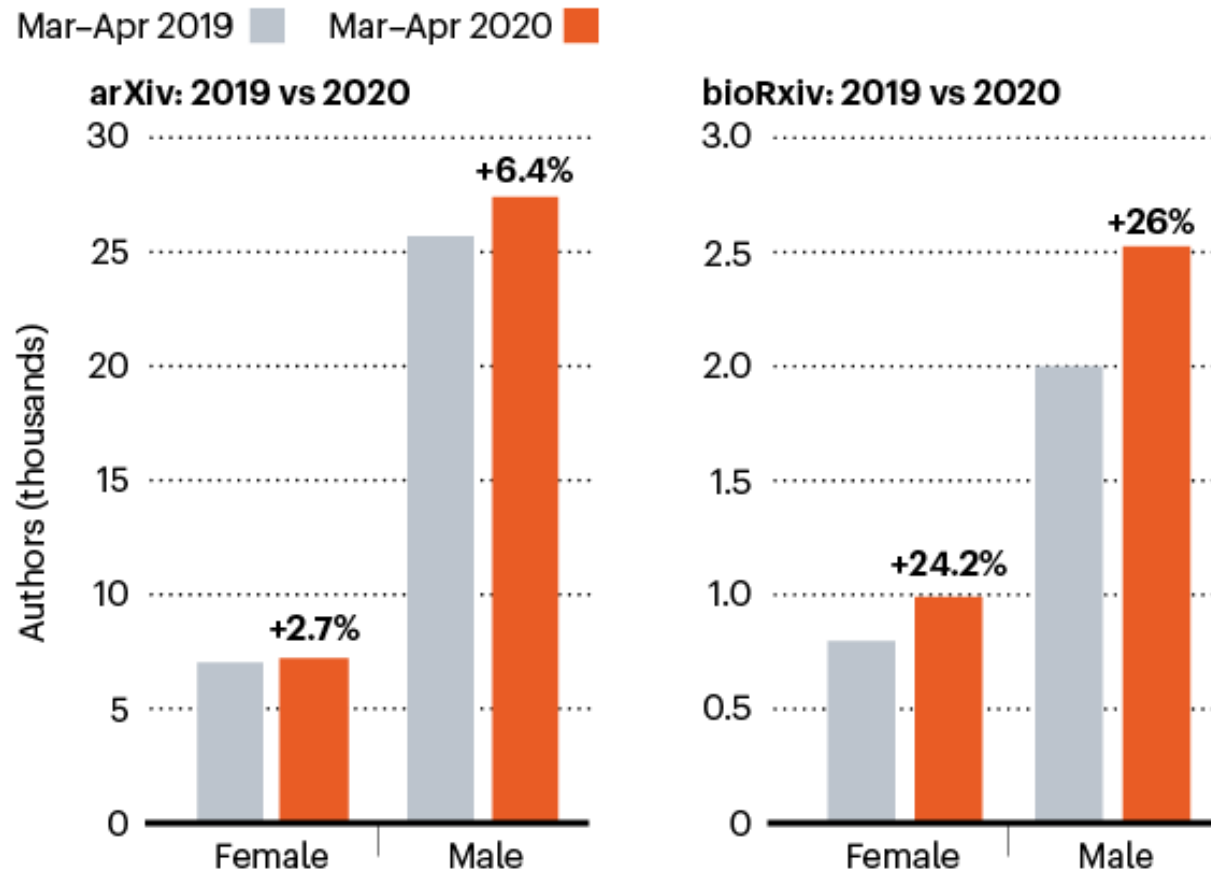
Women's research plummets during lockdown - but articles from men increase

Many female academics
coronavirus childca

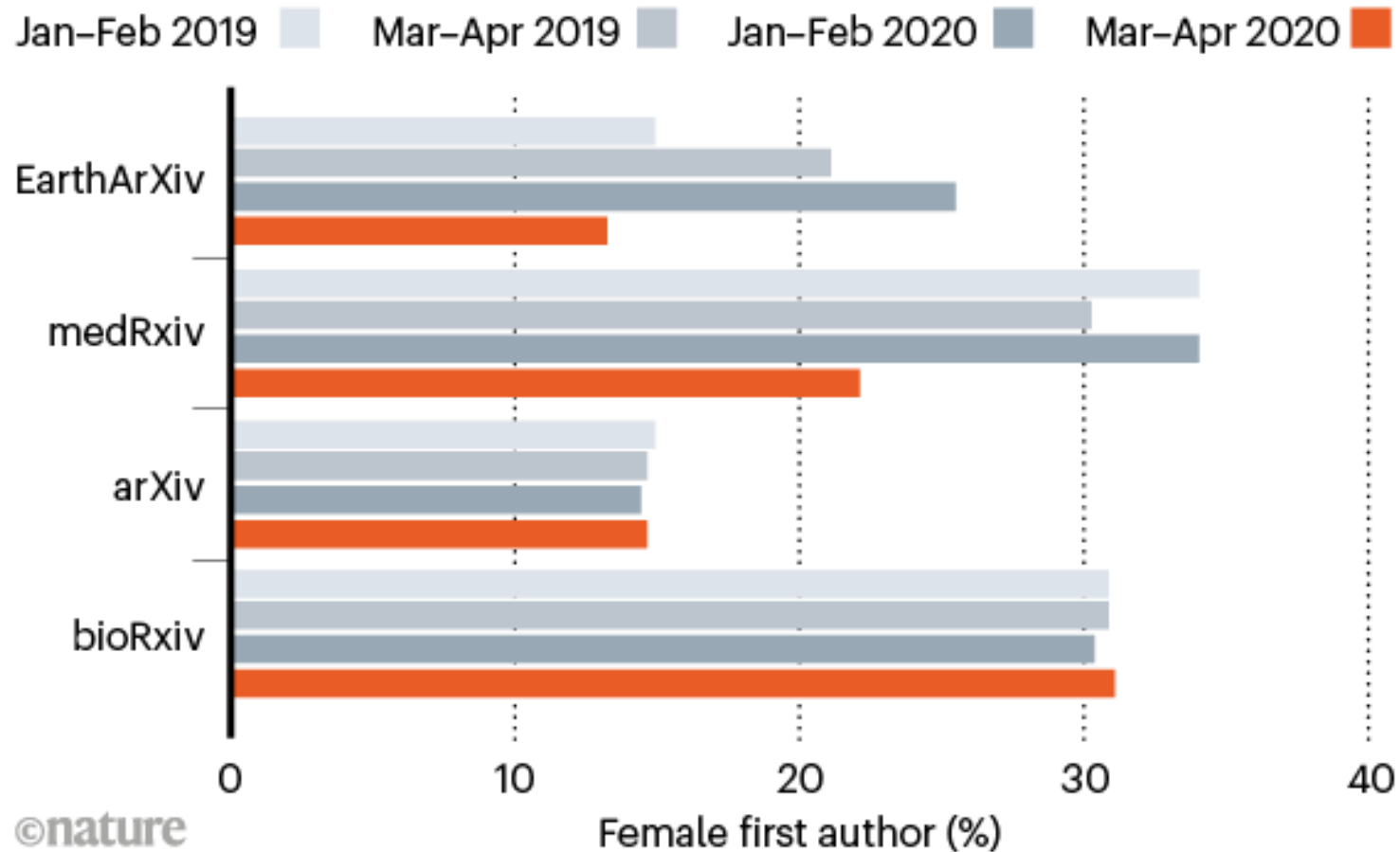
Are women publishing less during the pandemic? Here's what the data say

Early analyses suggest that female academics are posting fewer preprints and starting fewer research projects than their male peers.

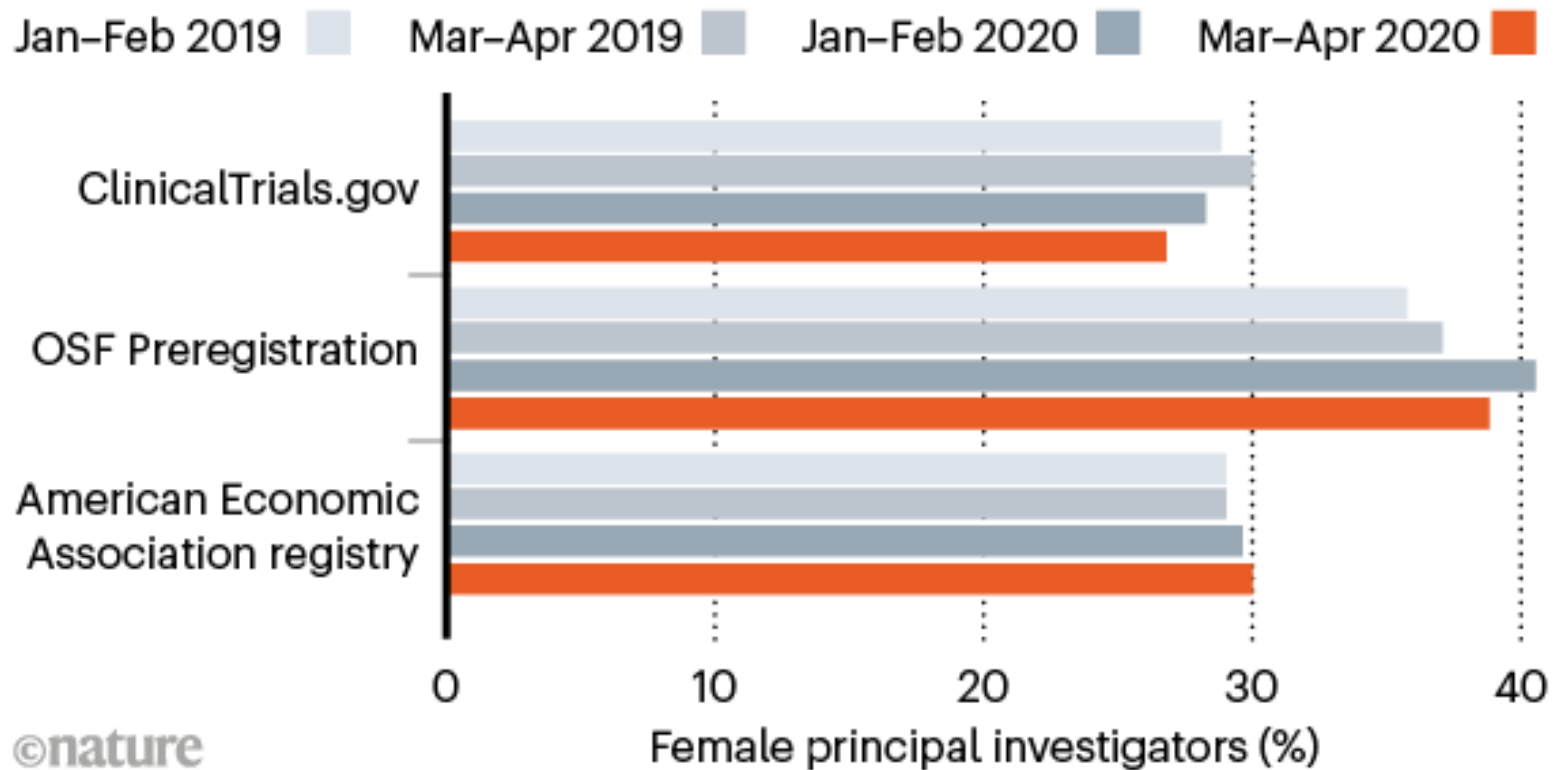
Everyone is publishing more — but men even more than women



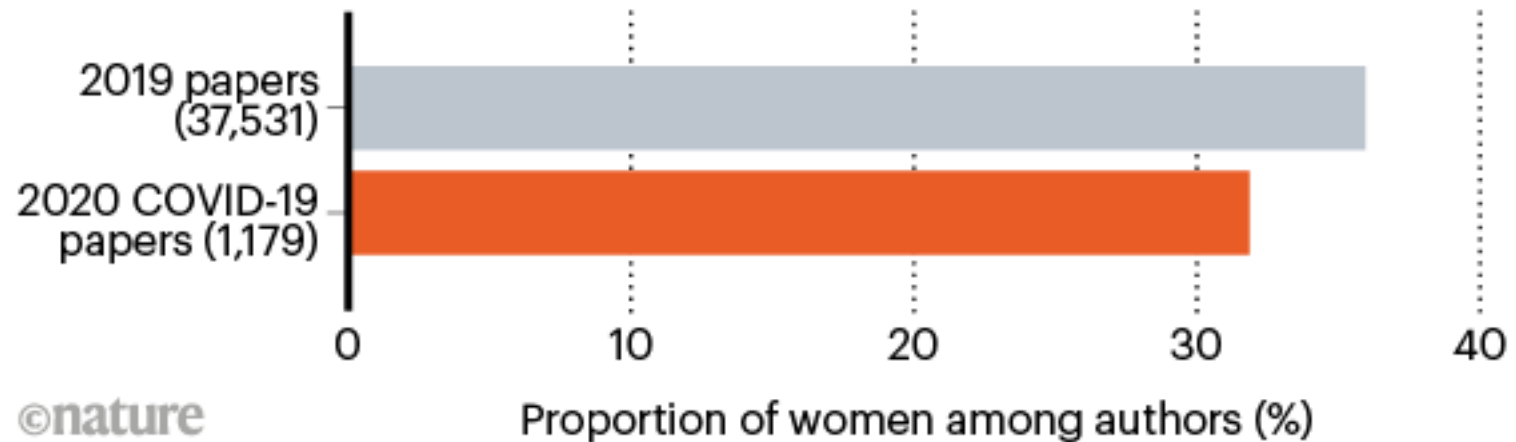
As a result, the percentage of women authors is declining



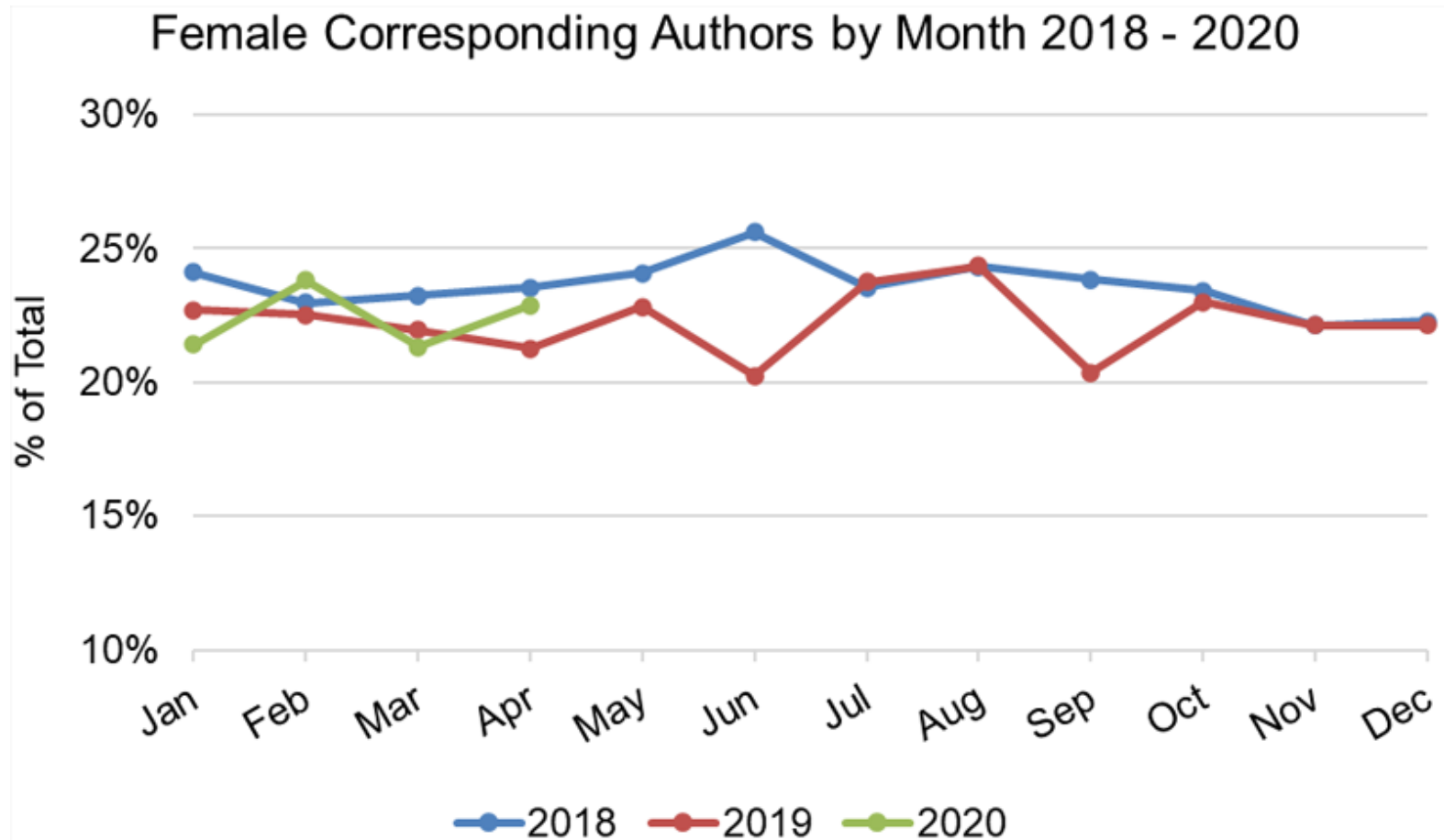
Women are also registering fewer new research projects



And women are more reluctant to dive into COVID-19 research



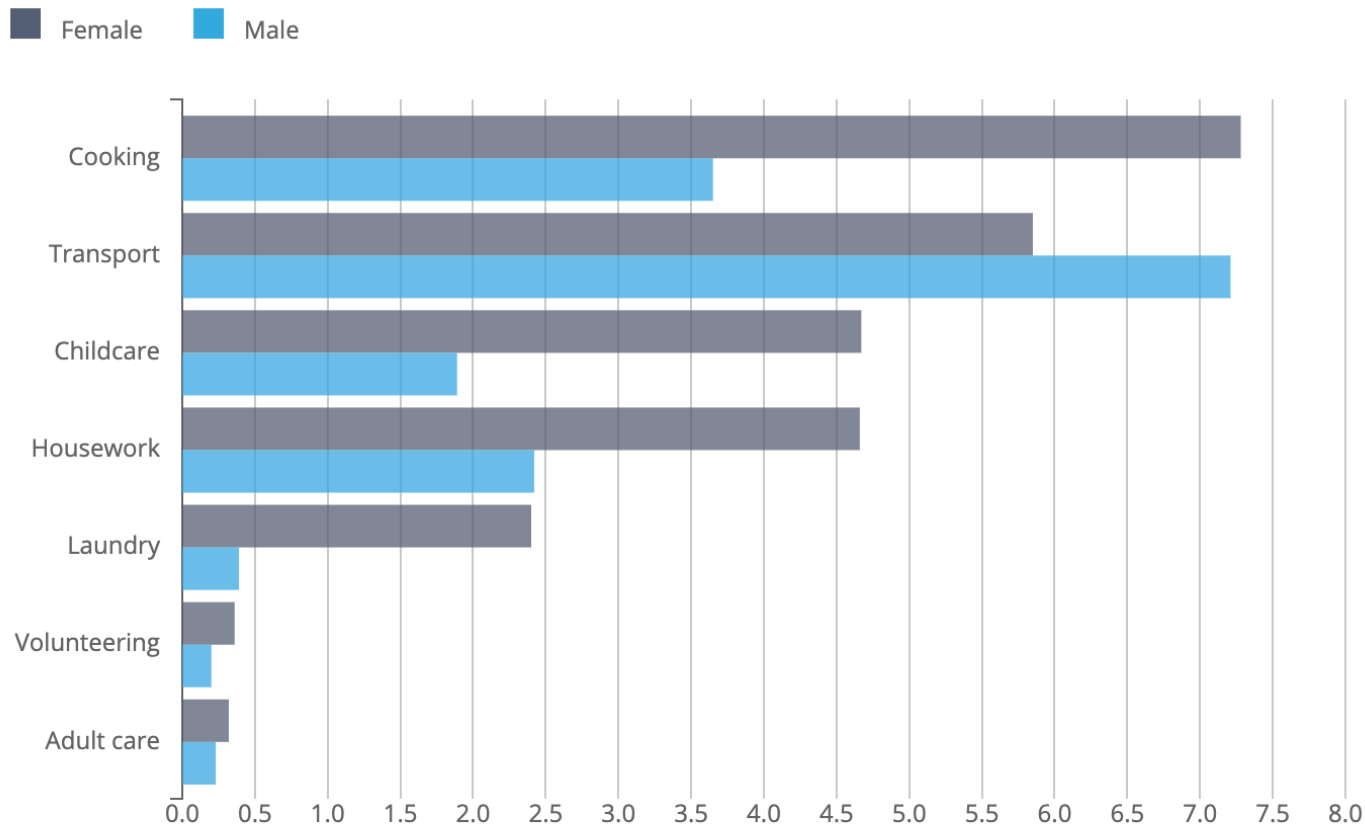
But some evidence shows no pandemic effects



What explains these patterns?

- Increased childcare responsibilities with schools and childcare services shut down
- The shift to online teaching means increased hours spent on teaching responsibilities
- Campus shutdowns likely eliminated or cut back on lots of service commitments for senior academics
- Increased instances of domestic violence during lockdowns create unsafe work environments
- Women and early-career researchers are more risk-averse — may be slower to jump into new areas

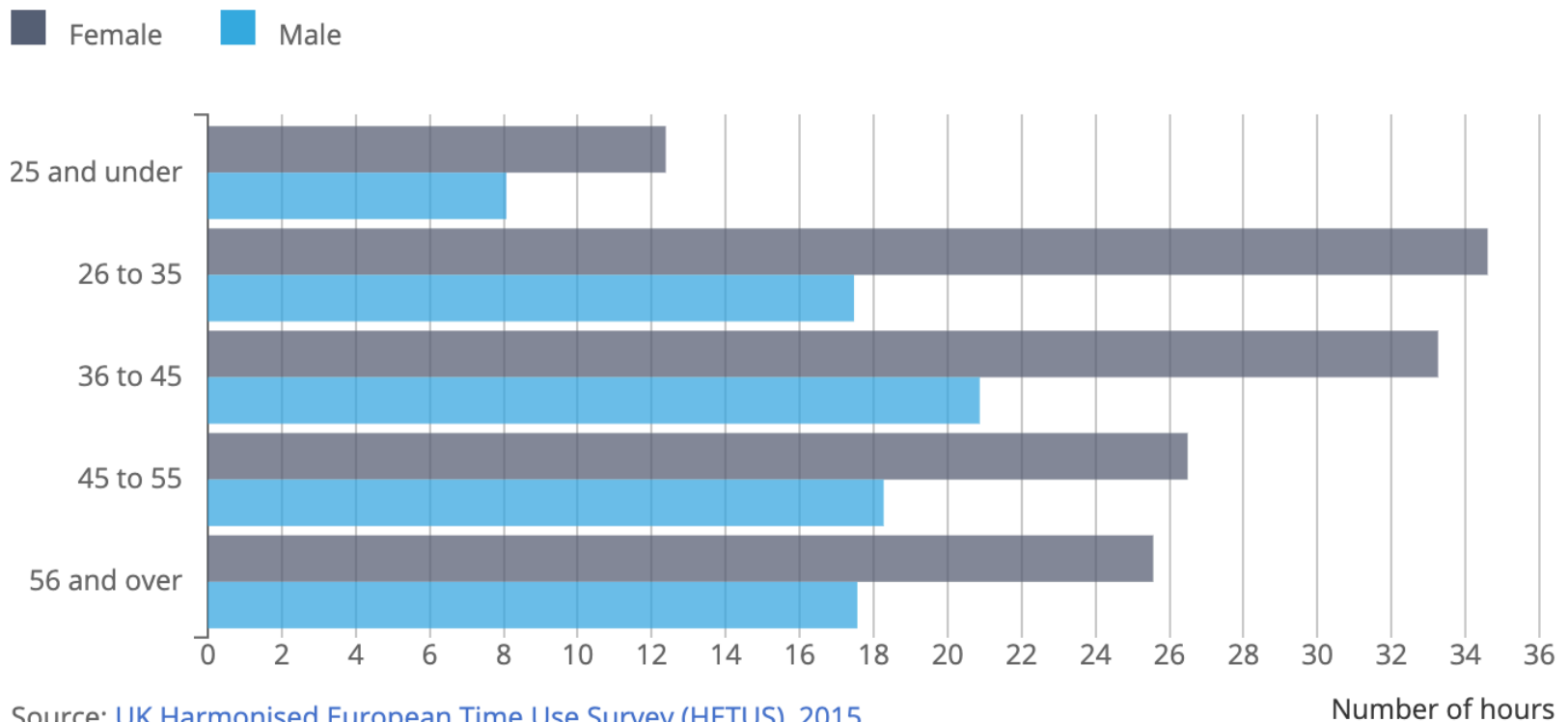
Responsibilities in the home are not split equally



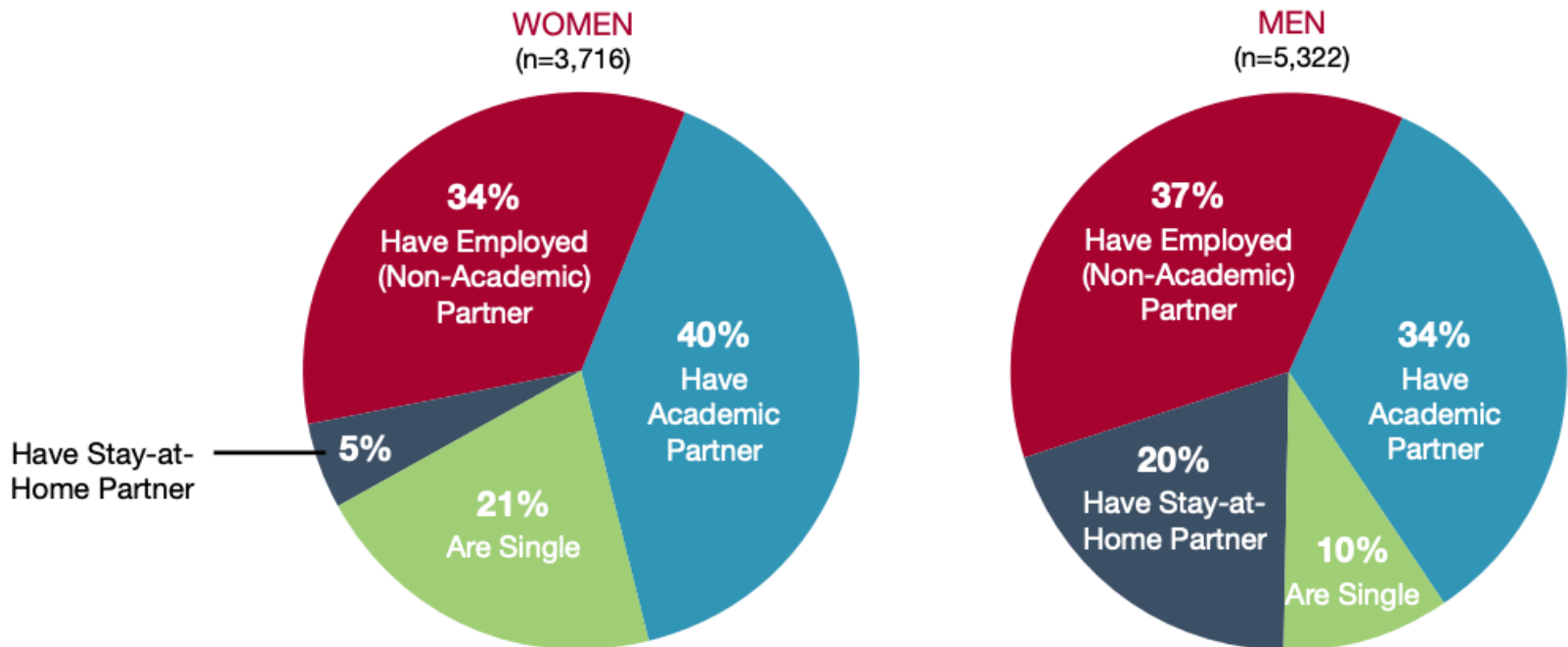
Source: [UK Harmonised European Time Use Survey \(HETUS\), 2015](#)

Number of hours

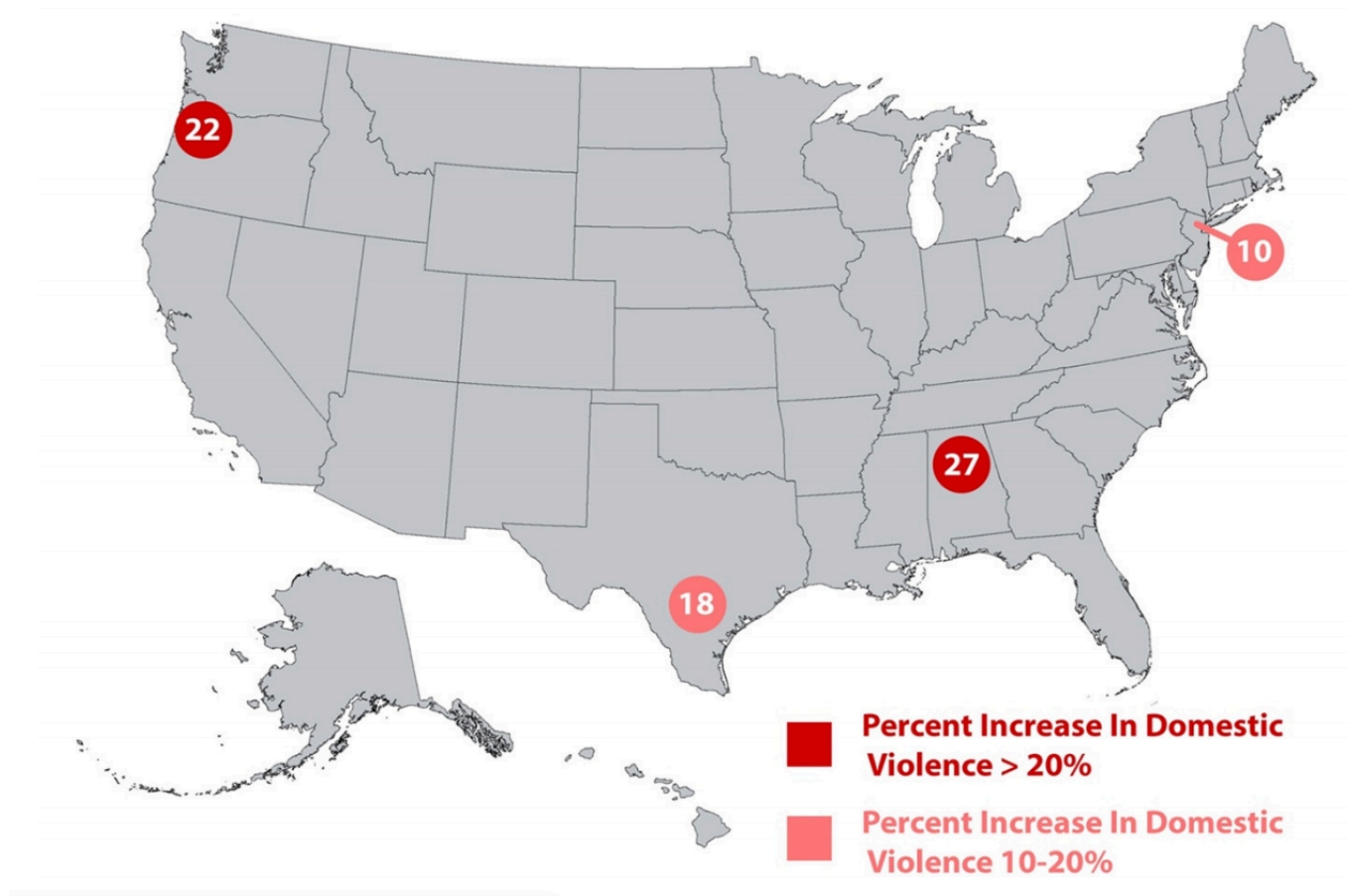
Responsibilities in the home are not split equally



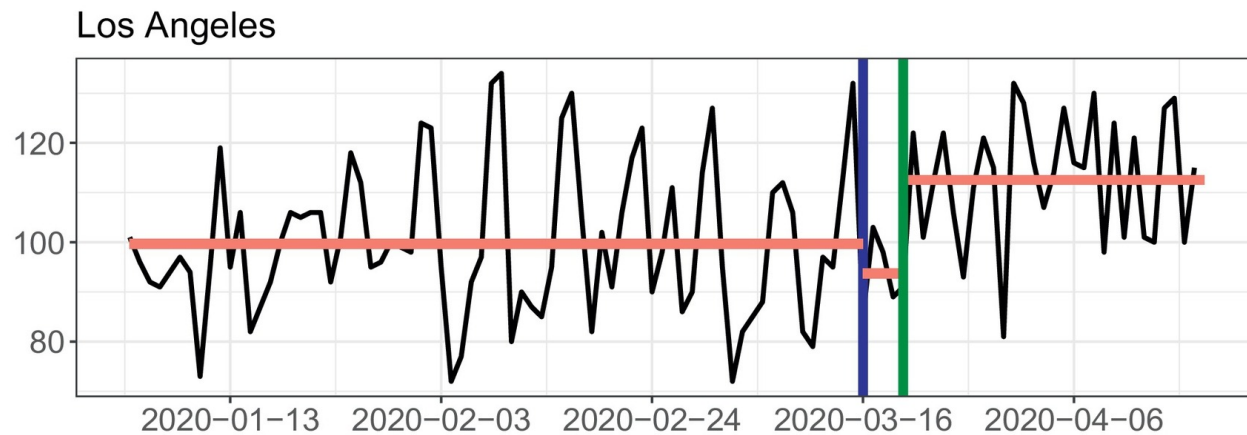
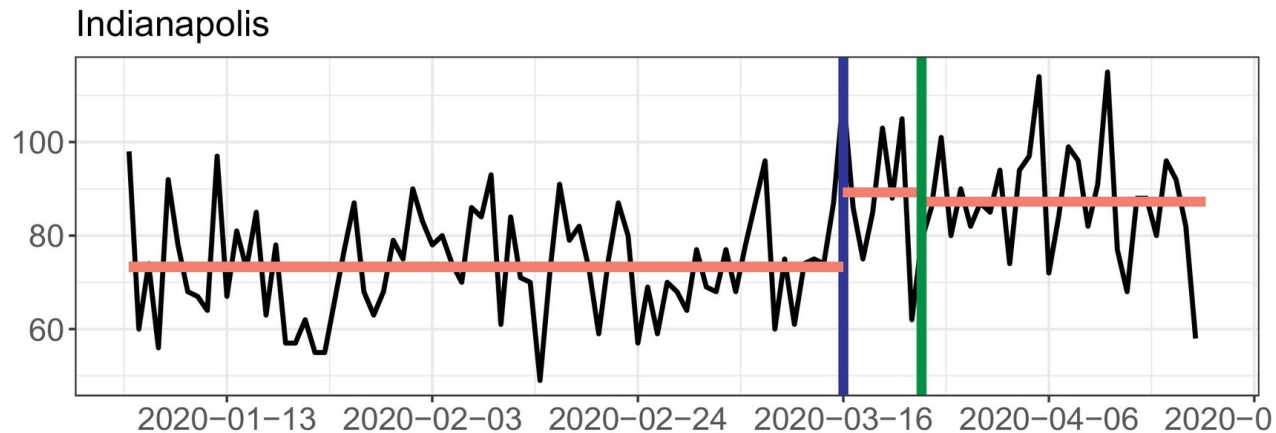
And men and women partner differently



Domestic violence reports on the rise



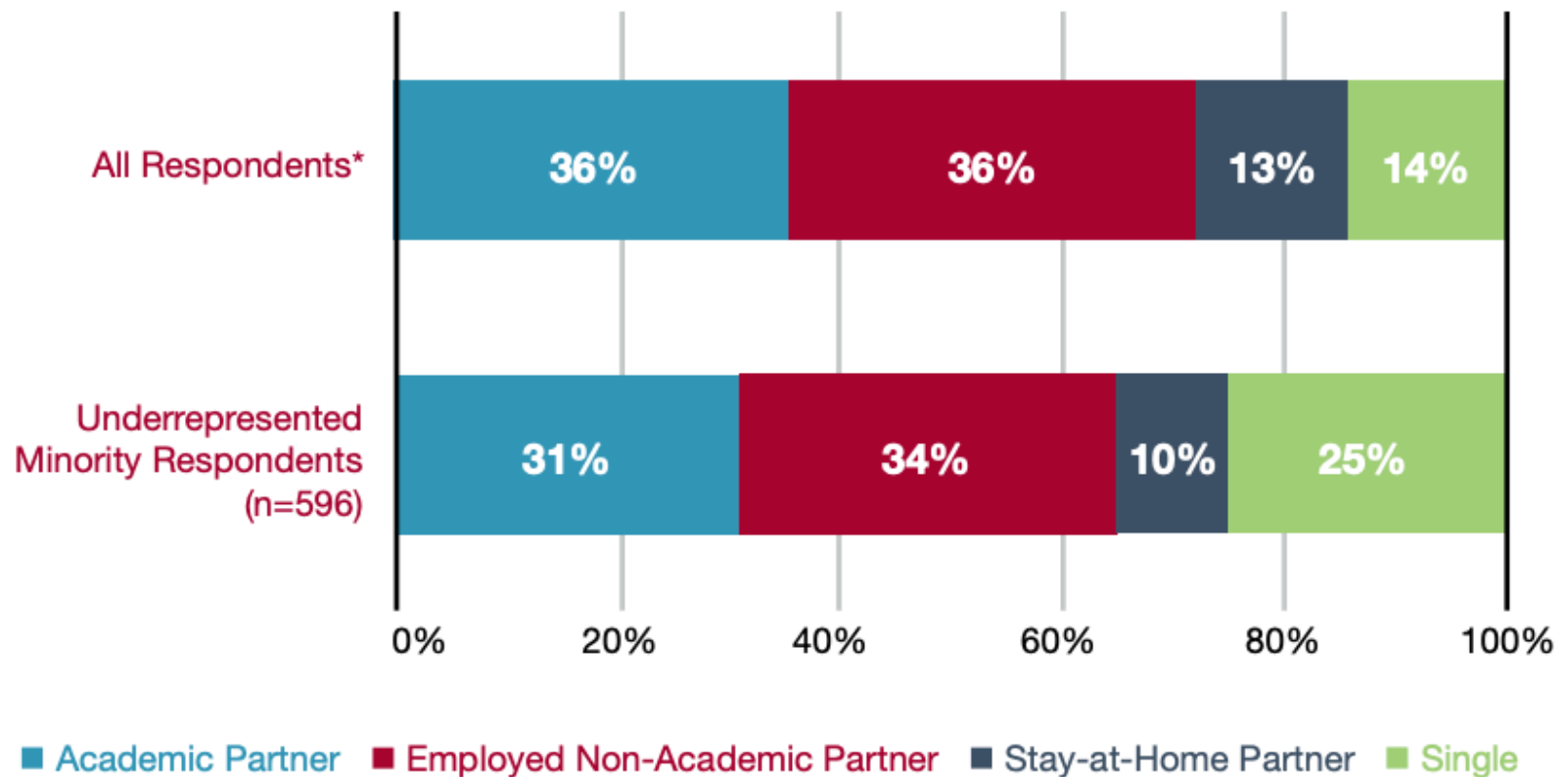
Domestic violence reports on the rise



Some caveats

- Name-matching software has several well-known issues
 - Gender is not a binary
 - For any individual, the name may be incorrectly assigned
 - Authorship conventions in different fields may make these analyses less accurate
 - Non-western names are less likely to be matched
- Pandemic still in its early stages — effects are going to accumulate and compound for months to come
- These analyses only focus on one aspect of identity

The importance of intersectionality



So what can be done?

- Stop the clock
- Amplify women
- Extra childcare support/financial support
- Flexible and family-friendly working hours
- Use the opportunity to get more women to present their work (conferences, seminars, etc.)
- Ultimately, only real, sustained change and investment in gender equality will correct this

Questions for discussion

- What sort of discussions have there been in your lab/department/institution about the differential impacts of the pandemic? Has anyone talked about specific steps to mitigate these impacts?
- How do the conversations you have about productivity with your male colleagues differ from those you have with your female colleagues?
- What are other minoritized groups which may be further harmed by the pandemic within academia?