

## Article 8:

## There Are Too Few Women in Computer Science and Engineering

In the featured article "There Are Too Few Women in Computer Science and Engineering", the authors, Sapna Cheryan, Allison Master and Andrew Meltzoff argue that the lack of gender diversity in technology fields can be attributed in part to the cultural barriers that women face. ✓

In this article, the authors explain that only 20% and 22% of engineering undergraduate degrees in the U.S. are awarded to women and that society is missing their contributions to that field. Although the explanation for the low representation of women is often attributed to their lack of interest in these fields, the article argues that the male-oriented culture and stereotypes surrounding these fields dissuade many women and young girls from becoming interested. The article discusses experiments made to understand the impact of stereotypes on women's interest in computer science and engineering. (In one experiment, they compared the interest of college students when the classroom was decorated with stereotypical objects such as Star Trek posters. They found that women were less interested in studying computer science after being in the stereotypical classroom, while men's interest generally remained unchanged.) This type of experiment highlights how cultural stereotypes can affect the perception of a field and who feels welcome in it. The authors suggest that women tend to behave as society shows how it perceives them. Not needed

Eventually stereotypes become reality. They take the example of Google, which realized that women don't set themselves up to be promoted because society tends to show them that they can't be promoted or berate them if they do. The article also criticizes stereotypes about men, as it can bother people who identify as nonbinary because it forces them to fit into a specific pattern. Not clear

To conclude, the authors clearly claim that not the interest of the women but the vision of the society on Computer Science and Engineering which participates in the low percentages of women in these fields. They present the idea that by creating more inclusive and welcoming cultures in these fields, we can help unlock the full potential of all individuals, regardless of their gender. This

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