

Examining Gender Authorship in Aquaculture Journals

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WHY LOOK AT AUTHORSHIP ORDER?

Because authorship in peer-reviewed journals is an important factor in assessing professionals in research and science for promotions, future funding, and tenure-tracked positions. Assigning authorship position can be unclear and hold inherent bias; thus it is important to evaluate the process for assigning authorship position.

Challenges:

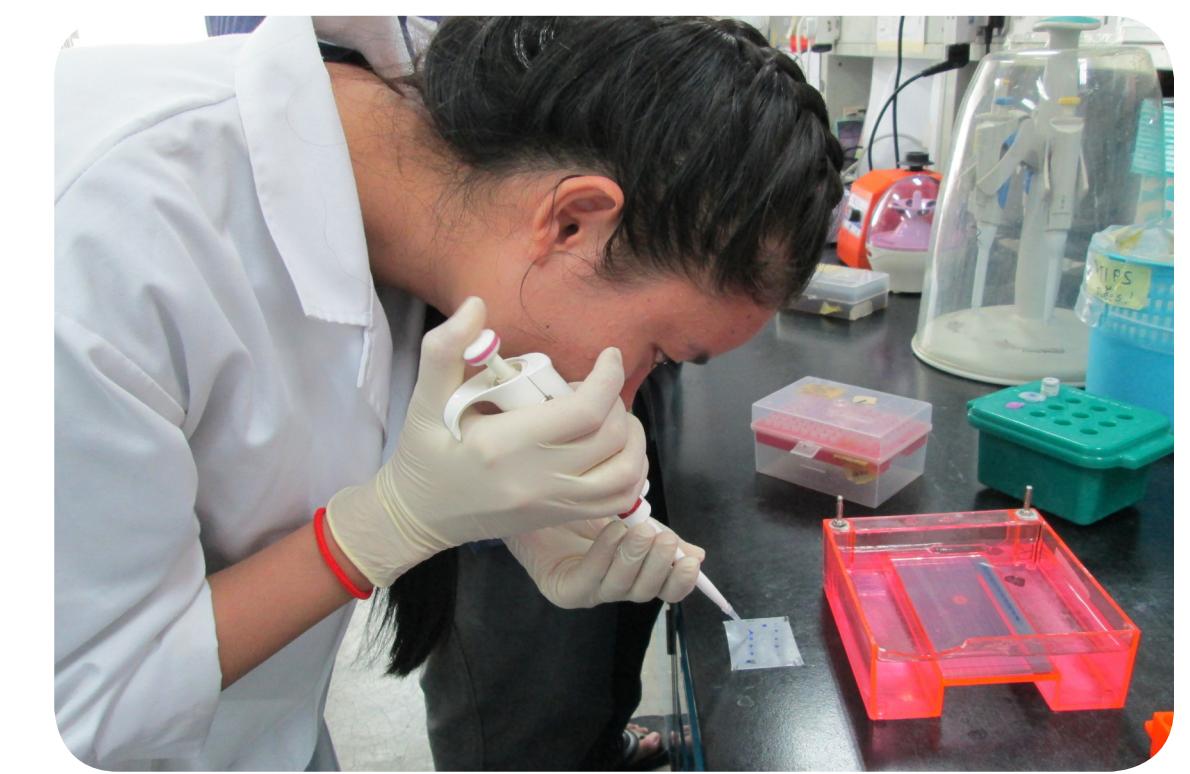
- Difficult to objectively determine exactly how much work any contributor has put into a paper (Laurance 2006; Tscharnke et al. 2007)
- The number of authors listed per paper has grown over the last few decades (Wren et al. 2007). This could be from increased popularity and pressure to conduct more collaborative and cross-disciplinary research, and more pressure to publish from universities and other research institutions

Authorship order has intent, can be politically motivated, and is culturally embedded within a system and the surrounding publication environment.



RESEARCH QUESTION:

Has the growth rate of aquaculture surpassed the proportional growth of women authorship in the field?



OUR APPROACH:

- In the entire JSTOR Corpus (>8 million papers), women hold only 22% of total authorship for papers published between 1665-2011 (West et al. 2013). For aquaculture-related fields such as Ichthyology and Aquatic Ecology, women represent 21% and 9% of total authors, respectively. This research, however, did not explicitly calculate authorship gender for the interdisciplinary field of aquaculture.
- We applied the West et al. (2013) methodology to the field of aquaculture to understand how gender has changed in aquaculture over time. We generated a sub-sample of the JSTOR corpus for aquaculture:
 - 23,000 articles (43,146 authorships) in 8 aquaculture-related journals in the JSTOR Corpus (published since 1913) were assessed for authorship gender.
 - Journals include: Ambio, Copeia, Estuaries and Coasts, Journal of Coastal Conservation, Journal of the North American Benthological Society, Limnology and Oceanography, and Water and Environment Research
 - A smaller database of 543 publications in international aquaculture from 121 journals, all published between 1983-2016, was curated for comparison to the two larger JSTOR datasets.
 - The database draws from peer-reviewed papers whose research was supported by four separate international aquaculture programs managed at Oregon State University:
 - Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture CRSP (1982-1996)
 - Aquaculture CRSP (1996-2008)
 - AquaFish CRSP (2006-2013)
 - AquaFish Innovation Lab (2013-Present)

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