

## **Women in STEM – Questions, Talking Points #2**

### **Questions**

- 1) How believable are their statistics? Do you think they're just picking stats which prove their points or are they trying to be fair?
- 2) If there is no discernable difference between male and female mathematical ability, does this mean that there is no genetic or cognitive reason why there aren't more women in STEM careers?
- 3) Is mathematics the reason that women aren't in math-intensive STEM careers? Could there be another factor that is subtle or cryptic that prevents them from entering these fields, apart from their shared difficulty in mathematics?

### **Talking Points**

It would seem that much work has gone into studying the gender difference between men and women when it comes to cognitive abilities and life choices. However, nobody has studied if there is an actual preference between men and women when it comes to what jobs they prefer and what causes those preferences.

The book comes to a valid conclusion based on the data they provided, but they also didn't go out of their way to collect more data to corroborate their thoughts and ideas, which begs further investigation.

There are a number of social factors which are against women entering STEM fields. Not the least of which is the fact that these careers already are dominated by men and that is intimidating and alienating. These sorts of things need to change before there will be more women in STEM careers.