# Agentic Storytelling: What We Tell Children and Who They See Succeed

between the number of Male Protagonists that participants make in different storytelling conditions understand how androcentric bias functions at an interpersonal, individual-level during storytelling Across 2 studies, we ask participants to tell stories and we investigate whether there is a difference centers the experiences of men over the consideration of other genders. The present study aims to requently than non-male main characters. This is one example of androcentric bias, the bias that Abstract: In children's literature, there is a long history of stories having male protagonists more

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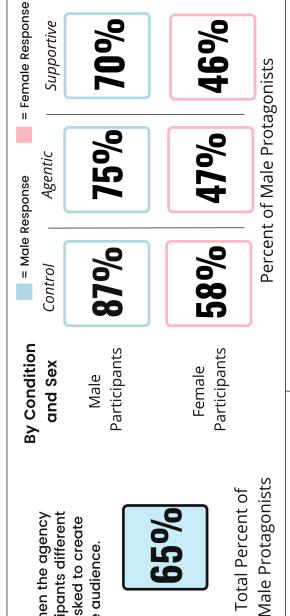
Poster 163 Zoom link:

https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/91481624877

#### Study 1 compares distributions of male protagonists when the agency of a story's protagonist is manipulated by giving participants different story prompts in a survey (n=269). Participants were asked to create a short story with a human protagonist for a 4th-grade audience. They were given one of the three following prompts:

Control: No specifications about what the

- Agentic: Specification that the protagonist protagonist should be doing
  - must be accomplishing something.
- Supportive: Specification that the protagonist must be supporting someone accomplishing something



## General Audience Study 2

**Participants** Male male protagonists for participants Study 2 compares distributions of who create stories for audiences of different ages (n=281)

child audience with an age range Participants Female were asked to create a short story for either a general audience or a Participants took a survey and

**%68** 

#### Results/Findings

Child Audience

We did not find a significant difference in male protagonist distributions between child and general audiences or between agentic, supportive, and control conditions.

tendencies, but most noticeably depends on the sex of the females. Androcentric bias does contribute to storytelling protagonists in all conditions of both studies, with males creating male protagonists at a much higher rate than person telling a story rather than the conditions of the But, participant sex significantly predicts male

### Main References

Bailey, A., Lafrance, M., & Dovidio, J. (2020). Implicit androcentrism: Men are human, women are gendered. Journal of Experimental Social Psychology. 89. 10.1016/j.jesp.2020.103980

Percent of Male Protagonists

Hamilton, M. C., Anderson, D., Broaddus, M., & Young, K. (2006). Gender stereotyping and under-representation of female characters in 200 popular children's picture books: A twenty-first century update. Sex Roles, 55(11), 757-765. Sczesny, S., Nater, C., & Eagly, A. H. (2018). Agency and communion: Their implications for gender stereotypes and gender identities. In Agency and communion in social psychology (pp. 103-116). Routledge.