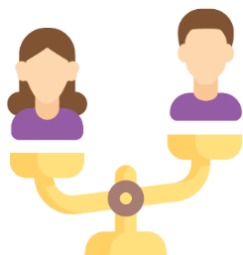


Corona, care & (gender) inequality

Academics (m/f/x) taking up care tasks and a high teaching load are more heavily impacted by the corona crisis than others. This has a negative effect on their well-being and career opportunities, both in the short and the (medium) long term.

The corona crisis has had an uneven impact on the research activity of academics.

- The COVID crisis has had a negative impact on the ability to conduct research for 70% of academics. For the remaining 30% there was no or even a positive effect.^[1, 2]



Academics (M/F/X) with care tasks or a high teaching load have been hit disproportionately hard.

- 92% of academics with care tasks (both men and women) saw these tasks increase (drastically) during the lockdown.^[1]
- 44% of pre- and postdocs (and probably even more professors) experienced an increase in their teaching load.^[1]
- 70% of pre- and postdocs with care tasks reported a (strong) negative impact on the completion of their project compared to 'only' 55% of those without.
- Professors and PIs with children or parents in need of care (and especially those with children under the age of 5) saw their research time decrease by an average of 40%.



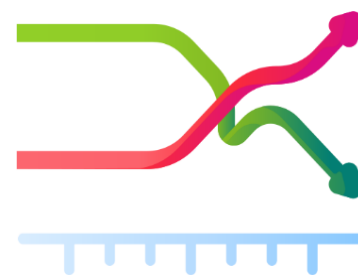
Most of these extra responsibilities are, on average, taken on by women.

- Women with children spent an average of 13 hours per week more on care tasks during the lockdown than before. Men indicate that, on average, they had more free time.^[3]
- The negative impact of care tasks on the research time was much greater for female than for male professors and PIs.^[2]
- Female academics are more likely than men to have a partner who (i) has a demanding job, and (ii) prioritizes his own career over that of his partner.^[4]



First visible impact on well-being, publication output and project applications.

- In April 2020, there were clearly fewer submissions by women and more by men to leading international journals in disciplines such as Philosophy and Political Science.^[5]



- There are fewer publication registrations by women in databases of pre-prints during the COVID crisis.^[6] No catching up has been observed yet.
- Fewer female than male researchers have been involved in COVID-related research (12%) than in non-COVID-related research (21%) in economics; similar figures for psychology and medical sciences.^[7 e.a.]
- Female PIs registered fewer applications for research projects in March and April 2020 than in the same period in 2019.^[8]
- In the FWO COVID-19 project call (during lockdown) there were not only fewer projects (than usual) by women, but the success rate for female PIs was also significantly lower (14%) than for male PIs (35%). Ultimately, only 5% of the total budget went to female PIs ^[9]
- The abrupt switch to online teaching has increased the teaching load and caused a greater mental burden, more for women than for men.^[1]

These short-term effects on research time, publication output, fundraising and participation in research projects are likely to become even more pronounced and visible in the future.

Pay attention to the context of the individual researcher when reviewing CVs.

Read more on

www.wetenschapismvx.be

Sources

[1] UGent questionnaire > 1500 pre- and postdoc respondents

[2] Myers et al., 2020. *Nature in Human Behavior*; questionnaire > 4500 professors and PIs

[3] VUB time spending research, Glorieux et al., 2020

[4] Schiebinger, Henderson, & Gilmartin (2008)

[5] [The Guardian 12-05-2020](https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/may/12/covid-19-research-funding-gender)

[6] Vincent-Lamarre, Sugimoto & Larivière (2020).

[7] Andersen, Nielsen, Simone, Lewiss, & Jagsi (2020)

[8] [Nature News 20-05-2020](https://www.nature.com/news/2020/05/20-covid-19-research-funding-gender)

[9] [FWO website](https://www.fwo.be/), supplemented with figures from the Jonge Academie

