

Gender in SIGGRAPH Technical Papers, 2015-2021

SILVIA SELLÁN, University of Toronto

1 METHODOLOGY

We reviewed all technical papers published on ACM Transactions on Graphics and presented at either of the North American or Asian editions of SIGGRAPH between January 2015 and December 2021, and recorded all of those that contained explicit mentions of gender.

For each paper containing an explicit mention of gender, we annotated the type of variable used to represent it ("binary", "non-binary" or "unclear"), its definition given or implied in the paper (e.g., self-identification, voice pitch, body proportions) and its use or uses in the paper (whether as a parameter in the main proposed algorithm, as demographic information of user study participants, etc.).

2 OBSERVATIONS

We compiled a total of 63 technical papers that mentioned gender explicitly. Our main observations are recorded below:

- (1) 45 papers (71%) represented gender as a binary variable, and 18 (29%) do not specify the type of representation used. None of the reviewed papers represented gender explicitly as a non-binary variable.
- (2) 20 papers mention gender as a parameter in an algorithm, 19 papers (30%) mentioned gender as demographic information reported about their user study participants, 19 (30%) did so as demographic composition of their dataset and 8 as demographic information about their test set.
- (3) While no paper explicitly defines their understanding of gender, some implicitly use it to refer to body