

Information Inequality

the Class, Gender, and Race of Knowledge Domains

Molly King

Stanford University

March 31, 2018

Outline

1 Introduction

- Model of knowledge
- Motivation
- Research Question

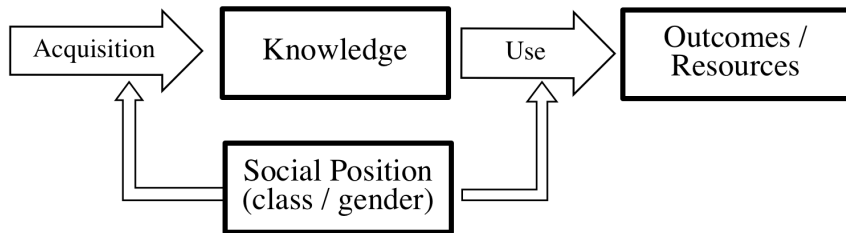
2 Methods

- Data
- Domains

3 Results

- Means across domains
- Proportions correct by group

Acquisition and use of knowledge



Why care about information inequality?

- Differences in the amount of information people have are influenced by unequal social positions in our society;

Why care about information inequality?

- Differences in the amount of information people have are influenced by unequal social positions in our society;
- Information is a potential cause of later inequality in outcomes and access to resources; and

Why care about information inequality?

- Differences in the amount of information people have are influenced by unequal social positions in our society;
- Information is a potential cause of later inequality in outcomes and access to resources; and
- Differences in information capacity itself are, by definition, a dimension of 'inequality.'

Research Question

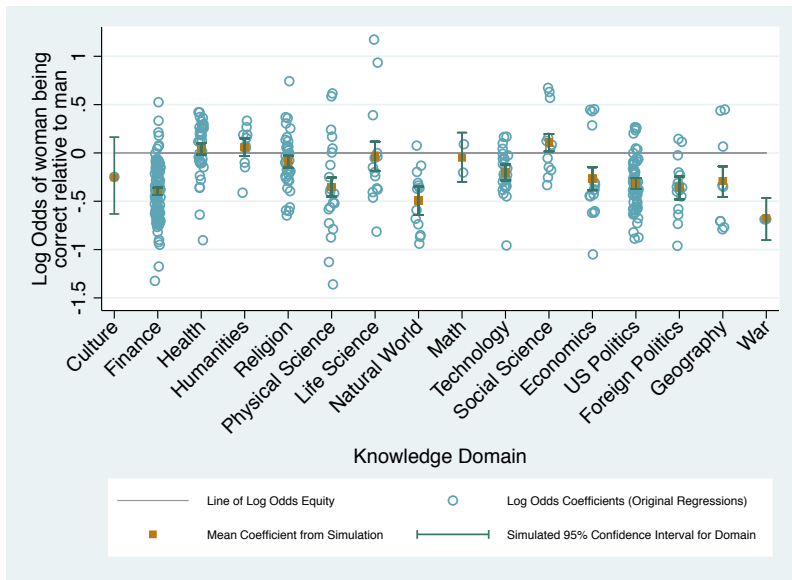
How does the status gap in knowledge vary by domain?

General Social Survey
Pew
Kaiser Family Foundation
HINTS

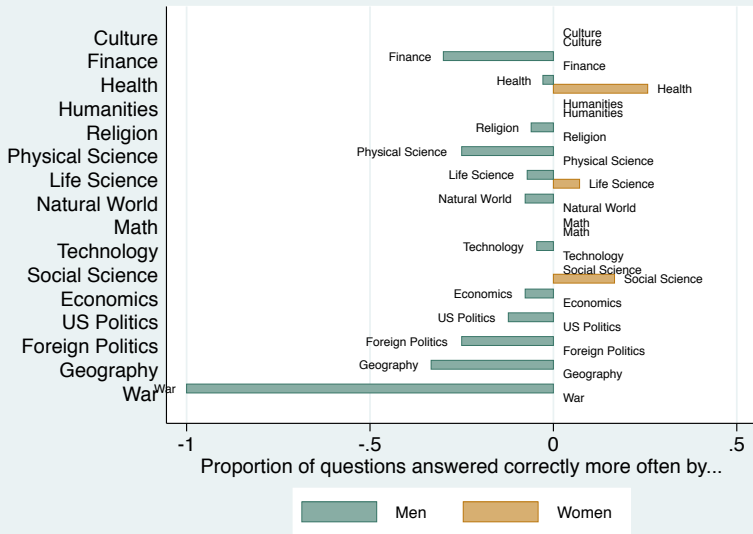
Domains

history
natural world
physical science
biological science
technology
math
culture
geography
domestic politics
foreign politics
economics
finance
health
religion
pop culture
war

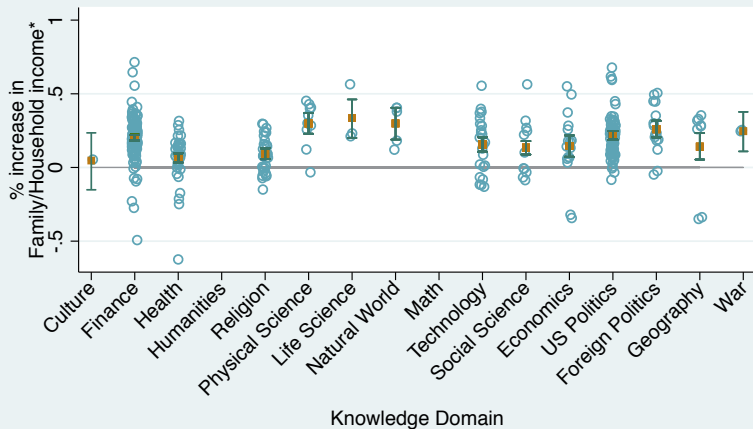
No mean gender difference in 5/16 domains



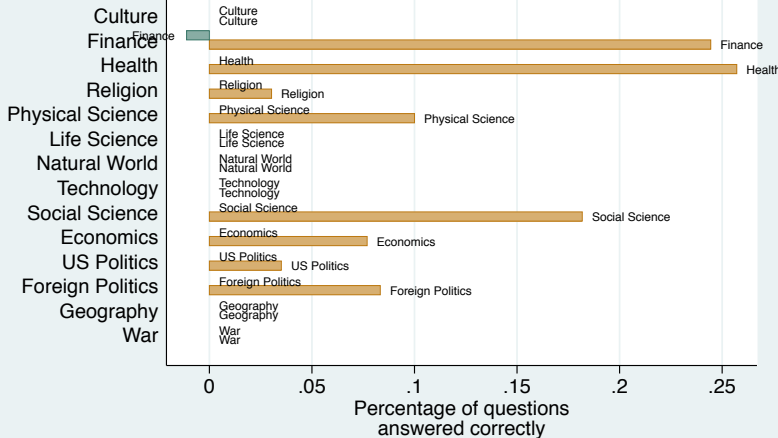
Men answer greater proportion of questions correctly in 65% of domains



Men answer greater proportion of questions correctly in 65% of domains



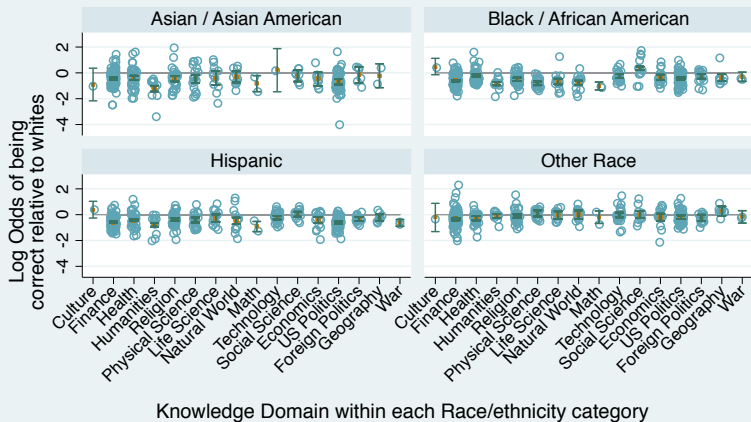
* of being correct for every additional $\ln(\$1000 \text{ Family/Household income})$



- correlation
with income



+ correlation
with income



Graphs by dem_var_lab