Information Inequality
the Class, Gender, and Race of Knowledge Domains

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Outline

Acquisition and use of knowledge
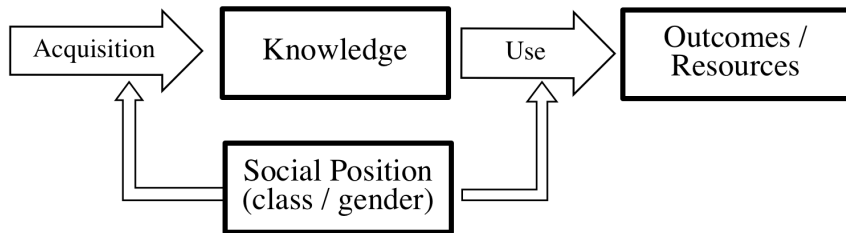
Why care about information inequality?

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- 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?*

Data

General Social Survey
Pew Research Center (21)
Kaiser Family Foundation
Health Information National Trends Survey (8)
Integrated Health Interview Series
Annenberg National Health Communication Survey
USC's Understanding America Study (3)
Rand American Life Panel (2)
National Financial Capability Studies (3)
21st Century Americanism survey
Global Views American Public Opinion and Foreign Policy
Outlook on Life Survey
State of the First Amendment surveys
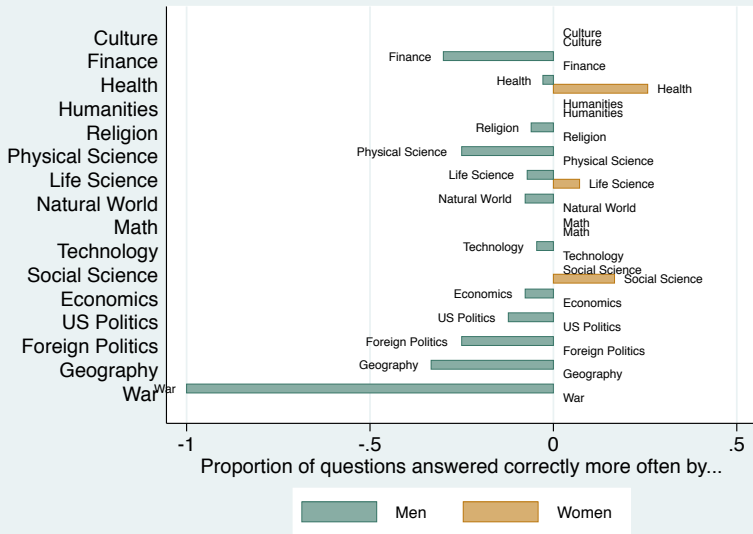Chicago Council Survey of American Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy

Domains

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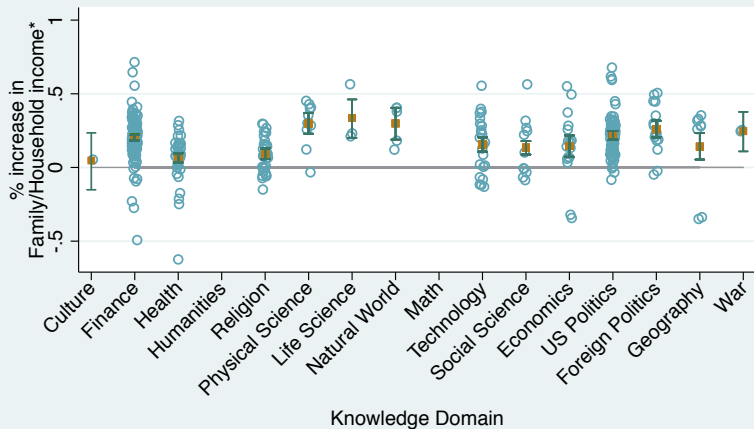economics
finance
health
religion
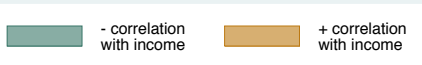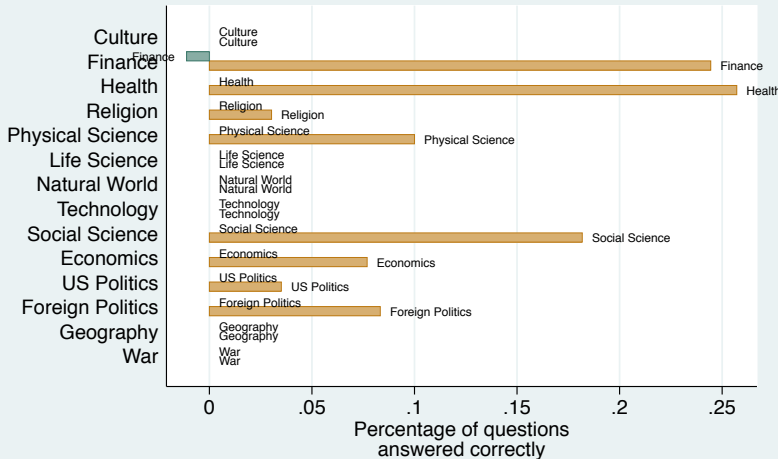pop culture
war

No mean gender difference in 5/16 domains
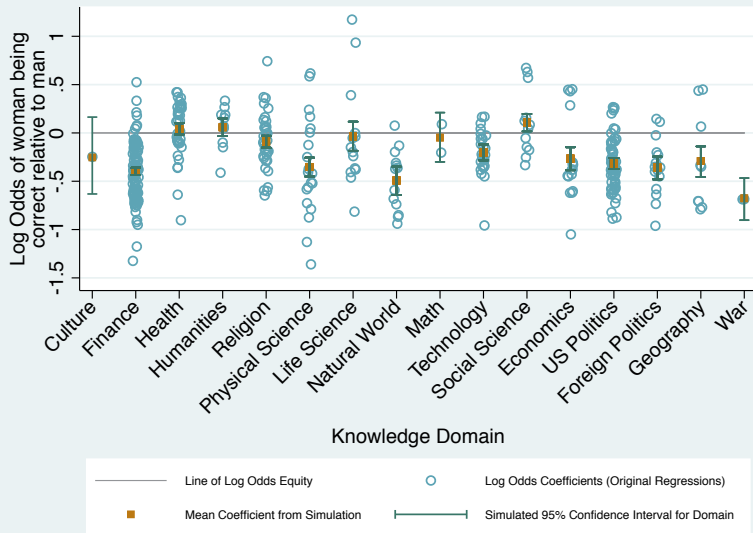
Men answer greater proportion of questions correctly in 65% of domains

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Percentage of questions answered correctly

- correlation with income

+ correlation with income

Graphs by dem_var_lab