

21 September 2021

Online meeting of the Group of Experts on Gender Statistics, 28–29 September 2021

ABSTRACT

Title	Communicating the effect of gender in research funding, during lockdown and beyond
Author Name	Rachel Heyard, Julius Mattern, and Anne Jorstad
Author Organization	Swiss National Science Foundation
Session	Communicating gender statistics

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) promotes scientific research in Switzerland. Its funding procedures are continuously monitored in-house by a team of specialized data analysts in order to deepen its understanding about research funding and to identify new developments at an early stage.

Various studies have shown that the pandemic and especially the lockdown periods have been accompanied by a decline in the proportion of scientific publications with female authors (“gender publication gap”). The SNSF investigated whether COVID-19-related lockdown measures have translated into a measurable decline in the number of grant proposals submitted by female researchers in Switzerland.

In addition, regular statistical analyses of the evolution of success rates of female researchers are performed to better understand gender differences in grant funding and evaluation, and whether they can be explained by confounding variables.

The results of these analyses are now published as “Data Stories” on data.snf.ch/stories. Data Stories are articles in which interesting, data-driven findings are made accessible in an easily understandable way to an interested audience.

This presentation shows how the SNSF examines gender equality in its research funding processes to promote data-driven research policy, and how these statistical findings and data are communicated to a broad audience in the format of Data Stories.