



FALL MEETING

Washington, D.C. | 10-14 Dec 2018

ED23D-0943: The first-authorship geoscience gender gap: Underrepresentation of women first authors in leading geoscience journals, 2013-2018

Tuesday, 11 December 2018**13:40 - 18:00**📍 *Walter E Washington Convention Center - Hall A-C (Poster Hall)*

Authorship of papers in peer-reviewed journals is key to academic success, promotion and competitive research funding all the way up the career ladder from graduate school, post doctoral positions, and faculty appointments. Prior research demonstrates that women are under-represented at all levels in geoscience with the discrepancy being greatest at the highest ranks. Although teasing out cause and effect is difficult, here we investigate the representation of women as first authors in leading geoscience journals ($n = 13$). We do this by compiling the names of first authors for the last five years ($n = 32408$), and using a database of 216286 names globally, across 89 languages, to classify the likely gender associated with the name.

We find that in *Nature Geoscience*, *Geology*, and *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, journals encompassing a range of geoscience fields, female first authors made up 23.0 ± 0.6 % of all first authors. Across journals specific to certain disciplines (all *Journal of Geophysical Research* journals ($n=7$), *Geophysical Research Letters*, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*), first-author representation of female names varied from 20 to 30%.

Because first-author papers are paramount to the success of early career researchers, we posit that underrepresentation of women as first authors may hinder advancement into top academic positions.

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