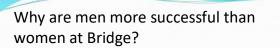




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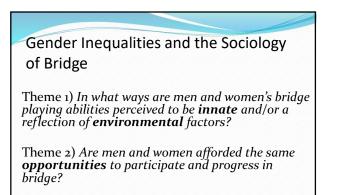


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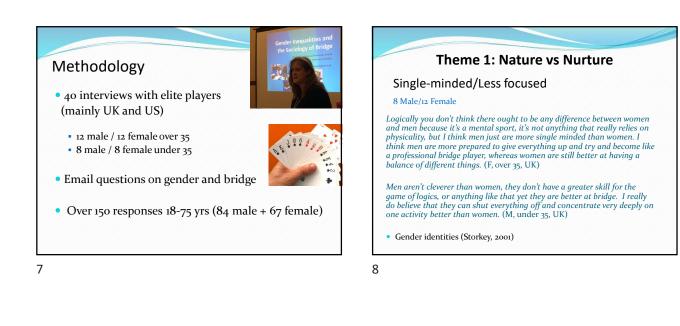
- English Spring 4s 16/250
- Scottish Winter 4s 2/50
- UK Gold Cup 17/460
- US Vanderbilt Championship 6/360
- US World Team Olympiad o/84

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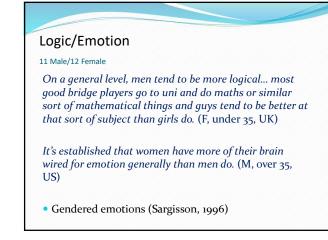
Theme 3) *Women's* and open bridge: opportunities/constraints



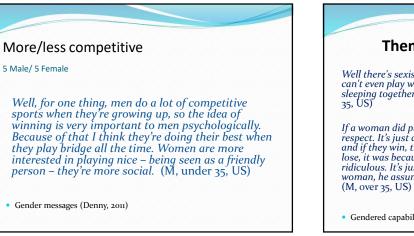


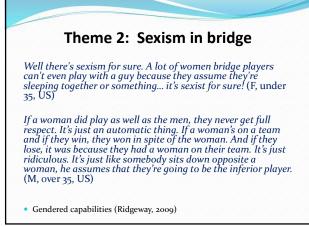
Women have wider responsibilities
In male / 16 female
She still worries about her kids, when she goes away she still has to make sure her kids are okay and if she was a man she would not have had those times when she went to tournaments having her kids with her. So she could have been the best maybe, who knows, because certainly it is a distraction so maybe she's taken to years off her bridge years. (F, under 35, US)
I can tell you that in my experience I was married, we had children, and he would go to work and all day he would focus specifically on his job. Whereas when I was working with our little kids I had to constantly be, is he being picked up here? Do I have to get school supplies on my way home? There were so many things going through my head that I did not have his ability, or luxury, to focus specifically on one thing all the time. (F, over 35, US)
Childcare responsibilities (Rossi, 1984)

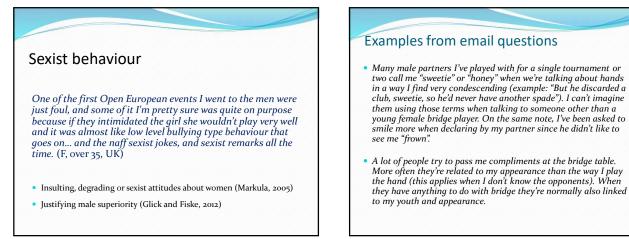
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Theme 3: Women's bridge

The facts clearly are they're not as good because if they were as good there wouldn't be any women's events. (M, over 35, UK)

So one of the problems in the women's game is that they're

best women at the moment is not the level of the best men.

And in fact I think we'd probably see more equalisation if we

• Barriers in sport and governing bodies (Acosta and Carpenter, 1990)

just had an open event, which women would be allowed to

ghettoised. They play against each other, so the best level you can get to is the level of the best women. And the level of the

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14 male / 13 female

enter. (M, over 35, UK)



## Examples from recent email questions

- I started playing on the U21 team very young and was soon the only woman on the team. We were all pretty equal in playing strength when we were 14-18 years old. However, all my male team mates kept getting offers to play with really good players in our home country, to play in the highest division etc. I never got any such offers (and still very rarely do). It's like the top level of bridge players in our country think a female bridge player is automatically content once she has made the Women's team.
- After a day of playing is done, bridge players like to hang out at the bar to go over the hands of the tournament they just played. This is normally a very good chance to get to talk to expert players about their take on a certain line of play etc. It's been pointed out to me several times during such conversations that the only reason they would talk the hands over with me is because they'd like to sleep with me.

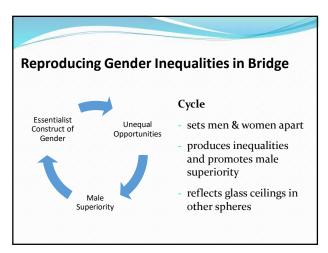
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So... It's just that in those events you have to qualify to represent your team, if you just had one competition where it was just men and women playing, there would be very few women being on the teams. So I think it is a good thing that women have their own platform. They have the possibility to play on that international level. (F, over 35, US) Because men are considered better bridge players than women

are, there's a general perception when you play together with them many women feel the pressure and don't perform as well. (F, over 35, US)

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Conclusions

Essentialist construct of gender - masks diversity

Segregation of events - extenuates differences

and highlights male superiority

**Socially conditioned** - display and internalise typical masculine or feminine qualities

• Everyday sexism (Bates, 2014) - impacts on opportunities

• Unequal structures, ingrained discourses (Martell et al., 1996)

· inferior attitudes and treatment of women, discriminatory behaviours

## TD Views on Ways Forward

3) How might we tackle some of these issues that have been raised in the research and in the TD discussions?

4a) What are the tangible and intangible solutions?

tangible - documented procedures/policies/guidelines

4b) How do we identify the intangible?

intangible - changes in attitudes, beliefs, ideas

Ways forward?
I think things are happening all the time as the crowd is getting younger and more observant to sexism in general. I do think it's going slower in the bridge world than in some other areas of society.
I believe in the long run that getting rid of women's events would be helpful for promoting equal bridge. It would however not be possible to end them right away as this would create isolation of so many female bridge players for a long time before something actually happened. I believe gradual change is the key. I don't think ending women's events would help all kinds of problems though, but it would the would help all kinds of problems though, but it would the would help all kinds of problems though, but it would the would help all kinds of problems though.

help with the perception of female bridge players as being

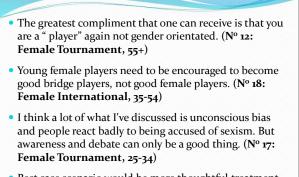
worse or not serious bridge players.

BE THE DIFFERENCE

## Consequences of addressing sexism?

- Initially I hope it will help individuals in seeing where they are flawing in making everyone feel welcome. In the longer perspective I believe it will help attract more young people and especially women. I have several female friends from my early junior years who stopped playing after a few years when they grew tired of the environment. Understanding all genders and getting rid of the barriers between them will make the sport much more attractive. (N° 8: Female International, under 25)
- I think it needs to be made clear, at least within junior circles, that such behaviour is not acceptable. There should be some way for players to raise any concerns they have, anonymously if needed. (N° 33: Female Tournament, under 25)

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 Best case scenario would be more thoughtful treatment of players. Worst case scenario would be dismissal of the problem. (N° 92: Female Tournament, under 25)

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- Recognition is the biggest issue. A significant number of males may not recognise the issue and there is a danger of alienation. (N° 20: Male International, 55+)
- This will threaten male privilege and create resentment among those comfortable with their biases and uncomfortable with change. So what? That's the price that progress requires. ... Change of this type requires education, skill building (objective feedback -giving and receiving) and affirmative action - rules that are aimed to eliminate the negative effects of systemic or unconscious bias. (N° 37: Male Tournament, 55+)
- A lot of people are unaware of what is going on and might behave differently if they were. (N° 39: Male Tournament, 55+)

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