

Bridging Academia, Policy and Practice Conference

30 June - Gender, Sexism and Bridge



#BAMSA2021 #MindSport #Bridge @bridgemindsport




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3B – Gender, Sexism and Bridge

Welcome: Prof. Samantha Punch (BAMSA, University of Stirling)
Chair: Dr Miriam Snellgrove (BAMSA, University of Stirling)
Dr Ashley Rogers (Abertay University, Scotland) + pre-recording

Panel 1: *Women's Bridge, Pros and Cons*
Sofie Grasholt Sjødal (Norway Under 26 bridge team player and Bridge Teacher) + pre-recording
Mary Sharp (Bridge Teacher, England)
Mary Kelly Rogers (EBL Women's Sub-Committee)
Jan Kamras (European Bridge League)

Panel 2: *Sexism within the Game – Solutions?*
Laura Woodruff (Bridge Player, Wales)
Tracy Bauer (American Contract Bridge League)
Mitch Dunitz (American Contract Bridge League Educational Foundation)



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Gender, Sexism and Power

- Socially situated
- Institutionally organised
- Personally experienced

Everyday sexism (Bates, 2014)

Gender issues: more usefully explained through a public issue lens, rather than personal problems

Gender inequalities – individual and collective



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Bridging Gender Research

- Debating whether sexism exists in bridge maintains the status quo
- Meaningful change as a long-term goal

Playing bridge happens in an unequal world, which reflects and reproduces a range of inequalities.

Two projects explored gender and bridge:

- *Bridging Minds*: Interviews with 52 elite bridge players
- *Bridging Gender*: Email Questionnaire data with 151 players of all levels



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Bridging Gender

Bridging Sexism: Gender Inequality at and away from the Bridge Table
Dr Ashley Rogers (School of Business, Law and Social Sciences, Abertay University),
Dr Miriam Snellgrove (BAMSA) and Prof Samantha Punch (BAMSA)

Bridging Brains: Exploring Gendered Attitudes and Inequalities in a MindSport
Samantha Punch et al. (Sociology, University of Stirling)

Punch, S. and Rogers, A. (2021) 'Building, not Burning Bridges in Research: Insider/Outsider Dilemmas and Engaging with the Bridge Community', *Journal of Leisure Research*

Bridging Women's Spaces: (Un)Equal Play in a MindSport
Dr Ashley Rogers (Abertay University), Dr Miriam Snellgrove and Sam Punch (BAMSA)




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Bridging Sexism

- How is sexism defined?
- Is sexism a relevant and/or useful term in the bridge world?
- Examples of sexism in bridge
- How might gender inequalities be addressed?

Bridging Sexism: Gender Inequality at and away from the Bridge Table
Dr Ashley Rogers (School of Business, Law and Social Sciences, Abertay University),
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Bridging Brains

'Neurosexism' is the practice of claiming that there are fixed differences between female and male brains, which can explain women's inferiority or unsuitability for certain roles.

(Rippon, 2016)

Fine (2013): 'neurosexist' research perpetuates gender inequalities

Bridging Brains: Exploring Gendered Attitudes and Inequalities in a Mindsport Samantha Punch et al. (BAMSA, Sociology, University of Stirling)



Bridging
Gender
Attitudes &
Inequalities
Read more

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Bridging Research and Bridge Community

The challenges of researching a contentious topic

Punch, S. and Rogers, A. (2021) 'Building, not Burning Bridges in Research: Insider/Outsider Dilemmas and Engaging with the Bridge Community', *Journal of Leisure Research*



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Bridging Women's Spaces

How should we address gender inequalities in the bridge world?

Most common reply: to abolish the women's game

Bridging Women's Spaces: (Un)Equal Play in a Mindsport
Dr Ashley Rogers (Abertay University) and Dr Miriam Snellgrove (BAMSA)



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