



# Student Preferences regarding Gender of Instructor in a Post-Secondary Welding Course

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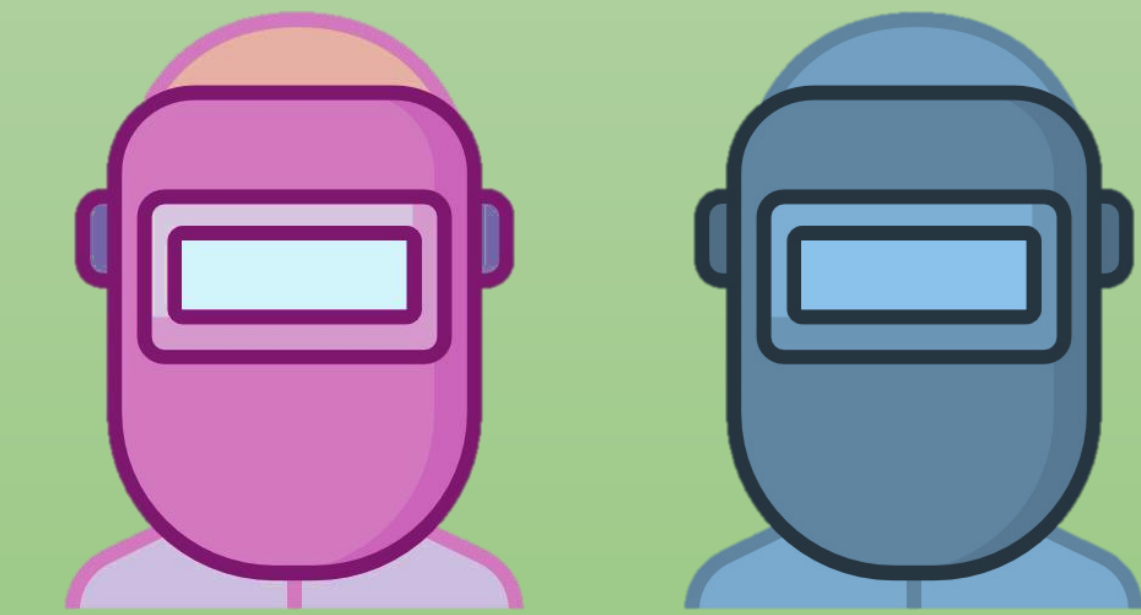
## Need for Research:

- Certain careers are perceived to be gender specific.
- Ag. Mechanics & Ag Ed were traditional disciplines reserved for males.
- The number of females is increasing in Agricultural Education & Ag. Mechanics.
- Literature – “evidence of gender bias in student evaluations in post-secondary courses”.
- Female educators are judged differently based on their perceived intelligence and appearance.



“Given an option of instructors with similar background & knowledge of welding, which instructor would you choose?”

- A) Male
- B) Female



## Conceptual Framework:

- Pygmalion Effect Theory – Student perceptions of a teacher influence their action and expectations of the teacher.
- Social Role Theory – Behavioral difference occur between the 2 sexes because of society & gender stereotypes.

## Results:

Student Information		Week 4 Preferred Instructor			Week 12 Preferred Instructor		
Lab Section	Student Gender	M	F	Either	M	F	Either
Tues.	Male (f = 9)	8 (88.9%)	0 (0%)	1 (11.1%)	6 (75%)	2 (25%)	0 (0%)
	AFAB* (f = 1)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
Thurs.	Male (f = 9)	6 (85.7%)	1 (14.3%)	0 (0%)	3 (50%)	0 (0%)	3 (50%)
	Female (f = 4)	1 (25%)	2 (50%)	1 (25%)	2 (50%)	0 (0%)	2 (50%)

\*AFAB – Assigned Female at Birth

## Conclusions:

- Majority of students preferred a male instructor at the beginning of the course, yet after receiving instruction from a female instructor their perceptions changed whether they could learn from an individual regardless of gender.
- Gender bias in ag. mechanics does not support the increased number of females entering the profession.

## Methodology:

- 2-Group Repeated Measures Quasi-Experimental Design.
- Population: Undergraduate students at Utah State University in Fall of 2021 enrolled in a beginning welding course (n = 28).
- Lab sections randomly assigned a male or female instructor.

Lab Section	Instructor Weeks 1-7	Pre – Survey Week 4	Instructor Weeks 8-15	Post – Survey Week 12	Informed Consents Week 14
Tuesday	Male	Week 4	Female	Week 12	Week 14
Thursday	Female	Week 4	Male	Week 12	Week 14