

## Special Interest Articles:

- Online Mentors to Guide Women into the Sciences
- Scientists, Your Gender Bias is Showing
- Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia

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## Online Mentors to Guide Women into the Sciences

*New York Times, September 16, 2012*  
Hundreds of prominent women working in science, technology, engineering and math will become online mentors for college students next month, part of a six-week program to encourage young women to pursue careers in STEM fields. “I think of this as a MOOC — a massive open online course — and a big

mentor-fest,” said [Maria Klawe](#), the president of Harvey Mudd College and a sponsor of the project. “Getting more women into STEM is my passion in life, and every institution that’s set up mentorship programs for young women has been successful at increasing their numbers, so I think this can make a real difference.” The program

has no curriculum, no exam, no grades and no credit — just a goal of connecting young students with accomplished women working in STEM fields. Prominent universities – [Read the full article.](#)

## Scientists, Your Gender Bias is Showing

*Discover Magazine, by Sean Carroll*  
Nobody who is familiar with the literature on this will be surprised, but it’s good to accumulate new evidence and also to keep the issue in the public eye: [Academic](#) scientists are, on average, biased against women. I know it’s fun to change the subject and talk about [bell curves](#) and intrinsic ability, but

hopefully we can all agree that people with the same ability should be treated equally. And they are not. That’s the conclusion of [a new study in PNAS](#) by [Corinne Moss-Racusin](#) and collaborators at Yale. (Hat tip [Dan Vergano.](#)) To test scientist’s reactions to men and women with precisely equal qualifications, the researchers did a

randomized double-blind study in which academic scientists were given application materials from a student applying for a lab manager position. The substance of the applications were all identical, but sometimes a male name was attached, and sometimes a female name. [Read the full article.](#)

## Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race & Class for Women in Academia

*Social Science Research Network*  
Presumed Incompetent is a pathbreaking account of the intersecting roles of race, gender, and class in the working lives of women faculty of color. Through personal narratives and qualitative empirical studies, more than 40 authors expose

the daunting challenges faced by academic women of color as they navigate the often hostile terrain of higher education, including hiring, promotion, tenure, and relations with students, colleagues, and administrators. One of the topics addressed is the [importance of forging supportive networks filled?what happened here?](#)

with wit, wisdom, and concrete recommendations, and provide a window into the struggles of professional women in a racially stratified but increasingly multicultural America. [Download the paper.](#)



## Why the First Laptop had a Hard Time Catching On (Hint: Sexism)

*The Atlantic, September 11, 2012*

Here's the sociological reason:

This is an amazing fact. We had this product. It was designed for business executives. And the biggest obstacle, one of the biggest obstacles, we had for selling the product was the fact -- believe it or not -- that it had a keyboard. I was in sales and marketing. I saw this first-hand. At that time, 1982, business people, who were in their 40s and 50s, did not have any computer or keyboard in their offices. And it was associated with being part of the secretarial pool or the word processing (remember that industry?) department. And so you'd put this thing in their office and they'd say, "Get that out of here." It was like getting a demotion. They really were uncomfortable with it.

Though Hawkins doesn't quite say it. There is a distinct gendered component to this discomfort. Typing was women's work and these business people, born in the 1930s and 1940s, didn't scrap their way up the bureaucracy to be relegated to the very secretarial work they'd been devaluing all along. Because -- and here comes the psychological reason -- they were not good at the work that their female employees had been doing. And that made them feel bad. [Read the full article.](#)

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## What is the NeXXt Scholars Program?

The New York Academy of Sciences, in partnership with the U.S. Department of State and a consortium of women's colleges, has launched the NeXXt Scholars Program for the 2012–2013 academic school year. This program aims to engage, connect and advance young women from countries with predominantly Muslim populations and young American women to pursue undergraduate degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields. In order to accomplish this goal, the Academy will provide partnership, mentorship, and networking support for these scholars by way of a selected STEM mentor.

Overview: <http://www.nyas.org/WhatWeDo/ScienceEd/NeXXtScholars.aspx>

Application: <http://www.nyas.org/promotions/forms/2012NeXXtScholars.html>

## Save the Date!

### Friday, October 19th

11:30am - 1:00pm

Dr. Marinda Li Wu, 2012 American Chemical Society President-Elect  
Room 548 Hamilton Hall

<https://sites.google.com/site/marindawu/>

### Friday, November 2, 2012

Dr. Christina Falci

11:30am – 1:30pm, City Campus Union, Georgian Suite

Highlights from the 2011 Faculty Network and Workload Study (FNWS)

Space is limited, please RSVP [advance2@unl.edu](mailto:advance2@unl.edu).

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