

Small Particles, Big Issues: PRIORITYze DEI

Issue 13 19/12/2023: Gender gap in journal submissions and peer review

Dear all,

We hope this email finds you well.

The COVID-19 pandemic unleashed an unprecedented wave of scientific inquiry as researchers worldwide raced to understand the novel coronavirus and its impact on society. The early months of this global crisis saw a surge in scholarly articles, a testament to the scientific community's resilience and dedication.

However, amid this surge, a pertinent question arises: Did the pandemic's disruptions disproportionately affect the scientific productivity of women in academia? As the world transitioned to remote work, the unique challenges women faced, balancing professional responsibilities with familial duties, came to the forefront. In this edition of our newsletter, we delve into a study that explores this very question.

The results of the study reveal intriguing patterns. It becomes evident that during the initial wave of the pandemic, women submitted proportionally fewer manuscripts than their male counterparts. This deficit was particularly pronounced among junior cohorts of women academics, raising questions about the pandemic's impact on the career trajectories of early-career female researchers.

Women stepped up and took on a responsibility for academic journals, with one notable exception: the field of health and medicine, where the surge in COVID-19 research has been especially prominent.

We invite you to take a look at the [full article](#) hoping it will be food for your research process.

Best regards

Mariasole and Camilla