

Gender Differences in Relationship Power

Power can be applied in different domains, however we do not always reflect on which domains we have power in and how important these domains are. A dominant idea is that men have more power compared to women. However, this notion may be biased because the definition/weighting of power is biased towards the public life. As people typically perceive the private life as being more important than the public, only including public power in the power concept might be problematic. This project investigates preference weighted power (PWP), a new measure of power, where different domains in life are weighted by people's preference for power in these domain. The questions of the concept of power can be investigated by. 1) Exploring a data driven definition of power, by asking people to *generate words* related to power. These words can then be quantified by latent semantic analysis and constructed a semantic measure of PWP. 2) Using *self-ratings* to measure the extent and importance of power in each domain, and weight them together to a self-rated PWP index. Extend our understanding of power by introducing the concept of *who-power*; that is the power to make decisions of which persons to establish/maintain and terminate social relationships with, and contrast this to what-power, or decision of what to do in a relationship. 3) Introduces a *behavioral measure* of who power, and show that people that are approached in, and terminates, relationship are associated with high who power. Together these studies aims to show that no gender differences in PWP, however women have more social power and who-power compared to men. These results may significantly change how we perceive men's and women's power in our society.

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