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• With identical applications, "Brian" was two times more likely to be hired than "Karen" in a 1999 study of bias in evaluating academics. A broad survey finds female scientists have half the success rate getting postdoctoral fellowships compared to their male peers. [See Rhea E. Steinpreis, Dawn Ritzke, and Katie A. Anders. "The Impact of Gender on the Review of the Curricula Vitae of Job Applicants and Tenure Candidates: A National Empirical Study" *Sex Roles* 41, no. 7/8 (October 1999) p. 509–528.]

• A 2003 study looked back in the hiring files for doctors on staff at a large university, exploring whether recommendation letters differed for male and female applicants. They did: 25 percent of letters for female doctors contained "doubt raising" comments, while this was true for only 12 percent of their male peers. Fifteen percent of the letters for female doctors (but only 6 percent of letters for men) contained what researchers called "minimal assurance" language, recommenders hedging themselves against a flop. Recommenders were four times more likely to discuss the doctor's CV and publications if the applicant was male versus female. But letters for women doctors discussed their personal lives five times as often as those for men. [Frances Trix and Carolyn Psenka, "Exploring the Color of Glass: Letters of Recommendation for Female and Male Medical Faculty," *Discourse & Society* 14 (2003): 191.]

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As Phillips points out, this is not a new notion. She quotes John Stuart Mill as saying in 1848, "It is hardly possible to overrate the value . . . of placing human beings in contact with persons dissimilar to themselves, and with modes of thought and action unlike those with which they are familiar . . . Such communication has always been, and is peculiarly in the present age, one of the primary sources of progress."

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