

Popular Press vs Peer Reviewed Articles on Gender Conformity

Name

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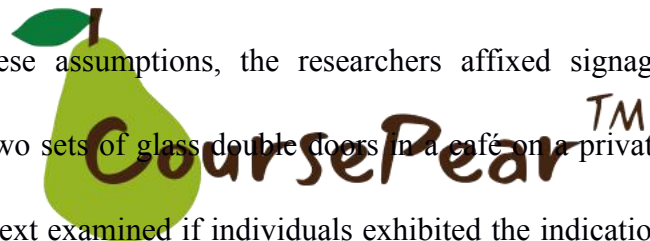
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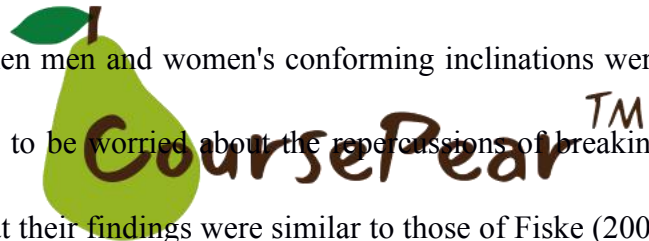
The two papers, "The gender conformity conundrum: The impact of irrelevant gender norms on public compliance" by Matthew F. Carter, Timothy M. Franz, Jordan L. Gruschow, Alyssa M. VanRyne, and "Going with the Flow" by Devon Frye, are both about gender conformity. "The gender conformity conundrum: The impact of irrelevant gender norms on public compliance" is a peer-reviewed study published in the Journal of Social Psychology, Volume 156, Issue 6, that examined the variations between men and women when it comes to gender norm adherence. "Going with the Flow" is a popular newspaper piece that appeared in the Psychology Today issue "The New Science of Sleep," It contains a discussion of gender conformity in general, including why and when we should comply. It is critical to differentiate between journal and magazine articles while reading articles. Journal articles are referred to as "scholarly," while magazine pieces are "popular." As a result, I will examine both papers and analyze their parallels and differences in this study.

The peer-reviewed paper is organized around the research topic, "How do gender norms affect gender conformity?" They anticipated that based on previous studies on compliance and social norms, 1) males would comply more often than women, and 2) men would conform more to gender norms than women. To test these assumptions, the researchers affixed signage indicating men's and women's restrooms to two sets of glass double doors in a café on a private college campus in upstate New York. They next examined if individuals exhibited the indication that corresponds to their observable gender. The study's idea was inspired by films that explored gender and social conformity on college campuses and in shopping malls (Pejero, 2015; Renfroe,



2011). However, the films demonstrate gender conformity rather than providing data based on actual compliance rates. The researchers determined whether the 170 individuals (113 females and 57 males) adhered to the sign that matched their observed gender and appearance in study 1.

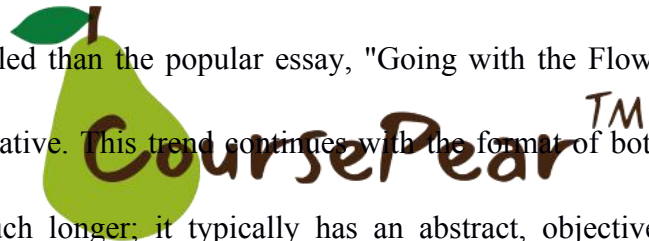
Both theories were shown to be true. The findings indicated that 57.6 percent of men conformed, whereas 42.4 percent did not. Thus, hypothesis 1, which asserts that men prefer to adhere to social and gender standards, was shown to be true. The second hypothesis - which was also tested using the two-tailed test - indicated that more men conformed (79% ) than females did and that female did not conform substantially (47 percent ). The findings of the second research (75 males, 115 females) revealed a similar pattern, with men coordinating at a higher rate (82 percent) than females (49 percent ). Additionally, when there was no sign, men (48 percent through the left door) and women (45 percent through the left door) demonstrated no distinction between the doors. Finally, studies revealed that 80% of males expressed a desire to "follow the rules of the sign/adhere to gender norms." Women, on the other hand, expressed little interest (12.5 percent) in "following the rules/adhering to norms," while the remainder said that they "didn't care" or "didn't notice." This experiment established that men and women, on average, succumb to gender conformity. However, when men and women's conforming inclinations were compared, males showed a greater proclivity to be worried about the repercussions of breaking gender norms. The researchers discovered that their findings were similar to those of Fiske (2004) and Pettigrew (1998), who discovered that people would likely adhere to a set of standards in order to avoid rejection and bias. Similarly, males may feel more compelled to adhere to social



standards if they fear being emasculated and revoking their authority and position (Vesciuo et al., 2010).

Concerning why men (and women) behave the way they do, "Going with the Flow" is a Psychology Today article discussing why conformity is denigrated and why we do it. Devon Frye, the author, believes that established standards are a common characteristic of communities that provides an evolutionary benefit. Conformity is best utilized sparingly for resolving coordination issues, such as ensuring that everyone drives on the correct side of the road or respects the opinions of others. By contrast, compliance crosses the line when it is employed in deference to authority or out of fear of punishment. To discern right from wrong, we must allow for the hearing of voices and increase the flow of information in order to eliminate stigma. In conclusion, this article discusses why we conform, when it is beneficial to conform and when it is detrimental, and how we may distinguish between "good" and "poor" conformity.

After reading both papers, I realized that there were much more distinctions than similarities. From the outset, the titles are wildly disparate in terms of length and language. The title of this article, "The Gender Conformity Conundrum: The Effects of Irrelevant Gender Norms on Public Conformity," is much longer and more detailed than the popular essay, "Going with the Flow" which is considerably shorter and more evocative. This trend continues with the format of both papers since the peer-reviewed piece is much longer; it typically has an abstract, objective, methodology, findings, and bibliography. The popular press piece is written in a more casual, non-standard style and only cites one source (Cass Sunstein), in contrast to the peer-reviewed



paper, which cites several sources and includes footnotes. Apart from the fact that both articles reference at least one source, another similarity is that both papers concentrate on a single subject, which in this case is gender conformity. By and large, the contrasts exceed the similarities, from the structure to the specialist language to the articles' intended readership (popular press is for entertainment, and peer-reviewed is for scholarly communication).

To summarize, these papers are very distinct and would benefit readers in quite different ways. The popular press piece would be advantageous for someone who wants to share another's study and amuse or educate others about a subject. The peer-reviewed paper would assist a scholar, researcher, or student who wants to have their original work assessed by subject-matter experts. Despite the fact that the articles are on the same subject and were written during the same decade, the ideas on gender conformity did not alter, as shown by the two pieces' very different writing styles.



## References

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