



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA
UNIVERSITY OF PADUA

Dipartimento di Psicologia dello Sviluppo e della Socializzazione
Department of Developmental and Socialization Psychology

Corso di laurea in Scienze e Tecniche Psicologiche
Bachelor degree course in Psychological Science

Sunto dell'elaborato finale
Summarized final thesis

Gender Gap in politica:
Discriminazione di genere e fenomeno dell'impostore

Gender Gap in Politics:
Gender Stigmatization and Impostor Phenomenon

Main Supervisor

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SUMMARIZED THESIS

This summarized thesis is part of a wider project conducted by the Department of Developmental and Socialization Psychology of the University of Padua. Below are the main results of a correlational research that investigated the differences between women and men in experiencing their respective political roles:

- The different awareness of Gender Stigmatization, i.e. how much one's own (female) gender has a (negative) influence in carrying out their duties as politicians;
- The Impostor Phenomenon, i.e. the perception of not being good enough, despite the successes obtained prove the opposite.

The psychological experience of being a female VS male politician: a field study

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INTRODUCTION

The female half of the Italian population has access to one third of the parliamentary roles, to a seventh of the mayor positions and to one tenth of the regional presidencies. Previous studies observed the role of psychological factors on women in areas where the female component is underrepresented (e.g. STEM). It has been noted, for example, that the awareness of gender discrimination moderates the impact of gender stereotypes on female math performance (Brown et al., 2003), and that impostor's feelings are stronger in female vs. male students with higher grades (e.g. King et al., 1995). In this work we aim at testing some of these psychological factors in a sample of female and male politicians.

METHOD

PARTICIPANTS

Total 307: F= 138 M= 169

Mean Age (Standard Deviation): 45.2 (12.4)

Role: City, Province, Region Board

HYPOTHESIS

We expect women to perceive higher gender discrimination, have stronger impostor feelings, and have lower self esteem. These in turn should predict higher anxiety.

We aim at exploring whether motivation for politics is career or community service.

MATERIALS

- Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Discrimination (Molero et al. 2013)
- Clance Imposter Phenomenon Scale (Chrisman et al. 1995)
- State Self-Esteem Scale (Heatherton et al. 1991)
- State Anxiety (Short form of the Spielberg STAI; Matteau & Bekker, 1992)
- Ad hoc career vs. community goals connected to politics

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Perceived Gender Discrimination $t(305) = -8.1, p < .01$

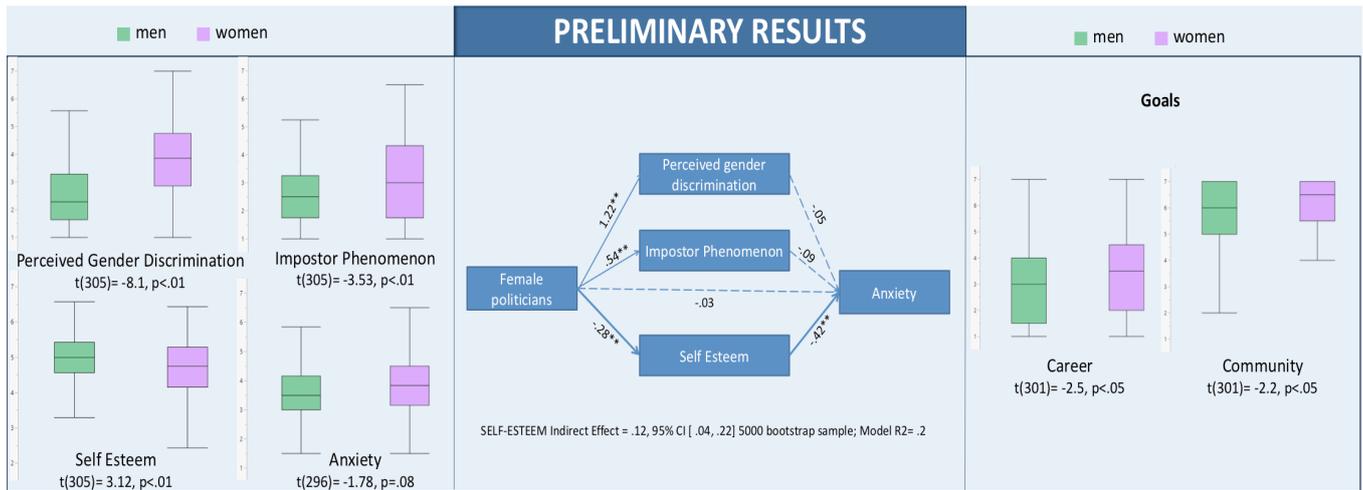
State Self Esteem $t(305) = 3.12, p < .01$

Impostor Phenomenon $t(305) = -3.53, p < .01$

State Anxiety $t(296) = -1.78, p = .08$

Career Goal $t(301) = -2.5, p < .05$

Community Goal $t(301) = -2.2, p < .05$



CONCLUSIONS

Our hypothesis was partially confirmed. Self Esteem was the only variable that, as hypothesized, was shown to mediate the relationship between gender and state Anxiety levels: women had lower Self Esteem than men, which in turn, lead to higher Anxiety levels in political work contexts. Moreover, interesting gender differences emerged in Perceived Gender discrimination and Impostor feelings. Finally, both women and men expressed a greater orientation to community service vs. career goals. Interestingly, women expressed higher levels of both career and community service goals compared to their male colleagues.



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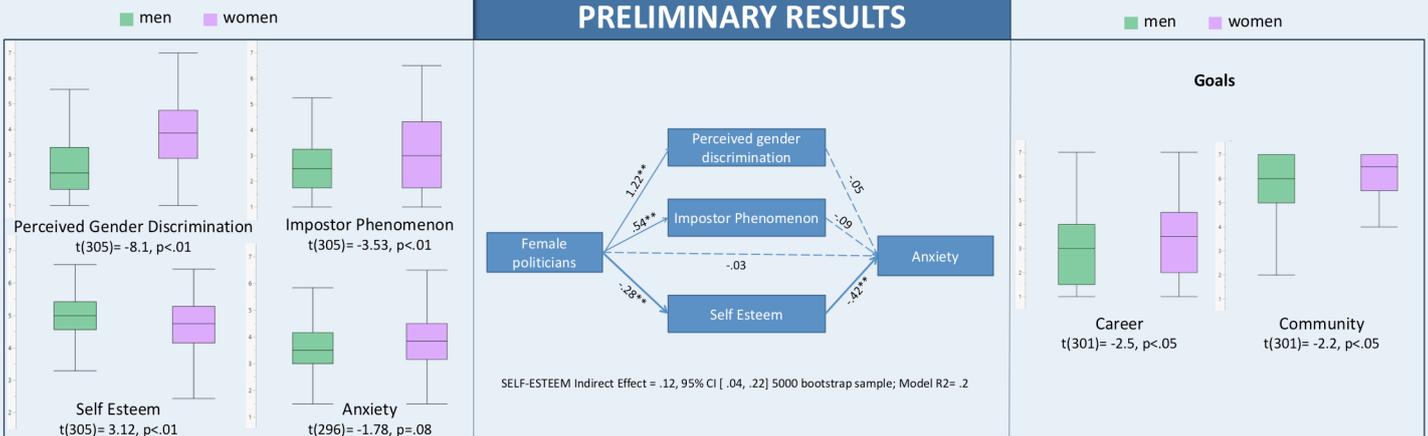
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N	Gender	M _{AGE} (SD)	Role
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PRELIMINARY RESULTS



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