

# Gender Disparities in Academic Publishing in Argentina. A Review of Political Science Journals (2011-2021)

## Abstract

Given the scarcity of women in hierarchical academic positions in academic institutions, it is worth asking whether a gender gap in publications precedes this issue. We examine the gender gap in publications in eight of the most important political science journals in Argentina. We reviewed 974 peer-reviewed articles from 144 volumes published between 2011 and 2021, focusing on three dimensions: gender gaps in authorship, co-authorship patterns, and subfield affinities. Our findings suggest that while there is a gender gap in authorship in political science journals, it is not as significant as the gap documented in similar studies conducted in other countries. Furthermore, we found no evidence that the gender gap is due to co-authorship patterns. Finally, in terms of subfield affinities, our results suggest that male and female political scientists in Argentina have different affinities for topics within the field, and that journals that emphasize topics favored by men have a larger gender gap.

## Resumen

Dada la escasez de mujeres en puestos académicos jerárquicos en las instituciones académicas, cabe preguntarse si una brecha de género en las publicaciones precede a esta cuestión. En este artículo examinamos las brechas de género en las publicaciones de ocho de las revistas de ciencia política más importantes de Argentina. Revisamos 974 artículos revisados por pares de 144 volúmenes publicados entre 2011 y 2021, centrándonos en tres dimensiones: la brecha de género en la autoría, los patrones de coautoría y las afinidades de áreas temáticas. Nuestros hallazgos sugieren que, si bien existe una brecha de género en la autoría en revistas de ciencia política, no es tan significativa como la brecha documentada en estudios similares realizados en otros países. Además, no encontramos evidencia que respalde que la brecha de género se deba a patrones de coautoría. Finalmente, en cuanto a las afinidades de subcampo, nuestros hallazgos indican que los científicos políticos hombres y mujeres en Argentina muestran diferentes inclinaciones hacia áreas temáticas, y las revistas que enfatizan temas favorecidos por los hombres exhiben una brecha de género mayor.

## Keywords

Women – Gender Gap – Career Advancement – Co-authorship – Subfields

## Palabras clave

Mujeres – Brecha de Género – Carreras Académicas – Coautoría – Áreas Temáticas

## Introduction

In every scope of science, journal publications play a dual role. On the one hand, they represent scientific development and dissemination. Namely, journal publications serve as a factor for scientific advancement, offering a platform for researchers to present their findings and also function as a means for the dissemination of those findings. On the other hand, for researchers, publications are a prerequisite for work and professional development. This latter aspect is worthwhile for those engaged in scientific research, as well as for those working in teaching, government, and non-governmental organizations. For this group of practitioners, publishing in journals is a way to make a name for themselves in a scientific discipline and advance their careers. Consequently, journal publications become necessary for staying or being promoted in academic positions and for reaching hierarchical positions among practitioners.

In the field of political science in Argentina, its development and institutionalization since the 1980s have coincided with an increase in academic journals for political scientists to publish their work (D'Alessandro and Tesio, 2020). However, an examination of the composition of the National Research Agency (CONICET, for its initials in Spanish) reveals a decline in female representation at higher hierarchical levels, dropping from 54 per cent and 63 per cent at the graduate student and post-doctoral positions, respectively, to only 32 per cent and 33 per cent for Principal and Senior Researchers, respectively (Calvo et al., 2019). At the same time, there is a gender gap in Argentina's national public administration: men hold the majority of positions overall, and their presence increases the higher up the hierarchy (Dieguez et al., 2022). Given the importance of publications for both academic and practical career advancement in this field, the declining trend of female representation in these senior roles leads to an important question: Is there a gender gap in publications within Argentine political science journals?

This paper aims to study the gender patterns in eight indexed Argentine political science journals between 2011 and 2021 and compare these results with the presence of women in the pool of potential political science authors in Argentina. Specifically, we look at the gender gap in authorship, patterns of co-authorship, and gender gap in subfields in Argentinian political science and its journals. In total, we analyzed 142 volumes, 974 articles, and 1307 authors.

Following (Martin, 2020), we show that there is no gender gap in the Argentine political science community, which we define as the potential authors, but we find that there are gender disparities in the authorship of the articles published by the journals that we study in this paper. Our pool of potential female authors ranges between 46.3 per cent and 50.7 per cent, and the percentage of female authors in Argentine political science journals is 44.5 per cent. This discrepancy does not appear to be as large as the findings in other countries (Candido et al., 2021; Fernández, 2006; Teele and Thelen, 2017). However, for some journals, the percentage of female authors is as low as 29 per cent of the total. We further analyze other factors that might be influencing these gaps. First, we analyze co-authorship patterns. While it could be assumed that the gender gap in publications results from women not taking as much advantage of co-authoring as men, our data indicates otherwise. Co-authorship is not a common practice in Argentine

political science for any gender: 75 per cent of the publications in our dataset are single-authored articles. Secondly, we investigate the presence of gendered subfields. Our findings show that certain subfields are predominantly male. Moreover, we find that, for two of the most common subfields, Comparative Politics and Political Theory, an increase in the percentage of articles on these topics correlates with a lower percentage of women as authors.

We build upon a research agenda initiated in the U.S. and Europe that analyzes gender disparities, manifested as an imbalance in the presence of women in scientific disciplines (Goastellec and Pekari, 2013; Murphy et al., 2020) and on both the level of production and impact (Goyanes et al., 2024). Specifically, in the field of political science, these studies have shown that women hold lower positions in academic organizations (Elizondo, 2015; Fernández, 2006; Rocha Carpiuc, 2016), are underrepresented as authors or main authors of coauthored papers in the most prestigious academic journals (Candido et al., 2021; Teele and Thelen, 2017), and other areas such as the journal editorial boards (Goldfrank and Welp, 2023).

Our study is relevant for several reasons. First, it highlights the representation and visibility of women in political science. By examining the main journals of a discipline in a country, we can assess the standing of the field and the extent of women's participation. Secondly, it helps to identify potential biases and barriers that women face in the early and middle stages of their careers, that might impact their career progression. There is evidence from several studies that the gender gap in professional fields is greater at hierarchical levels within the professional field. Recognizing early gender gaps in publication can help us understand the causes of later disparities in appointment and career progression, as publication is a prerequisite for promotion. Finally, documenting gender disparities can provide decision-makers, such as editors or editorial boards, with relevant information about the status of the field. This information can help them to make informed decisions in relation to these inequalities.

This paper is divided into five sections. First, we analyze the existing literature on gender bias in political science. Second, we describe the Argentine case, and the incentives various actors have to publish in academic journals. Third, we present the gender distribution in the Argentine academy, and we discuss our methodology and our criteria for journal selection. Fourth, we present and analyze the results. Fifth, we discuss the main findings and, finally, we situate our contribution within both the Argentine and international political science communities.

## Literature Review

Numerous studies have highlighted the marginalization of women in the field of political science among developed democracies with well-professionalized academic systems. These studies reveal that although the number of women in political science has been increasing, they still tend to hold lower ranks in less prestigious institutions and face difficulties in moving up to higher hierarchical positions (Abels and Woods, 2015; Elizondo, 2015; Kantola, 2015). Moreover, women are less likely than men to pursue an academic career (Briggs and Harrison, 2015). Among those who do enter

academia, they face a lower chance of achieving tenure in their institutions (Hesli et al., 2012). Furthermore, scholars have also shown that manuscripts written by female authors are less likely to be published in leading journals (Evans and Moulder, 2011; Teele and Thelen, 2017), and cited less frequently than their male colleagues (APSA, 2011; Atchison, 2018; McLaughlin Mitchell, 2013)<sup>1</sup>.

As for publications in peer-reviewed journals, a recent study analyzing publications in the European Political Science Review between 2010 and 2019 has found that 71 per cent of the published articles were authored solely or primarily by men, while male co-authorship accounted for one-third of all publications (Closa et al., 2020). Also, according to Teele and Thelen (2017), there is a significant gender gap in publications in U.S. political science journals. Women publish considerably less than men, with the percentage of female publications ranging from 33.74 per cent to 18.02 per cent between 2000 and 2015, depending on the journal. Furthermore, they found that co-authorship patterns play a role in the gender gap, with only 2.4 per cent of articles being written by all-female teams compared to 24 per cent of all-male teams.

Previous studies have also found that gender preferences regarding research topics and methodologies impact publication rates. Teele and Thelen (2017) suggest that this gap may also be influenced by methodological affinities, as most journals tend to publish quantitative articles, while women are more likely to use qualitative methodologies. Key and Sumner (2019) have studied gendered affinities on research topics. Their findings suggest that women are more likely to be involved in research areas that are not well represented in journals, such as race, health care, narrative and discourse, and branches of government. On the other hand, men tend to focus on subfields that are more publishable, such as voting and partisanship.

Studies have also shown that inequalities between men and women in Latin American political science are expressed both in their professional careers and in their academic publications. According to a study by Rocha Carpiuc (2016), there is a significant gender gap in the representation of women in high-level teaching and research positions. The study found that women make up an average of 30 per cent of lecturers, but this percentage decreases as we move up the hierarchy of positions. Additionally, women represent only 39 per cent of executive committees in Latin American Political Science associations, despite having equal representation in the starting point of the academic track (Rocha Carpiuc, 2016).

The gender gap is not only limited to publications and university appointments. For example, in their study, Goldfrank and Welp (2023) examines women's marginalization in journal editorial boards in Latin American journals. They compare the representation of women on the editorial boards of several political science journals with the proportion of female faculty members in political science departments. The authors find that although the proportion of women appointed as journal editors (37 per cent) is similar to that of women as faculty members in political science departments (34 per

---

<sup>1</sup> These articles can be consulted for deeper analysis on the marginalization of women in political science: Kantola (2015) for Finland, Briggs and Harrison (2015) for the United Kingdom, Abels and Woods (2015) for Germany and Grossman (2020) for the European Journal of Political Research.

cent), the rate of women on editorial boards (28 per cent), far from achieving parity, is lower.

The gender gap is also prevalent in academic publications and citations, both in journals and conference papers. Overall, in Latin American journals, only 29 per cent of articles were single female-authored, and only 36 per cent of papers were presented solely by women in the Latin American Political Science Association's (ALACIP) conference (Rocha Carpiuc, 2016). In addition, studies conducted in different countries have also highlighted this gap. For instance, a study by Candido et al. (2021) in Brazil revealed that only 30 per cent of authors in Brazilian journals of political science were women. The study further showed that the gender gap existed across all the journals they considered and for all research topics, including those areas, such as gender and feminist theory, that are considered to be feminized. Finally, a recent study on Argentina by González et al. (2024) shows that the first ten most cited authors by the CONICET community of political science are men.

In conclusion, the existing literature has documented the presence of a gender gap in the field of political science. These studies have found that women in this field face structural barriers, including lower academic ranks, challenges in attaining tenure, and underrepresentation in leading journal publications. Moreover, gendered preferences in research topics and methodologies, along with editorial biases in political science journals, further contribute to this disparity. Although most studies have focused on developed democracies, this phenomenon also exists in other contexts, such as Latin America. While political science in Latin America tends to be a younger discipline than in Europe and the United States (Curvale and Pérez-Arrobo, 2021), the gender disparity could be more pronounced, as evidenced by studies like Rangel Candido et al. (2021) in Brazil. Hence, extending the analysis to other countries contributes to a better understanding of the nuances and dynamics of gender disparities in political science. Our research aims to fill this gap by analyzing the gender gap in publications within the field of political science in Argentina.

### Incentives for Publishing in Argentine Political Science Journals

First, we define who has incentives to publish in political science journals in Argentina. The range of individuals who can potentially publish is not limited to university scholars or members of research agencies. In addition to full-time researchers, teaching professors, independent consultants, and public administration practitioners also have incentives to submit manuscripts to journals. Therefore, we have categorized the profiles into three groups based on their motivations and incentives to publish scholarly articles.

The first category refers to the research-track political scientists. This group includes all individuals who do research in political science as their main professional activity. In Argentina, most of the political science research is funded by public agencies such as CONICET, Agencia de Ciencia y Tecnología, and to a smaller degree, the research agencies that depend on the Universities. Although some public or private universities also finance research activities, their focus is mostly on teaching. Researchers typically

combine a full-time position at a research agency with a part-time teaching position at a university. To enter or be promoted to the research track in these agencies, applicants must apply during the academic year to the agency's calls, and publications play a significant role in this process. Publications are also a requirement for maintaining research positions and achieving promotions. Publishing in journals not only contributes to the publication record of researchers but also increases their chances of obtaining funding and advancing in their careers.

The second category consists of political scientists who are on the teaching track at the university level. For the university teaching track, publication is neither a central nor a primary requirement (Salatino and Gallardo, 2020). Although teaching positions in Argentina may involve full-time contracts with one university, they usually entail multiple part-time contracts with multiple universities. The main role of this position is, of course, teaching activities. Even though these positions may not depend primarily on publications, search committees for teaching positions consider publications a positive add-on. In addition, publication in journals serve as credentials for different funding that University instructors positions can apply for, such as grants, funds, or recognitions.

Finally, the last category includes all other part-time researchers, such as independent consultants and practitioners in public administration. These individuals conduct research despite not being affiliated with a research agency, relying on research funding, or holding a full-time teaching track position at a university, yet still have incentives to publish in academic journals. Their motivation to publish consists of maintaining a presence in academic discussions, developing professional networks, and building a reputation among colleagues. For this last group, research is a supplementary activity that lends them prestige and enhances their reputation in their primary field of work.

Figure 1 shows data from a survey conducted by the Argentine Political Science Association (SAAP) during the 2017 biannual conference in Buenos Aires. The conference convened political scientists and political science students from across the country to present their research and attend the conference. The data collected at the conference provided credible information about the frequency of the roles we have just described in this academic discipline. Attendees were asked, "Do you conduct political science-related research?" Respondents were requested to select the option that best described their involvement, choosing from: No Research Activity, Research Activity in Research Track, Research Activity in Teaching Track, Research Activity in Research Groups, and Independent Research Activity. To align with our categorization, we combined Research Activity in Research Groups and Independent Research Activity under Other Part-time Researchers. Only respondents with at least a bachelor's degree were considered for Figure 1<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> The data used to create Figure 1 is described in the next section, when discussing the percentage of women in political science.



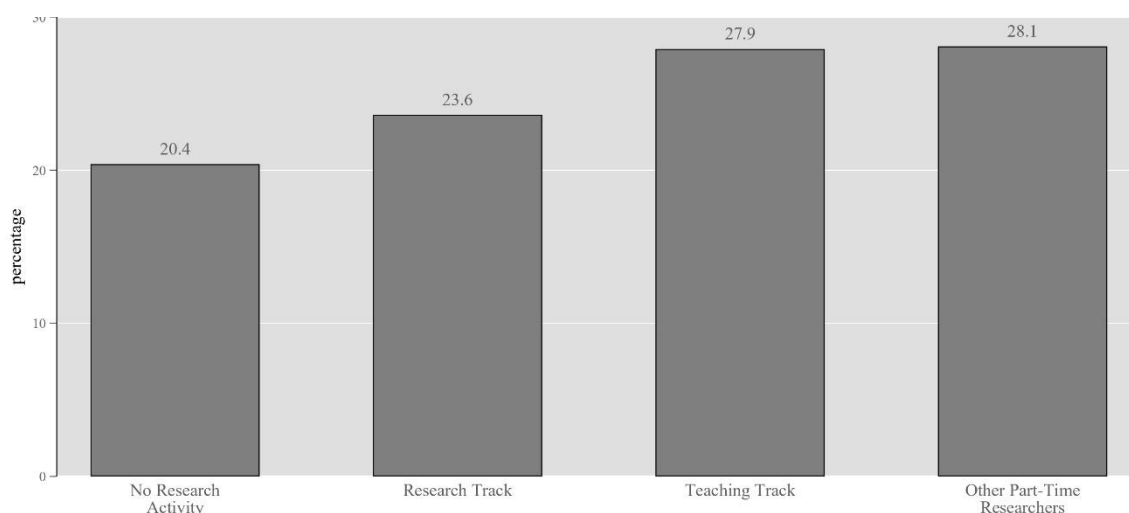


Figure 1: Percentage of political scientists by research role based on the SAAP 2017 survey. Only presenters or attendants with at least a B.A. degree were included in the figure.

Source: prepared by the authors using data provided by SAAP.

Almost 80 per cent of the respondents indicated that they were engaged in political science research activities. Among those respondents who reported conducting research in political science, 23.6 per cent stated they were members, either as fellows or researchers, of CONICET or another research agency. Additionally, 27.9 per cent indicated they were in the university teaching track, and 28.1 per cent responded that they conducted research in parallel with their practitioner or consultant positions or as members of a research group. Once individuals who do not engage in research are excluded from the sample, the groups with incentives to publish are almost evenly divided into thirds. About 30 per cent of the individuals who conduct research are in the Research Track, while approximately 35 per cent are in the Teaching Track, and another 35 per cent fall into the Other Part-Time Researchers category.

## Analysis: Women in Political Science and Publications

### Women in Argentine Political Science

For our analysis of the gender gap in publications, our first step is determining the percentage of women among the pool of political scientists with the potential to publish. We look at four metrics: 1) The respondents of the 2017 SAAP survey; 2) the membership of SAAP; 3) the presenters at the National Political Science Conferences; 4) the members of the Law, Political Science, and International Relations commission at CONICET. We determine the gender distribution of political scientists for each of these metrics<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Alternatively, other studies have used other criteria. For example, Teele and Thelen (2017) uses the composition of twenty graduate programs as a criterion for the American case. We have decided not to apply such a criterion because many political scientists in Argentina hold multiple part-time teaching appointments, a common practice in Argentine political science.

## Women according to the 2017 SAAP survey

We first looked at the data obtained by SAAP through a survey conducted during the XIII National Congress of Political Science in 2017. The survey was conducted online during the conference. All participants and speakers were invited to take the survey. In total, more than 1,000 respondents participated in the survey.

Figure 2 shows the percentage of men and women involved in research by role according to the 2017 SAAP survey<sup>4</sup>. An exact 50 per cent of those who reported being members of CONICET or any Research Track agency are women. The percentage remains the same when looking at those who reported being in the Teaching Track. Finally, only 39 per cent of those involved in research in another role are women. Overall, according to the 2017 SAAP survey, 46 per cent of the respondents who do research are women.

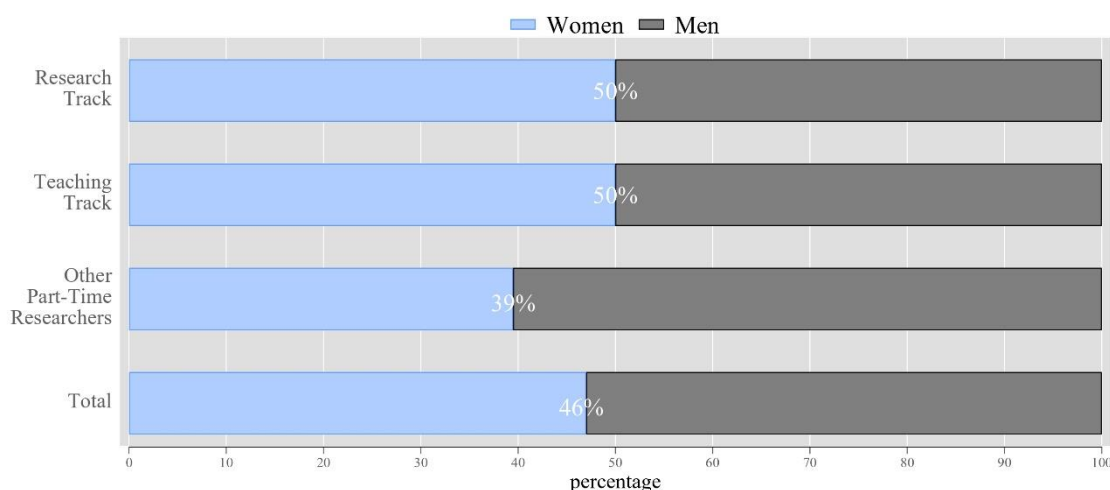


Figure 2: Percentage of males/females for each research role. Individuals who responded that they did not do research were excluded from this picture. Only presenters or attendants with at least a B.A. degree were included.

Source: prepared by the authors using data provided by SAAP.

## Women according to the SAAP membership and presenters in the SAAP conferences

Our second and third references regarding women in Argentine political science with publication potential are the percentage of women members of SAAP, and the percentage of female presenters at the SAAP conferences. The percentage of female members of SAAP was provided by the organization itself and corresponded to 2022. Figure 3a shows that 46.3 per cent of the SAAP members are women. Regarding the presenters at SAAP conferences, we used the data from the XII Congress held in 2017 collected by Vallejo (2017). Although there were conferences in 2019 and 2021, the conference articles reviewing the events did not include gender-disaggregated data.

<sup>4</sup> The data used for Figure 2 is the same that we used for Figure 1. The exact wording of the questions is “Which category best describes the role from which you conduct research?”



As Figure 3b shows, 48.9 per cent of the presenters at the XII SAAP Congress were women.

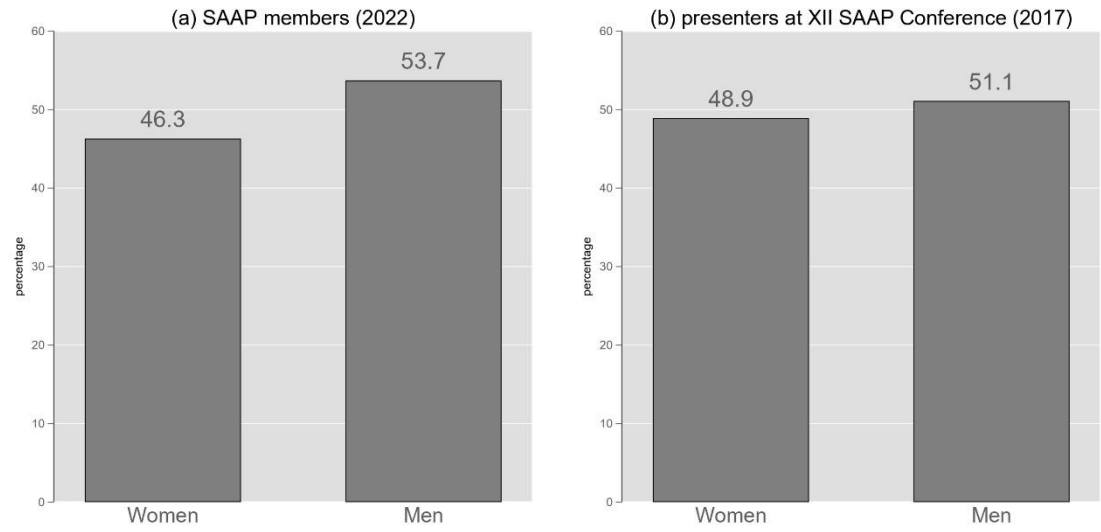


Figure 3: Members of SAAP by gender (a), and gender of the presenters at XII SAAP Biannual Conference of 2017 (b).

Source: prepared by the authors using data provided by SAAP (a) and Vallejo (2017) (b).

Women in CONICET

Figure 4 shows the total number of researchers and the percentage of men and women at each rank within CONICET for the field mentioned. As the figure shows, the percentage of women varies according to the rank. In the first three categories, which are also the most numerous, the percentage of women exceeds that of men. Women account for 54 per cent of doctoral fellows, 63 per cent of postdoctoral fellows, and 51 per cent of assistant researchers. As you climb the researcher ladder, the lower the percentage of women. Among associate researchers, only a third are women (33 per cent), and among independent researchers, 43 per cent are women. Principal researchers have the lowest percentage of women: 32 per cent. Finally, only one-third of senior researchers are women (33 per cent). Overall, women make up 50.7 per cent of the political scientist at CONICET, compared to 49.3 per cent of men.

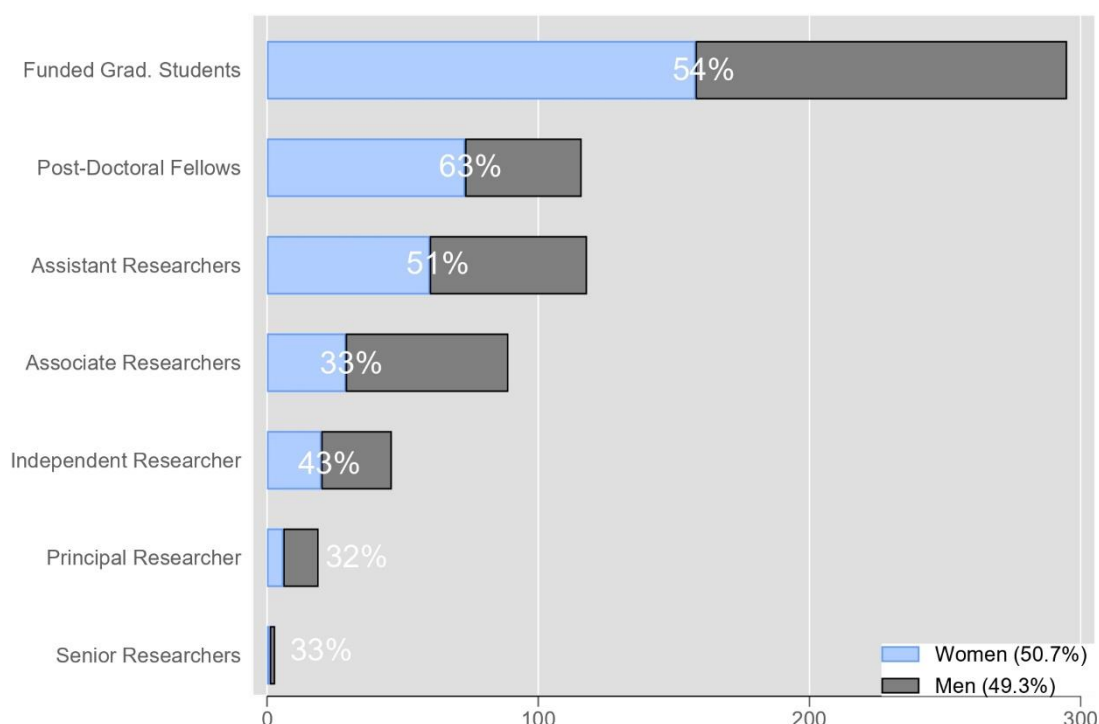


Figure 4: Absolute numbers (horizontal axis), and percentages (inside bars) of males and females at each research category at CONICET.

Source: prepared by the authors using data from Calvo et al. (2019).

In conclusion, based on the data analyzed, we can conclude that the percentage of women with the potential and incentives to publish in the discipline is similar to that of men. First, in the survey data of SAAP for 2017, the percentage of women among the respondents engaged in research is 46 per cent. Secondly, among the members of SAAP for 2022, the percentage of women is 46.3 per cent. Then, among the participants of the XII SAAP Congress, 48.9 per cent were women. Among the members of the CONICET in the Law, Political Science, and International Relations committee, the percentage of women is 50.7 per cent.

### Basic Core of Scientific Journals

For our analysis of the gender gap in journal publications, we look at the eight political science journals included in the Basic Core of Scientific Journals (NBRC, for its initials in Spanish) within the Social and Human Sciences of CONICET. The use of the NBRC as a rule for the selection of journals is based on CONICET's criteria to evaluate scientific publications<sup>5</sup>. These journals are *Revista de la Sociedad Argentina de Análisis Político* (SAAP), *PostData*, *Studia Politicae*, *Temas y Debates*, *Revista Argentina de Ciencia Política* (RACP), *Miríada*, *Colección*, and *Cuadernos de Política Exterior Argentina* (CUPEA). Although these are not the only Argentine journals in which

<sup>5</sup> The social sciences and humanities journals included in this index can be found at the Scientific and Technical Research Advisory Committee (CAICYT, for its initials in Spanish) website.

political scientists might choose to publish, they represent a significant portion of the political science publishing landscape, and most of the authors are political scientists. Unlike other journal evaluation indexes such as the Latindex catalog, the NBRC not only subjects journals to a technical evaluation based on criteria of quality and impact but also involves evaluations by members of CONICET's Scientific Advisory Committee, who in time, also evaluate the fellowship and researchers submissions. Therefore, to publish in these Journals has not only impact, but it also supposes a better evaluation for those who seek a research track<sup>6</sup>.

We only include peer-reviewed articles in our dataset. This decision is based on the scores given by the NBRC to each type of publication in the evaluation for entry into the Research Track at CONICET or for university teaching positions. The established score hierarchy indicates that research articles receive a higher score than research notes, and research notes receive a higher score than book reviews. Consequently, the editorial presentations of each issue, book reviews, obituaries, and comments or reflections by researchers are not included in our analysis<sup>7</sup>. Appendix A1.1 compares the percentage of women in the dossier and miscellaneous volumes, showing no negative differences.

All the data was collected from the journals' websites. We identified issue numbers, volumes, and years of each publication, as well as the titles of the articles, the names of the authors, and the subfields. The gender of the authors was coded based on their first and second names. Regarding the coding of subfields, the articles were classified according to the categories established by the SAAP for its biennial congresses<sup>8 9</sup>.

Table 1 summarizes the articles analyzed here. The data include 974 articles in 144 issues of eight political science journals that were published in Argentina between 2011 and 2021. The number of articles per journal ranges from 64 in the case of CUPEA to 191 for *Temas y Debates*. The average number of articles per issue is 6.9, ranging from 4.5 articles per issue in the case of *Studia Politicae*, to 8.7 articles in *Temas y Debates*. Among the 974 articles, we have documented 1,307 authors in our database, ranging from 56 for RACP to 256 for, once again, *Temas y Debates*. Finally, the number of authors per article is 1.4. The journals with the fewest authors per article are *Colección* and RACP (1.2), while the journal with the highest number of authors per article is *Studia Politicae* (1.5).

---

<sup>6</sup> A more in-depth explanation about CONICET's evaluation process can be found at (González et al., 2024).

<sup>7</sup> Of the eight selected journals, only RACP submits book reviews for peer-review evaluation. Still, they are not included in our analysis.

<sup>8</sup> The subfields established for the XV National Congress of Political Science since 2011 by SAAP are used: International Relations, Political Theory and Philosophy, State, Administration, and Public Policies, Public Opinion, Communication, and Political Marketing, Comparative Politics, Political Institutions, History and Politics, Development, Teaching, and Methodology of Political Science, and Gender and Politics.

<sup>9</sup> In the case of CUPEA and RACP, the period studied does not cover all years, as the available online information dates back only to 2015 and 2018, respectively. For CUPEA, it was established in 2015, and each of its four issues from that year contains one article. As for RACP, although it was founded in 1997, the first online publication is from 2018. Finally, for the journal *Colección*, issue 23 from 2013 is unavailable online.

Journal	Years under study	Articles	Volumes	Articles per volume	Authors	Authors per Article
Revista SAAP	2011-2021	174	21	8.3	251	1.4
COLECCION	2011-2021	74	14	5.3	86	1.2
CUPEA	2015-2021	63	12	5.3	79	1.3
MIRIADA	2011-2021	95	11	8.6	125	1.3
PostData	2011-2021	181	22	8.2	232	1.3
RACP	2018-2021	48	7	6.9	56	1.2
Studia Politicae	2011-2021	148	33	4.5	222	1.5
Temas y Debates	2011-2021	191	22	8.7	256	1.3
Total		974	142	6.9	1307	1.4

Table 1: Descriptive statistics of Argentine political science journals from 2011-2021, showcasing the distribution of published articles, volumes produced, average articles per volume, and authorship.

Source: compiled by the authors using data from the journal websites.

### Women as authors in journals

We now proceed to analyze the percentage of female authors in Argentine political science journals, to further compare them with the four measures of women's representation in the discipline. Figure 5 shows the percentage of male and female authors in each of the eight journals analyzed. The total percentage of female authors in these journals is 44.5 per cent. The journals are ranked from lowest to highest percentage of female authors, with Colección having the lowest value (29 per cent) and Temas y Debates having the highest percentage of female authors (53.5 per cent).

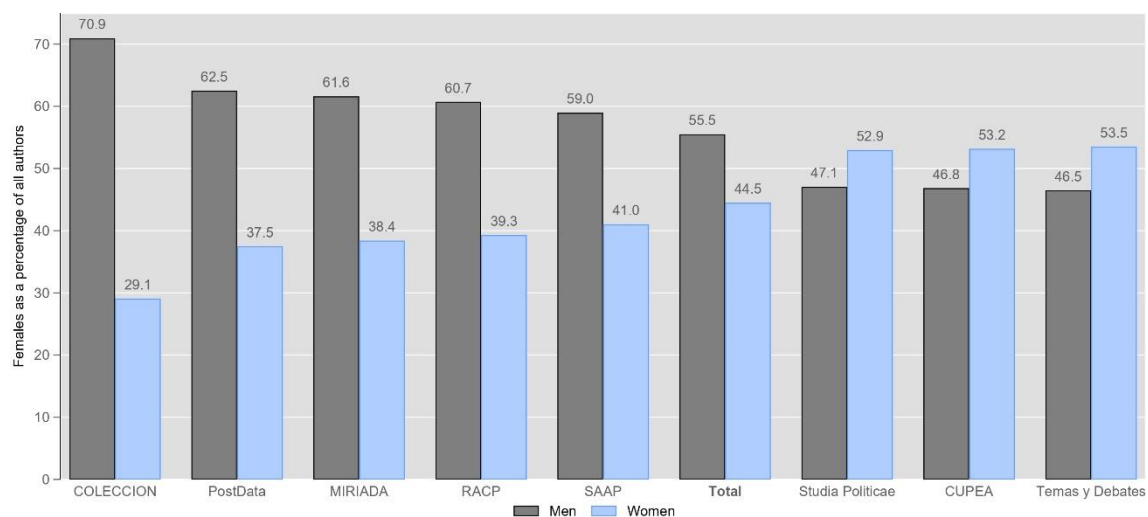


Figure 5: Percentage of men and women in eight political science Journals in Argentina. Journals sorted left-right from the poorest to the higher presence of female authors. Additionally, the Total category represent the mean of the eight journals.

Source: prepared by the authors using data from the journal websites.

Figure 6 addresses the questions of gender representation in journals in relation to the percentage of women in the discipline with publishing potential. The Y-axis shows the eight publications analyzed and the corresponding percentage of women among the total number of authors. In addition, the figure includes four vertical lines indicating the references described as the percentage of members of the Argentine political science field with publishing potential who are women. The line A shows the percentage of women among the respondents to the SAAP survey who indicated that they were involved in research. The line B shows the percentage of female SAAP members. The line C shows the percentage of female presenters at the XII SAAP Congress. Finally, the line D shows the percentage of CONICET fellows and researchers who are women.

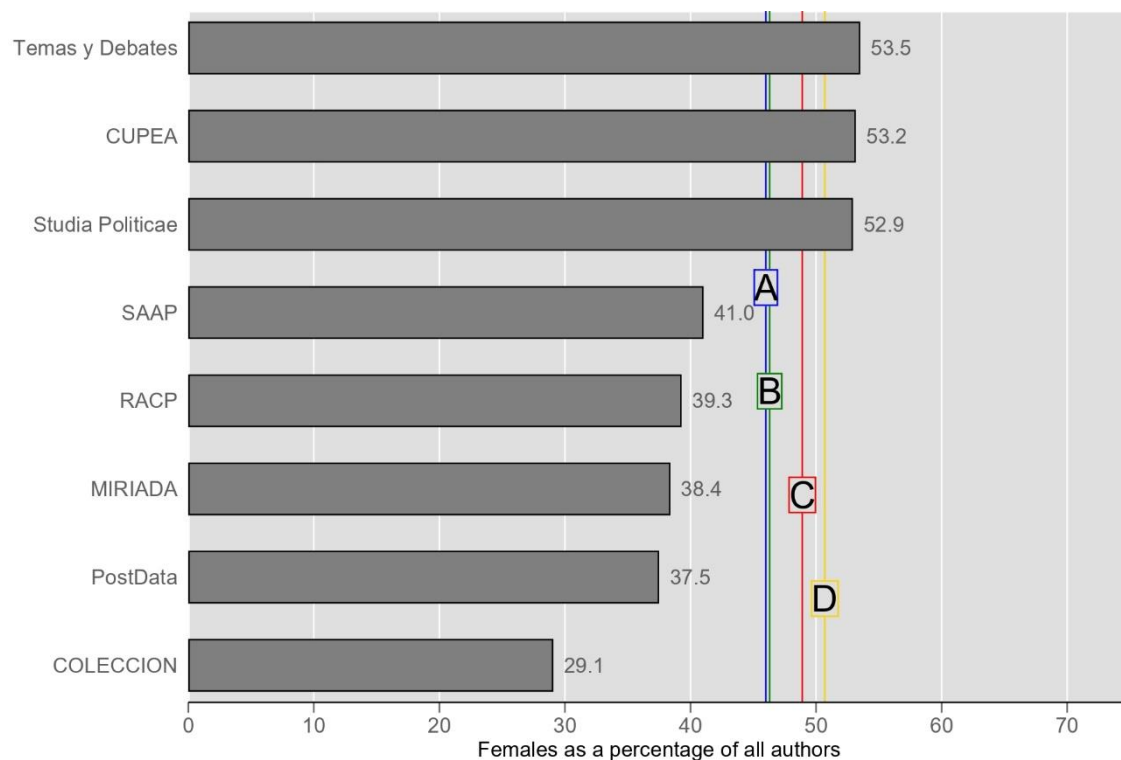


Figure 6: Women as percentage of authors in Argentine Political Science. Vertical lines show four measures of the percentage of women in Argentine Political Science. The A line indicates the percentage of women who reported engaging in scientific research related to political science in the survey conducted by SAAP at its XII congress—46.0 per cent—. On the other hand, the B line reflects the percentage of women among the total members of the Argentine Society of Political analysis (S.A.A.P.)—46.3 per cent—. Finally, the C line accounts for the percentage of female presenter attendees at the S.A.A.P. congress in 2017—48.9 per cent—. The D line represents the percentage of women among the total members of CONICET in the commission of Law, Political Science, and International Relations. It includes researchers from all ranks and doctoral and postdoctoral fellows—50.7 per cent—.

Source: prepared by the authors using data from the journal websites and data provided by SAAP (line A and B), Vallejo (2017) (line C) and Calvo et al. (2019) (line D).

Only three out of the eight journals analyzed reached any of the four proxies used in the analysis. These journals are Temas y Debates, CUPEA, and Studia Politicae. Even though, on average, the gender gap in publication is not as large as documented in other

country studies, it still exists. Moreover, if we examine each journal individually, we observe that this small gap is not uniform. In some cases, the presence of women is as low as 29 per cent, as in the case of Colección.

### Co-authorship Patterns

The next step is to analyze authorship patterns that may be affecting the gender gap in authorship. There is a possibility that co-authorship could influence the gender gap in publication patterns, as documented by Teele and Thelen (2017) in the U.S. where women were not taking full advantage of co-authorship. Figure 7 shows the authorship patterns in the analyzed journals according to the gender of the authors. Contrary to American trends, co-authorship is not a common practice in Argentine political science; solo articles are the rule. Almost half of the published articles are authored individually by men (46 per cent), while 29 per cent are authored individually by women. This reveals an interesting fact: individual authorship predominates in Argentine political science, accounting for 75 per cent of publications, while co-authorship accounts for only 25 per cent.

Additionally, there are no significant differences between group articles authored exclusively by male teams and those authored exclusively by female teams. While 6.8 per cent of the articles were written by a group of men, 7.0 per cent were written by a group of women. Finally, only 11.3 per cent are the product of a mixed-gender collaboration.

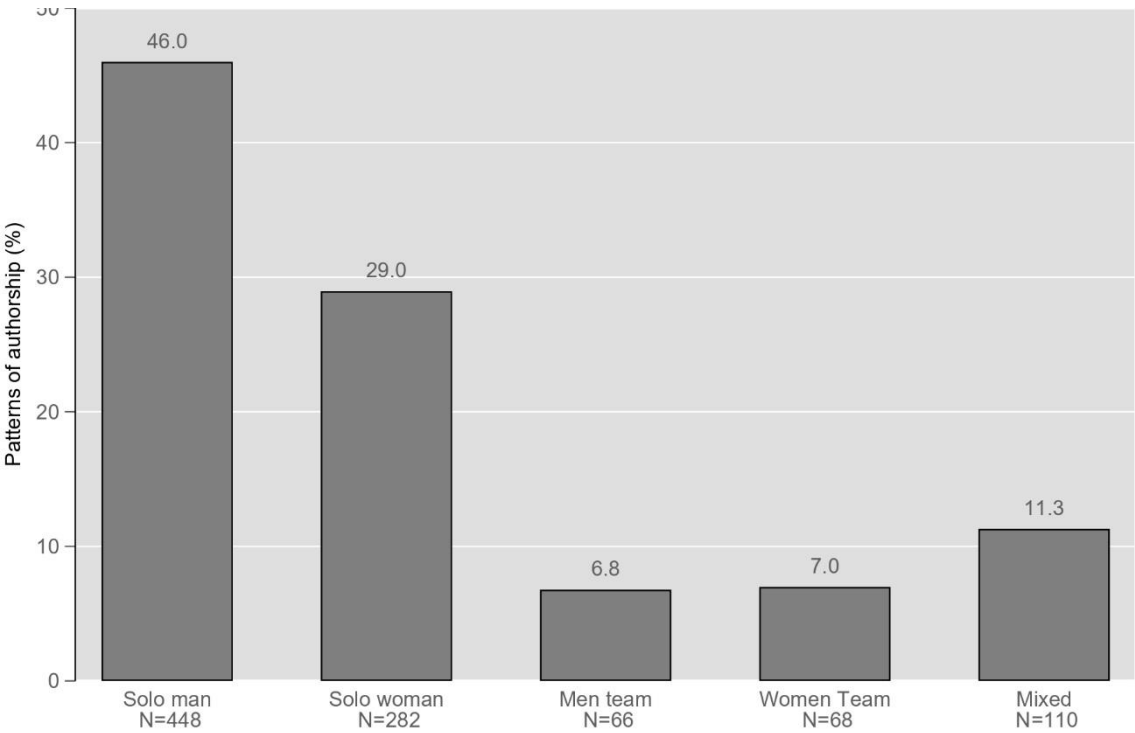




Figure 7: Pattern of authorship of publications in Argentine political science journals. Bars show the percentage of each category in the analyzed sample. Additionally, absolute values appear between brackets next to each category.

Source: prepared by the authors using data from the journal websites.

Figure 8 shows the pattern of authorship over time for the years studied. Throughout the entire period, articles authored by solo men were more common than other forms of authorship, followed by articles authored by solo women. Between 2018 and 2021, there is a sustained increase in articles authored by solo women, after a continuous decline between 2015 and 2018. As for co-authorship, mixed co-authorship is higher than the others throughout most of the period, while the other two forms of collaboration show similar behavior over time. Appendixes A1.2 and A1.3 show the co-authorship patterns by journal and by journal across time, respectively.

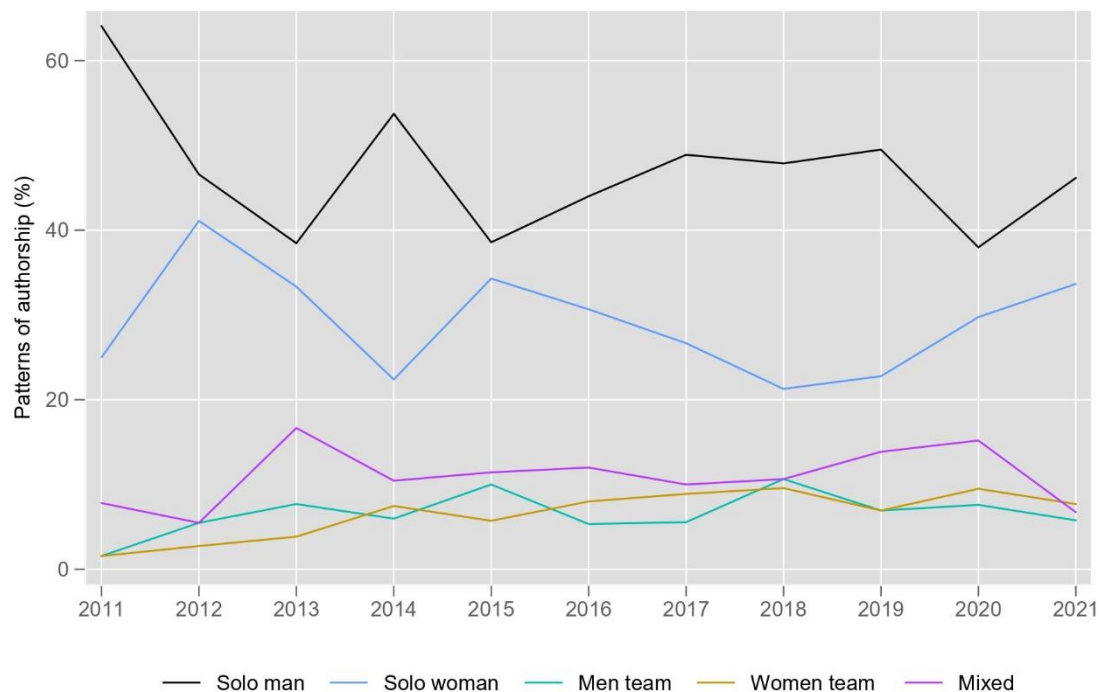


Figure 8: Pattern of authorship of publications in Argentine political science journals over time (2011-2021). Lines show the percentage of each category for each year.

Source: prepared by the authors using data from the journal websites.

## Subfields

In addition to co-authorship, another element that might affect the gender gap in authorship is the gender division in the subfields studied within the discipline, as shown by Key and Sumner (2019) in the U.S. and Candido et al. (2021) in Brazil. This means that if one gender predominates in a particular subfield, and if journals tend to specialize

in it at the expense of others, it will eventually lead to a gender bias in publications in general. We examine these patterns by analyzing the 2017 SAAP survey and the authorship trends in political science journals. Figure 9 shows the relation between gender and subfield according to the responses in the SAAP survey of 2017 and the eight specified journals analyzed in this article. Specifically, we examine whether an article's primary subfield draws from one of those established by SAAP for their conferences: International Relations, Political Theory and Philosophy, State, Administration and Public Policies, Public Opinion, Communication and Political Marketing, Comparative Politics, Political Institutions, History and Politics, Development, Teaching and Methodology of Political Science, and Gender and Politics<sup>10</sup>. The survey data shows the percentage of female respondents who reported conducting research in each subfield, while for journal data, the figure displays the percentage of female authors publishing in each one.

Figure 9 also includes the four references of the percentage of women in Argentine political science<sup>11</sup>. Overall, the survey and the authorship show similar patterns of women's presence by subfield in political science. We identify some salient patterns. First, women have a clear affinity for research on Gender and Politics, in both the survey and the articles. 74.1 per cent of the respondents of the survey who reported working on research on gender were women. Regarding the authors, the percentage of female authors ascends to 82.8 per cent.

Second, in four of the nine subfields, we do not observe any gender gap. Those are State, Administration and Public Policies (51.4 per cent of the survey respondents and 58.4 per cent of the authors), Public Opinion, Communication and Political Marketing (49.4 per cent of the survey respondents and 52.5 per cent of the authors), International Relations (46.8 per cent of the survey respondents and 45.5 per cent, of the authors), and Political Institutions (42.9 per cent of the survey respondents and 48.6 per cent of the authors). Third, in four of the nine subfields, the presence of women is considerably lower than the men's in both surveys and journals. Those are Political Theory and Philosophy (41.0 per cent of the survey respondents and 39.1 per cent, of the authors), Development, Teaching and Methodology of Political Science (40.4 per cent of the survey respondents and 15.0 per cent, of the authors), Comparative Politics (36.4 per cent of the survey respondents and 33.1 per cent, of the authors), and Political History (34.4 per cent of the survey respondents and 41.9 per cent, of the authors). Fourth, the subfield that presents the largest gap in the presence of women between the SAAP survey and authors in academic journals is Development, Teaching and Methodology of Political Science (40.4 per cent of the survey respondents and 15.0 per cent, of the authors).

This gap between the percentage of women working in this subfield and the articles in journals might reflect the difficulties women face when trying to get their work

---

<sup>10</sup> For figures 9 and 10, and table 2 we abbreviate the subfields names, but we maintain the original ones along the text. Abbreviations: Political Theory and Philosophy into Political Theory, State, Administration and Public Policies into Public Admin., Public Opinion, Communication and Political Marketing into Public Opinion, and Development, Teaching and Methodology of Political Science into History of P.S. The rest remains as the originals.

<sup>11</sup> In the journal analysis, 24 articles (2.46 per cent) with 31 authors (2.37 per cent) could not be categorized and were excluded from this figure.

published in this subfield. Finally, in contrast to other studies, such as Candido et al. (2021) for Brazil, we find that not all subfields are dominated by men’s articles. There are more female authors on Gender and Politics, State, Administration and Public Policies, and Public Opinion, Communication and Political Marketing, while International Relations, and Political Institutions are close to parity.

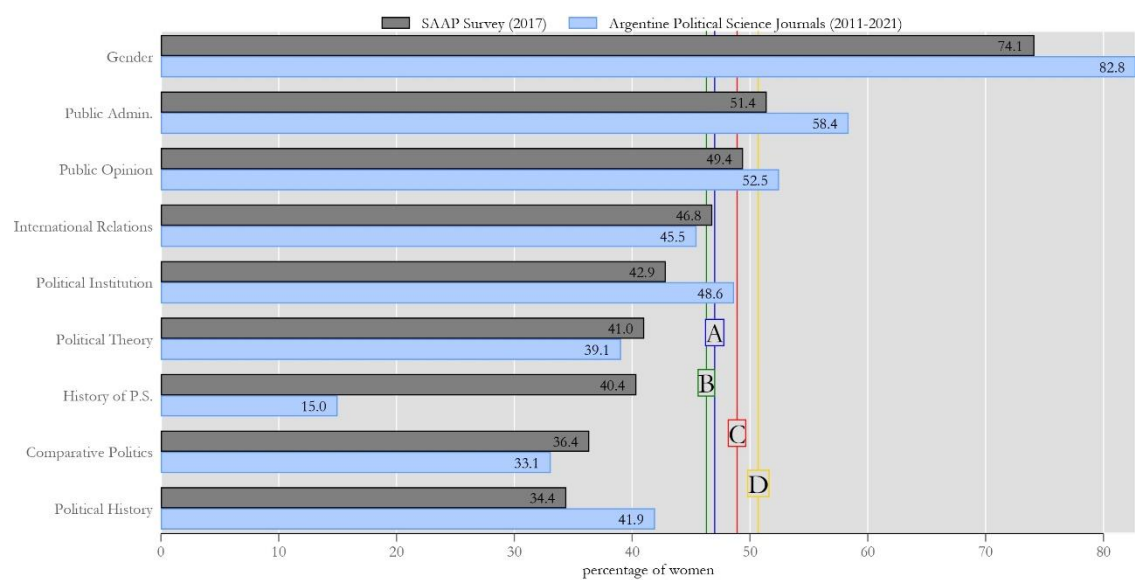


Figure 9: Women’s Presence by subfield of Research in Political Science (%). Data from SAAP Survey from 2017, and Argentine journals of political science (2011–2021). The A line indicates the percentage of women who reported engaging in scientific research related to political science in the survey conducted by SAAP at its XII congress—47.0 per cent–. On the other hand, the B line reflects the percentage of women among the total members of the SAAP—46.3 per cent–. Finally, the C line accounts for the percentage of female presenter attendees at the SAAP congress in 2017 –48.9 per cent–. The D line represents the percentage of women among the total members of CONICET in the Commission of Law, Political Science, and International Relations. It includes researchers from all ranks and doctoral and postdoctoral fellows—50.7 per cent–.

Source: prepared by the authors using data from the journal websites and data provided by SAAP (line A and B), Vallejo (2017) (line C) and Calvo et al. (2019) (line D).

Given the existence of subfield affinities within the discipline, which seems to be consistent in the survey and the journals’ data, it is worth asking whether the eight journals analyzed specialize in a particular subfield and whether this specialization corresponds to a subfield with a gender gap. When looking at Table 2, we see that there are only two specialized journals. First, CUPEA is specialized in the field of International Relations with 85 per cent of its articles related to this area. Second, RACP, with nearly two-thirds (63 per cent) of its articles, focuses on Political Theory and Philosophy. Despite the journal’s website reporting it as a generalist outlet, it may be perceived, based on previously published articles and the nature of discussions within it, as a Political Theory and Philosophy journal, and authors, when submitting an article, might consider both the topic of their article and the type of discussion prevalent in the journal. The other six journals show a more generalist approach with a more equitable distribution of the subfields that the articles addressed.

Journal	History of P.S.	Public Admin.	Gender and Politics	History and Politics	Political Institutions	Public Opinion	Comparative Politics	International Relations	Political Theory
COLECCION	1.4	10.0	2.9	4.3	2.9	1.4	31.4	17.1	28.6
CUPEA	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	6.4	85.7	1.6
MIRIADA	0.0	19.5	1.3	1.3	2.6	0.0	11.7	15.6	48.1
PostData	1.7	13.3	1.7	5.5	1.7	5.0	27.6	9.4	34.3
RACP	0.0	8.7	4.4	4.4	0.0	4.4	6.5	8.7	63.0
SAAP	4.0	10.9	8.1	4.0	5.2	8.1	37.4	7.5	14.9
StudiaPoliticae	0.0	18.2	8.8	2.0	6.1	4.1	11.5	22.3	27.0
Temas y Debates	3.14	18.32	1.57	1.57	1.57	34	16.75	12.04	41.88
<b>Total Mean</b>	1.5	15.2	4.4	2.8	4.7	2.4	20.8	16.8	29.0

Table 2: Subfields of articles in the eight journals of Argentina Political Science (%).

Source: prepared by the authors using data from the journal websites.

Overall, most of the articles published in the Argentine journals of political science belong to Political Theory and Philosophy (29 per cent). The second most recurrent subfield in the articles under study is Comparative Politics (20.8 per cent), followed by International Relations (16.8 per cent), and State, Administration, and Public Policies (15.2 per cent). Each of the other subfields encompasses less than 5 per cent of the articles: articles on Political Institutions are 4.7 per cent; on Gender and Politics, 4.4 per cent; on History and Politics, 2.8 per cent; on Public Opinion, Communication and Political Marketing, 2.4 per cent; and on Development, Teaching and Methodology of Political Science, 1.5 per cent.

Putting together the information from Figure 9 and Table 2, we created Figure 10 to show the percentage of female authors and the percentage of articles from three out of the four main subfields from Table 2, by journal<sup>12</sup>. We observe that journals publishing the largest share of a subfield with a near-parity in gender distribution, such as State, Administration, and Public Policies (left panel), show a positive correlation with the share of female authors. In contrast, journals that publish the largest share of subfields with lesser female representation, such as Comparative Politics (middle panel) or Political Theory and Philosophy (right panel), exhibit a negative correlation with the percentage of female authors.

<sup>12</sup> The fourth major subfield, International Relations, was not included in this part of the analysis because most publications on this topic primarily come from the journal CUPEA.

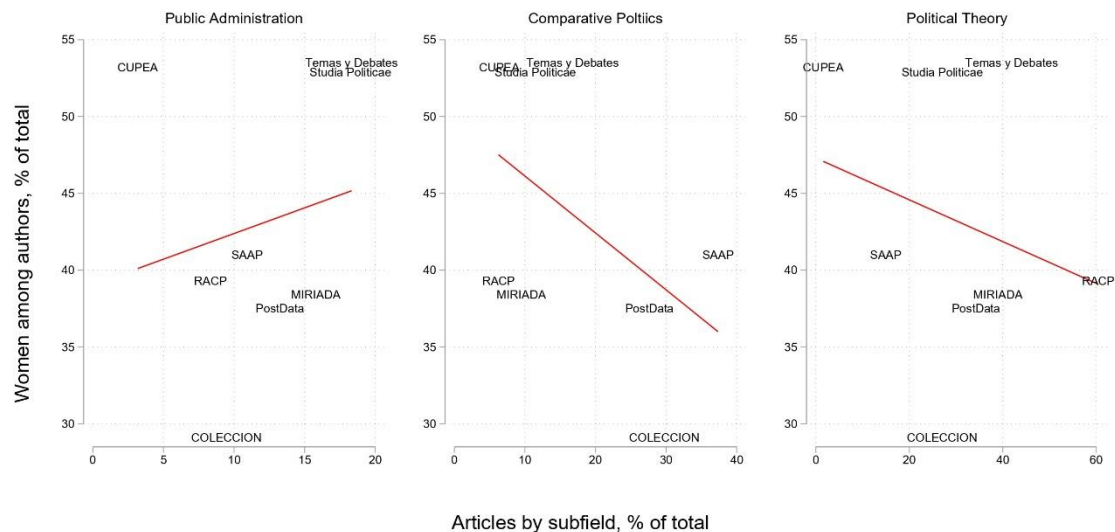


Figure 10: Women among All Authors, as a function of State, Administration and Public Policies articles (left), Comparative Politics articles (center), or Political Theory and Philosophy articles (right), 2011–2021. Note: The lines depicted in each panel are bivariate linear regression lines. These lines are intended to demonstrate the correlation between the x- and y-variables.

Source: prepared by the authors using data from the journal websites.

These findings highlight that the gender gap in publications within political science is not universal across all subfields. We find evidence of this through survey responses and by analyzing authorship in eight Argentine journals of political science. However, the gender gap does exist in some of the dominant subfields of these journals. As expected, there is a negative correlation between the percentage of female authors and the percentage of articles on topics where women seem to have less affinity than men. In summary, our exploration of potential connections between political science subfields, gender, and publication patterns reveals a scenario that is different and more inclined towards parity than what other studies in the U.S. and in Latin America have found (Candido et al. (2021), Key and Sumner (2019) and Young (1995)). Specifically, we have discovered that, when examining publications by subfield, not all are dominated by men, and almost half of them tend to parity. However, on the other hand, we found that women do not have a strong presence in many of the subfields that dominate Argentine political science journals.

## Discussion and Conclusion

Publications in academic journals aim to reflect debates within the discipline, highlighting issues considered relevant to its members and stimulating debate among colleagues. They also reflect the presence—or absence—of gender gaps in the discipline. This article analyzes gendered publication patterns in eight Argentine political science journals over ten years. We began our analysis by identifying the profiles of political scientists in Argentina with incentives to publish in academic journals: researchers and fellows of CONICET, academics in the teaching track, and

independent researchers and members of research groups. Given this diverse universe of individuals motivated to publish, we compared four different references to determine the presence of women in political science: 1) membership in the Argentine Political Science Society; 2) participation as presenters in national political science conferences; 3) responses to surveys distributed by the organization to its members; and 4) researchers in the national science and technology system. All four measures indicate that the proportion of women in Argentine political science is between 46.3 and 50.7 per cent. Furthermore, we compared these references with the publication patterns in eight of the Argentine political science journals indexed in CONICET's Basic Core of Scientific Journals from 2011 to 2021. In total, we analyzed 142 volumes, 974 articles, and 1307 authors.

Our results document three key findings. First, we find that, overall, 55.5 per cent of the authors analyzed are men, while 44.5 per cent are women. This gap is not significantly different from our estimates of female representation in the discipline. Moreover, the gap is not as pronounced as that documented in studies from other countries. However, when examining each journal individually, we discovered heterogeneity in the representation of women as authors.

Second, we found that the pattern of co-authorship does not explain the gender gap either. Although men publish more as sole authors than women, in Argentina, sole authorship predominates, accounting for 75 per cent of publications. Co-authorship, on the other hand, accounts for only 25 per cent, and there is virtually no difference between papers authored by male, female, or mixed teams. This highlights a characteristic of the political science academy in Argentina, which favors solo authors, while the trend in American and European political science is toward multi-authored papers.

Finally, as shown in previous research on political science journals in other countries (Key and Sumner, 2019), we found a gender gap in some subfields. Our results show that four out of the nine subfields in political science in Argentina are male dominated. Conversely, the authors of three subfields are predominantly women. Finally, two subfields, International Relations, or Political Institutions, tend towards parity. Given these patterns, we asked whether the journals in our study tended to favor certain subfields, particularly those dominated by men, as a possible explanation for the gender gap. While six out of the eight journals analyzed do not specialize in any specific subfields, articles on Political Theory and Philosophy, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and State, Administration, and Public Policy dominate the Argentine political science agenda. In addition, we find that in journals with predominantly masculinized subfields, the presence of women is lower than in those that prioritize non-gendered subfields.

To better understand and improve the role of gender in political science, but also in many other academic fields in Argentina, journals need to collect and publish submission statistics. This includes tracking the number of articles submitted to journals, how many are initially accepted, the peer review process, the frequency and timing of publication, and the gender of authors and reviewers. This data can help to identify at what stage in the publication process women are encountering barriers to



publishing their work. In addition, keeping a record of conference submissions and the gender of authors, as well as the gender of researchers of universities and within the professional organizations, is crucial for a better understanding of gender patterns in the discipline.

Further research should look at other types of reasons for this gender gap in authorship. One possible explanation not analyzed in this paper is a difference in risk aversion between women and men. Closa et al. (2020) and Brown et al. (2020) have found that female political scientists submit fewer publications to academic journals than their male counterparts because they perceive themselves as more perfectionist, risk-averse, and less confident. In addition, a qualitative study in the future could address the difficulties researchers face in developing academic articles and academic tasks in general in relation to the time they can devote to them, either because of caring responsibilities or because of the extensive time they devote to teaching and service at their universities. Existing literature has shown that women devote more time to caring responsibilities than men (Rodríguez Enríquez, 2012), which could affect their commitment to academic output.

## References

- Abels G and Woods DR (2015) the status of women in german political science. *European Political Science* 14(2): 87–95.
- APSA (2011) *Political Science in the 21st Century. Report of the Task Force on Political Science in the 21st Century*. ERIC Clearinghouse. Available at: [http://www.apsanet.org/portals/54/Files/Task\%20Force\%20Reports/TF\\_21st\%20Century\\_AllPgs\\_webres90.pdf](http://www.apsanet.org/portals/54/Files/Task\%20Force\%20Reports/TF_21st\%20Century_AllPgs_webres90.pdf).
- Atchison AL (2018) Towards the good profession: improving the status of women in political science. *European Journal of Politics and Gender* 1(1–2): 279–298.
- Briggs J and Harrison L (2015) the status of women in uk political science. *European Political Science* 14(2): 105–115.
- Brown NE, Horiuchi Y, Htun M, et al. (2020) Gender Gaps in Perceptions of Political Science Journals. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 53(1): 114–121.
- Calvo E, Elverdín AS, Kessler G, et al. (2019) Investigando las influencias internacionales en las ciencias sociales argentinas. *Revista Latinoamericana de Metodología de las Ciencias Sociales (Relmecs)* 9(2): e055.
- Candido MR, Campos LA and Feres J (2021) The Gendered Division of Labor in Brazilian Political Science Journals. *Brazilian Political Science Review* 15(3): e0002.
- Closa C, Moury C, Novakova Z, et al. (2020) Mind the (submission) gap: EPSR gender data and female authors publishing perceptions. *European Political Science* 19(3): 428–442.
- Curvale C and Pérez-Arrobo G (2021) Documentation Requirements in Political Science Journals: Moving Towards Open Access Practices. *Revista de ciencia política (Santiago)* (ahead). Epub ahead of print 2021. DOI: 10.4067/S0718-090X2021005000108.
- D'Alessandro M and Tesio ME (2020) Abuso de poder y sesgo de género en la profesión de la ciencia política argentina. *POSTData: Revista de Reflexión y Análisis Político* 25(2): 585–621.
- Dieguez G, Peralta A and Kaczmarczyk E (2022) *GPS del capital humano en el Estado: ¿cómo se compone y estructura la brecha de género en la administración pública nacional central?* Available at: <https://www.cippec.org/textual/la-brecha-de-genero-en-la-administracion-publica-nacional-central/> (accessed 1 June 2022).
- Elizondo A (2015) the status of women in spanish political science. *European Political Science* 14(2): 96–104.
- Evans HK and Moulder A (2011) Reflecting on a Decade of Women's Publications in Four Top Political Science Journals. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 44(4): 793–798.
- Fernández M de los A (2006) Mujer y Ciencia Política en Chile: ¿algo nuevo bajo el sol? *Política. Revista de Ciencia Política* 46: 261–289.

- Goastellec G and Pekari N (2013) Gender differences and inequalities in academia: Findings in Europe. In: *The Work Situation of the Academic Profession in Europe: Findings of a Survey in Twelve Countries*. Springer, pp. 55–78. Available at: [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-5977-0\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-5977-0_4).
- Goldfrank B and Welp Y (2023) Researching the Gap: Women in Latin American Political Science. *Journal of Politics in Latin America* 15(3): 337–350.
- González G, Gabriel K and Murillo MV (2024) Campos académicos más allá de la dicotomía centro-periferia. *Revista Mexicana de Sociología* 86(1): 9–41.
- Goyanes M, Demeter M, Háló G, et al. (2024) Geographical and gender inequalities in health sciences studies: testing differences in research productivity, impact and visibility. *Online Information Review*. Epub ahead of print 5 January 2024. DOI: 10.1108/OIR-10-2022-0541.
- Grossman E (2020) A gender bias in the European Journal of Political Research? *European Political Science* 19(3): 416–427.
- Hesli VL, Lee JM and Mitchell SM (2012) Predicting Rank Attainment in Political Science: What Else Besides Publications Affects Promotion? *PS: Political Science & Politics* 45(3): 475–492.
- Kantola J (2015) political science as a gendered discipline in finland. *European Political Science* 14(2): 79–86.
- Key EM and Sumner JL (2019) You Research Like a Girl: Gendered Research Agendas and Their Implications. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 52(4): 663–668.
- Martin ME (2020) Ciencia política y género: una relación en los márgenes de la disciplina. *Anuario Latinoamericano – Ciencias Políticas y Relaciones Internacionales* 8: 19–35.
- McLaughlin Mitchell S (2013) The glass half empty: Gendered problems in academic networking. Available at: <https://www.duckofminerva.com/2013/08/the-glass-half-empty-gendered-problems-in-academic-networking.html> (accessed 24 October 2013).
- Murphy MC, Mejia AF, Mejia J, et al. (2020) Open science, communal culture, and women’s participation in the movement to improve science. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117(39): 24154–24164.
- Rocha Carpiuc C (2016) women and diversity in latin american political science. *European Political Science* 15(4): 457–475.
- Rodríguez Enríquez C (2012) La cuestión del cuidado: ¿El eslabón perdido del análisis económico? *Revista CEPAL* (106): 23–36.
- Salatino M and Gallardo O (2020) Cartografías de la ciencia política argentina. *Civilizar* 20(39).
- Teele DL and Thelen K (2017) Gender in the Journals: Publication Patterns in Political Science. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50(02): 433–447.

Vallejo A (2017) El XIII Congreso Nacional de Ciencia Política. *Revista SAAP: Sociedad Argentina de Análisis Político* 11(2). Sociedad Argentina de Análisis Político: 387–399.

Young CD (1995) An Assessment of Articles Published by Women in 15 Top Political Science Journals. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 28(3): 525–533.