



Series of lectures on Gender and Sciences

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Intersectional analysis for science and technology

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Intersectionality describes interdependent systems of inequality related to sex, gender, race, age, class and other socio-political dimensions. By focusing on the compounded effects of social categories, intersectional analysis can enhance the accuracy and experimental efficiency of science.

Here we extend intersectional approaches that were predominantly developed in the humanities, social sciences and public health to the fields of natural science and technology, where this type of analysis is less established. Informed by diverse global and disciplinary examples – from enhancing facial recognition for diverse user bases to mitigating the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized populations – we extract methods to demonstrate how quantitative intersectional analysis functions throughout the research process, from strategic considerations for establishing research priorities to formulating research questions, collecting and analysing data and interpreting results

Our goal is to offer a set of guidelines for researchers, peer-reviewed journals and funding agencies that facilitate systematic integration of intersectional analysis into relevant domains of science and technology. Precision in research best guides effective social and environmental policy aimed at achieving global equity and sustainability.

Mathias Wullum Nielsen is an associate professor in sociology at University of Copenhagen. He is interested in questions of social stratification and demographic diversity. Leveraging field- and survey experiments, and large-scale scientific metadata, his research examines how scientific institutions are organized and how their norms, incentives, and hierarchical structures reinforce social disparities and shape careers and knowledge creation.

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