



**Barcelona  
Supercomputing  
Center**  
Centro Nacional de Supercomputación



EXCELENCIA  
SEVERO  
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# Bias in AI

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Machine Learning for Biomedical Research

Life Sciences Department

03/05/2022

# Depression in men and women

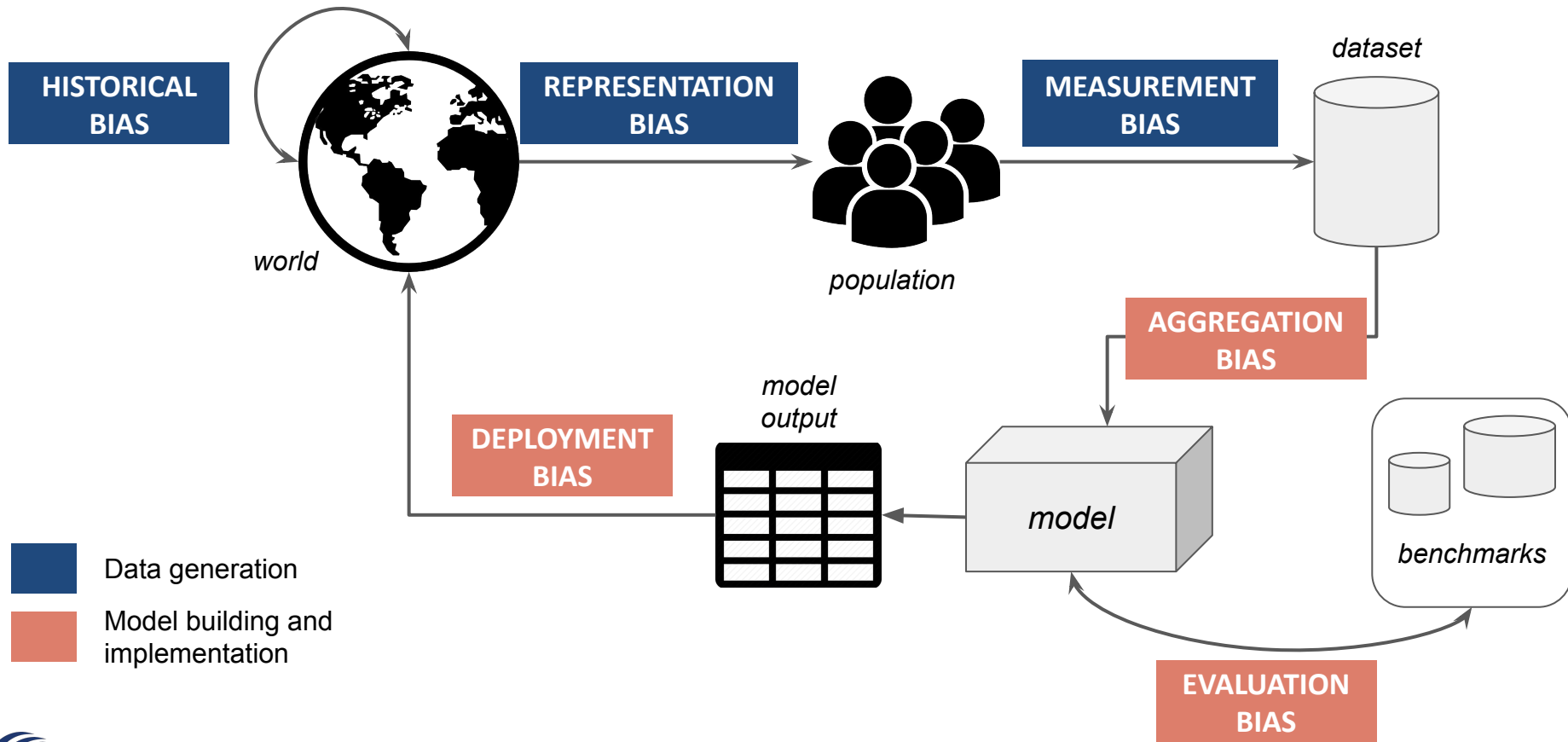
## Sex, gender and social roles

- **1 in 8 women** experiences depression in her lifetime - twice as many as men, regardless of race or ethnicity.
- Men represent **3.5 times the number of suicides** than women
- **Sex and gender differences** in signs of depression:
  - women: crying, sadness, loss of interest, verbal expression of suicidal thoughts
  - men: outbursts of anger and / or aggression, substance abuse, and risk-taking

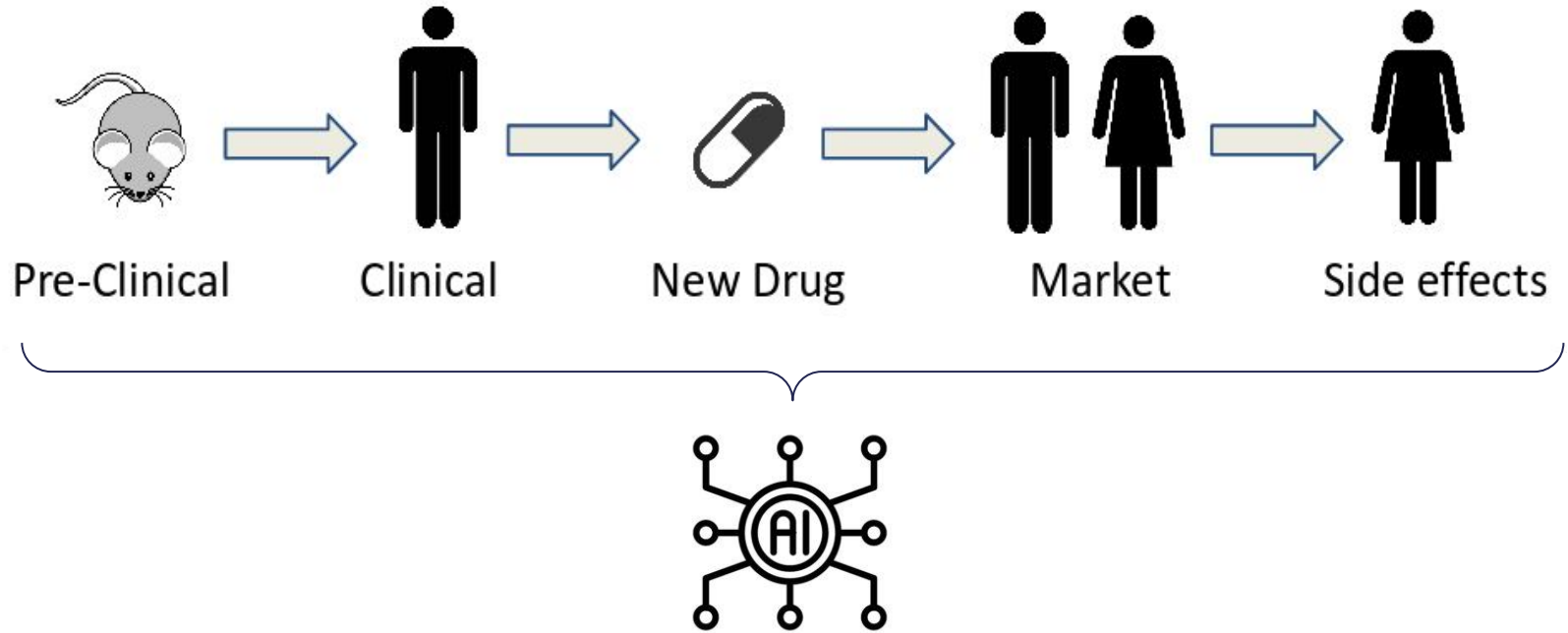


source: The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

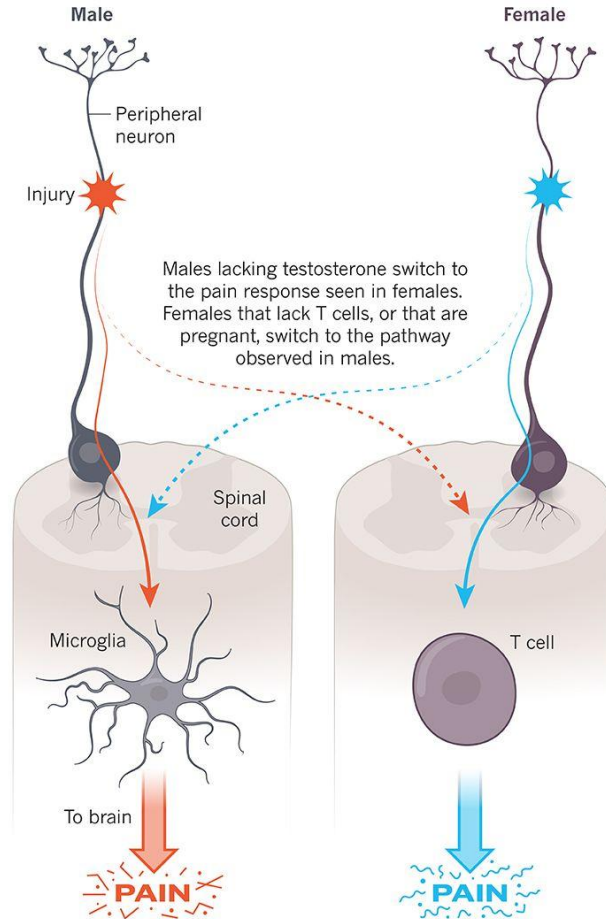
# Biases in data generation and modeling



# Generation of biased data in medicine



# Pre-clinical studies



# Pre-clinical studies



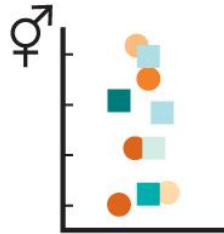
♀ Proestrus      Metaestrus

**Estrogen**

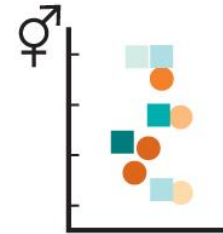
♂ Dominant      Subordinate

**Testosterone**

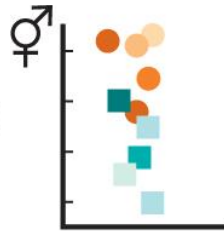
**Experiment 1**



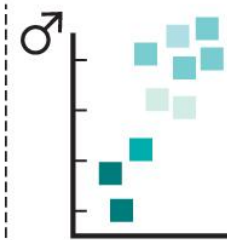
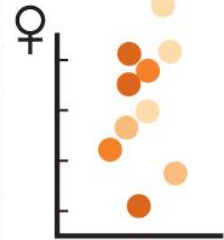
No clear sex difference: continue with 50/50 cohorts



**Experiment 2**



Potential sex difference: consider increasing numbers of both sexes

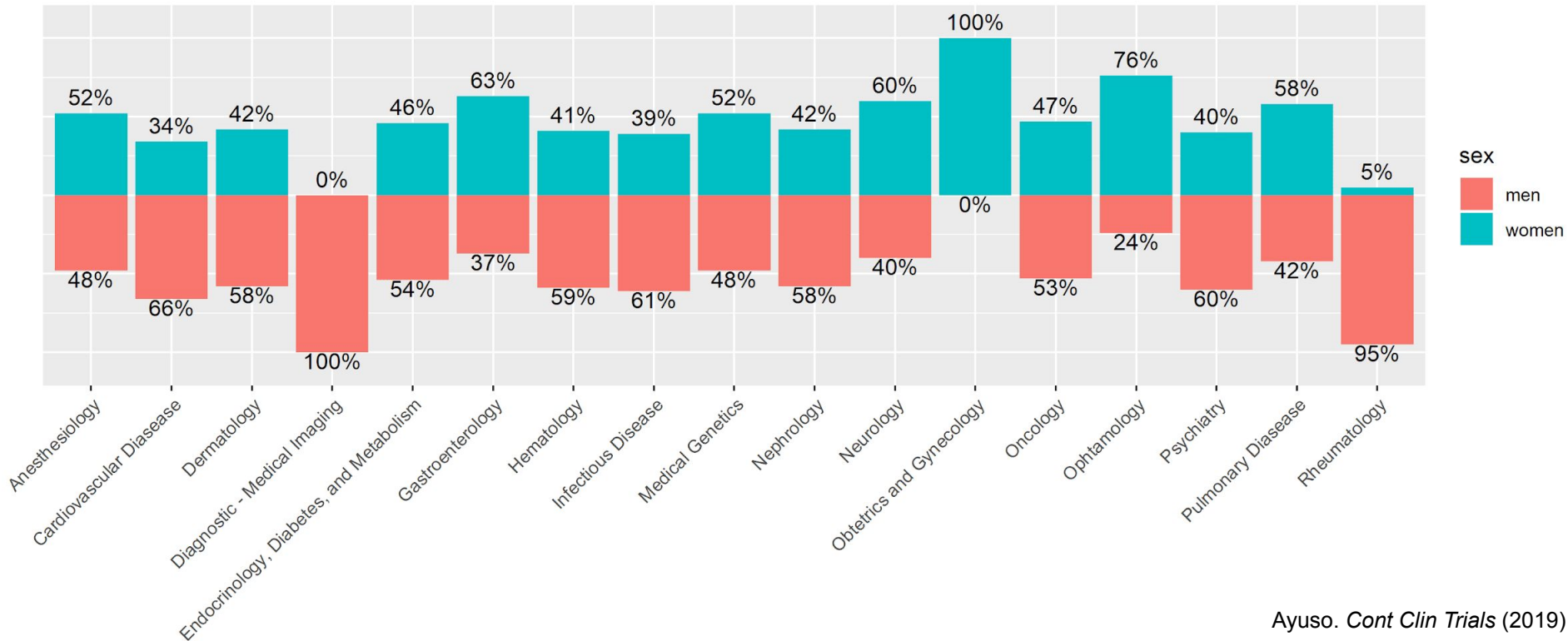


# Clinical trials

## Clinical trials participation by therapeutic area

Trials for New Molecular Entities (NMEs) approved in 2015–2016

source: FDA & Office of Women's Health (OWH)

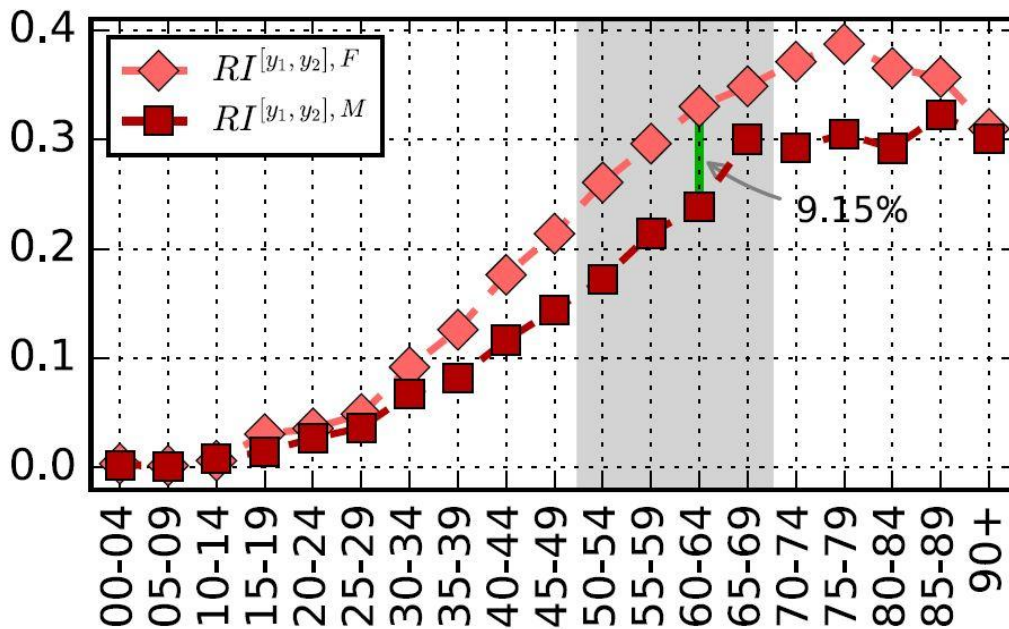


# Pharmacovigilance

## Drug–drug interactions in EHRs

Large-scale longitudinal study (18 months)

Population 338k (Blumenau, Brazil)

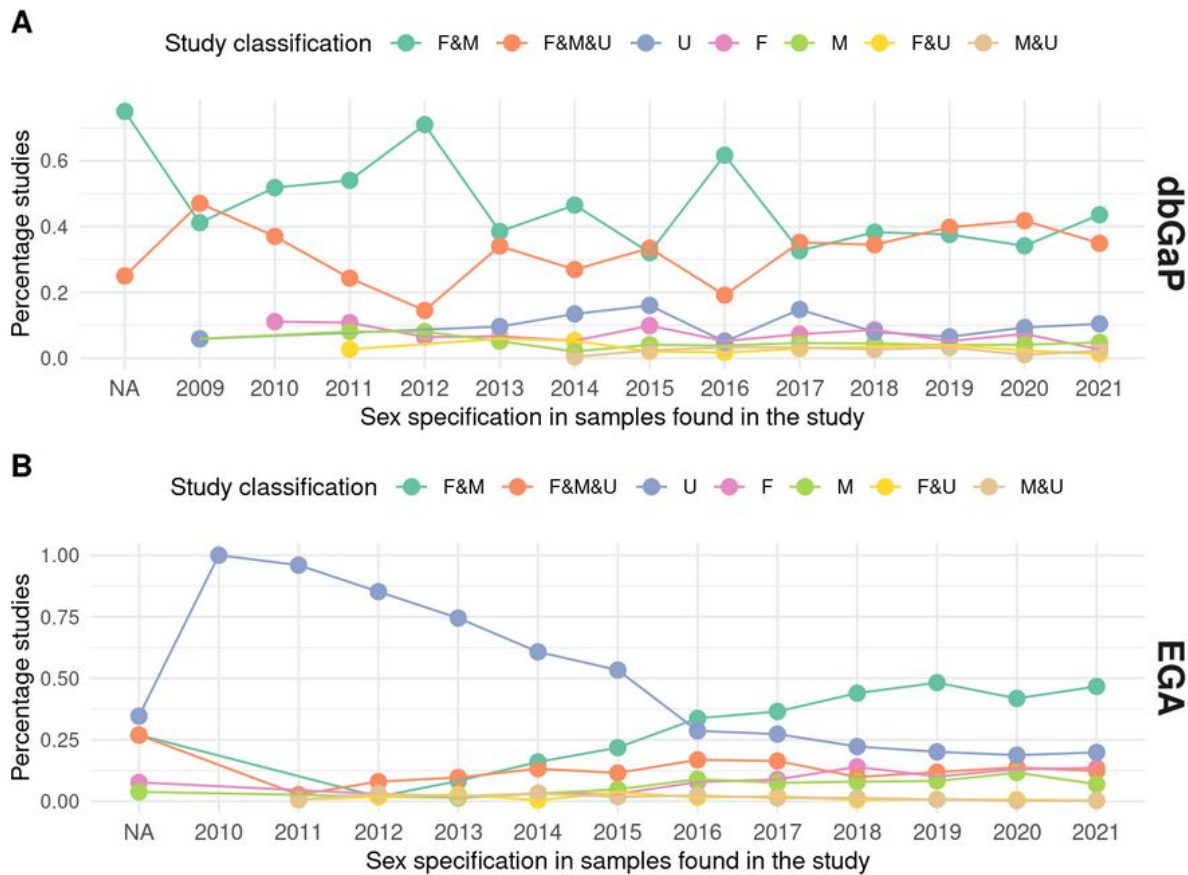


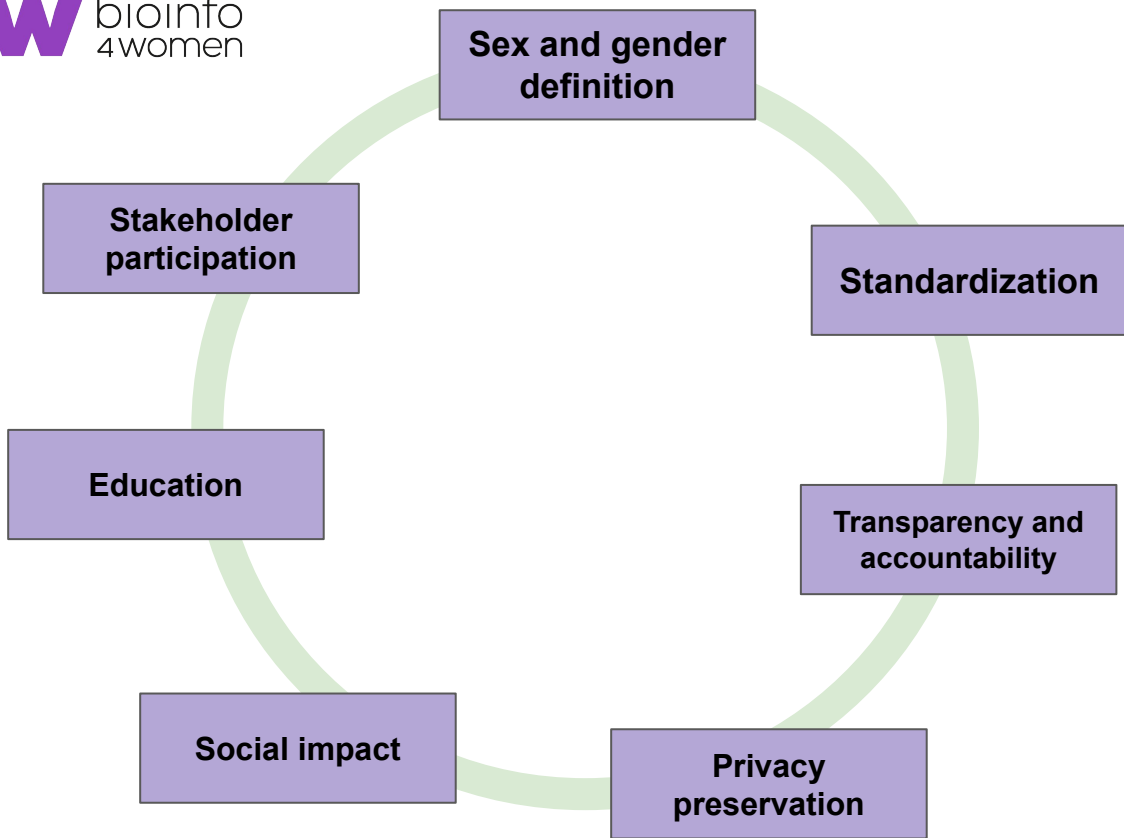


**Table 3. Prescription drugs withdrawn from the US market (1997–2000).**

Drug	Type of drug	Patient population	Primary health risk
<i>Prescription drugs with evidence of greater health risks in women</i>			
Pondimin®	Appetite suppressant	Women	Valvular heart disease
Redux®	Appetite suppressant	Women	Valvular heart disease
Rezulin®	Diabetic	Women	Liver failure
Lotronex®	Gastrointestinal	Women	Ischemic colitis
Seldane®	Antihistamine	Women and men	Torsades de Pointes
Posicor®	Cardiovascular	Women and men	Lowered heart rate in elderly women and adverse interactions with 26 other drugs
Hismanal®	Antihistamine	Women and men	Torsades de Pointes
Propulsid®	Gastrointestinal	Women and men	Torsades de Pointes
<i>Prescription drugs without evidence of greater health risks in women</i>			
Raxar®	Antibiotic	Women and men	Torsades de Pointes
Duract®	Analgesic and anesthetic	Women and men	Liver failure

# Sex bias in large-scale human data repositories worldwide





Nataly Buslón  
@BuslonNataly



Day 5 of the [#BioHackEU21](#) [@ELIXIREurope](#)! The [#FAIRX](#) project presents the preliminary results of our quantitative and qualitative analysis.

➔ 7 steps to improve biomedical research and practice.

➔ work in progress: publication!

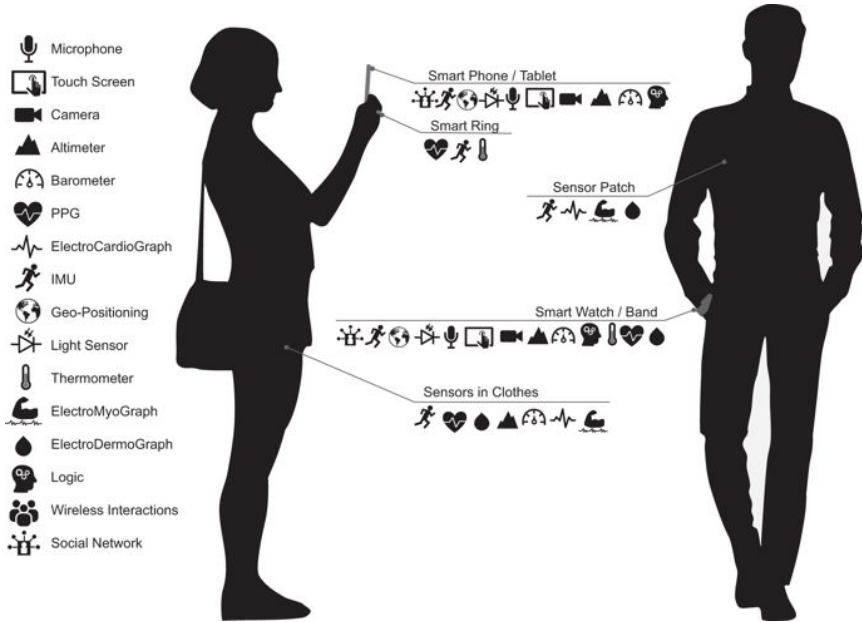
[Traducir Tweet](#)

10:20 a. m. · 12 nov. 2021 · Twitter Web App

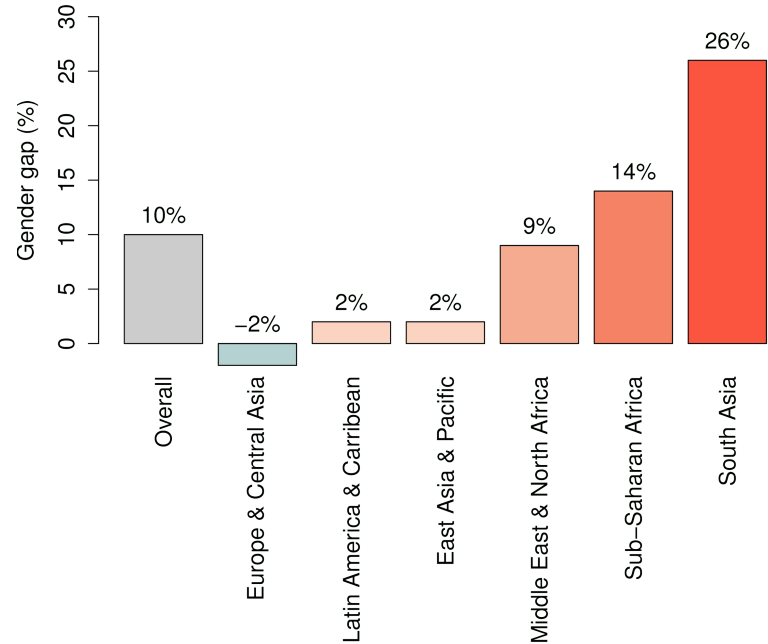
3 Retweets 1 Citar Tweet 9 Me gusta



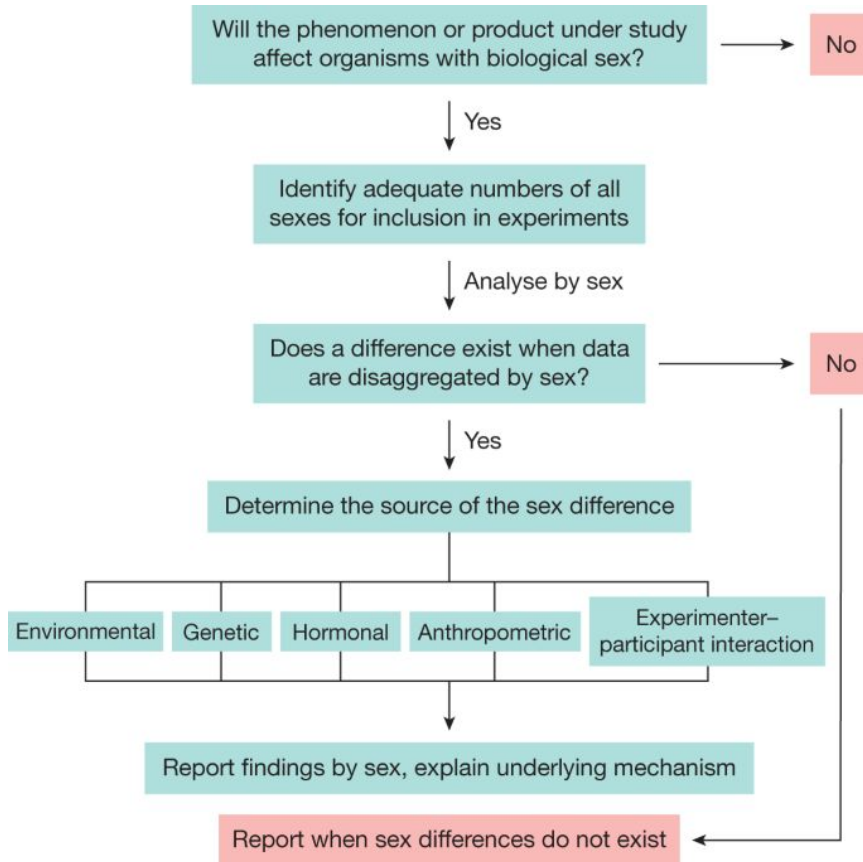
# Digital biomarkers and digital divide



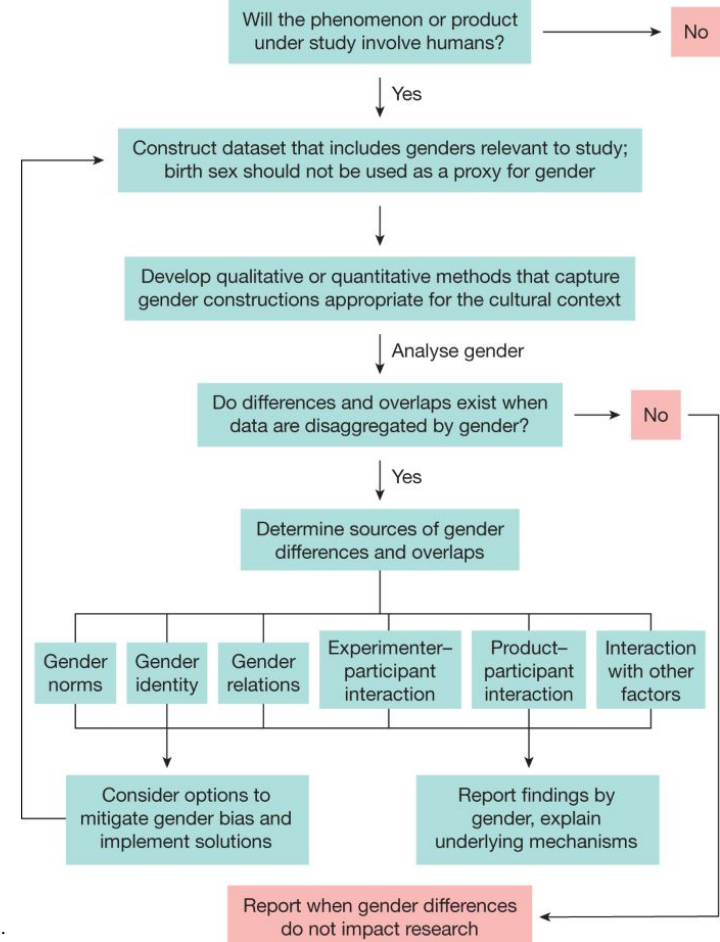
How less likely a woman is to own a mobile phone than a man



## Sex analysis

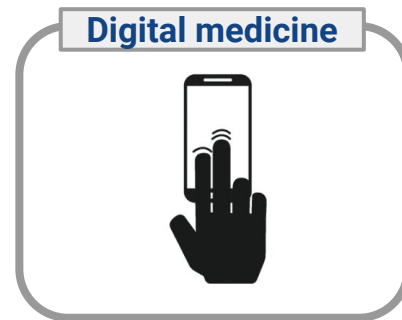
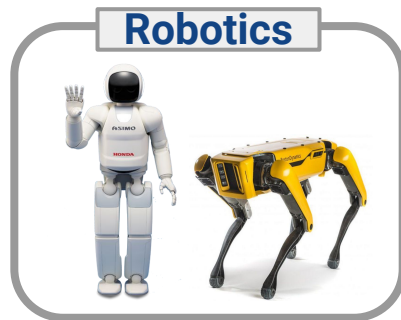
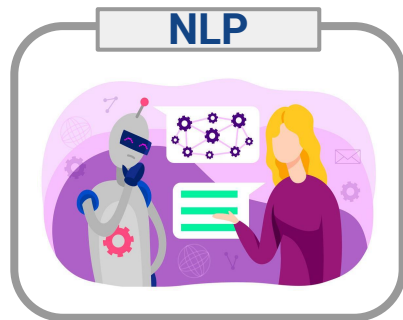


## Gender analysis

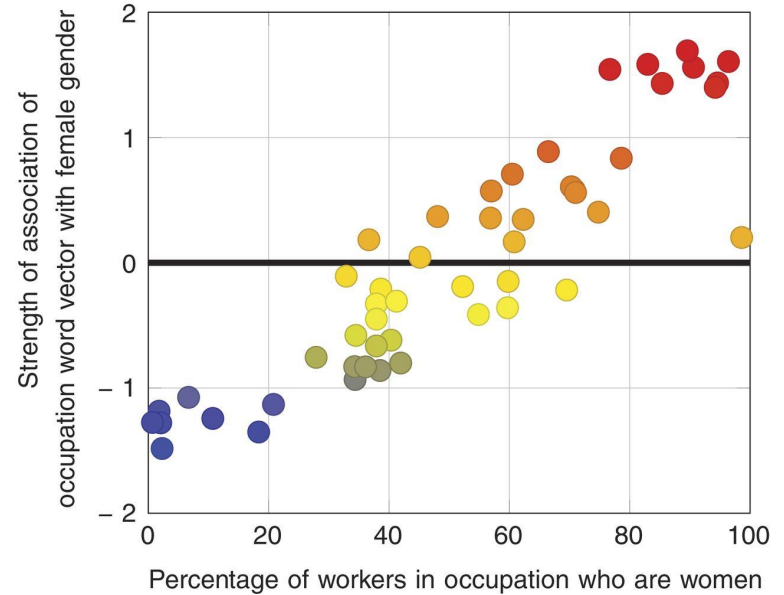
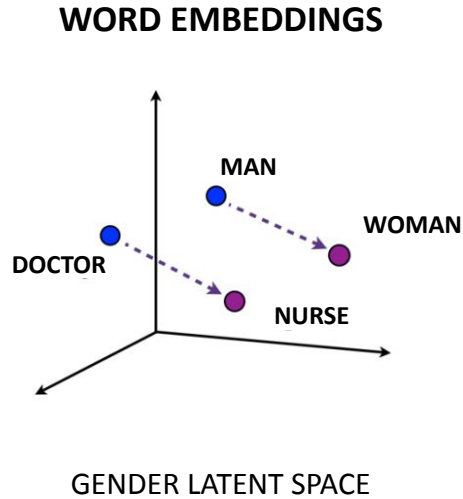
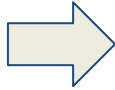
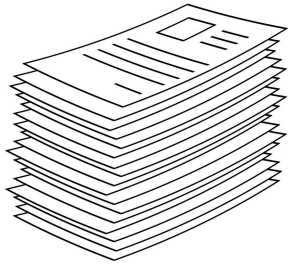


# Sex and gender differences and biases in Artificial Intelligence for Biomedicine and Healthcare

Cirillo, Catuara-Solarz et al. NPJ Digit Med. 2020



# Natural Language Processing



SEX AND GENDER BIAS IN  
TECHNOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE APPLIED TO  
BIOMEDICINE AND HEALTHCARE

Edited by  
DAVIDE CIRILLO, SILVINA CATUARA-SOLARZ, EMRE GUNEY



COMING SOON



ELSEVIER

ISBN: 9780128213926

*“It’s a must read for anyone working in this area; the materials presented here should be integrated into medical school curricula.”*

**Londa Schiebinger**

John L. Hinds Professor of History of Science, Stanford University  
Founding director, Gendered Innovations in Science, Health & Medicine, Engineering, and Environment





CAT-FUNDACIÓN LA CAIXA

## El Palau Macaya impulsará once proyectos sobre innovación y sostenibilidad

REDACCIÓN  
27/07/2020 16:52



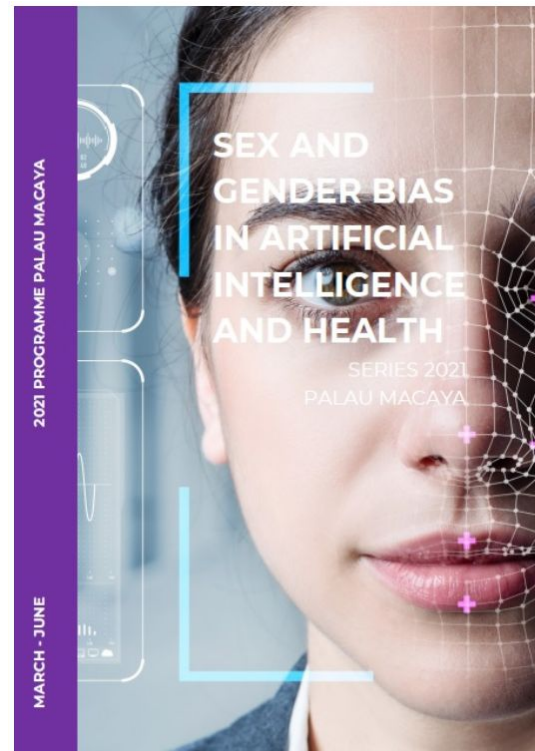
Barcelona, 27 jul (EFE).- El Palau Macaya de la Fundació "la Caixa" albergará once proyectos innovadores y sostenibles seleccionados por la fundación bancaria y que se desarrollarán en el centro durante el curso que va de septiembre de 2020 a junio de 2021.



Palau Macaya en Barcelona (Archivo) - OBRA SOCIAL LA CAIXA - Archivo BARCELONA, 27 Jul. (EUROPA PRESS) -



**United Nations**



# Open source toolkit for bias detection and mitigation



Aequitas

Bias & Fairness Audit

Home

Code

About

## The Bias Report in Action

Using a clean version of the COMPAS dataset, we demonstrate the use of The Bias Report web app. Click below for background on the dataset, a description of the process, and analysis.

Details about the report

## The Bias Report

**Audit Date:** 04 Jun 2018

**Data Audited:** 7214 rows

**Attributes Audited:** race

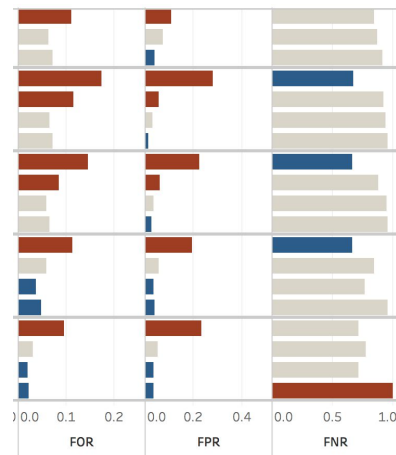
**Audit Goal(s):** [False Positive Rate Parity](#) - Ensure all protected groups have the same false positive rates as the reference group).

[False Discovery Rate Parity](#) - Ensure all protected groups have equally proportional false positives within the selected set (compared to the reference group).

[False Negative Rate Parity](#) - Ensure all protected groups have the same false negative rates (as the reference group).

**Reference Groups:** Custom group - The reference groups you selected for each attribute will be used to calculate relative disparities in this audit.

**Fairness Threshold:** 80%. If disparity for a group is within 80% and 125% of the value of the reference group on a group metric (e.g. False Positive Rate), this audit will pass.



Web Audit Tool

Python Library

Command Line Tool

<https://dsapp.uchicago.edu/projects/aequitas/>

# Open source toolkit for bias detection and mitigation

AI Fairness 360 - Demo



## 3. Choose bias mitigation algorithm

A variety of algorithms can be used to mitigate bias. The choice of which to use depends on whether you want to fix the data (pre-process), the classifier (in-process), or the predictions (post-process). [Learn more about how to choose.](#)

### Reweighting

Weights the examples in each (group, label) combination differently to ensure fairness before classification.



### Optimized Pre-Processing

Learns a probabilistic transformation that can modify the features and the labels in the training data.



### Adversarial Debiasing

Learns a classifier that maximizes prediction accuracy and simultaneously reduces an adversary's ability to determine the protected attribute from the predictions. This approach leads to a fair classifier as the predictions cannot carry any group discrimination information that the adversary can exploit.



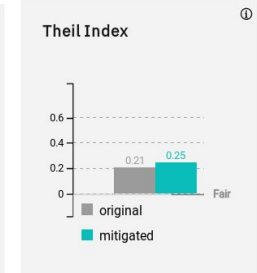
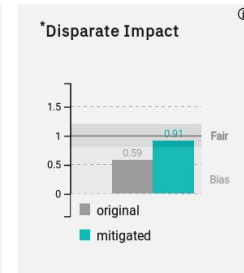
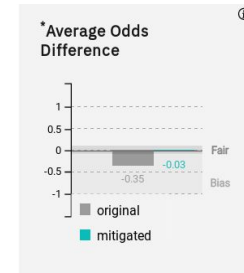
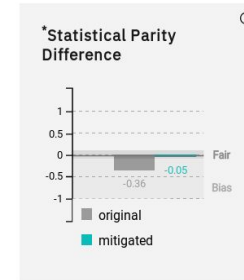
### Reject Option Based Classification

Changes predictions from a classifier to make them fairer. Provides favorable outcomes to unprivileged groups and unfavorable outcomes to privileged groups in a confidence band around the decision boundary with the highest uncertainty.

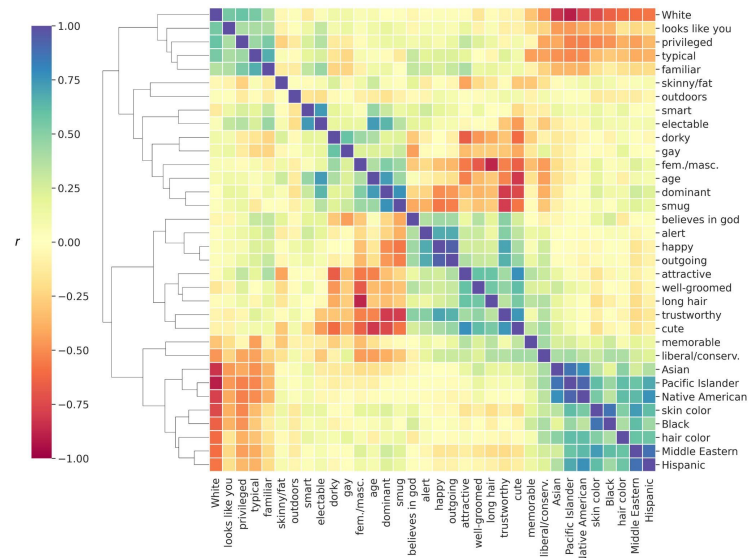
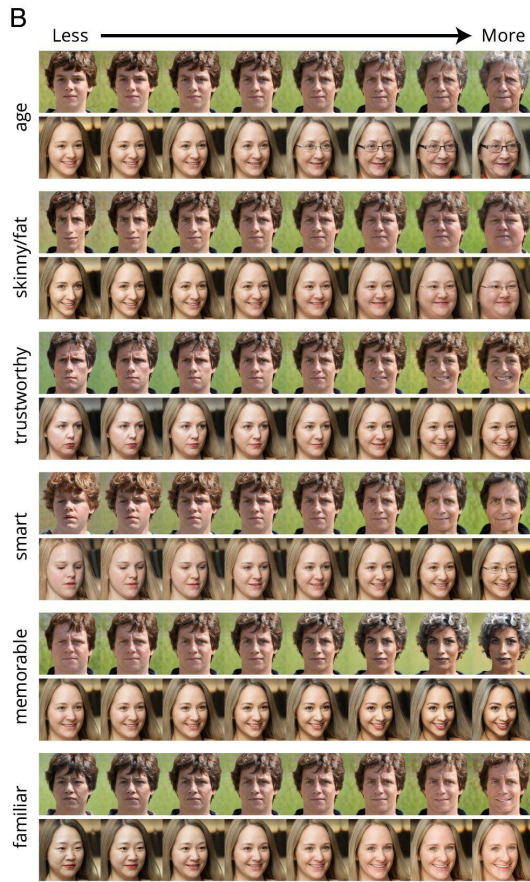
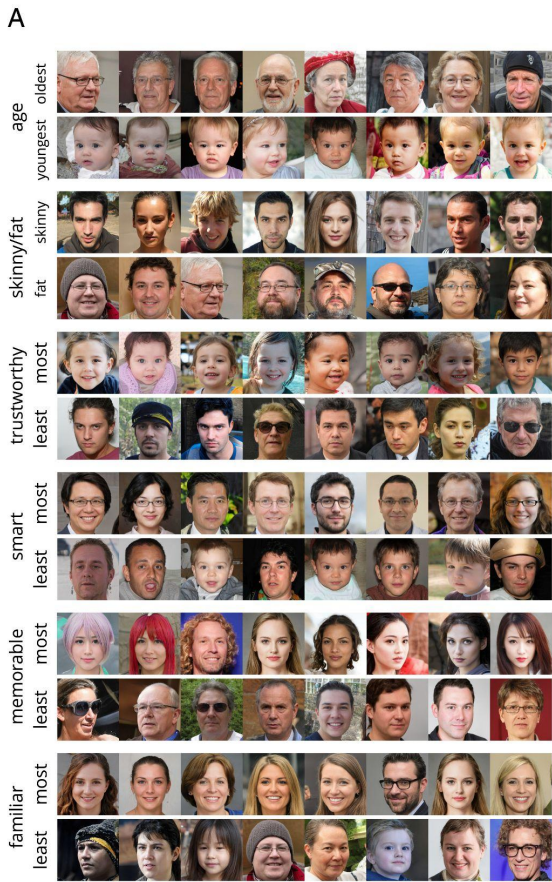


## Protected Attribute: Sex

Privileged Group: **Female**, Unprivileged Group: **Male**



# Creating a deliberately biased algorithm



Recommended Twitter thread by Iris Van Rooij (Radboud University Nijmegen)

<https://twitter.com/IrisVanRooij/status/1519055634607616003>



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OCHOA

# Thank you

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**kw** bioinfo  
4women

