

ECON 460: Women, Work, and the World Economy

Reading Guide: “Evidence on Self-Stereotyping and the Contribution of Ideas”

This article is neither long nor overly technical, so you should be able to read it straight through. Read the article, and then answer the following questions:

1. According to Professor Coffman, what is the main goal of the experiment?
2. How is the experiment structured? What is the task that subjects have to complete? How is their compensation determined?
3. How does Professor Coffman create an experimental measure of willingness to contribute answers for one’s group?
4. How does Professor Coffman measure beliefs about the likelihood that one’s answer is correct?
5. Which categories are perceived as the most “male” or “female” in the experiment? Does the ranking align with your own expectations?
6. What are Professor Coffman’s main findings? Are men overconfident? Are women? Who is more willing to contribute their answers?
7. What does Professor Coffman mean when she describes “unrecognized experts”?