

Men as people, women as gendered: Androcentrism in personal identity

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Scan for Methodology
Examples, Limitations
+ Future Directions,
and References



Highlights

- We conducted three studies (N = 1,627) via Project Implicit employing two Implicit Association Tests examining Person and Gender associations about the self and others.
- Replicating prior work, both men and women tend to associate the PERSON concept with men and the GENDER concept with women.
- Men and women tend to associate the PERSON concept with themselves more than others.
- Although these PERSON = Men and PERSON = Me concepts are compatible for men, they are in tension for women.

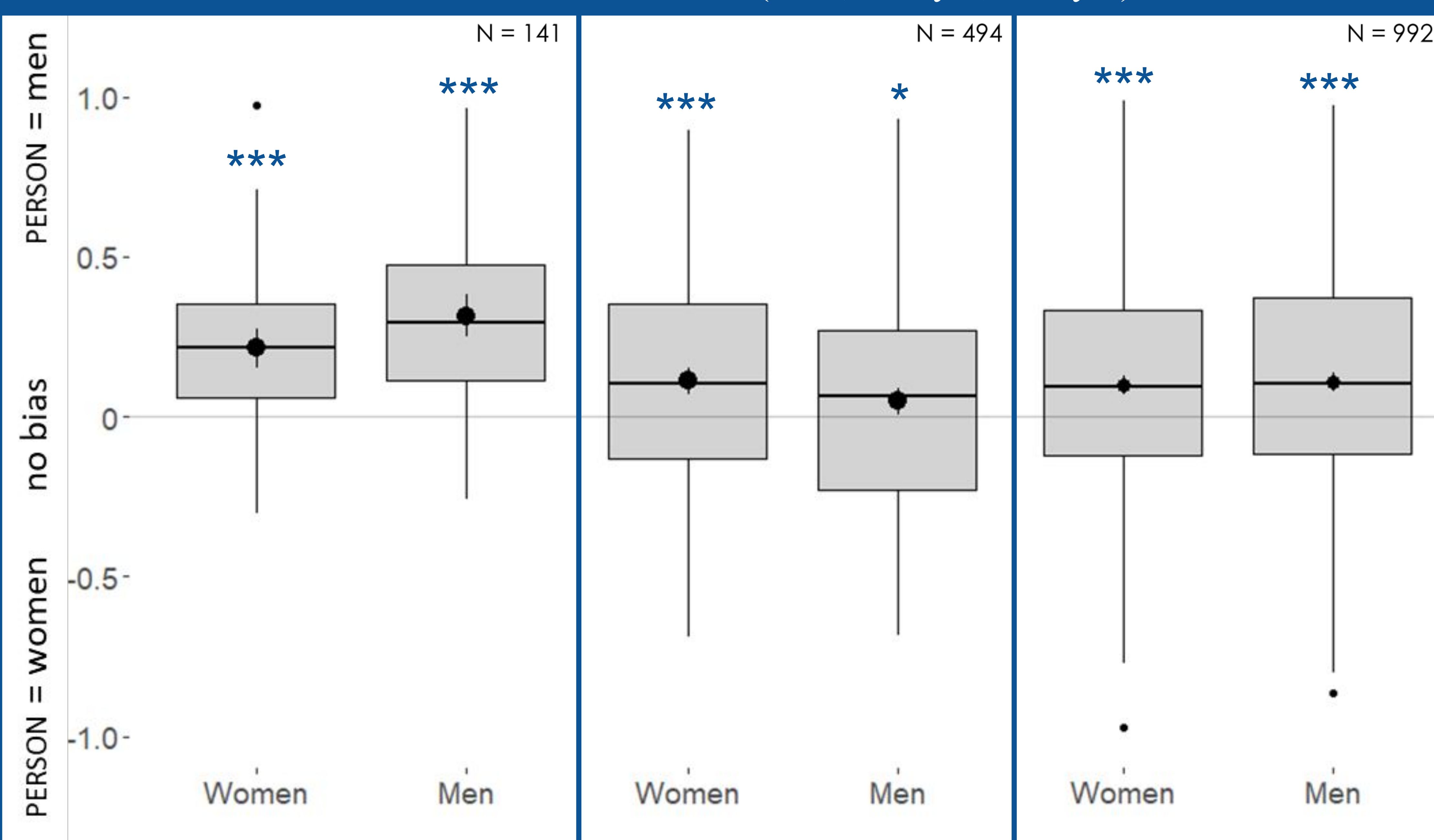
Methodology

Participants completed two Implicit Association Tests examining associations between the PERSON concept (e.g., *person, human, individual*), GENDER concept (e.g., *female, she, male, he*) about others and the self. For both IAT tasks, participants viewed instruction pages and completed practice blocks to become familiar with the stimuli for the different categories. Participants also completed critical blocks of trials wherein a set of four category labels are included in pairs (e.g., “male name” + “person” and “female name” + “woman”). In a second critical block, the pairing of these categories switches. The order in which these critical blocks were presented was counterbalanced across participants to account for order effects. The speed and accuracy with which a person categorizes these stimuli contributed to their D score, a difference measure representing association between concepts, consistent with Greenwald et al.’s (2003) improved algorithm.. Participants should be faster and make fewer errors when the task requires them to classify sets of stimuli that are already associated for them.

Summary

By definition, the concept PERSON includes people of all gender identities. However, previous work has found that people think of a PERSON as a man more than a woman. In contrast, people tend to think of women more in terms of their gender identity. Here, we investigated whether people apply this bias to *themselves*. In three preregistered studies (N = 1,627) we first replicated prior work and found that participants associated PERSON concepts with men (PERSON = MEN) and GENDER concepts with women (GENDER = WOMAN) more than the reverse. We found this for both women and men participants using both direct and indirect measures (IAT). Second, we investigated whether participants’ personal identities would reflect this PERSON = MEN bias. We found that men consistently associated PERSON words (*person, individual*) with themselves (*I, me*) more than with others (*they, them*), consistent with expectations. For women, results were mixed across studies. Women sometimes, like men, associated PERSON words with themselves (Pilot), but more often associated PERSON words with others more than with themselves (Studies 1 and 2). These findings may reflect that for men, PERSON = MEN and PERSON = ME biases align, but for women they are in tension.

Person and Gender IAT About Others D Score (Pilot, Study 1, Study 2)



Person and Gender IAT About Others D Score (Pilot, Study 1, Study 2)

