

All around the world

Network takes a look at sociology beyond our shores

Men more likely to self-cite

Men are 70% more likely than women to cite themselves in their academic papers, an American PhD sociology student has found, Stanford Daily reports.

Molly King, of Stanford University, co-authored a paper using a JSTOR dataset of 1.5 million research articles from 1779-2011 in multiple disciplines, including biology, sociology, economics and law.

Contrary to her expectations, over the last two decades the gender gap in self-citation has remained high, with men self-citing 70 per cent more than women, compared to the average of 56 per cent for the whole period studied.

Her paper also says that in 2011 men cited themselves almost 50% more often than women in sociology papers.

Overall, she found self-citation accounted for nearly 10 per cent of all references.

Ms King said the research findings did not reveal the cause of the self-citation gender gap, but the importance of the study was in the awareness it raised about gender differences in the academic workplace.

"The major contribution of our work is looking at the important phenomenon of inequality, uncovering the large [gender] gap and doing so with an unprecedentedly large data set of 200 years," she said.

According to Ms King, gender gaps in self-citation counts are likely to contribute to the gender gap in academia representation.

She suggested that organisations should evaluate the evidence when making decisions on promotion, salary and hiring.

"What's important is that hiring communities and funders, like the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health, should be aware that self-citation counts can be biasing the results that they're trying to use to make decisions," she said. "People should realize there is a big gender difference in these citations and be aware."

She co-authored the paper with Shelley Correll, Professor of Sociology at Stanford; Carl Bergstrom, Professor of Biology at University Washington; Jevin West, Assistant Professor of Information at University of Washington; and Jennifer Jacquet, Professor of Environmental Studies at New York University.

Top 100 award for Amal

Amal Madibbo, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Calgary, was recently honoured as one of '100 accomplished black Canadian women' at a gala in Toronto.

Dr Madibbo, pictured accepting her award from Ontario Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, is an expert on immigration,

globalisation, ethnicity and race relations. She migrated from Sudan.

She has distinguished herself for her work with immigrants to Canada, primarily within the Sudanese and Francophone communities, helping them integrate culturally.

She travels back to Sudan every year, working with universities in Darfur and the Khartoum region, helping to strengthen ties between them and the University of Calgary.

"I feel very appreciated to be included among these 100 wonderful women," said Professor Madibbo. "Blacks are one of the communities that have made significant contributions to the building of this great Canadian nation and society. And this group of women have contributed and achieved so much, from engineering and politics to medicine and teaching."



Moscow centre may close

The Levada Centre in Moscow may be forced to close down after it was declared a 'foreign agent' by Russia's Justice Ministry. The ministry accused it of being paid by the Pentagon.

The declaration came after the centre's sociologists published a poll that showed that in August 31% of respondents were willing to vote for the ruling United Russia party, which supports President Putin, down from 39% a month before.

The centre's Director, Professor Lev Gudkov denied any links to the Pentagon, saying the declaration was a "political hit job". Unless the centre could appeal against the ruling it would be forced to close down, he said.

Organisations judged to receive funding from abroad must register as foreign agents and submit to onerous audits and reporting requirements.

The justice ministry has declared 138 organisations as foreign agents and at least 22 have shut down, including the LGBT group Coming Out and the Committee Against Torture. The BSA has co-signed a letter expressing concern about the Levada Centre: <http://tinyurl.com/hdk4t62>

Czech sociologist dies

The renowned Czech sociologist Ivo Mozny, who laid the foundations of modern Czech sociology after the fall of the communism regime in 1989, has died at the age of 84 Saturday, the Lidovky.cz site reports.

Professor Mozny, born in Prostějov, south Moravia, in 1932, studied philology before working as an editor and a reporter for Czechoslovak Radio for several years.

He completed a doctorate in sociology in 1967. From the 1960s, he worked at the sociology chair of the Faculty of Arts in Brno. In his work Professor Mozny focused mainly on the sociology of family, intimacy and politics.

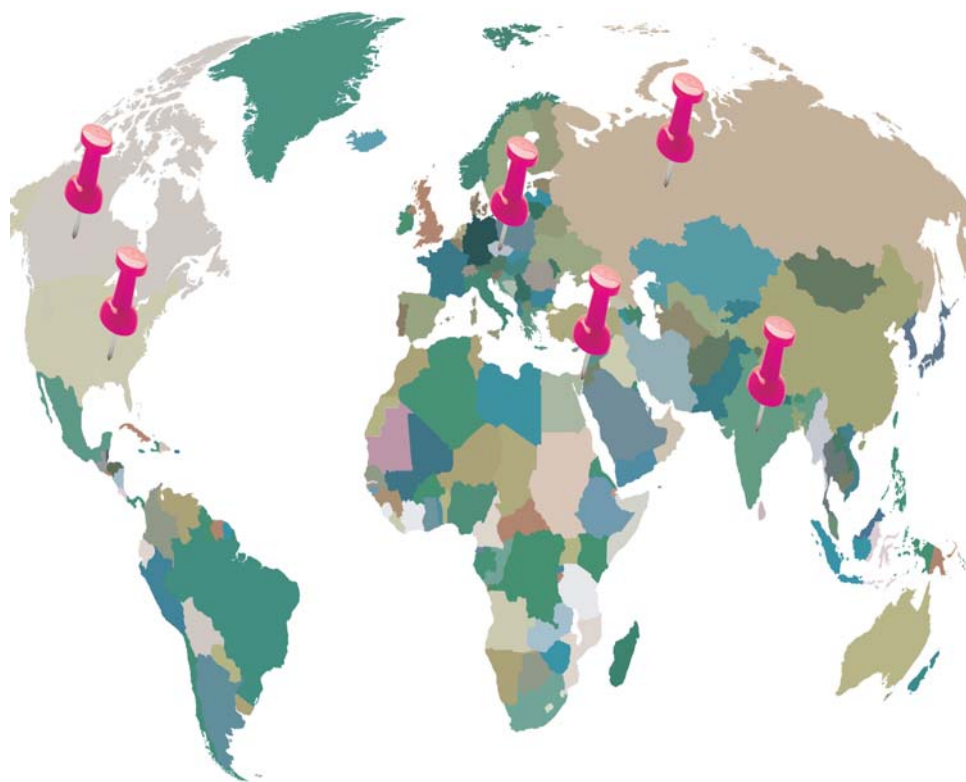
After the Soviet-led invasion to put down the 'Prague Spring' liberalisation of 1968 in Czechoslovakia, Professor Mozny was banned from lecturing at universities and instead worked in a marriage counselling office.

It was only after the collapse of communism that he could continue his academic career and research work. He became a professor in 1992.

In 2011, Professor Mozny was appointed professor emeritus of Masaryk University in Brno. In 2015, he received the Neuron award for his contribution to social sciences.

Id...

Links to online articles about these topics can be found at
www.britsoc.co.uk/members-area/network



Israeli scholar shot dead

A prominent Israeli sociologist who studied Jewish fundamentalism in the occupied territories has been shot dead during a terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.

Professor Michael Feige, 58, married with three children, was killed when two Palestinian terrorists opened fire inside a restaurant in the Sarona Market shopping complex in central Tel Aviv.

Three others were killed and 16 injured in the attack. The two gunmen, cousins from near Hebron in the West Bank, were captured, one after being shot and wounded by police.

Professor Feige, who headed the Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism at Ben-Gurion University in the Negev, was a “a sociologist and anthropologist who specialises in Israeli society, collective memory and political myth,” his university said.

The Hebrew news site Nrg reports a colleague of Professor Feige, Professor Oren Yiftahel, as saying: “It is a very sad day for us. He was a very important researcher who delved into delicate subjects and extracted interesting insights from them. He was among the very best: open and attentive, a genuine democrat. He was a rare bird from that point of view. It is a great loss to our university.”

Dr Avi Picard, called Professor Feige, “A dear man, rare in his integrity and honesty, and in his absence of ego. He had a healthy cynicism, and, as a sociologist and anthropologist, he had many profound and interesting insights about seemingly standard phenomena in Israeli society.”

Professor Feige won the Shapiro Prize in 2010 for Best Book in Israel Studies – *Settling in the Hearts: Jewish Fundamentalism in the Occupied Territories*.

This is a work of ethnography that examines Gush Emunim, a fundamentalist religious movement that became a political force by building settlements in contested territory. He explored how the Gush Emunim settlers reinterpret Jewish history, secular Zionist ideology, religious faith, and the Bible in their appropriation of Palestinian land.

The Nymag.com website said: “Feige was someone who had devoted his career to studying the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and better understanding the motives of the settlers who have, with plenty of help in the form of the Israeli government’s settlement policies, played a huge role in exacerbating that conflict. The attackers can’t have known this, of course, and surely if they had it wouldn’t have mattered to them – their goal was to murder as many people as possible.”

Sociologist on murder charge

The Indian sociologist Nandini Sundar is among 10 people charged with murder in Chhattisgarh, in central India.

Professor Sundar, an eminent sociologist at Delhi University, has said that the accusation of killing villager Shamnath Baghel is part of a police vendetta against her.

It is alleged that Mr Baghel was killed by Maoist rebels, known as Naxalites, after he protested against their activities in the area.

Mr Baghel’s wife has allegedly accused a group of people including Professor Sundar and Professor Archana Prasad, a labour historian at Jawaharlal Nehru University, of being among murderers.

Professor Sundar has said that the charge was a “vendetta against all researchers, journalists, lawyers and activists who are willing to expose the complete lawlessness of the police.” She said she condemned the killing of the villager.

Her work has included a book, *The Burning Forest: India’s War in Bastar*, an account of the human rights abuses by the Maoists and the government in the area.

Two hundred academics later released a statement condemning the charge against Professor Sundar.

Therapy is out if you’re black

Black and working class patients are not welcome in many therapists’ clinics, a study has revealed.

Princeton sociology graduate student Heather Kugelmass led a study in which groups of two voicemail messages were left on the answerphones of 320 randomly-chosen therapists in New York.

Each pair of messages were from people purportedly of different ethnicity or different gender or class, but were in fact from voice-over artists recording scripted messages using racially distinctive names and race- and class-based speech patterns.

About 30 per cent of therapists gave appointment offers to middle class white patients at any time or date. Working class patients – men or women, black or white – found less than 10 percent of therapists willing to give them a slot.

About 21 per cent of therapists offered the middle class black women an appointment, while only 13 per cent gave the middle class black men an appointment offer.

“To someone seeking care, it could be very discouraging not to receive even the courtesy of a callback,” said Ms Kugelmass.