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The Gender Wage Gap

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The Gender Wage Gap

The 2016-2017 Hynes Scholars Cohort
2016-2017 Hynes Scholars Cohort

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Coordinator: Sarah Berry
What is the Hynes Scholars Program?

This cohort engages in personal exploration and reflection, scholarship, and dialogue concerning the topics of gender and leadership, social justice, self-awareness, and self-actualization. In addition, the Hynes Scholars analyze the opportunities and challenges of being women in today’s society. At the end of this experience, students leave with a clear vision about how they wish to shape the world around them and continue to grow the skills they have learned within the cohort.
Why do we do a Scholarship and Creativity Day Presentation?

- Explore how gender influences leadership
- Explore and develop strategies to create positive social change
- Explore the effects of social expectations that influence women’s roles, experiences and opportunities
- Develop an understanding of self as a leader that explores multiples dimensions of identity
Research Question

What perceptions do CSB and SJU students have about the Gender Wage Gap?

Why does it matter?
Defining the Gender Wage Gap

U.S. Department of Labor (Women’s Bureau):

“Women earn less than men.”

“In 2016, the median weekly earnings for women were 82 percent of the median weekly earnings for men.” (BLS, 2017)
Gender Wage Gap Over Time

- 1979: Women’s earning were just 62% of men’s (BLS, 2014)
- 2012: Women’s earnings were 82% of men’s (BLS, 2014)
- Motivations behind the Gender Wage Gap
Development of Hynes Survey
Developing the Survey

- Previous interest of Hynes Scholars in Gender Wage Gap
- Goal was to gain an understanding of student body knowledge & campus climate about the gender wage gap
- Pulled questions from previous surveys and articles to help shape ours
- Shaped the questions to be relatable to Bennies and Johnnies
- Avoided asking leading questions that would elicit a specific response
Background Information/Past Surveys

  ○ Have you ever heard of the Gender Wage Gap or Gender Pay Gap?
  ○ Do you believe that the Wage Gap can or will affect future employment?
  ○ I believe men and women at my company are paid equally for equal work.
  ○ Which of the following, if anything, do you believe will improve the gender pay gap between men and women at your current employer?
● “Public Perceptions of the Pay Gap” by AAUW (2005)
  ○ Do you agree or disagree that there is a difference between the wages for women who work full time and for men who work full time?
  ○ Tell me which ONE you think is the most important reason as an explanation for the wage gap.
Survey Questions

Demographics of Participants in the Survey

- Bennie vs. Johnnie
- Class Year
- Have you heard of the Gender Wage Gap?
- Number of classes with Gender designation taken
Survey Questions Cont.

General Opinions of Participants about Gender Wage Gap

- Do you believe the Gender Wage Gap **Exists**?
- Do you believe you **have been** affected Gender Wage Gap?
- Do you believe you **will be** affected by the Gender Wage Gap?
Where Have Participants Heard of the Gender Wage Gap?

- Through Community Members
- In Classes
- During Campus Events
- From News Sources
Survey Questions Cont.

Other Potential Factors Related to Gender Wage Gap

- Do you believe the Gender Wage Gap differs by race?
- Do you believe the Gender Wage Gap is reduced with education?
- Age
- Marital Status
Results
CSB/SJU Survey Participant Demographics

- 587 people took survey
- 366 Bennies (62.6%)
- 219 Johnnies (37.4%)
- 2 skipped the question
Percent of Survey Respondents by Year

- First year: 0.3%
- Second year: 21.7%
- Third year: 23.4%
- Fourth year: 22.9%
- Fifth year: 31.6%
Percent of Respondents who have heard of the Wage Gap

- Yes, I have heard of it and know what it is: 3.6%
- Yes, I have heard of it but do not know what it is: 0.7%
- No, I have never heard of the Gender Wage Gap: 95.7%
Do you believe the Gender Wage Gap exists?

![Bar Chart]

- **Strongly Agree**: Bennie 222, Johnnie 71
- **Agree**: Bennie 109, Johnnie 72
- **Neutral**: Bennie 22, Johnnie 30
- **Disagree**: Bennie 5, Johnnie 21
- **Strongly Disagree**: Bennie 8, Johnnie 25
Where do CSB/SJU students learn about the Gender Wage Gap?
If you have heard of the Gender Wage Gap, where have you heard about it?

- In the news: 84.1%
- In your family or in the community: 68.9%
- In a campus event: 29.4%
- In a college course: 75.6%
- Other: 8.9%
- N/A: 0.9%
If you have heard about the Gender Wage Gap in your classes, which ones?

- N/A: 14.4%
- Interdisciplinary & Pre-Professional Programs: 29.1%
- Social Science: 49.1%
- Natural Sciences: 7.1%
- Humanities: 40.5%
- Fine Arts: 3.6%
- First Year Seminar: 30.4%
If you have heard of the Gender Wage Gap in a campus event, who hosted it?
If you have heard of the Gender Wage Gap in the news, which news sources?

- N/A: 4.8%
- Other: 6.9%
- Radio: 30.9%
- Online news websites: 68.4%
- Newspapers: 56.7%
- Social Media: 83%
If you have heard about the Gender Wage Gap in the community, how did you hear about it?
Factors Associated with the Gender Wage Gap
What do you think affects the Gender Wage Gap?

- Other: 13.1%
- Marital Status: 55.3%
- Education: 70%
- Age: 60.5%
- Race: 71.4%
- Gender: 90.9%
Do you believe the Gender Wage Gap differs based on race?
Do you believe the Gender Wage Gap is reduced with education?
How many classes have you taken with the Gender Studies department or with a gender designation?

- More Than Five: 1.4%
- Four-Five: 3.1%
- Two-Three: 21.7%
- One: 46.5%
- None: 27.7%
Do you believe you have been or will be personally affected by the Gender Wage Gap?
Data and Facts
Current Gender Wage Gap Statistics - Intersectionality

Education

Over time, women have increasingly attained higher levels of education: among women ages 25 to 64 who are in the labor force (BLS, 2016).
But, the Gender Wage Gap persists...
Race

- Asian and White women are more likely to work in higher paying management, professional, and related occupations (50% and 40%, respectively) in 2015 than were Black (35%) and Hispanic (27%) women.
- Hispanic (32%) and Black (28%) women were more likely than Asian and White women (20% each) were to work in lower paying service occupations.
- Asian women had the lowest jobless rate (3.7%), followed by White (4.5%), Hispanic (7.1%), and Black (8.9%) women.

Source: BLS
Source: BLS

### Average Weekly Earnings by Age and Gender

**Asian**
- **16-24 years**: 
  - Men: $600
  - Women: $400
- **25-54 years**: 
  - Men: $1200
  - Women: $800
- **55 and over**: 
  - Men: $1000
  - Women: $600

**White**
- **16-24 years**: 
  - Men: $800
  - Women: $600
- **25-54 years**: 
  - Men: $1200
  - Women: $800
- **55 and over**: 
  - Men: $1000
  - Women: $600

**Black or African American**
- **16-24 years**: 
  - Men: $400
  - Women: $200
- **25-54 years**: 
  - Men: $800
  - Women: $400
- **55 and over**: 
  - Men: $600
  - Women: $200

**Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity**
- **16-24 years**: 
  - Men: $400
  - Women: $200
- **25-54 years**: 
  - Men: $800
  - Women: $400
- **55 and over**: 
  - Men: $600
  - Women: $200
Heterogeneity within Race

- Asian ethnic groups: Hmong, Laotian, and Cambodians have the lowest educational attainment by asian national origin. Poverty rates for these three groups are higher than the national average.
- The Hmong ethnic group has the largest poverty rate among Asian-Americans of 37.8% compared to national average of 12.4%.
- The median household income for Asian Indian Americans are $95,000 while Bangladeshi Americans earn $46,950.
# Women’s Earnings as a Percentage of Men’s and Women’s Median Usual Weekly Earnings by Occupation

## Full Time Wage and Salary Workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's</th>
<th>Women's Median Usual Weekly Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>56.70%</td>
<td>$1,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>77.50%</td>
<td>$1,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Practitioners &amp; Technical</td>
<td>78.30%</td>
<td>$983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer &amp; Mathematical</td>
<td>81.20%</td>
<td>$1,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>$1,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office and Administrative Support</td>
<td>90.90%</td>
<td>$637</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BLS
Weekly Earnings by Occupation

Source: BLS
Men vs. Women Median Weekly Earnings

Source: BLS
The Working Poor
- Among workers who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2014, more women (5.1 million) than men (4.4 million) lived below the official poverty level.

Married-Couple Families
- 53% had earnings from both the wife and the husband in 2014, compared with 44% in 1967. Couples in which only the husband worked represented 19% of married-couple families in 2014, vs. 36% in 1967.

Age
- The gender wage gap increases after the age of 24 for the overall cohort of women.

Source: BLS
Concluding Thoughts
Conclusions from Gender Wage Gap Survey

Why It Matters:

- Perceptions - Action/Inaction
  - Workplace disadvantages
- Awareness of News Consumption
  - Echochambers affect our knowledge

What We Found:

- The gender wage gap is a complex issue
- Varied perceptions on campus
Perceptions

Johnnies:

First Year

- “...the gender wage gap is due to subtle and overt societal factors that affect what specific field men and women decide to go into...it’s not discrimination, it boils down to the priorities that women have.”

Sophomores

- “[women] just have different priorities than men which is the way they are created and wired.”
- “...women ‘earn less’ ...because they tend to have less education than men.”

Senior

- “I don’t know what they put in the water at our schools but it must be some selective memory inhibitor to forget the Equal Pay Act, which according to our school, doesn’t f*cking exist.”
Perceptions (cont.)

Johnnie:
Senior
- “I’m sick of hearing how women are being discriminated against when they pay less than me for studying the same field and have a higher acceptance rate to employment positions post-graduation.”
- “…there are a lot of factors…I would like to add the history of gender divide…it takes along time to recreate culture…we have an old culture where women are domestic and men are breadwinners. This is changing slowly.”

Bennie:
First Year:
- “I think there is a race wage gap (and age and education) too, but if you're calling it "GENDER wage gap," it doesn't encompass everything.”
Perceptions (cont.)

Bennies:
  Junior
  ● “[the wage gap] is not real if you take into account other factors such as a job selection, hours in the workforce, part time vs full time…”
  Senior
  ● “Perpetuating the idea that this exists when it doesn’t only encourages Bennies to feel like victims.”

Unknown
  Seniors
  ● “…the reason women make less in today’s workplace is because of economic decisions, not penises…”
  ● “…if I am an employer and I can get away with hiring a female and paying her 30% less than what I would pay a male for the same job, I would NEVER hire a man”
Limitations of Gender Wage Gap Survey

What are the limitations to the study?
- We did not account for people outside the gender binary

What improvements would we make if we would do this again?
- When asking “What influences the Gender Wage Gap?”, we should have a “Not Applicable” option
- Ask more questions about how factors affect the Gender Wage Gap
  - ie. How do education levels, age, sexual orientation, etc. affect the Gender Wage Gap?
- Add questions about how the Wage Gap affects intersectionality of men
- Ask why participants filled out the survey (mandatory for a class?)
Campus To-Dos and Public Policies
What Helps Spark Conversation:

- Class Discussions - Ask questions (especially if in disagreement)
- Gender Classes
- Seek Alum input and experience
- Gender-focused events
  - Institute for Women’s Leadership
- AAUW Start Smart Salary Negotiation Workshops
  - IWL and Career Services
- Opportunities to advocate for legislation
  - Discuss De Jure and De Facto effects of legislations related to equal pay and family leave
Policies Related to the Gender Wage Gap

● 1860s: “It is one thing to acknowledge the right of a principle and quite another to practice it” (NYT, 1869).

● 1963: Equal Pay Act

● 1964: Civil Rights Act Amendment
  ○ Title VII, Executive Order 11246, and Executive Order 11375

● 1972: Title IX of the Education Amendment

● 1978: Pregnancy Discrimination Act

● 1991: Civil Rights Act & The Glass Ceiling Commission
Continued Policy & Legislation

- 2009: Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act
- 2010: National Equal Pay Task Force
- 2014: Paycheck Fairness Act
- 2016: Equal Employment Opportunity Restoration Act
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Institute for Women’s Leadership
Family Leave and the Gender Wage Gap

● 1993: Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
  ○ Unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons.

● Family Gap + Gender Wage Gap
  ○ A gap in pay between women with children and women without children

● The United States is the Only Advanced Country That Does Not Guarantee Paid Family Leave
  ○ What does that mean for women and men? Families? Our economy? The workforce?
Questions?
Works Cited


