

Gender Gap in Chess

INSIGHTS FROM SCIENCE
AND EXPERIENCE

Denise Trippold



Who am I?

- Denise Trippold
- Graz (Austria)
- Master's student of Psychology
- Women's National Team
- Member of the Presidium (ACF)
- Chairwoman of the Women's Commission (ACF)
- Chess Coach



Agenda

Introduction

Biological Factors

Psychological Factors

Social Factors

Historical Factors

Communications

Role Models

Questions

FIDE: 11% women

Participation Gap

Performance Gap

Top 100: Hou Yifan
(No. 99: 2650 Elo)



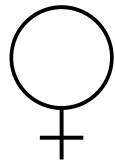
What are other
possible explanations?



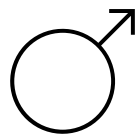


Biological Factors

Differences between male and female brains?




Memory
verbal abilities
social skills



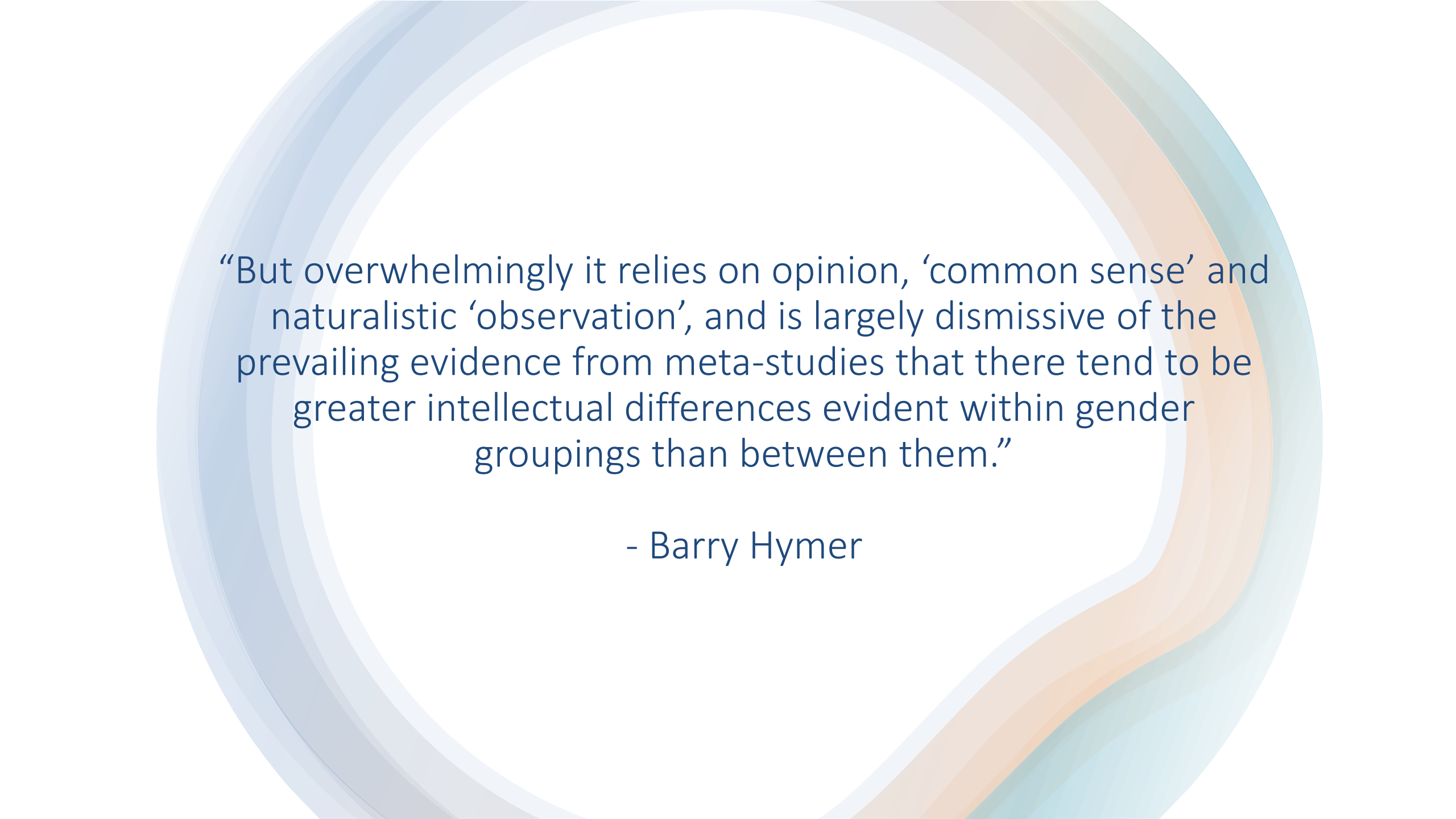
Mathematics
spatial abilities

Testosterone

- Competition → aggressive behavior
- Winner-effect
- Enjoyment of winning
- Enjoyment of competition
- Willingness to attend a competition

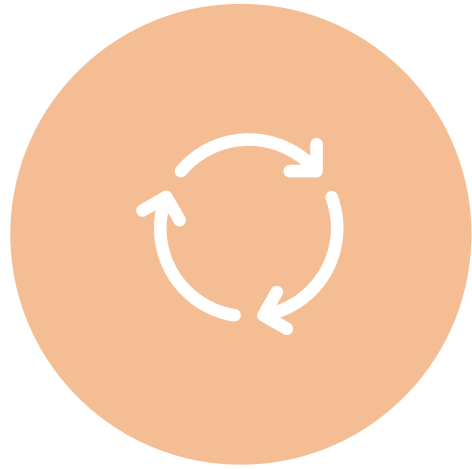
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Do female chess players
need other trainings'
incentives?

The background features a series of concentric circles in shades of light blue and grey. A thick, wavy line in shades of orange and light blue curves across the right side of the image, partially overlapping the circles.

“But overwhelmingly it relies on opinion, ‘common sense’ and naturalistic ‘observation’, and is largely dismissive of the prevailing evidence from meta-studies that there tend to be greater intellectual differences evident within gender groupings than between them.”

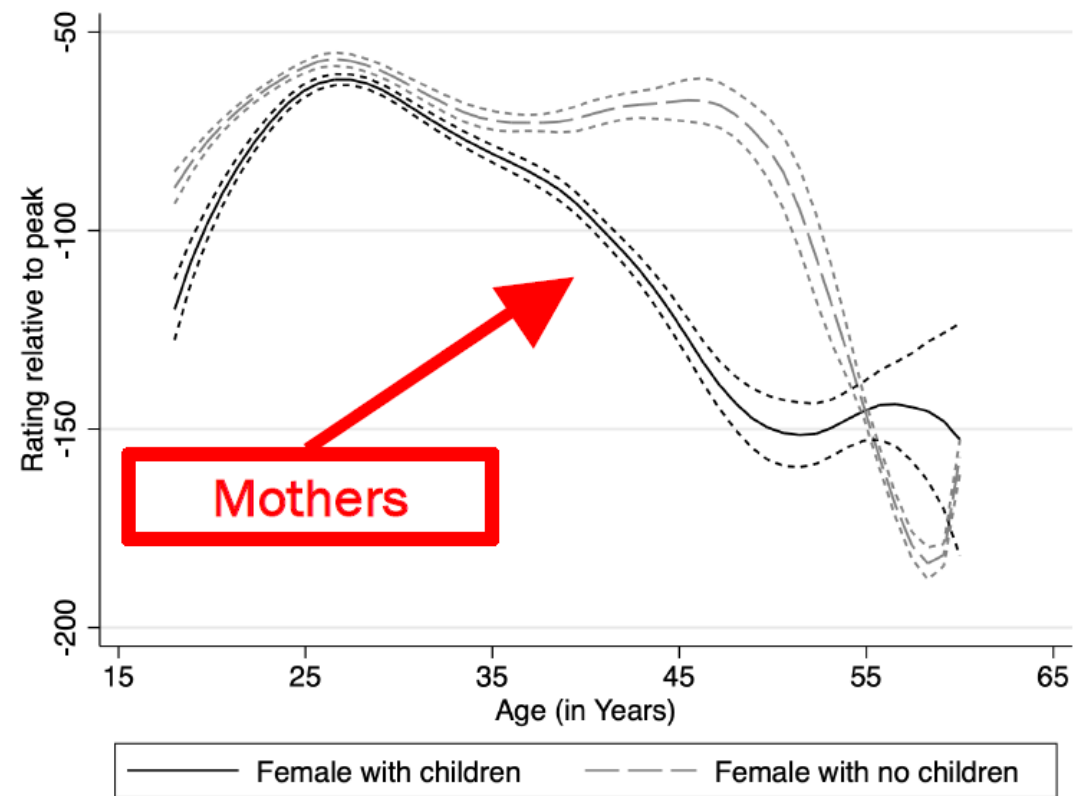
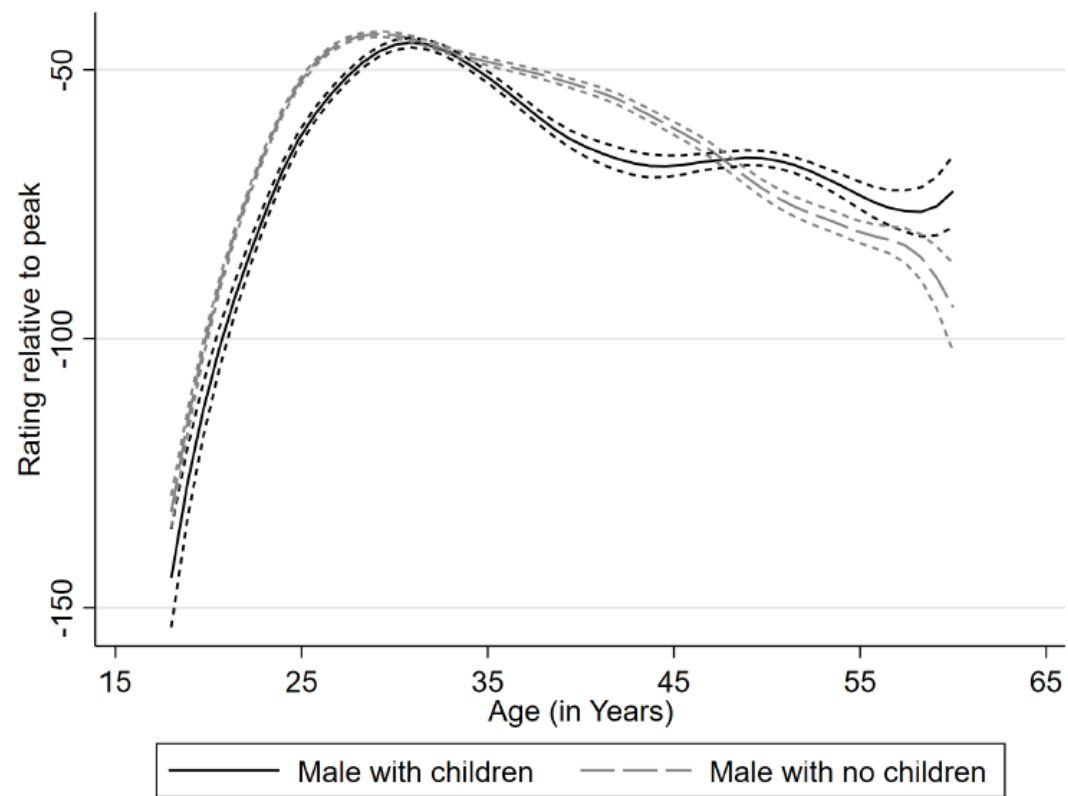
- Barry Hymer



MENSTRUATION



PREGNANCY





Psychological Factors

Do girls and boys learn chess in a different way?

- Chessity
- 350 schools
- Results:
 - No difference in learning the game of chess
 - BUT: different processes of learning

Boys
...preferred playing actively
and competitively.

Girls
...preferred non-competitive puzzle
games.
...social interaction in games.



Stereotype Threat

“... is where minorities underperform solely because they’re aware of a stereotype that people of their group do worse.”
(Smerdon, 2020)

Studies

Rothgerber & Wolsiefer (2014)

US youth tournaments:
Girls lost more often when playing
against boys.

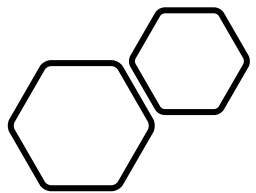
Smerdon et al. (2020)

- 8 billion games:
Female chess players lost more
often when playing against male
chess players.

Attribution of Failure and Success



	Success	Failure
Girls	external	internal
Boys	internal	external



Survey of Tkachiev



COACHES



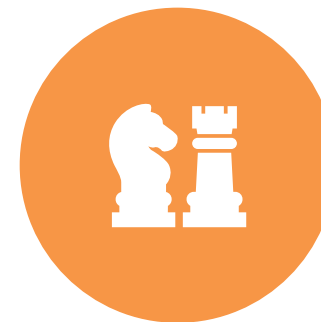
PRAISE



EMOTIONS



CONCRETE
COGNITIVE
PROCESSING



FAMILIAR MOTIVES

„Women players are mostly worried about what their coaches will say after game. Men usually are just upset to lose.“

- Michael Gurevich



Social Factors

“We are raising our girls to be perfect and we are raising our boys to be brave. We have to socialize our girls to be comfortable with imperfection.”

- Reshma Saujani

„Geniuses are made, not born.”

- Laszlo Polgar

The higher the goal,
the higher you reach.



„I always hated the idea of seperate women's tournaments. It is like admitting that we are weaker than men.“

- Judit Polgar

Titles

Open titles	Requirements	Female titles	Requirements
FM	2300 Elo	WFM	2100 Elo
IM	2400 Elo + 3 norms (2450 performance)	WIM	2200 Elo + 3 norms (2250 performance)
GM	2500 Elo + 3 norms (2600 performance)	WGM	2300 Elo + 3 norm (2400 performance)



Historical Factors

"She has fantastic chess talent, but she is, after all, a woman. It all comes down to the imperfections of the feminine psyche."

- Gary Kasparow (1988)



Communication



Role Models

Who are your role models in chess?

Veronika Exler, Annika Fröwis und Tobias Mayrhofer

„Even if women think and compete differently, we can attain the same achievements as men: be it in science, art or chess.“

- Judit Polgar



Questions?

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