

Sex and Gender in Cardiology

901620 Geschlechtsspezifische Aspekte von Herz-Kreislaufkrankungen
cand. med. Alexander Ölzant, Medical University of Vienna, 9301547

1. Introduction - terms: sex, gender, and medicine
2. Results - 3 example publications
3. Conclusions - outlook

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Introduction - Glossary

Sex: biologically determined, but still culturally discursive (external Genitalia, genetic markers, hormonal make-up)

Gender: in cultural studies: dependent on social interaction, reflective manifestation (I treat you as male/you treat me as female)
- *tertium non datur*: socially only male/female accepted, nothing outside

Medicine: is a positivistic science (→ EBM), therefore cannot follow the gender discourse of the social/cultural sciences (however, medicine as is in itself discursively)

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Results 1/3 - A matter of life and breath: childhood socioeconomic status is related to young adult pulmonary function in the CARDIA study.

Jackson, B/Kubzansky, LD/Cohen, S/Weiss, S/Wright, RJ *Int J Epidemiol.* 33 Apr 2004, Nr. 2, 271-8

- Socioeconomic Status (SES), Gender → pulmonary function
- SES measured by education of parents: surrogate marker
- Rationale: Gender as social function like SES, not independent variable

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Results 2/3 - Lori Mosca's Evidence-Based Guidelines for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Women

- EBM data
- No psychological or social parameters evaluated - gender as independent variable
- Physiological studies - but what are the determinants?

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Results 3/3 - Diploma Thesis: Geschlechtsrelevante Merkmale Alkoholabhängiger in Bezug auf die einzelnen Items der Typologie nach Lesch. Medizinische Universität Wien, 2006

Verena Altmann

- Sorts drinkers into 4 categories
- **Men**: mostly Type IV ('cerebral damage')
- **Women**: more in Type III ('social drinker')
- No explanation, though findings concur with other papers

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Conclusions - Good Practice

- “sex differences” used for merely biological variables
- “gender differences” used for **combined social and biological influences**
- → No differentiation, so virtually all papers labelled “gender”

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Further Studies

- Effects of socialisation and reflective gender manifestation
- Differences in time management, education and access to health care within and between genders