**Govindan Gender Studies Lab**

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**Objective.** To examine social valuations of competition in the workplace varying with gender identity. Analyzing the level of appropriateness of social acceptability for a woman to participate in a highly competitive professional setting. To see if there was any way that perceived level of competitiveness resulted in the gender wage gap. **Methods.** 479 Amazon mTurk users (M age = 34) took a survey that attempted to gauge their feelings towards different genders in competitive scenarios. The survey was constructed in a manner that placed fictional characters, Greg or Emily (to denote gender difference), in scenarios that matched various skill levels in competition to a choice to compete or to abstain. The survey respondents were then asked to rank how they would advise the character to move forward, by suggesting that they either compete or abstain, while also measuring for likeability. **Results.**  While the project is not yet complete, and the test run was just a precursor to a more elaborate survey, the data collected was very important. We saw that there was no large difference in how respondents advised the players by gender. The respondents matched both Greg and Emily to advice they would give depending on skill level of the fictional character as well as likeability. **Conclusions.** This lead us to believe that the test created would not show any diversification of results because participants are only seeing Greg or Emily in their questionnaires – never both. We are reworking our survey to include vignettes of both Greg or Emily that would better gauge a preference of masculine competiveness versus a feminine one. Additionally, we are decidedly moving away from simple competition towards a system of measure that would help us to hone in on competition appropriateness in a social sphere in regards to working instead of tending to immediate familial needs. In sum, we saw no difference in how respondents advised Greg or Emily to compete, and as a result, we are furthering our experiment by making some revisions to the programming.

**Graphs:**











