

ATTITUDES TOWARD SEXIST/NONSEXIST LANGUAGE IN CHINESE

A Chinese Mandarin Adaptation of IASNL-G (Parks & Roberton, 2000)

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Outlines

A brief introduction to Chinese

The adaptation of IASNL-G in Chinese

- Comparisons between IASNL-G and IASNL-G Chinese
- Respondents information
- Results of IASNL-G Chinese by section

General attitudes toward sexist/nonsexist language

Willingness to use gender inclusive language

Conclusions

Chinese as a Grammatical Genderless Language

Chinese is categorised as grammatically genderless language (Stahlberg et al., 2007).

- Gender markings are fewer and can be largely avoided
- Most personal nouns are naturally gender inclusive
- Even 3rd person singular pronouns do not differ in pronunciation /tā/

“Expressing or concealing sex in language is not in itself sexist or non-sexist. The decision question is **whether references to sex are symmetrical**, that is, whether women and men are treated linguistically in the same or an equal manner” (Stahlberg et al., 2007, p. 167).

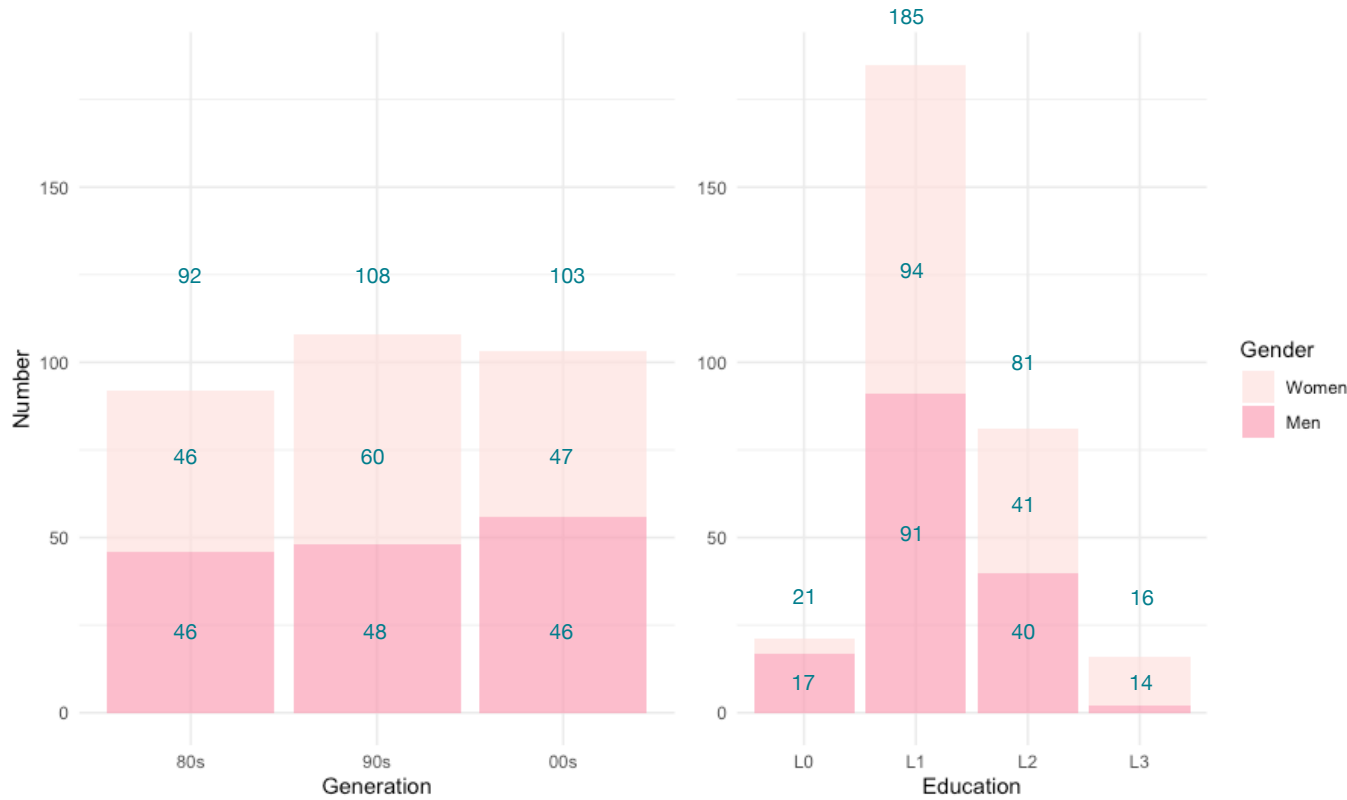
Chinese becomes exclusive, or sexist when:

- Treating man as the default person (Ettner, 2002)
- Unnecessarily differentiating sexes (Chan & Lin, 2019)
- Overrepresenting woman’s identity (Li & Luo, 2020)
- Using feminine expressions as degradation and insults (Jing-Schmidt & Peng, 2018; Peng et al., 2021)

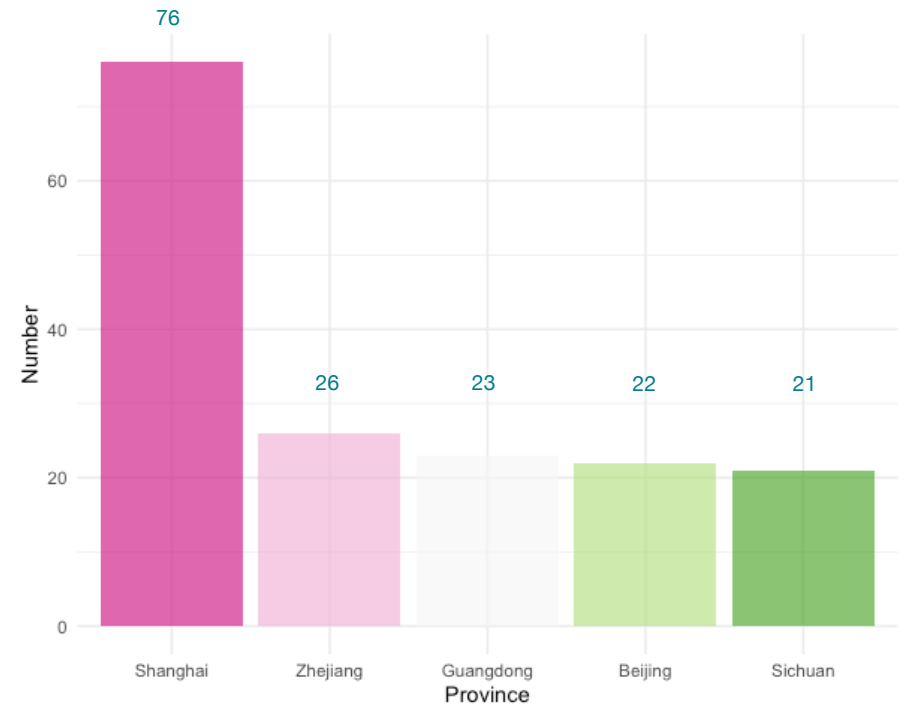
Inventory of Attitudes Toward Sexist/Nonsexist Language-General

	IASNL-G	IASNL-G Chinese
Definition of sexist language	Words, phrases, and expressions that unnecessarily differentiate between females and males or exclude, trivialize, or diminish either gender (Parks & Robertson, 1988, p. 455)	
Total number of items	21	24
• Beliefs about sexist language	12	8
• Recognition of sexist language	4	8
• Willingness to use gender inclusive language	5	8
Points of Likert scale	5 (1 - 5)	11 (0 - 10)
Possible range of total scores	21 - 105	0 - 240
• Supportive (> 70%)	73.6 - 105	168 - 240
• Neutral (50% ~ 70%)	52.6 - 73.5	120 - 167
• Negative (< 50%)	21 - 52.5	0 - 119

Distribution of 303 Respondents to IASNL-G Chinese



Number of respondents by gender across generation and education



The top 5 provinces with the largest number of respondents

Reliability Analysis of IASNL-G Chinese

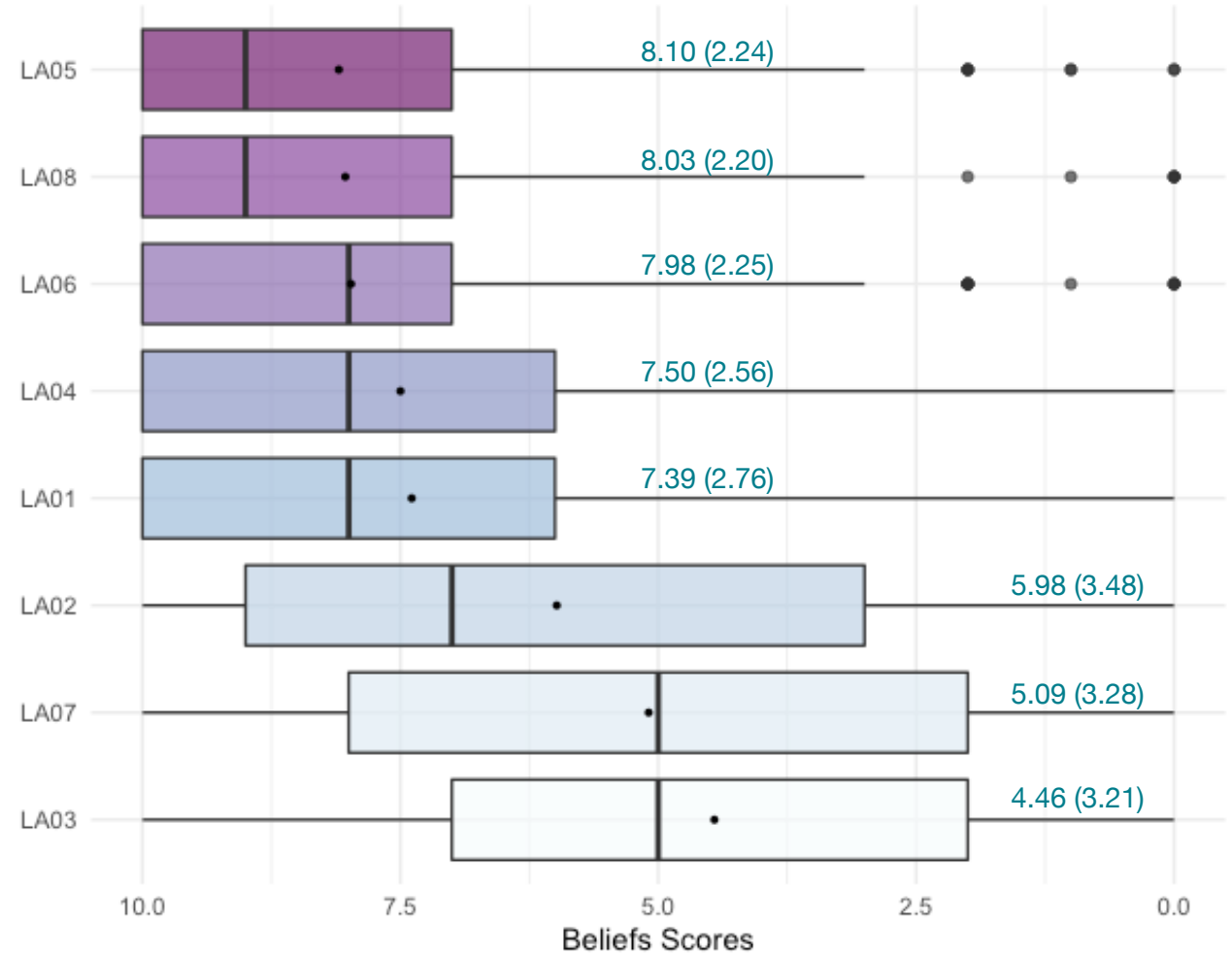
Section	Sample (n = 303)	Women (n = 153)	Men (n = 150)	80s (n = 92)	90s (n = 108)	00s (n = 103)
Total inventory	.90	.87	.86	.87	.92	.88
Beliefs about sexist language	.79	.74	.77	.74	.85	.76
Recognition of sexist language	.86	.85	.82	.85	.87	.85
Willingness to use gender inclusive language	.80	.70	.80	.81	.84	.76

Cronbach's coefficients alpha based on the scores of 303 respondents to IASNL-G Chinese

Beliefs about Sexist Language by Item

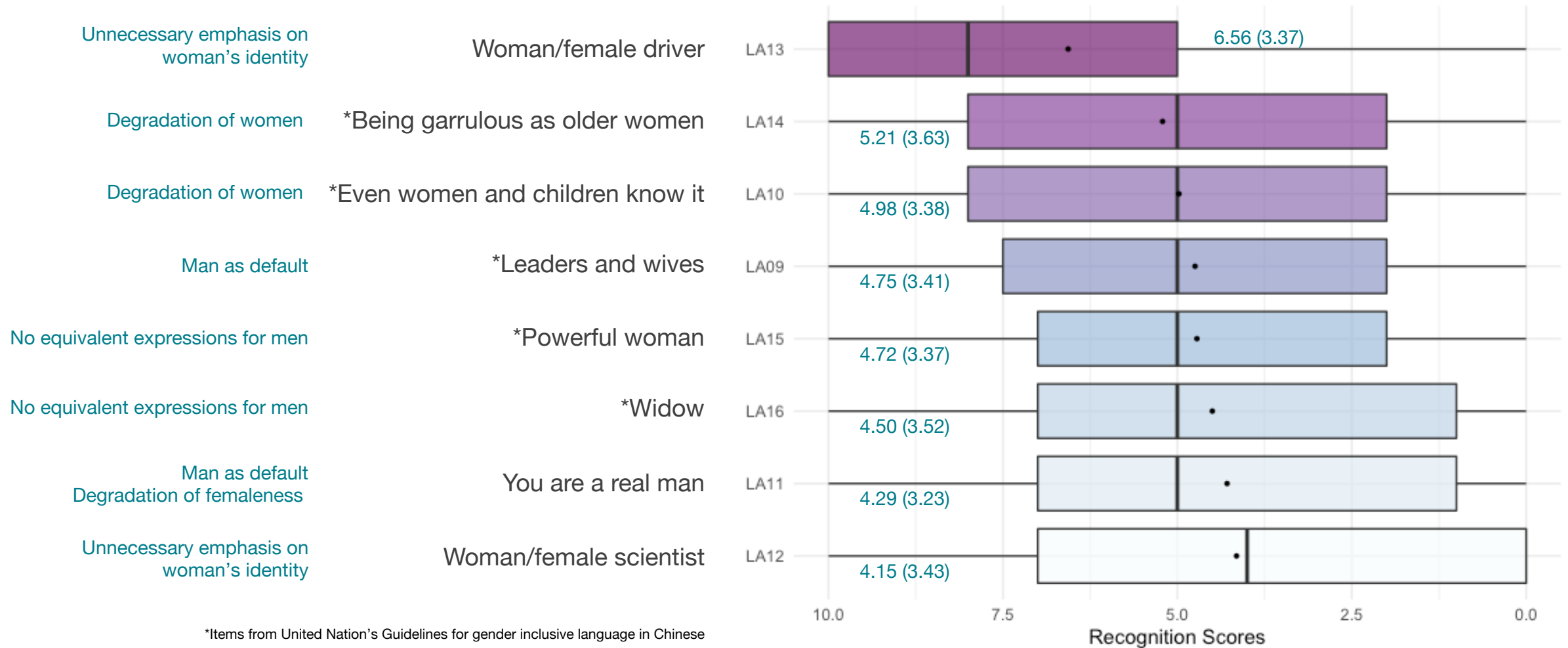
- Most publication guidelines require news media to avoid using ethnic and racial slurs. So, these guidelines should also require writers to avoid sexist language.
- Although change is difficult, we still should try to eliminate sexist language.
- Sexist language is related to sexist treatment of people in society.
- The elimination of sexist language is an important goal.
- *Worrying about sexist language is a trivial activity.
- *When people use “don’t be a pussy”, the expression is not sexist if the users don’t mean to be.
- We should change expressions using male generics, such as “sons and grandsons of Yan-Huang” to expressions that include women, such as “sons and daughters”.
- *We should not change the way the Chinese language has traditionally been written and spoken.

*Scores of items were reversed in the results.



Recognition of Sexist Language by Item

Sexist language: Words, phrases, and expressions that unnecessarily differentiate between females and males or exclude, trivialize, or diminish either gender.

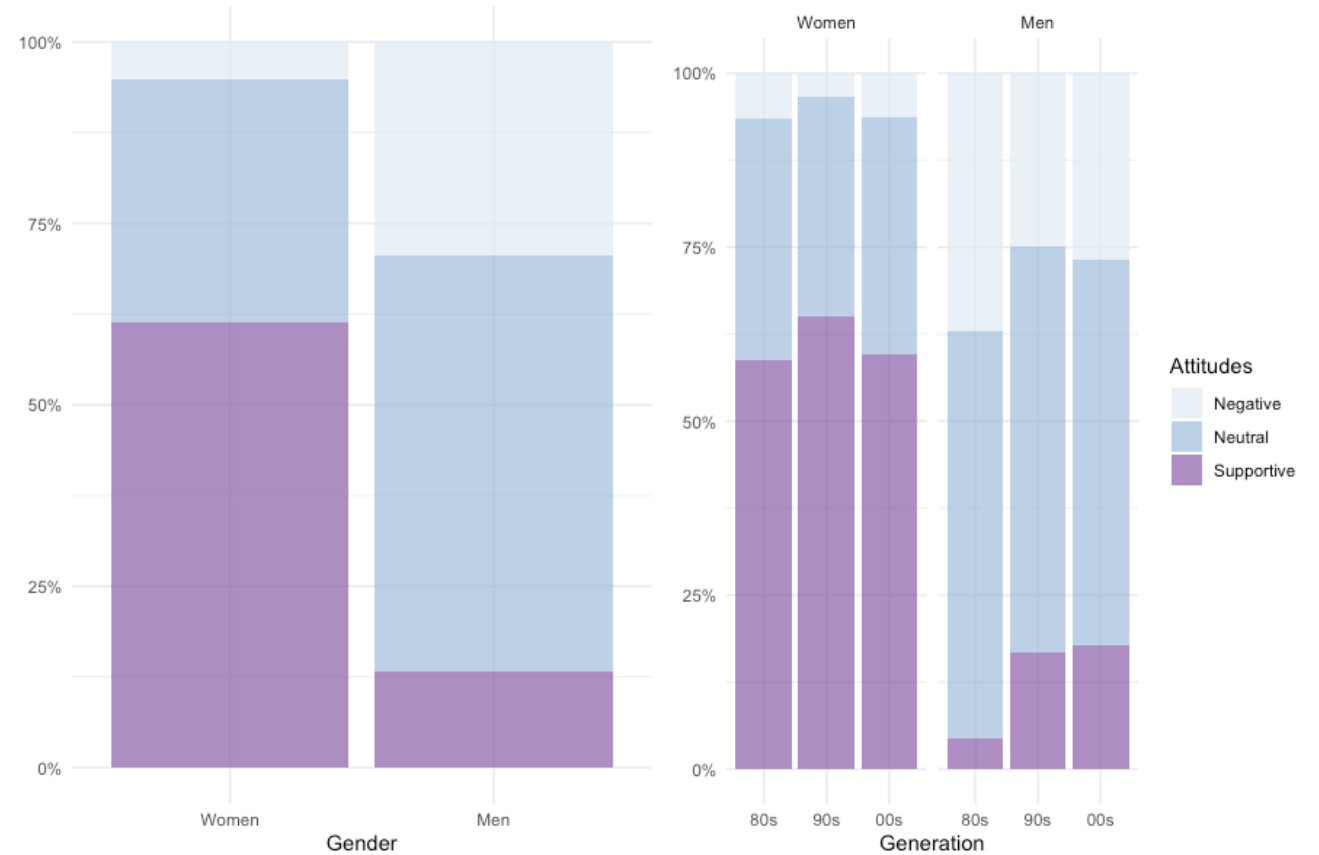


Willingness to Use Gender Inclusive Language by Item



General Attitudes Toward Sexist/Nonsexist Language

	Supportive	Neutral	Negative
Sample (n = 303)	38%	45%	17%
Women (n = 153)	62%	33%	5%
Men (n = 150)	13%	57%	30%
80s (n = 92)	31%	47%	22%
90s (n = 108)	44%	44%	12%
00s (n = 103)	37%	46%	17%



Proportions of different attitude levels across gender and generation

Potential Predictors to IASNL-G Chinese

How individuals' general attitudes toward sexist/nonsexist language are influenced by the following factors? – A multiple regression model

Dependent variable: individual's sum of IASNL-G Chinese

Continuous predictors:

- NeoSexism scale (Tougas et al., 1995)
- Modern Sexsim scale (Swim et al., 1995)

Gender belief systems were found to be related to individuals' detection, use, or adoption of sexist and non-sexist language (Parks & Roberton, 2004, 2008; Douglas & Sutton, 2014; Sczesny, Moser, & Wood, 2015; Swim, Mallett, & Stangor, 2004).

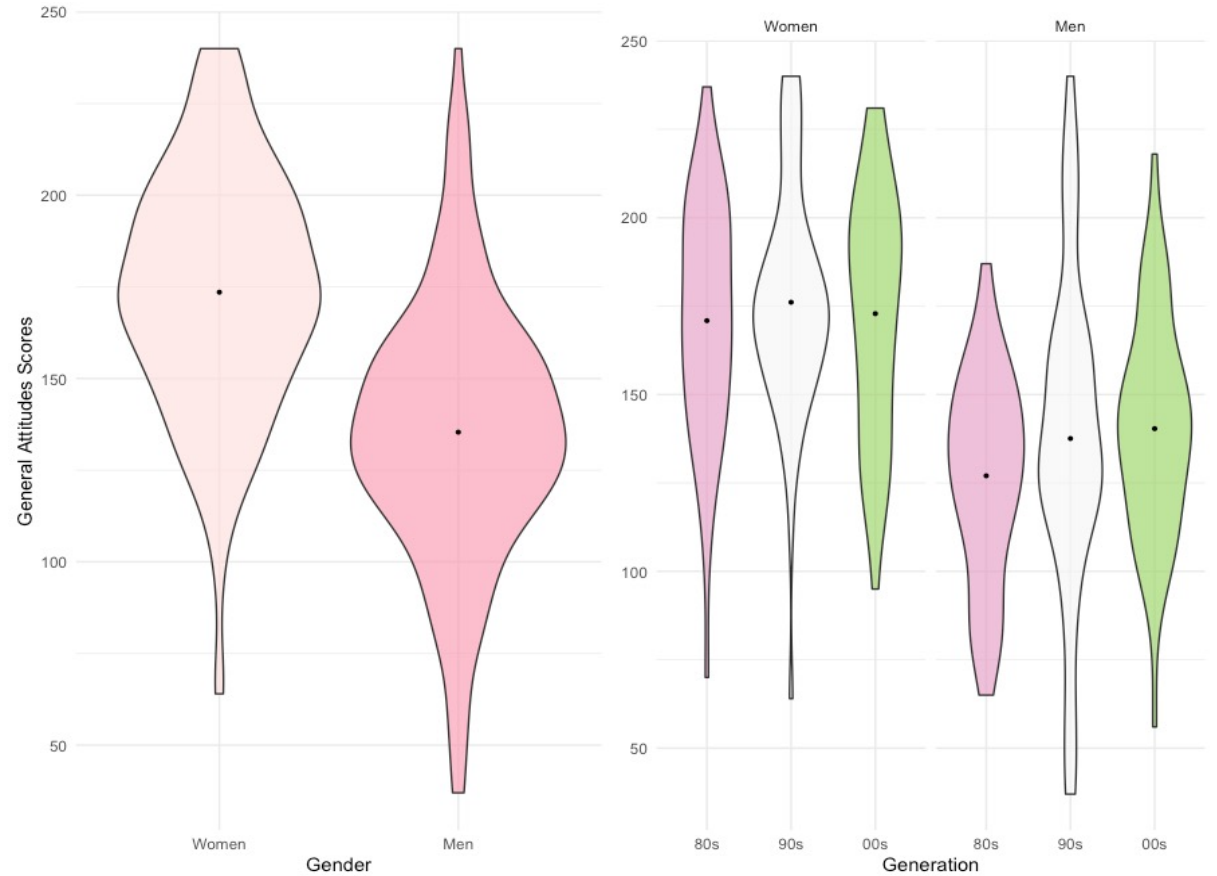
Categorical predictors:

- Gender: women, men
- Generation: 80s, 90s, 00s
- Education: below undergraduate, undergraduate, master, doctorate

General Attitudes Toward Sexist/Nonsexist Language

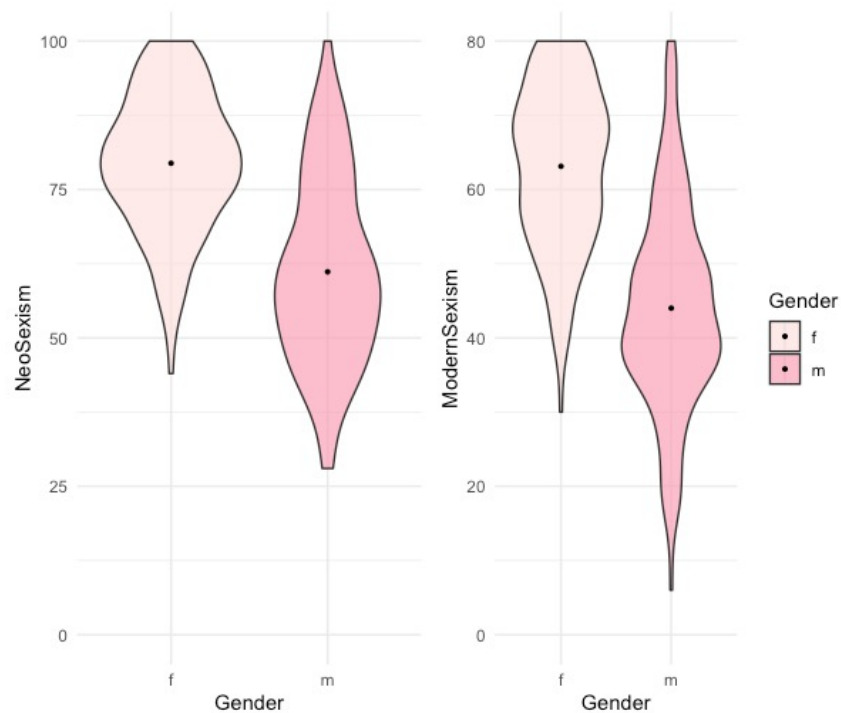
	Range	Mean	SD
Sample (n = 303)	37 - 240	154.65	39.42
Women (n = 153)	64 - 240	173.54	33.29
Men (n = 150)	37 - 240	135.37	35.75
80s (n = 92)	65 - 237	148.96	38.16
90s (n = 108)	37 - 240	158.97	42.99
00s (n = 103)	56 - 231	155.19	36.24

Ranges and means of general attitudes scores across gender and generation

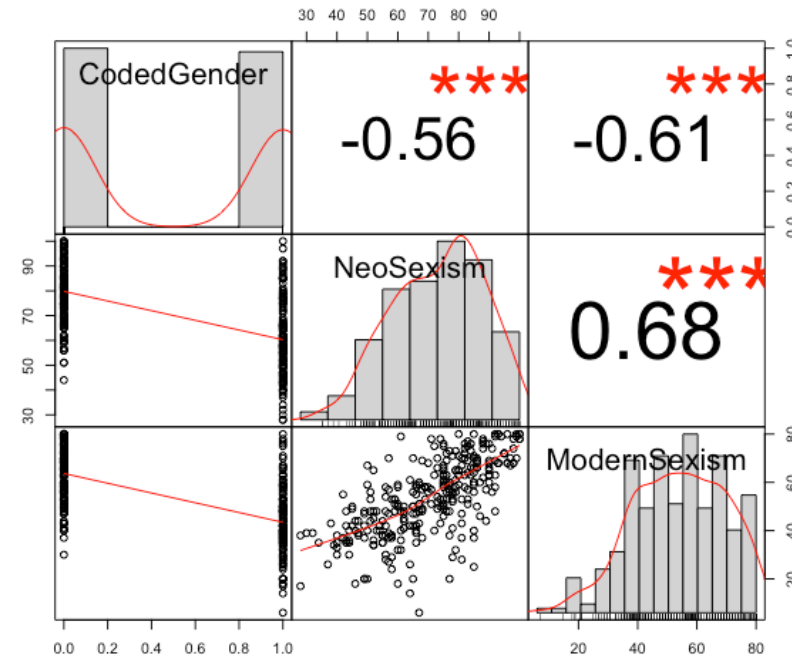


Gender Attitudes of Respondents

	Sample (n = 303)	NeoSexism		Sample (n = 303)	ModernSexism	
		Women (n = 153)	Men (n = 150)		Women (n = 153)	Men (n = 150)
Range	0 - 100	44 - 100	28 - 100	0 - 80	30 - 80	6 - 80
Mean	70.36	79.42	61.13	53.66	63.12	44
SD	16.47	11.65	15.54	15.63	10.94	13.67



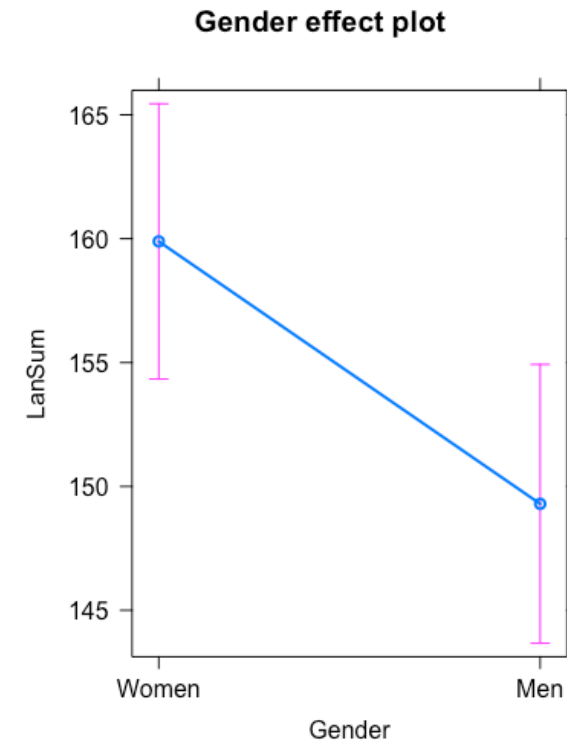
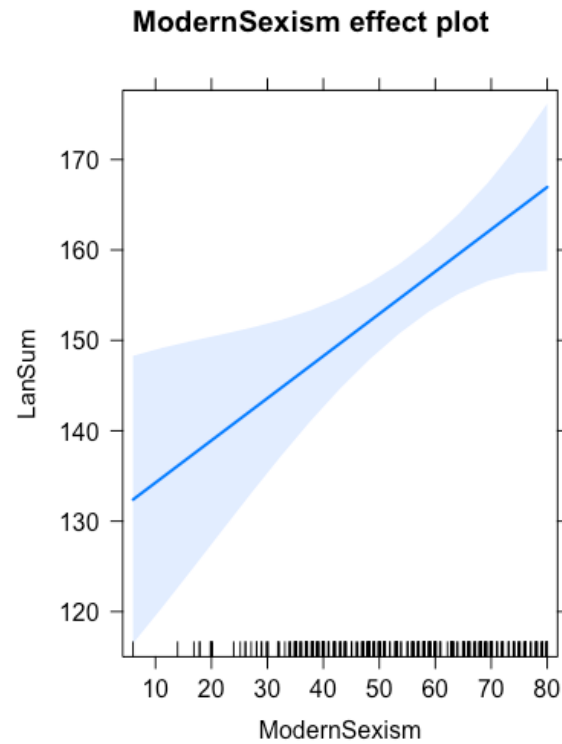
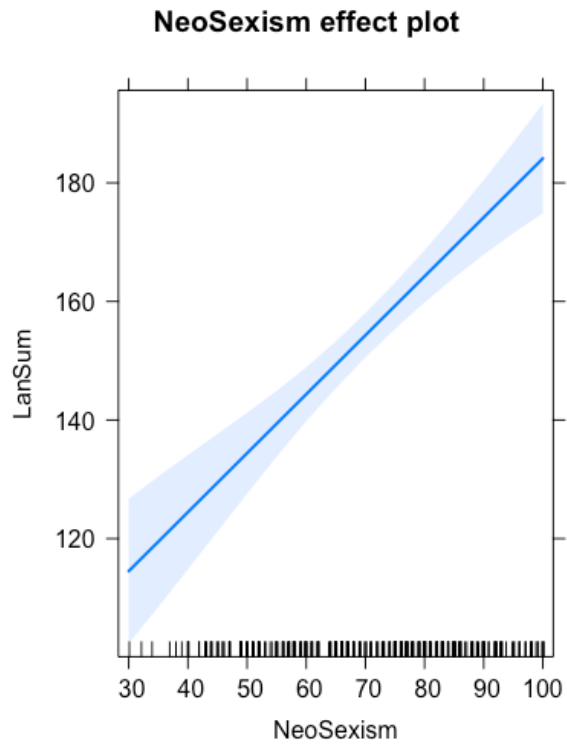
Ranges and means of NeoSexism and ModernSexism scores across gender



Cross-correlations between gender, NeoSexism, and ModernSexism

General Attitudes Toward Sexist/Nonsexist Language

Predictors	NeoSexism	ModernSexism	Gender	Generation	Education
$p < .05$	***	**	*	X	X
R-squared	.43				



LanSum is individuals' total scores of IASNL-G Chinese

Potential Predictors to Willingness to Use Gender Inclusive Language

How individuals' willingness to use gender inclusive language is influenced by their beliefs about sexist language, recognition of sexist language, and other factors? – A multiple regression model

Dependent variable: individual's sum of **willingness** to use gender inclusive language

Continuous predictors:

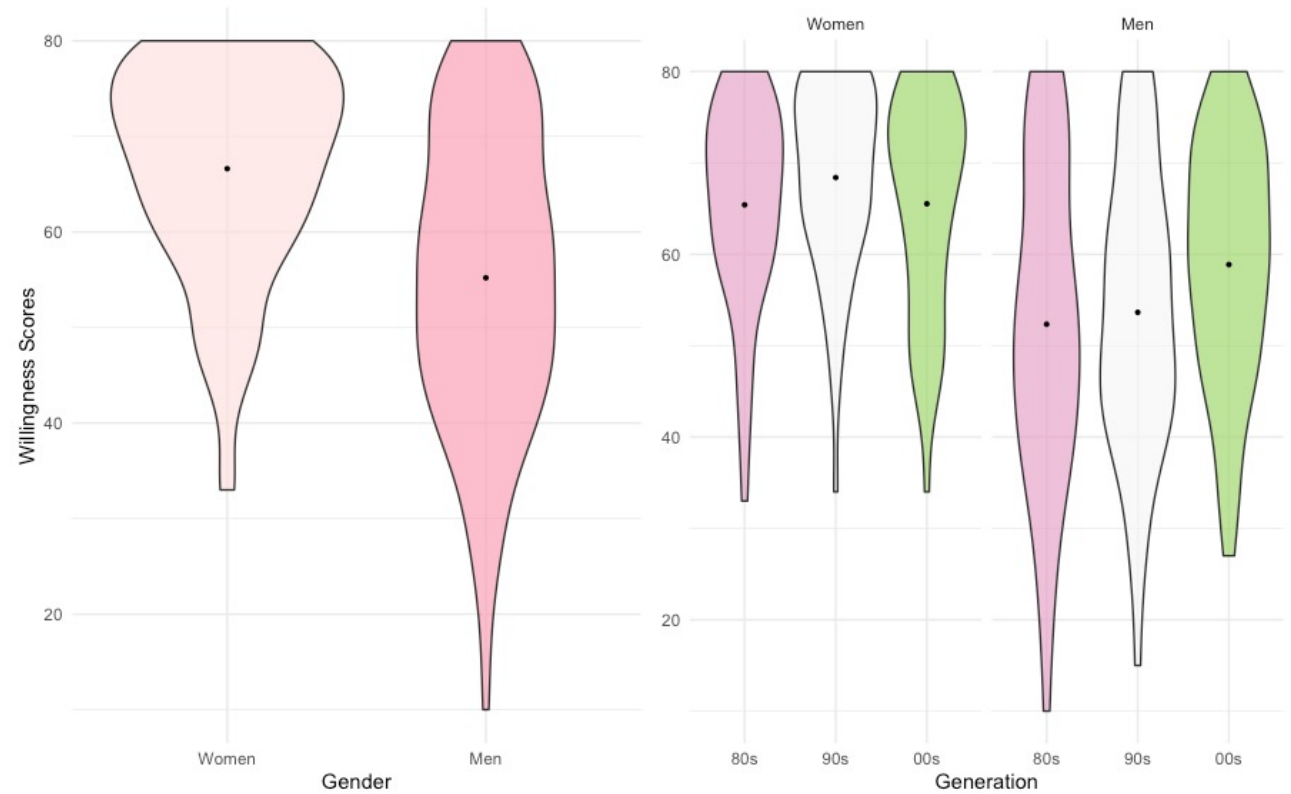
- Individual's sum of **beliefs** about sexist language
- Individual's sum of **recognition** of sexist language
- NeoSexism scale (Tougas et al., 1995)
- Modern Sexsim scale (Swim et al., 1995)

Categorical predictors:

- Gender: women, men
- Generation: 80s, 90s, 00s
- Education: below undergraduate, undergraduate, master, doctorate

Willingness to Use Gender Inclusive Language

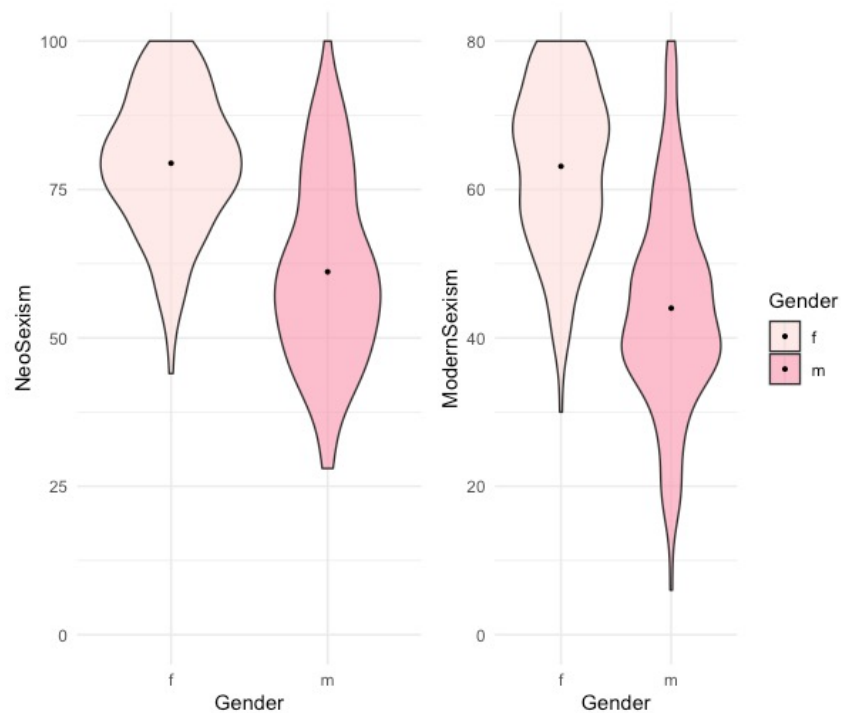
	Range	Mean	SD
Sample (n = 303)	10 - 80	60.97	14.54
Women (n = 153)	33 - 80	66.62	11.05
Men (n = 150)	10 - 80	55.20	15.42
80s (n = 92)	10 - 80	58.88	15.90
90s (n = 108)	15 - 80	61.84	14.73
00s (n = 103)	27 - 80	61.91	12.93



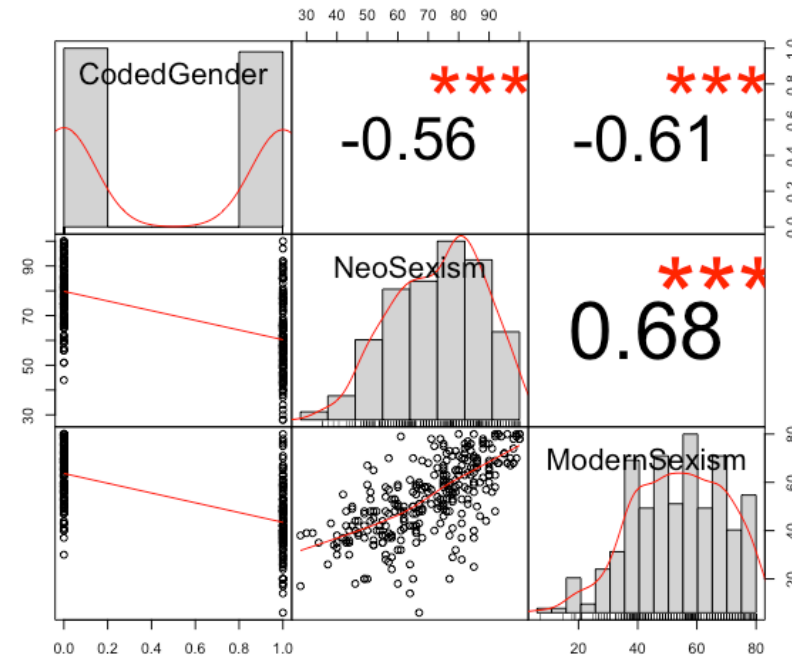
Ranges and means of willingness scores across gender and generation

Gender Attitudes of Respondents

	Sample (n = 303)	NeoSexism		Sample (n = 303)	ModernSexism	
		Women (n = 153)	Men (n = 150)		Women (n = 153)	Men (n = 150)
Range	0 - 100	44 - 100	28 - 100	0 - 80	30 - 80	6 - 80
Mean	70.36	79.42	61.13	53.66	63.12	44
SD	16.47	11.65	15.54	15.63	10.94	13.67



Ranges and means of NeoSexism and ModernSexism scores across gender

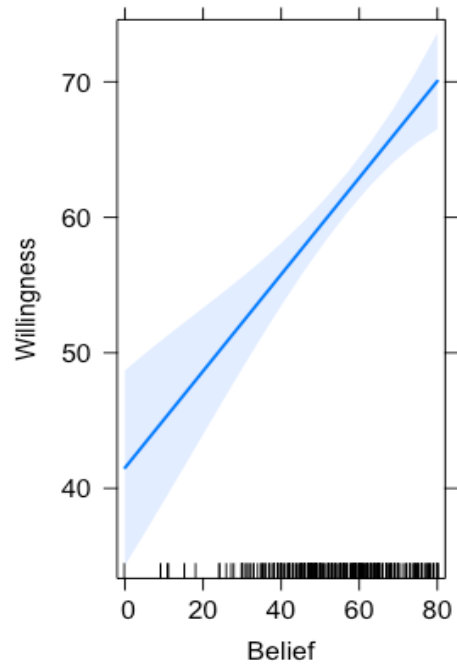


Cross-correlations between gender, NeoSexism, and ModernSexism

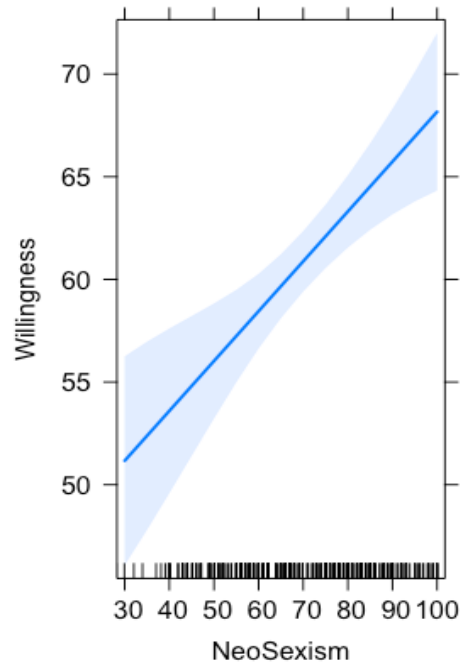
Willingness to Use Gender Inclusive Language

Predictors	Beliefs	Recognition	NeoSexism	ModernSexism	Gender	Generation	Education
p < .05	***	X	***	*	*	X	X
R-squared	.37						

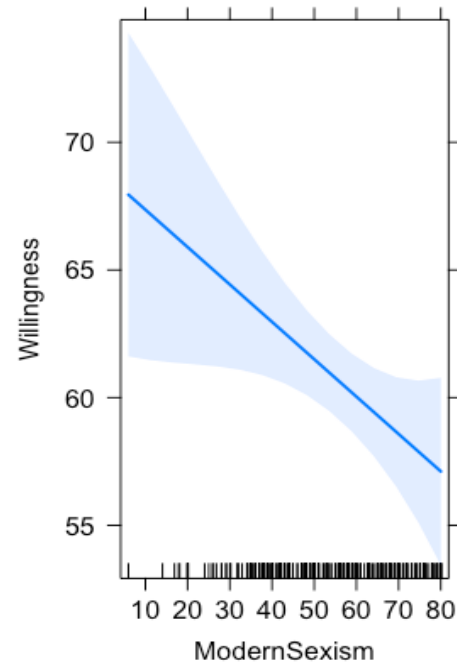
Belief effect plot



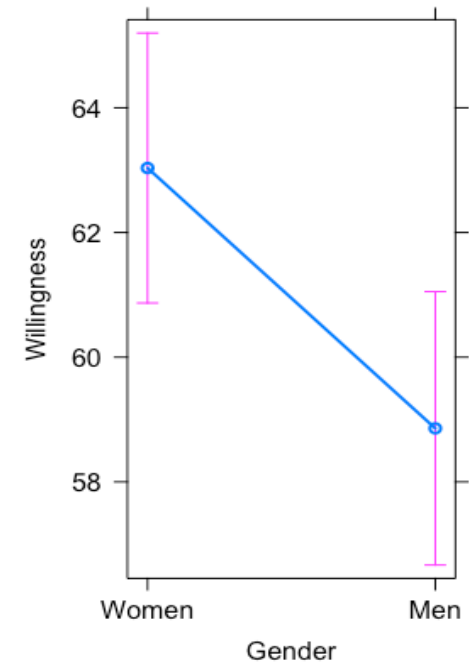
NeoSexism effect plot



ModernSexism effect plot



Gender effect plot



Conclusions

Individuals' **gender belief systems** insignificantly influence their general attitudes toward sexist/nonsexist language and their willingness to use gender inclusive language. The more positive a person's attitudes is toward gender equality, the more supportive attitudes they have toward gender inclusive language.

Individuals' **degrees of conservativeness to language reform**, but not performances on recognition of sexist language, significantly influence their willingness to use gender inclusive language. The more supportive a person's attitudes toward language reform, the more willing they are to use gender inclusive language.

Women tend to be more supportive to gender inclusive language than men, this trend still holds even when individuals' gender belief systems are controlled.

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