

12-10-2014

## Gender, War, and Politics

Madeline Robinson  
*Chapman University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cusrd\\_abstracts](http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cusrd_abstracts)

 Part of the [American Politics Commons](#), [Defense and Security Studies Commons](#), [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#), and the [Military Studies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Robinson, Madeline, "Gender, War, and Politics" (2014). *Student Research Day Abstracts and Posters*. Paper 13.  
[http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cusrd\\_abstracts/13](http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cusrd_abstracts/13)

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student Research Day Abstracts and Posters by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [laughtin@chapman.edu](mailto:laughtin@chapman.edu).



# Gender, War, and Politics

Madeline Robinson

Department of Political Science, Chapman University; Orange, California

## Introduction to Research

- This study explores how gender identity affects the attitudes of males and females towards war, the military, and different foreign policy tactics, such as diplomatic talks and bomb strikes.
- Over the past 100 years, women have been less supportive of every war than men have, including both World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War.
  - Historically there is an accepted social belief that women are naturally less aggressive than men, and are therefore generally more opposed to violence and war.
- Also increasing is the gender gap over political party affiliation, with females moving farther to the left of the political spectrum than their male counterparts.



## Expected Findings

H 1: Females would prefer diplomatic talks more than males, and would be more opposed to bombing development sites than males.

H 2: The mean of the females would be between 1 and 2, whereas the men of the males would be between 2 and 3, meaning that females would be more opposed to a U.S. invasion.

H 3: Females would be lower on the scale than males, and Democrats would be lower on the scale than Republicans. When the factors were combined, Democratic females would be the group lowest on the scale and Republican males would be the highest on the scale.

## Findings

H 1: Diplomacy versus Military Aggression

The most and the least aggressive options of dealing with Iran were compared by the favor and opposition to each option based on the answers of male and female respondents. Males were in much greater favor of using forceful tactics (bombing Iran) than females were, while the least aggressive option (diplomatic talks) showed little difference in opinions based on gender.

## Hypotheses:

H 1: Women are more likely than men to prefer less aggressive tactics when dealing with foreign nations (i.e. direct diplomatic talks compared to bombing development sites).

H 2: Women are less likely than men to support invading Iran with U.S. troops.

H 3: Women are more likely than men to feel cold towards the military, and political party affiliation will show similar ideological splits.

## Data

### H 1: Diplomacy versus Military Aggression

Cross Tabulation Results:

•Try to stop Iran from nuclear development by bombing development sites

- Favor:
  - Female 41.3%
  - Male 58.7%

- Oppose
  - Female 55.2%
  - Male 44.8%

•Try to stop Iran from nuclear development by direct diplomatic talks

- Favor
  - Female 49.9%
  - Male 50.1%

- Oppose
  - Female 50.7%
  - Male 40.3%

### H 3: Military Feeling Thermometer: Gender and Political Party Affiliation

Cross Tabulation Results:

	1	2	3
•Democratic			
• Female	43%	57%	57%
• Male	57%	43%	43%
•Republican			
• Female	33%	42%	48%
• Male	67%	58%	52%

### H 2: Support for Military Invasions

Stop Iran from nuclear development by invading with U.S. troops

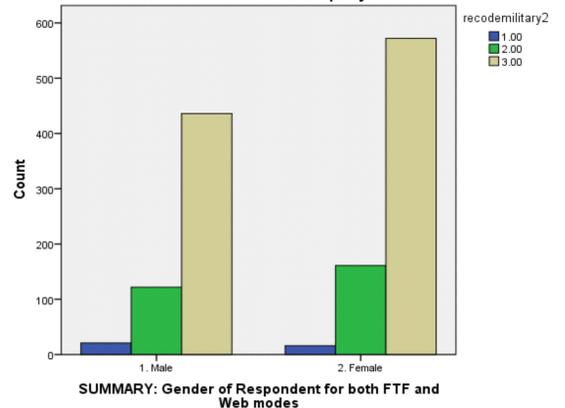
Means Results:

- Female 2.29
- Male 2.33

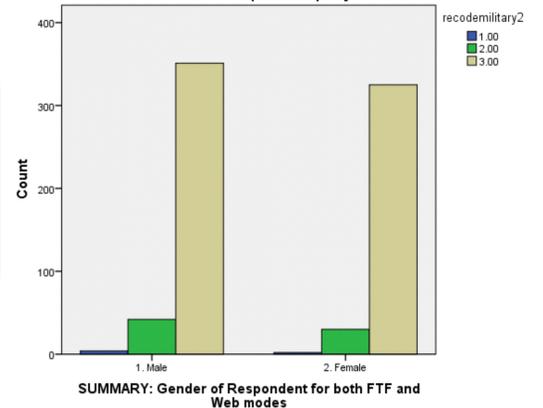
### Table Interpretation

- H 1
  - The first cross tabulation measured the differences between females and males' responses of being in favor or opposed to bombing Iran. The second cross tabulation measured which group, the females or males, was more in favor of or opposed to holding holding diplomatic talks with Iran.
- H 2
  - The means test was measured on a scale of 1, 2, and 3. Answers of 1 meant that the respondent group, males or females, was in favor of a U.S. invasion in Iran, a response of 2 meant that the respondent was neither in favor of nor opposed to a U.S. invasion, and a response of 3 meant that the respondent was opposed to a U.S. invasion. The mean of all the female respondents' answers and all of the male respondents' answers were collected. The significance value was .122.
- H 3
  - The table was recoded to measure feelings towards the military as either cold (1), neutral (2), or warm (3). Gender and party of registration had a combined affect on feelings towards the military, with a significance level of .001.

PRE: Party of registration (also asked if state not recorded correctly)=1. Democratic party



PRE: Party of registration (also asked if state not recorded correctly)=2. Republican party



## Findings (Continued)

H 2: Support for Military Invasions

The means test measured the favoring of and opposition to invading Iran with U.S. troops based on the respondent's gender. The closer to 1 the response was, the more in favor the respondent was of an invasion, and the closer to 3 the response was, the more opposed the respondent was to an invasion. This revealed that men were slightly more opposed to having U.S. troops invade Iran.

H 3: Military Feeling Thermometer: Gender and Political Party Affiliation

The cross tabulation test of the military feeling thermometer combined political party affiliation and gender to show how they affected feelings towards the military when joined together. Those who felt most cold towards the military were Republican males, and those who felt most warm towards the military were Democratic females. Democratic females and Republican males were also the most neutral groups towards the military.

## Conclusions

- The hypotheses tested did not all have the same results as predicted, and the results were not indicative of a gendered view of war or the military.
  - The first hypotheses tested showed that women were more opposed than men to military aggression, but the males and females were nearly equal in their favor of diplomatic talks. The second hypotheses tested showed females were slightly more willing than males to support a U.S. invasion. The results of these two hypotheses are inconsistent with each other and the findings are therefore inconclusive.
  - The third hypotheses tested had results opposite of what was predicted. Females and Democrats felt more warmly towards the military than males and Republicans, with a strong level of significance.
- The respondents used in this research were voters in the 2012 election, and this study did not look at other factors of the respondents besides their gender. Education, socio-economic status, military background, and other factors could have contributed to the individuals' attitudes towards war and the military and affected their responses.

## References

- Abendschon, Simone, and Stephanie Steinmetz. "The Gender Gap in Voting Revisited: Women's Party Preferences in a European Context." *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State, and the Society*, Summer 2014, Vol. 21, No. 2.
- Conover, Pamela J., and Virginia Sapiro. "Gender, Feminist Consciousness, and War." *American Journal of Political Science*, Nov. 1993, Vol. 37, No. 4, pp. 1079-1099.
- Hagemann, Karen, Gisela Mettele, and Jane Rendall. *Gender, War, and Politics—Transatlantic Perspectives, 1775-1830*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. ISBN 978-0-230-21800-0.
- Mueller, Melinda. "Gender Differences in the 2006 House Elections: The Effect of Gender on Campaign Messages about the Iraq War." *Thomas Jefferson Law Review*, Fall 2008, Vol. 31, Issue 1, pp 53-88.
- Sanbonmatsu, Kira, and Kathleen Dolan. "Do Gender Stereotypes Transcend Party?" *Political Research Quarterly*, Sep. 2009, Vol. 62, No. 3, pp. 485-494.