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Gender effects in Dutch research funding: a statistical investigation of the Research Talent Programme 2012-2021

Albers, C.; Molen, S.J. van der

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1 Gender effects in Dutch research funding:

2 A statistical investigation of the Research Talent Programme 2012–2021

3 Casper Albers 

4 Heymans Institute for Psychological Research, University of Groningen, the Netherlands

5 Sense Jan van der Molen 

6 Leiden Institute of Physics, Leiden University, the Netherlands

7 Author Note

8 Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Casper Albers, Grote
9 Kruisstraat 2/1, 9712TS Groningen, the Netherlands. Email: c.j.albers@rug.nl

10

Abstract

11 In 2015, the Dutch research council, NWO, took measures to combat gender bias
12 disadvantaging female applicants in a popular three-tiered funding scheme called the Talent
13 Programme. Using all available data for the last 10 years of applications, we study whether
14 these measures had an effect. We find strong statistical evidence of a shift in gender effects in
15 favour of female applicants in the first tier, called Veni. Gender differences are not found in
16 the two other tiers, the Vidi and Vici schemes.

17 *Keywords:* gender, science funding, the Netherlands

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20 Introduction

21 One of the main sources of research funding in the Netherlands is the Talent Programme
22 of the Dutch Research Council, NWO. This funding scheme consists of three tiers called Veni,
23 Vidi, and Vici, respectively, after Julius Caesar's (in)famous phrase. Veni-grants (at most
24 280k€) can be applied for by young scientists who are within three years of receiving their
25 PhD-degree. Vidi-grants (at most 800k€) can be applied for by scientists up to eight years
26 after receiving their PhD-degree, and Vici-grants (at most 1.5M€) are open to those within
27 fifteen years of obtaining their PhD-degree. In certain situations, such as childcare
28 responsibilities, these terms can be extended.

29 In this study we investigate possible gender effects in the assessment procedure of the
30 Talent Programme. We have chosen to put the main emphasis on the Veni-scheme for a
31 number of reasons. First and foremost, potential gender bias in the Veni system has been
32 studied extensively in recent years. In 2015, Van der Lee and Ellemers (2015) argued that this
33 grant scheme disadvantaged women, which led to national newspaper articles and discussion
34 in the Dutch parliament (Bussemaker, 2015). Despite methodological criticism (Albers, 2015;
35 Volker & Steenbeek, 2015) on the analyses that formed the basis of these discussions (Van der
36 Lee & Ellemers, 2015), NWO decided to take several measures to combat gender bias in their
37 funding schemes, such as introducing implicit bias training for committee members. Now that
38 the measures taken by NWO have had considerable time to take effect, we aim to evaluate
39 their influence. To explicitly include the possibility that some time was needed for the
40 measures to become effective, we will not only study the gender effects in Veni awards
41 averaged over the full time period, but also whether differences, if any, have increased or
42 decreased over the years considered.

43 Other reasons to focus on the Veni grants are the following. If in this first tier gender
44 effects occur, this automatically affects career prospects of women and men throughout their
45 future career, e.g. due to the so-called Matthew effect (Bol, de Vaan, & van de Rijt, 2018).
46 Furthermore, by far the highest number of grants given in the funding scheme are Veni grants,
47 thus providing sufficient information for statistical analyses. We will analyse the publicly
48 available data on the Vidi and Vici grants in the same way as the Veni grants, but the

49 relatively small number of applications and grants hampers the possibility of drawing strong
50 statistical inferences. We note that in recent years NWO has also started various calls
51 dedicated to underrepresented groups so as to promote diversity in academia. The Talent
52 Programme grants are not part of these calls. They are intended for all junior researchers and
53 are thus intended to be free of (gender) effects.

54 In our study, we define gender effects as differences between success rates of men and
55 women that cannot be attributed to coincidence. Gender effects include both gender bias
56 (i.e. the effects of (unconscious) prejudice against a gender) as well as any other effects that
57 cause systematic deviations in performance of men and women in academia.

58 The goal of this study is to test whether observed gender differences in the success rate
59 of the Talent Programme grants can be attributed to coincidence or not. More precisely, we
60 consider the following research question: ‘In absence of any gender effects in quality of
61 applications and the considerations of the assessment committee, what is the probability of
62 finding at least the same gender difference as was found in the data of 2012-2021?’. We will
63 answer this research question using publicly available information on the number of
64 applications and grants, by year, gender and research domain.

65 Several studies have investigated (other) aspects of gender bias in Dutch academia; e.g.
66 during the PhD-trajectory, i.e., before being eligible for a Veni-grant (Yerkes, Sonneveld, &
67 van de Schoot, 2012), or after receiving a grant (van de Schoot, Sonneveld, & Kroon, 2012). A
68 very recent study (Bol, de Vaan, & van de Rijt, 2022) had an objective similar to ours: to
69 study gender effects in the NWO Talent Programme. In their case, the authors studied
70 confidential assessment reports to find that, in the end, there is no evidence for gender effects
71 in the final funding, although males did receive significantly better reviews. They conclude
72 that juries tend to correct for this gender imbalance when taking the final decision to award
73 grants. Whereas Bol et al. (2022) use data up to 2016, we also include more recent data, up to
74 2022. The main contribution of our study, compared to that of Bol et al. (2022), is that we
75 focus on interactions between gender on the one hand and both year and field on the other,
76 being interested in the question whether or not gender effects are comparable across years and
77 fields.

78 To investigate our research question, we apply and compare four possible statistical
79 models, with increasing complexity, for each of the three tiers. For the Veni tier, all models

80 lead to the statistically significant conclusion that there is indeed a difference between the
81 succes rates of male (lower) and female (higher) applicants overall. The models also show that
82 this difference increases over time for all domains. For the Vidi and Vici tier, no gender
83 differences are found.

84 The goal of this paper is to share and discuss the numbers and their statistics. While we
85 hope that our work will stimulate further discussion on an explanation of the (lack of)
86 differences found, it is outside the scope of this paper to start this debate. Hence, we refrain
87 from interpreting the results in this present contribution.

88 The data

89 We have looked at all research grants from 2012 to the most recent grants at the
90 moment of writing¹, restricting our attention to the publicly available data: numbers of
91 applications and numbers of funded projects. Throughout this study, the calendar year
92 mentioned refers to the year of the funding decision, which usually is the year after the grant
93 submission. Here, we have focused on the period from 2012 onwards. The previous period, up
94 to 2012, had already been assessed by (Van der Lee & Ellemers, 2015). Since NWO took its
95 measures after the latter paper appeared (in 2015), the time period chosen (2012-now) allows
96 us to investigate the possible effects of the new policy. All data discussed here have been
97 obtained from NWO's website².

98 For these programmes, NWO distinguishes five research fields:

- 99 • ENW: science
- 100 • TTW: applied and engineering sciences
- 101 • SGW: social sciences and humanities
- 102 • ZonMW: health research
- 103 • DO: cross-domain/interdisciplinary. (This domain has been cancelled as of 2020).

104 For each year and each field, we have recorded the number of submitted applications and
105 granted applications for men and women separately. NWO publicly shares the necessary
106 information for most but not all years, see the Supplementary Material for a detailed overview.

¹ We have included all data that were published on NWO's website until and including March 15, 2022.

² See NWO (2022) for the Veni data. Using the menu on the right, the data for Vidi and Vici are available.
The data are also provided as Supplementary Material

The models

107

108 To model the probability of success, p_i , of a given application, we employ logistic
 109 regression (or binomial generalized linear models, McCullagh and Nelder (1989)). In these
 110 models, the expected logodds of p_i , $\log(p_i/(1 - p_i))$ are predicted on the basis of a number of
 111 predictors. In our case, the success probabilities are predicted based on gender of the
 112 applicant, the field of study, and the year of application.

113 We distinguish four different models, of increasing complexity, based on these predictors:

- 114 1. Model 1: gender, field and year are used as additive predictors.
- 115 2. Model 2: as Model 1, but with an interaction between gender and year: the gender
 116 effect can differ per year.
- 117 3. Model 3: as Model 2, but with also an interaction between gender and field.
- 118 4. Model 4: as Model 3, but with also an interaction between year and field, i.e. all
 119 three second-order interactions.

120 Data for the three tiers are analyzed separately. Model fit and model parsimony are assessed
 121 through the Akaike Information Criterion.

122 The first model is specified by

$$\log\left(\frac{p_i}{1 - p_i}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_M D_{M,i} + \beta_{DO} D_{DO,i} + \beta_{ENW} D_{ENW,i} + \beta_{TTW} D_{TTW,i} + \beta_{ZonMw} D_{ZonMw,i} + \beta_{Year} Year_i + \varepsilon_i.$$

123 Here, $D_{X,i}$ is used as notation for the dummy variable (also known as the Kronecker delta
 124 $\delta_{X,i}$) indicating whether person i belongs to class X (then $D_{X,i} = 1$) or not (then $D_{X,i} = 0$).
 125 A class X can stand for a research field, e.g. ENW or a gender ('M' is used as notation for
 126 male applicants, with female being the reference group for gender). The field SGW is chosen
 127 as reference field, as this field had the largest number of applications³. Variable 'Year' is
 128 included to measure the longitudinal effects. This variable is coded as 1 for 2012, 2 for 2013,
 129 ..., 10 for 2021.

130 Subsequently, Model 2 is specified by

$$\log\left(\frac{p_i}{1 - p_i}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_M D_{M,i} + \beta_{DO} D_{DO,i} + \beta_{ENW} D_{ENW,i} + \beta_{TTW} D_{TTW,i} + \beta_{ZonMw} D_{ZonMw,i} + \beta_{Year} Year_i + \beta_{M,Year} \times Year_i \times D_{M,i} + \varepsilon_i,$$

³ Note that the choice of reference fields is arbitrary: any other choice would have yielded exactly the same predicted success rates

131 thus with an additional interaction term $\beta_{M,Year} \times Year_i \times D_{M,i}$. Analogously, in Model 3,
132 interaction terms between gender and field are added, while Model 4 adds interaction terms
133 for year and field to that.

134 All computations have been performed in *R* (version 4.1.2; R Core Team (2021)). The
135 analyses of variance have been carried out using the *R* package 'car' (Fox & Weisberg, 2019).

136 Results

137 The full dataset consists of a total of 16,249 applications (6,907 from female applicants,
138 9,342 from male applicants). Out of these, 2,449 have been granted (1,067 for female
139 applicants, i.e. a success rate of 15.4% ; and 1,382, for male applicants, i.e. a 14.8% success
140 rate). There were no applicants that did not declare a gender, nor did any candidate declare a
141 gender other than male or female. With 10,076 applicants and 1,472 funded applicants, the
142 Veni tier is by far the largest tier. All descriptives are provided in Table 1. Note that in
143 absolute numbers, male applicants outnumber female applicants and this gap grows with the
144 tiers. In relative numbers, i.e. success rate, however, male applicants do not outperform female
145 applicants, as discussed below.

146 As the first tier consists of 62% of all applications and 60% of all grants, we focus on
147 this (Veni) scheme first, and in most detail. We find that all four models described predict
148 lower success percentages for male applicants than for female applicants. Furthermore, clear
149 differences in success rates between fields are observed, which is in line with previous studies
150 on NWO's Veni grants (Albers, 2015; Volker & Steenbeek, 2015). To avoid the Simpson's
151 paradox fallacy (Albers, 2015; Volker & Steenbeek, 2015), all models take field of study into
152 account.

153 Table 2 displays the results of an analysis of variance on the four models, and Table 3
154 displays the AIC-comparisons. The latter table clearly demonstrates that inclusion of a
155 *gender* \times *year* interaction is beneficial (Model 2). Model 3, which additionally includes the
156 four *gender* \times *field* interactions, has an even lower AIC-score, indicating that the gender gap
157 changes over time for all fields. On the other hand, the addition of the *year* \times *field* terms in
158 Model 4 provides no significant improvement to the model fit ($p = .385$), as indicated by a
159 higher AIC-value. Thus, we will look at Model 3 in more detail, as presented in Table 4. An
160 explanation on how to interpret the coefficients of Table 4 is given in Appendix A. In

161 Appendix B the R code of the analyses is provided. This, in combination with the data
162 (Supplementary Material) will provide full results of the three other models.

163 Figure 1 represents the observed success probabilities and the predicted success
164 probabilities according to Model 3 over the years considered. In this Figure, we present a
165 graph for each field. In Figure 2 we aggregate the figures for the five domains into a single
166 figure, using the numbers of applications per field as weights. All graphs in Figures 1 and 2
167 show a positive trend for grant succes rates for females and a (corresponding) negative one for
168 males. The year at which the two lines cross varies per field. For DO, ENW and TTW the
169 crossing takes place around 2012, where our dataset starts, whereas for SGW (around 2017)
170 and ZonMw (around 2018), they happen later in time – although the uncertainty in these
171 predictions is considerable. A crossing can also be observed in the aggregate predictions of
172 Figure 2, roughly around the year 2015. As seen in Figure 1, there is considerable distance
173 between certain observations and the corresponding predictions. This calls for some caution:
174 whereas the model is sufficient to estimate the gender effect as a whole, it will not be sufficient
175 for predictions for individual combinations of gender, year and field, let alone extrapolations
176 to future years. Note that the uncertainty in the moment of crossing is also considerable,
177 making it difficult to assess when the success rate of female applicants overtakes those of male
178 applicants precisely. Still, this does not diminish the significant change in gender effects over
179 time.

180 In Table 6 all predicted success probabilities for the Veni for all four models are listed.

181 In the same vein as the analyses for the first tier, the Vidi and Vici tiers are analysed.
182 Unlike in the Veni data, for both these tiers the best performing model is Model 1, the model
183 without any interactions of gender with one of the other variables (Table 7). Furthermore,
184 neither in the Vidi nor in the Vici data a significant effect of gender is found (Table 8). Thus,
185 in contrast with the Veni data, there is no evidence for any gender effect in success rate: no
186 base rate difference, nor a change of this effect over time. The lack of significant gender effects
187 is illustrated in Figure 3.

188 Discussion

189 Let us now revisit the research question considered, i.e. ‘In absence of any gender effects
190 in the quality of applications and considerations of the assessment committee, then what is

191 the probability of finding at least the gender difference as was found in the data of
192 2012–2021?’ For the Veni tier, this p -value is found to be smaller than 0.001, i.e. there is a
193 very significant gender difference. For the other two tiers, Vidi and Vici, no significant gender
194 effects were found.

195 This does not need to imply that the assessment committees systematically disadvantage
196 men in the Veni funding, nor that the quality of applications from men and women differ
197 systematically. Our model is correlational and not causal. The purpose of this paper is not to
198 find the mechanisms behind observed gender effects, nor to state whether or not they are due
199 to gender bias, but merely to answer the question whether the observed gender effects are
200 statistically significant. They are in the Veni data. They are not in the other tiers.

201 Despite their relatively high success rates in the Veni scheme, however, it does appear
202 that more women than men leave academia before reaching the second and third tier of the
203 Talent Programme. The fact that the percentage of female applicants clearly declines over the
204 tiers (46% for Veni, 40% for Vidi, 33% for Vici) supports this.

205 One of our main results is that gender effects in the Veni tier have shifted over the
206 years, in favour of females. It could hence be that the measures taken by NWO to combat
207 gender effects against women - introduced after the Veni study by Van der Lee and Ellemers
208 (2015) - have indeed been successful. However, since gender effects in the Veni’s were small, or
209 even absent, to start with (see Albers (2015); Van der Lee and Ellemers (2015); Volker and
210 Steenbeek (2015) and Figures 1 and 2), these measures may have led to an overshoot. In a
211 recent study, Bol et al. (2022) studied all Talent Programme data, including (confidential)
212 scores from reviewers. These authors found that male applicants receive better reviewer scores
213 than female applicants - indicative of gender effects in assessment. Yet, they also find evidence
214 that external review scores were corrected for by the panels, mostly in the rebuttal phase.
215 Furthermore, women are overrepresented at ranking positions just above the funding
216 threshold.

217 Combining the conclusions by Bol et al. (2022) with our results, we hypothesize that the
218 corrections performed by the juries may have gotten stronger over the years, yielding an
219 overcorrection in recent times. This provokes the question what NWO can do to balance out
220 the Veni scheme. And more generally, what policy funding agencies should have to prevent
221 statistically relevant biases in the future. Clearly, to guarantee a proper feedback mechanism,

222 a continuous, critical assessment of the available data over time is essential. It is our hope
223 that this article contributes to exactly that.

224

CRedit authorship contribution statement

225

Casper Albers: Writing – original draft, Writing – review editing, Conceptualization,

226

Methodology, Investigation, Visualization, Formal analysis. **Sense Jan van der Molen:**

227

Writing – original draft, Writing – review editing, Conceptualization, Investigation.

228

Declaration of Competing Interest

229

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal

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relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

231

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	Veni		Vidi		Vici		Total	
	Applications	Granted	Applications	Granted	Applications	Granted	Applications	Granted
Women	4,590	695	1,588	268	729	104	6,907	1,067
Men	5,486	777	2,400	411	1,456	196	9,342	1,382
Total	10,076	1472	3,988	679	2,185	300	16,249	2,449

Table 1

Numbers of applications and project fundings.

	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3			Model 4		
	df	χ^2	<i>p</i> -value	df	χ^2	<i>p</i> -value	df	χ^2	<i>p</i> -value	df	χ^2	<i>p</i> -value
Gender	1	6.573	.010	1	21.133	< .001	1	18.972	< .001	1	20.146	< .001
Field	4	80.256	< .001	4	7.185	.007	1	6.331	.012	1	.446	.504
Year	1	.982	.322	1	81.134	< .001	4	73.333	< .001	4	4.126	.389
Gender × Year	–	–	–	1	21.166	< .001	1	18.967	< .001	1	20.142	< .001
Gender × Field	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	16.591	.002	4	14.965	.005
Year × Field	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	4.173	.383

Table 2

*Analysis of variance of the four models for the Veni data. The χ^2 -values display the Wald test statistics, the other two columns per model the corresponding degrees of freedom and *p*-values.*

	df	AIC
Model 1	7	478.04
Model 2	8	458.77
Model 3	12	450.24
Model 4	16	454.05

Table 3

Comparison between the four models using the Akaike Information Criterion for the Veni data.

	$\hat{\beta}$	SE	<i>p</i> -value
Intercept	-2.204	0.108	< .001
Gender: Male	0.511	0.146	< .001
Year	0.040	0.016	0.012
Field: DO	0.580	0.166	< .001
Field: ENW	0.808	0.101	< .001
Field: TTW	0.368	0.172	0.033
Field: ZonMw	0.046	0.123	0.712
Male \times Year	-0.094	0.022	< .001
Male \times Field: DO	-0.470	0.256	0.067
Male \times Field: ENW	-0.391	0.137	0.004
Male \times Field: TTW	-0.426	0.219	0.052
Male \times Field: ZonMw	0.170	0.175	0.331

Table 4

*Results for Model 3 for the Veni data. Field SGW is the reference field, and Female is the reference gender. Note that *p*-values haven't been adjusted for multiple testing (a model for each of the three tiers) yet.*

Year	Field	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4	
		Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
2012	SGW	0.134	0.118	0.109	0.139	0.103	0.148	0.114	0.163
2013	SGW	0.133	0.117	0.113	0.132	0.107	0.142	0.115	0.152
2014	SGW	0.132	0.116	0.118	0.126	0.111	0.135	0.117	0.142
2015	SGW	0.130	0.115	0.122	0.120	0.115	0.129	0.118	0.132
2016	SGW	0.129	0.113	0.127	0.114	0.119	0.123	0.120	0.123
2017	SGW	0.128	0.112	0.131	0.108	0.123	0.117	0.121	0.114
2018	SGW	0.127	0.111	0.136	0.103	0.127	0.112	0.123	0.106
2019	SGW	0.126	0.110	0.141	0.098	0.132	0.107	0.124	0.098
2020	SGW	0.125	0.109	0.146	0.093	0.136	0.102	0.126	0.091
2021	SGW	0.123	0.108	0.152	0.089	0.141	0.097	0.127	0.084
2012	DO	0.183	0.162	0.151	0.189	0.170	0.163	0.159	0.156
2013	DO	0.181	0.160	0.156	0.181	0.176	0.156	0.168	0.151
2014	DO	0.180	0.159	0.162	0.172	0.182	0.149	0.176	0.146
2015	DO	0.178	0.157	0.168	0.165	0.188	0.142	0.185	0.142
2016	DO	0.176	0.156	0.173	0.157	0.194	0.135	0.195	0.137
2017	DO	0.175	0.154	0.180	0.150	0.200	0.129	0.204	0.133
2018	DO	0.173	0.153	0.186	0.143	0.206	0.123	0.214	0.129
2019	DO	0.172	0.152	0.192	0.136	0.213	0.118	0.225	0.125
2020	DO	0.170	0.150	0.199	0.129	0.220	0.112	0.236	0.121
2021	DO	0.169	0.149	0.206	0.123	0.227	0.107	0.247	0.117
2012	ENW	0.218	0.194	0.182	0.226	0.205	0.209	0.193	0.201
2013	ENW	0.217	0.192	0.188	0.216	0.211	0.200	0.202	0.195
2014	ENW	0.215	0.191	0.194	0.207	0.218	0.192	0.211	0.188
2015	ENW	0.213	0.189	0.201	0.198	0.225	0.184	0.220	0.181
2016	ENW	0.211	0.187	0.208	0.189	0.232	0.176	0.229	0.175
2017	ENW	0.209	0.186	0.215	0.180	0.239	0.168	0.239	0.169
2018	ENW	0.208	0.184	0.222	0.172	0.246	0.161	0.249	0.163
2019	ENW	0.206	0.183	0.229	0.164	0.254	0.153	0.260	0.157
2020	ENW	0.204	0.181	0.237	0.157	0.262	0.147	0.270	0.152
2021	ENW	0.203	0.180	0.245	0.150	0.269	0.140	0.281	0.146

Table 5

Predicted success probabilities, according to the four models [1/2]

Year	Field	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4	
		Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
2012	TTW	0.148	0.131	0.121	0.153	0.142	0.141	0.119	0.123
2013	TTW	0.147	0.129	0.126	0.146	0.147	0.135	0.128	0.121
2014	TTW	0.146	0.128	0.130	0.139	0.152	0.129	0.138	0.120
2015	TTW	0.144	0.127	0.135	0.133	0.158	0.123	0.148	0.118
2016	TTW	0.143	0.126	0.140	0.126	0.163	0.117	0.158	0.116
2017	TTW	0.142	0.125	0.145	0.120	0.168	0.112	0.170	0.115
2018	TTW	0.140	0.123	0.151	0.114	0.174	0.106	0.182	0.113
2019	TTW	0.139	0.122	0.156	0.109	0.180	0.101	0.194	0.112
2020	TTW	0.138	0.121	0.162	0.104	0.186	0.097	0.207	0.110
2021	TTW	0.137	0.120	0.167	0.098	0.192	0.092	0.221	0.109
2012	ZonMw	0.150	0.132	0.122	0.155	0.107	0.178	0.105	0.176
2013	ZonMw	0.148	0.130	0.127	0.147	0.111	0.170	0.109	0.169
2014	ZonMw	0.147	0.129	0.132	0.141	0.115	0.163	0.114	0.162
2015	ZonMw	0.146	0.128	0.136	0.134	0.119	0.155	0.118	0.155
2016	ZonMw	0.144	0.127	0.141	0.128	0.123	0.148	0.123	0.148
2017	ZonMw	0.143	0.126	0.147	0.121	0.128	0.142	0.128	0.142
2018	ZonMw	0.142	0.125	0.152	0.116	0.132	0.135	0.134	0.136
2019	ZonMw	0.140	0.123	0.158	0.110	0.137	0.129	0.139	0.130
2020	ZonMw	0.139	0.122	0.163	0.105	0.142	0.123	0.145	0.124
2021	ZonMw	0.138	0.121	0.169	0.099	0.147	0.117	0.150	0.119

Table 6

Predicted success probabilities, according to the four models. [2/2]

	df	AIC Vidi	AIC Vici
Model 1	7	339.10	276.71
Model 2	8	340.67	278.28
Model 3	12	347.03	284.81
Model 4	16	351.87	283.86

Table 7

Comparison between the four models using the Akaike Information Criterion for the Vidi and Vici data

	Vidi			Vici		
	df	χ^2	<i>p</i> -value	df	χ^2	<i>p</i> -value
Gender	1	.500	.480	1	1.144	.285
Field	4	44.660	< .001	4	9.000	.061
Year	1	.141	.708	1	4.463	.035

Table 8

*ANOVA tables for the Vidi and Vici data. The *p*-values haven't been adjusted yet triple multiple testing.*

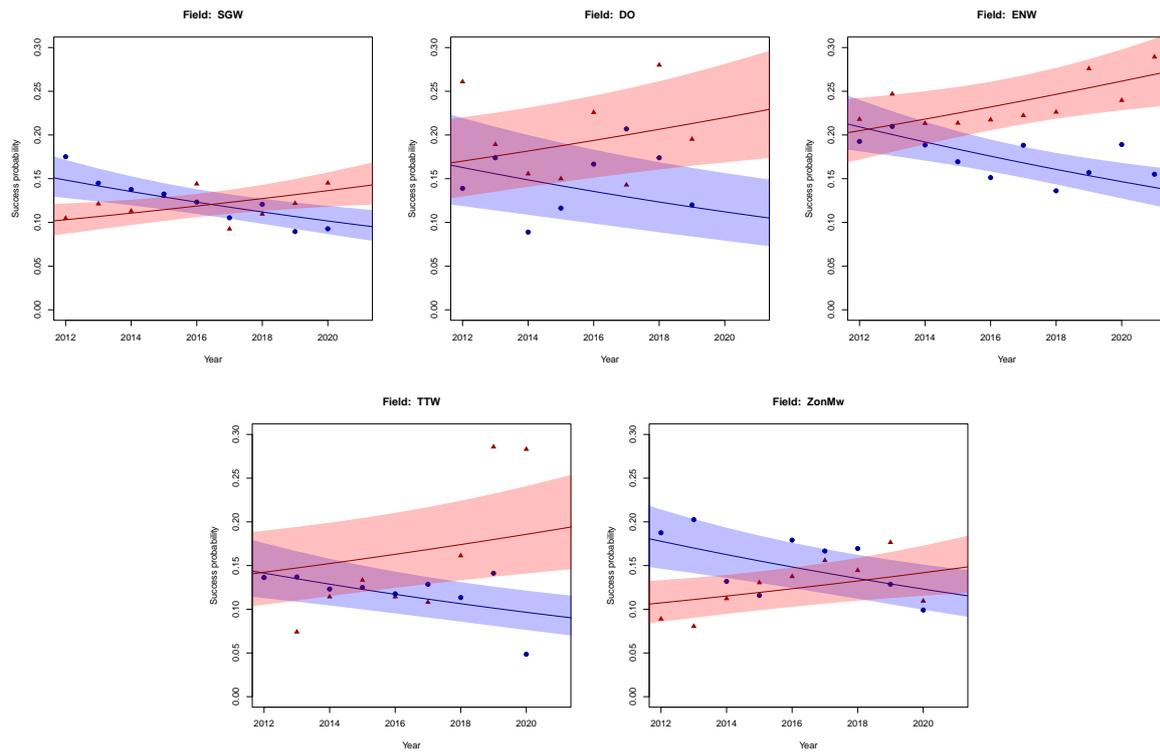


Figure 1. Observed success probabilities (triangles for women, squares for men) and predictions according to Model 3 (increasing curves for women, decreasing curves for men) for the Veni data. The shaded areas correspond to the 95% prediction intervals.

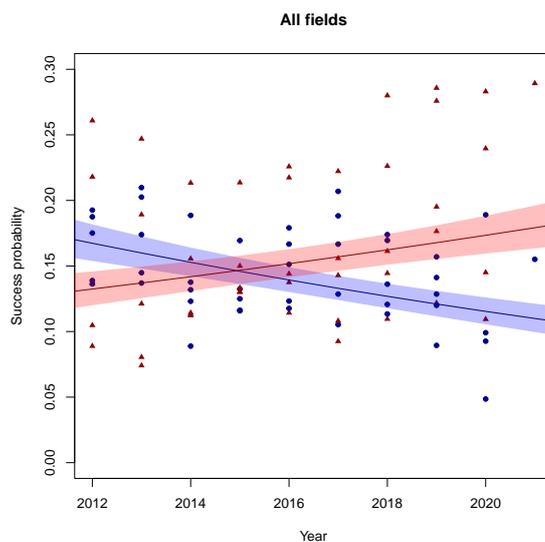


Figure 2. Observed success probabilities and predictions according to Model 3 for the Veni data, aggregated over all five fields. For an explanation of the symbols and colours, see the caption of Figure 1.

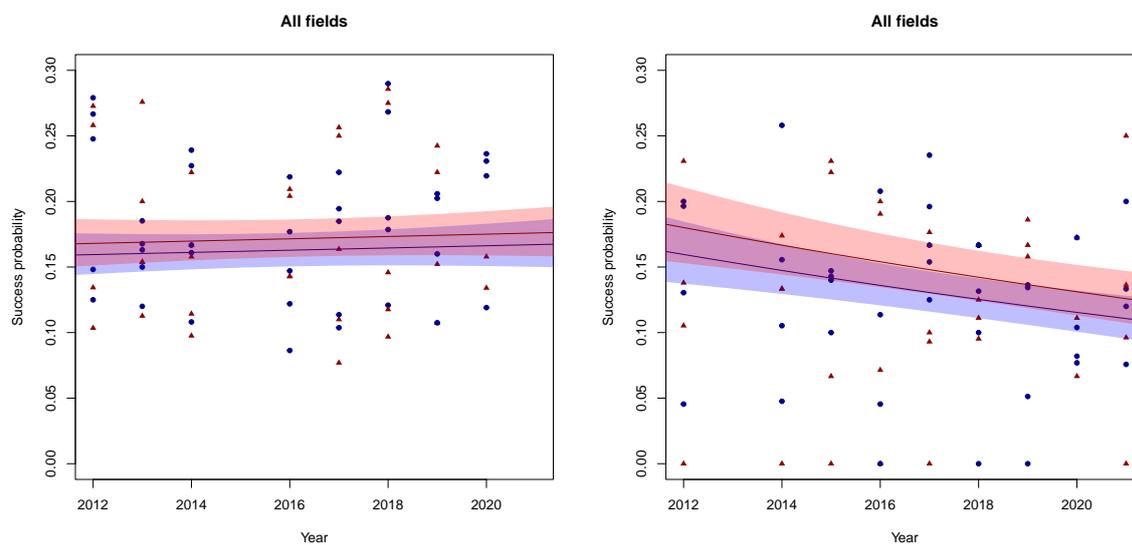


Figure 3. Observed success probabilities and predictions according to Model 1 for the Vidi (left panel) and Vici (right panel) data, aggregated over the five domains. For an explanation of the symbols and colours, see the caption of Figure 1.

Appendix A

Interpretation of the logistic regression coefficients

265 Although, as always in logistic models, the parameters in Table 4 cannot be directly
266 interpreted, their sign and p -value can. To show how to use the numbers in Table 4, consider
267 the following examples of a female and male applicant to the field ENW in 2020. For the
268 female applicant, we have

$$\log\left(\frac{p_i}{1-p_i}\right) = -2.204 + 0.808 + 0.040 \times 9 = -1.038,$$

269 which corresponds to a success probability of 26.2%. For the male applicant we have

$$\log\left(\frac{p_i}{1-p_i}\right) = -2.204 + 0.512 + 0.808 + (0.040 - 0.094 - 0.391) \times 9 = -1.763,$$

270 corresponding to a success probability of 14.6%. For 2012, this domain had more balanced
271 predicted success rates (20.5% for women, 20.9% for men; see Table 6).

Appendix B

Analysis code

```
272 venidata <- read.csv("venistats.csv", sep=";")
273 venidata$Field <- relevel(factor(venidata$Field), "SGW")
274 themodel1 <- glm(cbind(Granted, Applications - Granted) ~
275     Gender + Field + Year, data = venidata,
276     family = "binomial")
277 themodel2 <- glm(cbind(Granted, Applications - Granted) ~
278     Gender*Year + Field , data = venidata,
279     family = "binomial")
280 themodel3 <- glm(cbind(Granted, Applications - Granted) ~
281     Gender*Year + Gender * Field , data = venidata,
282     family = "binomial")
283 themodel4 <- glm(cbind(Granted, Applications - Granted) ~
284     Gender*Year + Gender*Field + Year*Field, data = venidata,
285     family = "binomial")
286
287 library("car")
288 Anova(themodel1, type = "III", test.statistic = "Wald")
289 Anova(themodel2, type = "III", test.statistic = "Wald")
290 Anova(themodel3, type = "III", test.statistic = "Wald")
291 Anova(themodel4, type = "III", test.statistic = "Wald")
292 AIC(themodel1, themodel2, themodel3, themodel4)
```