

University of Windsor

## Scholarship at UWindsor

---

Odette School of Business Publications

Odette School of Business

---

2012

### Sex Stereotyping Managerial Positions

Abdel Moneim Elsaid

Eahab Elsaid  
*University of Windsor*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/odettepub>



Part of the [Business Administration, Management, and Operations Commons](#), and the [Business Law, Public Responsibility, and Ethics Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Elsaid, Abdel Moneim and Elsaid, Eahab. (2012). Sex Stereotyping Managerial Positions. *Gender in Management*, 27 (2), 81-99.

<https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/odettepub/33>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Odette School of Business at Scholarship at UWindsor. It has been accepted for inclusion in Odette School of Business Publications by an authorized administrator of Scholarship at UWindsor. For more information, please contact [scholarship@uwindsor.ca](mailto:scholarship@uwindsor.ca).



**Sex Stereotyping Managerial Positions: A Cross-Cultural Comparison between Egypt and the USA**

Journal:	<i>Gender in Management: an International Journal</i>
Manuscript ID:	Draft
Manuscript Type:	Original Article
Keywords:	Culture, stereotypes, Egypt, Sex and gender issues, Role Conflict

SCHOLARONE™  
Manuscripts

Review

## Sex Stereotyping Managerial Positions: A Cross-Cultural Comparison between Egypt and the USA

Existing research indicates that women worldwide continue to face barriers to enter managerial positions simply because people, on average, sex stereotype the characteristics of managers in favour of men. Such sex role stereotyping of managerial positions creates negative views about the capability of women to occupy such positions. These views, if left unexamined, will reinforce the sex role stereotypes that already exist, which state that women are not as qualified as men or do not possess the necessary qualities to be successful managers.

In the past, research on the status of women in managerial positions primarily focused on developed Western countries such as the USA (Schein et al., 1989), the UK and Germany (Schein and Mueller, 1992), Canada (Burke, 1994), and Northern Ireland (Cromie, 1981), along with their Eastern counterparts such as Japan and China (Schein et al., 1996). There are potential gains to be derived from studying countries that have different cultures and religions, aside from the previously mentioned ones. Researching new countries could provide further insight into how culture affects the perception of women in managerial positions. Hence, it is important to examine how men and women sex stereotype managerial positions and how they view women in managerial roles in different countries. Very few studies to this date have attempted to study the status of women in managerial positions in Middle Eastern, Arab and Muslim countries. The current study utilizes the Schein Descriptive Index and the Women as Managers Scale (WAMS) to examine Egypt, a Muslim, Arab and Middle Eastern country. The study attempts to compare the status of women in managerial positions in Egypt and the USA in order to provide meaningful cross cultural comparisons.

*Women's roles in Egypt*

1  
2  
3  
4 Egyptians have traditionally viewed men as possessing the following characteristics:  
5  
6 leading, independent, aggressive, and dominant. However, women were traditionally seen as  
7  
8 passive, dependent, gentle, and responsible for household tasks (Mensch et al., 2003; Baron,  
9  
10 1994). Congruent with these traditional views, existing research conducted in Egypt (Amin and  
11  
12 Al-Bassusi, 2002; El-Laithy, 2003) shows that throughout Egypt's history, women in particular,  
13  
14 simply because of their sex, were discriminated against in the workplace and constrained to the  
15  
16 roles of care givers, child bearers, and nurturers in their families. At the same time, men assumed  
17  
18 the role of the bread winner and were responsible for providing food, shelter, clothing, and the  
19  
20 rest of life's necessities for the women (Naguib and Lloyd, 1994). As far as economic activities  
21  
22 not based on the family unit were concerned, the norms and customs were that Egyptian women  
23  
24 could only work as wage workers in agriculture and industry when their families were in need of  
25  
26 their financial assistance (Amin and Al-Bassusi, 2002; Tucker, 1985).  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

32 Over the past few decades in Egypt, women have started to enter the labour force in large  
33  
34 numbers. This influx of women into the labour force notwithstanding, Egypt still has one of the  
35  
36 lowest wage labour participation rates for women in the world (El-Laithy, 2003; Baron, 1994).  
37  
38 Only recently Egyptian women have seen an increase in their participation in salaried labour  
39  
40 force and have been empowered, in rare instances, to reach managerial positions (Handoussa and  
41  
42 El-Oraby, 2004; Shami et al., 1990). Hence, at least hypothetically, both Egyptian men and  
43  
44 women are expected to sex stereotype managerial positions against women based on the type of  
45  
46 jobs women held in the past such as clerical and secretarial work, tourist guides, waitresses, etc.  
47  
48 Our study will examine whether Egyptian females show more positive attitudes toward women  
49  
50 managers than their Egyptian male counterparts.  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

### *Role Congruity Theory*

Eagly (1987) defined Gender Role Congruity (GRC) as "those shared expectations that apply to individuals on the basis of their socially defined gender." Similarly, Burn (1997), explained GRC as "Sets of norms that communicate what is generally appropriate for each sex." According to Konrad and Cannings (1997), in western industrialized society, the female gender role has been that of homemaker and child-rearer, and the male gender role has been that of income provider for the family. Given these gender roles, Burn (1995) stated that both men and women experience normative and informational pressures to conform to societal gender roles. Thus, people, in order to avoid disapproval, may conform to societal and/or organizational gender roles. The other pressure discussed by Burn was the informational pressure. In a socially constructed world, informational pressure refers to people's reliance on social information in order to navigate socially within their work environment. People may conform to gender roles as a guide for appropriate behaviour in new, ambiguous, or complex situations within the organization.

Research has shown that gender stereotypes changed little between 1972 and 1988 (Brabant and Mooney, 1986; Bergen and Williams, 1991). As proof of this gender stereotype, DiBenedetto and Tittle (1990) found that both men and women in their sample perceived a trade-off between paid work and family for women but not for men (Konrad and Cannings, 1997). Evidence that women conduct more childcare than men and that men are more likely to be in the labour force full time than women indicates that traditional gender role expectations influence behaviour (Alpern, 1993; Snyder, 1994). As such, GRC theory still applies in contemporary western society.

1  
2  
3 In the cases when work roles are ambiguous, productivity becomes difficult to observe.  
4  
5 In such situations, productivity is less likely to be a good predictor of earnings (Konrad and  
6  
7 Pfeffer, 1990). In addition to productivity, normative pressures affect the rewards workers  
8  
9 receive from organizations (Bergmann, 1989). Norms probably have a stronger influence on  
10  
11 organizational rewards when productivity is difficult to measure. Hence, normative pressures  
12  
13 such as GRC may be expected to influence the organizational rewards received by workers  
14  
15 whose productivity is difficult to observe.  
16  
17  
18  
19

20 The work of managers, the subjects of the present research, is quite ambiguous, and the  
21  
22 problem of describing managerial work has been the focus of a rather large body of research  
23  
24 (Luthans, 1988; Hales, 1986; Mintzberg, 1973). It is not unreasonable, therefore, to expect that  
25  
26 GRC pressures might affect managers' organizational rewards. Recent studies of women and  
27  
28 men in management support the GRC perspective. One implication is that employers may be  
29  
30 more willing to accommodate women's desires to balance work and family than men's. For  
31  
32 example, Schneer and Reitman (1990) found that withdrawing from the labour force for a period  
33  
34 of time had a greater negative impact on men's earnings than on women's. Further, when women  
35  
36 work reduced hours or withdraw from the labour force for family reasons, the impact for long  
37  
38 term earnings was negligible (Olson and Frieze, 1989). A study by Lobel and St. Clair (1992)  
39  
40 reported that women managers with a strong family orientation received larger merit salary  
41  
42 increases than their male counterparts. Konrad and Cannings (1997) found that men were more  
43  
44 strongly penalized for dividing their attention between work and family than were women.  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49

50 Further addressing this issue of GRC, Cleveland et al., (2000) and Powell and Graves  
51  
52 (2003) reviewed considerable research indicating that individuals in organizations form mental  
53  
54 prototypes or images of an ideal candidate or incumbent for a specific organizational role.  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

1  
2  
3 Further, these prototypes may involve traits that are stereotypic of one gender (e.g., being male).  
4  
5 When the tasks involved are typecast as mostly masculine, such as taking aggressive action and  
6  
7 performing physically demanding tasks, and when most job incumbents are men, the prototype  
8  
9 will likely be masculine, and men will routinely be deemed more suitable for the role by male  
10  
11 and female evaluators to an equivalent extent (Biernat and Kobrynowicz, 1997; Cleveland et al.,  
12  
13 2000; Powell and Graves, 2003; Heilman et al., 2004). This perceptual bias may occur even  
14  
15 when evaluators have extensive information about individuals' relevant credentials, experiences,  
16  
17 and values, simply because being female is incongruent with the gender prescriptions inherent in  
18  
19 the male-typed role (Pratto et al., 1997; Thomas-Hunt and Phillips, 2004; Heilman et al., 2004).  
20  
21 In this vein, scholars have suggested that stereotypes about women in the workplace are difficult  
22  
23 to overcome, inasmuch as they are entrenched, influential, and automatically activated (Pratto et  
24  
25 al., 1997; Bargh, 1999; Powell and Graves, 2003; Chattopadhyay et al., 2004).  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

## 32 **Prior Research**

### 33 *Schein Descriptive Index*

34  
35  
36  
37 Basic findings of previous studies regarding the sex role stereotype and requisite  
38  
39 management characteristics could be summarized in Schein's (1973, 1975) work which  
40  
41 demonstrated that managerial positions were mainly dominated by males. A sample of male US  
42  
43 managers (Schein, 1973) and another one of female US managers (Schein, 1975) showed that  
44  
45 both males and females perceived that successful middle managers ought to possess certain  
46  
47 characteristics, and those characteristics were viewed as more commonly held by men than by  
48  
49 women. Numerous researchers replicated Schein (1973, 1975), utilizing the Schein Descriptive  
50  
51 Index. Brenner et al., (1989), for example, found that US males still stereotype against females  
52  
53 regarding the characteristics that successful middle managers ought to possess, while females no  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

1  
2  
3 longer stereotype the managerial position favouring males. One possible explanation for the  
4  
5 variation in the findings from the studies conducted in 1970's and late 1980's is that women  
6  
7 were beginning to change their opinions regarding the characteristics that successful middle  
8  
9 managers ought to possess, not restricting those characteristics to males. The reasoning behind the  
10  
11 previous statement could be because females have recently held more managerial positions than  
12  
13 in the past in the USA. But, in order to generalize such findings, more studies need to be  
14  
15 conducted in different countries and at different points in time to determine whether such  
16  
17 findings will continue to change over time.  
18  
19  
20  
21

22         Schein and Mueller (1992) answered a crucial question regarding the extent of the  
23  
24 existence of sex role stereotypical thinking of a successful middle manager job in other countries  
25  
26 and the comparison of such stereotypical thinking across countries. They found that male  
27  
28 management students within Germany, UK, and the USA stereotyped successful middle manager  
29  
30 characteristics to be male dominated. Female management students in Germany stereotyped  
31  
32 successful middle manager characteristics to be male dominated as well. Female management  
33  
34 students in UK also stereotyped successful middle manager characteristics to be male dominated  
35  
36 but perceived a greater resemblance between females and successful middle managers than the  
37  
38 German females. Female management students in the USA did not stereotype successful middle  
39  
40 manager characteristics to be either male or female dominated. Furthermore, Schein et al. (1996)  
41  
42 examined two developed Eastern countries: China and Japan. They found that Chinese males  
43  
44 stereotyped successful middle manager characteristics to be male dominated, while Chinese  
45  
46 females were somewhat close to the managerial stereotype although they perceived some  
47  
48 resemblance between characteristics held by females and successful middle managers. Both  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60



1  
2  
3 Japanese males and females stereotyped successful middle manager characteristics to be male  
4  
5 dominated.  
6  
7  
8  
9

#### 10 *Women as Managers Scale (WAMS)*

11  
12 The WAMS is a scale that measures attitudes toward women as managers. It has been  
13 used extensively in previous studies that have attempted to measure such attitudes (e.g. Sakalli-  
14 Ugurlu and Beydogan, 2002). Early research in a USA sample using the WAMS found that  
15 women rated women significantly higher than men rated men as managers (Die et al., 1990). In  
16 addition, studies conducted in the USA that used instruments that included questions relating to  
17 the ability of females to be successful managers (such as the WAMS) generally found that  
18 females were more prone to favour women managers over men managers (e.g., Stevens and  
19 DeNisi, 1980). However, when different instruments were used that were somewhat disguised  
20 regarding the questions relating to the ability of females to be successful managers (such as the  
21 Schein Descriptive Index), both men and women showed negative attitudes towards women as  
22 managers. There are no studies that we know of that have attempted to examine those beliefs  
23 regarding women managers in Middle Eastern, Arab and Muslim countries. Nevertheless, there  
24 have been numerous studies conducted on different countries. Among those studies was a study  
25 by Sakalli-Ugurlu and Beydogan (2002) conducted in Turkey, using the WAMS that found that  
26 females held more positive attitudes toward women managers than did males. Another study by  
27 Burke (1994) was conducted in Canada using the WAMS and found that male business students  
28 showed significantly more negative attitudes towards women as managers than their female  
29 counterparts. Another study by Cromie (1981) was conducted on Northern Ireland using the  
30 WAMS and found that men were less inclined to accept women as managers than were women.  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

1  
2  
3 The findings of these previous studies were not totally new because they have been previously  
4 documented in earlier studies (such as Dubno, 1985).  
5  
6

7  
8 It is interesting to note that the phenomenon of male stereotyping against females is a  
9 worldwide phenomenon and is not restricted to specific countries. Nevertheless, in order to  
10 generalize these findings, it is necessary to continue examining stereotyping in other countries in  
11 different parts of the world. To this end, it is interesting to examine the attitudes that Egyptian  
12 management students have toward women managers in Egypt, which is a Middle Eastern, Arab  
13 and Muslim country and is considered to be different than North American and European  
14 countries (including Turkey that is considered a European secular country).  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23

## 24 25 26 **Methods**

27  
28 We use the Schein Descriptive Index and the Women as Managers Scale (WAMS)  
29 compare the status of women in managerial positions in Egypt and the USA. Schein et al. (1989)  
30 found that women in the United States have more positive attitudes toward women managers  
31 than their American male counterparts. Stevens and DeNisi (1980) found that females were more  
32 prone to favour women managers over male managers. Sakalli-Ugurlu and Beydogan's (2002)  
33 study in Turkey found that females held more positive attitudes toward women managers than  
34 did males.  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43

44  
45 H1: Females will show more positive attitudes toward women managers than their male  
46 counterparts in both samples: USA and Egypt.  
47  
48

49 Women in Egypt have always been viewed as passive, dependent, gentle, and responsible  
50 for household tasks (Mensch et al., 2003; Baron, 1994). Egyptian women's entry into the labour  
51 force and their potential to reach managerial positions has been very recent (Handoussa and El-  
52 Oraby, 2004; Shami et al., 1990) compared to their counterparts in the USA.  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

1  
2  
3  
4 H2: American students will show more positive attitudes toward women managers than their  
5 Egyptian counterparts.  
6  
7

8  
9 We expect that Egyptian management students in the English section will be more prone  
10 not to sex stereotype managerial positions because they have received a substantially higher  
11 quality level of education throughout their primary and secondary education, as well as high  
12 level education at the university, while management students in the Arabic section have not  
13 received the same quality of education. Most of the students who attend the English section will  
14 be graduates of private schools. Those students usually come from wealthy families who are  
15 more liberal than your average Egyptian family. As a result, we expect the English section  
16 students to have a more favourable attitude towards women as managers. We should keep in  
17 mind that around 18.5% of Egyptians live on less than \$2 USD a day (UN Human Development  
18 Report).  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33

34 H3: English section male and female students will show more positive attitudes toward  
35 women managers than their male and female counterparts in the Arabic section in the Egyptian  
36 sample.  
37  
38  
39  
40

#### 41 *Sample*

42  
43 The Egyptian sample consisted of 404 male and 149 female undergraduate freshmen  
44 level students enrolled in a school of business in a large Egyptian university in the Fall Semester  
45 of 2010. This university, which is the second largest university in Egypt, is located in Egypt's  
46 capital, Cairo. The Egyptian sample was broken down into two sections, English and Arabic. All  
47 the courses throughout the four-year program in the English section are taught in English and all  
48 the courses in the Arabic section are taught in Arabic. Two hundred and sixty six students (202  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

1  
2  
3 males and 64 females) were enrolled in the Arabic section and 287 (202 males, 85 females) in  
4  
5 the English section. The USA sample consisted of 190 male and 134 female undergraduate  
6  
7 junior level students enrolled in a school of business in a large Midwestern university in the USA  
8  
9 in the Fall Semester of 2010.  
10  
11

### 12 13 *Procedure*

14  
15  
16 The distribution procedure was identical in both countries. Course instructors at the  
17  
18 colleges were mailed, in the case of the USA sample, or given, in the case of the Egyptian  
19  
20 sample, a closed folder containing distribution instructions, Schein Descriptive Index, and  
21  
22 Women as Managers Scale (WAMS). Each folder contained the same number of middle  
23  
24 manager, men, and women forms so that the Index could be distributed equally in each class.  
25  
26 The instructors were required to shuffle the forms prior to handing them out to ensure the  
27  
28 random distribution of forms. Each student received only one form of the Index to avoid  
29  
30 duplication of results and was not made aware of the purpose of the study prior to completion.  
31  
32 The questionnaires were completed during class time and returned to the instructor immediately  
33  
34 after completion. The students signed their names on a class attendance sheet of paper to receive  
35  
36 extra credit for their participation and were given an option for an alternate exercise in case they  
37  
38 did not wish to participate in the study. All students chose to participate. After completion of the  
39  
40 questionnaire, the students were debriefed and thanked.  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

47 The Schein Descriptive Index and WAMS were translated from English to Arabic for the  
48  
49 Arabic section students in the Egyptian sample. The translated version was not given to the  
50  
51 English section students in the Egyptian sample simply because they are proficient in English.  
52  
53 The decentring method, first suggested by Werner and Campbell (1970), which is based on the  
54  
55 back-translation procedure that is commonly used in cross-cultural research (Brislin, 1976) was  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

1  
2  
3 used to translate the Schein Descriptive Index and WAMS questionnaires from English to  
4  
5 Arabic. The instruments were originally in English, and a fluently bilingual native Egyptian  
6  
7 graduate student translated the questionnaires into the Arabic language. A second fluently  
8  
9 bilingual native Egyptian graduate student blindly translated the questionnaires back into the  
10  
11 original language, English. The original and translated English language questionnaires were  
12  
13 compared and examined for differences and it was determined that no differences existed  
14  
15 between the two English language questionnaires. Thus, no adjustments were necessary.  
16  
17  
18  
19

## 20 21 **Measuring instruments**

### 22 23 *Schein Descriptive Index*

24  
25 The 92-item Schein Descriptive Index (Schein, 1973) was used to define both the sex role  
26  
27 stereotypes and the characteristics of successful middle managers. Three forms of this index  
28  
29 were used. All three forms contained the same descriptive terms and instructions, except that one  
30  
31 form asked for a description of middle managers in general, one for a description of men in  
32  
33 general, and one for a description of women in general.  
34  
35  
36

37 The instructions on the three forms of the Index were as follows (Schein, 1975):  
38  
39 “On the following pages you will find a series of descriptive terms commonly used to  
40  
41 characterize people in general. Some of these terms are positive in connotation, others are  
42  
43 negative and some are neither very positive nor very negative. We would like you to use this list  
44  
45 to tell us what you think (successful middle managers, men in general, or women in general) are  
46  
47 like. In making your judgments, it might be helpful to imagine you are about to meet a person for  
48  
49 the first time and the only thing you know in advance is that the person is (a successful middle  
50  
51 manager, an adult male, or an adult female). Please rate each word or phrase in terms of how  
52  
53 characteristic it is of (successful middle managers, men in general, or women in general)”. The  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

1  
2  
3 ratings were made according to a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (not characteristic) to 5  
4  
5 (characteristic) with a neutral rating of 3 (neither characteristic nor uncharacteristic).  
6  
7

### 8 9 *Women as Managers Scale (WAMS)*

10  
11 The attitudes toward women as managers were measured on a 21-item scale developed  
12  
13 by Peters et al. (1974). Items referred to traits and behaviours expected from managers and  
14  
15 characteristics of women that might hinder their performance as managers. Respondents  
16  
17 indicated their agreement with each item on a 7-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly  
18  
19 disagree) to 7 (strongly agree) with scores ranging from 21 to 147, with the highest scores  
20  
21 indicating more favourable attitudes toward women as managers. The reliability of the 21-item  
22  
23 scale was 0.91 and has been validated with samples of students and managers (Peters et al.,  
24  
25 1974; Terborg et al., 1977). The WAMS was chosen because it has been used extensively in  
26  
27 previous studies that have attempted to measure attitudes toward women managers (e.g., Sakalli-  
28  
29 Ugurlu and Beydogan, 2002). The psychometric properties of the scale were detailed in Peters et  
30  
31 al. (1974). Terborg et al. (1977) presented evidence to support the construct validity of the scale,  
32  
33 and Ilgen and Moore (1983) verified its reliability. No changes were made to the WAMS  
34  
35 questionnaire.  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42

## 43 **Results**

### 44 *Schein Descriptive Index*

45  
46 The degree of similarity between the descriptions of men and middle managers and  
47  
48 between women and middle managers was determined by computing the intra-class correlation  
49  
50 coefficients ( $r'$ ) from two randomized-groups analyses of variance (see Hays, 1963, p. 424). The  
51  
52 randomized-groups were the 92-items in the Schein Descriptive Index. In the first analysis, the  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

1  
2  
3 scores within each group were the mean item ratings of men and middle managers. In the second  
4  
5 analysis, the scores within each group were the mean item ratings of women and middle  
6  
7 managers. According to Hays, the larger the value of  $r'$ , the more similar the observations in the  
8  
9 group tend to be relative to the observations in different groups. Thus, the smaller the within item  
10  
11 variability, relative to the between-item variability, the greater the similarity between the mean  
12  
13 item ratings of either men and middle managers or women and middle managers.  
14  
15

16  
17 The two analyses were run separately for the male and female samples within the two  
18  
19 countries, Egypt and USA.  
20  
21

22 -----Insert Table 1 About Here-----  
23  
24

#### 25 26 27 *Egyptian sample*

28  
29 As shown in Table 1, for males there was a positive significant resemblance (0.36)  
30  
31 between the ratings of men and middle managers and a negative significant resemblance  
32  
33 (-0.14) between the ratings of women and middle managers. For females, there was a larger  
34  
35 positive significant resemblance (0.47) between the ratings of men and middle managers than  
36  
37 those of males and a surprisingly more negative significant resemblance (-0.38) between the  
38  
39 ratings of women and middle managers than those of males. This finding suggests that females  
40  
41 are harsher on themselves when they rate themselves than males. This harshness is probably due  
42  
43 to the inherent culture and upbringing that teaches females that males are more capable to be  
44  
45 successful managers than females. Another reason could be the stipulations of both Islamic  
46  
47 religion and Egyptian culture, which states that men should support their wives and children,  
48  
49 probably influencing the views of the work patterns of women and what kinds of jobs are more  
50  
51 suitable for them to occupy, clearly excluding managerial positions. Those positions that were  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

1  
2  
3 deemed suitable for women were referred to as “proper work roles for women” such as clerical,  
4  
5 secretarial, tourist guides, waitresses, etc. (Baron, 1994).  
6  
7

#### 8 9 *USA sample*

10  
11 As shown in Table 1, for males there was a large positive significant resemblance (0.64)  
12  
13 between the ratings of men and middle managers and a moderate positive significant  
14  
15 resemblance (0.48) between the ratings of women and middle managers. For females, there was a  
16  
17 smaller positive significant resemblance (0.52) between the ratings of men and middle managers  
18  
19 than those of males and a larger positive significant resemblance (0.61) between the ratings of  
20  
21 women and middle managers than those of males. These results are similar to those of Schein et  
22  
23 al. (1989).  
24  
25  
26

27  
28 -----Insert Table 2 About Here-----  
29  
30  
31

32  
33 Table 2 shows the Egyptian and USA sample, along with those found by Schein and  
34  
35 Mueller (1992) for male and female British and German management students, Schein et al.  
36  
37 (1989) for male and female US management students, and Schein et al. (1996) for male and  
38  
39 female Chinese and Japanese management students. The changes in male and female attitudes  
40  
41 over time in different countries are shown in Table 2. For example, the Egyptian females are  
42  
43 harsher on their ratings of middle managers and women (-0.38) than their German counterparts  
44  
45 (0.19), while the German females are more favourable on their ratings of middle managers and  
46  
47 men (0.66) than those of the Egyptian females (0.47). The previous results could be explained in  
48  
49 terms of culture. The Egyptian culture is ingrained with the thought that women do not possess  
50  
51 the characteristics and qualities that successful middle managers need while men do.  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60



-----Insert Table 3 About Here-----

*Women As Managers Scale (WAMS)*

Table 3 presents some descriptive statistics for the samples in both countries: Egypt and USA. The Egyptian sample is broken down by section to represent the differences that students in each section have towards women as managers. This table shows that the USA students are more favourable towards women as managers than Egyptian students, both in men and women raters. The higher scores indicate a more favourable attitude toward women as managers.

When the results are examined by gender of rater, we find that women raters in the USA sample are more favourable towards women as managers than men raters (130.11 vs. 109.11). In the Egyptian sample, we find the same observation that was found in the USA sample - women raters are more favourable towards women as managers than men raters (62.16 vs. 34.09 for the Arabic section and 64.47 vs. 38.37 for the English section). We find that the women raters in the English section are slightly more favourable towards women as managers than the women raters in the Arabic section (64.47 vs. 62.16). We find a similar result when we look at the men raters. We find that men raters in the English section are more favourable towards women as managers than those in the Arabic section (38.37 vs. 34.09). One interpretation for the two previous findings could be explained in terms of the western style of education which exposed the English section students to different new concepts which lead them to view women as possessing the characteristics of successful middle managers, compared to the Arabic section students who have not received western style education and continue to believe what they have learned about the notion that women do not possess the necessary characteristics that are required of successful middle managers.

## Discussion, Implications and Conclusion

The current study has investigated the perceptions of various groups of students regarding women's possession of suitable managerial skills and characteristics. The hypotheses were that western-influenced students and women in general would hold more positive perceptions of women as managers. Conversely, the hypotheses also stated that men in general and Egyptian educated men and women would hold more negative perceptions of women as managers. Hypotheses one stated, "Females will show more positive attitudes toward women managers than their male counterparts in both samples: USA and Egypt." The findings show that hypothesis 1 proves true for women in the US sample, but not for Egyptian females, who had a somewhat negative perception of female managers, given the possible aforementioned traditional Egyptian sex stereotypes. The results statistically show differences among men and women in the cultures of Egypt and the USA.

Hypothesis two states, "USA students will show more positive attitudes toward women managers than their Egyptian counterparts." This hypothesis held to be somewhat true. Egyptian males and females held negative views of women managers. However, in the USA sample, women held more favourable views of women managers than did their male counterparts. Again, the results statistically show differences among men and women in the cultures of Egypt and the USA.

Hypothesis three states, "English section male and female students will show more positive attitudes toward women managers than their male and female counterparts in the Arabic section in the Egyptian sample." In the English and Arabic sections, women held more favourable views toward women managers than did male respondents. The English section female students had a more positive perception of female managers than their Arabic section

1  
2  
3 counterparts. Again, the results statistically show differences among men and women in Egypt  
4  
5 depending on whether or not they received a western-style education.  
6  
7

8 Our contribution was to study the perceptions of female leaders in Egypt, an Arab,  
9  
10 Muslim, Middle Eastern country. The gender research on countries with conservative cultures,  
11  
12 such as Egypt, is an area that remains mostly unexamined. Cross-cultural studies, such as ours,  
13  
14 are essential in better understanding the business environment in emerging markets all over the  
15  
16 world. The practical implications of our study is that it will help developed countries, such as the  
17  
18 USA, better direct their aid programs, such as the USAID, when it comes to promoting gender  
19  
20 equality and championing women's rights in the Middle East.  
21  
22  
23

24 Our findings raise important questions about how culture affects business as globalization  
25  
26 flattens the world around us. First, are Middle Eastern businesses that engage in international  
27  
28 trade with western countries less likely to develop relations with companies that have women in  
29  
30 roles of leadership? Second, do western businesses have reservations appointing women to  
31  
32 leadership positions that deal in Middle Eastern business relations? Lastly, do international  
33  
34 businesses treat women leaders differently than men leaders when developing a global policy?  
35  
36  
37

38 This study was conducted using traditional students in traditional settings at traditional  
39  
40 universities. In today's global economy this study should be further developed to consider the  
41  
42 gender perceptions in online or electronic leadership positions, while concurrently comparing  
43  
44 those findings to the traditional results reported here. We conclude and suggest that the  
45  
46 perceptions of gender are major considerations in a global economy and while numerous  
47  
48 countries have employed legal controls to help resolve gender inequalities, a global concern is  
49  
50 now present that needs to be addressed. This study is but a start to the development of equalities  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60 needed in gender roles within a global economy.

1  
2  
3 *Limitations*  
4

5           The sample is limited to management students in Egypt and the USA. A sample of  
6 middle managers would have provided interesting results. However, the response rate would  
7 have been very low. The authors use Egypt as an example of a Middle Eastern country.  
8 However, it should be noted that the Middle East includes countries with different cultures, such  
9 as Israel. It should also be noted that about 10% of Egypt's population are Coptic Christians who  
10 do not necessarily share the same cultural beliefs as the country's Muslim majority.  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

Table 1

Source		Egypt	USA
All raters	Managers and men	0.44***	0.4***
	Managers and women	-0.23***	0.31***
	Z*	9.4908***	1.07262
Males	Managers and men	0.36***	0.64***
	Managers and women	-0.14***	0.48***
	Z*	5.9792***	1.85533***
Females	Managers and men	0.47***	0.52***
	Managers and women	-0.38***	0.61***
	Z*	6.1392***	-0.037892

\*\*\* Significant at 0.001, \*\* Significant at 0.01, \* Significant at 0.05

Table 2

Source		Egypt (Current Study)	USA (Current Study)	China (1996)	Japan (1996)	Germany (1992)	UK (1992)	USA (1989)
Male	Managers and men	0.36***	0.64***	0.91***	0.54***	0.74***	0.67***	0.7***
	Managers and women	-0.14***	0.48***	-0.04	-0.07	0.04	0.02	0.11
Females	Managers and men	0.47***	0.52***	0.91***	0.68***	0.66***	0.6***	0.51***
	Managers and women	-0.38***	0.61***	0.28***	-0.04	0.19*	0.31***	0.43***

\*\*\* Significant at 0.001, \*\* Significant at 0.01, \* Significant at 0.05

**Table 3**

Gender of rater		Egypt		USA
		Arabic section	English section	
Men	Mean	34.09	38.37	109.11
	Standard deviation	2.64	8.07	19.93
	Number of Observations	205	199	190
Women	Mean	62.16	64.47	130.11
	Standard deviation	4.28	4.81	12.17
	Number of Observations	62	87	134

For Peer Review

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

## References

- Alpern, S. (1993), "In the beginning: A history of women in management", in E. A. Fagenson (Ed.), *Women in Management: Trends, issues, and challenges in managerial Diversity*, Sage, Newbury Park, CA, pp. 19-51.
- Amin, S. and Al-Bassusi, N. (2002), "Wage work to prepare for marriage: Labour force entry for young women in Egypt", paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, 9-11 May, Atlanta, USA.
- Bargh, J. (1999), "The cognitive monster: The case against the controllability of automatic stereotype effects", in Chaiken S., Trope, Y. (Ed.), *Dual-process theories in social psychology*, Guilford, New York, NY, pp. 361-382.
- Baron, A. (1994), *Feminism in the Labour Movement: Women and the United Auto Workers, 1935-1975*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.
- Bergen, D. and Williams, J. (1991), "Sex stereotypes in the United States revisited: 1972-1988", *Sex Roles*, Vol. 24, pp. 413-423.
- Bergmann, B. (1989), "Does the market for women's labour need fixing?", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 3, pp. 43-60.
- Biernat, M. and Kobrynowicz, D. (1997), "Gender- and race-based standards of competence: Lower minimum standards but higher ability standards for devalued groups", *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, Vol. 72, pp. 544-557.
- Brabant, S. and Mooney, L. (1986), "Sex role stereotyping in the Sunday comics: Ten years Later", *Sex Roles*, Vol. 14, pp. 141-148.
- Brenner, O., Tomkiewicz, J. and Schein, V. (1989), "The relationship between sex role stereotypes and requisite management characteristics revisited", *Academy of Management Journal*, Vol. 32, pp. 662-669.
- Brislin, R. (1976), "Comparative research methodology: Cross-cultural studies", *International Journal of Psychology*, Vol. 11, pp. 215-229.
- Burke, R. (1994), "Canadian business students' attitudes towards women as managers", *Psychological Reports*, Vol. 75, pp. 1123-1129.
- Burn, S. (1995), *The social psychology of gender*, Mc-Graw-Hill, New York, NY.
- Chattopadhyay, P., Tluchowska, M. and George, E. (2004), "Identifying the ingroup: A closer look at the influence of demographic dissimilarity on employee social identity", *Academy of Management Review*, Vol. 29, pp. 180-202.

- 1  
2  
3 Cleveland, J., Stockdale, M. and Murphy, K. (2000), *Women and men in organizations: Sex*  
4 *and gender issues at work*, Erlbaum, Mahwah, NJ.  
5  
6  
7 Cromie, S. (1981), "Women as managers in Northern Ireland", *Journal of Occupational*  
8 *Psychology*, Vol. 54, pp. 87-91.  
9  
10  
11 Dubno, P. (1985), "Attitudes toward women executives: A longitudinal approach",  
12 *Academy of Management Journal*, Vol. 28, pp. 235-239.  
13  
14 Die, A., Debbs Jr., T. and Walker Jr., J. (1990), "Managerial evaluations by men and women  
15 managers", *The Journal of Social Psychology*, Vol. 130, pp. 763-769.  
16  
17  
18 Eagly, A. (1987), *Sex differences in social behaviour: A social role interpretation*,  
19 Erlbaum, Hillsdale, NJ.  
20  
21 El-Laithy, H. (2003), "The gender dimensions of poverty in Egypt", working paper [0127],  
22 Economic Research Forum, Cairo, Egypt.  
23  
24  
25 Hales, C. (1986), "What do managers do? A critical review of the evidence", *Journal of*  
26 *Management Studies*, Vol. 23, pp. 88-115.  
27  
28 Handoussa, H. And El-Oraby, N. (2004), "Civil service wages and reform: The case of Egypt",  
29 working paper [98], Egyptian Centre for Economic Studies, Cairo, Egypt.  
30  
31  
32 Hays, W. (1963), *Statistics for psychologists*, Rinehart and Winston , New York, NY.  
33  
34 Heilman, M., Wallen, A., Fuchs, D. and Tamkins, M. (2004), "Penalties for success:  
35 Reactions to women who succeed in male gender-typed tasks", *Journal of Applied*  
36 *Psychology*, Vol. 89, pp. 416-427.  
37  
38  
39 Ilgen, D. and Moore, C. (1983), "When reason fails: A comment on the reliability and  
40 dimensionality of the WAMS", *Academy of Management Journal*, Vol. 20, pp. 89-100.  
41  
42  
43 Konrad, A. and Cannings, K. (1997), "The effects of gender role congruence and statistical  
44 discrimination on managerial advancement", *Human Relations*, Vol. 50, pp. 1305-1329.  
45  
46  
47 Konrad, A. and Pfeffer, J. (1990), "Do you get what you deserve? Factors affecting the  
48 relationship between productivity and pay", *Administrative Science Quarterly*, Vol. 35,  
49 pp. 258-285.  
50  
51  
52 Lobel, S. and St. Clair, L. (1992), "Effects of family responsibilities, gender, and career  
53 identity salience on performance outcomes", *Academy of Management Journal*, Vol. 35,  
54 pp. 1057-1069  
55  
56  
57 Luthans, E. (1988), "Successful vs. effective real managers", *Academy of Management*  
58 *Executive*, Vol. 2, pp. 127-132.  
59  
60



- 1  
2  
3  
4 Mensch, B., Ibrahim, B., Lee, S. And El-Gibaly, O. (2003), "Gender-role attitudes among  
5 Egyptian Adolescents", *Studies in Family Planning*, Vol. 34, pp. 8-18.  
6  
7  
8 Mintzberg, H. (1973), *The nature of managerial work*, Harper & Row, New York, NY.  
9  
10 Naguib, N. And Lloyd, C. (1994), *Gender inequalities and demographic behaviour: Egypt*,  
11 Population Council, New York, NY.  
12  
13  
14 Olson, J. and Frieze, I. (1989), "Job interruptions and part-time work: Their effect on  
15 MBAs' income", *Industrial Relations*, Vol. 28, pp. 373-386.  
16  
17  
18 Peters, L., Terborg, J. and Taynor, J. (1974), "Women as managers scale (WAMS): A measure  
19 of attitudes toward women in management positions", *JSAS Catalogue of Selected*  
20 *Documents in Psychology*, Vol. 4, pp. 1-43.  
21  
22 Pratto, F., Stallworth, L., Sidanius, J. and Siers B. (1997), "The gender gap in occupational role  
23 attainment: A social dominance approach", *Journal of Personality and Social*  
24 *Psychology*, Vol. 72, pp. 37-53.  
25  
26  
27 Powell, G. and Graves, L. (2003), *Women and men in management*, Sage, Thousand Oaks, CA.  
28  
29 Sakalli-Ugurlu, N. and Beydogan, B. (2002), "Turkish college students' attitudes toward women  
30 managers: The effects of patriarchy, sexism, and gender differences", *Journal of*  
31 *Psychology*, Vol. 136, pp. 647-656.  
32  
33  
34 Schein, V. (1973) "The relationship between sex role stereotypes and requisite management  
35 characteristics", *Journal of Applied Psychology*, Vol. 57, pp. 95-100.  
36  
37  
38 Schein, V. (1975), "Relationships between sex role stereotypes and requisite management  
39 characteristics among female managers", *Journal of Applied Psychology*, Vol. 60, pp.  
40 340-344.  
41  
42  
43 Schein, V. and Mueller, R. (1992), "Sex role stereotyping and requisite management  
44 characteristics: A cross cultural look", *Journal of Organizational Behaviour*, Vol. 13, pp.  
45 439-447.  
46  
47  
48 Schein, V., Mueller, R. and Jacobson, C. (1989), "The relationship between sex role stereotypes  
49 and requisite management characteristics among college students", *Sex Roles*,  
50 Vol. 20, pp. 103-110.  
51  
52  
53 Schein, V., Mueller, R., Lituchy, T. and Liu, J. (1996), "Think manager – think male: A global  
54 phenomenon?", *Journal of Organizational Behaviour*, Vol. 17, pp. 33-41.  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60
- Schneer, J. and Reitman, F. (1990), "Effects of employment gaps on the careers of MBAs: More damaging for men than for women?", *Academy of Management Journal*, Vol. 33, pp. 391-406.
- Shami, S., Taminian, L., Morsy, S., El Bakri, Z. and El-Wathig, M. (1990), *Women in Arab society: Work patterns and gender relations in Egypt, Jordan, and Sudan*, Berg Publishers limited & UNESCO, New York, NY.
- Snyder, N. (1994), "Career women in perspective: The Wichita sample", in Konek, C. and Kitch, S. (Ed.), *Women and careers: Issues and challenges*, Sage, Newbury Park, CA, pp. 1-18.
- Stevens, G. and DeNisi, A. (1980), "Women as managers: Attitudes and attributes for performance by men and women", *Academy of Management Journal*, Vol. 23, pp. 355-361.
- Terborg, J., Peters, L., Ilgen, D. and Smith, F. (1977), "Organizational and personal correlates of attitudes toward women as managers", *Academy of Management Journal*, Vol. 20, pp. 101-116.
- Thomas-Hunt, M. and Phillips, K. (2004), "When what you know is not enough: Expertise and gender dynamics in task groups", *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, Vol. 30, pp. 1585-1598.
- Tucker, J. (1985), *Women in nineteenth century Egypt*, University Press, Cambridge, UK.
- Werner, O. and Campbell, D. (1976), "Translating, working through interpreters, and the problem of decentering", in Naroll, R. and Cohen, R. (Ed.), *A handbook of method in cultural anthropology*, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY, pp. 398-420.