**Whose Shoulders Are You Standing On? Inclusive Citation Practices in Literature Reviews**

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Description

When writing a research paper, it can be easy to overlook the human side of scholarship – how being cited in a study (or not) can have real, material consequences, and how social structures can systematically exclude certain people from scholarship. This workshop will explore all of these ideas and give you strategies for making your literature review more inclusive.

Learning Outcomes:

* Students will be able to articular some of the material consequences of citation practices in scholarly and research fields.
* Students will be able to identify baseline strategies for practicing inclusive citation in their fields of study.
* Students will be able to consider alternative sources of authority in their fields of study.

Content to be read ahead of time:

* <https://blog.mahabali.me/writing/inclusive-citation-how-diverse-are-your-references/>
* <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/08/16/new-research-shows-extent-gender-gap-citations>
* Additional readings if more time is allotted:
	+ <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/02/womens-history-in-science-hidden-footnotes/582472/>
	+ Sources to be written into a case study about an established female researcher being left out of a journalistic piece about the exact thing she studies:
		- <https://twitter.com/safiyanoble/status/1102593525101854721?s=20>
		- <https://twitter.com/ubiquity75/status/1100059615998312448?s=20>

Pre-workshop activity:

* After doing readings, choose either a) your own literature review up to this point or b) a scholarly article you’re considering for your literature review.
* Your task is to analyze the gender dynamics of this piece’s works cited page (up to 20 sources). Based on what you can infer of the genders of the authors cited, what do you notice? Is there a balance or imbalance of authors cited? Write a discussion post about what you notice and what any gender gap or lack thereof says to you about whose voices are valued in your field. *Instructor's note: In order to remain manageable, this activity asked students to make assumptions about gender based on superficial characteristics and sort those genders largely into a binary. Some brief classroom time was spent unpacking how, in reality, gender is a complex spectrum.*

Workshop skeleton outline:

* Introduce ourselves
* Former knowledge check: do you tend to pay much attention to the works cited in the studies you include in your research? Have you considered the concept of inclusive citations before?
	+ What are your initial reactions to the readings and the activity? What did you learn? What surprised you?
* Quick overview of peer review/career advancement in academia – who gets cited has very real impacts on the people doing this work.
	+ Once you get hired into academia (which is a fraught matter in its own right), as a researcher you have to publish. Your publications and their impact have real consequences on getting a job, keeping a job, and advancing in your job.
* **Discuss:** The gender gap in research is only one piece of the puzzle. What are other aspects we need to consider to be more inclusive researchers?
	+ Race is a big one, of course – point to the [#citeblackwomen](https://www.citeblackwomencollective.org/) movement.
* **Discuss:** What can you do to incorporate inclusive citations in your own practice? Some talking points:
	+ Reiterate strategies from Maha Bali article.
	+ Other strategies:
		- Point to blogs and alt sources like social media for places outside of academia where people are sharing their work.
			* Examples of this include tribal newspapers where indigenous voices are able to be heard more than in academia, blogs, podcasts.
		- Not being immediately dismissive of articles from lesser-known and/or open-access journals, even if there appears to be a language barrier. Speaking English is an immense privilege as a researcher. This is a fine line to walk.
		- Especially if this is a long-term project, try to immerse yourself into where scholars in your field are communicating more informally. This can give you a glimpse into the voices that are communicating important matters but not necessarily through traditional, high-barrier means. (Plus, blogs are often the early seeds of research articles.)
* Is inclusive citing a practical consideration for your research?
	+ Your advisor may want you to steer clear of non-traditional scholarship and only stick to scholarly, peer-reviewed sources. Do what works best for you in your current situation – but I hope you will bring some of what you learned today with you when you have a bit more autonomy.
* Final thoughts, questions? Wrap-up.