UC RIVERSIDE

POLITICAL SCIENCE SPEAKER SERIES



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INFORMED EMPOWERMENT

We investigate behavioral mechanisms by which gender differences affect group decision-making: (1) when informed members form a majority, and (2) when informed individuals hold formal authority, such as veto power. We test our theory in gender-identity-blind environments. In our experiments, neither women or men have gendered expertise on the decision tasks. We examine when gender differences in information-seeking aggregate into group performance and how they affect decision quality on gender-neutral issues. We find that women are more willing than men to incur costs to obtain decision-relevant information. When women comprise the majority, their higher individual-level information-seeking accumulates, increasing the likelihood that the group makes optimal decisions. In groups where the majority is insufficiently informed, women with veto power exercise it more selectively and cautiously than men, thereby reducing suboptimal decision outcomes. These effects are most prominent in decision contexts in which acquiring information is neither trivial nor infeasible.

TIME

November 2, 2026
12:10PM-1:20PM

LOCATION

INTS 1113