COVID-19 and Unequal Times for Scientists:Survey Evidence

Kyle R. Myers
Harvard Business School



Results from surveys of scientists

Full-time academics in U.S., Canada, Europe – most disciplines

Who lost the most research time?

- "Bench" scientists
- Caring for young children
- Women

nature human behaviour

Comment | Published: 15 July 2020

Unequal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on scientists

Kyle R. Myers ⊠, Wei Yang Tham, Yian Yin, Nina Cohodes, Jerry G. Thursby, Marie C. Thursby, Peter Schiffer, Joseph T. Walsh, Karim R. Lakhani & Dashun Wang ⊠

Nature Human Behaviour 4, 880-883(2020) | Cite this article

Results from surveys of scientists

Full-time academics in U.S., Canada, Europe – most disciplines

Who lost the most research time?

- "Bench" scientists
- Caring for young children
- Women

nature human behaviour

Comment | Published: 15 July 2020

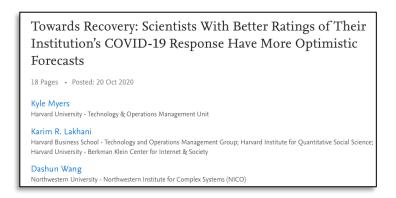
Unequal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on scientists

Kyle R. Myers ⊠, Wei Yang Tham, Yian Yin, Nina Cohodes, Jerry G. Thursby, Marie C. Thursby, Peter Schiffer, Joseph T. Walsh, Karim R. Lakhani & Dashun Wang ⊠

Nature Human Behaviour 4, 880-883(2020) | Cite this article

Who had more pessimistic forecasts?

- Those who lose research time
- Those with worse ratings of their institution's pandemic response



As policies develop, be mindful of the tradeoffs of:

"Winner-take-all" rewards

 Prizes are good at incentivizing hard work, but not allowing for diverse work styles

> A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter

Claudia Goldin

AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW VOL. 104, NO. 4, APRIL 2014 (pp. 1091-1119)

As policies develop, be mindful of the tradeoffs of:

"Winner-take-all" rewards

 Prizes are good at incentivizing hard work, but not allowing for diverse work styles

A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter

Claudia Goldin

AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW VOL. 104, NO. 4, APRIL 2014 (pp. 1091-1119)

"One-size-fits-all" support

 Equal help given to those with unequal needs can lead to new and wider gaps

Equal but Inequitable: Who Benefits from Gender-Neutral Tenure Clock Stopping Policies?

Heather Anteco

AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW VOL. 108, NO. 9, SEPTEMBER 2018 (pp. 2420-41)