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DO STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS PHYSICS DEPEND ON GENDER?

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The purpose of this study was to analyze whether high school and university students' attitudes towards physics show evidence of a gender bias. To this aim, we used a new framework, the Semiotic Cultural Psychological Theory (SCPT). A view-of-physics questionnaire was used as instrument to collect data with 1,603 high school and university Italian students. We identified four attitudes towards physics: a) interesting and important for society; b) quite interesting, but not useful for society; c) difficult and irrelevant for society; d) niche that protect from society. The identified attitudes do show a significant gender bias but with a weak effect.

Author: Dr CATENA, Danilo (Department of Physics "E. Pancini")

Co-author: TESTA, Italo (University Federico II Naples)

Presenters: Dr CATENA, Danilo (Department of Physics "E. Pancini"); CATENA, danilo

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