面試官與應徵者的性別組合對面談評價之影響: 大學教師甄選面談的實證

The Effects of Interviewer-Applicant Gender Combination on the Interview Evaluation: An Empirical Study on Interviews of University Faculty

羅新興/健行科技大學企業管理系暨經營管理研究所教授

Hsin-Hsin Lo, Professor, Department of Business Administration, Chien Hsin University of Science and Technology

林韶姿/健行科技大學企業管理系暨經營管理研究所講師

Shao-Tzu Lin, Instructor, Department of Business Administration, Chien Hsin University of Science and Technology

劉佩玲/健行科技大學經營管理研究所碩士

Pei-Ling Liu, Master, Institute of Business and Management, Chien Hsin University of Science and Technology

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摘要

過去實證研究發現性別是影響面談評價的重要因素,但有關面試官與應徵者性別組合對面談評價的影響,尚未出現一致性的研究發現。為解答此不一致,本研究指出面試官年齡對於面試官與應徵者性別組合與面談評價的關係存在干擾作用。問卷調查大學教師擔任教師聘用面談的經驗,分析 218 份有效問卷獲得以下發現: 高於四十歲的女性面試官對女性應徵者的評價顯著低於其它性別組合,而低於四十歲的面試官則未出現上述現象。換言之,本研究結果顯示「女王蜂症候群」較存在於相對較高年齡的女性,然而此結果是否反映不同世代的差異,仍有待後續研究釐清。

【關鍵字】女王蜂症候群、性別組合、面談評價

Abstract

Past empirical studies found that gender is one of the important factors that influence interviewers' evaluations on interviewees. However, research findings regarding the impact of interviewer-applicant gender combination on interview evaluation have not been consistent. To resolve the inconsistency, this study proposed that the relationship between interviewer-applicant gender combination and interview evaluation is moderated by the interviewer's age level. We sampled 218 professors in universities and the results showed that female interviewers tend to give lower evaluations to female applicants as opposed to other interviewer-interviewee gender combination when the interviewer was above forty years old. Our study results evidenced the so-called "queen bee syndrome" existing in a relatively high age group. However, whether this finding was due to differences across generations deserves further investigations.

[Keywords] queen bee syndrome, gender combination, interview evaluation

壹、緒論

甄選面談是組織選才的重要程序,組織藉由甄選面談以評估應徵者能力特質與確認書面履歷的資訊,並判斷應徵者是否符合組織的需求。理想上,甄選面試官應該綜合在書面履歷以及甄選面談中獲得的資訊,做出對組織最佳的選擇,也就是選擇最優秀的應徵者進入組織。然而,過去研究指出,面試官給予應徵者的面談評價,可能會受到面試官與應徵者的背景變項影響,而使面試官對應徵者的評價結果產生偏誤(Dipboye, 1992; Heilman, Kaplow, Amato, and Stathatos, 1993)。也就是說,相較於其他性別組合,女性面試官可能給予女性應徵者較低的評價,此種現象被 Staines, Tavris, and Jayaratne (1974)稱為「女王蜂症候群」(Queen Bee Syndrome)。

「女王蜂症候群」是指在工作職場上成功且專業的女性,對於其他同性別工作者的態度相對比較負面,原因是成功且專業的女性認為自己是在經歷艱難過程後,才擁有目前的職位與成就,故傾向不願意見到其他女性比她容易獲得相同的成就,以致於產生排斥同性別工作者的現象 (Johnson and Mathur-Helm, 2011; Thompson, 2012; 鄧慧文,1996)。例如,女性面試官可能會因為擔心相同性別的應徵者進入組織後,未來可能會威脅到自身的地位或利益,進而給予該女性應徵者較低的面談評價。在國外對於甄選面談的相關研究中,部分研究發現女王蜂症候群確實發生在甄選面談情境,也就是在面試官與應徵者的四種性別組合中,當女性面試官面談女性應徵者時,所給予的面談評價分數有偏低的傾向 (Oliphant and Alexander, 1982; Dipboye, 1992; Mathison, 1986; Heilman et al., 1993)。

本研究認為女性在華人組織的職涯發展可能比男性更為艱辛,她們在兼顧工作要求的同時,相對比男性負擔更多家庭照顧責任,必須要歷經相當努力後才有機會獲得類似的社會地位或影響力。因此本研究推測華人組織中,亦可能出現女性低評女性的現象。然而,國內的相關實證研究結果卻沒有證實西方文獻的女性低評女性的現象(e.g., 鄧慧文,1996;羅新興與李幸穗,2004)。本研究懷疑可能的原因有二,首先,這些研究多採用虛擬面談情境的實驗過程,此研究方法不足以引發女性面試官感受女性應徵者的威脅;其次,這些研究所使用的實驗情境都不是以具有相當社會地位的專業職位進行虛擬面談。

基於上述的懷疑,本研究選擇以大學教師為實證對象,探討大學教師的甄選面談是否出現女性低評女性的現象。雖然,影響大學教師聘任的因素相當複雜,例如大學教師跨學術領域的優劣標準並不相同,且教師聘任是必須經過教評會的合議決策,不過,由於本研究關注焦點是面試官「主觀的」面談評價,而非客觀的評量因素,因此,針對大學教師甄選面談的研究結果應可呼應國外的相關研究發現。此外,本研究擬探討面試官年齡的可能影響效果,Ellemers, van den Heuvel, de Gilder, Maass, and Bonvini (2004)的研究發現,高年齡組的女性教授知覺女性博士研究生的學術承諾低於男性研

究生,但是低年齡組女性教授並沒有出現上述的差異。這個發現似乎隱含評估者的年齡是重要的干擾變項,因此本研究另一個目的在於檢視面試官年齡是否會干擾面試官 與應徵者性別組合對面談評價的影響。

貳、文獻探討與假說推論

一、面談評價的影響因素

面試官通常藉由甄選面談過程獲取應徵者的相關資訊,包括確認書面資料真實性、評估應徵者特質與能力。通常組織必須在很短的面談時間中,迅速做出「應徵者適任與否」的決策,因此甄選面談的信度 (Reliability) 與效度 (Validity) 一直受到學者的關注 (Huffcutt and Woehr, 1999),特別是當評量方式屬於主觀認定時,面試官對於應徵者面談前印象的預期效果與認知誤差,會對面談評價產生很大的影響 (Phillips and Dipboye, 1989; Dunning, Meyerowitz, and Holzberg, 1989)。近年來,許多研究紛紛投入探討這方面的議題,試圖尋找能夠降低甄選面談中潛在評估誤差的因素 (Posthuma, Morgeson, and Campion, 2002; Tsai, Chen, and Chiu, 2005)。

過去的研究發現,當員工所擁有的能力與職位所需的能力愈趨於高度正相關時,該名員工未來的工作表現將會較佳 (Johlke, 2006),因此,應徵者在甄選面談時所呈現的專業能力,將是影響面談評價的重要因素,也就是說,面試官會因應徵者所呈現不同程度的專業能力而給予不同之面談評價,而應徵者提供的相關書面履歷資料(例如履歷表、自傳)經常是重要的判斷資訊。面試官在綜合評估應徵者的專業能力以及其他相關面向的評估後,在心中即會形成一個整體性的評價,對面試官而言,整體評價的高低會影響面試官是否願意向握有最終決定權的主管推薦該位應徵者。

二、面試官與應徵者性別組合對面談整體評價的影響

過去有關應徵者性別影響面談評價的文獻中,Arvey and Campion (1982) 在回顧有關面談評價的文獻後指出,即使女性應徵者的資格與男性應徵者相似,女性應徵者分數往往被評得較低。Kalin and Hodgins (1984) 的研究也顯示即使男女工作表現相當,男性的工作表現的評價往往優於女性,尤其是傳統上屬男性的工作類型更明顯。但也有研究結果顯示,應徵者性別對甄選結果並無顯著影響效果 (e.g., Almer, Hopper, and Kaplan, 1998; Hardin, Reding, and Stocks, 2002)。在有關面試官性別影響面談評價的文獻中,多數實證研究文獻顯示男性面談者給予應徵者的評量分數較寬鬆,女性面談者給予應徵者的評量分數較寬鬆,女性面談者給予應徵者的評量分數較寬鬆,女性面談者給予應徵者的評量分數較為嚴苛 (Oliphant and Alexander, 1982; Mathison, 1986; Heilman et al., 1993)。以上文獻似乎顯示,女性應徵者不一定被低評,但是女性面試官評分則可能比較嚴苛。

回顧有關面試官與應徵者性別組合的文獻,部分文獻指出女性面試官在評估女性

應徵者時,所給予的面談評價分數有較為嚴苛的傾向 (Oliphant and Alexander, 1982; Dipboye, 1992; Heilman et al., 1993),也有研究發現男性面試官給予男女應徵者的起薪並無差異,但女性面試官在面談即使能力背景相當的應徵者時,給予女性應徵者的起薪明顯低於男性應徵者 (Hardin et al., 2002)。換言之,面試官與應徵者性別組合可能影響面試官對應徵者的評價結果 (Dipboye, 1992; Heilman et al., 1993)。而 Staines et al. (1974) 提出「女王蜂症候群」的論點,可以說明這種評價現象。女王蜂症候群的觀點認為,成功且專業的女性對其他同性別工作者的態度相對比較負面,她們傾向認為自己經歷了諸多艱難的過程後,才獲得目前的成功與地位,她們傾向不會對其他女性的成功感到高興。Keiffer and Cullen (1974) 認為出現女王蜂症候群現象的職場女性,通常會特別強調女性與男性在專業領域中都是受到平等無差別的待遇,並會以強烈且具攻擊性的行為去責怪職場中的女性不夠努力,藉以宣示女性應為自己在職場中的不順利負起全責,而 Mathison (1986) 的研究則指出,女性主管對於主動積極的女性抱持著負面的知覺,並且是具有攻擊性的。因此,本研究提出假說一如下:

假說一:女性面試官評估女性應徵者的面談評價顯著低於其它性別組合。

三、面試官年齡對面試官和應徵者性別組合與面談評價關係的干擾效果

近年來資訊科技普及導致許多觀念傳遞快速,社會價值的變遷也非常地快速。無 論中西方社會,男女平權的觀念已經漸漸成為普世價值,因此女性低評女性的現象是 否依然存在?若是仍存在,本研究認為有兩種可能,第一,女性低評女性的現象有可 能是一種「世代現象」,換言之,相較之下年輕一代可能在認知上與行為上,不但接 受且具體實踐男女平權的觀念,所以即使有女性低評女性的現象,比較可能是出現在 年齡稍長的女性工作者,至於年紀較輕的工作者應無此現象。第二個可能是,「女王 蜂症候群」的觀點認為,被喻為女王蜂的女性在職場上經歷了長期的努力與奮鬥後, 在心理上或言語行為上會盡力守護自己取得不易的地位與權力,因此她們很容易將同 為女性的同事或後進視為競爭者,進而產生敵意。而這些專業且成功的女性,通常在 職場上有一定的資歷,因此她的年齡可能相對較高。Ellemers et al. (2004) 研究發現高 年齡組的女性教授明顯地低評女性博士研究生的學術承諾與表現,而低年齡組的女性 教授並沒有出現上述差異,這也就意味著:年齡可能是影響女性是否低評女性的因素 之一。本研究以大學教師的甄選面談為研究系絡,研究者推論,相對而言較高齡組的 女性大學教師,在經歷長期的努力獲得學位後,不僅需要與男性同時接受嚴苛的升等 制度考驗,同時需要負擔比男性更多的家庭責任,當她們擔任新進教師的面試官時, 將可能對女性應徵者的學術表現的要求更為嚴苛,整體評價更低。因此本研究提出假 說二如下:

假說二:較高年齡女性面試官給予女性應徵者的面談評價會低於其他性別組合。

參、研究方法

一、研究對象與流程

本研究以曾擔任過大學系所專任教師聘任面談的大學教師為調查對象,針對台灣的公私立普通大學與科技大學採取便利抽樣,以問卷調查法蒐集資料。在資料蒐集過程中,研究者首先於國家科學委員會網站中搜集大專院校的徵才訊息,並以電話確認該系所是否在三個月內有剛剛完成的甄選面談作業,接著請該系所秘書提供協助,將問卷轉發給參與甄選面談作業的系教評會委員。研究者編製「問卷發放回收備忘錄」,提供系秘書進行問卷調查作業的標準程序。受試者將問卷填答完畢後,請受試者將問卷置入密封信封內,再統一由系秘書放入大型回郵信封中寄回。另外,本研究隨同問卷致贈小禮物以感謝受試者與系秘書的協助。

本研究共計發出 421 份問卷,回收 232 份,回收率 55.1%,扣除 11 份無效問卷 (漏答題數過多者)後,有效問卷 221 份 (部分性別填寫遺漏值,故變異數分析僅 218 份),有效回收率為 52.5% (部分樣本基本資料填寫不全但仍計入以下資料分析,故下列樣本敘述合計不全然為 221 份)。本研究的樣本分佈在台灣 44 所大專院校,其中男性受試者 (面試官)為 142 位 (62.25%),女性受試者 79 位 (33.75%);受試者 (面試官)在問卷中需要寫出他 (她)所回憶並用以填答問卷的特定應徵者之性別,經統計接受面談的男性應徵者有 133 位 (60.18%),女性應徵者 88 位 (39.82%)。在面試官與應徵者性別組合中,男性面試官評估男性應徵者有 97 組 (44.50%)、男性面試官評估女性應徵者有 42 組 (19.27%)、女性面試官評估男性應徵者有 33 組 (15.14%)、女性面試官評估女性應徵者有 46 組 (21.10%)。此外,受試者 (面試官)年齡在 40 歲(含)以下者為70人(31.67%)、41 歲以上者有 151人(68.33%);任職學校的類型分別為公立普通大學 79人(35.91%)、私立普通大學 56人(25.45%)、公立科技大學或技術學院 19人(8.64%)、私立科技大學或技術學院 66人(30%)。

二、變數衡量

本研究問卷的指導語中,首先請受試者回憶最近三個月內所參與的大學教師面談過程中,針對印象最深刻的一位應徵者來回答問卷內容。面談整體評價是指面試官藉由面談所蒐集的資訊對應徵者表現做出的整體評價,雖然過去文獻不乏相關量表,但是為了更貼近大學教師聘任的情境,研究者根據大學教師甄選面談設計出面談評價的衡量題目共三題,題目為:「整體而言,我給予這位應徵者高度評價/我願意向教評會推薦錄取這位應徵者/我很樂意與這位應徵者成為同事」,以6點 Likert 尺度來測量,Cronbach's α 為 0.92。本研究進行面談評價與社會期許量表的探索性因素分析,經過最大變異法轉軸後,面談評價與社會期許量表合計 8 個題項歸類明確,兩個因素的累積變異量 61.43%,因素負荷量均在 0.45 以上。

其次,「面試官與應徵者性別組合」指的是在甄選面談情境中,面試官與應徵者的性別組成,依據受試者填答的資料,區分為 4 種性別組合: 男性面試官評估男性應徵者、男性面試官評估女性應徵者、女性面試官評估男性應徵者、女性面試官評估女性應徵者。而面試官年齡則以 5 組選項: 20-30 歲、31-40 歲、41-50 歲、51-60 歲以及61 歲以上,供受試者選填。後續資料分析區分為 40 歲以上或以下二組。

最後,本研究為了避免社會期許偏誤 (Social Desirability Bias) 影響研究結果,本研究在問卷中同時對受試者進行社會期許量表的測量。社會期許量表引用 Hays, Hayashi, and Stewart (1989) 所發展的 5 題量表,以 6 點 Likert 尺度來測量。該量表的Cronbach's α 為 0.70。在本研究的大學教師甄選面談樣本中,面試官與應徵者的教師職等包括助理教授、副教授、教授三種職位,依據受試者填答的資料可以區分為 3 種職位評等組合:同職等相評、高職等評低職等、低職等評高職等,雖然某些大學教評會可能在升等評議時會避免低職等評審高職等,但是就實際程序上,許多學校的聘任面談仍然有低職等教師面談高職等教師的情形。由於過去面談文獻指出面試官與應徵者的相對權力關係可能對面談過程具有影響 (Fletcher, 1992),本研究希望排除職等組合對面談評價的可能影響,因此將「職等組合」納入分析模型進行統計控制。

肆、資料分析結果

本研究首先分析面談評價與社會期許的平均數、標準差,作為後續統計分析結果解釋的參考。平均數與標準差的統計結果分別為面談評價 (M=4.27;S=1.16)、社會期許 (M=4.54;S=0.73)。其次,本研究以一般線性模型 (General Linear Model; GLM) 進行假說檢定,模式中除了面試官與應徵者性別組合、面試官年齡及二者交互作用項外,並加入職等組合、社會期許二者為控制變項,統計檢定結果如表 1 及表 2 所示。表 1 的分析結果顯示:面試官與應徵者性別組合在面談評價上有顯著差異 (F=5.93,p<0.001)。表 2 平均數顯示,利用 Scheffe 事後多重檢定發現,女性面試官評估女性應徵者的面談評價平均數 (M=3.72),顯著低於男性評男性 (M=4.48) 及男性評女性 (M=4.53);但是與女性評男性 (M=4.00) 的差異未達顯著,故假說一未獲得實證資料支持。進一步觀察男性面試官與女性面試官的面談評價平均數,似乎也出現男性面試官比女性面試官評價較為寬鬆的現象。

本研究假說二推測較高年齡的女性面試官較易低評女性應徵者。在高年齡與低年齡群組的分界點上, Ellemers et al. (2004)以其樣本的中位數 47 歲區分高年齡與低年齡的群組,限於本研究在問卷中有關年齡的蒐集,是採取以 10 歲為區間的封閉型問題供受試者填答,在參酌過去文獻及本研究資料型態限制,本研究決定採用 40 歲作為區分高、低年齡群組的分界點。

本研究將面試官和應徵者性別組合與面試官年齡對面談評價進行交互作用分析,

表 1 面談評價之變異數分析結果

變異來源	SS	DF	MS	F值
社會期許	3.35	1	3.35	2.78+
職等組合	2.55	2	1.27	1.06
面試官與應徵者性別組合	21.38	3	7.13	5.93***
面試官年齡	3.39	1	3.39	2.82+
面試官與應徵者性別組合 × 面試官年齡	8.50	3	2.83	2.36+

註: N = 221; 顯著性+表 p < .1, ***p < .001。

表 2 面試官與應徵者性別組合對面談評價之平均數表

	面試官與應徵者性別組合						
面試官性別	男性面	面試官	女性面試官				
應徵者性別	男性	女性	男性	女性			
	平均數	平均數	平均數	平均數			
	(標準差)	(標準差)	(標準差)	(標準差)			
面談評價	4.48ª	4.53ª	4.00 ^{ab}	3.72 ^b			
	(1.01)	(1.07)	(1.06)	(1.42)			

註:N = 218;平均數經 Scheffe 檢定結果,標示 a 與 b 顯著差異,a 與 ab 或 ab 與 b 沒有顯著。

分析結果顯示面談評價達統計邊際顯著 (F=2.36, p<.10)。分析結果請參閱表 3 平均數列聯表以及圖 1 的交互作用圖。經過單純主效果檢定,高年齡組的面談評價 (M=3.25) 顯著低於低年齡組的女性面試官對女性應徵者的面談評價 (M=4.40)。低年齡的女性面試官不僅沒有出現「女王蜂症候群」,甚至對女性應徵者的評價 (M=4.40) 稍高於對男性應徵者 (M=4.08) 的評價 (未達統計顯著)。綜合而言,本研究所提出的假 說二獲得實證資料支持。

表 3 面試官與應徵者性別組合與面試官年齡對面談評價的交互作用列聯表

	面試官與應徵者性別組合						總計			
	男性評男性		男性評女性		女性評男性		女性評女性		形心百 l	
	平均數	標準差	平均數	標準差	平均數	標準差	平均數	標準差	平均數	標準差
面試官年齡										
40 歲以下	4.64ª	0.89	4.59ª	1.02	4.08ª	0.94	4.40a	1.06	4.45	0.97
41 歲以上	4.42a	1.05	4.52ª	1.09	3.96ª	1.16	3.25⁵	1.46	4.17	1.24
總計	4.48	1.01	4.53	1.07	4.00	1.06	3.72	1.42		

註: N = 218; 經單純主效果檢定結果,標示 a 與 b 表示顯著差異。

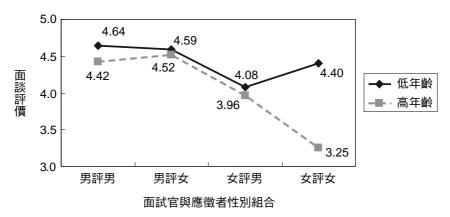


圖 1 面試官與應徵者性別組合及面試官年齡對面談評價的交互作用

伍、綜合討論

本研究以擔任過教師聘任面談的大學教師為調查對象,進行實際面談的回溯性調查研究,雖然研究結果僅發現女性面試官面談女性應徵者的面談評價顯著低於男性面試官面談男性應徵者及男性面試官面談女性應徵者的二種情況,並沒有與女性面試官面談男性應徵者的面談評價有顯著差異。這個研究結果不同於鄧慧文 (1996)、羅新興與李幸穗 (2004) 在台灣所做的實證,但也沒有完全驗證西方文獻出現的女性低評女性的現象 (e.g., Oliphant and Alexander, 1982; Dipboye, 1992; Heilman et al., 1993; Hardin et al., 2002; Ellemers et al., 2004),僅說明了女性面試官相對比男性面試官嚴格的現象。

本研究進一步探討在面試官與應徵者性別組合對面談評價的影響關係中,年齡所扮演的干擾作用,研究結果發現,高年齡組的女性面試官顯著低評女性應徵者,但是低年齡組面試官並沒有發生女性低評女性現象。本研究認為,由於高年齡組的女性面試官在職場上大多已有相當的經歷,她們可能會認為自己在普遍有「玻璃天花板」的職場中,可以擁有目前的地位與成就,乃是經歷了艱難的過程後才擁有的,因此,在面對女性應徵者時,較可能會用自己當初進入組織時所經歷的嚴苛標準來要求對方,認為女性應徵者必須也經過艱難的考驗。反之,低年齡組女性面試官,或許在成長的經歷上相對於高年齡組女性面試官,尚未受到限制與壓抑,甚至,低年齡組女性面試官亦可能對女性應徵者產生惺惺相惜的感受或希望互相提攜,因此反而給予較佳的面談評價。不過,本研究結果所顯示的高年齡組的女性面試官發生女性低評女性的現象,是否源自於不同世代受試者的價值觀差異所致呢?也就是說,本研究發現在甄選面談情境中的女性低評女性現象,是反映出特定世代女性面試官的特有現象呢?意即目前低年齡面試官即使年長至高年齡時也仍不會有此一低評現象,抑或是女性低評女性現象會普遍存在於高年齡的女性面試官呢?意即目前低年齡面試官當成長至高年齡時就會產生低評女性應徵者的傾向,這些疑問有待後續研究進一步驗證。

大學教師甄選有相當複雜的影響因素,包括學術領域的異質性與學校文化等因 素,實難以用性別與年齡等名目變數,來簡化此複雜的現象,因此本研究具有以下研 究限制。首先,大學教師的聘任是採教評會的合議制決策,本研究僅探討面試官的主 觀評價,並非客觀上的最終決策結果,因此不代表大學教師聘任決策會出現女性應徵 者會被低評,並且大學生態與一般企業組織有所不同,研究結果不宜類推企業組織。 其次,本研究雖然企圖以現場調查獲得比虛擬面談更真實的資料,但由於研究主題敏 感,事前要找到同意配合的系所相當困難,所以採用請面試官事後回憶方式,填答最 近三個月內已經發生的面談個案。因此,在研究設計上,無法控制應徵者的能力在相 同水準,也無法獲得一位應徵者剛好對應一位面試官的情況,只能確保每組面試官與 應徵者是不同的組合,另一方面面試官可能會受到已做成的合議決策而影響問卷填 答,這些資料蒐集上的限制,導致無法獲致如同實驗法般的內部效度。此外,本研究 的效標變項(面談評價)是屬於認知層次,所謂「女王蜂症候群」是否出現在行為層 次呢?例如甄選者給予應徵者的起薪、職位、福利等,是否在資源分配也出現「女王 蜂症候群」呢?這些問題均是後續研究可以努力的方向。最後,本研究僅探討面試官 年齡的干擾作用,有關面談結構等情境因素對面談評價的影響效果亦值得深入研究 (e.g., 陳建丞與蔡維奇, 2005; Tsai et al., 2005), 這些因素或許可以有效減緩人們的知 覺與決策偏誤。

The Effects of Interviewer-Applicant Gender Combination on the Interview Evaluation: An Empirical Study on Interviews of University Faculty

Hsin-Hsin Lo, Professor, Department of Business Administration, Chien Hsin University of Science and Technology

Shao-Tzu Lin, Instructor, Department of Business Administration, Chien Hsin University of Science and Technology

Pei-Ling Liu, Master, Institute of Business and Management, Chien Hsin University of Science and Technology

Hypotheses

Previous studies have indicated that female interviewers evaluating female candidates tend to award lower scores or restrict salary (Oliphant and Alexander, 1982; Dipboye, 1992; Heilman et al., 1993; Hardin et al., 2002). This phenomenon was named "queen bee syndrome" by Staines et al. (1974). The concept of this syndrome is that successful professional women adopt a more negative attitude to female subordinates compared to male subordinates. This is because these women have overcome numerous difficulties to achieve their current position and status, and thus, are not pleased when other women succeed. This study analyzes a number of interviews conducted to recruit university professors to examine whether women provided more negative comments/assessments of female applicants. Furthermore, this study examines whether interviewer's age influences the occurrence of this phenomena in Chinese society. Keiffer and Cullen (1974) asserted that, although women in the workplace with "queen bee syndrome" typically emphasize that women and men employed in professional fields are subject to equal and non-discriminatory treatment, they strongly and aggressively blame the women in the workplace for not exhibiting sufficient effort, thereby implying that working women should assume full responsibility for the nonideal development of their career. Mathison (1986) also noted that female executives hold negative and aggressive perceptions of active female employees. Therefore, this study proposes the following hypothesis:

H1: Female interviewers' evaluation of female candidates is significantly lower than that of other gender combinations, especially that of female interviewers and male candidates.

Because of the widespread adoption of information technology in recent years, many ideas and social values have been rapidly disseminated. In both Western and Eastern

societies, the notion of equal rights for men and women has gradually become a universal value. Thus, does the phenomenon of women giving women harsher evaluations still occur? If so, this study suggests the following two possible reasons for this continued occurrence: First, the phenomenon in which women give women harsher evaluations may be a "generational issue." In other words, the phenomenon tends to be observed in relation to older women workers. Because the younger generation is familiar with the concept of equal rights for men and women, the phenomenon of women giving women harsher evaluations does not tend to occur. The second possibility is that, according to the concept of the "queen bee syndrome", women who are considered the "queen bee" in the workplace have devoted substantial hard work and effort to achieving their position, and they attempt to defend their status and power to reinforce the significance of their achievements. Thus, they tend to regard female colleagues or subordinates as competitors, and are typically hostile toward them. Furthermore, because professional and successful women generally have longer tenure in the workplace, they hold greater seniority. Ellemers et al. (2004) found that the group comprising older female professors gave female doctoral students comparatively lower evaluations of academic commitment; whereas the evaluations provided by the group of younger female professors did not differ. These results indicate that age may be among the factors that affect whether women give women harsher evaluations. The research context of this study was university teacher selection interviews. The researchers found that the group of older female university teachers had devoted long-term efforts to earning a degree, and not only completed upgrade tests of equal difficulty to those completed by male teachers, but also faced greater family responsibilities compared to men. Thus, when serving as interviewers of new teacher candidates, they were more likely to require a higher academic performance from the female candidates, and also provide them with harsher overall evaluations. Therefore, this study proposes the following hypothesis:

H2: The evaluations of older female interviewers regarding female candidates are significantly lower than those of other gender combinations.

Method

The study samples comprised teachers who participated in recruitment interviews at their universities. For the investigation, we employed a questionnaire to determine whether the "queen bee syndrome" existed. We collected job advertisements posted on the website of the Taiwan National Science Committee. We then telephoned the contacts and queried whether the department had completed recruitment interviews in the last 3 months. Subsequently, the department secretaries assisted with forwarding the questionnaires to the faculty who participated in the recruitment process. The completed questionnaires were returned by the secretaries. The questionnaires comprised of not only items regarding the participants' demographic variables but also of their evaluations of the applicants. For example, "Overall, my evaluation of the candidate is high." In addition, the questionnaires also measured the participants' social desirability using the scale developed by Hays et al. (1989). The number of questionnaires issued was 421, and that for those recovered was 232; 221 of which were valid. The sample was distributed throughout 44 universities; the number of male interviewers versus male candidates was 97 (44.50%), that of male interviewers versus female candidates was 42 (19.27%), female interviewers versus male candidates was 33 (15.14%), and female interviewers versus female candidates was 46 (21.10%). In addition, the number of interviewers aged below 40 was 70 (31.67%), and those over 41 years of age numbered 151 (68.33%).

Result

A general linear model was adopted in this study for hypothesis testing. In such a model, the researchers used different gender combinations between the interviewers and candidates, age of the interviewers, their interactions as independent variables, the employed class combinations and social desirability as the control variables. The analysis showed that the overall evaluation results for four interviewer and candidate gender combinations differed significantly (F = 5.93, p < .001). Employing a Scheffe's post hoc test, we found that the average evaluation score (M = 3.72) that female interviewers awarded female candidates was significantly lower than that of the other two gender combinations (male interviewers regarding male candidates: M = 4.48; male interviewers regarding female candidates: M = 4.53). By contrast, the average evaluation score that female interviewers awarded male candidates (M = 4.00) did not differ significantly. However, interaction analysis of the overall evaluation results for the correlation between gender combinations and the age of interviewers showed marginal significance (F = 2.36, p < .1). After a simple main effects test, the overall evaluations of the interviewers in the older age group (M =3.25) were significantly lower than those in the younger age group (M = 4.40) for the gender combination of female interviewers versus female candidates. The overall evaluation that female interviewers in the younger age group gave for female candidates (M = 4.40) was

slightly higher than that for male candidates (M = 4.08). In summation, H1 proposed in this study is partially supported by the data analysis results, whereas H2 is fully supported.

Limitations

However, this study had the following limitations: First, universities typically employ a collegiate system for recruitment, whereas this study examined the interviewers' subjective evaluations of the applicants, not the final recruitment decisions. Thus, the results of this study cannot fully indicate that the female candidates were under-evaluated. Second, the use of post hoc research, where the interviewers recalled the recruitment processes that had occurred in the past three months, may have resulted in bias based on the decision of the collegiate system. Nevertheless, further research can investigate whether the phenomenon of under evaluation by older female interviewers is the result of a generational or age issue. Future research is expected to clarify this issue using additional samples and longitudinal processes. If the "queen bee syndrome" is a generational issue, even when younger female interviewers reach the age of the older interviewers; the phenomenon of women giving women harsher evaluations is unlikely to be observed. However, if the queen bee syndrome is an age-related issue, the younger female interviewers will exhibit a tendency to give women harsher evaluations when they reach the age of the older interviewers.

Implications

In summary, this study determines that the "queen bee syndrome" does exist in the recruitment of academics in Chinese society based on the comments older female interviewers made regarding female candidates, which exhibited the under-evaluated phenomenon. This finding addresses the literature gap regarding gender combinations and interview evaluations. This study found that the age of the subjects examined may be one reason for the inconsistent results reported in previous literature. However, this study used university teacher candidate interviews as the research context. Because a university teacher is considered a successful and professional occupation, does this affect the likelihood of the phenomenon of women giving women harsher evaluations in the context of scarce resources? Additionally, if occupation is not considered successful or professional, are older female interviewers' perceptions of a "glass ceiling" in the workplace reduced? If so, this would generate different research findings. Future studies can consider how the perception of the position of university teacher, which is considered a successful and professional

occupation, affects the likelihood of women giving women harsh evaluations. Additionally, future studies can investigate whether the perception of the position affects older female interviewers' notion of a "glass ceiling" in the workplace.

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作者簡介

*羅新興

臺灣大學商學研究所組織行為暨人力資源管理博士,目前任職於健行科技大學企業管理系教授兼管理學院院長,研究領域為組織行為、人力資源管理,主要研究議題包括績效評核正義知覺、連坐懲罰正義知覺、集體獎懲正義知覺、性別與面談、視訊面談、主觀幸福感、環境倫理教育等。曾發表論文於 The Journal of Social Psychology、Asian Journal of Social Psychology、管理學報、臺大管理論叢、管理與系統、人文及社會科學集刊、人力資源管理學報、東吳經濟商學學報、中原企管評論、國防管理學報、中華管理評論及健行學報等,經常擔任 SSCI 及 TSSCI 期刊的論文評審。

林韶姿

國立臺灣師範大學科技應用與人力資源所博士,目前任職於健行科技大學企管系講師,研究領域為人力資源發展、職能評估、組織行為、員工訓練問題,主要議題包括職能評價、訓練品質成效、課程設計等。曾發表論文於中國、香港、新加坡、國內研討會,以及教育資料集刊、考選論壇、德霖學報等。從事業界人力資源管理和教育訓練工作十餘年,並曾經擔任考選部國家考試職能分析顧問。目前亦為勞動力發展署共通核心職能講師。

劉佩玲

健行科技大學經營管理研究所碩士,目前任職於東元奈米應財股份有限公司人力 資源課專員,研究領域為人力資源管理,從事人力資源管理工作超過十年,主要專長 議題包括招募甄選、勞動法規、勞資關係、績效評核、薪酬管理。

致謝:國科會經費補助 (NSC96-2416-H-231-004-MY2)。

^{*} E-mail: hhlo@uch.edu.tw

面試官與應徵者的性別組合對面談評價之影響:大學教師甄選面談的實證