

Sample Description of Student Ascriptions of Gender Table

The table, Students' Ascriptions of Gender to Seven Characters, Years 1987 and 1997, displays seven characters, each representing a different profession. Two groups of students, one in 1987 and one in 1997, wrote narratives including characters with these professions. The numbers in the columns labeled "Male" and "Female" indicate the numbers of students who assigned male or female identities to each of the professions. As shown in the table, all of the students in both years assigned the role of judge to a male character. In 1987, all students also assigned the role of police officer to a male character, and only one student in 1997 gave a female character this role. The roles of physician and professor were also overwhelmingly male in both years, with a few females assigned these roles in 1997. Conversely, the role of nurse was almost exclusively assigned to a female character in both years. In general, however, the students in 1997 appeared less likely to assign stereotypical genders to the professions than the students in 1987 did. These results suggest that stereotypes regarding genders for certain professions are gradually changing.