# The Gender Revolution: Uneven and Stalled 

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## Examine trends with an eye to

- Whether women change more than men
- Whether change is continuous or stalling
- What the trends mean


## Asymmetric Gender Change

- Women enter "men's" domains more than men enter "women's" domains
- Both \$ rewards and cultural approval discourage men's change (men's domains rewarded more)
- \$ Rewards encourage women to change (although there is some cultural backlash)


## \% of Men and Women Employed, 1962-2007



## \% of Men and Women Who Majored in Business, 1971-2006



Source: Author's calculations from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Denominator is all men or all women getting Bachelors degrees in the year.

## \% of Men and Women Who Majored in English, 1971-2006



Source: Author's calculations from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Denominator is all men or all women getting Bachelors degrees in the year.

## \% of Men and Women Who Majored in Elementary Education, 1971-2006



Source: Author's calculations from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Denominator is all men or all women getting Bachelors degrees in the year.

## Is Change Stalling? (Yes)

- On many indicators, change has slowed down


## \% of Men and Women Employed, 1962-2007



## Women's Share of Degrees, 1950-2007



Source: Author's calculations from Digest of Education Statistics, 2008. Table 268.--Earned degrees conferred by degree-granting institutions, by level of degree and sex of student: 1869-70 to 2017-18, Digest of Education Statistics, 2001. Table 247.--Earned degrees conferred by degree-granting institutions, by level of degree and sex of student: 1869-70 to 2010-11. First professional degrees include M.D., J.D., M.B.A., DD.S.

## Segregation of Fields of Bachelor's Degrees, 1971-2006



Source: Author's calculations from National Center for Education Statistics (http://nces.ed.gov/). D (index of dissimilarity) calculated on >400 fields.

## Segregation of Fields of Doctoral Degrees, 1971-2006



Source: Author's calculations from National Center for Education Statistics (http://nces.ed.gov/). D (index of dissimilarity) calculated on >400 fields.

## \% of All Doctoral Degree Recipients Who Were Women in Selected Large Fields, 1971-2006



## Occupational Segregation, 1972-2009



Source: IWPR Briefing Paper \#C377, 2010. Civilian labor force.

## Gender Earnings Gap, 1955-2009



Source: IWPR Fact Sheet \#C350, April 2011. Data for full-year workers.

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Source: IWPR Fact Sheet \#C350, April 2011. Data for full-year workers.

## Egalitarian Gender Attitudes, 1974-2006



## What does it all mean?

## More Change in Some Things Than Others

- More women employed and in "men's" jobs
- Few men moved to homemaking or "women's" jobs
- Little change in the relatively low pay of female jobs; that's not why pay gap changed
- Less change in gendering of heterosexual matters (e.g. who proposes, changes name)
- Parts of the gender system somewhat "loosely coupled"


## Nothing inexorable about change

- Women's employment plateaued ~1990
- Integration of college majors stopped ~1985
- Desegregation of occupations and closing of sex gap in pay have slowed
- Egalitarian attitudes go up and down
- Trends don't follow who is in political power
- Low hanging fruit has been picked


## Thanks for your attention

## Gender Gaps in Employment-Related Measures for Married Parents, 1968-2007



## \% of Women in Labor Force, as a \% of \% of Men in Labor Force, by Education, 1950-2000



Source: Cotter et al. http://www.bsos.umd.edu/socy/vanneman/endofgr/default.html using 2000 Census PUMS 5\%, ages 25-

## Gender Gap in Employment by Education, 1964-2007



## Gender Gap in Employment by Education for Married Parents, 1968-2007



Source: Cotter et al. http://www.bsos.umd.edu/socy/vanneman/endofgr/default.html using CPS, married parents age 25-54

## Gender Gap in Employment, 1962-2007



