Gender Differences in Science Related Anxiety

Kimberley V. Ehrman

*Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp2002](http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp2002)

Part of the [Earth Sciences Commons](http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp2002)

**Recommended Citation**

Previous research on science anxiety focused on gender differences and has yielded mixed results. The present study examined gender differences and other variables including age as a predictor of science related anxiety for students in an introductory geology class. One week before the first test, surveys were distributed to seventy-three students assessing various demographic variables, ideas about traditional gender roles, and anxiety about the geology class they were enrolled in, as well as other science classes in the past. The result of the survey shows females to be more likely than males to report science related anxiety, while age did not seem to affect self-reported anxiety levels. From these results we can conclude that a gender difference still exists related to science courses. However, further analysis of other variables contributing to this gender difference is necessary in order to help change these attitudes.