## GENDER \& CAREER ADVANCEMENT

In The Research Industry

## RESEARCH



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## WIRe PARTNERS

## F FocusVision

## ESOMAR

In 2012, Women in Research (WIRe) conducted a Gender \& Career Advancement study to understand the roles that males and females play in the research industry, and their attitudes towards their career and future opportunities.


Women need encouragement to return to the workforce after having children

Five years later, this research was repeated to determine how gender roles have transitioned....

## 989 Interviews

## Conducted Online

 Globally
....among those working in a research capacity

Part-time


- Quant
- Qual
- Corporate
- Consulting
- Media
- Academia

Among researchers of different levels...

....and different types \& size of firm


## Executive Summary

As a half decade has passed, the tide toward gender equality in the research industry is gradually turning. Females are increasingly filling more senior positions; making salaries closer to those of their male counterparts and taking a more proactive attitude toward achieving their career goals. Yet while some gaps have narrowed, and companies are taking measures to promote equality and support parents, there is still much work to be done to achieve parity in compensation and in women reaching the highest-level positions at the largest agencies.

* Women are climbing further up the corporate ladder, and are highly motivated to grow, yet men still assume more of the top positions, particularly in larger organizations.
* The gender pay gap is shrinking at the senior level, particularly outside of the US, with women gaining recognition through bonuses. In spite of this, compensation among parents shows sizeable (and increased) disparity.
* Job and career satisfaction rises among males. For women, stagnant levels correlate with continued stronger pessimism toward promotions, especially outside of the US and within large firms.
* Further, females perceive more barriers to growth than males - parenting, lack of training and opportunities, company culture and pay are all greater hurdles. Work-life balance is deemed more obstructive among mothers than fathers.
* While the industry is actively moving toward gender equality and diversity in the workplace (flexible hours, diversity in hiring, affirmative action) and discrimination is low overall, there is still much room for growth.

Detailed Findings

Though they are still outpaced by their male counterparts

Among experienced researchers, men assume more of the top positions (Executive+)


CEOs remain predominantly male...
...Particularly in large firms
Despite this, women are especially motivated to advance their career

76\%
Plus Executive mix
still favors men
64\% Male / 36\% Female

Among those surveyed:
Male vs. female CEOs are 3:1
$17 \%$ males, $12 \%$ females are Business owners


## The paygap narrows, but there is stil gender disparity

In senior roles, the gender difference drops from $\$ 20 k$ to


With significant progress made outside the US (across levels)


And more women gaining recognition through bonuses than men


Small firms have further to And there is even GREATER Not surprisingly, females are go to close the gap

disparity among parents less content with their pay


Largely driven by MORE satisfied US males

## Men are more satisfied at work and seefa more promising path ahead

Men are now more content in their
work life than women

| BUT female <br> leaders are <br> happier vs. <br> males |
| :---: |
| In 2012, levels were similar |
| between males and |
| females |

Career Progression


Fathers are more hopeful about career advancement than mothers
.AND the gender gap for non-parents expands since 2012


Females outside the US (change since 2012)


AND they are less comfortable
asking for a raise

Particularly doubtful about promotions are...
...Females outside the US
Career satisfaction is still HIGHEST for US Males...



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## Women feel more hindered intheir career development

They see more barriers blocking their path:


## (

Millennials in particular drive these concerns


Plus, female Millennials feel more
 hindered by Stress:

Compensation (44\%) and lack of opportunities (42\%) driven by Non-Parent females

## u

And still perceive parenthood as more limiting


Fathers more likely to see parenthood as limiting than before

AND Childcare benefits are still not
offered or promoted 59\% None 41\% Not sure

Almost two-thirds of companies offer flexible hours


About 1-in-6 are part of an affirmative action program

(9\% Small firms)

Around half make efforts to ensure diversity in hiring


Among senior level employees
AND Discrimination is low

Similar by gender, generation \& ethnicity


However, there is more work to be done to reach gender parity

## Moving Forward: Recommendations



A clear career path toward executive roles
Approach women early in their careers with....

Negotiation and other core leadership skills training
Mentoring opportunities
Stress management training
!
Provide bette
support for
parents....
$\checkmark$ Flexible hours as standard
$\sqrt{ }$ Generous maternity AND paternity leave and re-entry programs
Childcare provider relationships or savings programs

## Moving Forward: Recommendations

(1) Most importantly, as an industry we need....

CEO commitment for 50/50 gender parity at every level of their organization within 3 years

Corporate diversity goals as a business performance metric

Training (and the fortitude) to call out and combat unconscious bias

