

SPREMI

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Attitudes towards gender-inclusive language in open access publishing

This presentation reports on the results of a survey on academic readers' attitudes to gender-inclusive language. In total, 118 participants from more than 20 first-language backgrounds responded to the survey, which included questions and statements about the use of gender-inclusive language in open access (OA) publishing. OA is a recent initiative that aims at increasing equality in academia by making research publications freely available online. Studies have shown that OA articles are downloaded and cited more frequently than traditional subscription-based publications (see e.g. Davis 2011), which suggests that OA is contributing to further expanding the use of English as an academic lingua franca. Given these changing publishing practices, a pertinent question is to what extent OA publications are gender inclusive and what importance the readers of these publications – who come from vastly different linguistic and socio-cultural backgrounds – give to the issue of linguistic gender equality.

Davis, P. 2011. 'Open access, readership, citations: A randomized controlled trial of scientific journal publishing'. *The FASEB Journal* 25(7): 2129-2134.

Charlotte Stormbom is a project researcher and part-time teacher in English at Åbo Akademi University. She defended her PhD thesis in 2021 on the use of epicene (gender-inclusive) pronouns in English as a foreign language and English as a lingua franca.