# Inclusive Project Management: Suggestions for fostering diverse and inclusive projects

#### Elizabeth German

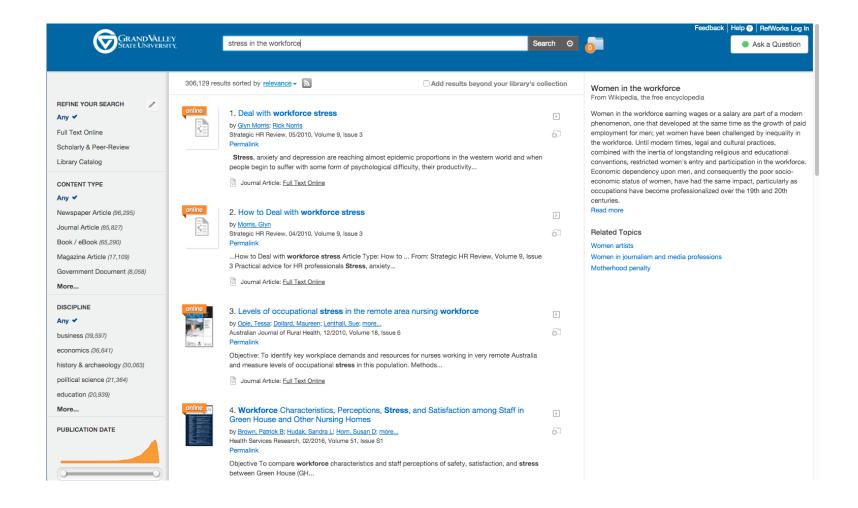
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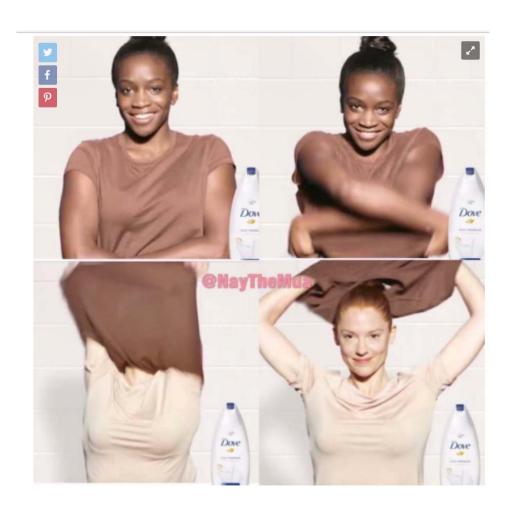




#### **Context**















### Diversity

- O1 Diversity is everywhere [and intersectional]. Diversity includes race, religion, culture, language, gender, sexual orientation, age, geographic location, occupation, education, [ability], etc.
- O2 Attitude is everything. Our attitude influences our behavior.
  Often our attitudes about diversity are not obvious event us, yet they drive our behavior.
- Responsibility belongs to everyone. Project managers, project teams, stakeholders vendors no one is exempt from the issues of diversity.



#### Bias

- Everyone has bias
- False consensus effect
- Confirmation bias



### Bias in Project Management

#### An exploratory study of gender in project management

interrelationships with role, location, technology, and project cost

ARTICLE | Team Building . Skill Development | December 2010 Project Management Journal

By Henderson, Linda S. | Stackman, Richard W.

Henderson, L. S. & Stackman, R. W. (2010). technology, and project cost. Project

#### ABSTRACT

This study explores whether gender differen are explored in the context of project manage and size of the project teams. Using log-line including the likelihood of same-gender pro-Implications for organizational and project n

KEYWORDS: communication competency; p mediated communication

#### INTRODUCTION

Women are taking on more roles in project r 2002). The number of gender studies in the organizational literature. As Martin (2000) s ignored, and most mainstream scholarship c the type and frequency of gender studies in 2003; Charlesworth & Baird, 2007; Timberla 2 project management has focused on gender Packendorff, 2006; Thomas & Buckle-Henni relationships between gender and important 2

The purpose of our study is to contribute to context and relationships within which gend management as a critical part of our moder differences in project managers are related t managers' and team members' location to o analysis of 563 project team members' respi-(www.chiefprojectofficer.com ☑), we report ≥ managers and team members in relationship report unexpected differences between gene implications for organizational and project r , 0 gender imbalance of project management re

#### Literature Review



#### Women project managers: the exploration of their job challenges and issue selling behaviors

Linda S. Henderson, Richard W. Stackman and Charles Y. Koh University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA

Purpose - The purpose of this study is to explore women project managers as a group in order t generate new understanding about the present project context within which they work and to promo new research-based ideas for optimizing their potential in business organizations. To this end, the paper explore their demographics and project characteristics, their project challenges and issue selling moves, and their perspectives on the advantages and disadvantages for women in this profession. Design/methodology/approach - Data were collected using quantitative and qualitative tionnaire items of 211 female project managers in North America.

Findings - The research results show significant associations among women project manager career, age, cost of their projects, and their professional certifications. In addition, their challenges an issue-selling moves produce six factors related to their influence of others. Lastly, the results reve women's self-described advantages and disadvantages in the project management profession showin that while women project managers do continue to experience marginalization from gender bias, the are leveraging particular job challenges and issue selling circumstances to their advantage in movin through gender bias.

Research limitations/implications - The results of this study contribute to our knowledge important real-world challenges and career development opportunities for women managin contemporary projects. Several implications for future research that build on women's issue selling i project management are discussed. Suggestions for broadening the sample in future research are als

Practical implications - This paper highlights several important ways in which busines organizations can strengthen and optimize their women project managers, and offset second-generation

Originality/value - This is only the second study to consider the real-world contextual factors women's projects, and the first study to explore their perspective specifically in terms of their jo-challenges, issue selling, and self-described disadvantages and advantages in managing project Business organizations are in a unique historical position to uplift their project management capacit and leadership talent through developing and promoting women project managers.

Keywords Gender, Issue selling, Job challenge, Role of project manager

Paper type Research paper

#### 1. Introduction and rationale

One of the most significant labor force trends for women over the past two decades ha. been the sheer increase in their numbers within management positions in public, private, and government sector organizations (Catalyst, US Women in Business, 2012; Ely et al., 2011). The hope of many has been that this increase of women managers, typically in mid-level or similar ranks, would propel more women into senior and executive level positions. Yet instead of increased numbers horizontally translating @ Emerald into greater numbers vertically, the rise of women into upper management ranks



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Project Manageme

demographic shift has not made the assimilation of wom

inequity, alternative leadership styles, challenges in career

and stereotypes of successful women managers point to a la consensus about the acceptance of professional women man

in the workplace (Bienat and Fuegen, 2001; Piderit and Asl

2003). Indeed, the challenges faced by women to su represent a phenomenon that is far from settled; questions

the skills sets and personal characteristics needed for job sels

and hiring, particularly in male-dominated professions, ren critical focus for study. Scholars have labeled as "social category bias effo

systematic gender biases, including those based on physical

"The aura of capability": Gender bias in selection for a project manager job Jeffrey K. Pinto \*. Peerasit Patanakul. Mary Beth Pinto

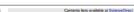
> Black School of Business, Penn State Erie, United States Received 10 June 2016; received in revised form 12 December 2016; accepted 5 January 2017

There have been mensions radios examining the various numers in which found managem are objected to regards street-pipe and and how such has indirectors bring decisions. We sengle to such pipe by descrite callings or within the specific context of project managem discipline that has historically been viewed an under-dominantal, focusing on perceived differences in made and femals job candidates based or of ortical permeasuring and interactives. In the context of the proceedings of the context of being hired. We only found evidence of gender bias in relation to perceived technical competence; in situations where the perceived to netence of the job candidate was low, the female candidate was less likely to be hired over a male counterpart. On the other han low, the remain called the resulting attribu-

Literature on the professional roles of women and challenges they face in being hired has increased dramatically in recent years. Census data reveals that over 50% of new college eraduates in the U.S. are female while research suggests that their employment levels in managerial positions within a broad variety of industries and functional occupations has been rapidly increasing (Aud et al., 2011). Moreover, industries that were traditionally viewed as "male-dominated," such as information hnology, engineering, operations, and construction, have seen a rise in the number of women moving into managerial positions (c.f., Sang et al., 2007; Loosemore and Waters, 2004). This

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Industrial Marketing Management



The role of functional and demographic diversity on new product creativity and the moderating impact of project uncertainty

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relationship between functional diversity and new product creativity was stronger when project uncertainty was high as opposed to when it was low. On the other hand, the direct relationship between demographic diversity and new product creativity was weaker when project uncertainty was high as opposed to when it was low. © 2016 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

In this paper, we focus on the relationship between the diversity of new product development teams and new product creativity. In one of the most common categorizations of team diversity, past research has primarily focused on two types of diversity, including social categor ry diversity and informational/functional diversity (van Knipper ry diversity alon informational/quincutoria diversity (via Amppennerg De Druu, & Homan, 2004). While research on social category diversity deals with differences on such readily identifiable attributes of team members as sex, age, and ethnicity, research on informational/functional diversity deals with their differences in less visible underlying attributes of the control of the such as functional and educational background (Bantel & Jackson, 1989; Østergaard, Timmermans, & Kristinsson, 2011).

The impact of team diversity on the effective functioning of new product development (NPD) teams has been extensively inveproduct development (NIVI) teams has been extensively investigated in the product innovation literature (Andersen, Kappi, B. Lettl., 2013; Crawford & Di Benedetto, 2006; Dayan & Di Benedetto, 2010; Hirunyawipada, Beyerlein, & Blankson, 2010; Mod Zaki & Othman, 2013; Suh, Bae, Zhao, Kim, & Armold, 2010; Tsai & Hsu, 2014]. However, while such prior studies recognize the influence of team diversity on new product creativity (e.g., Crawford & Di Benedetto, 2006), few

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woman's inability to be perceived as equally qualified as candidates, particularly in male-dominated professions such as engineering or technical fields. Marlowe et al. (1996) identified

studies provide empirical validation of how the diversity would lead to new product creativity at the NPD team level. Furthermore, this literature suggests a complex relationship between team diversity and team creativity (e.g., Dayan & Di Benedetto, 2011). More importantly, past research offers inconsistent results. For example, while several re-searchers (e.g. Gino, Argote, Miron-Spektor, & Todorova, 2010; Keller, 2001) have argued that diversity would be beneficial due to the broader 2001) have argued that diversity would be beneficial due to the broader range of Knowledge and expertise brought by functionally diverse team members, others (Joshi & Roh, 2009; Van der Vegt & Banderson, 2005) have suggested that diversity would be detrimental because people's preference for interacting and collaborating with similar rather than dissimilar participants could make communication difficult and cause

This inconsistency in the literature has usually been attributed to the insufficient amount of research on the direct relationship between team insufficient amount of research on the direct relationship between team diversity and team performance and the possible boundary conditions of this relationship. Thus, researchers have suggested that future research should investigate the direct relationship between team diversity and team performance, and the boundary conditions of this relationship (e.g., Harrison & Kiefer, 2007). Past research has used such such such as the control of noderators as temporal team leadership (Mohammed & Nadkarni, 2011), social status category (Chattopadhyay, Finn, & Ashkanasy, 2010), need for cognition (Kearney, Gebert, & Voelpel, 2009), national power distance (Van der Vegt, Van de Vliert, & Huang, 2005), and job stress (Keller, 2001). However, although meta-analyses (Bell & Berry 2007; Stewart, 2006) have revealed it to be an important potentia moderator, the role of task characteristics (e.g., project uncertainty) in



# **Practice – Theory**

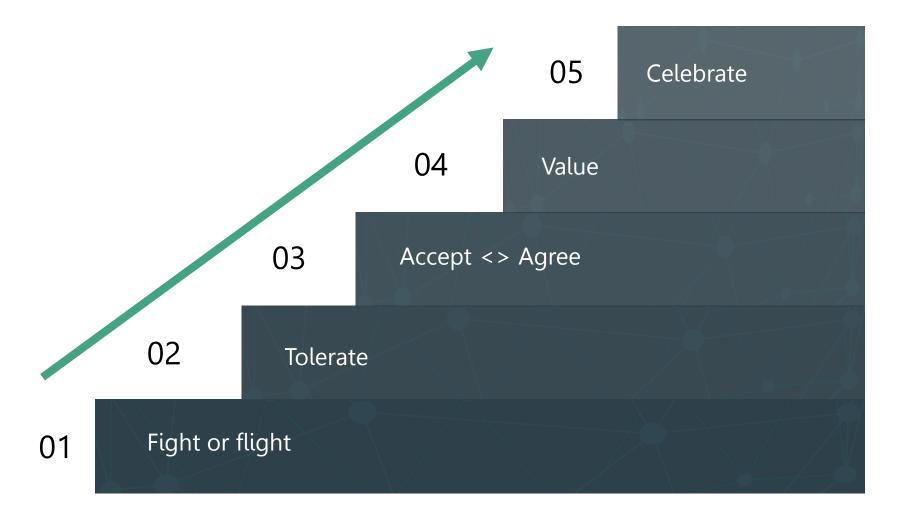
"Practice without theory is blind, theory without practice is empty"

- Kant[ish]

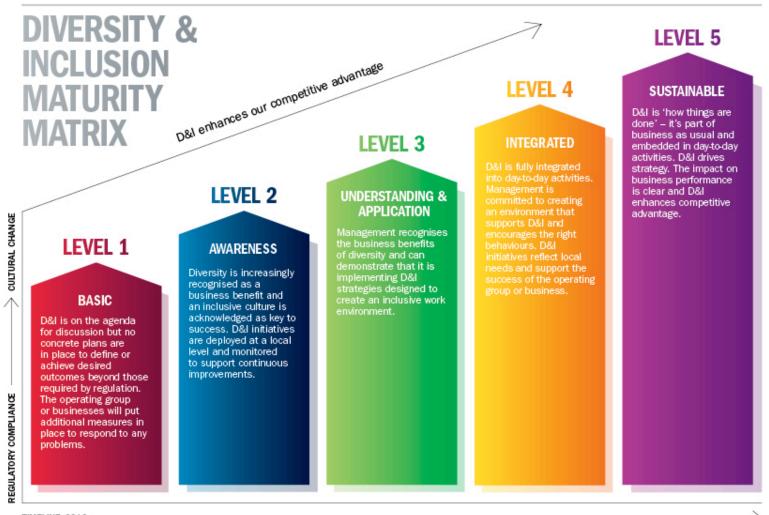
# **Diversity Maturity**



### **Diversity Staircase**



### **Diversity Maturity**





### **Diversity Maturity**

Korn Ferry D&I Maturity Model

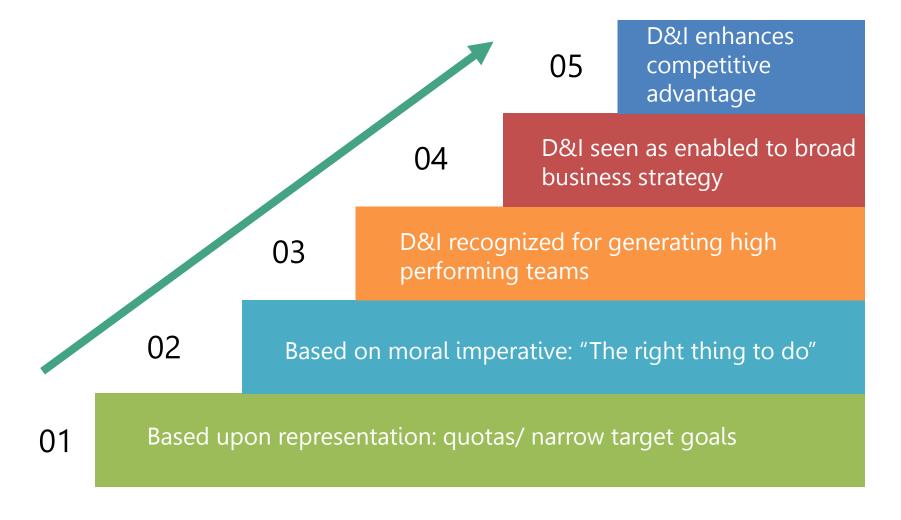
The road to best-in-class: what's current state and your desired state?

	Characteristics					
	Stage 1: Foundation Compliance Drive n	Stage 2: Awareness Values Driven	Stage 3: Talent Strategy Integration Talent Performance Driven	Stage 4: Operational Strategy Integration Internal Operations Driven	Stage 5: Market And Sales Strategy Integration Market Strategy Driven	
Premise	Based on representation: quotas/narrow target goals	Based on moral imperative: "The right thing to do"	D&I recognized for generating high performing work teams	D&I seen as enabler to broad business strategy	D&I seen as enhancing marketplace competitive advantage	
Definition of Diversity/ Diversity Focus	Narrow definition	Broad definition	Defined by intersectionality	Definition broadened to include operational disciplines	Definition broadened to include concepts in marketing and sales disciplines	
Responsibility	Compliance department	Human Resources	CDO and HR	Broadened to include operational process owners	Executives and senior leaders	
Leadership Involvement	No or little leadership involvement or commitment	Leaders accept some responsibility for D&I	Leaders have D&I goals and accountability	D&I seen as an essential leadership competency	Line leaders are key D&I change agents	
Business Case	None	Awareness that diverse talent may be a benefit to organization	Business case for D&I clearly articulated	D&I seen as asset and catalyst for innovation	D&I enhances business growth and profitability	
Measurement Strategy	None or based solely on litigation avoidance.	Metrics based on corporate values indices or existing talent engagement processes	Metrics capture talent growth and learning and key talent lifecycle processes	Metrics focus on culture change and leadership impact	D&I outcomes regularly evaluated for ROI impact across all business lines	
Resources/ Staffing	No or few dedicated resources	Dedicated staff and budget	Additional resources distributed throughout HR	Additional resources distributed throughout operational functions	Additional resources distributed throughout marketing, R&D, and customer service functions	
Approach	Reactive approach	Inspired approach	Visionary approach	Operational approach	Sustainable approach	

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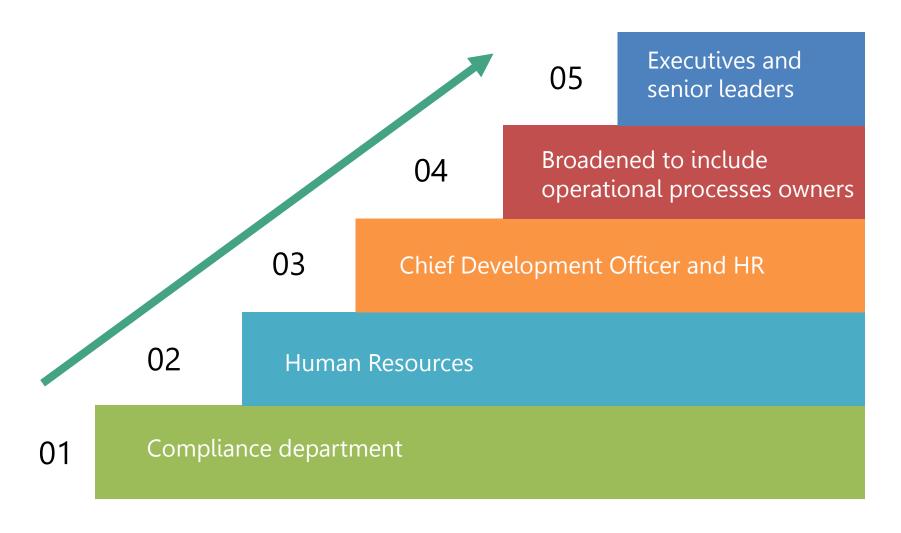


#### Premise





## Responsibility





### **Diversity Maturity**

#### Korn Ferry D&I Maturity Model

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NICSA



### **Diversity Maturity for PM**

	Foundational	Awareness	Integrated	Value	Sustained
Premise	Compliance driven	Talk the talk	Walk the walk	Attitude change	Attitude expectation
Organization	No action or plans beyond compliance with laws or rules	D&I is a stated value but primarily an HR consideration	D&I initiatives are integrated throughout the organization	All people are valued	D&I is a competitive advantage and strategic priority
Project manager	Not considered	Project norms are developed	Diversity check points get integrated into different facets of projects	Nurtures inclusive project teams	Acts as change agent and ally
Individual	Unaware of bias	Aware of bias	Participates in diversity related activities/ training	Proactively builds self- awareness	Acts as change agent and ally
Project Scope	Legal requirements are met	Diversity and Inclusion is discussed	Templates include considerations for inclusion	Scope includes participatory design	Prioritization is given to projects that challenge power dynamics
Risk Assessment	Not considered	Awareness of exclusion as an issue	Exclusion included as risk factor	Exclusion weighted as a risk factor	Projects that exclude are not chosen to move forward
Lessons learned	Documentation practices doesn't include diversity issues	D&I might be mentioned in lessons learned	D&I metrics are defined	Audit commitment and metrics for inclusion	Factors are regularly reviewed for progress and improvement
Approach	Reactive	Inspired	Visionary	Operational	Sustainable



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# **Tips and Suggestions**

### **Diversify and Include**

- Discuss diversity with regards to your
  - projects,
  - teams,
  - units,
  - organization
- Include diversity and inclusion within:
  - project scope;
  - risk;
  - lessons learned

#### **Potential metrics**

#### **Organization**

- Salary
- Retention
- Climate survey
- Time to promotion
- Training participation

#### **Projects**

- Time talking
- Team engagement

#### **Projects Management Office / Portfolio**

- Project assignments
- project audience
- end product usage demographics



### Acknowledge Privilege

- Use any privilege you have to validate colleagues, stakeholders, users
- Use any privilege you have to address colleague, stakeholder, user behavior/attitude
- Don't rely upon individuals who have historically been marginalized to mature you or organization's D&I mindset

#### **Value Diversity**

Diversity is everywhere.

Attitude is everything.

Responsibility belongs to everyone.

#### **Citations**

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# Thank you

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