

Self-estimates of intelligence: Culture and gender difference in self and other estimates of both general (g) and multiple intelligences.

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## Personality and Individual Differences

Volume 31, Issue 8, December 2001, Pages 1381-1405

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# Self-estimates of intelligence: culture and gender difference in self and other estimates of both general (g) and multiple intelligences

A Furnham

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0191-8869\(00\)00232-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0191-8869(00)00232-4)

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### Abstract

This review paper examines two related areas of research: studies dating back over 50 years on lay theories of the nature and measurement of intelligence, and more recent research on sex and culture differences on self-estimated intelligence. The latter focus is on the nearly 20 published papers on estimated intelligence. Studies have shown consistent sex differences with males rating themselves higher than females. There are also consistent generational effects with adult participants believing around a half standard deviation difference in intelligence with their grandparents being least intelligent and children most. Self-estimated and psychometric intelligence only correlates weakly. Studies looking at self and other estimates of multiple intelligence indicated that participants seemed to believe that intelligence was male normative in that it was

participants seemed to believe that intelligence was more hereditary in that it was specifically those types of intelligence (mathematical and spatial) that most differentiated between the sexes that were themselves more predictive of general overall intelligence. Implications of these findings for intelligence testing are considered.



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## Keywords

Culture; Gender; Intelligence; Sex differences; IQ testing

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