

## Research Questions

- Are congresswomen more likely than congressmen to use agency and reference their personal experiences and identity authority, explicitly referencing their gender roles, more than reference to other roles in one-minute House speeches?
- Are congresswomen more likely to use agency through reference to gender roles, personal experiences, and identity authority with topics that are considered women’s issues, more than when compared to its use in other issues?

## Background

- Agency and personal experiences are used by Representatives to “bolster their credibility with colleagues” (Swers, 110).
- Institutional norms and systems influence behavior; either more feminine or more masculine. (Politics = masculine)
- Women’s representation in politics can increase through speech/language.
- Studies identify women’s issues as education, health care, social services, women, family, children, environment, and local and district issues.

## Method

- Content analysis (manual) with keyword dictionary terms.
- Statistical testing for significance
- Sample of one-minute House speeches analyzed: 701

## Results

### Number and percentage (of instances) of agency use in speeches:

Speeches Delivered by Females (196)			Speeches Delivered by Males (505)		
Category	Number of instances	Percent	Category	Number of instances	Percent
“as a woman”	0	0%	“as a man”	0	0%
“as a mother”	7	20%	“as a father”	6	9%
“as a grandmother”	1	2%	“as a grandfather”	4	6%
“Other”	17	50%	“Other”	35	54%
Career Reference	9	26%	Career Reference	19	29%

### Examples of agency in speeches from the data set:

<p>“ . . . The No Surprises Act includes my bipartisan amendment to create an independent arbitration process that keeps patients out of the middle and off the hook for surprise medical bills. <b>As an emergency medicine physician</b>, my life’s work has been about putting patients first, . . .”</p> <p>- Representative Raul Ruiz , Democrat. one-minute speech on “End Surprise Medical Bills.” (US Congress. <i>Congressional Record</i>. 116th Cong., 1st sess., July 18, 2019. Vol. 165, no. 121).</p>	<p>“Mr. Speaker, <b>I am a single mom</b>. When I ran for Congress last year, I spent thousands and thousands of dollars on childcare. Running for Federal office requires 60- to 90-hour workweeks. . . .”</p> <p>-Representative Katie Porter, Democrat one-minute speech on "Campaign Expenditures Expansion to Childcare." (US Congress. <i>Congressional Record</i>. 116th Cong 1st sess., March 6, 2019, Vol. 165, no. 40).</p>
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## Results

### Agency and Women’s Issue Analysis

From speeches that include agency and are delivered by congresswomen:	Percent
Speeches on the topics of women’s issues and include agency:	66 %
“as a mother” (Most prominent agency reference in speeches on women’s issues):	35%

## Conclusion

- Gender role references are a less common use of agency in one–minute House speeches. Career references are a more common use of agency for both congressmen and congresswomen.
- Agency use was higher for congresswomen in speeches on women’s issues than in speeches on other issues.

## References

Swers, Michele L. *The Difference Women Make: The Policy Impact of Women in Congress*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002.

## Acknowledgements

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