A recent study analysing more than 1200 papers about gender disparities in STEM concluded that “masculine cultures” are the main reason for the imbalance in engineering, computer science and physics. Other fields like chemistry, math and the life sciences have similar disparities. It’s not that women prefer other fields; it’s that they suspect they won’t feel welcome in these particular ones. Until women feel that STEM fields are places where they can fit in and succeed as readily as men, it’s not likely they’ll choose them over more welcoming options.

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