

UNDERSTANDING **SAGER** Reporting Guidelines

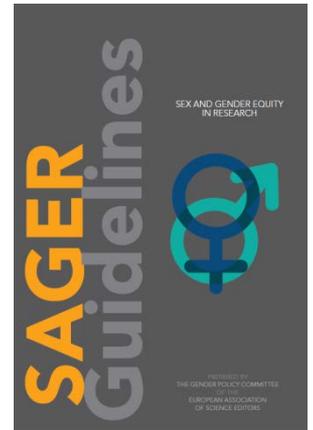
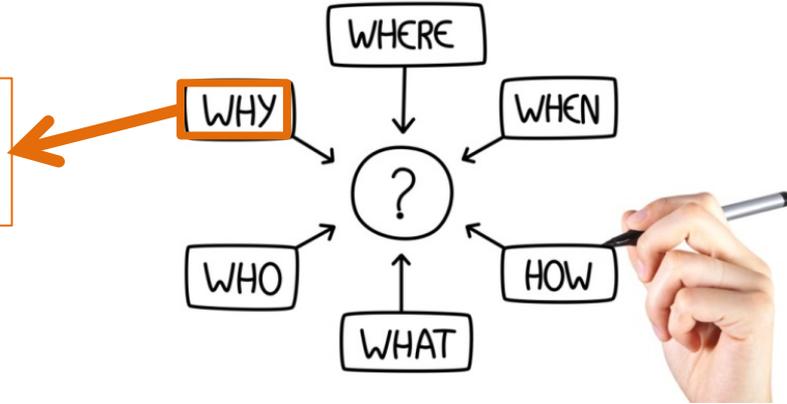
in **6** steps

Sex **A**nd **G**ender **E**quity in **R**esearch

 Gender Policy Committee
European Association of Science Editors



1 WHY?



Because **SEX AND GENDER MATTER**

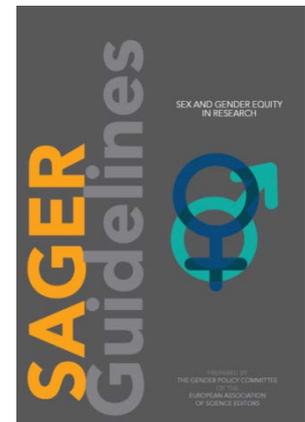
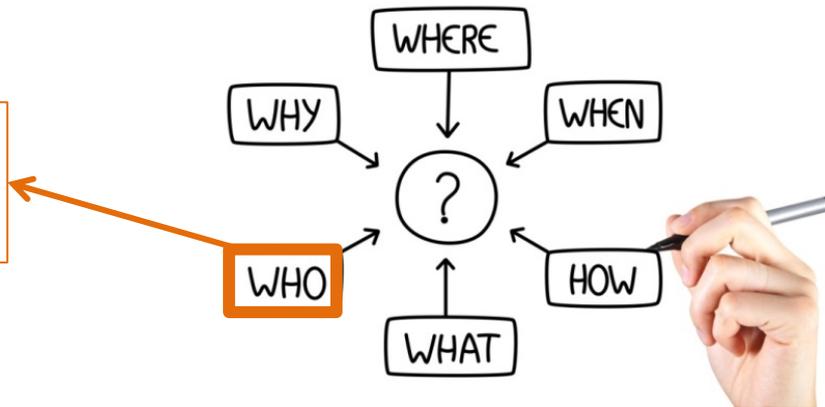
YET

Sex and gender differences are often OVERLOOKED AND UNREPORTED

in scientific research design, implementation and reporting, and in science communication

This **limits** the generalizability of research findings and their applicability to clinical practice, in particular **for women, but also for men**

2 WHO



WHO is the target of the Guidelines?

EDITORS, AUTHORS, REVIEWERS
organizations that fund and conduct research, policy makers, society

They need to become fully aware that **SEX AND GENDER MATTER** and share such responsibility through the use of the Guidelines (authors and referees) and their adoption (editors)

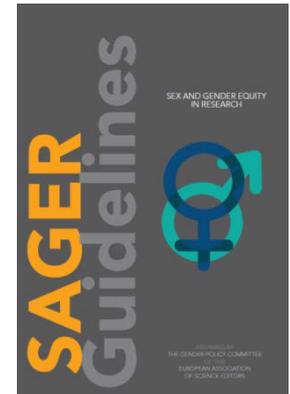
WHO is responsible for Guidelines?



The **Gender Policy Committee (GPC)** of the **European Association of Science Editors**
The **GPC** includes experts from 10 countries in Europe, North America, Latin America and Africa. To know more about the GPC visit: <http://www.ease.org.uk/about-us/gender-policy-committee>

3 WHAT

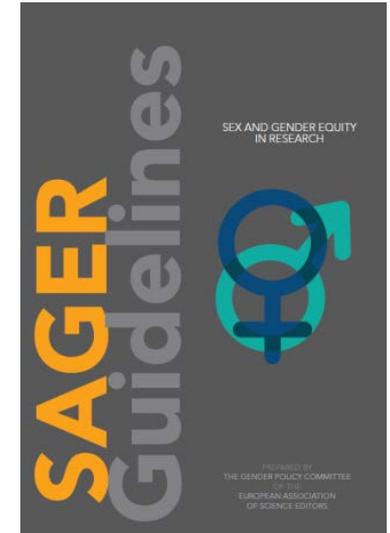
are they about?



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

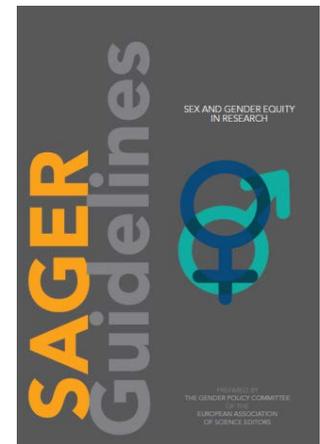
- Authors should use the **terms sex and gender** carefully to avoid confusing both terms
- Where the subjects of research comprise organisms capable of **differentiation by sex**, the research should be designed and conducted in a way that can reveal sex-related differences in the results, even if these are not expected.
- Where subjects can also be **differentiated by gender** (shaped by social and cultural circumstances), the research should be conducted similarly at this additional level of distinction.

Specific recommendations for **AUTHORS-EDITORS-REVIEWERS**



They will help authors, editors and referees:

- Use the correct **terminology** (sex and/or gender)
- Improve **study design, implementation** and **reporting**
- Allow the correct **implementation of research results** thus contributing to an equitable use of resources and reduction of waste



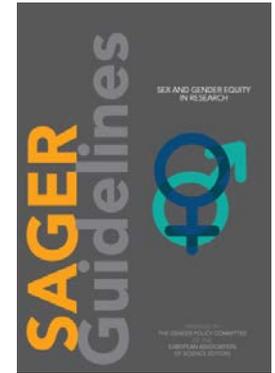
The **SAGER** guidelines will be useful in the different stages of research



- study design, implementation, reporting
- peer reviewing
- research implementation



6 WHERE?



Where to find more about the SAGER Guidelines?

Full article: Heidari et al. Research Integrity and Peer Review, 2016

Flyer: EASE GPC website

Equator website, among published guidelines

National Library of Medicine, among NLM reporting guidelines

Instructions for authors of journals who adopted them

Citations in editorials and other articles: JAMA, The Lancet Psychiatry, Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Addiction Journal, BMC Medical Research Methodology and others

Where to endorse the SAGER Guidelines in less than 1 minute

GPC website: <http://www.ease.org.uk/about-us/gender-policy-committee>

Highly recommended to foster adoption by journal editors

SAGER

Reporting Guidelines

in practice



- Recommendations per section of the article
- Recommendations for editors
- Authors checklist for gender-sensitive reporting

Sex **A**nd **G**ender **E**quity in **R**esearch

1. Title and abstract

If **only one sex** is included in the study, or if the results of the study are to be applied to only one sex or gender, the title and the abstract should **specify the sex** of animals or any cells, tissues and other material derived from these and the **sex and gender of human** participants

2. Introduction

Authors should report, where relevant, whether sex and/ or gender **differences** may be **expected**

4. Results

Where appropriate, data should be **routinely presented disaggregated** by sex and gender. Sex- and gender-based **analyses** should be reported regardless of positive or negative outcome. In clinical trials, data on withdrawals and dropouts should also be reported disaggregated by sex.

3. Methods

Authors should **report how** sex and gender were taken into account in the design of the study, whether they ensured adequate representation of males and females, and **justify** the reasons for any exclusion of males or females

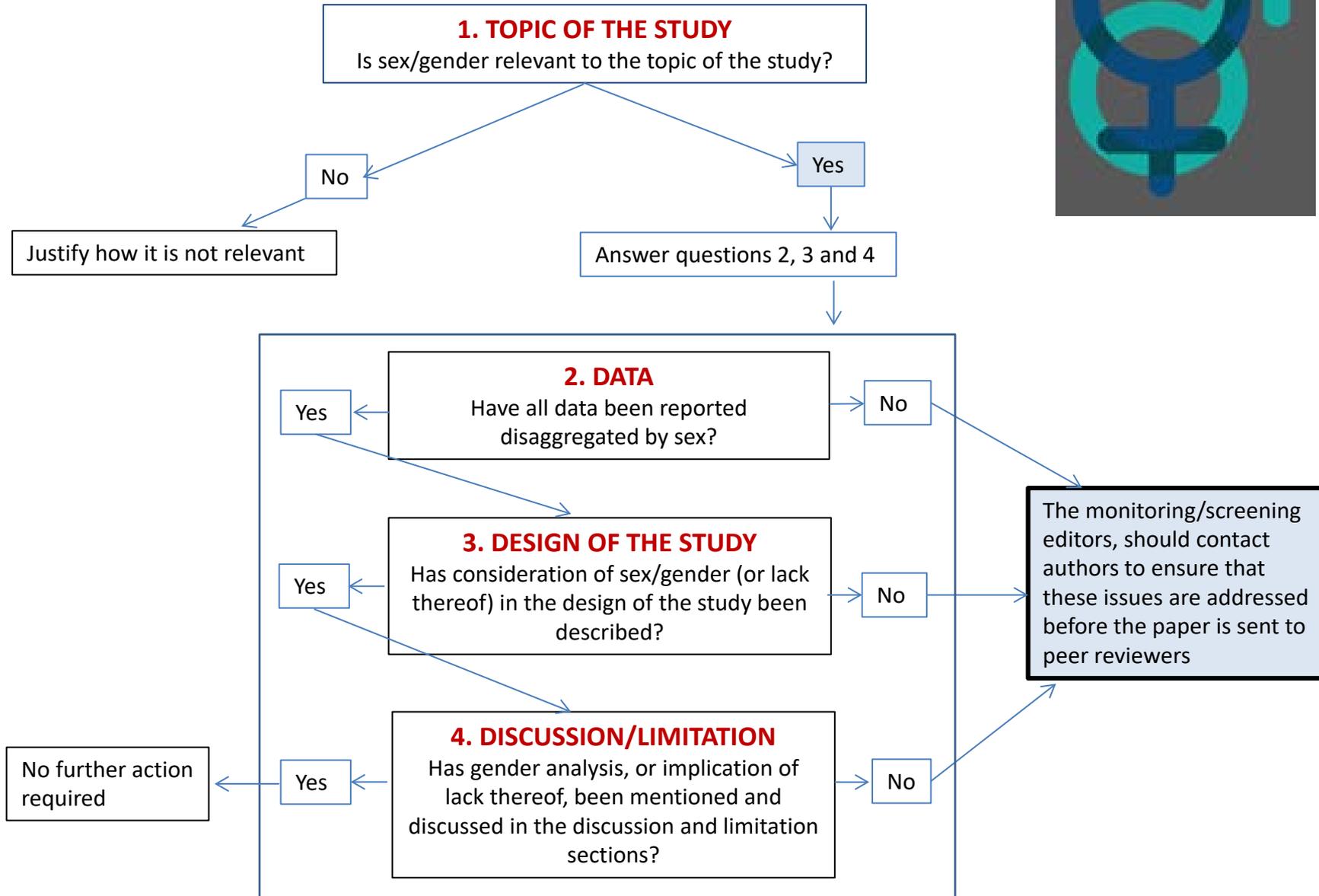
5. Discussion

The potential implications of sex and gender on the study results and analyses should be discussed. **If** a sex and gender analysis was **not** conducted, the rationale should be given. Authors should further **discuss the implications** of the lack of such analysis on the interpretation of the results.

1. Adopt the guidelines as a formal policy in **Instructions to Authors**
2. Screen **initial submissions** to determine whether sex/gender is relevant to the topic of the study; if so, determine whether the issue has been addressed adequately enough to proceed with peer-review
3. Encourage **peer reviewers** to consider journal's sex/gender policy in the evaluation of manuscripts.
4. **Train editorial staff** on the importance of sex/gender sensitive reporting

SAGER flowchart

guiding editors' initial screening of submitted manuscripts



AUTHORS' CHECKLIST

for gender-sensitive reporting

FOCUS ON

- Research approaches
- Questions and hypothesis
- Literature review
- Research methods
- Ethics

Appendix 2

Table 2 Authors' checklist for gender-sensitive reporting

Research approaches ✓

- ✓ Are the concepts of gender and/or sex used in your research project?
- ✓ If yes, have you explicitly defined the concepts of gender and/or sex? Is it clear what aspects of gender and/or sex are being examined in your study?
- ✓ If no, do you consider this to be a significant limitation? Given existing knowledge in the relevant literature, are there plausible gender and/or sex factors that should have been considered? If you consider sex and/or gender to be highly relevant to your proposed research, the research design should reflect this

GENDER POLICY COMMITTEE



Co- Chairs

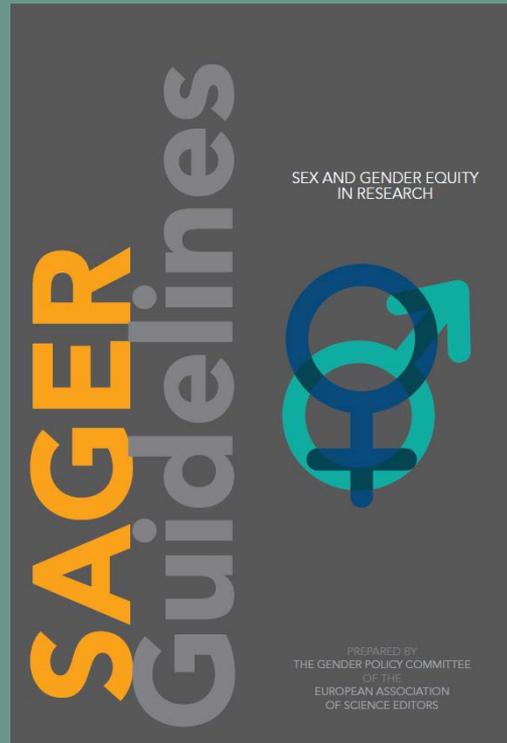
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<http://www.ease.org.uk/about-us/gender-policy-committee/>

ENDORSE the SAGER Guidelines



we encourage endorsement
by all those involved in the
scientific enterprise and in
communication and explanation
of science and scientific
achievement, including journal
editors, researchers, broad media
and broadcasters.

THANK YOU