

1.5 times more likely to be interrupted, while in the House they are 6 times more likely to be interrupted. Additionally, institutional power (i.e., being part of the majority party and being chair of the committee), political party (i.e., being Republican), and length of speech decreases the likelihood of being interrupted.

Seniority, however, appears to work differently – while both congressmen and women are more likely to be interrupted as they gain seniority, this trend is stronger for men in both chambers. In addition, as women gain seniority, they do not become more aggressive in interruptions, when compared to men with the same level of seniority, suggesting that they do not develop a more “masculine communication style” to fend off interruptions. Finally, women in both chambers are more likely to be involved in a rapid-fire interruption cluster, particularly in hearings involving women’s issues. Specifically, women are 44 times more likely to have to fight for time on women’s issues relative to men in Congressional hearings overall. In the House and Senate, women are 6 times and 1.3 times, respectively, more likely than men in the Senate to have to fight for their time on women’s issues. Miller and Sutherland also find some evidence

that suggests that interruptions in Congress occur more often in mixed-gender interactions and that men interrupt women more often than they do other men.

In sum, Miller and Sutherland find that congresswomen, particularly those involved in Senate committee hearings and those who discuss women’s issues, are more likely to be interrupted. These findings highlight one of the many challenges that women in Congress face compared to men. Women in Congress that fight for women’s issues and win-win while confronting challenges that men do not face as often. Miller and Sutherland encourage future researchers to consider how these conditions for women’s policymaking may vary depending on the topic, as well as the extent to which the conditions influence effectiveness in pursuing their legislative agenda. Finally, given the current debate on reproductive freedoms that is now in the hands of the Supreme Court, what implications do these findings have on the future of women across the United States?

MILLER, MICHAEL G., and JOSEPH L. SUTHERLAND. 2022. “The Effect of Gender on Interruptions at Congressional Hearings.” *American Political Science Review*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055422000260>

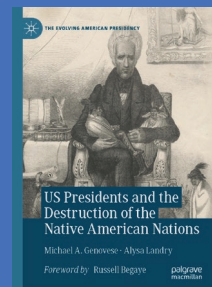
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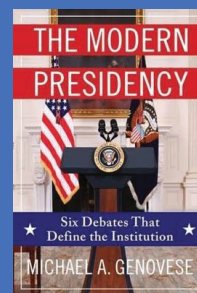
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