Women in Computing in South Africa and other sub-Saharan countries

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ACM-W Ambassador for South Africa

(Thanks to Hlamalani Huhlwane and Kegomoditswe More)

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  - ▶ an indirect route to becoming a theoretical computer scientist

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- ▶ ACM-W ambassador program

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  - ▶ confusion between high-level ICT involvement and ICT usage

- ▶ joint SA-Finnish study from 2006
  - ▶ very complete assessment of the situation
  - ▶ statistics from government labour survey
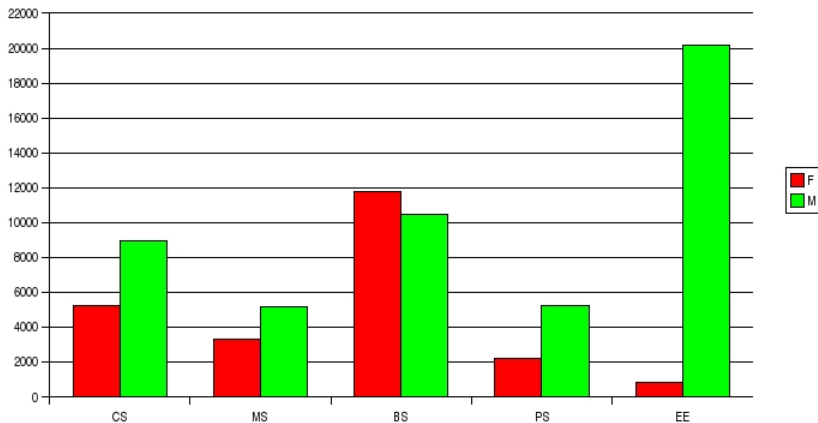
University gender data, South Africa 1992-2001

Male vs Female CS Graduates (Universities)
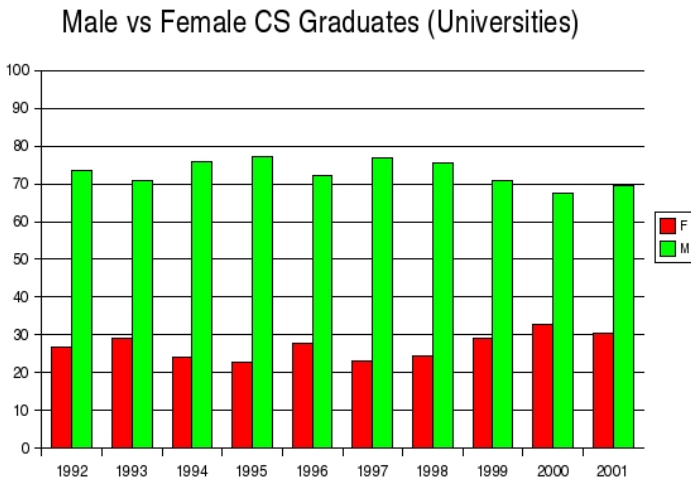
University gender and race data, South Africa 1992-2001
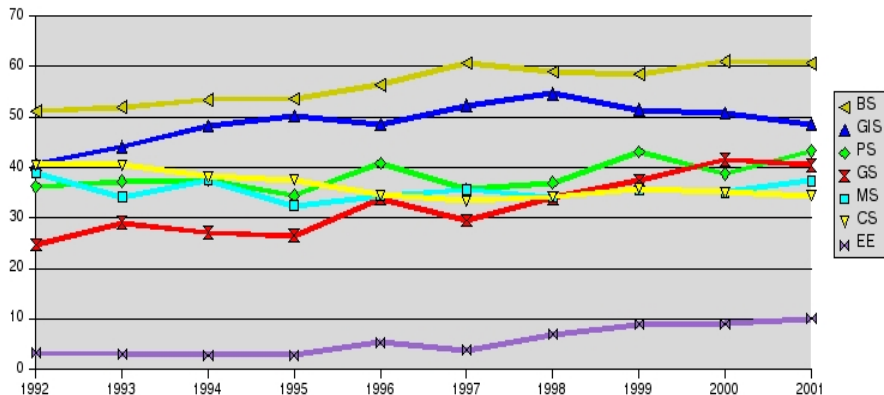
Female CS Graduates by Race (Universities)
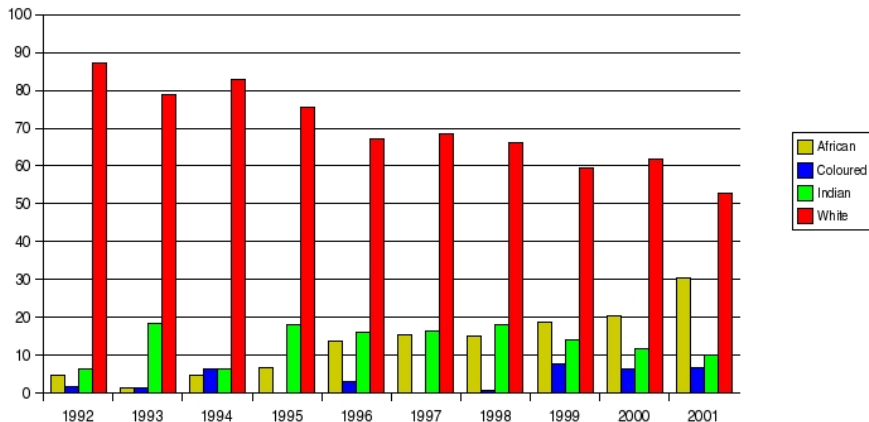
Discipline comparison, South Africa 2001

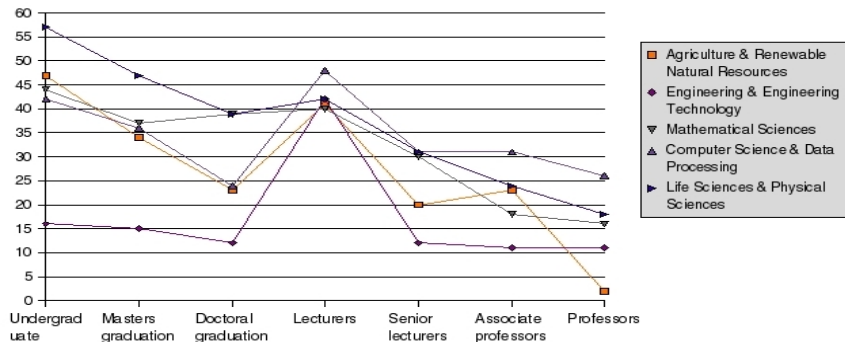Male vs Female Graduates Across Disciplines (All Institutions)

Discipline comparison over time, South Africa 1992-2001

Comparison of Female Graduates Across Disciplines (All institutions)

Discipline pipeline, South Africa 2001

Percentages of women in the Natural Sciences & Engineering in the university sector by sub-field (2001)

Industry, South Africa 2005

Male vs Female ICT Occupations
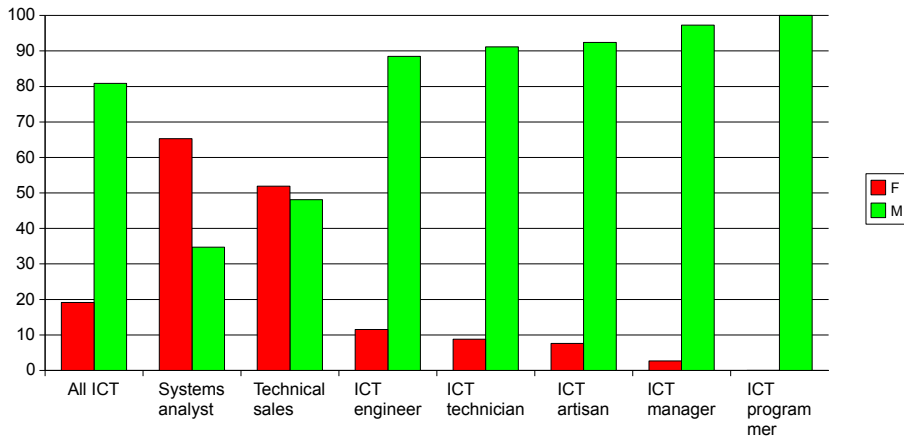
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- ▶ surprisingly, lack of access can correlate with higher interest

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- ▶ interventions suggested by SA-Finnish research project
  - ▶ South African resource centre for women in ICT
  - ▶ increased research capacity in women and ICT
  - ▶ workable and integrated system for measuring ICT involvement
  - ▶ training programmes for school teachers
  - ▶ training programmes for girls and young women
  - ▶ dissemination and awareness raising activities

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- ▶ similar reasons to South Africa?

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- ▶ see http://www.acm.org/women

Thank you