

Computing Education Interventions to Increase Gender Equity from 2000 to 2020:

A Systematic Literature Review

Authors

LARA PEREZ-FELKNER is a Professor of Higher Education and Sociology at Florida State University, P.O. Box 3064452, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4452. Her research uses developmental and sociological perspectives to examine how social contexts influence college and career outcomes. She focuses on the mechanisms that shape entry into and persistence in institutions and fields in which students have traditionally been underrepresented. This work investigates racial-ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic disparities in postsecondary pathways to educational attainment and scientific careers. Email: lperezfelkner@fsu.edu

KRISTEN ERICHSEN is a Senior Data Scientist at Knowli Data Science, 3551 Blairstone Road Suite 105-102, Tallahassee, FL 32301; kristen.erichsen@knowli.com. She earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from Florida State University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at FSU's Center for Postsecondary Success. Her research interests include pathways to STEM degrees for underserved populations, school violence, school security, healthcare, and sociological implications of public policy.

YANG LI is a Ph.D. Candidate in Higher Education and Academic Assessment Professional, focusing on evaluating student engagement and post-graduation outcomes, at Florida State University; yang.li@fsu.edu. Her mixed methods research focuses on gender and racial-ethnic disparities in STEM fields, with attention to Asian, Asian American, and international students' gender and racial identity development and experiences in Computing, Mathematics and Engineering fields.

JINJUSHANG CHEN is a postdoctoral faculty member at Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China; chena818@gmail.com. She earned a Ph.D. in Learning and Cognition from Florida State University. Her research focuses on refining the measurement of students' epistemic beliefs.

SHOUPING HU is the Louis W. and Elizabeth N. Bender Endowed Professor of Higher Education at Florida State University; shu@fsu.edu. His research interests examine issues related to postsecondary readiness, outcomes, and success.

LADANYA RAMIREZ SURMEIER is an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Public Health Program at Florida State University; email: LRamirez2@fsu.edu. Her Ph.D. dissertation in Sociology focused on Hispanic Serving Institutions, and her current research focuses on the impacts of higher education on health outcomes.

CHELSEA SHORE is an Independent Researcher working with the SAFE Project; Chelsea.Shore06@gmail.com. She earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education at Florida State University as well as graduate certificates in Educational Measurement and Statistics and in

Program Evaluation. Her research employs multiple methodologies and examines programmatic interventions to support undergraduate students' health, wellness, and recovery in college.

Correspondence concerning this manuscript should be addressed to Lara Perez-Felkner, Florida State University. Email: lperezfelkner@fsu.edu

Decision Letter (RER-22-Aug-MS-410.R3)**From:** mildredboveda@gmail.com**To:** lperezfelkner@fsu.edu**CC:** outreach@aera.net, pubs@aera.net**Subject:** RER - Decision on Manuscript ID RER-22-Aug-MS-410.R3**Body:** 01-Mar-2024

Dear Dr. Perez-Felkner:

It is a pleasure to accept your manuscript entitled "Computing Education Interventions to Increase Gender Equity from 2000 to 2020: A Systematic Literature Review" in its current form for publication in the RER. We appreciated your detailed responsiveness to the comments and suggestions provided by us and the reviewers on your previous version. The RER copyeditor will work with you to resolve any remaining copyediting and formatting issues.

As you may know, RER's most recent 5-year impact factor is 16.6 and the journal is ranked as one of the top journals in education and educational research (as reported in Journal Citation Reports from Clarivate, 2023, Scopus®, 2022 release and Google Scholar). To alert readers to your published article and increase the impact and visibility of your work, we encourage you to post an announcement to relevant professional listservs and forward an email announcement to colleagues in your networks.

You may also wish to write a news "brief," at-a-glance summary, or op ed piece for the education news and general interest media. Mr. Tony Pals, Director of Communications at American Educational Research Association may be able to assist you in gaining coverage. He can be reached at (202) 238-3235 or tpals@aera.net. An example of this type of complementary news coverage appears on Valerie Strauss' Washington Post "Answer Sheet" blog (published July 19, 2018), which featured an article by RER author Suneal Kolluri (see https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2018/07/19/seven-things-research-reveals-and-doesnt-about-advanced-placement/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.3c7210029193).

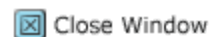
In addition, keep in mind that university news outlets and alumni magazines are typically eager to feature the work of their faculty. If you post to Twitter (now X), please tag us @karlysarita, @falopeziglesias, @e_frankenberg, @mildredboveda, @RERjournal_AERA, and @AERA_EdResearch so we can retweet your news.

Thank you for your fine contribution. On behalf of the Editors of the RER, we look forward to your continued contributions to the Journal.

Sincerely,

ChanMin Kim, Associate Editor of RER

Mildred Boveda, Co-Editor of RER

Date Sent: 01-Mar-2024 Close Window

Computing Education Interventions to Increase Gender Equity from 2000 to 2020:**A Systematic Literature Review****Abstract**

Although gender parity has been achieved in some STEM fields, gender disparities persist in computing, one of the fastest growing and highest-earning career fields. In this systematic literature review, we expand upon academic momentum theory to categorize computing interventions intended to make computing environments more inclusive to girls and women and consider how those characteristics vary by the success of the intervention. Particular attention is given to the efficacy of broadening participation and success for women in computer science, information technology, and related fields. After scrutinizing 168 relevant studies, 48 met the inclusion criteria and were included. We introduce a framework for gender equity in computing, expanding on existing research on academic and STEM momentum to encompass new domains representing social and structural momentum. Our analysis reveals the complex roles of intervention domains, strategies, goals, levels, and duration in shaping their efficacy. Implications for theory, research, and practice are discussed.

Keywords:

gender equity, computing, computer science, intervention research, academic momentum; systematic review

Computing Education Interventions to Increase Gender Equity from 2000 to 2020: A Systematic Literature Review

Computing¹ is one of the fastest growing career fields in the United States and globally; yet the computing workforce may not keep up with the rising demand (Sax et al., 2017). It is vital to include women in these careers – not only to meet the labor demands of the 21st century, but to close wage disparities between women and men (Abbiss, 2008; Fox, 2010). Despite the pervasive daily involvement in technology among individuals from all genders, the representation of girls and women in computing fields continues to be alarmingly low (OECD, 2018).

Gender inequities in computing participation risk harm to individuals within the field (e.g., students, faculty, staff, workers) and to the field itself, which cannot realize its possibility without first better representing its users and the society it reflects (Litts et al., 2020; Lynn et al., 2003; Pinkard et al., 2017). Girls and women typically experience unwelcoming climates in computing spaces from schooling through the workforce (DuBow & Kaminsky, 2019; Margolis & Fisher, 2002; Scott et al., 2017). Hall and Sandler (1982, 1984) noted girls and women in these male-dominated spaces experienced unfounded questions of ability and belonging from peers, mentors, and instructors. These behaviors and the reproduction of stereotyped beliefs surrounding computing ability and belonging persist today (Britton, 2016; Jensen & Deemer, 2019).

Increasing women’s participation in computing education continues to be of pressing importance. Indeed, this journal has published systematic literature reviews on gender equity in

¹ Computing refers to those fields classified under the U.S. Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code 11.XXXX, for “Computer and Informational Sciences and Support Services” (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2018). This manuscript refers to “computing” instead of computer science alone, to leverage this more inclusive category of potential degree fields with overlapping skills.

computing fields: one on primary and secondary information technology education (Volman & Van Eck, 2001) and the other on computer-related postsecondary majors (Singh et al., 2007). While each investigated contemporary research on girls' and women's experiences in these fields, neither focused on interventions and the application of research to diminish the gender disparities they reported. While gender inequity remains a problem, there has been an explosion of interest and research in gender equity in computing in the decades since,² which attend to computing education across the educational life course and global efforts to achieve greater gender equity for women across social backgrounds and contexts. Systematic literature reviews published elsewhere tend not to focus on the most recent literature (e.g., Gürer & Camp, 2002), on gender (e.g., Kafai & Burke, 2015), or on interventions (e.g., Pantic & Clarke-Midura, 2019).

Yet, computing interventions focused on improving gender equity have been developed at each level of education and occupation. In general, each seeks to cultivate a gender-inclusive computing environment. Although individual strategies have been identified to increase girls' and women's representation in computing, it is unclear which strategies are reliable and potentially scalable. By investigating educational interventions with the potential for cultural change, this systematic literature review addresses the following research questions: (1) what are the characteristics of interventions that create inclusive spaces for girls and women in computing? (2) what are the goals of these interventions? and (3) to what extent are these interventions associated with achieving their intended aims, towards greater gender equity?³ We

² For instance, 166 gender-focused studies were published between 2005–2022 on broadening participation in computing for undergraduates alone (Sax et al., 2024).

³ This systematic review of research on gender equity in computing (2000-2020) is primarily limited to binary notions of gender. Research on computing (and STEM generally) has tended to focus primarily on girls and women if attending to gender equity at all. We address this further in our limitations and future directions sections. Studies from 2020 onward may be more likely to capture a broader spectrum of gender identity and expression.

evaluated the quality of existing evidence on interventions by synthesizing interdisciplinary peer-reviewed literature and the outcomes of each study. We close with a more expansive framework for academic momentum with potential use beyond research on gender equity in computing.

The Gender Gap in Computing

Problem Statement: While Malleable, Gender Inequality Persists in Computing

Women continue to be severely underrepresented in computing majors in postsecondary education, and employment rates among women in computing are even lower (Bonham & Stefan, 2017; Cheryan & Plaut, 2010; Dryburgh, 2000; Main & Schimpf, 2017). Women can be systematically pushed out of pathways to computing careers through lack of opportunity, persistent stereotyping, and unwelcome climates (Beyer, 2014; Heilbrunner, 2012). Evidence suggests pathways towards computing careers for women have become less accessible over time. From 1982–1992, the proportion of women enrolled in computer science majors declined by 7% (Dryburgh, 2000). According to the U.S. Department of Education, since 1995, women’s completion of bachelor’s degrees in computer science declined from 28% to 18% (Perry, 2018). Black, Latina, and Indigenous women continue to be especially underrepresented in computer science majors and occupations (Charleston et al., 2014; Estrada et al., 2016; Myers, 2018).

Meanwhile, participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) is a key avenue through which we might narrow gender gaps in economic opportunities (Abbiss, 2008; Fox, 2010). This is especially true for high-earning and high-demand fields such as computing (Corbett, 2015). Problematically, these fields miss a critical perspective through the exclusion of women and people of color. This oversight is detrimental to the progression of the field and larger society (Fox, 2010). Some science and technology disciplinary fields are more sex-segregated than others, as some have moved gradually towards and even achieved

gender parity, while others have not (Sax et al., 2017). Compared to other STEM fields, computing has a uniquely dramatic variation in the computing gender gap over time, with cycles of declining female participation following periods of rising gender equity (Lehman et al., 2017). As of 2019, women comprise 48.3% of the labor force in biological sciences compared to only 25.8% of computer and mathematical occupations (National Science Board, 2021). The question remains why this particular—and more recent—field is so volatile for girls and women.

Critical theorists argue we must redefine the problem by broadening the scope of what constitutes computing and challenge the field's masculine-dominated culture (Abbiss, 2008). Notably, literature's definition of computing is currently contested and ambiguous. Some scholars define the pursuit of a computing career as seeking a computer science major or information technology major exclusively (Dryburgh, 2000), but other scholars include a broader range of majors in their definitions (Lent et al., 2008). The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) defines computing disciplines including the following majors: computer engineering, computer science, information systems, information technology, software engineering, bioinformatics, computational science, gaming and animation, and medical informatics (ACM, 2006). We adopt this last definition in this manuscript.

Persistent gender disparities in computing exist across the globe, with some variation. Researchers find the more gender-egalitarian nations are on measures such as tertiary educational attainment, the larger the gender gap in STEM and mathematics fields (Charles & Bradley, 2009; McDaniel, 2016). Several key studies establishing this pattern draw on the limited cross-national and cross-sectional survey data available, finding similar patterns: highly industrialized economies tend to have more rigid gender-typing of STEM career fields as evidenced for example in girls' and women's attitudes and performance (Charles, 2017). Recent research in

nations with considerably less wealth suggests the potential for shrinking gender gaps in STEM areas including computing fields specifically (Perez-Felkner et al., 2020). Studies examining demographic differences within non-U.S. countries suggest the importance of broadening participation in all countries from the less resourced members of society, including First Nation and Aboriginal distance education learners (Gibb, 2006; Voyageur, 2001).

Explaining the Gap: Person Inputs and Intersectionality

Noted in the synthesis of women in computer-related majors research by Singh et al. (2007), scholarship on the gender gap in computing fields has too often attended to “a unitary notion of *woman*” (p. 517; original italics). Using a gender lens alone would obscure the intersecting challenges met by girls and women who may experience compounding forms of marginalization associated with economic disadvantage, disabilities, gender identity, sexual identity and orientation, race/ethnicity, and/or other identity statuses and lived experiences (Gaston Gayles & Smith, 2019; Ireland et al., 2018). Intersectionality is a theoretical and methodological tool used to assess structural, political, and representational axes by which women from marginalized groups have experienced discrimination and oppression (Cho et al., 2013; Collins, 2015; Crenshaw, 1991). These intersecting axes of inequality have been conceptualized as a double bind (Malcom & Malcom, 2011) which can hinder women’s success in computing, with consequences for future gender equity in the field.

Intersectionality was developed from Black feminist scholarship and can be used to investigate gender and race in tandem in academic STEM (Charleston et al., 2014; Prescod-Weinstein, 2020), and specifically in computing fields (Yamaguchi & Burge, 2019). Structural intersectionality addresses how environments can obfuscate the specific needs of girls and women of color, who may feel pressured politically to prioritize one identity (e.g., gender) over

another (e.g., race), and can be tokenized when their representation is scarce—as it often is in computing classrooms, faculties, and in the workforce (Haynes et al., 2020). Recent research on intersectionality attends to additional forms of marginality, including sexual identity (Miller et al., 2020) and groups underrepresented in computing fields such as Latinas (Rodriguez et al., 2020). Aggregating social identity categories to examine gender alone can allow blind spots; more nuanced studies of gender disparities in computing should consider gender equity.

To address entrenched gender inequality, it is essential to understand the mechanisms behind why social identity continues to affect girls' and women's representation in STEM fields overall (Kim et al., 2018) and computing specifically (Margolis et al., 2000; Rodriguez & Lehman, 2017). Structural changes that can increase girls' and women's equity may be especially effective for those with intersecting gender and racial/ethnic identities (Ireland et al., 2018) and those from less economically advantaged families (Frank et al., 2004).

Current Review: Computing Interventions in Education for Gender Equity

Computing interventions focused on gender equity in computing vary widely in scope, duration, and goals. It remains unclear which are effective and scalable. Further evaluation is needed to determine whether these interventions can be implemented with larger and more diverse populations. Therefore, we sought to review the quality of existing gender equity interventions by synthesizing interdisciplinary peer-reviewed evidence.

Methodology

Conceptual Framework: Momentum for Equitable Pathways through STEM

In this manuscript, we assess computing interventions to enhance gender equity and their relative success in breaking down structural barriers that affect girls and women across intersecting identities. We propose a framework to analyze elements of computing entry and

persistence, and interventions that improve them. This framework informs our classification criteria in response to research questions 2 and 3 and extends from prior research on momentum with respect to academic opportunity generally in STEM specifically.

Academic and STEM Momentum

With empirical data from a nationally longitudinal cohort studies, Adelman (1999; 2006) developed a widely used framework for *academic momentum*, arguing for the importance of cumulative experiences with mathematics course taking, to enhance the likelihood of (all) students' success in college and preparedness for mathematics-intensive degree fields. Wang (2017) conceptualized the *teaching and learning domain* of STEM momentum as students' mastery of subject matter and strategies they may employ to “regulate, adjust, adapt, and assess one's own learning processes” (p. 284). The *curricular domain* of momentum referred to students' enrollment and likelihood of persistence to degree through coursework. She also expanded on the *motivational domain* of momentum, including students' aspirations, mindsets, persistence, and agency (i.e., efficacy in seeking knowledge and resources). Wang et al. (2013) also discussed factors beyond postsecondary institutional and pre-college demographic factors that may facilitate or inhibit STEM momentum. Altogether, the momentum framework identifies potential mechanisms for closing persistent disparities that especially disenfranchise populations underrepresented in postsecondary education and STEM careers. This framework thus aligns with that of our systematic review, intended to identify potential evidence to enhance gender equity in computing, and informs our classification.

We leverage the momentum framework given its attention to potentially either enhance or reduce educational opportunity. We reach across the educational life course to assess educational interventions aimed at expanding gender equity in computing fields, including

curricular and extracurricular learning opportunities in computing which extend beyond secondary and postsecondary schooling. Wang’s (2017) study found counter-momentum friction (e.g., financial and other barriers) and carry-over momentum supports (i.e., various personal and other precollege factors) may factor into individuals’ academic momentum pathways. To assess interventions’ efficacy in enhancing gender equity, with attention for transparency and scalability, we explicitly identify and add domains to the model, as described below.

Proposed Classification Framework

Drawing on the literature described above, we expand upon these conceptualizations of momentum, and propose a framework for gender equity in computing (see Figure 1). We include teaching and learning, curricular, and motivational domains. We also expanded the theory to attend more directly to social and structural momentum domains, which could bolster and sustain computing ambitions. Figure 1 shows personal inputs which may shape entry to computing pathways; intersecting relationships between motivational, curricular, and teaching and learning domains present in the earlier momentum models; “social” domain that may function to support individuals within a complex system; and physical “structure” which anchors this model, representing schools, community organizations, or other potential sites for intervention.

[INSERT FIGURE 1]

We consider contextual supports and barriers a distinct momentum domain, as they are necessary for systemic, sustained gender equity in computing entry and persistence. This *structural* domain of momentum is one of our two key additions to Wang’s (2017) framework. Broadened opportunity appears necessary to expand gender equity in who is prepared for and who enrolls in computing coursework, with the potential to progress into computing occupations. Opportunities to engage with computers and the computing field are not distributed equitably

(Corbett & Hill, 2015; Elliott, 2017). Thus, to examine momentum, it is necessary to assess the degree various structures allow for its development.

Moreover, social support is particularly important for girls and women in computing to foster an inclusive environment (Hanks et al., 2011). A commonly cited barrier to women's entry and persistence in computing is a chilly climate (Hall & Sandler, 1982), whereby computing instructors, potential advisors and mentors, and peers fail to attract and retain women in the field through unwelcoming and noninclusive behavior. More recent studies have demonstrated both subtle and direct hostility shown towards women in computing (e.g., Stout et al., 2017), including but not limited to denigration of their skills, intellect, and merit (DuBow & Kaminsky, 2019). As our second addition to the momentum framework, the *social* domain of momentum evaluates this component of computing entry and persistence.

Accordingly, we leverage our expanded momentum framework to offer a robust understanding of how academic momentum is created and maintained along the educational life course. This model may serve as a framework for future studies of momentum in myriad academic fields beyond computing. We apply this framework to the computing field, with a focus on building scalable interventions aimed at improving gender equity. The section below explains these domains which inform our systematic classification of the literature reviewed.

Teaching and Learning Domain. Scholars have examined how to improve students' computing engagement through fostering learning and inclusive environments. Women were found to complete more courses when there is a balance of skill, interest, and challenge in their college-level computing coursework (Milesi et al., 2017). Skill development can enhance girls' computing major selection and career aspirations (Mau & Li, 2018). This research suggests inclusive teaching and learning interventions have the potential to reduce gender disparities.

Curricular Domain. Exposure to computer science coursework is a key predictor of girls’ interest and preparedness for computing in postsecondary education and beyond (Fisher & Margolis, 2003; Tillberg & Cohoon, 2005). Limited access to courses can impede girls’ and women’s access to computing-related postsecondary programs and careers; therefore, the curricular domain of computing momentum appears dependent on the structural domain. Curricular offerings have increased in the past decade, as have policies and programs at district, state, and federal levels to increase the capacity of the computing education labor force (Alba, 2016; Goode, 2007; Moller & Crick, 2018). Offering on-ramps to computing majors—which do not require secondary school computing course experiences— appear particularly promising to close this gender gap (Corbett & Hill, 2015). This suggests the importance of looking beyond course completion and individual motivation when assessing gender equity.

Motivational Domain. Women are aware that computing fields are male-dominated, and this awareness can be detrimental to their participation (Blickenstaff, 2005; Carnevale et al., 2011; Hill et al., 2010; Chen et al., 2023). Scholars note stereotypical notions of gender function as a deterrent against pursuing computing (Cheryan et al., 2009; Cheryan et al., 2012; Fisher & Margolis, 2003; Kekelis et al., 2005). Undergraduate women shown a “stereotypical” role model (e.g., likes playing video games, watching anime) expressed a significant decrease in computing interest 2 weeks after exposure (Cheryan et al. 2012). In a longitudinal study of boys and girls entering high school, Sáinz and Eccles (2012) found girls’ perceived self-efficacy in computer science declined during high school, despite similar levels of achievement among girls and boys. Given findings that girls’ selection into computing and other STEM-related coursework can be shaped by their social contexts (e.g., Frank et al., 2008), we turn to social and structural domains to assess their potential roles in the development of computing momentum.

Explaining the Gap: Social and Structural Domains

Pathways toward gender equity in computing – for individuals and collectives – may be stalled by insufficient social and structural support. These domains are especially important given evidence of a chilly climate in male-dominated STEM fields, which can hinder girls’ and women’s sense of belonging in classrooms, disciplinary cultures, and career fields (Hall & Sandler, 1984; Lee & McCabe, 2021; Morris & Daniel, 2008; Simon et al., 2017). Computing classrooms, extracurricular clubs, and disciplinary spaces have typically been constructed as masculine spaces, whereby women are excluded from the “clubhouse” (Margolis & Fisher, 2002). Cheryan and colleagues demonstrated how stereotypes and limited portrayals of girls’ and women in computing and related fields could result in their inhibited or “precluded interest” (Cheryan et al., 2009; Cheryan et al., 2015). Given myriad interventions to broaden interest and participation in computing (see e.g., Kay, 2006; Scott & White, 2013), social contexts may be especially malleable and well-positioned for gender-equity focused computing interventions.

Both formal and informal contexts can influence students’ opportunity to participate in computing fields and the potential for meaningful social interactions within them (Blau, 1977; Cheryan et al., 2009; Cheryan et al., 2015; Margolis & Fisher, 2002). From technological toys and games in childhood to computing major selections in adulthood, students’ socialization experiences can shape their pathways towards or away from these fields. Girls and women may also value professions associated with social value or impact; computer science and programming have not typically been framed to align with these interests and values (Fong et al., 2016). Thus, women may expect to find less value in computing careers (Beyer, 2014; Weinberger, 2004). Interventions might aim to be more inclusive of students’ interests and

values, irrespective of gender identity (see Cheryan et al., 2009).

Social Domain. Access to peer and adult mentors in computing may also shape computing interest and persistence (Main & Schimpf, 2017). In turn, we evaluate the social domain of momentum. Peers influence students' interest in scientific careers and majors, especially among girls (Frank et al., 2008; Robnett, 2016). Mentors play a key role in fostering girls' interest in computing, potentially challenging stereotypes and relaying key information about major selection and career opportunities (Dryburgh, 2000; Main & Schimpf, 2017). Indeed, negative interactions can and do occur in computing environments, including microaggressions and other forms of hostility and harm (Erete et al., 2021; Michell et al., 2017). Exposure to such negative signals is associated with declines in girls' interest in computing fields (Master et al., 2016). These findings highlight necessary structural changes to enhance opportunities to make computing more engaging and accessible throughout the life course.

Structural Domain. School structures are key sites for socialization into and away from computing, but these sites are rarely examined as the base upon which academic momentum is built. What we named the 'structural domain' serves as the foundation for introduction and retention in computing. From early childhood through postsecondary education, interventions seeking to broaden girls' participation tend to be based in schools or other community structures. These may include curricular, extracurricular, or summer interventions but are too often based in sites with already high investment in computing and technology, such as with well-resourced schools and/or near computing hubs such as Seattle and Silicon Valley (e.g., Friend, 2015). Computing access is not evenly distributed.

Higher education institutions also vary widely as sites for students to study, explore, be socialized, and gain access to computing fields. As in the K–12 literature, broadening

participation interventions are often located in more resourced institutions and those with strong computing programs. Interventions may be especially impactful at institutions which broaden the computing field across gender, race, and socioeconomic status. Given the range of educational pathways women may take through schooling to the computing workforce, it is important to also consider developing and investigating interventions at Minority Serving Institutions, community colleges, regional comprehensive universities, and other less-studied institutional types to uncover potential mechanisms to increase the full representation of women in computing.

Databases, Discipline-Specific Journals, and Search Parameters

We employed inclusion and quality criteria to objectively constrain the vast interdisciplinary literature on this topic. These criteria were used systematically to select the appropriateness of studies in answering our research question, assess the quality of the studies, and synthesize the evidence on our topic (Collins & Fauser, 2005). Systematic literature reviews are not prone to the bias which can arise in literature reviews that do not use a scientific approach to data collection (Petticrew & Roberts, 2006). Because of the wide variation in methodology and disciplinary norms in reporting methods and effect sizes, this intentionally inclusive and interdisciplinary review of the literature on computing interventions was especially well-suited for a systematic review.

As a potential limitation, we included only studies published in English. Our research team's diversity allowed us to initially explore the inclusion of manuscripts in other languages, but doing so presented potential challenges for analytic consistency. Instead, authors robustly reviewed and coded the publications based on the journal readership rather than cultural and linguistic identities of the authors.

We searched across four different databases and 12 discipline-specific journals, using a

total of nine search terms to identify a large population of articles that might be included in our sample. Specifically, databases included: EBSCO, ERIC, Google Scholar, and WorldCat databases, education journals including *Economics of Education Review*, *Educational Researcher*, *Review of Educational Research*, and all other-related AERA journals, and social science journals which typically publish research on gendered inequality in STEM, including *Sociology of Education*, *Gender and Society*, *Sex Roles*, *American Sociological Review*, and *American Journal of Sociology*. These searches generated disciplinary journals and proceedings in computing fields, as evidenced in supplemental Appendix Table A1 and our reference list. Search terms included “gender and computer science,” “gender and computing,” “gender and information technology,” “women and computer science,” “women and information technology,” “women and computing,” and “women in information technology.”

The search identified a total of 168 publications including academic journals, conference proceedings, dissertations, scientific magazines, and books discussing computing interventions. The final sample was narrowed down by a meticulous selection and screening process described and displayed – along with their accompanying rationale – in Table 1. We evaluated all 168 collected publications, judging them against inclusion and quality criteria (see Figure 2).

[INSERT TABLE 1 AND FIGURE 2]

Inclusion Criteria

We included publications in our sample if they explicitly discuss a computing intervention, focused on gender, and were published in English between 2000–2020. Publications were excluded if they did not meet these criteria; for example, if no intervention was specified (e.g., Sullivan & Bers, 2013).

Computing interventions. We did not constrain characteristics of the implemented

interventions. Instead, interventions included examined a variety of interventions across a wide range of institutions. The initial inclusion screening narrowed our sample to 87 publications.

Outlet type. We excluded books and dissertations from our analyses ($n = 41$), given their distinct scope and they typically do not undergo traditional peer review. We retained peer-reviewed conference proceedings and scientific magazines for several reasons. First, traditional journal outlets are not the exclusive domain for peer-reviewed, widely cited, and impactful scholarly research in computing disciplines, given the typical publishing lag time and rate of software and technological change. Instead, research includes a broader landscape responsive to rapid technological advances while still being perceived as robust; journals, proceedings, and scientific magazines are treated similarly as sources of research evidence (Luo et al., 2018; Meho & Rogers, 2008). Given the frequency and use of these outlets as influential vehicles for research on computer science, computer and electrical engineering, and information science advances, excluding conference proceedings would ignore a sizable proportion of the research being done in this area—including broadening participation interventions. Conference proceedings and scientific magazines undergo peer review but are unlikely to be subsequently published in academic journals; they are also disseminated widely to faculty, academic leaders, and other practitioners in the field. These publications are thus likely to be used in the development and implementation of computer science interventions worldwide.

Year. We restricted our search to a 20-year period to avoid duplicating the work of another systematic review that effectively reviewed this literature up until the year 2000 (Volman & Van Eck, 2001). This inclusion screening by year removed another 40 publications.

Quality Criteria

We systematically reviewed the quality of the publications selected from the initial

inclusion/exclusion review. We adopted a modified version of the quality criteria presented in Garcia and colleagues' (2019) systematic review of Hispanic-serving institutions. The criteria questions allowed us to identify and assess the rigor and scientific quality of each publication (see Figure 2). Few intersectional and international studies cleared the criteria, despite our inclusion criteria being designed to be open to a wide array of research outlets. This was disappointing but suggested the need to expand pathways for scholars from and countries underrepresented in research journals.

We assessed the quality of computing intervention publications using 10 criterion measures. In this review process, we examined the objective of the interventions, conceptual framework, methodology and data employed, presentation of findings, and conclusions drawn for each publication. For example, we could not include a published conference paper or scientific magazine article that presented results from a series of findings with insufficient methodological detail to support how they arrived at those results and interpretations.

Within our sample, we initially coded for two types of intervention studies, identified as either strict or inclusive interventions. *Strict interventions* were defined as: an initiative formed to address disparities in participation and persistence among girls/women in computer science; these could include afterschool or summer programs, curriculum development and/or expanded offerings, extracurriculars, professional development, or other efforts. Our more *inclusive definition of interventions* was: “an initiative formed to address disparities in participation and persistence among girls/women in computing, including legislation and policy changes, and broad attempts to change the culture of computer science spaces or a publication discussing results of a potential intervention. Most interventions in our final sample met the “strict” definition (n = 48), and a minority met the inclusive definition (n = 18).

We only included interventions that fit our strict definition of computing intervention, as most inclusive interventions ($n = 18$) were a proposal for an intervention program that had not been evaluated (e.g., Barker et al., 2014). Studies that did not meet the quality criteria were excluded from the final review ($n = 21$): those with inadequately or insufficiently described methods or findings ($n = 14$) or that were missing theoretical framework or context for the study ($n = 7$). Publications were only included in the final sample if all standards were met. This left a final total of 48 publications, comprised of 34 journal articles, 13 conference proceeding/scientific magazine articles, and one substantial peer-reviewed book chapter that met our quality criteria and were included in this systematic review.

Development of Coding Structure

Our six-member analysis team employed multi-stage analysis process. First, we used grounded theory approach to classify an initial randomized subsample of 20 manuscripts, to allow themes to emerge naturally. Next, we independently applied an emergent classification scheme, developing additional memos justifying application. Discrepancies were collaboratively adjudicated to establish agreement among the team about parameters of each category and each study's alignment with a given category. This iterative process was used in two additional cycles to test our initial coding structure on a randomized subsample of five articles, and then another. We discussed and further refined our coding structure over a series of meetings, generating a coding manual. Subsequently, we identified, reviewed, and recorded additional descriptive information about each intervention. Coding distinctions were discussed as a team until reaching consensus. This process was developed and maintained over multiple months to ensure reliability and consistency between the authors. This process resulted in the final coding framework used.

Table 2 provides the complete list of codes and their descriptions. Our final codes

addressed both the goals of the interventions and their outcomes. We conceptualized goals and outcomes of the interventions separately, as these interventions tend to have broader aims than tangible, measured outcomes of the intervention. While interventions may seek to improve social connections, access to opportunities, and more-relevant coursework, they may only successfully foster social connections. Coding thus captures alignment between the stated goals of the interventions and their measured outcomes.

[INSERT TABLE 2]

The intervention programs had an array of intended goals we categorized into the following codes: 1) improving computing content, 2) increasing computing access, and 3) improving social support in computing spaces. The range of specific outcomes of these intervention programs were categorized into the following codes that addressed domains of improving gender equity in computing: 1) teaching/learning domain, 2) motivational domain, 3) curricular domain (identifying persistence as a distinct proportion of this domain), 4) social domain, and 5) structural domain. These codes were assigned to interventions that specifically and explicitly measured outcomes in each category. Three of these domains aligned with our framework for computing persistence. Although persistence was a part of the curricular domain, the volume of studies focused on this outcome specifically encouraged us to capture it as its own outcome category in the results.

Next, we logged key information about the type and scope of the interventions. First, we indicated whether the intervention occurred at the elementary, middle/lower secondary, high/upper secondary, postsecondary, or workforce levels, or whether it was a longitudinal study. We indicated the number of institutions, organizations, schools, or workplaces involved with the intervention, and the target population of the program and primary intervention strategy. We also

documented duration of each intervention and how the intervention was evaluated. Finally, we indicated whether goals of the intervention were met. This last step was key to identifying characteristics of successful interventions.

Analytic Strategy and Final Coding

In the next phase of analysis, remaining studies were randomly assigned to the authors and coded independently using the conceptual framework explained above. Our conceptualization of effective computer science interventions involved a process of examining each intervention to discern type, goals, methodologies for implementation and evaluation, and outcomes. Specifically, interventions were examined for location and reach of implementation, target population, duration, and primary activity involved. This vital information captured contextual variation in the size and types of interventions implemented. We examined in detail outcomes of interventions, and whether claims made by the authors about the implications of these interventions were warranted. This required us to attend closely to the methodology of evaluation to ensure they could make accurate claims about the intervention's impact.

Interventions were coded as successful if outcomes measured in the publication matched at least one of their stated goals. Once interventions were coded, we evaluated statistical significance of nonrandom associative relationships among the intervention studies using Fisher's exact tests in STATA 16. This measure generates a precise p -value directly, without a separate test statistic; it is more conservative than a similar chi-squared test of association and is importantly more appropriate for analysis of small samples (Bind & Rubin, 2020; Upton, 1992).

Methodological Limitations

There are a few limitations of this systematic review. As noted earlier, the literature from our search tends to focus on girls and women in a binary gender framework; future systematic

reviews may uncover more recent data collections and research on the experiences of transgender or nonbinary computing students. In addition, we note while initial collection of publications was exhaustive in design, we were limited to databases the authors have access through institutional library databases and open-access sites. There may be computing interventions published in outlets with limited circulation. To mitigate this limitation, we included Google Scholar and WorldCat databases for broader reach.

Results

RQ1: Characterizing Interventions for Gender Equity in Computing

Level of Interventions

Table 3 presents characteristics of interventions studied in this systematic analysis, by level, scope, and duration. Computing interventions took place prior to high school ($n = 11$, with one elementary and 10 middle school studies; 22.9%), upper secondary or high school ($n = 14$; 29.2%), or at the college/university level ($n = 18$; 37.5%). Remaining interventions were longitudinal interventions spanning from elementary education to the workforce level ($n = 5$; 10.4%). The level of the intervention audience was not significantly related to other characteristics of the intervention, from number of sites where the intervention was deployed to duration of the intervention. Despite variation in the levels at which interventions were deployed, goals of these interventions are also not significantly different. Notwithstanding descriptive variation, these interventions' goals and outcomes did not vary significantly by level.

[INSERT TABLE 3]

Scope of Interventions

Interventions studied ranged between one and 10 sites (e.g., school, university, summer camp). Most were single-site interventions ($n = 31$; 64.6%). Just under 20% of the interventions

occurred at 2–5 sites ($n = 9$; 18.8%), 10.4% were deployed at 6–10 sites ($n = 5$), and 6.3% were deployed at more than 10 sites ($n = 3$). Scope was mostly unrelated to intervention goals being met or types of goals and outcomes. However, there were notable exceptions. First, interventions at a single site were more likely to express a goal of improving content than those at multiple sites ($p < 0.01$). Second, single-site interventions were less successful with curricular aims (i.e., 3 met vs. 19 unmet), when evaluating intervention curricular outcomes by scope ($p < 0.02$), perhaps because they were earlier stage interventions not yet ready for scale.

Duration of Interventions

The largest proportion of interventions lasted either for 1 academic year ($n = 10$; 20.8%) or between 1–3 years ($n = 9$; 18.8%). Another 23% were briefer: 1 semester ($n = 7$; 14.6%) or just 1 day ($n = 5$; 10.4%). Interventions lasting between 1 semester and 3 years were most likely to report content improvement goals ($p < 0.03$), compared to shorter interventions lasting days and longer interventions lasting 3 or more years. For instance, seven interventions lasting 1 year met their content goals, as compared to zero which did not. Otherwise, duration is not significantly associated with intervention goals or outcomes. Shorter interventions still have the capacity to be successful and may have a wider reach. Short interventions, like a 1–2 day workshop often require less institutional commitment, which may increase their scalability.

Intervention Evaluations

We determined whether goals were met in each intervention using the evaluation of the intervention presented in each study. Because we excluded studies without clearly articulated and robust discussions of their methodology from our final sample, the design allows us to independently assess the reported results to identify whether an outcome was achieved. Intervention evaluation methodologies were primarily quantitative ($n = 28$; 58.3%), but 14.6%

were evaluated qualitatively ($n = 7$), and 27.1% employed both quantitative and qualitative methodology ($n = 13$). Quantitative evaluations typically took the form of pre- and post-tests and surveys, while qualitative evaluations involved interviews. Mixed methods evaluations used both survey and interview methods.

RQ2: Goals of Computer Interventions for Gender Equity

Improve Computing Content

Recall Table 2 describes analytic codes, with attention to intervention goals and outcomes, and number of studies that fell in this category, proportion of studies measured, and proportion of studies that were successful in realizing their intended aims. With respect to the goal of improving computing content, interventions with this goal focused on new course designs, course content revisions, improvement of teaching practices, and/or content of extracurricular activities. These interventions sought to make changes to the presentation or content of computing material to make computing spaces more alluring or inclusive to girls and women by increasing teaching and learning and curricular momentum. Most interventions sampled had this goal ($n = 34$; 70.8%). Overwhelming majority of studies with the goal of improving content achieved it ($n = 24$; 70.6%). Exactly how each of these goals were achieved is discussed in the sections on outcomes below.

Improve Social Support in Computing

We assigned improving social support goal code to studies that focused on fostering community for girls and women to become interested in or persist in computing spaces, improving the social domain. Interventions assigned this code provided mentors, formed cohorts, created social groups (e.g., online or in person) for girls or women, and/or facilitated extracurricular activities or learning communities (e.g., peer/pair programming or collaborative

activities to produce nonstereotypical images of women in computing). Over 1/3 of interventions assessed had social support as a goal (n = 18; 37.5%), and 72.2% (n = 13) achieved it.

Increase Structural Access to Computing

Interventions with the goal of increasing access to computing sought to create opportunities for girls and women to learn more about and engage with the computing field, thus improving the structural domain. Those receiving this code provided financial support, scholarships, grants, single-day informational activities, organizational change, school–industry partnerships, leadership or professional development activities, or changed the structure of advising. Of these interventions, 47.9% reported this goal (n= 23), achieved by 73.9% (n= 17).

RQ3: Goal Alignment: Did These Interventions Achieve Their Intended Outcomes?

Intervention outcome goals coded by the research team aligned closely with our momentum framework for gender equity in computing. However, outcomes evaluated in these interventions often also aligned with momentum components not explicitly stated as intervention goals. For example, interventions only focused on improving motivation may have spilled over into other domains. This was not uncommon. Here, we identify how (a) goals of computing interventions compare to their outcomes and (b) characteristics of successful and unsuccessful programs. Tables 4 and 5 summarize these patterns described below.

[INSERT TABLES 4 AND 5]

Increasing Teaching and Learning Momentum

Interventions were assigned the teaching and learning momentum outcome code if they focused on achieving gender parity in computing performance. Over 45% of interventions in our sample measured teaching and learning outcomes (n = 22; 45.8%), and of these, 63.6% achieved them (n = 14). Fifteen successful interventions had the stated goals of improving computing

content, six sought to increase access to computing, and five to improve social support in computing.⁴ These interventions often include modifying course design or revising the content of a computing instruction method to be more relevant to girls' interests (n = 10). In Denner et al.'s (2012) intervention, girls developed their own computer games in a middle-school introductory computing course.

The largest proportion of successful interventions took place at the college level (n = 6) for 1 year (n = 5). At the college level, Butler et al. (2017) used “pencil puzzles” like Sudoku in their teaching of abstract programming concepts. Medel and Pournaghshband (2017) included more examples of women in course materials, in part by using “they” pronouns rather than “he” or “she.” Course-content revisions attending to gender engaged other forms of inclusivity. Python-based EarSketch programming used music remixing in high school and college computer science courses, as a culturally relevant entry point for students across racial/ethnic and gender backgrounds to engage in coding (Magerko et al., 2016). Culturally responsive pedagogy was also employed in COMPUGIRLS, an intervention focused on girls of color (Scott & White, 2013).

Some interventions associated with teaching and learning had multiple goals, with varying results. Of successful interventions, 37.5% involved computing courses (n = 6) and 25.0% involved game-making activities (n = 4). Five of six course-based interventions had the goal of improving computing content, but four *also* had the goal of increasing computing access, and two of six hoped to improve social support in computing. These aims could align. For example, all game-based gender equity interventions sought to make computing content more inclusive, and one had the additional goal of improving social support in computing. Of the six

⁴ Many interventions reported more than one goal and were coded as such.

interventions that were unsuccessful in improving teaching and learning momentum, two were course-based interventions, two were extracurricular activities, one involved pair-programming, and one was a recruitment program. Unsuccessful interventions were evenly distributed across middle school, high school, and college ($n = 2$ each) and usually took place for 1 semester.

Improving Motivational Momentum

Interventions improving mindsets about computing received the motivational momentum outcome code. Interventions coded this way measured computing attitudes (e.g., confidence, interest), or perceptions of computing (e.g., perceived likelihood of success, attitudes towards computing field, sense of belonging, or perceptions of computing as a career choice). In our sample, 66.7% of interventions in our sample measured motivational momentum ($n = 32$; 66.7%), and of these, 71.9% improved computing mindsets ($n = 23$). Of the course-based interventions that improved computing attitudes, half had the goal of improving content, and half had the goal of improving access. None of the course-based interventions that improved motivational momentum stated the goal of improving social support. Most successful interventions were deployed at just one site ($n = 17$), for 1 day ($n = 5$) or 1–3 years ($n = 5$).

The intervention strategy that successfully increased motivational momentum most was extracurricular activities (29.6%; $n = 8$); for example, participation in Ireland’s CodePlus afterschool program increased girls’ perceived ability to program (Sullivan et al., 2015). Other coding clubs focused on girls from racially minoritized backgrounds (e.g., Scott & White, 2013). For instance, Nesiba et al. (2015) studied the Young Women in Computing outreach initiative in New Mexico. The program aimed to enhance computing interest among Hispanic girls from elementary school through college. Strategies included afterschool clubs and summer camps; high schoolers’ engagement with text-based app programming and increased interest in CS

careers following shorter “roadshows.”

Additional intervention strategies found success. These included courses designed to be more relevant to girls’ and women’s interests and more inclusive of girls in women in in-text examples (22.2%; $n = 6$), and collaborative game design (11.1%; $n = 3$). Conferences and events also found success, such as Grace Hopper conference attendance among first-year Harvey Mudd College students. In their study of the multiday mentoring GradCohort program for Ph.D. students in computing, Alvarado and Judson (2014) found interest in computer science majors increased following attendance at this convening. Women participants reported stronger interest in becoming well-known in their field, greater interest in giving back to their community, and stronger computing identity than nonparticipant women. Grad Cohort participants reported identifying with computing to the same degree as propensity-score matched nonparticipant men.

Most extracurricular interventions aimed to improve content ($n = 7$) and increase access to computing ($n = 5$; e.g., Witherspoon et al., 2016), but only two had the goal of improving social support. Only five interventions measuring motivational outcomes did not successfully improve them. Of these, two were course-based, one extracurricular, one game-based, and one involved pair programming. These few unsuccessful interventions occurred most in middle school ($n = 2$), at just one site ($n = 3$), for 1 semester ($n = 2$) or 1 year ($n = 2$).

Increasing Curricular Momentum

The increasing curricular momentum outcome code was assigned to interventions measuring enrollments and representation in computing spaces. Less than a third of the studies in our sample measured curricular momentum ($n = 12$; 25.0%), and 75.0% ($n = 10$) of these interventions were successful. Among interventions that successfully improved curricular momentum, 44.4% of them involved an introductory computing course ($n = 4$; e.g., Salminen-

Karlsson, 2002), and 22.2% involved extracurricular activities ($n = 2$). One extracurricular activity integrated fashion, design, and computing to teach middle school girls about wearable computing in a pilot summer course (Lau et al., 2009). Among interventions successfully improving curricular momentum, increasing access was the most common goal ($n = 10$; $p < 0.01$). These interventions were most often deployed at the college level ($n = 5$), at one site ($n = 5$) for 1–3 years ($n = 4$).

Interventions that were unsuccessful in increasing curricular momentum ($n = 3$) involved one competition, one extracurricular activity, or one game-design activity. A robotics competition intended to increase structural access to computing and involved 2–5 sites over the course of a day (Witherspoon et al., 2016). The extracurricular activity sought to both improve content and structural access and engaged 6–10 sites for 1–2 months. The game design activity aimed to improve content involved 13 Scottish schools for more than a year, falling short of their aims to increase enthusiasm for computing and reduce gender gaps following the game authoring intervention, perhaps because of high baseline affinity for gaming (Robertson, 2013).

Improving Social Momentum

Findings described below align with research highlighting the importance of peer networks, similarity, and mentors in developing computing-interest (Blum & Frieze, 2005; Cozza, 2011; Ehrlinger et al., 2018). We assigned improving social momentum outcome code to interventions that evaluated effectiveness of interventions in fostering social connections in computing spaces. Less than half of the studies in our sample evaluated social domain outcomes ($n = 17$; 35.4%), and of these, 70.6% ($n = 12$) were successful.

Among successful social domain interventions, 21.4% involved extracurricular activities ($n=3$; e.g., Pivkina et al., 2009 studying the Young Women in Computing program in New

Mexico studied later by Nesiba et al., 2015). Support communities outside of the computing classroom comprised another set of social domain-focused interventions (n=4). These interventions fostered social connections through paired-activities, like pair-programming, or through development of networks, such as a campus student organization where Canadian undergraduate and graduate student women could converse openly about their computer science experiences (Tsoukalas & Wu, 2009). Four interventions focused on curricular changes that sometimes also included pair-programming and collaboration, such as in the study of computer science college students' experiences with a 3D virtual reality programming intervention (Ortega et al., 2017). Altogether, the most common goals of successful social domain interventions were to improve computing content (n = 11) and social support (n = 10; $p < 0.05$).

Interventions that improved social momentum were most deployed at postsecondary (n = 5) and secondary levels (n = 4), at one site (n = 10), for 1–3 years (n = 5) or 1 semester (n = 4). Interventions that were unsuccessful in this domain (n = 3) involved course design (n = 2) and an extracurricular activity (n = 1). Improving content was the most common goal of interventions which did not meet their goals (n = 3). Unsuccessful course-based interventions were deployed for 1 year at the high school (n = 1) and college (n = 1) levels, respectively. The unsuccessful extracurricular intervention was deployed at the middle school level, at one site, for 2–5 days. Several postsecondary institution-based interventions—such as collaborative learning communities—were developed at a series of institutions, departments, and programs over time. These models were designed with collaborative activities, such as group and pair-programming, and integrated social elements, such as designing wearables (wearable music players, sensory reactive clothing for babies servicing as a parenting aid, responsive purses, wearable games) in StitchFest – a hardware hackathon collaborative project (Richard et al., 2015).

Increasing Structural Momentum

This code was assigned to interventions evaluating whether programs were successful in expanding structural access. These interventions focused on increasing tangible opportunities in computing and access to information about the computing field. About one-third of interventions were evaluated on this outcome ($n = 14$; 29.2%), and 11 were successful. These interventions most commonly took place at the college ($n = 4$) or high school ($n = 3$) levels, at one site ($n = 7$), for 1–3 years ($n = 4$) or for more than 3 years ($n = 2$). These interventions often took the form of new or revised courses or extracurricular activities which provided spaces for girls and women to expand their interest and skills in computing and learn more about computing career paths. The most common goal of interventions that successfully increased access to computing was to increase access ($n = 8$), but many also had the goal of improving computing content ($n = 6$) and improving social support ($n = 5$). Most common strategies for increasing structural access in computing were courses (36.4%; $n = 4$), and extracurricular activities (18.2%; $n = 2$).

Structural approaches could be applied to these strategies. For example, in a school-wide curricular intervention at private all-girls middle school in Silicon Valley: the annual mandatory computer science courses were taught by computer science-trained women teachers, mentor networks were available, learning was project-based, and all students received laptops (Friend, 2015). Correlational findings suggest the intervention met its goals by reducing structural barriers to computer science. Lynn et al. (2003) developed and evaluated an experiment aiming to enhance computing interest and enjoyment among public school girls aged 9–12 via a website prototype integrating prior approaches to reducing the gender bias and stereotyping in computing, with attention to making computing fun, playful, and accessible at home; computing interest and enjoyment increased among girls in the treatment across demographic subgroups.

Of the three interventions that evaluated structural outcome but did not achieve it, one involved course design, one was an extracurricular intervention, and one involved pair-programming. The course-based intervention sought to improve computing content and social support through development of an introductory computing course designed to bring women into the computing field. The extracurricular intervention sought to improve computing content only; pair-programming intervention aimed to improve computing content, access to computing, and social support. The interventions increased structural access by explicitly recruiting girls and women to participate in these activities and bringing these interventions to locations with lesser access to computing. Both the pair-programming and extracurricular interventions took place at the middle school level, while the course-based intervention took place at the high school level. The course-based intervention took place at 6–10 sites for 1 year, while the extracurricular intervention took place across 2–5 sites for 1 day, and the pair-programming intervention involved just one site for 1 full semester.

Improving Persistence

The improving persistence outcome code was assigned to studies where the evaluation measured whether the intervention improved retention in the workforce or in curriculum, improved workforce advancement or promotion, successfully encouraged continued or long-term participation in computing, increased transfers from community colleges to 4-year institutions (i.e., staying in this field), or improved graduation and/or credential attainment (i.e., certificate or degree). While aligning with the curricular domain of computing momentum, a quarter of our sample evaluated persistence outcomes ($n = 12$; e.g., Sullivan et al., 2015). Most of these interventions (e.g., Lagesen, 2007) successfully improved persistence ($n = 9$).

The most common goals of interventions that successfully improved persistence were

improving computing content and improving social support in computing. Two of these successful interventions were course-based interventions, two were award-based, one was mentorship-based, one involved pair-programming, and one involved a recruitment event. For instance, over a year after participation in the Grad Cohort mentoring program, these women computing students were still pursuing computing PhD's (Stout et al., 2017). Two course-based interventions identified the goals of improving computing content; one of these course-interventions also stated aims to increasing access to computing and improving social support. Five out of seven interventions improving persistence focused on the college level (e.g., Lagesen, 2007; Staehr et al., 2001). Of the five interventions unsuccessful in improving computing persistence, three (60%) involved extracurricular activities at the high school level at one site, for between 1 day and 3 years (Pivkina et al., 2009; Sullivan et al., 2015).

Diverse Contexts for Computing Interventions

One quarter of the interventions in our sample took place outside the United States, several of which are discussed above ($n = 12$). However, most were based in Western nations with similar gender equity challenges in computing, including Australia ($n = 3$), Canada ($n = 2$), Norway ($n = 1$), Scotland ($n = 1$), Sweden ($n = 1$), British Columbia ($n = 1$), New Zealand ($n = 1$), and Ireland ($n = 1$). One intervention studied took place in Hong Kong. The most common intervention strategy involved course design ($n = 3$), extracurricular activities ($n = 2$), and game design ($n = 2$). These interventions most commonly aimed to improve computing content to be more inviting to girls and women ($n = 5$), and they were most successful in improving motivational momentum ($n = 5$). Nine of the 12 interventions abroad successfully achieved their stated goals. Successful interventions abroad were most common at the university level ($n = 5$) but tended to last for a shorter period than U.S.-based interventions (2–5 days, $n = 4$).

Discussion

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic which disproportionately affected women (Croda & Grossbard, 2021), it is particularly important to attend to aspects of computing interventions that are successful in improving computing gender equity (see McDonald et al., 2006 on implementation and scale-up of educational interventions). This investigation is particularly timely, following adaptation of novel in-person and expanded digital interventions in education, and during economic shifts in the academic and technology workforce and rising interest in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Characteristics of computing interventions are reported in Tables 3-5. We found most successful interventions were deployed at the college level and for at least 1 year. Meanwhile, most unsuccessful interventions were deployed at the K–12 level between 1 day and 1 year. These findings suggest it takes time to shift access to and the climate of computing; interventions may benefit from longer implementation such as a year or longer. Irrespective of whether they succeeded, most computing interventions were not (at least not yet) robust, multisite interventions. Those studies that were more comprehensive also risked being less successful due to more diffuse goals, which can hinder efforts to identify scalable computing interventions. To identify generalizable aspects of computing interventions that improve gender equity, we closely examined the goals and outcomes of programs in our sample and explored how they aligned with our momentum for gender equity framework.

Interventions and Opportunities for Gender Equity in Computing, by Momentum Domain *Teaching and Learning, Curricular, and Motivational Domains*

Most interventions sought to improve the teaching and learning domain of computing momentum by altering computing content. These interventions mostly involved a course design

intervention to make computing courses more accessible and inclusive to girls and women. These interventions often succeeded at this goal, measured by each aspect of computing momentum, including the teaching and learning, curricular, motivational, and social domains. However, interventions with the goal of improving teaching and learning momentum were unlikely to significantly alter the structural domain. Instead, interventions with this goal are most likely to successfully achieve persistence, performance, attitudes, and social outcomes. This finding highlights the classroom as a vital component in increasing gender equity in computing but suggests a more holistic approach is needed to change the landscape of computing.

Teaching and learning interventions can enhance gendered attitudes and perceptions towards computing (Beyer, 2014), connect previous experience with intellectual preferences (Rankin et al., 2019), and strengthen computing knowledge and skills, which may foster the outcomes discussed above (Code.org, CSTA, & ECEP Alliance, 2022). This aligns with previous research that identifies removing obstacles at introductory or entry-level courses as a strategy to maximize effectiveness of interventions and build a solid ground for long-term involvement with computing (Butler et al., 2017).

These courses revamp teaching activities to bolster students' interests, reinforce knowledge about computing, and improve confidence. While improving computing content to make it more interesting and inclusive to girls and women is a key avenue to build skills and shape attitudes towards computing, it does not fundamentally shift the environment of computing to attract them to the field or to be more equitable to girls and women. The quality of women's interactions with computing course material and departmental cultures can shape their commitment and sense of belonging (Pantic & Clarke-Midura, 2019).

Indeed, research indicates chilly climates persist in computing courses (Vitores & Gil-

Juárez, 2016) and suggests structural and cultural changes are needed (Cheryan et al., 2015). There was considerable attention to teaching and learning among interventions in general and those successful at meeting their aims specifically (e.g., Robinson, 2013; Rover et al., 2016); fewer interventions attended to curriculum and motivation. Among interventions aimed at motivational change, we found that those that were most successful were based in extracurricular activities and often had connections to structural and/or social change, even if not explicitly stated as a goal of the intervention (e.g., Akkuş Çakır et al., 2017; Staehr et al., 2001).

Social Domain

The smallest share of interventions sought to provide social support for girls and women in computing spaces. While fewer interventions had this goal, they successfully improved the social domain over 70% of the time, in addition to positively affecting curricular outcomes and persistence. Improving social support in computing spaces is a crucial step towards warming the chilly climate for girls and women in computing. Computing environments are an ongoing challenge for girls' and women's participation and persistence in the field (Frieze & Quesenberry, 2013). Moreover, Berenson et al. (2004) asserted socially isolated work in computing discourages persistence among girls and women.

Collaboration and Peers. Collaborative working and learning environments may invite diverse perspectives, provide emotional support and validation, and increase access and retention to the coding and programming course activities for girls and women, who tend to be more heavily influenced by the social element of STEM fields (Bergsieker et al., 2020; Pantic & Clarke-Midura, 2023). This highlights the need to address the social domain of momentum in future research. Pantic and Clarke-Midura (2023) found peer support can enhance women's academic success in computer science via a greater sense of belonging, respect, and validation;

in turn, this can enhance girls' engagement and persistence in the field (Kim et al., 2018). Comparatively limited interest in computing fields continues to be a primary explanatory factor for women's underrepresentation in computing fields and careers (Akkuş Çakır et al., 2017; Beyer, 2014; Kerger et al., 2011; Margolis et al., 2000). When girls are formally and informally excluded from K–12 classroom activities and positive reinforcements, their interest in STEM fields (including computing) declines (Leedy et al., 2003). Accordingly, structural opportunities appear critical to enhancing gender equity in computing.

Institutional Contexts. Mentoring networks with successful women in computing as role models, guest speakers, mentors, and alumni could strengthen girls' computing beliefs, attitudes, interest, and their intentions to major in computing and persist in the computing occupational field. Mentorship models are widely applied by institutions, ranging from K–12 schools, undergraduates, and graduate groups, such as the Grad Cohort Workshop (Stout et al., 2017). Explicitly identifying social support as a goal could encourage those implementing gender equity interventions to evaluate and center this aim, to shift the culture of computing spaces and more adequately measure social outcomes.

Structural Domain

Less than half of the intervention studies aimed to alter the structural domain of computing momentum by increasing structural access to computing for girls or women. In turn, they were successful in about half of their attempts. Given disparities in access to computing opportunities, a need remains for educational interventions in settings that are intentionally diverse in their enrollments, such as rural and lower-income schools and communities, vocational and community colleges, and postsecondary institutions which serve underrepresented students (see Singh et al., 2007; Yamaguchi & Burge, 2019).

Indeed, structural access is vital to improving gender parity in computing. Girls and women tend to have less hands-on experience with computing during their schooling, and fewer opportunities to gain that experience (Margolis & Fisher, 2002). Pinkard et al. (2017) concluded for urban middle school girls who consume and participate in but are typically marginalized in digital media, multiple and visible pathways to see their identities represented are important. Put simply, we cannot improve gender parity in computing if opportunities to engage with the field are not equitable (Michie & Nelson, 2006). Computing interventions we reviewed tended not to focus on structural change to improve gender equity for girls and women in computing. Importantly, institutional and organizational investment in structural and organizational change are vital to the success of these interventions (Rosser, 2018).

Limitations and Future Directions: Intersectionality and More Diverse Contexts

In a prior *RER*-published systematic reviews focused on women and gender equity in computing fields, Singh et al. (2007) lamented the too often monolithic approach to gender in this line of research. Our systematic literature review of interventions to enhance gender equity in computing focused on a later time window: 2000 through 2020. Despite our inclusive, international, and interdisciplinary search parameters, we too found few studies that looked beyond gender equity alone compared to gender in relation to additional and potentially compounding marginalized identities (see e.g., Nesiba et al., 2015; Scott & White, 2013; Scott et al., 2017). Fewer considered gender beyond binary notions of male/female, despite mounting evidence of the theoretical and empirical limitations for binary, mutually exclusive definitions of gender (Butler, 2011; Hyde et al., 2019).

Our initial collection of articles intentionally searched for and included intersectional studies and those from non-U.S. locations, but the conventions of a systematic literature review

curtailed some structurally innovative pieces, those not explicit about their methodology or their attention to gender, and not published in English, or in peer-reviewed outlets. Despite our efforts to cast a wide and inclusive net in the literature search, the structure of systematic reviews may silence voices of and studies about gender equity beyond binary gender differences (see also Perez-Felkner, et al., 2024). We encourage readers to engage and publish intersectional research on interventions that include evaluation in their designs, to enhance our knowledge base on gender equity in computing and other fields with a history of exclusion.

Conclusion

Computing interventions report meaningful goals and commitments to closing the gender gap in the field. However, effectiveness of interventions is arduous to evaluate and discerning the degree to which interventions are scalable is unknown since programs vary widely in scope, duration, and population focus. We sought to identify and review the quality of existing interventions of broadening participation and gender equity in computing fields by synthesizing interdisciplinary peer-reviewed evidence and outcomes of each study. We applied a momentum framework to categorize gender equity interventions. While some interventions aimed to address multiple domains of computing momentum, none successfully improved them all, and in some cases the breadth of the programs in aims hindered their success. Successful interventions involved institutional aims and commitments, curricula tailored for girls, and networks of social support. To fundamentally shift the culture of computing education to be more inclusive to girls and women, interventions matter.

References

* *Computing intervention studies included in the review are marked with an asterisk.*

Abbiss, J. (2008). Rethinking the ‘problem’ of gender and IT schooling: Discourses in literature.

Gender and Education, 20(2), 153–165. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540250701805839>

Adelman, C. (1999). *Answers in the tool box: Academic intensity, attendance patterns, and bachelor’s degree attainment*. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED431363.pdf>

Adelman, C. (2006). *The toolbox revisited: Paths to degree completion from high school through college*. <http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/toolboxrevisit/toolbox.pdf>

* Akkuş Çakır, N., Gass, A., Foster, A., & Lee, F. J. (2017). Development of a game-design workshop to promote young girls’ interest towards computing through identity exploration. *Computers & Education*, 108, 115–130.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2017.02.002>

Alba, D. (2016). Obama pledges \$4 billion to computer science in U.S. schools. *Wired*

Magazine. <http://www.wired.com/2016/01/obama-pledges-4-billion-to-computer-science-in-us-schools/>

* Alvarado, C., & Judson, E. (2014). Using targeted conferences to recruit women into computer science. *Communications of the ACM*, 57(3), 70–77. <https://doi.org/10.1145/2500883>

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). (2006). *Computing disciplines and majors*.

<https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/education/computing-disciplines.pdf>

Barker, L., Hovey, C. L., & Thompson, L. D. (2014). Results of a large-scale, multi-institutional study of undergraduate retention in computing. *2014 IEEE Frontiers in Education*

Conference (FIE) Proceedings, 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1109/FIE.2014.7044267>

Berenson, S. B., Slaten, K. M., Williams, L., & Ho, C.-W. (2004). Voices of women in a

- software engineering course: Reflections on collaboration. *Journal on Educational Resources in Computing*, 4(1), Article 3–es. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1060071.1060074>
- Bergsieker, H. B., Wilmot, M. O., Cyr, E. N., & Grey, C. B. (2020). A threat in the network: STEM women in less powerful network positions avoid integrating stereotypically feminine peers. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, 24(3), 321–349. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1368430219888274>
- Beyer, S. (2014). Why are women underrepresented in computer science? Gender differences in stereotypes, self-efficacy, values, and interests and predictors of future CS course-taking and grades. *Computer Science Education*, 24(2–3), 153–192. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08993408.2014.963363>
- Bind, M. A. C., & Rubin, D. B. (2020). When possible, report a Fisher-exact p value and display its underlying null randomization distribution. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(32), 19151–19158. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1915454117>
- Blau, P. M. (1977). A macrosociological theory of social structure. *American Journal of Sociology*, 83(1), 26–54. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2777762>
- Blickenstaff, J. (2005). Women and science careers: Leaky pipeline or gender filter? *Gender and Education*, 17(4), 369–386. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540250500145072>
- Blum, L., & Frieze, C. (2005). The evolving culture of computing: Similarity is the difference. *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, 26(1), 110–125. <https://doi.org/10.1353/fro.2005.0002>
- Bonham, K. S., & Stefan, M. I. (2017). Women are underrepresented in computational biology: An analysis of the scholarly literature in biology, computer science and computational biology. *PLOS Computational Biology*, 13(10), Article e1005134.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005134>

Britton, D. M. (2016). Beyond the chilly climate: The salience of gender in women's academic careers. *Gender & Society*, 31(1), 5–27. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0891243216681494>

Butler, J. (2011). *Gender trouble: Feminism and the subversion of identity* (2nd ed.). Routledge.

*Butler, Z., Bezakova, I., & Fluet, K. (2017). Pencil puzzles for introductory computer science: An experience- and gender-neutral context. *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM SIGCSE Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education*, 93–98.

<https://doi.org/10.1145/3017680.3017765>

Carnevale, A., Smith, N., & Melton, M. (2011). *STEM: Science technology engineering mathematics. Executive Summary*. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED525297.pdf>

Charles, M. (2017). Venus, Mars, and math: Gender, societal affluence, and eighth graders' aspirations for STEM. *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 3, 237802311769717. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2378023117697179>

Charles, M., & Bradley, K. (2009). Indulging our gendered selves? Sex segregation by field of study in 44 countries. *American Journal of Sociology*, 114(4), 924–976. <https://doi.org/10.1086/595942>

Charleston, L. J., Adserias, R. P., Lang, N. M., & Jackson, J. (2014). Intersectionality and STEM: The role of race and gender in the academic pursuits of African American women in STEM. *Journal of Progressive Policy & Practice*, 2(3), 273–293.

Chen, J., Perez-Felkner, L., Nhien, C., Hu, S., Erichsen, K., & Li, Y. (2023). Gender differences in motivational and curricular pathways towards postsecondary computing majors. *Research in Higher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11162-023-09751-w>

- Cheryan, S., Drury, B. J., & Vichayapai, M. (2012). Enduring influence of stereotypical computer science role models on women's academic aspirations. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 37(1), 72–79. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0361684312459328>
- Cheryan, S., Master, A., & Meltzoff, A. N. (2015). Cultural stereotypes as gatekeepers: Increasing girls' interest in computer science and engineering by diversifying stereotypes. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00049>
- Cheryan, S., & Plaut, V. C. (2010). Explaining underrepresentation: A theory of precluded interest. *Sex Roles*, 63(7–8), 475–488. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-010-9835-x>
- Cheryan, S., Plaut, V. C., Davies, P. G., & Steele, C. M. (2009). Ambient belonging: How stereotypical cues impact gender participation in computer science. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 97(6), 1045–1060. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0016239>
- Cho, S., Crenshaw, K. W., & McCall, L. (2013). Toward a field of intersectionality studies: Theory, applications, and praxis. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 38(4), 785–810. <https://doi.org/10.1086/669608>
- Code.org, CSTA, & ECEP Alliance. (2022). *2022 state of computer science education: Understanding our national imperative*. <https://advocacy.code.org/stateofcs>
- Collins, J. A., & Fauser, B. C. J. M. (2005). Balancing the strengths of systematic and narrative reviews. *Human Reproduction Update*, 11(2), 103–104. <https://doi.org/10.1093/humupd/dmh058>
- Collins, P. H. (2015). Intersectionality's definitional dilemmas. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 41(1), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-073014-112142>
- Corbett, C. (2015). The simple truth about the gender pay gap. *American Association for University Women*. <http://aauw->

[ne.aauw.net/files/2013/07/AAUW_Graduating_to_a_Pay_Gap_Report_-_2012.pdf](https://www.aauw.net/files/2013/07/AAUW_Graduating_to_a_Pay_Gap_Report_-_2012.pdf)

Corbett, C., & Hill, C. (2015). *Solving the equation: The variables for women's success in engineering and computing*. American Association for University Women.

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/03/Solving-the-Equation-report-nsa.pdf>

Cozza, M. (2011). Bridging gender gaps, networking in computer science. *Gender, Technology and Development*, 15(2), 319–337. <https://doi.org/10.1177/097185241101500207>

Crenshaw, K. (1991). Mapping the margins: Intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of color. *Stanford Law Review*, 43(6), 1241–1299.

<https://doi.org/10.2307/1229039>

Croda, E., & Grossbard, S. (2021). Women pay the price of COVID-19 more than men. *Review of Economics of the Household*, 19(1), 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11150-021-09549-8>

* Denner, J., Werner, L., & Ortiz, E. (2012). Computer games created by middle school girls:

Can they be used to measure understanding of computer science concepts? *Computers & Education*, 58(1), 240–249. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2011.08.006>

Dryburgh, H. (2000). Underrepresentation of girls and women in computer science:

Classification of 1990s Research. *Journal of Educational Computing Research*, 23(2), 181–202. <https://doi.org/10.2190/8RYV-9JWH-XQMB-QF41>

DuBow, W. M., & Kaminsky, A. (2019). How an online women in technology group provides a locus of opposition. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 98, 285–293.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2019.05.006>

Ehrlinger, J., Plant, E. A., Hartwig, M. K., Vossen, J. J., Columb, C. J., & Brewer, L. E. (2018).

Do gender differences in perceived prototypical computer scientists and engineers contribute to gender gaps in computer science and engineering? *Sex Roles*, 78, 40–51.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-017-0763-x>

Elliott, S. W. (2017). *Computers and the future of skill demand*.

<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264284395-en>

Erete, S., Thomas, K., Nacu, D., Dickinson, J., Thompson, N., & Pinkard, N. (2021). Applying a transformative justice approach to encourage the participation of Black and Latina girls in computing. *ACM Transactions on Computing Education*, 21(4), 1–24.

<https://doi.org/10.1145/3451345>

Estrada, M., Burnett, M., Campbell, A. G., Campbell, P. B., Denetclaw, W. F., Gutiérrez, C. G., Hurtado, S., John, G. H., Matsui, J., McGee, R., Okpodu, C. M., Robinson, T. J., Summers, M. F., Werner-Washburne, M., & Zavala, M. (2016). Improving underrepresented minority student persistence in STEM. *CBE Life Sciences Education*, 15(3), Article es5. <https://doi.org/10.1187/cbe.16-01-0038>

Fisher, A., & Margolis, J. (2003). Unlocking the clubhouse. *ACM SIGCSE Bulletin*, 35(1), 23.

<https://doi.org/10.1145/792548.611896>

Fong, C. J., Davis, C. W., Kim, Y., Kim, Y. W., Marriott, L., & Kim, S. (2016). Psychosocial factors and community college student success: A meta-analytic investigation. *Review of Educational Research*, 87(2), 388–424. <https://doi.org/10.3102%2F0034654316653479>

Fox, M. F. (2010). Women and men faculty in academic science and engineering: Social-organizational indicators and implications. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 53(7), 997–1012. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764209356234>

Frank, K. A., Muller, C., Schiller, K. S., Riegler-Crumb, C., Mueller, A. S., Crosnoe, R., & Pearson, J. (2008). The social dynamics of mathematics coursetaking in high school. *The American Journal of Sociology*, 113(6), 1645–1696. <https://doi.org/10.1086/587153>

- Frank, K. A., Zhao, Y., & Borman, K. (2004). Social capital and the diffusion of innovations within organizations: The case of computer technology in schools. *Sociology of Education*, 77(2), 148–171. <https://doi.org/10.1177/003804070407700203>
- * Friend, M. (2015). Middle school girls' envisioned future in computing. *Computer Science Education*, 25(2), 152–173. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08993408.2015.1033128>
- Frieze, C., & Quesenberry, J. (2013). From difference to diversity: Including women in the changing face of computing. *SIGCSE 2013 - Proceedings of the 44th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1145/2445196.2445327>
- Garcia, G. A., Núñez, A. -M., & Sansone, V. A. (2019). Toward a multidimensional conceptual framework for understanding “servingsness” in Hispanic-serving institutions: A synthesis of the research. *Review of Educational Research*, 89(5), 745–784. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0034654319864591>
- Gaston Gayles, J., & Smith, K. N. (2019). Advancing theoretical frameworks for intersectional research on women in STEM. In L. Perez-Felkner & J. Gaston Gayles (Eds.), *Advancing higher education research on undergraduate women in STEM* (pp. 27–43). Jossey-Bass. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ir.20274>
- Gibb, H. (2006). Distance education and the issue of equity online: Exploring the perspectives of rural Aboriginal students. *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, 35, 21–29. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1326011100004130>
- Goode, J. (2007). If you build teachers, will students come? The role of teachers in broadening computer science learning for urban youth. *Journal of Educational Computing Research*, 36(1), 65–88. <https://doi.org/10.2190/2102-5g77-ql77-5506>
- Gürer, D., & Camp, T. (2002). An ACM-W literature review on women in computing. *SIGCSE*

- Bulletin*, 34(2), 121–127. <https://doi.org/10.1145/543812.543844>
- Hall, R. M., & Sandler, B. R. (1982). *The classroom climate: A chilly one for women?* Association of American Colleges. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED215628>
- Hall, R. M., & Sandler, B. R. (1984). *Out of the classroom: A chilly campus climate for women?* Association of American Colleges. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED254125>
- Hanks, B., Fitzgerald, S., McCauley, R., Murphy, L., & Zander, C. (2011). Pair programming in education: A literature review. *Computer Science Education*, 21(2), 135–173. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08993408.2011.579808>
- Haynes, C., Joseph, N. M., Patton, L. D., Stewart, S., & Allen, E. L. (2020). Toward an understanding of intersectionality methodology: A 30-year literature synthesis of Black women’s experiences in higher education. *Review of Educational Research*, 90(6), 751–787. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0034654320946822>
- Heilbronner, N. N. (2012). The STEM pathway for women: What has changed? *Gifted Child Quarterly*, 57(1), 39–55. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0016986212460085>
- Hill, C., Corbett, C., & Rose, A. (2010). *Why so few? Women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics*. American Association of University Women. <http://eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED509653.pdf>
- Hyde, J. S., Bigler, R. S., Joel, D., Tate, C. C., & van Anders, S. M. (2019). The future of sex and gender in psychology: Five challenges to the gender binary. *American Psychologist*, 74(2), 171–193. <https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0000307>
- Ireland, D. T., Freeman, K. E., Winston-Proctor, C. E., DeLaine, K. D., McDonald Lowe, S., & Woodson, K. M. (2018). (Un)Hidden figures: A synthesis of research examining the intersectional experiences of Black women and girls in STEM education. *Review of*

- Research in Education*, 42(1), 226–254. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0091732x18759072>
- Jensen, L. E., & Deemer, E. D. (2019). Identity, campus climate, and burnout among undergraduate women in STEM fields. *The Career Development Quarterly*, 67(2), 96–109. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cdq.12174>
- Kafai, Y. B., & Burke, Q. (2015). Constructionist gaming: Understanding the benefits of making games for learning. *Educational Psychologist*, 50(4), 313–334. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00461520.2015.1124022>
- Kay, R. (2006). Addressing gender differences in computer ability, attitudes and use: The laptop effect. *Journal of Educational Computing Research*, 34(2), 187–211. <https://doi.org/10.2190/9blq-883y-xqma-fcah>
- Kekelis, L., Ancheta, R., & Heber, E. (2005). Hurdles in the pipeline: Girls and technology careers. *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, 26(1), 99–109. <https://doi.org/10.1353/fro.2005.0013>
- Kerger, S., Martin, R., & Brunner, M. (2011). How can we enhance girls' interest in scientific topics? *British Journal of Educational Psychology*, 81(4), 606–628. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.2044-8279.2011.02019.x>
- Kim, A. Y., Sinatra, G. M., & Seyranian, V. (2018). Developing a STEM identity among young women: A social identity perspective. *Review of Educational Research*, 88(4), 589–625. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0034654318779957>
- * Lagesen, V. A. (2007). The strength of numbers: Strategies to include women into computer science. *Social Studies of Science*, 37(1), 67–92. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25474498>
- * Lau, W. W. Y., Ngai, G., Chan, S. C. F., & Cheung, J. C. Y. (2009). Learning programming through fashion and design. *ACM SIGCSE Bulletin*, 41(1), 504–508.

<https://doi.org/10.1145/1539024.1509041>

Lee, J. J., & McCabe, J. M. (2021). Who speaks and who listens: Revisiting the chilly climate in college classrooms. *Gender & Society*, 35(1), 32–60.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0891243220977141>

Leedy, M. G., LaLonde, D., & Runk, K. (2003). Gender equity in mathematics: Beliefs of students, parents, and teachers. *School Science and Mathematics*, 103(6), 285–292.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1949-8594.2003.tb18151.x>

Lehman, K. J., Sax, L. J., & Zimmerman, H. B. (2017). Women planning to major in computer science: Who are they and what makes them unique? *Computer Science Education*, 26(4), 277–298. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08993408.2016.1271536>

Lent, R. W., Lopez, A. M., Lopez, F. G., & Sheu, H.-B. (2008). Social cognitive career theory and the prediction of interests and choice goals in the computing disciplines. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, 73(1), 52–62. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jvb.2008.01.002>

Litts, B. K., Searle, K. A., Brayboy, B. M. J., & Kafai, Y. B. (2020). Computing for all?: Examining critical biases in computational tools for learning. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 52(2), 842–857. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjet.13059>

Luo, F., Sun, A., Erdt, M., Sesagiri Raamkumar, A., & Theng, Y.-L. (2018). Exploring prestigious citations sourced from top universities in bibliometrics and altmetrics: A case study in the computer science discipline. *Scientometrics*, 114(1), 1-17.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-017-2571-z>

* Lynn, K.-M., Raphael, C., Olefsky, K., & Bachen, C. M. (2003). Bridging the gender gap in computing: An integrative approach to content design for girls. *Journal of Educational Computing Research*, 28(2), 143–162. <https://doi.org/10.2190/79HP-RVE7-3A9N-FV8C>

- *Magerko, B., Freeman, J., Mcklin, T., Reilly, M., Livingston, E., Mccoid, S., & Crews-Brown, A. (2016). EarSketch: A STEAM-based approach for underrepresented populations in high school computer science education. *ACM Transactions on Computing Education*, *16*(4), 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1145/2886418>
- Main, J. B., & Schimpf, C. (2017). The underrepresentation of women in computing fields: A synthesis of literature using a life course perspective. *IEEE Transactions on Education*, *60*(4), 296–304. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TE.2017.2704060>
- Malcom, L., & Malcom, S. (2011). The double bind: The next generation. *Harvard Educational Review*, *81*(2), 162–172. <https://doi.org/10.17763/haer.81.2.a84201x508406327>
- Margolis, J., & Fisher, A. (2002). *Unlocking the clubhouse: Women in computing*. MIT Press.
- Margolis, J., Fisher, A., & Miller, F. (2000). The anatomy of interest: Women in undergraduate computer science. *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *28*(1/2), 104–127. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40004448>
- Master, A., Cheryan, S., & Meltzoff, A. N. (2016). Computing whether she belongs: Stereotypes undermine girls' interest and sense of belonging in computer science. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *108*(3), 424–437. <https://doi.org/10.1037/edu0000061>
- Mau, W.-C. J., & Li, J. (2018). Factors influencing STEM career aspirations of underrepresented high school students. *The Career Development Quarterly*, *66*(3), 246–258. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cdq.12146>
- McDaniel, A. (2016). The role of cultural contexts in explaining cross-national gender gaps in stem expectations. *European Sociological Review*, *32*(1), 122–133. <https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcv078>
- McDonald, S.-K., Keesler, V. A., Kauffman, N. J., & Schneider, B. (2006). Scaling-up

exemplary interventions. *Educational Researcher*, 35(3), 15–24.

<https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189x035003015>

*Medel, P., & Pournaghshband, V. (2017). Eliminating gender bias in computer science education materials. *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM SIGCSE Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education*, 411–416. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3017680.3017794>

Meho, L. I., & Rogers, Y. (2008). Citation counting, citation ranking, and h-index of human-computer interaction researchers: A comparison of scopus and web of science. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 59(11), 1711-1726.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.20874>

Michell, D., Szorenyi, A., Falkner, K., & Szabo, C. (2017). Broadening participation not border protection: How universities can support women in computer science. *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management*, 39(4), 406–422.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/1360080X.2017.1330821>

Michie, S., & Nelson, D. L. (2006). Barriers women face in information technology careers: Self-efficacy, passion and gender biases. *Women In Management Review*, 21(1), 10–27.

<https://doi.org/10.1108/09649420610643385>

Milesi, C., Perez-Felkner, L., Brown, K., & Schneider, B. (2017). Engagement, persistence, and gender in computer science: Results of a smartphone ESM study. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 8(602), 1–9.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.00602>

Miller, R. A., Vaccaro, A., Kimball, E. W., & Forester, R. (2020). “It’s dude culture”: Students with minoritized identities of sexuality and/or gender navigating STEM majors. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, 14(3), 340–352. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dhe0000171>

Moller, F., & Crick, T. (2018). A university-based model for supporting computer science

curriculum reform. *Journal of Computers in Education*, 5(4), 415–434.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40692-018-0117-x>

Morris, L. K., & Daniel, L. G. (2008). Perceptions of a chilly climate: Differences in traditional and non-traditional majors for women. *Research in Higher Education*, 49(3), 256–273.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11162-007-9078-z>

Myers, B. (2018). Women and minorities in tech, by the numbers. *Wired Magazine*.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2018). *Assessing and responding to the growth of computer science undergraduate enrollments*. Washington, DC: The

National Academies Press. <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24926/assessing-and-responding-to-the-growth-of-computer-science-undergraduate-enrollments>

National Science Board, National Science Foundation. (2021). *The STEM labor force of today:*

Scientists, engineers, and skilled technical workers (Science and Engineering Indicators 2022). <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsb20212>

* Nesiba, N., Dana-Farley, J., Muhyi, N., Chen, J., Ray, N., & Pontelli, E. (2015). Young women in computing: Creating a successful and sustainable pipeline. 2015 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE). <https://doi.org/10.1109/FIE.2015.7344242>

OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation. (2018). *Bridging the digital gender divide: Include, upskill, innovate*. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. <https://www.oecd.org/digital/bridging-the-digital-gender-divide.pdf>

Ortega, F. R., Bolivar, S., Bernal, J., Galvan, A., Tarre, K., Rische, N., & Barreto, A. (2017, 2017). Towards a 3D virtual programming language to increase the number of women in computer science education. 2017 IEEE Virtual Reality Workshop on K-12 Embodied Learning through Virtual & Augmented Reality (KELVAR),

* Ortega, F. R., Bolivar, S., Bernal, J., Galvan, A., Tarre, K., Rishe, N., & Barreto, A. (2017).

Towards a 3D virtual programming language to increase the number of women in computer science education 2017 IEEE Virtual Reality Workshop on K-12 Embodied Learning through Virtual & Augmented Reality (KELVAR),

<https://dx.doi.org/10.1109/kelvar.2017.7961558>

Pantic, K., & Clarke-Midura, J. (2019). Factors that influence retention of women in the computer science major: A systematic literature review. *Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering*, 25(2), 119-145.

<https://doi.org/10.1615/JWomenMinorScienEng.2019024384>

Pantic, K., & Clarke-Midura, J. (2023). Social interactions and practices that positively influenced women's retention in their computer science major. *Computer Science Education*, 33(2), 286–314. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08993408.2022.2158283>

Perez-Felkner, L., Felkner, J. S., Nix, S., & Magalhães, M. (2020). The puzzling relationship between international development and gender equity: The case of STEM postsecondary education in Cambodia. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 72(102102), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2019.102102>

Perez-Felkner, L., Ramirez Surmeier, L., & Rezaei, R. (2024). Gender and educational inequality. In M. Berends, B. Schneider, & S. Lamb (Eds.), *Handbook on sociology of education* (pp. 142-157). Sage.

Perry, M. J. (2018). *Chart of the day: The declining female share of computer science degrees from 28% to 18%*. American Enterprise Institute. <https://www.aei.org/carpe-diem/chart-of-the-day-the-declining-female-share-of-computer-science-degrees-from-28-to-18>

Petticrew, M., & Roberts, H. (2006). *Systematic reviews in the social sciences: A practical*

- guide*. Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470754887>
- Pinkard, N., Erete, S., Martin, C. K., & McKinney de Royston, M. (2017). Digital youth divas: Exploring narrative-driven curriculum to spark middle school girls' interest in computational activities. *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 26(3), 477–516.
- *Pivkina, I., Pontelli, E., Jensen, R., & Haebe, J. (2009). Young women in computing. *ACM SIGCSE Bulletin*, 41(1), 509–513. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1539024.1509042>
- Prescod-Weinstein, C. (2020). Making Black women scientists under White empiricism: The racialization of epistemology in Physics. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 45(2), 421–447. <https://doi.org/10.1086/704991>
- Rankin, Y. A., Thomas, J. O., & Irish, I. (2019). Food for thought: Supporting African American women's computational algorithmic thinking in an Intro CS course. Proceedings of the 50th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education, Minneapolis, MN, USA.
- * Richard, G. T., Kafai, Y. B., Adleberg, B., & Telhan, O. (2015). StitchFest: Diversifying design, experience, and perception in a college hackathon to broaden participation in computing. *Proceedings of the 46th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education*, 114–119. <https://doi.org/10.1145/2676723.2677310>
- * Robertson, J. (2013). The influence of a game-making project on male and female learners' attitudes to computing. *Computer Science Education*, 23(1), 58–83. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08993408.2013.774155>
- Robnett, R. D. (2016). Gender bias in STEM fields. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 40(1), 65–79. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0361684315596162>
- Rodriguez, S. L., & Lehman, K. (2017). Developing the next generation of diverse computer

- scientists: The need for enhanced, intersectional computing identity theory. *Computer Science Education*, 27(3–4), 229–247. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08993408.2018.1457899>
- Rodriguez, S. L., Lu, C., & Ramirez, D. (2020). Creating a conceptual framework for computing identity development for Latina undergraduate students. In E. Gonzalez, F. Fernandez, & M. Wilson (Eds.), *An asset-based approach to advancing Latina students in STEM: Increasing resilience, participation, and success* (pp. 25–39). Routledge.
- Rosser, S. V. (2018). Breaking into the lab: Engineering progress for women in science and technology. *International Journal of Gender, Science and Technology*, 10(2), 213–232. <https://genderandset.open.ac.uk/index.php/genderandset/article/view/490>
- * Rover, D., Zambreno, J., Mina, M., Jones, P., & Chrystal, L. L. (2016). Evidence-based planning to broaden the participation of women in electrical and computer engineering. *2016 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE)*, 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1109/FIE.2016.7757643>
- Sáinz, M., & Eccles, J. (2012). Self-concept of computer and math ability: Gender implications across time and within ICT studies. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, 80(2), 486–499. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jvb.2011.08.005>
- * Salminen-Karlsson, M. (2002). Gender-inclusive computer engineering education: Two attempts at curriculum change. *International Journal of Engineering Education*, 18(4), 430–437.
- Sax, L. J., Lehman, K. J., Jacobs, J. A., Kanny, M. A., Lim, G., Monje-Paulson, L., & Zimmerman, H. B. (2017). Anatomy of an enduring gender gap: The evolution of women's participation in computer science. *The Journal of Higher Education*, 88(2), 258–293. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00221546.2016.1257306>

- Sax, L. J., Nhien, C. & Stormes, K. N. (2024). A Quantitative Methodological Review of Research on Broadening Participation in Computing, 2005-2022. In *Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE'24)*. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3626252.3630768>
- * Scott, A., Martin, A., McAlear, F., & Koshy, S. (2017). *Broadening participation in computing: Examining experiences of girls of color*. Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education, Bologna, Italy. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3059009.3059054>
- *Scott, K. A., & White, M. A. (2013). COMPUGIRLS' standpoint: Culturally responsive computing and its effect on girls of color. *Urban Education*, 48(5), 657–681. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042085913491219>
- Simon, R. M., Wagner, A., & Killion, B. (2017). Gender and choosing a STEM major in college: Femininity, masculinity, chilly climate, and occupational values. *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, 54(3), 299–323. <https://doi.org/doi:10.1002/tea.21345>
- Singh, K., Allen, K. R., Scheckler, R., & Darlington, L. (2007). Women in computer-related majors: A critical synthesis of research and theory from 1994 to 2005. *Review of Educational Research*, 77(4), 500–533. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0034654307309919>
- *Stout, J. G., Tamer, B., Wright, H. M., Clarke, L. A., Dwarkadas, S., & Howard, A. M. (2017). The grad cohort workshop: Evaluating an intervention to retain women graduate students in computing. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7(2071), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.02071>
- * Staehr, L., Martin, M., & Byrne, G. (2001). An intervention programme for women in computing courses: Does it make a difference? In L. B. Rasmussen, C. Beardon, & S.

- Munari (Eds.), *Computers and Networks in the Age of Globalization* (pp. 23–38). Springer US. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-0-387-35400-2_2
- Sullivan, A., & Bers, M. U. (2013). Gender differences in kindergarteners' robotics and programming achievement. *International Journal of Technology and Design Education*, 23(3), 691–702. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10798-012-9210-z>
- * Sullivan, K., Byrne, J. R., Bresnihan, N., Sullivan, K. O., & Tangney, B. (2015). Codeplus — Designing an after school computing programme for girls. *2015 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE)*, 1–5. <https://doi.org/10.1109/FIE.2015.7344113>
- Tillberg, H. K., & Cohoon, J. M. (2005). Attracting women to the C.S. major. *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, 26(1), 126–140. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4137440>
- * Tsoukalas, K., & Wu, W. T. W. (2009). WICS @ SFU: Assessing the impact and outcomes of a women in computing science student group at the college level. *Proceedings of the 14th Western Canadian Conference on Computing Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1536274.1536303>
- Upton, G. J. G. (1992). Fisher's exact test. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A (Statistics in Society)*, 155(3), 395–402. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2982890>
- Vitores, A., & Gil-Juárez, A. (2016). The trouble with 'women in computing': A critical examination of the deployment of research on the gender gap in computer science. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 25(6), 666–680. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2015.1087309>
- Volman, M., & Van Eck, E. (2001). Gender equity and information technology in education: The second decade. *Review of Educational Research*, 71(4), 613–634. <https://doi.org/10.3102/00346543071004613>

- Voyageur, C. J. (2001). Ready, willing, and able: Prospects for distance learning in Canada's First Nations community. *Journal of Distance Education, 16*(1), 102–112.
<https://www.ijede.ca/index.php/jde/article/download/174/131?inline=1>
- Wang, X. (2013). Why students choose STEM majors: Motivation, high school learning, and postsecondary context of support. *American Educational Research Journal, 50*(5), 1081–1121. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0002831213488622>
- Wang, X. (2017). Toward a holistic theoretical model of momentum for community college student success. In M. B. Paulsen (Ed.), *Higher education: Handbook of theory and research*. (pp. 259–308). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-48983-4_6
- Weinberger, C. J. (2004). Just ask! Why surveyed women did not pursue IT courses or careers. *IEEE Technology and Society Magazine, 23*(2), 28–35.
<https://doi.org/10.1109/MTAS.2004.1304399>
- * Witherspoon, E. B., Schunn, C. D., Higashi, R. M., & Baehr, E. C. (2016). Gender, interest, and prior experience shape opportunities to learn programming in robotics competitions. *International Journal of STEM Education, 3*(1), 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40594-016-0052-1>
- Yamaguchi, R., & Burge, J. D. (2019). Intersectionality in the narratives of Black women in computing through the education and workforce pipeline. *Journal for Multicultural Education, 13*(3), 215–235. <https://doi.org/10.1108/jme-07-2018-0042>

Table 1

Screening Process and Analytic Sample Refinement

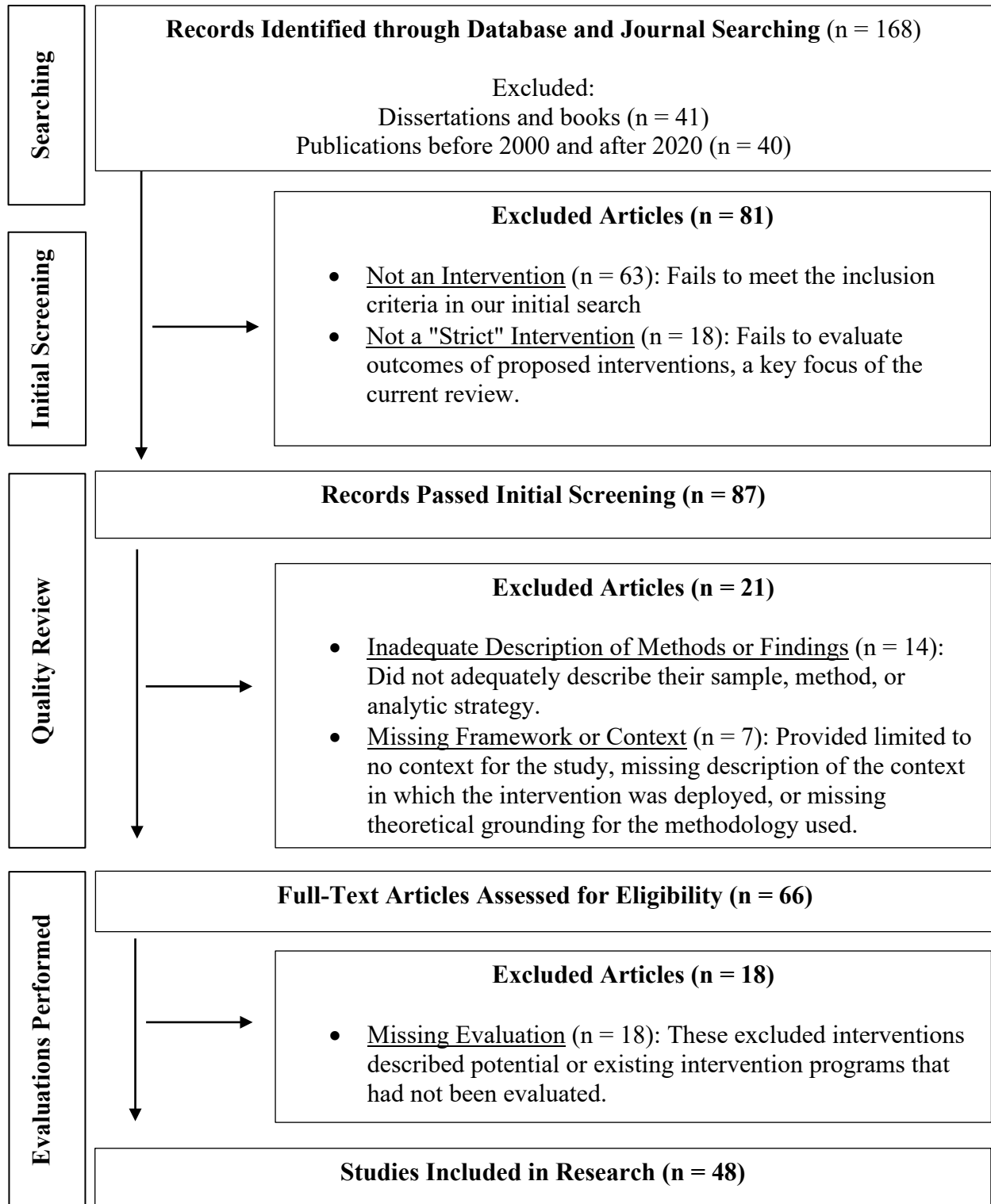


Table 2*Code List and Descriptions*

Intervention Goals		Evaluated	Met
Improving Computing Content	Focusing on new course design, course content revision, improving teaching practices, improving, or changing the classroom structure or work environment, the content or structure of extracurricular activities, learning communities, internships, or research opportunities.	70.8% (N = 34)	70.6%
Increasing Computing Access	Providing financial support, scholarships, grants, support for computing-related business startups, policy changes, single-day informational activities, organizational change or restructuring, school-industry partnerships, leadership, or professional development activities, or changing the structure of advising.	47.9% (N = 23)	73.9%
Improving Social Support	Providing mentors, forming cohorts, invigorating the social aspect of extracurricular activities, or learning communities, creating social groups (online or in person) for girls/women, or peer activities (e.g., pair programming or a collaborative activity to produce astereotypical images of CS women).	37.5% (N = 18)	72.2%
Intervention Outcome Description		Evaluated	Met
Teaching/Learning Domain	Closing gender gaps in computing performance, increased computer science GPA, improved computing learning outcomes, increased computing-related problem-solving skills, increased computing content knowledge, or increased engagement with computing.	45.8% (N = 22)	63.6%
Motivational Domain	Improvement in computer science attitudes (confidence, motivation, interest, efficacy, or satisfaction), or perceptions of computer science (likelihood of success, attitudes towards computing, sense of belonging, or perceptions of computing careers).	66.7% (N = 32)	71.9%
Curricular Domain	Reducing gender gaps in computing postsecondary majors, increased computing course enrollments, improved computing recruitment, reducing gender gaps in computing representation in the school, university, or work environment, or improved diversity and inclusion.	25.0% (N = 12)	75.0%
Social Domain	Addressing social needs or fostering social connections with the effect of creating inclusive computing environments.	35.4% (N = 17)	70.6%
Structural Domain	Increasing student access to information and opportunities in computer science (via professional development, providing career information, create meetings with professionals, increase exposure to the beneficial applications of computing, provide financial support, or create research opportunities).	29.2% (N = 14)	71.4%
Improving Persistence	Improving retention in the workforce or in curriculum, improved workforce advancement or promotion, successfully encouraged continued or long-term participation in computing, increased transfers from community colleges to baccalaureate-granting institutions (staying in computing), or improved graduation and/or credential attainment (certificate or degree).	25.0% (N = 12)	75.0%

Note. The full list of studies included in this analysis of computing interventions for gender equity (n = 48) is reported in Appendix Table A1.

Table 3

Characteristics of Interventions Studied

Level	N	Sources
Elementary/ Middle School (Lower Secondary)	13	Jenson et al., 2003; Denner et al., 2005; Doerschuk et al., 2007; Lau et al., 2009; Werner & Denner, 2009; Denner et al., 2012; Outlay et al., 2014; Lang et al., 2015; Friend, 2015; Robinson et al., 2016; Witherspoon et al., 2016; Akkuş Çakır et al., 2017; Hollman et al., 2019
High School (Upper Secondary)	13	Lynn et al., 2003; Logan, 2007; Pivkina et al., 2009; Carbonaro, 2010; Craig & Coldwell, 2010; Andujar et al., 2012; Scott & White, 2013; Freeman et al., 2014; Scott. et al., 2015; Sullivan et al., 2015; Magerko et al., 2016; Brady et al., 2017; Scott et al., 2017
Postsecondary (College/ Undergraduate, Graduate)	18	Staehr et al., 2001; Salminen-Karlsson, 2002; Crews & Butterfield, 2003; Grant, 2003; Werner et al., 2004; Lagesen, 2007; Mento et al., 2008; Tsoukalas et al., 2009; Cohoon et al., 2013; Alvarado & Judson, 2014; Richard et al., 2015; Rover et al., 2016; Butler et al., 2017; Khan & Wei, 2017; Medel & Pournaghshband, 2017; Ortega et al., 2017; Stout et al., 2017; Rheingans et al., 2018
Longitudinal	4	Gabbert & Meeker, 2002; Robertson, 2013; Townsend & Sloan, 2016; Nesiba et al., 2015

Additional Characteristics					
Scope	N	Duration	N	Primary Intervention Strategy	N
One Site	31	1 Day	5	Advising/Learning community	1
Two to Five Sites	8	2–5 Days	6	Awards	1
Six to 10 Sites	5	1–2 Months	4	Competition/Convening/Event	6
More than 10 Sites	3	1 Semester (4 Months)	7	Course (only)	13
Not site-based	1	1 Year	10	Course + Making activity	2
		1+ Year to 3 Years	9	Extracurricular activity and/or camp	9
		More than 3 Years	5	Gaming and game design	7
		Ongoing	2	Mentors	1
				Pair programming	2
				Recruitment	1
		Scholarship	1		
		Support community	4		
Totals	48		48		48

Note. *Example publications listed here given category size and space constraints; full listing in Appendix Table A1. Fisher’s exact tests were used to assess statistical significance between categories listed, using Stata 16. This test is appropriate for content analysis with small numbers of observations. Significance is noted in the text, in association with intervention goals and outcomes measured.

Table 4

Most Common Characteristics of Successful Interventions, by Outcome Achieved

Outcome Achieved	Source Publications	Intervention Strategies	Goals	Level	Duration
Teaching/ Learning	Brady et al., 2017 ^a ; Butler et al., 2017 ^a ; Carbonaro et al., 2010 ^b ; Crews & Butterfield, 2003; Denner et al., 2005 ^a ; Denner et al., 2012; Doerschuk et al., 2007 ^a ; Freeman et al., 2014a; Friend, 2015 ^a ; Hollman et al., 2019 ^a ; Magerko et al., 2016 ^a ; Ortega et al., 2017 ^a ; Pivkina et al., 2009 ^a ; Rheingans et al., 2018 ^a ; Tsoukalas & Wu, 2009 ^{a,b} ; Werner et al., 2004 ^a .	Course	Improve Content*	College	1 Year
Motivational	Alvarado et al., 2014 ^a ; Andujar et al., 2012 ^a ; Brady et al., 2017 ^a ; Butler et al., 2017 ^a ; Cakir et al., 2017; Craig et al., 2010 ^{a,b} ; Denner et al., 2005 ^a ; Doerschuk et al., 2007 ^a ; Freeman et al., 2014 ^a ; Gabbert & Meeker, 2002 ^a ; Hollman et al., 2019 ^a ; Khan & Wei, 2017 ^a ; Lang et al., 2015 ^b ; Lau et al., 2009 ^b ; Lynn et al., 2003 ^a ; Magerko et al., 2016 ^a ; Medel & Pournaghshband, 2017; Nesiba et al., 2015 ^a ; Pivkina et al., 2009 ^a ; Richard et al., 2015 ^a ; Robinson et al., 2016; Scott & White, 2013 ^a ; Scott et al., 2017 ^a ; Stout et al., 2017 ^b ; Sullivan et al., 2015 ^b ; Witherspoon et al., 2016.	Extracurricular	Improve Content	High School	1 Day/ 1–3 Years
Curricular	Alvarado et al., 2014 ^a ; Andujar et al., 2012 ^a ; Cohoon et al., 2013 ^a ; Mento et al., 2008 ^a ; Nesiba et al., 2015 ^a ; Salminen-Karlsson, 2002 ^b ; Scott et al., 2017 ^a ; Staehr et al., 2001 ^{a,b} .	Course	Increase Access**	College	1–3 Years
Social	Brady et al., 2017 ^a ; Cohoon et al., 2013 ^a ; Denner et al., 2005 ^a ; Gabbert & Meeker, 2002 ^a ; Khan & Wei, 2017 ^a ; Ortega et al., 2017; Pivkina et al., 2009 ^a ; Scott & White, 2013 ^a ; Scott et al., 2017 ^a ; Townsend & Sloan, 2016; Tsoukalas & Wu, 2009 ^{a,b} ; Werner & Denner; Werner et al., 2004 ^a .	Extracurricular / Social Support	Improve Content & Social Support*	College	1–3 Years
Structural	Alvarado et al., 2014 ^a ; Craig et al., 2010 ^{a,b} ; Friend, 2015 ^a ; Hollman et al., 2019 ^a ; Lagesen, 2007 ^{a,b} ; Lynn et al., 2003 ^a ; Nesiba et al., 2015 ^a ; Richard et al., 2015 ^a ; Scott et al., 2017 ^a ; Staehr et al., 2001 ^{a,b} .	Course	Increase Access^	College	1–3 Years
Persistence	Lagesen, 2007 ^{a,b} ; Magerko et al., 2016 ^a ; Mento et al., 2008 ^a ; Rheingans et al., 2018 ^a ; Staehr et al., 2001 ^{a,b} ; Werner et al., 2004 ^a .	Course	Improve Content & Social Support	College	1 Year

Note. Fisher’s exact tests were used to assess statistical significance between the outcome achieved and the most common goal, using Stata 16. This test is appropriate for content analysis with small numbers of observations. Single-site interventions were uniformly the most common across studies with successful outcomes. Significance is marked here with an asterisk and noted in the text, in association with intervention outcomes and corresponding most common goals measured.^a Studies which appear in 2+ categories. ^b Studies which took place in part or fully outside the U.S. ^p < 0.10, *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001.

Table 5*Most Common Characteristics of Unsuccessful Interventions, by Outcome Achieved*

	Intervention Strategy	Goal	Level of Intervention	Scope	Duration
Teaching/ Learning	Course/ Extracurricular	Improve Content	Middle, High School, College	1 Site	1 Semester
Motivational	Course	Improve Content	Middle School	1 Site	1 Semester– 1 Year
Curricular	Competition/ Extracurricular/ Game	Improve Social Support	High School	More than 1 Site	1 Day–1 Year
Social	Course	Improve Content	Middle, High School, College	1 Site	1 Year
Structural	Course/ Extracurricular/ Pair-Programming	Improve Content	Middle School	More than 1 Site	1 Day–1 Year
Persistence	Extracurricular	Increase Access	High School	1 Site	1 Day–3 Years

Figure 1

Momentum Framework for Gender Equity in Computing

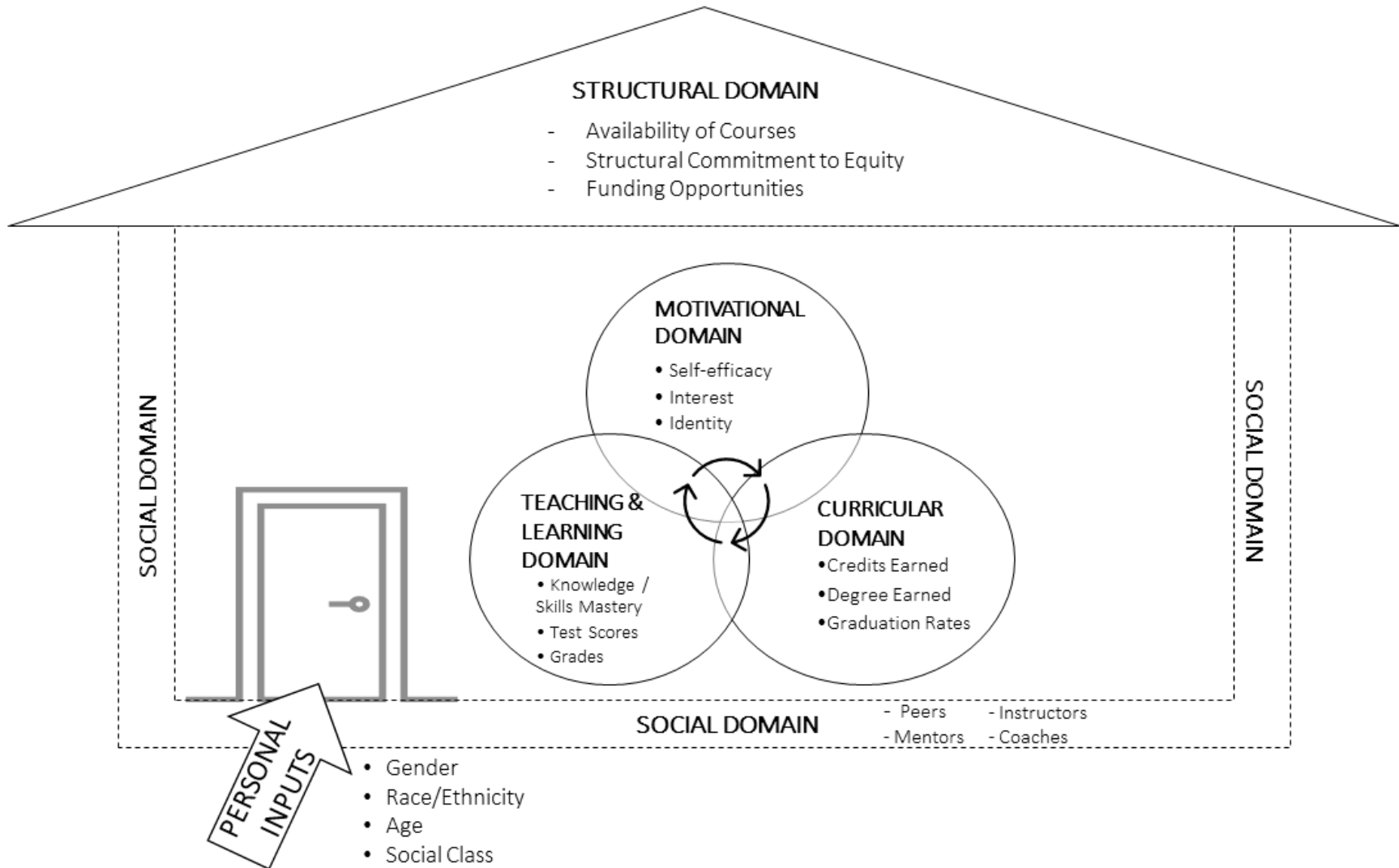


Figure 2*Inclusion and Quality Criteria***Inclusion Criteria:**

Use the criteria below to determine whether the publication will be included in our study.

1. Is the publication a peer-reviewed article, conference, or proceedings paper?
2. Does the publication focus on gender and computing?
3. Was the publication published between 2000–2020?

Quality Criteria:

1. Is the research purpose or objective clear?
2. Is the literature review, conceptual or theoretical framework appropriate for the research question and methods?
3. Does the method use appropriate for addressing the purpose or objective?
4. Is there sufficient sample/data to address the purpose or objective?
5. Is the research context adequately described?
6. Are the methods adequately described?
7. Are the results/findings clearly presented and connected to the data?
8. Are the conclusions drawn from or connected to the data and empirical evidence?

Appendix Table A1*Citation Information for Included Computing Intervention Studies for Gender Equity (N=48)*

Authors	Title	Publication Outlet
Staehr et al., 2001*	An Intervention Programme for Women in Computing Courses: Does it Make a Difference?	Computers and Networks in the Age of Globalization
Gabbert & Meeker, 2002*	Support Communities for Women in Computing	ACM SIGCSE Bulletin
Salminen-Karlsson, 2002*	Gender-Inclusive Computer Engineering Education: Two Attempts at Curriculum Change	International Journal of Engineering Education
Crews & Butterfield, 2003	Gender Differences in Beginning Programming: An Empirical Study on Improving Performance Parity	Campus-Wide Information Systems
Grant, 2003	A Study on Critical Thinking, Cognitive Learning Style, And Gender in Various Information Science Programming Classes	Proceedings of the 4th Conference on Information technology curriculum
Jenson et al., 2003	"Girl Talk": Gender, Equity, And Identity Discourses in A School-Based Computer Culture	Women's Studies International Forum
Lynn et al., 2003*	Bridging the Gender Gap in Computing: An Integrative Approach to Content Design for Girls	Journal of Educational Computing Research
Werner et al., 2004	Pair-Programming Helps Female Computer Science Students	Journal on Educational Resources in Computing
Denner et al., 2005	The Girls Creating Games Program: Strategies for Engaging Middle-School Girls in Information Technology	Frontiers - A Journal of Women's Studies
Doerschuk et al., 2007	Pilot Summer Camps in Computing for Middle School Girls: From Organization Through Assessment	ACM SIGCSE Bulletin
Lagesen, 2007*	The Strength of Numbers: Strategies to Include Women into Computer Science	Social Studies of Science
Logan, 2007	Should Computing Be Taught in Single-Sex Environments? An Analysis of The Computing Learning Environment of Upper Secondary Students	Educational Studies
Mento et al., 2008	Encouraging Women and Minorities to Attain Degrees in Computing and Related Fields	Information Systems Education Journal
Lau et al., 2009*	Learning Programming Through Fashion and Design: A Pilot Summer Course in Wearable Computing for Middle School Students	ACM SIGCSE Bulletin
Pivkina et al., 2009*	Young Women in Computing: Lessons Learned from An Educational & Outreach Program	ACM SIGCSE Bulletin
Tsoukalas et al., 2009*	WICS @ SFU: Assessing the Impact and Outcomes of a Women in Computing Science Student Group at The College Level	Proceedings of the 14th Western Canadian Conference on Computing Education
Werner & Denner, 2009	Pair Programming in Middle School: What Does It Look Like?	Journal of Research on Technology in Education

Carbonaro, 2010	Computer-Game Construction: A Gender-Neutral Attractor to Computing Science	Computers & Education
Craig & Coldwell, 2010	An Initiative to Address the Gender Imbalance in Tertiary IT Studies	Interdisciplinary Journal of Information, Knowledge, and Management
Andujar et al., 2012	Attracting High School Students to Computing: A Case Study with Drag-Drop Interfaces	EdMedia + Innovate Learning Conference
Denner et al., 2012*	Computer Games Created by Middle School Girls: Can They Be Used to Measure Understanding of Computer Science Concepts?	Computers & Education
Cphoon. et al., 2013	Educating Diverse Computing Students at the University of Virginia	IEEE: Computer
Robertson, 2013*	The Influence of a Game-Making Project on Male and Female Learners' Attitudes to Computing	Computer Science Education
Scott & White, 2013*	COMPUGIRLS' Standpoint: Culturally Responsive Computing and Its Effect on Girls of Color	Urban Education
Alvarado & Judson, 2014*	Using Targeted Conferences to Recruit Women into Computer Science	Association for Computing Machinery
Freeman et al., 2014	Engaging underrepresented groups in high school introductory computing through computational remixing with EarSketch	Proceedings of the 45th ACM technical symposium on Computer science education
Outlay et al., 2014	Getting IT together: linking computing intervention camps with computing careers	Proceedings of the 52nd ACM conference on Computers and people research
Scott. et al., 2015	Culturally Responsive Computing: A Theory Revisited	Learning, Media, and Technology
Friend, 2015*	Middle School Girls' Envisioned Future in Computing	Computer Science Education
Lang, 2015	Outreach Programmes to Attract Girls into Computing: How the Best Laid Plans Can Sometimes Fail	Computer Science Education
Nesiba et al., 2015*	Young Women in Computing: Creating a successful and sustainable pipeline	2015 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference
Richard et al., 2015*	StitchFest: Diversifying a College Hackathon to Broaden Participation and Perceptions in Computing	Proceedings of the 46th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education
Sullivan et al., 2015*	CodePlus--Designing an After-School Computing Programme for Girls	2015 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference
Magerko et al., 2016*	EarSketch: A STEAM-Based Approach for Underrepresented Populations in High School Computer Science Education	ACM Transactions on Computing Education
Robinson et al., 2016	African American Middle School Girls: Influences on Attitudes toward Computer Science	Computing in Science and Engineering
Rover et al., 2016*	Evidence-Based Planning to Broaden the Participation of Women in Electrical and Computer Engineering	2016 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE)
Townsend & Sloan, 2016	Pre- to Post-Conference Differences: Celebrations of Women in Computing	2016 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference
Witherspoon et al., 2016*	Gender, Interest, And Prior Experience Shape Opportunities to Learn Programming in Robotics Competitions	International Journal of STEM Education

Akkuş Çakır et al., 2017*	Development of a Game-Design Workshop to Promote Young Girls' Interest Towards Computing Through Identity	Computers & Education
Brady et al., 2017	All Roads Lead to Computing: Making, Participatory Simulations, and Social Computing as Pathways to Computer Science	IEEE Transactions on Education
Butler et al., 2017*	Pencil Puzzles for Introductory Computer Science: An Experience - and Gender-Neutral Context	Proceedings of the 2017 ACM SIGCSE Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education
Khan & Wei, 2017	Free Talk Zone: Inclusive Pedagogy to Encourage Women in Computer Science	2017 International Conference on Computational Science and Computational Intelligence
Medel & Pournaghshband, 2017*	Eliminating Gender Bias in Computer Science Education Materials	Proceedings of the 2017 ACM SIGCSE Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education
Ortega et al., 2017*	Towards a 3D Virtual Programming Language to Increase the Number of Women in Computer Science Education	2017 IEEE Virtual Reality Workshop on K-12 Embodied Learning through Virtual & Augmented Reality (KELVAR)
Scott et al., 2017*	Broadening Participation in Computing: Examining Experiences of Girls of Color	Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education
Stout et al., 2017*	The Grad Cohort Workshop: Evaluating an Intervention to Retain Women Graduate Students in Computing	Frontiers in Psychology
Rheingans et al., 2018	A Model for Increasing Gender Diversity in Technology	Proceedings of the 49th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education
Hollman et al., 2019*	Information Technology Pathways in Education: Interventions with Middle School Students	Computers & Education