Illusionist leaderships: men and women in ABFM’s boards of directors

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First of all: what the hell is ABFM?

Associação Brasileira de Física Médica

Brazilian Association of Medical Physics

Celebrating 50 years of existence
Proportion of women and men by CNPq scholarship mobility from 2013 to 2017

Why join a professional association?

- Peer-to-peer communication
- Development of scientific knowledge
- Prestige
- Community integration
- Education/training
Symbolic capital
Scientific capital
Political capital
ABFM Board of Directors (1969-2019)

President
Vice president
Treasurer
General secretary
Regional secretaries
ABFM Board of Directors (1969-2019)

President
Vice president
Treasurer
General secretary
Regional secretaries
“IN GOD WE TRUST, ALL OTHERS MUST BRING DATA.”

W. EDWARD DEMING
Women would be 'better' at managing accounts and services.
This segregation into positions of treasurers and secretaries highlights the symbolic violence within a microfield.
Testimonials

“I had to ask permission to become pregnant and negotiate with the owners/administrators of the clinics where I work. (...) I had to teach some staff to do some tests and I was behind some shielded wall coordinating. They didn't like to have to do it, and so I had to flatter them to help me. Sometimes (...) it was necessary to ask my husband (...) to do some tests for me at his lunch hours. I didn't have maternity leave, I had "extended vacation" (...) and I was requested during this period a few times. I even received a visit from the administrator of one of the clinics to organize documents for health surveillance. I'd like to get pregnant again, but I don't know if that's possible”.
"After doing the training for a radiological protection supervisor, I had to humiliate myself to get someone to sign the document that proved the requested experience. And when I was admitted, one of the members told the person who referred me that we had had sexual intercourse. (...) Since I needed the job, I decided not to say anything".
"I worked in a physics company and earned less than any other male physicist. When another woman came in, she earned less than I did, but I was surprised that one of the owners said that since the other owner was her boyfriend, he was already paying for her son, so she wouldn't have to earn more".