

Supplementary materials

Table S1: P values from interaction tests of gender of the applicant with other variables, based on bivariable and multivariable models.

| | Bivariable | Multivariable* |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Gender of reviewer | 0.011 | 0.037 |
| Source of nomination of reviewer | 0.71 | 0.17 |
| Country of affiliation of reviewer | 0.57 | 0.27 |
| Age of applicant | 0.74 | 0.67 |
| Affiliation of the applicant | <0.001 | 0.003 |
| Nationality of the applicant | 0.51 | 0.92 |
| Research topic | 0.36 | 0.31 |
| Change of guidelines | 0.065 | 0.033 |

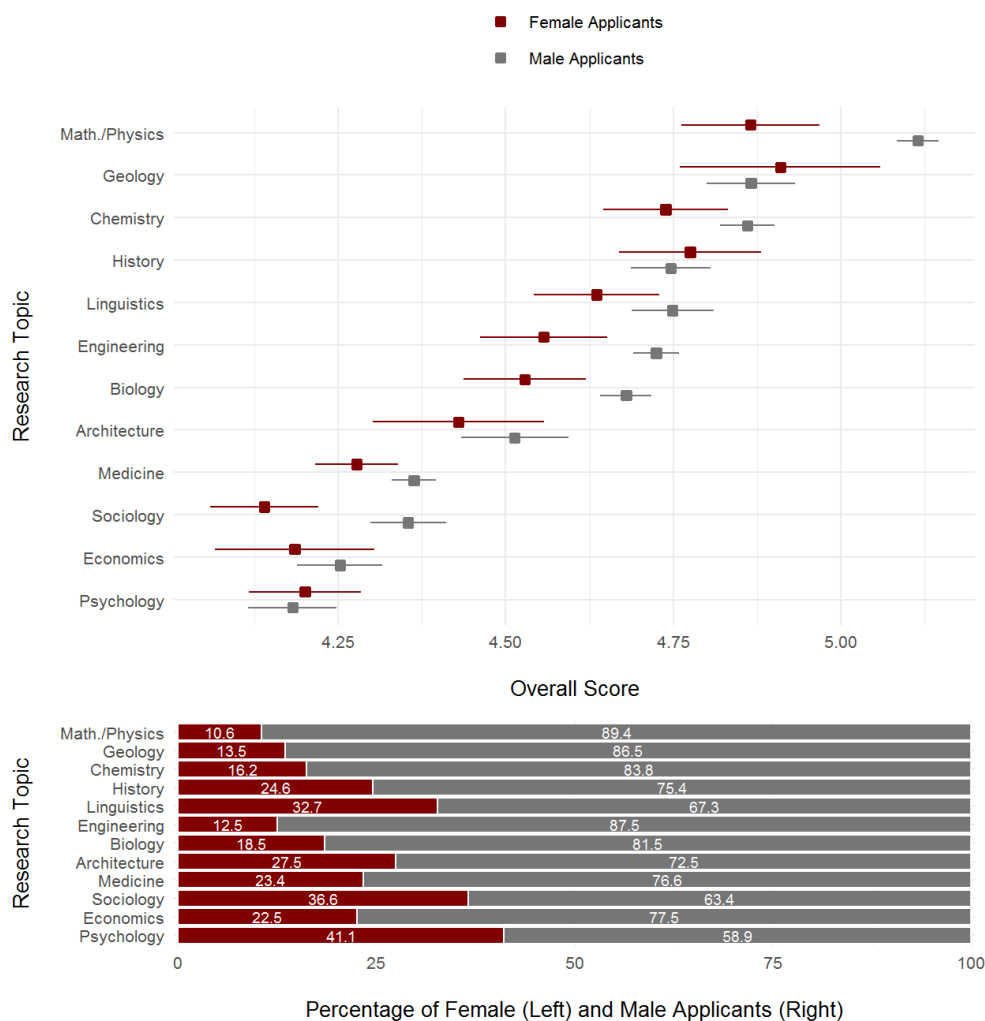
*Adjusted for all variables listed in Table 2 of the main paper.

Table S2: Definition of the field of research.

The field of research is based on the SNSF main discipline list.

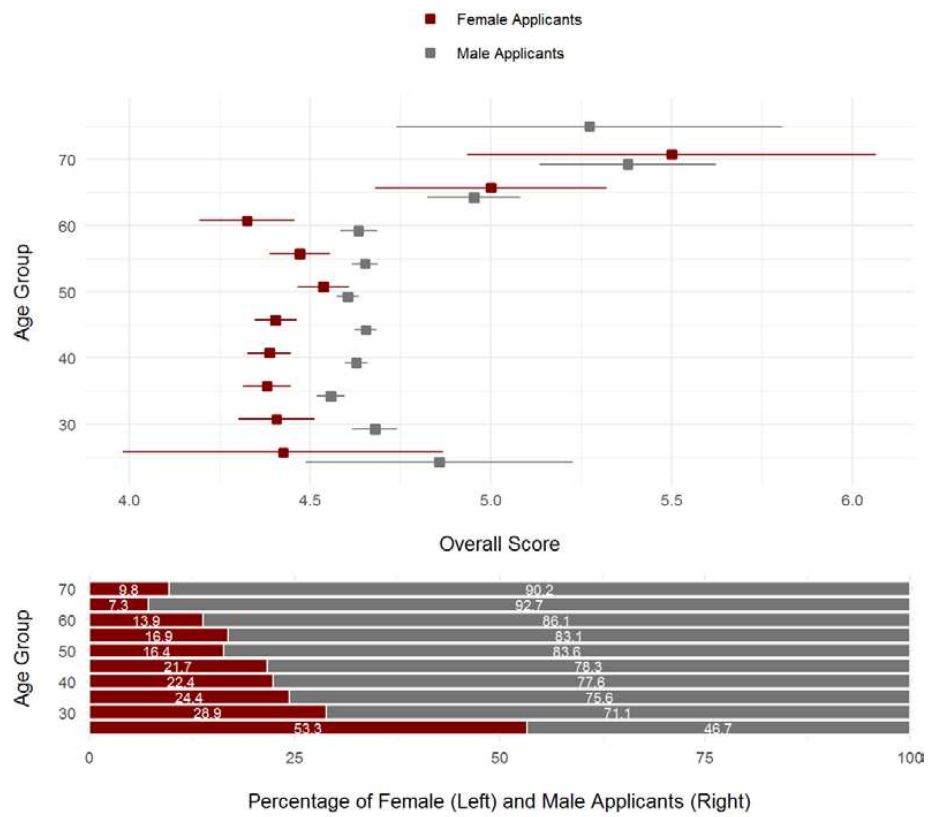
| Field of research | Main discipline |
|--------------------------|---|
| Medicine | Social medicine, Basic Medical Sciences, Experimental Medicine, Clinical Medicine, Preventive Medicine (Epidemiology/Early Diagnosis/Prevention), Social Medicine |
| Architecture | Art studies, musicology, theatre and film studies, architecture |
| Biology | Basic Biological Research, General Biology |
| Chemistry | Chemistry, Environmental Sciences |
| Economics | Economics, law |
| Engineering | Engineering Sciences |
| Geology | Earth Sciences |
| History | Theology and religious studies, history, classical studies, archaeology, prehistory and early history |
| Linguistics | Linguistics and literature, philosophy |
| Mathematics/Physics | Astronomy, Astrophysics and Space Sciences, Physics, Mathematics, Mathematics, Natural- and Engineering Sciences |
| Psychology | Psychology, educational studies |
| Sociology | Sociology, social work, political sciences, media and communication studies, health, Ethnology |

Figure S1: Overall scores depending on research topic and gender of the applicant.

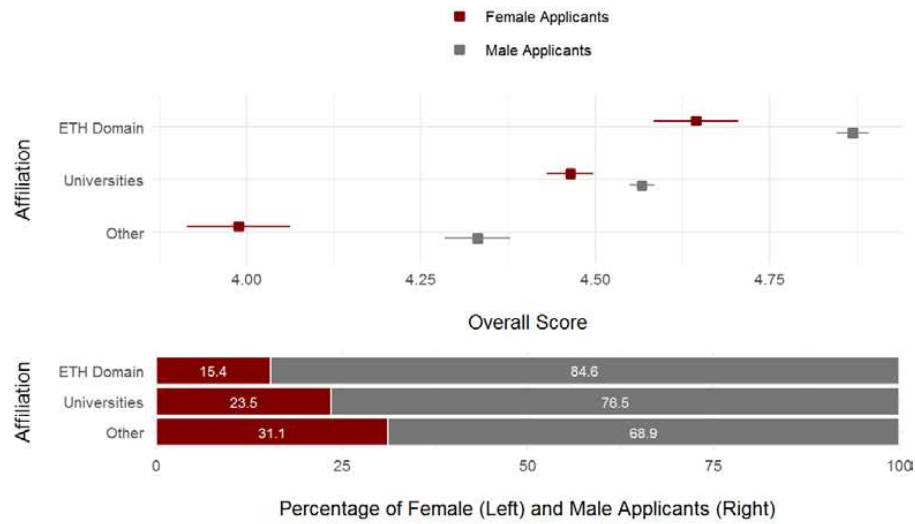


Upper panel: Average (mean) overall scores by research topic for female and male applicants; horizontal lines indicate Wald 95% confidence intervals. Lower panel: Gender distribution in the research topics.

Figure S2: Overall scores depending on the age and gender of the applicants.



Upper panel: Average (mean) overall scores by five-year age group for female and male applicants; horizontal lines indicate Wald 95% confidence intervals. Lower panel: Gender distribution in the age groups.

Figure S3: Overall scores depending on the applicant's institution type and gender.

Upper panel: Average (mean) overall scores by affiliation times for female and male applicants; horizontal lines indicate Wald 95% confidence intervals. Lower panel: Gender distribution for the different affiliation types.

Figure S4: Average overall scores by nationality for female and male applicant; horizontal lines indicate Wald 95% confidence intervals.

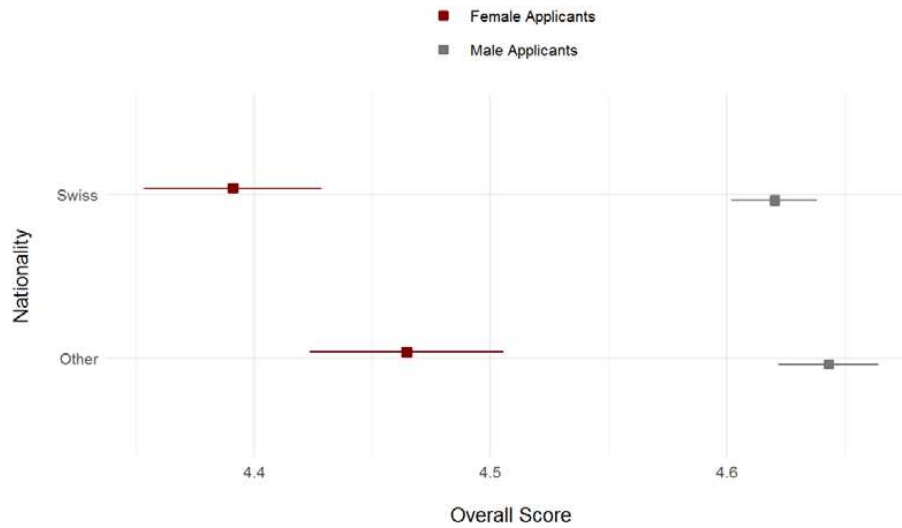
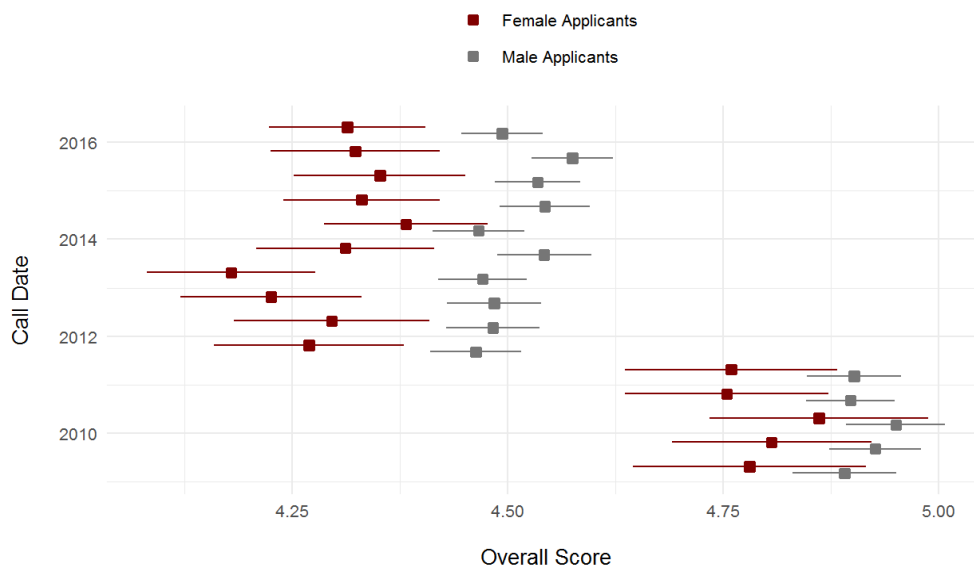


Figure S5: Average (mean) overall scores by application call deadline for female and male applicants; horizontal lines indicate Wald 95% confidence intervals.



Text S1: Old and new evaluation forms. The new forms were implemented from the 1. October 2011 call onwards.

OLD FORM

1. Synopsis

| | Excellent | Very Good | Good | Average | Satisfactory | Poor | | Not considered |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| Current scientific interest and impact of the project | | | | | | | | |
| Originality of the work | | | | | | | | |
| Suitability and originality of the methods to be used | | | | | | | | |
| Feasibility of the project | | | | | | | | |
| Experience and past performance of the applicant | | | | | | | | |
| Specific abilities of the applicants for the proposed project | | | | | | | | |
| Overall assessment | | | | | | | | |

Comments regarding the overall assessment

2. Detailed evaluation

Current scientific interest and impact of the project

Originality of the work

Suitability and originality of the methods to be used

Feasibility of the project

Experience and past performance of the applicant

Specific abilities of the applicants for the proposed project

Other comments

NEW FORM**1. Synopsis**

| | outstanding | excellent | very good | good | average | poor | | Not considered |
|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| Applicants' scientific track record and expertise | | | | | | | | |
| Scientific relevance, originality and topicality | | | | | | | | |
| Suitability of methods and feasibility | | | | | | | | |
| Overall assessment | | | | | | | | |

Comments regarding the overall assessment**2. Detailed evaluation****Applicants' scientific track record and expertise****Scientific relevance, originality and topicality****Suitability of methods and feasibility**

3. Further comments & declaration concerning conflicts of interests (will not be forwarded to applicants)

Confidential messages

The topic of the proposed project

Declaration concerning conflict of interests (comments, if applicable)
