

# Women and Wikipedia: Individual Engagement Grant



## Rule 16

*There are NO girls on the Internet.*

The English language Wikipedia's "gender gap" has been documented, discussed, and publicized, but few workable solutions have been found.

The purpose of this study is to understand better what motivates women to contribute to Wikipedia. Findings may help the community to make policy and design decisions to engage and retain editors who self-identify as women.

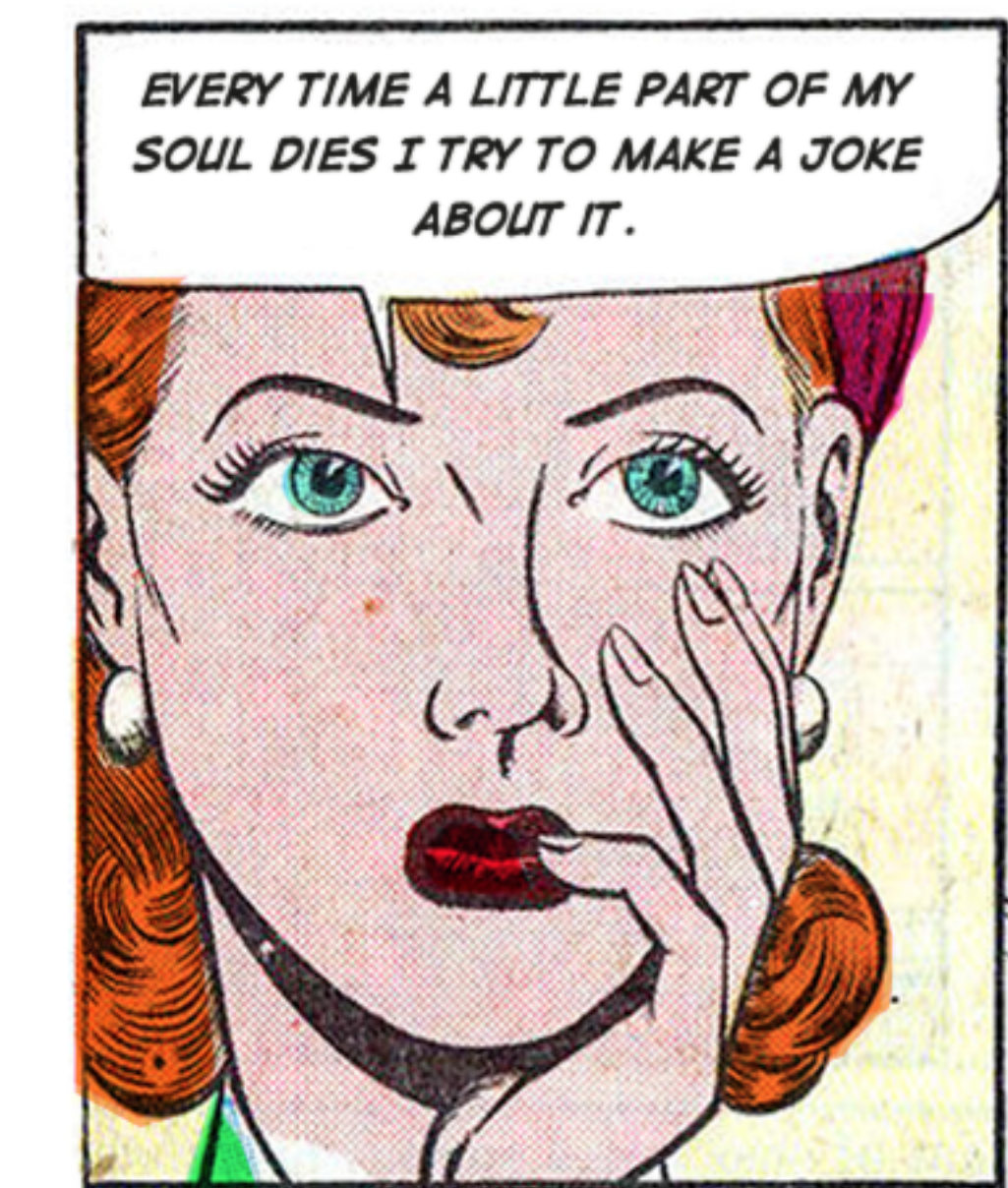
## Noise or patterns?

Noise can be patterns we don't yet understand.\* Possible noises/patterns to consider during this project:

- Invisible and emotional labor
- The community's construction of the "gender gap"
- Different approaches to knowledge creation (adversarial vs. co-production)
- Power and gate-keeping

However, this project takes a grounded theory (Glaser & Strauss, 1967) approach, which means the data—rather than the hypotheses—will guide the work.

\*Raph Koster



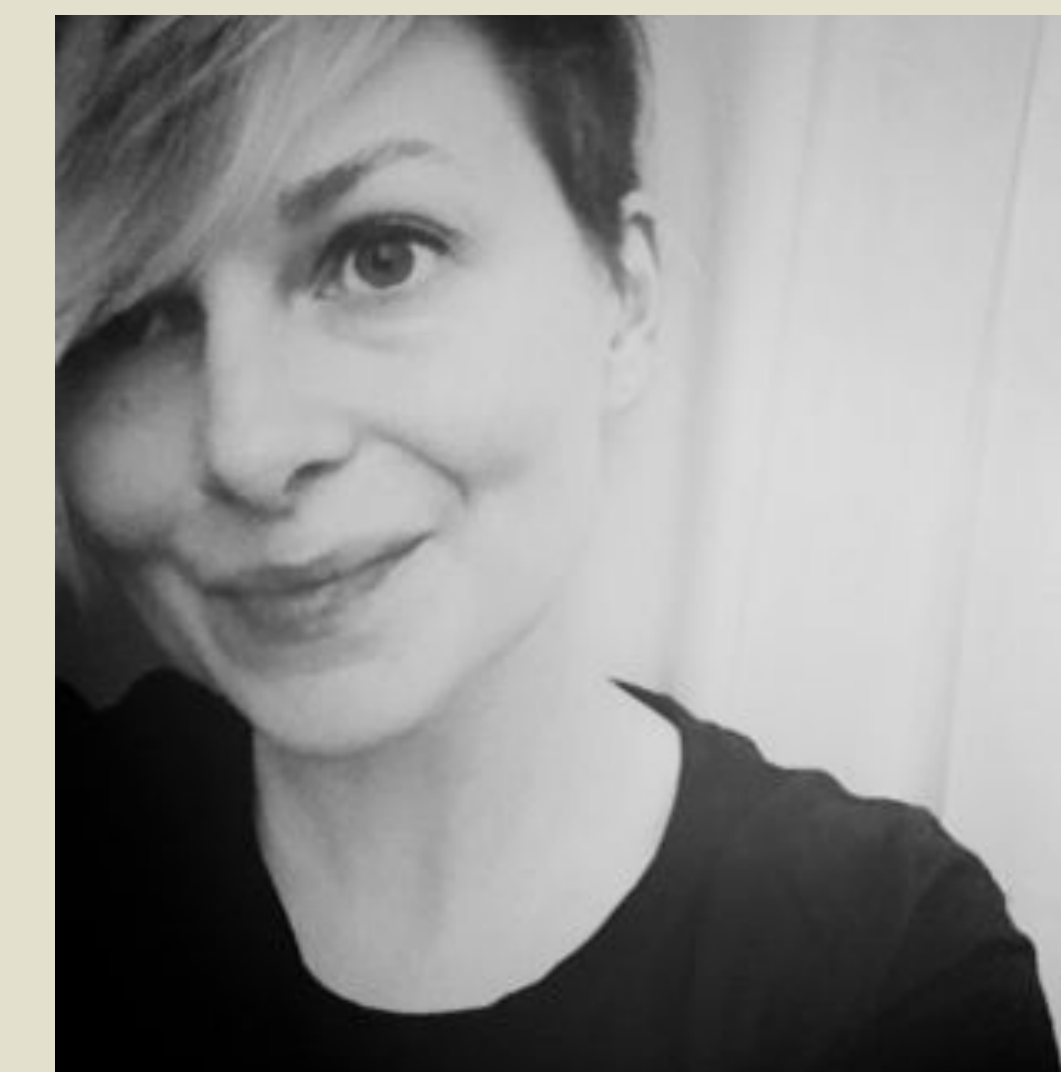
## Not everything that can be counted counts...

Data points will include:

- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Observations
- Edit histories
- Evaluations of efforts to close the "gap"
- Mailing list archives
- Online survey
- Existing studies and relevant literature

...and not everything that counts can be counted.\*

\*Albert Einstein



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Participants: Amanda Menking, UW iSchool  
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Target: English Wikipedia

Priority: Engagement

Budget: \$8,075 USD

Updates: Wikimedia Foundation Blog, [meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Gender\\_gap](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Gender_gap), and [meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:IEG/Women\\_and\\_Wikipedia/Timeline](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:IEG/Women_and_Wikipedia/Timeline)

Participate: Volunteer for an interview or focus group!