

# Giving Voice | Interruptions

a project to raise awareness of the gender challenges in STEM environments,  
written by students, postdoctoral scholars,  
faculty, and staff at Caltech.

More information at [givingvoice.caltech.edu](http://givingvoice.caltech.edu)

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## Giving Voice | Interruptions

Empty Stage.

ROWAN

I am a graduate student.

REMI

I am a postdoc.

MARIN

I'm a graduate student.

KELLY

I'm a graduate student.

STEVIE

I'm a grad student.

ALL

I consider myself lucky.

STEVIE

My advisor cares about our lab group.

KELLY

My project is a perfect fit for me.

ROWAN

While I hear about some groups with members pitted against each other in a race to publish, my experience has been the opposite.

KELLY

Our lab is like the sitcom ideal of a lab.

REMI

Open, caring, collaborative.

STEVIE

And yeah, just a little bit quirky.

KELLY/MARIN/STEVIE

We joke around.

MARIN

We hang out both inside and outside of work.

ROWAN

This might make grad school seem better than it is for most people.

STEVIE

I have total support. But I am one of the few women in my group.

ROWAN/MARIN/KELLY/REMI

Me too...

ROWAN

So I know my experience might be different from my male colleagues.

KELLY

There may be some issues...I know what you might be thinking.

ALL

But no, I don't have any sexual harassment issues.

KELLY

I'm talking about some subtle issue.

REMI

Sometimes my ideas are not given the same consideration as others, but that might just be how I communicate them. That's something that I can change, at least.

MARIN

It only gets under my skin when someone else restates my idea and they get credit. Ughhh...it happened a few times

KELLY

Actually it happens every meeting.

MARIN

I just sit down and wonder how I could have worded things in such a way that they would get through.

ROWAN

And, of course, there are the occasional

MAN

Hey ladies, you done yet?

ALL

Interruptions.

REMI

On those days, I just push a little harder to be heard.

I speak with a strong voice. MARIN

Talk through interruptions. STEVIE

Or cite the extra papers. You know, show them that I belong at the table. KELLY

I am a scientific force. REMI

Why should I have to teach others to be inclusive? KIMBERLY

I'm here to get my PhD. MARIN/STEVIE/KELLY/ROWAN

Why would I take time away from my work? STEVIE

I didn't sign up for this. REMI

I don't have time for that. KELLY

Why is it supposed to be my job? STEVIE

I didn't chose that job. ROWAN

I want to publish now. KELLY

Give that talk. MARIN

Present my research. ROWAN

Get that data. REMI

Now! ALL

STEVIE

Don't slow me down!

ROWAN/KELLY

Get out of my way!

ALL

Let me do my science.