



Parity in Stem roles still eluding women

Stem jobs are becoming increasingly important and are viewed as jobs of the future. ANG YIYING takes a look at the barriers that may prevent women from entering the field.

While the enrolment of female and men students at university-level have become more equal over the years, significantly fewer women are pursuing Stem subjects at higher levels, making up only 35 per cent, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation report found.

Stem is an acronym used to refer to science, technology, engineering and mathematics – which are fields that are increasingly important for work and carry better economic prospects.

This proportion is even smaller when it comes to women in higher education in information and communication technologies (ICT) – just 3 per cent globally. This is a problem because it is estimated that as of this year, 98 per cent of Stem-related jobs require ICT skills.

With fewer women in these fields, it means fewer of them are able to capitalise on opportunities offered by Stem.

◀ Women scientists in the early 20th century in America (L to R) Miss Nellie Brown, Miss Lucia McCollock, Miss Mary K. Bryan, and Miss Florence Hedges. They worked on making cultures of parasites and other experiments, in an industry where few women took on such work.



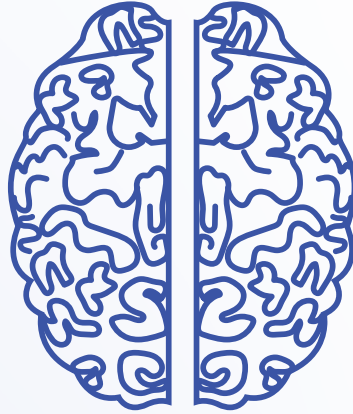
Consumerism: its evolution and effects

ANG YIYING looks at the historical, financial and psychological reasons why people buy stuff they do not need

When you buy the latest smartphone, or the latest graphic print T-shirt, you are practising consumerism.

While consumerism has more than one meaning, it is more commonly used to refer to the act of buying goods. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as “the theory that an increasing consumption of goods is economically desirable” and “a preoccupation with and an inclination toward the buying of consumer goods”.





Will Artificial Intelligence eat my lunch?

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**SERENE LUO** answers  
**this and other questions  
you may have had about  
artificial intelligence.**  
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Artificial intelligence (AI) is tipped to be the next big thing that will revolutionise industries everywhere.

It will be part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, where emerging technologies such as 5G wireless networks, nanotechnology, vehicles that drive themselves and more will join AI in changing what everyone's lives look like.

But one of the fears and pain points is that AI will eat one's lunch – that is, compete with humans and take away jobs. Though that could be somewhat of an exaggeration, the truth actually lies somewhere in between.