Another Case of “Same Bed, Different Dreams”?  
**Divergence in Energy Perspectives and Its Implications for Fuel Science Research**

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Abstract

This study represents the most detailed effort conducted to date to assess the influence of discipline-specific education at tertiary level and gender on energy perspectives. 399 young adults from engineering and business university disciplines and a vocational school participated in a survey assessing their perceptions of nuclear, coal, natural gas and oil energy sources as well as their beliefs of social, economic and environmental harms and benefits associated with such energy sources. Analyses indicated significant divergence in perceptions of energy sources that are publicly debated. Moreover, findings are suggestive of an additive effect of gender and education on energy perceptions. Additionally, respondents exhibited a general confounding of beliefs about harms and benefits associated with nuclear, coal, gas and oil energy sources along the social, economic and environmental dimensions. Implications for energy organizations as well as for interdisciplinary fuel science research collaborations are discussed.

Keywords: energy perceptions, beliefs, discipline-specific education, gender.