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## Occupational Segregation Among Gender - A Look at the Future

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# <sup>1</sup> OCCUPATIONAL SEGREGATION AMONG GENDER - A LOOK AT THE FUTURE

<sup>2</sup> BRENDA WEIL, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, IWU, MICHAEL SEEBORG\*

<sup>3</sup>This study takes a socio-economic approach to occupational segregation and studies the implications of segregation for men and women. The study centers around the "crowding hypothesis" developed by Barbara Bergmann. This hypothesis states that because women are denied access to many occupations, they are crowded into a limited number of remaining occupations.

Barriers to entry into certain occupations are identified. These barriers include statistical discrimination, overt discrimination, and education and training differences between men and women.

The continuation of occupational discrimination also depends upon the speed which new jobs open up in traditionally male occupations and traditionally female occupations. If opportunities in male-dominated fields expand rapidly and/or jobs in female-dominated occupations expand slowly, the prospects for more rapid integration are favorable. Recent Bureau of Labor Statistics projections are utilized to determine whether future trends will favor integration. Finally, policy implications of the findings will be discussed.