

## Other equestrian professionals interview's guide

### **I. Introduction**

Hello Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your given time to this interview.

We are Emilia and Lara. We are two Master students at Louvain School of Management. As part of our thesis, we try to analyze the gendered subtext in the high level of showjumping. In order to deepen our research and to have a diversified view in this field, we would like to interview equine professionals as riders or veterinarians, osteopaths, farriers, breeders and owners.

The gender context is marked by inequalities between men and women which, in some cases, may be hidden by equities. Equestrian sports are among the only Olympic sports where women and men compete at the same level and in the same classes. We have noticed that in high level jumping, men are more present than women. We would like to understand this participation gap and how they achieve the same performances as men.

Concerning the interviews, we are going to interview about thirty people working in the equestrian field. We wish to list interviews with women and men, with people of all ages but also of different professions in the equestrian world. For reasons of authenticity, we must record this exchange. However, the data will remain anonymous. Only our thesis promoter and we will have access to these interviews. In order to guarantee anonymity, we will first of all ask you to choose an assumed first name to be used in the writing of the master thesis. We will of course delete all the data allowing you to be found, such as the names of the horses, places, the won competitions, etc... It seems important to us to proceed in this way in order to comply with the code of ethics of the UCLouvain. As far as your interview is concerned, it will never be published or used in its entirety. Rather, we will use it on a specific theme or topic to which you have responded clearly and accurately. This will be an abstract of approximately 200 words.

Is the use of this data clear to you? Do you have any questions?

So we are going to start recording this interview and asking our questions. If you do not feel comfortable answering one of the questions, you are free not to answer it. Normally there will be no questions that are too disturbing.

Our interview is divided into 2 different themes : (1) the nature of the job and (2) the gender differences in the field of jumping at the high level.

## II. Questions

Surname, first name and alias	
Interview date	
Interview place	
Gender	
Age	
Profession	

### 1) Nature of the job

1. Can you briefly introduce yourself?
2. What is your job?
  - a. How long have you been in the business?
  - b. Why did you decide to enter your professional field?
  - c. Can you describe a typical day at work?
  - d. Do you work in the equestrian world full time or do you have another job on the side?
  - e. Are you self-employed or working for someone?
  - f. If you are self-employed, do you have employees to help you? If so, for which functions?
  - g. Do you practice horse riding? If so, how often, at what level and in what discipline?
  - h. What part of your job do you like best?
  - i. Conversely, what do you like least about your work?
  - j. What is your greatest success with the horses? What is your best memory with the horses?
  - k. What is your worst memory with the horses?
  - l. In a few years' time, how would you situate yourself within the equestrian world?

### 2) Gender differences in the field of jumping at the high level.

According to the literature review, the equestrian world is feminized : more women than men ride a horse during their free time. The dressage at the amateurs and high level is also known as more feminine. Nevertheless, that is not the case of the jumping and other professional equestrian events : men largely outweigh the number of women.

3. What do you think about this statement? Do you agree?
4. It is something that you have witnessed in the equestrian environment where you work?

5. When you think about the equestrian world, what gender do you tend to associate it with? Do you think it's more of a male or female sport?
6. Have you heard about expressions such as 'horse girl' or 'horse man'? Are they used in the area where you work? If yes how often?
7. Do you see differences between male and female riders through your work in the equestrian environment? What are they?

As we said in the beginning of the interview , according to the theoretical framework women and men compete together at the same level in the show jumping at the high level.

8. Do you think that the performances change between the genders? If yes, which one is more performant? And why?
9. Do you think that a gender has a stronger relationship with the horses than the other one?
10. What are the psychological and physical qualities that allow a person to become an excellent rider?
11. According to you, which gender is a 'better' rider? And why?
12. According to you, is it right that women and men compete together at the same level?
13. How the equestrian equipment is adapted to each gender ?
14. Do you think that the men' physiology makes riding easier and is more adapted to manage a horse?
15. Do you think there are any important differences between male and female sport horses?

In the literature review, we have seen that women are underestimated in different sports disciplines because sport is perceived as masculine. For this reason, sponsors and media are more attracted by masculine athletes and pay less attention to female athletes. Therefore, women have to work harder than men to stand out, to attract sponsors and develop their career.

16. According to you, is this statement also true for the equestrian disciplines? Why?
17. Do you think that women have to work harder than men to prove their potential in the horse world? Can you explain and give an example?
18. Do you think that women and men have equal chances to develop their career in the equestrian sports at the high level?
  - a. How about their media exposure?
  - b. How about the sponsorship?
  - c. How about the possibility of riding the best horses?
19. Have you been ever a witness of women discrimination in the equestrian world? If yes, how often and in which situations?
20. Do you know if there are any differences in wages between women and men in the equestrian world at the high level?

- a. Is there wage transparency of the equestrian world? Do riders ever discuss openly about the wages with others? Do you know how much money the riders earn?
- b. Do you think remuneration differences are sometimes justifiable?

We have arrived at the end of our interview, we do not have more questions. Would you like to add something that has not been discussed yet?

### **III. Conclusion (Summary of the main ideas)**

Thank you for your participation and help for our research. Would you be interested to receive the results of our research?

If yes, could you please, give us your email address?