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Abstract for an Invited Paper  
for the APR17 Meeting of  
the American Physical Society

**Fitting in to Move Forward: How Belonging Affects Women in Physics**

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This talk will consider different factors that have been shown to negatively affect women in physics and other STEM fields by decreasing their subjective sense of belonging, fit, and acceptance. I will discuss recent studies documenting gender disparities in belonging and the negative effect this has on women's persistence. I will also consider the effects of gender composition within group problem-solving tasks on women's belonging, behavior, and perceived competency. Finally, I will discuss potential interventions and changes in classroom context that may serve to encourage women and members of other underrepresented groups.