

## MITIGATING THE MATILDA EFFECT ON HELEN FARLEY: A PROFILE OF AN EARLY ONLINE RESEARCHER AND HER ONGOING DEDICATION TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

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### ABSTRACT

The Matilda effect (Rossiter, 1993) is the term used to describe “the systematic under-recognition of women’s accomplishments in scientific fields” (Schmidt et al., 2021, p. 1), which has been suggested as relevant in fields within academia often viewed as male dominated, such as educational technology and distance education (Schmidt et al., 2021). In this current paper, we hope to counterbalance that bias and help to reverse the Matilda effect by overviewing the research and achievements of Helen Farley. Her work with incarcerated individuals and her attempts to bring higher education into prisons in Australia and New Zealand demonstrates her dedication to social justice within the context of her own culture. In this article, we provide an overview Farley’s biographical background and highlight some of her research to offer insight into the value and innovation of her work. Her focus on information and communication technology (ICT) has produced innovative ways to create platforms and learning management systems that offer online learning to prison populations. We hope this paper will assist in continuing to mitigate the Matilda effect within the field of distance and online education.

**Keywords:** Matilda effect, women researchers, distance education, online education, gender differences, gender equity, feminist researchers, social justice