**Expert survival: gender effects and expertise in a survival game**

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What makes someone an expert at a video game? In esports, expertise is typically classified by traits such as reaction time, quick decision making and competitive performance, but research is primarily on first-person shooters or fast-paced strategy games. In the present paper, we evaluated performance in the survival game The Long Dark, a slow-paced game where players need to survive in a winter environment with scarce resources and dangerous predators. We compared 16 streaming personalities (eight veteran players and eight novices) on their performance when playing at the highest difficulty in the game. Several gender effects emerged. For novices, women had significantly more experience with the game than men, but for veterans there was no such difference. For both veterans and novices, women were more restrained in their playstyle, indicated by lower travel time, less time spent outdoors, and fewer locations discovered. This may suggest that, irrespective of one’s experience with a survival video game, men have a more high-risk approach to survival, emphasizing resource acquisition through travelling and exploration. Women, by contrast, have a low-risk approach and emphasize safety, spending more time ensuring the immediate survival of their character, at the cost of acquiring less resources.