

# WOMEN'S MOVEMENT: GENERATIONAL HOW THE NEEDLE HAS(N'T) MOVED

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## Leading Question

Is sexism going the way of the dinosaur... or not?

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## Watch the video

[https://youtu.be/vm2bd7G\\_BLA](https://youtu.be/vm2bd7G_BLA)

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**Whether or not you've personally experienced or witnessed sexism in the workplace, it is useful to think about how you would like to respond if you ever do. It's hard to think on your feet in the moment when you're shocked, afraid, or disgusted. Being prepared is empowering.**

1. In your own experience, do you relate to Lore Harp McGovern? In what way(s)?
  2. Do you notice a difference in how Lore talks about sexism and how young women talk about it today? If so, what specifically is different?
  3. How would you describe Lore's attitude about her treatment as a woman in a male-dominated industry?
  4. How did Lore handle men making passes at her? How do you or would you handle that kind of a situation?
  5. What kinds of protections and resources are available for women who experience workplace harassment today? Would they have helped Lore in the early '80s? Why or why not?
  6. Is the problem of sexism lost when it is folded into conversations about increasing diversity in the workplace?
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## START SOMETHING

What do you think you would do if you saw or experienced sexual harassment? Imagine how would you like to respond? Sometimes it's hard to react appropriately or effectively in the moment. Develop a plan of action so you are prepared.

## BIOGRAPHY

### Lore Harp McGovern

Born in Germany, Lore Harp McGovern came to California when she was nineteen and never left. She completed a degree in anthropology at California State University in Los Angeles before cofounding one of the earliest personal computer companies. Originally operating out of McGovern's home, Vector Graphic enjoyed quick success and went public in 1981. After she left the company and it was sold, McGovern pursued a number of other entrepreneurial and philanthropic opportunities. One of very few women in the male-dominated world of computer hardware, she was a true pioneer in the industry.

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## RESOURCES

Watch all nine videos of Women's Work: Perspectives on Gender in Tech  
<http://www.computerhistory.org/exponential/women-swork/>

Oral history interview of Lore Harp McGovern  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKLmJ5kQ5pw>

## About

This discussion guide is part of the series Women's Work: Perspectives on Gender in Tech, nine videos produced by the Exponential Center at the Computer History Museum. The center is dedicated to capturing the legacy and advancing the future of entrepreneurship and innovation in Silicon Valley and around the world.

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