

Newsletter n° 27 on scientific culture and gender issues

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ATTENTION:

Public consultation on EU2020 Strategy

The public consultation on the EU2020 Strategy launched by President Barroso last Wednesday is now available on following websites:

- CORDIS : very first page, first item in the "Do not miss" section http://cordis.europa.eu/home_en.html

The Strategy has three priorities 1) creating value by basing growth on knowledge, 2) empowering people in inclusive societies, 3) creating a competitive, connected and greener economy. Gender is mentioned once in Priority 1 under education (A greater emphasis on vulnerable groups, gender equality and social cohesion is needed to ensure that no one is excluded from knowledge), but not under research, and also once in Priority 3, referring to the need to improve employment rates for women.

There is no mention, however, of the role of "women in science" in European research.

If you are concerned about the limited role of women in the Strategy, please take part in this public consultation.

Women have much to contribute in defining and resolving the major challenges facing Europe: climate change, innovation, sustainable economic growth, employment and education, social cohesion.

Don't miss this opportunity to make the voice of "women in science" heard!

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

New Commissioner for Research and Innovation

Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, recently member of the European Court of Auditors and former Irish minister, has been nominated by José Manuel Barroso on 27 November 2009 as new Commissioner for Research and Innovation.

The new Commissioner must gain approval from the European Parliament before she takes office for a term of office running until 31 October 2014. The hearing before the Parliamentary Committee will take place between 11 and 19 January. The vote of consent on the new Commission as a whole is foreseen to take place on 26 January.

10th anniversary of Helsinki Group on Women and Science

The Helsinki Group on Women and Science, established by the Commission as a result of the 1999 European Council Resolution on Women and Science, and the European Commission's 1999 Communication on the same topic, is an advisory body comprised of representatives of all countries associated with the Framework Programme. The first meeting was held in November 1999 in Helsinki, so in November 2009 we are marking the 10th Anniversary of the "Helsinki Group on Women and Science". Over the ten years, the Helsinki Group has been continuously in dialogue with the Commission on the

promotion of women in scientific research, and has also been valuable in the exchange of good practice between the participating countries. The Helsinki Group has been looking to the future by preparing a Position Paper to be presented to the new Commission.

International Conference: "Changing research landscapes to make the most of human potential - 10 years of EU activities in Women in Science, and BEYOND", Prague 14-15 May 2009 – Feed-back from consultation of participants

As a follow-up of the conference, a questionnaire had been sent to all participants asking for their feed-back on suggestions for topics which should have been included/excluded and future activities.

Responses to this email questionnaire included ideas such as:

- a) inviting 'anti-gender' persons – particularly men - to participate in workshops,
- b) having a session on 'bad practice' to analyse why certain activities did not work, or were counter-productive,
- c) attaching gender equality standards to funding mechanisms and procedures for recruitment, retention and promotion,
- d) establishing "European Gender Equality Award" for institutions that effectively create and implement innovative gender equality measures,
- e) discussing why decision makers and working scientists trivialise gender;
- f) more specific project presentations since continuity between projects is important but often ignored,
- g) setting up European-wide task force to examine gender and research, resulting in policy recommendations,
- h) returning to the evaluation of excellence in research)

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FP7 project PRAGES – Practising Gender Equality in Science
Final conference – Rome, 3 and 4 December 2009

The project consisted of an action of coordination aimed at comparing the various strategies implemented for promoting the presence of women in decision-making bodies relating to scientific research in public institutions – USA - Australia – Canada and Europe.

"Guidelines for Gender Equality Programmes in Science" will be published after the event on : <http://www.retepariopportunita.it/defaultdesktop.aspx?page=2749>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Triple Helix VIII, 20-22 October 2010 in Madrid, Spain

"Triple Helix in the development of Cities of Knowledge, Expanding communities and Connecting Cities"

Thematic workshops on Gender in Innovation Policy, Innovation Systems and Triple Helix

Call for papers

Special Issue of the Journal of Technology Management & Innovation on "The Gender Dimension in Technology"

Special Issue Theme: The "Gender Dimension in Technology"

The theme proposed for this Special Issue is a novel research area which, with a few notable exceptions (e.g. Thursby and Thursby, 2005; Link, Siegel and Bozeman, 2007) has been little explored in the literature. While there is a wealth of studies on the participation of women in science, especially academic science (Xie and Shauman, 2003 Smith-Doerr, 2004; Sonnert and Holton, 2006), women's presence, identities, barriers to entry and advancement in technology-related professions, such as technology transfer and entrepreneurship, are only little documented.

This Special Issue aims to present to the scientific, business and policy-making communities a concentrated and multi-faceted body of recent research, that has the potential to raise awareness on the increasing importance of gender in technology, broaden the current understanding of the dynamics and implications of the phenomenon, inspire new research projects in this and related areas, and disseminate good practice.

The authors of the papers included in this Special Issue will have the opportunity to present them at the International Conference Triple Helix 8 (Madrid, October 2010), which will include a track on Gender and Technology.

Important deadlines:

Submission of full papers:	30 December 2009
Review:	30 January 2010
Decision on accepted papers:	10 February 2010
Online Publication:	15 March 2010

More information can be found at the following web address: www.triplehelix8.org

AAAS 2010 Annual Meeting

San Diego (USA) – 18-22 February 2010

The theme of the AAAS 2010 Annual Meeting "Bridging Science and Society" calls on every scientist and engineer to make their work both useful and understandable, and on society to discover again the excitement and hope that research and its findings offer.

Two symposia will be organised by the European Commission

- √ "Science meets Society: Walking the talk!" will discuss how in Europe and the United States, innovative forms of engagement between science and civil society

involving science centres, museums, universities and civil society organisations have emerged, supported by public bodies.

- √ "Top-down or Bottom-up? Comparing European and North American Gender Policies in Science" includes comparing and contrasting European and North American policies in the field of women in science.

More detailed information can be found at the following web address:

<http://www.aaas.org/meetings/2010/>

CarboSchools open conference – Jena (Germany) 15-16 April 2010 "Teacher-scientist partnerships for climate change education: Results & Perspectives"

The Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry and the CarboSchools consortium invite educators, scientists & anyone interested in climate change science education to come to Jena for two and a half days of presentations, meetings and discussion with project participants from all over Europe.

This conference aims at

- showing the achievements from educational projects developed since January 2008 by nine leading EU carbon research laboratories in partnership between scientists and secondary school teachers around Barcelona (Spain), Bergen (Norway), Firenze and Benevento (Italy), Groningen (Netherlands), Norwich (UK), Paris and Bordeaux (France), Jena and Kiel (Germany).
- discussing the educational impact of these projects based on in-depth evaluations carried on participating students
- giving new inspiration, tools and resources for climate change education to the broader educational community in Europe and beyond, and to research institutes willing to develop their education & outreach activities.

Registration is open until 1st March 2010

Expressions of interest & contact details should be sent to Susanne Hermsmeier (sherms@bgc-jena.mpg.de)

More information can be found at the following web address:

<http://www.globalcarbonproject.org/global/pdf/CarboSchools2010-OpenConference-FirstAnnouncement.pdf>

PUBLICATIONS

She Figures 2009 – Statistics and Indicators on Gender Equality in Science

What is the proportion of female and male researchers in Europe and how is this balance evolving over time? In which scientific field are women better represented? Do the career paths of female and male researchers follow similar patterns? How many senior research positions are held by women in Europe?

Published by DG RTD in 2003, 2006 and 2009, She Figures is an ongoing work to present statistics and indicators on women in science from tertiary education to the job market. Along with the 27 EU Member States, She Figures covers Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

You can download the publication at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=126>

Paper copies including a CD-ROM can be ordered at vera.fehnle@ec.europa.eu

Monitoring progress towards Gender Equality in the Sixth Framework Programme – Synthesis report

A series of gender monitoring studies were launched during FP6 (five lots each covering several activity areas, a separate study for DG INFSO and a coordination contract) designed to monitor progress towards gender equality and gender relevance awareness in FP6. The studies examine both the participation of women in FP6 activities and the gender dimension of the research content, the aim being to assess the success of current gender mainstreaming strategies and to provide recommendations for future activities in this field.

This report presents a synthesis of the key findings and recommendations of the six studies.

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1540>

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Gender and Education (and employment) - New NESSE Report

This new independent expert report is now available at:

<http://www.nesse.fr/nesses/activities/reports>

It highlights key findings from European and international research on gender and education and their implications for policy development and implementation. It is written primarily for policy-makers and other actors in the field of education. It will also be useful to a large number of decision makers in related fields of public policy (such as health, employment, family, youth and migration) as well as to researchers, practitioners, parents, students and journalists.

Gendering Climate Change

The interdisciplinary journal Women, Gender & Research (Kvinder, Køn & Forskning) has published the special edition Gendering Climate Change. The issue follows up on the international research conference Gendering Climate and Sustainability, held in Copenhagen in March 2009 by the Coordination for Gender Studies, University of Copenhagen. The issue brings a number of contributions from researchers and practitioners in the field of 'gender and climate' and presents the different angles and perspectives on the field.

The contributions in this issue discuss and theorise different approaches and areas under the theme 'Gender and Climate'. Areas such as policy strategies, transport patterns, agricultural norms and masculinity, technology, consumption, eco-feminism and gender mainstreaming are treated in a feminist, gender and climate sensitive perspective.

<http://www.koensforskning.soc.ku.dk/kkf/>

Contact and more information:

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Michala Hvidt Breengard, Sub Editor mbr@soc.ku.dk

IN THE MEDIA

Some recent articles which might be of interest...

First female scientist to be appointed as EMBO Director

<http://www.embo.org/news/maria-leptin-appointed-next-director-of-embo.html>

Research Enquiries: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries>