ABSTRACT

SCIENCE, GENDER AND POWER: THE CASE OF SERBIA

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The paper present the results of the survey on the position and careers of women – scientists working in physics, mathematics and other natural sciences and technology in Serbia in historical and social context. It covers the very begging of the women's education in Serbia at the end of the 19th century, through the post 2nd world war period of proclaimed equality, the period of relative political and economical stability in the seventies and the eighties, the period of the nineties, when the country disintegrated, wars brought social and economic chaos and a great number of young highly educated people left the country, ending with the post-milosevic era of political and economic transition. The central question is were the careers of women - scientists affected by the political and social changes more than the careers of their male colleagues, do women in academia generally act more passively in answering to the demands of the transition era or maybe, they got a new chance in the redistribution of power within the rebuild social and political milieu. A hundred of women – researchers, assistants and professors working at universities and in scientific institutes, together with a group of their male colleagues and a number of married couples working in the same or related field of science and technology was interviewed. Besides interviews, the study considers the scientific structure of the papers the interviewers have published in scientific publications, the representation of women and their work shared at scientific meetings, and their position in scientific institutions and scientific community in general. The survey also questions women's efforts in balancing family and career and their own perception of the distribution of power in their professional and family life.