ABSTRACT

THE MARIA SIBYLLA MERIAN-PROGRAM

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In 1997 the ‘Essen Collegium for Gender-Studies’ was founded and connected to the University of Essen/ Germany as a central scientific establishment. It was conceived as a central institution of the University to facilitate an interdisciplinary and flexible cooperation with all scientific divisions and to contribute new aspects to the academic gender-research, as well as to the female- and male-research.

Among numerous research projects, international and local conferences and many proceedings (which, if wanted, can also be discussed!) that were carried out by the ‘Essen Collegium for Gender-Studies’ since then, the Maria Sibylla Meriana-Programe was established in 2001, consisting of the following four modules:

- the Maria Sibylla Merian-Prize (awarded every two years in connection with the International Conferences to internationally outstanding female scientists of all divisions, especially from the fields of sciences, engineering, economics and medicine)
- the Maria Sibylla Merian-Day of the Arts (presenting female artists of different fields and therefore combining sciences with arts)
- the International Science Center (bringing together renowned international female scientists, especially from the fields of sciences, engineering, arts and humanities, to facilitate cooperations above their own discipline)
- the Maria Sibylla Merian Programe for Future Professors (which takes the prior position within the whole MSM-Programe):
  - The main aim of this module is to support female researchers from different fields on their way to leading academic positions, that means a chair or tenure track position at universities (or universities for applied research).
- With scholarships and offers for further professional qualification, such as ‘Research and Research politics’, ‘University structures and Economics’, ‘Communication skills’ and particularly ‘Gender Studies’ the junior researchers get prepared for their future position as a professor in their field.

- Special attention is paid to the junior researcher’s development of wide ranging perspectives and the constitution of international and interdisciplinary networks. Therefore a broad diversity of research fields (arts and humanities, social sciences, science, engineering, medicine etc.) are represented in the programme and connected with Gender Studies. Coeally the international scientists or guest fellows involved in the ‘International Science Center’ facilitate the international contacts and the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas. Working as ‘mentors-on-time’ the guest fellows give significant hints and information for the professional career of the junior researchers.