ABSTRACT

ATTITUDES OF MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS AT THE FACULTIES OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB

Valerija Barada, Centre for Women's Studies – Zagreb, Croatia

Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference August 20-24, 2003 Lund University, Sweden

Within the framework of the research project Women's/Gender Studies – Integration within the Croatian University System, which was conducted by the Centre for Women's Studies – Zagreb, attempts were made to investigate the attitudes and knowledge of the student population at the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb regarding Women's Studies and gender equality at the University. The researchers were interested in finding out how the student population perceived the importance of Women's/Gender Studies and how well they were informed about it.

During October 2001, 125 female and male students in their junior and senior years were surveyed. Among the series of interpretations obtained from the data, the following framework emerged: the student population is mainly unacquainted with the particulars of the scientific notions of Women's Studies. They did, however, recognize the need to deal with the topic of equality within vary departmental programs. Students gave negative estimation regarding the opening of such studies in Croatia in the near future, but 68% of them see the necessity of integrating Women's Studies within the Croatian university system.

In this presentation the data, results, and analysis will be provided of the yet another compelling argument, particularly for the negotiation process, why it is so crucial to integrate Women's/Gender Studies into the Croatian university system.

Results of the aforementioned research were published in: Women's/Gender Studies – Integration within the Croatian University System (Study, April 2002)
By Valerija Barada, Juliette Janušić, Biljana Kašić and Jasmina Pešut
ABSTRACT
WOMEN/GENDER/FEMINIST STUDIES IN FRENCH SPEAKING (OR LATIN SPEAKING) EUROPE

Françoise PICQ, Université Paris 9 Dauphine

Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
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Last French government ordered a survey about gender studies in universities and research. ANEF was chosen to analyse the results. Milka Metso will be able to present those. ANEF proposes to hold a workshop with French speaking participants (from Switzerland, Belgium…) or Latin speaking (Spain, Italy)…
The aim of this workshop will be to understand the special difficulties of feminist studies in these countries and to begin the networking of a project in Athena.
THE NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE INSTITUTIONALISATION OF WOMEN AND/OR GENDER STUDIES IN FRANCE, RESULTS AND PROPOSITIONS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIELD

Milka Metso, University of Toulouse – Le Mirail, France

Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
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The communication presents the results of a national research project on the institutionalisation of Women studies and/or Gender studies in France. This survey, conducted during the autumn and the winter 2002-2003, was financed by the Ministry of Education and the national Women’s Rights Bureau and it aimed to identify existing teaching and research programs in the field of women and gender studies. We will illustrate the current French situation first by showing the development of Women studies in the different Universities and regions; then by portraying their significance in the different levels of education (undergraduate and postgraduate studies) and finally by describing their distribution among the different disciplines. Special attention is drawn to the situations where the development of the women studies has been successful as well as to the fields where they are still lacking. We will then propose explanations to this relatively slow and difficult institutionalisation process of Women/Gender studies in the French academia. Our final objective is to suggest new actions for the further development of Women studies in the French academic system.
ABSTRACT

THE MARIA SIBYLLA MERIAN-PROGRAM

Prof. Dr. Doris Janshen, Essen Collegium of Gender Studies, University of Essen, Germany

Presented at gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
August 20-24, 2003 Lund University, Sweden

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 Merian-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. Coevally 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.
ABSTRACT

GENDER STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY DRESDEN

Liane Löwe, Dresden University of Technology, Germany and Kerstin Stüssel, Dresden University of Technology, Germany

Presented at "Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference"
August 20-24, 2003 Lund University, Sweden

The "cross-disciplinary focus Gender Studies" is a teaching project which has been founded at the Dresden University of Technology in the beginning of 2001. Being a corporation of the departments for American Studies, Italian Studies and New German Literature, the project's courses are not only open for students of these three departments but also for students of the university's studium generale, and thus for basically all students.

The paper describes the content of this teaching project as well as the peculiarities and experiences taken from the organizational and practical work in this cross-disciplinary study project under the special circumstances of the university's location, history and contemporary situation.
of Gender Research, Kyiv Research and Consulting Gender Center, Kyiv Institute of Gender Study, Center of Gender Study, Sumy Gender Center, Ukrainian Center of Women's Study, Scientific and Research Center Women and Society, etc.

The analysis of the Institutionalisation Gender Research in Ukraine and experience the centers of women’s and gender studies we would like to present at 5th European Feminist Research Conference “Gender and Power in the New Europe”.

Iris van der Tuin, Utrecht University, the Netherlands

Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
August 20-24, 2003 Lund University, Sweden

Despite a thoroughly androcentric environment, women’s studies in Europe have been able to develop into a sophisticated field. The field has been able to grow in very different institutional and disciplinary contexts. By now women’s studies know several methodological outlooks and their criticizing of mainstream epistemology has expanded into well-considered feminist epistemologies.

My PhD project deals with concrete feminist knowledge practices in different institutional and disciplinary settings in different European countries using the methodology of (critical) science studies: comparative ‘ethnographic’ science research. To study daily practices in three institutes participant observation will be used and a text analysis will be made of the scientific production in the institutes. Ultimately, the project aims to map (the development of) European women’s studies using a Latourian approach.

The Latourian approach has been criticized by several feminists. Still, I consider the approach to be very useful when the methodological assumptions of different approaches within women’s studies are at stake. The Latourian approach has built a rich (both empirically and philosophically), varied (e.g. Latour versus Haraway) and critical (e.g. Haraway, Leigh Star) body of knowledge. A comprehensive model of knowledge production has been set up in which epistemology is related to ontology, ethics, politics, etcetera. In the Dutch academic setting, the Latourian approach engendered the tradition of ‘empirical philosophy.’ This tradition opposes to traditional epistemologies, stating that traditional epistemologies are not able to give realistic accounts of science (development).

The paper I want present concentrates on the possibilities, even the potentialities of the Latourian approach for a project like mine.
ABSTRACT

EAST MEETS WEST: CO-OPERATION BETWEEN RUSSIAN AND WESTERN RESEARCHERS DEALING WITH FEMINIST, WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

Therese Garstenauer, Department of Philosophy of Science and Social Studies of Science, University of Vienna

Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
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My contribution is based upon my research-in-progress on co-operation between Russian and so-called ‘Western’ (e. g. US-American, British, German, Finnish) researchers in the sphere of Feminist, Women’s and Gender Studies since the late 80ies, viewed from a Social Studies of Science perspective. The focus of the study is put upon the mutual perception of researchers from different cultures; upon differences and hierarchies that may have influence on the practice and success of joint research activities (conferences, projects, publications etc.) of Russian and ‘Western’ researchers. The uses and meanings of the terms ‘East’ and ‘West’ in this context are subject to special scrutiny. In my opinion, it is crucial to take into account the perspectives of either side on the respective Other, whereas the sides Russia/’East’ and ’West’ must be regarded as inhomogeneous and differentiated in themselves. Tentative findings drawing upon the analysis of literature and interviews with researchers involved in ‘East’-’West’ research co-operation shall be presented.
"Raccontar(si)" is a 20 minutes long film about a feminist summer school, subtitled in English. Liana Borghi will do a brief presentation of the school and it's aims and practices.
ABSTRACT

TRANSFORMATIVE SUBJECTS EMBODYING DISCIPLINE(S): AN INSTITUTIONAL CRITIQUE FOR (POST)FEMINISTS

Leah Ross, University of Texas, USA

Presented at Gender and power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
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Academic Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) programs in the US have often decried their students’ reluctance to embrace the word “feminism” to describe their politics, academic pursuits, and personal engagements, a situation reflected in the controversial critiques of the discipline by authors such as Alice Walker who termed “womanist” (1984). The proposed paper will take up a case study from one of the oldest U.S. Women’s Studies Programs, at the State University of New York at Albany. The academic year 2000-01 saw the student coalition, a group intended to forge dialogue, between students and faculty, for the first time in program history challenging the local methodological and theoretical flaws of the discipline, which they perceived as stifling and stagnant. With reference to the specific history of US academic feminism, I will argue this protest as a part of a very specific epistemological critique leveled against the U.S WGS discipline, a call for WGS to move beyond its first institutionalized configurations, into a position that would allow it to become a powerful discourse posited for international and local social transformation towards to aims of liberation. My analysis of this generational change will be guided by Rosi Braidotti’s model of the nomadic subject (1994). There, she describes how the subject of feminist knowledge needs to be deconstructed and recreated, if that subject is to escape a new essentialism. In the SUNY case, the protesters’ demands open up a new feminist praxis based in an inessential subject. Their specific demands outline necessary revisions that could redefine US WGS as a specific site of cultural production intrinsic to various communities, ethical/philosophical/political claims, discourses, and institutional sites. These demands include:
- methodological and disciplinary pluralism
- construction of forums, which generate transformative and multi-voiced dialogues that can replace too simple oppositional binaries, and which buttress self-reflexive and inclusive pedagogy.
- a re-conceptualization of the curriculum to create productive tensions between revisionary and traditional, current and historical, local and global forces.
- a revision of the subject(s) of knowledge defined as feminist, thereby refuting liberal feminist rhetoric and instantiating a practice that cultivates a more democratic location of knowledge production and distribution.

This redefinition would reclaim WGS’ critical fluidity from behind its current contradictory practices, which fragment and marginalize intellectual, community, and academic engagement. The efforts of the SUNY Women’s Studies’ students exemplify how US institutional practice has created a critical location for reconstructing its traditional institutional, epistemological, and ethical loci, yet one which is inherently contradictory in resisting the change needed to build a new generation of committed relationships across academia and into the community, to redefine the “feminist subject” into a more inclusive, less monolithic position, and to engender new modes of cultural production. The case, however, points toward how “subjects of knowledge” and their produced objects are beginning in US feminism outside the academy to be redefined as
active participants in an ongoing epistemological process rather than as reified subjects/objects of the academy.
ABSTRACT

TROUBLE IN PARADISE?

Akke Visser, Dutch Women's Studies Association, Utrecht

Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
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In the last few years it seems that the institutional bases of women’s studies in different European countries is becoming weaker. Especially in Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK –countries where women’s studies was well established this seems to be happening. In this workshop WISE wants to take a closer look at the processes in these countries responsible for this. We also want to address the question of what can be gained (or lost) in this respect from the Bologna-declaration and the new BA/MA-structure. Although we will focus on the three countries mentioned, we hope that women from other European countries will share their experiences with us.

Chair: Gerd Bjorhovde (University of Tromso, Norway)
Speakers:
Denmark: Hilda Romer Christensen (Kvindeforsk)
The Netherlands: Akke Visser (Dutch Women’s Studies Association)
UK: Barbara Bagilhole (University of Loughborough)
ABSTRACT

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES AS EFFECTIVE WAY TO GENDER EQUALITY. (UKRAINIAN EXPERIENCE)

Lyudmyla Smolyar
Odessa State Academy of Food Technology, Ukraine

Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
August 20-24, 2003 Lund University, Sweden

Since 1991 Ukraine develops as the independent state, however, as shows experience 11 years of development of Ukraine, the status the woman not only was not improved with the Soviet period, but also considerably has worsened. The discrimination of the women of Ukraine amplifies.

The deep economic crisis in the country negatively influenced the process of transformation of the Ukraine. The second reason - influence conservative gender of stereotypes on the status the woman. In public consciousness of Ukraine the conservative representation about the minor public status of the women. The feministic theory is announced to alien Ukrainian culture, and a basis for such statement is the myth about eternal equality the woman and man in the Ukrainian society. To these factors it is necessary to add disbelief of the women of Ukraine in own forces.

To exit from discrimination of situation of the women and the establishments gender equality in Ukraine do not promote social sciences. Today, unfortunately, it is necessary to ascertain the fact of a crisis condition of social sciences in Ukraine and sexism, traditional gender stereotypes, gender asymmetry are constantly reconstructed and are broadcast by all complex of social and humanitarian knowledge in our country.

From beginning 1990 years the problem of use gender approach in humanitarian sciences became a subject of discussions of scientific conferences, seminars, of round tables etc. Demographers, economists, sociologists actively have joined discussion of questions and prospects of use gender approach. With middle of 1990 years the gender approach began to be used by the philosophers. Most difficulty punches itself a road the gender approach at a historical science.

The special role in distribution and formation of gender and women’s researches belongs to gender and women’s studies centers of Ukraine. The experience of activity of these centres in Ukraine has shown, that Women’s and Gender Studies as effective way to Gender equality. They accumulate the experience of women’s participation in different spheres of society on an equal basis and together with men, and develop scientifically grounded programs to improve their social status. The formation of scientific centers of this type was stipulated by the lack of general education programs on women’s issues as well as by no recognition of gender problems in the scientific community. It was only women’s scientists who played a decisive role in realizing the importance of changing the socio-political and economic status of women in Ukrainian society. Gender analysis and theory, research into the historical reasons for sexual inequality, and the study of gender problems in society became essential to understanding gender relations in Ukrainian society.

The initial attempts to conduct research and to study scientific data on gender problems in Ukraine were consolidated at the conference on "The Women's movement in Ukraine: History and Reality" (1994) and "Women of Ukraine: Present Status and Perspectives" (1995), held at the Odessa State Academy of Food Technologies. Conference participants appealed to the President, Parliament, and the Cabinet of the Ministers of Ukraine to accept their recommendations regarding women's problems in Ukraine and to create national instruments to provide women's rights and to improve the position of women in society.

Ukraine currently has 22 centers of Women’s and Gender studies. Among the most prominent centers of women’s and gender studies are: Odessa Scientific Center for Women’s Studies, Kharkiv Center