DATABASE EXPANDING HORIZONS:
Database for Expertise on Gender and Ethnicity

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In this paper I will first outline the history and background of the database, followed by a presentation of how you can search and what you can find in this database.

**Initiators**
Expanding Horizons is an online database, which maps European curricula, combining gender and ethnicity, in a variety of academic disciplines. Expanding Horizons was undertaken as a joint project by GEM; the Expertise Centre for Gender, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism in education located at Utrecht University, and by the IIAV, the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women’s Movement, both in the Netherlands.

**Background**

In the past decade, there has been an increased awareness around thinking gender, ethnicity, "race", class, sexuality, nation and other axes of social and symbolic differentiation simultaneously. This can be noted in European Women's Studies and other critical academic disciplines, but also in (inter)national policy circles. While the original impulse for what we call 'intersectional theory' came from the U.S., the challenge to think ‘intersectional” was taken up in a variety of European settings.

Unfortunately it is still rare in Europe to find expertise that looks both at gender AND ethnicity within a subject. Often one perspective is compensated for the other and either gender OR ethnicity is being analyzed. That is why we decided to bring together European academic curricula, which use a combined approach to gender and ethnicity.
• The first objective of the database is to supply information for those who are interested in implementing theories of gender and ethnicity in their curriculum. For instance: professors, who want to consolidate or renew their education along intersectional lines, get information on what colleagues are doing in their courses.
• In addition, the database brings together experts in gender and ethnicity and may serve as a platform on the internet for those who cross borders (expand horizons) to exchange ideas and start innovating activities or to meet each other, share information and have discussions. The database will serve as a platform where can.
• Students can use Expanding Horizons to find intersectional courses at different universities, located in Europe.
• The database is also of interest to researchers and educational policy makers.

Presently, July 2003, there are 120 courses and 95 experts from Northern, Western, Southern and Middle Europe in the database. Mainly the humanities and the social sciences are represented in the database.

What kind of information can be found in the database?

• Content description of courses combining gender and ethnicity in various disciplines
• Experts on gender and ethnicity
• Research information on gender and ethnicity
• Educational methods

Participate

Is your course information not yet included in the Expanding Horizons database? You can participate by filling in a questionnaire on each of your courses. Per course this will take approximately 15 minutes. The questionnaire can be found on the website, www.iiav.nl/horizons

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