

# ATGENDER

European Association for Gender Research,  
Education and Documentation

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Dear **ATGENDER** Members,

"If you want to take gender studies that's fine. Go to a private school, and take it," the Republican Senator McCrory said. "But I don't want to subsidize that if that's not going to get someone a job." This is by no means a unique statement today made by policy makers also in Europe questioning the usefulness of gender studies as far as the labour market is concerned. This Newsletter reports you about the developments, efforts, achievements of the **ATGENDER** board in second part of 2012 to fight against the tide. The **ATGENDER** activities you can find in this newsletter were aiming to achieve three strategic goals: 1) mobilizing gender studies students in Europe via conferences organized by WeAVE and also offering internship possibilities at **ATGENDER** 2) beginning intensive lobbying activity with decision makers and stakeholders. Participation in the Gender Summit in Brussels required time, attention and resources from all of the members of the Board. **ATGENDER** has made its intellectual and critical presence visible as a major institutional player in the European Gender Studies field. 3) continuing the dissemination of the Tuning Brochure while preparing a follow up survey as a major lobbying tool for future activities. We all agreed that the mission of **ATGENDER** is that it should serve as a unique European hub for lobbying and for exchanging ideas about teaching, documenting and policy making in the field of gender studies in our troubled times. This Newsletter starts with a report on the next major **ATGENDER** activity: the Spring Conference in Gothenburg. Information about grants available for **ATGENDER** members has been sent out already and **ATGENDER** Board strongly encourages our members (institutional and individual) to take part actively in the conference, utilising the rich program provided by the organizing team as teaching gender studies in Europe is at a crossroad now. Discussing and strategizing developments in the field of teaching, which is the focus of this conference, is crucial. That is the only way to fight successfully against statements which are (again) questioning the legitimacy of gender studies. So see you all soon in Gothenburg where we will continue thinking together about the future of gender studies in Europe!



On behalf of the **ATGENDER** board and office,

Andrea Pető

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## 1. Spring Conference 2013 Update: Grants and Highlights

### Grants for **ATGENDER** members involved in teaching gender, women's and feminist studies

This is an urgent invitation to apply for one of the Grants for the 3rd **ATGENDER** Spring Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden, April 26-28. As you know, the conference will focus on learning and teaching in Gender, Women's and Feminist studies. At this moment sixteen (16) grants of 500 Euro (200 for registration, including meal & accommodation, and 300 for most of your traveling costs) are available. More (!) grants are expected in the course of February (depends on Jean Monnet Grant application). The grants will be reserved for **ATGENDER** members that want to participate actively in the conference and contribute to one of the **ATGENDER** -Tuning-activities. Preference will be given to representatives of institutional members and student members.

**ATGENDER** brings together a stunning expertise in teaching & training in the field of critical knowledge about gender:

- **ATGENDER**'s institutional members offer programmes in gender-women's-feminist studies all over Europe;
- many of our individual **ATGENDER** -members teach separate courses on gender or pay systematic attention to gender in their teaching and
- finally **ATGENDER** student members are experts in critical learning about gender.

Many of these programmes and courses are strong and well established, but many of them are also 'at risk': critical teaching and learning about gender may not survive different waves of cut backs, restructuring and neoliberal turns in higher education. The **ATGENDER** Spring Conference in Gothenburg explicitly addresses this situation. **ATGENDER** sponsors this conference in order to make it affordable for **ATGENDER** members to attend. GENUS, the Swedish Gender Secretariat offers crucial financial and organizational support. This results in incredible low fees: **ATGENDER** members can attend the conference for 200 Euro for two days of conference and two days of meals and accommodation. Students who are **ATGENDER** members only pay 100 Euro.

In addition to low registration fees, **ATGENDER** board has decided to make reservations for grants for **ATGENDER** members who want to attend the conference in order to contribute to activities aimed at increasing the visibility of critical teaching on gender in Europe. The focus of the activities will be a critical re-assessment of the Tuning Gender Studies Brochure – Reference Points for Design and Delivery of Degree Programmes in Gender Studies. As you know, this brochure contains the results of a Europe-wide survey (answered in 2009 by researchers, graduates, students and activists in gender studies) about the relevance of different learning outcomes and competences taught by gender programmes, as well as a collection of 'good practices' in the field.

At this moment sixteen (16) grants of 500 Euro (200 for registration, including meals & accommodation, and 300 for most of traveling costs) are available. More grant money is expected in the course of February (depends on Jean Monnet Grant). The grants will be reserved for **ATGENDER** members that want to participate actively in the conference and contribute to one of the **ATGENDER** -Tuning-activities. Preference will be given to representatives of institutional members and student members.

The following **ATGENDER** -Tuning activities have been planned:

1. Submit a poster presentation about one specific course (module) in gender, women's and feminist studies or an example of a course that integrates gender studies. After the conference, a digital version of that poster may be included in a digital collection of 'good practices' in gender studies.
2. Participate in an expert meeting about Tuning and canon: What are the

implications and consequences of Gender Studies Tuning Brochure for programmes in Gender, Women's and Feminist Studies? Has Tuning Gender Studies increased quality of gender programmes, accreditation and quality assessment? How can we "tune" and still remain critical of canonization, how do we maintain independent and unique profiles while also collaborating and risking competition? Participants in this expert meeting are invited to conduct a 'rerun' of the Tuning-questionnaire about the relevance of different learning outcomes and submit the results (including suggestions for additions to the list of competences) before the conference. The Tuning questionnaire will be sent before March 15.

3. Participate in a roundtable 'fighting for Gender Programmes' of people involved in offering, defending or setting up programmes in gender studies here we aim for an intensified exchange between 'new' and 'old' programmes in Gender Studies offered by **ATGENDER** members. The focus of this roundtable will be on the following issues: including feminist commitment to change in your programme, how to deal with requirements of accreditation, how to deal with disciplinary/interdisciplinarity, what are the dis/advantages of transnational staff and student mobility? How to explain the added value of critical gender studies to societal stakeholders, academic authorities and prospective students?

The deadline for sending in proposals for contributions to the Conference is February 5 and the registration for the conference will be opened in the middle of February. We encourage all **ATGENDER** members

- to answer the Conference 'Call for Contributions' (if you have not done this yet: please add to the title of your proposal: '**ATGENDER** -activity 1 – posters', '**ATGENDER** -activity 2 – expert meeting' or '-**ATGENDER** activity 3 – round table') for the conference before February 5 [HERE](#) and
- to fill in a grant request form [HERE](#)

The deadline for submitting grant-requests is February 15.

**ATGENDER** will decide before March 15 about grants, this time schedule will leave you time to order your flight ticket or to look for other funding. If you cannot send in your proposal for a Contribution before February 5, then between February 5 and February 15 you will still be able to express your interest in adding to the **ATGENDER** -Tuning-activities by registering for the conference and filling in a grant request form.

### Grants for Working Groups and Institutional Members

We would like to invite **ATGENDER** members who are part of one of the working groups to apply for grants for the Spring Conference. If you want to propose activities or a specific paper within the working groups, if you want to/are already chairing one working group you can apply for a grant that covers your travel & conference fees.

**ATGENDER** also offers grants to our institutional members who are willing to organize, during the Spring Conference, networking activities that foster the building of an ever stronger network and infrastructure of different generations of gender experts in Europe.

Send an e-mail to [info@atgender.eu](mailto:info@atgender.eu) with your proposal before the 15th of February.

**ATGENDER** membership is more about doing than about being: it is something that those involved in the production, the teaching and the distribution of knowledge on gender, women and feminism in Europe, do to make a difference.



## 2. General Assembly & Elections 2013

The **ATGENDER** board is looking for two new members and you are invited to nominate candidates. During the **ATGENDER** spring conference April 26-28 in Gothenburg, we organize the General Assembly and elections of new members to the **ATGENDER** board. The association will strive for a balanced representation of the different European regions on the board as well as a balanced representation of disciplines and professional interests.

### Board nomination procedures

The nomination of a candidate for the board of the association must be made by a person employed at/affiliated with the member institution that the nominee is employed at/affiliated with.

A group of five individual members may nominate a candidate, providing that the nominating members have paid the membership fee.

The signed nomination documents and a written presentation of the candidate (written by herself or one of her nominators) must be registered at the **ATGENDER** Secretariat two months before the General Assembly. Election form can be found [HERE](#).

The nomination committee consists of 4 official contact persons and a representative from the secretariat. The results of the nomination committee's work are to be presented to the members two weeks before the General Assembly takes place.

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## 3. Internship Call

### *Internship from 25th February 2013 – 4th May 2013: Organizing and participating at the Spring Conference with us!*

**ATGENDER** provides opportunities for students or recent graduates to undertake unpaid internship at its Secretariat in Utrecht. We are looking for a student or recent graduate to come to our office and work with us at the organisation of the **ATGENDER** Spring Conference (26 – 28 April 2013). This period of internship will begin on the 25th of February 2013 and end on the 4th of May 2013. Participation (sponsored by **ATGENDER**) at the Spring Conference will be part of the Internship Programme.

The objective of the Internship Programme is threefold:

To provide a framework by which students or recent graduates from diverse academic backgrounds may be assigned to **ATGENDER** working groups where their educational experience can be enhanced through practical work assignments.

To expose them to the work of the main European Association for Gender Research, Education and Documentation.

To provide **ATGENDER** with the assistance of highly qualified students specialized in various professional fields.

The **ATGENDER** Internship Programme is offered for 200 hours (office maintenance and personal project).

To qualify for the Internship Programme, the following conditions must be met:

You are a student or recent graduate;

You are ready to work for 200 hours spread over an agreed flexible period of time;

You are prepared to perform day-to-day office maintenance tasks;

You are able to benefit **ATGENDER** with your own personalized project;

You are able to demonstrate some knowledge of women's rights/gender equality issues and/or of European Union policies and institutions.

Interested undergraduate or graduate students should write to Paulina Bolek preferably by email ([info@ATGENDER.eu](mailto:info@ATGENDER.eu)) enclosing the **ATGENDER** Internship Application 2013 that can be downloaded from [HERE](#).



#### 4. **ATGENDER** at Gender Summit 2012



Many of the participants at the Gender Summit, that consisted of both academics and policy maker, had a background in technology or science. Many of them were quite unaware of developments in the field of European gender studies in the past decades. They were really interested in increasing gender equality in higher education and research, and making that part of European education

policies, as the three resolutions at the closing of the GENDER Summit made clear. For us, as **ATGENDER** -representatives it came as a surprise how little policy makers and academics know about the expertise and knowledge that is produced through gender-, women's and feminist studies. **ATGENDER** set up an information desk by the **ATGENDER** Secretariat (Paulina Bolek, Sosha Nielsen) during the meeting where information about **ATGENDER** and its work was available. We showed and distributed the books from the teaching series and got many enthusiastic responses and orders.

One of the messages we, as the **ATGENDER** representatives, tried to convey at the GENDER Summit addressed the enormous expertise **ATGENDER** brings together in teaching and training in the field of critical knowledge about gender, women and feminist politics:

**ATGENDER's** institutional members offer at least 25 programmes in gender-women's-feminist studies;

many of our individual **ATGENDER** -members teach separate courses on gender or pay systematic attention to gender in their teaching and research and finally

**ATGENDER** student members are experts in critical learning about gender.

In many conversations during the Gender Summit, we explained to participants that **ATGENDER** as the European platform of expertise in critical knowledge about gender, women and feminism is dedicated to increase the impact of critical gender studies. In these conversations we also showed and distributed the Tuning Gender Studies Brochure – Reference Points for Design and Delivery of Degree Programmes in Gender Studies.



This booklet – prepared by the ATHENA network and published under **ATGENDER** - provides an extensive documentation of the diversity and richness of teaching and learning gender-, women's and feminist studies in Europe. It also contains a list of competences that graduates of gender studies programmes may acquire during their studies. We interviewed policy makers asking them what they thought about the relevance of the learning outcomes that programmes in gender studies convey. Many of them confirmed that the learning outcomes of gender studies programmes are exactly what are needed to

increase gender equality in higher education. They especially liked the fact that critical gender studies move beyond a simple arithmetic of 'more women in male dominated fields' and make it possible to rethink the gendered construction of hierarchies of knowledge and education. These conversations made us, as representatives of **ATGENDER**, aware of the importance of dissemination of Gender Studies programmes, their aims, their outcomes and the 'employability' of gender graduates and building networks in a European level.



The **ATGENDER** Board has also seized the opportunity the European Gender Summit provided to meet key players in the European Gender Equality field in order to share the results of the Tuning Brochure with policy and decision makers in Brussels. Another point on the agenda of these meetings was to draw attention to the resources **ATGENDER** has as an umbrella organization for researching, teaching

and documenting gender studies and to underline the potential of **ATGENDER** members contributing to the Horizon 2020.

The meetings were organized by Anna Elomaki (University of Helsinki) and Andrea Peto with the help of Shosha Nielsen. The **ATGENDER** delegation for the different meetings consisted of Aino-Maija Hiltunen, Edyta Just, Berteke Waaldijk, Andrea Peto. During the selection of the MEP it was a key point to include MEPs from all party families as bipartisanship is crucial for archiving goals in EP. The following meetings have been organized with MEPs: Edit Herczog (ITRE, BUDG, FEMM committee) Livia Jaroka (FEMM), Sirpa Pietikainen (FEMM) Zita Gurmai (FEMM).

The delegation explored possible further cooperation and lobbying activity in the European Parliament which means a possible future conference on the concept of gender as well as active lobbying together with the other strategic partners as the European Women's Lobby for including gender studies in education and research on the European level. This lobbying may happen in the form of written/oral question to the



Commission or in the long run to organize a hearing. To achieve these strategic aims cooperation with the national MEPs is crucial especially as Viviane Willis-Mazzhici, head of sector 'Gender' at the European Commission DG Research underlined during the meeting with **ATGENDER** representatives highlighting that the Commission plans to issue a recommendation on gender and research. During the meeting of the **ATGENDER** delegation with Judith Tanczos, FEPS policy advisor on gender equality issues a possible strategic alliance with **ATGENDER** has been discussed and possibly co-organizing a conference in the future on uses of the concept of gender.

For a proposal and possibilities for **ATGENDER** members to participate in a follow up, please see announcement of activities and grants for Gothenburg conference in this Newsletter.

### **Join the European Research and Innovation expert database**

The Commission appoints independent experts to assist with research and innovation assignments including the evaluation of proposals, the review of projects and the monitoring of programmes or policies. At the moment there is a lack of gender experts, and the need for expertise in this field is expected to

increase in the future. It is important that **ATGENDER** members join the database and ensure that gender expertise is better known and better used. When registering, please indicate if you have developed gender expertise in some specific research fields (i.e. health, transport, environment, engineering, food, etc).

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/experts>

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## 5. Internship

### 5.1 Reports from Shosha Niesen

#### Internship

Dear all,

Now that my internship with **ATGENDER** is (almost) over, it is time to make up the balance.

I have had the privilege of being with **ATGENDER** during a very busy period; the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Gender Summit, the yearly Board meeting and the Jean Monnet application all took place between October and December (next to its regular activities, that is ☐). Also, I have been working with the editors of the upcoming Teaching with Gender volume on libraries and archives for my personal project.

From day one I was involved in a great many tasks and had to develop new skills in overdrive; who would have thought I'd get to contact MEPs, do editorial work, represent **ATGENDER** at a networking event, and participate in meetings, and do so successfully? Although at times very challenging and tiring, it has been a wonderful experience, during which I feel I have made some new friends for life.

What I love about **ATGENDER** in particular is the way it is organized without being hierarchical; everyone can contact anyone without hesitation. Even for me as an intern, no doors remained closed within the organisation. My internship has proved to be very inspiring and educational, and I can recommend it to all students and post-graduates looking to improve their skills!

All the best, Shosha Niesen

#### Gender Summit 2012

Through an enormous combined effort by the **ATGENDER** Board, the Utrecht office and Brussels insider Anna Elomäki (University of Helsinki), **ATGENDER** has successfully participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Gender Summit (EGS) in Brussels. Topic of this summit was "Quality Research and Innovation through Equality", aimed specifically at women and organisations in the field of science. **ATGENDER** was one of the innovation partners of the EGS.

After months of letter-writing, negotiating appointments with Members of European Parliament, strategizing and writing materials to present **ATGENDER** as a 'best-practice-example', the last week of November saw this important event completed.

During the EGS board-members Andrea Petö, Berteke Waaldijk, Aino-Maija Hiltunen, together with Edyta Just (University of Lodz) and Anna Elomäki introduced **ATGENDER** and presented the Tuning Brochure to nine MEPs and heads of organisations. Cultivating existing connections in the European Parliament and nurturing new ones, **ATGENDER** is working hard to increase the valuation of Gender (Programmes) throughout Europe. Supported by office manager Paulina Bolek and intern Shosha Niesen, **ATGENDER** reached out to professionals in the field of science and innovation via the **ATGENDER** stand during the Networking event at Thursday evening and again on Friday morning.

Through taking part in the different Cafés Scientifiques, the final part of the EGS during which various Gender issues in science were discussed, **ATGENDER** once

more increased awareness amongst the participants that Gender Equality in research and science is more than reaching a specific number of women that work in these fields; it is maintaining Gender as a valued field of research in itself, which is becoming increasingly difficult in a crisis-stricken Europe where budget-cuts often mean the death of Gender Programmes. That there is still a dire need for **ATGENDER** and other Gender organisations was proven by the fact that various listeners and debaters confused the words 'sex' and 'gender', acknowledged a lack of knowledge of the field, or were unable to see beyond the need for women researchers.

To end on a more positive note: **ATGENDER** is now in the process of the follow-up to this event, which once more demonstrates its necessity. **ATGENDER** is considering new and extended ways of lobbying, looks for more ways to spread its Gender expertise, and has increased the readership of the Teaching with Gender Series amongst people that it would less likely have reached through the regular forms of communication. It can be concluded that **ATGENDER's** participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Gender Summit was a success with great potential for future actions and outreach.

### **ATGENDER Creative Seminar**

After the eventful 2<sup>nd</sup> European Gender Summit, the **ATGENDER** Board gathered for a 2-day Board meeting to discuss the future of **ATGENDER**, strategies, goals, and tasks. For this purpose they went to vineyard Saalhof in Wognum (The Netherlands), a secluded location where they could work in privacy.

On the first day activities were presided over by co-treasurer Aino-Maija Hiltunen. She created two learning activities in which the board was asked to reflect upon the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation, and to come up with ways to improve the latter. For example: it was widely agreed upon that the internal structure and openness of the organisation was a good quality. Yet, the division and number of tasks proved at times to be problematic; how to prioritise, with whom do you discuss pressing matters that do not necessarily require involvement of everyone? It was made an agenda-point for the official board meeting to rethink the existing tasks and task-division, to make information/suggestions flow more easily. This day was very productive and forward-looking, and experienced as very useful by all participants.

During the second day, the official board-meeting took place. Tasks were reformulated and in some cases re-assigned, communications-protocols were standardized, and a follow-up skype meeting was scheduled. All looked back at this work-weekend with happy feelings and a well-deserved sense of achievement. After (another!) well-prepared meal by Saalhof and a toast to the hard work, the board parted ways towards their respective homes. Job well done!



### **5.2 New Intern: Lisa de la Rie**

Dear all,

as you have all read by now, Shosha has successfully completed her internship with the **ATGENDER** office. I will be taking over from her now. My name is Lisa and I am a second year research master student (Gender & Ethnicity) at Utrecht University. I wanted to use this last half year of my studies to gain as many valuable experiences as I can before graduation, so I am very much looking forward to my time with **ATGENDER** and all the work I will be doing!

For my personal project during the internship I am currently coordinating and organizing the launch of an H-network ([www.h-net.org](http://www.h-net.org)) for the European Material Feminism working group. I will report back on my experiences at the **ATGENDER** office and the progress of the H-network in the next newsletter!

All the best, Lisa





## 6. **ATGENDER** Representation

### 6.1 conference "Gender meets Sustainability – Sustainability needs Gender"

Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the European Social Fund for Germany (ESF) a national conference on the interface of gender issues and sustainable development was held in Berlin on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2012. **ATGENDER** supported the event by making possible the exposition of the book series „Teaching with Gender“ and other materials. The majority of the 180 participants from all over Germany and abroad had not heard of **ATGENDER** yet. This might be due to the fact that the scientific community that has been researching and teaching on Gender & Environment/Sustainability for the last 25 years communicates via their own specific networks.

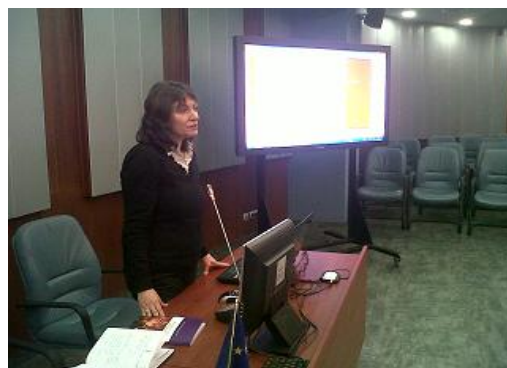
By the end of February 2013 you will find a short film on the conference on the web site. There you may also find more information on the speakers and their research. A conference publication is planned in a form of a book. For more information visit:

[www.leuphana.de/nage-tagung](http://www.leuphana.de/nage-tagung)



### 6.2. Presentation at Sofia University, Bulgaria

The cold freezing weather in December 2012 did not frighten the members of the **ATGENDER** Working Group "Gender and public history: narrations of the self, constructions of the nation" to come to Sofia University in Sofia, Bulgaria for a two days seminar. It took place on 14-15 December 2012 at the 'New conference hall' of Sofia University, Bulgaria. The board member Nadezhda Aleksandrova from the host university and Ulla Manns from Södertörns högskola, Sweden were co-organizing the event and Annika Olsson, member of the editorial board of the Teaching with Gender series, was also present.



The meeting started with a public presentation of **ATGENDER** to the local community of gender associations, done by Andrea Peto. The Bulgarian Association of University Women (BAUW) and the **ATGENDER** members initiated an interesting debate about past and future initiatives and teaching methods, gender studies programs and publications. "Teaching with

gender" book series received special attention, as the event in Sofia was used for the promotion of the latest volume in the series - "Teaching "Race" with a Gendered Edge", co-edited by Brigitte Hipfl and Kristin Loftsdottir.



## 7. WeAVE Workshop

WeAVE- Workshop: Transversal Dialogues. Current practices and topics within European Gender and Queer Studies



J. Borcharding, Käthe von Bose, Annett Schulze, Pat Treusch

On November 9th 2012 the WeAVE Workshop „Transversal Dialogues“, a cooperation of **ATGENDER** and the Centre for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies (ZtG), HU Berlin, took place at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Since its re-launch in April 2011, WeAVE, the **ATGENDER** student body, aims to build a network for European

Gender and Queer Studies students, researchers and activists. Which processes of institutionalization take place and what are current topics of research and political concern within this field?

The first panel „Gender and Queer Practices in the light of disciplinary claims“ dealt with the relations of academic structures and queer\_feminist politics, in particular the mutual construction of political self conceptions and academic structures of Studies in the German-speaking context (Anna Lin-Karl), the conceptions of Gender Studies in the academic discipline History in Denmark (Rikke Juel Madsen) and the relationship between Gender Studies and Philosophy in Madrid (Victoria Mateos de Manuel).

Anna Lin-Karl (Berlin) presented first results of her interdisciplinary PhD project in which she focuses on the mutual construction of political self conceptions and academic structures of Gender Studies in German-speaking areas. First tentative results included that the participants of focus-group-interviews consider themselves as questioning academic structures as well as recognizing analytical productions beyond established categories. As Lin-Karl pointed out, the participants stressed that a high workload for students leads to unprepared participants in seminars and advocated a critical examination of curricula and workload. Rikke Juel Madsen (Copenhagen) gave insights into a chapter of her thesis, focusing on perceptions of Gender Studies in the academic field of History in Denmark. In her research, she has interviewed historians and found that their attitudes towards Gender Studies results from fundamentally different understandings of power.

Victoria Mateos de Manuel's (Madrid) talk was about the situation of Gender and Queer Studies within the sphere of Philosophy in Madrid. She presented the connections between feminism and philosophy in two departments in Madrid, the Faculty of Philosophy at Complutense University (UCM) and the Philosophy Institute at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). She compared the departments' development in the last 30 years and presented current challenges: The financial situation in Spain leads to cutbacks in academia and adds to it political and economic problems. Possible solutions could include the protection of public education, autonomous evaluation criteria for gender projects and international networking.



The second panel „Hot Topics and their (Dis-)Canonization“ gave insights into current concerns within European queer-feminist research. Two of the speakers looked at the process of the institutionalization of queer-feminist approaches in the respective national contexts. The third paper gave an insight into a specific

national discourse that is currently of special interest and concern to a queer-feminist critique.

In her presentation Anna Szlavi (Budapest) analyzed the institutionalization process of Gender- and Queer-related studies and research in Hungarian universities. She discussed the political and social obstructions of such an institutionalization process against the backdrop of the current political situation in Hungary and its troubling developments with regard to queer-feminist concerns such as racism, sexism and homo- and transphobia. Blanka Nyklova (Prague) also discussed the institutionalization of Gender Studies drawing on a very different national and political context, the Czech republic. She traced the process of institutionalization of Gender and Feminism in the Czech academia by analyzing interviews she conducted with members of the Czech feminist „scene“, as she put it, consisting of feminists with an academic and activist or NGO (or both) background. Concluding, she pleaded for a strengthening of alliances in order to put forward queer-feminist thinking and activities, „so that the question whether there actually is a feminist movement in the Czech Republic could be answered in the affirmative“. After those two presentations on current concerns and difficulties, queer-feminist knowledge production has to face in different national and institutional contexts, the third talk rather contributed to a queer-feminist knowledge production itself by addressing the „othering“ of migrant sex workers in Greece. In her discourse analysis, Agelikki Sifaki (Utrecht/Athens) showed the links between the marginalizing discourse on migrant sex workers as „infectious“ with HIV, their perception as a threat to the „Greek population“ and the recent discourse about Greece as an „unhealthy, even infectious“ country within the European context of the financial crisis.

In the joint discussion, connections, contradictions and similarities between the



papers were addressed, for instance as in Anna Szlavi's and Aggeliki Sifaki's analyses of the specific national (racist) political discourses and the different institutionalization processes in the respective countries. Against the backdrop of the very troubling developments in many European countries as to the stabilization of racist discourses and practices in times of

financial instabilities, increasing precariousness and poverty, questions were discussed as to how to bring queer-feminist thought and concerns forward despite of and because of this situation. Furthermore, the participants discussed how to connect on an European level and how to better link activist and academic contexts in their concern to fight against such ideologies.

In the second part of panel two „Hot Topics and their (dis-)canonization“ the two speakers Katrin Köppert (Berlin) and Kim Trau (Berlin) offered feminist, queer and trans theoretical perspectives on currently discussed terms like affect and Trans\*History. They focused on the establishment of these terms in their respective academic disciplines. Both asked how processes of institutionalization and property relations are structured and focused on productions of recognition framed as trends at universities and their political regulations.

In her talk „loss ð impasse ð turn? Affective Politics of turns in Material Feminism and Queer Theory“ Katrin Köppert put political-economic requirements of the Bologna process on her agenda. Köppert looked at the ambiguities between seemingly required political needs and knowledge policies, especially in Gender and Queer Studies. She was highlighting relations between disciplinary precariousness, marketability and the production of turns in queer and feminist thinking. „With her turn towards the affects of these knowledge politics, she reconstructed what has been lost through the logic of impasses and turns: Queer Theory in its potentiality to remember what remains absent in the present. Kim Trau connected to the conflict potential between activism and academia. She

expounded the problems of ownership and the power to define in the process of "Writing Trans\*History. Activists might be represented in knowledge production, but that does not mean that the activists themselves are accepted. The marginalization of activists and knowledge about them would function through preferring specific theories and theorists – those, who would academize their interests less impassionate, less impatient, less politicizing. To separate academic and activist knowledge could imply to refuse the floor to specific actors and their knowledge, and to avoid interventions.



In the discussion following the contributions, participants of the workshop were especially interested in the relations between knowledge of movements and academic programs. Trau and Köppert illustrated that turns do not equal newness: turns are historic. They symbolize the search for the new, the search for gaps, for that which has not been yet – everything, which serves to gain value in academia. At the same time the search for the not-termed offers the possibilities to put marginalizations on the agenda, to discipline knowledge and to get recognition, as ambivalent as this may be.



Final part of this workshop day was a keynote held by Maria do Mar Pereira (Leeds) entitled: „The Status of Gender and Queer Studies in Contemporary Academia in Europe: Changes and Challenges (and How to Negotiate Them)“. In this keynote presentation, do Mar Pereira not only discussed individual presentations and the raised topics earlier that day, but also weaved them into

her own research questions and results. She described that Gender and Queer Studies are growing fields of academic institutionalization, but also that the processes of institutionalization differ a lot, depending on local specificity and political contexts, producing unequal situations and "educational migrants" (do Mar Pereira 2012, forthcoming). Furthermore, Maria do Mar Pereira discussed the epistemic status, which is ascribed to Women, Gender, Feminist and Queer Studies in Europe. Nevertheless, she analyzes the epistemic status of an academic field as a result of "ongoing boundary work", which she reconstructs given the example of Portugal and other European countries in comparison. Through this reconstruction, she brings the individual subject of the student, academic professional or activist of Gender and Queer Studies in Europe in relation to structural conditions of negotiations of the epistemic status of Gender and Queer Studies as fields of knowledge and the particular national political context. Her notion of the "boundary worker", the figure of the academic professional, who is characterized by being permanently under pressure to produce more in order to secure their own position, was acknowledged and discussed vividly in the workshop. Concluding, Maria do Mar Pereira pleaded against adjusting to these requirements, and instead suggested strategies of resistance like the one of collective self-care through transversal dialogues.

Altogether, this workshop provided an important space to discuss the very similar concerns, current topics of interest and research among doctoral students with a queer-feminist perspective in a very pleasant, cooperative and respectful atmosphere. Furthermore offered this workshop to exchange perspectives on

Gender and Queer Studies as research, which challenges norms the same time they are necessarily produced. In spite of the participants' quite different national-political and institutional contexts of study and research, many thematic and political connections and similar concerns were found and addressed. At the end of the day, many of the participants have connected and had decided to stay in contact and even start cooperations. This workshop has shown that providing a space for exchange and discussion for queer-feminist PhD scholars on an European level is worth repeating.

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## 8. **ATGENDER** Journal Offers

The **ATGENDER** board has contacted journals that stand as solid references for anyone interested in the field of gender studies and feminist research, in order offer **ATGENDER** members a reduced rate of a publication in this field.

**ATGENDER** members can get a subscription on *European Journal of Women's Studies*, *Feminist Theory* or feminist art journal *n.paradoxa* at a reduced rate. A member deal with the Routledge series *Routledge Advances in Feminist Studies and Intersectionality* is also settled.

Currently we are negotiating with other publishers and hope to be soon able to offer more journals at a reduced rate. If you have any suggestion on a journal that you would like us to arrange member deals with, we are happy to know. In that case, send your proposal to [info@atgender.eu](mailto:info@atgender.eu).

### 1. **European Journal of Women's Studies or Feminist Theory:**

To purchase a subscription at a **30%** reduced rate, please contact SAGE Customer Services quoting '**ATGENDER**'

Email: [subscriptions@sagepub.co.uk](mailto:subscriptions@sagepub.co.uk). Tel: +44 (0) 20 7324 8701.

### 2. **Routledge Advances in Feminist Studies and Intersectionality:**

To purchase volumes at a **20%** reduced rate, please visit Routledge website and use the promotional code **RAF11**.

### 3. **Ashgate**

Get a **20%** discount on Ashgate books from key areas of interest via the new partner page at Ashgate. This offer includes a whole host of titles, among others: The Feminist Imagination – Europe and Beyond series. Visit Ashgate's [partner page](#).

### 4. **n.paradoxa**

To purchase a subscription at a **10%** reduced rate, please contact the journal by email: [ktpress@ktpress.co.uk](mailto:ktpress@ktpress.co.uk) quoting "At Gender discount offer".

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## 9. **Announcements & Calls for Papers**

Please visit our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) to access all of the Weekly News, special Announcements and Newsletters. Do not forget to subscribe to our mailing list (on the homepage of our website) in order to receive all of the abovementioned forms of communication.

We want to invite all of the **ATGENDER** members to actively participate in the creation of our Newsletter and Weekly News. If you would like to tackle certain topics in the Newsletter, launch a discussion or make an announcement, please send us your suggestions via email (with 'Newsletter' in the subject line).

We look forward to hearing from you!

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## 10. Board Members

**Co-chair:** Andrea Peto

**Co-treasurers:** Barbara Bagilhole, Berteke Waaldijk & Aino-Maija Hiltunen

**Co-secretaries:** Nadezhda Petrova Aleksandrova & Mia Liinason

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### Membership Benefits

INSTITUTIONAL Members	INDIVIDUAL and STUDENT Members
are entitled to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Three votes at the <b>ATGENDER</b> Annual General Assembly;</li><li>• Application to host the European Feminist Research Conference;</li><li>• Three reduced registration fees for the European Feminist Research Conferences;</li><li>• Publication in Teaching with Gender Series and a free copy of the volume;</li><li>• One reduced subscription rate to the partner academic journals;</li><li>• Regular information about the association's activities through the <b>ATGENDER</b> member newsletter;</li><li>• Advertisement of programmes, summer schools, activities through <b>ATGENDER</b> network (website, newsletter, and weekly news).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One vote at the <b>ATGENDER</b> Annual General Meeting;</li><li>• One reduced registration fee for the European Feminist Research Conferences;</li><li>• Publication in Teaching with Gender Series and a free copy of the volume;</li><li>• One reduced subscription rate to the partner academic journals;</li><li>• Regular information about the association's activities through the <b>ATGENDER</b> member newsletter;</li><li>• Advertisement of programmes, summer schools, activities through <b>ATGENDER</b> network (website, newsletter, and weekly news).</li></ul>

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