

## **ATGENDER Board Members' report June 2015 – April 2016**

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## **Introduction**

The board members' report of **ATGENDER** serves the purpose to provide information about the activities of the organization during the last year. The report is in accordance with our mission to constitute a permanent structure that consolidates and expands established connections between academic educators, researchers, employers of Gender Studies graduates and to connect them with policy oriented institutions, libraries, information centers and other organizations that work on gender equality in Europe.

## **Organization**

### **Board Members 2014-2016**

The **ATGENDER** Board consists of the following eleven members:

*Aino-Maija Hiltunen*, Coordinator at the University of Helsinki, Finland  
Tasks: Conference 2016, Students, Membership, External cooperation

*Sveva Magaraggia*, Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Communication and Performing Arts, University of Rome Tre, Italy  
Tasks: Co-chair, Conference 2016, Teaching-series, External cooperation

*Edyta Just*, Assistant Professor, Gender Studies, Department of Thematic Studies, Linköping University, Sweden  
Tasks: Co-chair, Conference 2016, External cooperation

*Beatriz Revelles Benavente*, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain  
Tasks: Co-secretary, Students, Journals  
*Maria Grönroos*, Deputy Manager at the Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research, responsible for Nordic Information on Gender, NIKK, University of Gothenburg, Sweden  
Tasks: Treasurer, Communication

*Rasa Navickaite*, PhD Candidate in Comparative Gender Studies at the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary  
Tasks: Treasurer, Conference 2016, Students

*Sara de Jong*, Research Fellow, Department of Development Studies, University of Vienna, Austria; Research Fellow, School of Politics, Economics, Philosophy, Geography and Development, Open University, UK  
Tasks: Teaching-series, Communication, External cooperation

*Soledad Bravo*, Policy maker, Barcelona Provincial Government, Francesca Bonnemaison Centre, Barcelona, Spain

*Dasa Duhacek*, Professor at Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Tasks: Teaching-series, Membership, Interns

*Bilijana Kasic*, Co-leader of the Centre for Women's Studies, Zagreb, Croatia, and Professor at the University of Zadar, Department of Sociology

Tasks: Teaching-series, Membership

*Giovanna Vingelli*, Assistant Professor at the University of Calabria, Italy, Department of Political and Social Sciences, Centre of Women's Studies "Milly Villa"

Tasks: Co-secretary, Teaching-series, Communication, Interns

### **Board meetings (June 2015-March 2016)**

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Rovaniemi

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (Skype Meeting)

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Vilnius (EIGE)

March 1st, 2016 (AdobeConnect Meeting)

### **The Central Office**

The Central Office is the visible contact point of the association and carries out Board decisions and other tasks delegated to it by the Board. The Board supervises and is responsible for the activities of the Central Office. The Office is a precondition for further growth of membership and activities. It is run by the Office Manager who contributes 10h/week. From February 2014 to November 2015, Jessica Lima undertook the management of the office. Since November 2015, Adriano José Habed replaced Jessica Lima as office manager.

During the year 2015, **ATGENDER** maintained the number of internships affiliated to the **ATGENDER** office and working in close contact with the Board (April 2015 – June 2015: Athina Mara; June – October 2015: Soukaina Chakkour; December 2015 – February 2016: Melissa Evora; February 2016 - June 2016: Aideen O'Shaughnessy, Nienke Dijkstra, Beatriz Cañete). A fair regional spread of interns (North-South, East-West) is part of the goals of **ATGENDER** and this recruitment process has made it possible for students from outside the Netherlands to work for **ATGENDER**. In addition, the collaboration with a Spanish professional school on gender equality (Zaragoza) allowed **ATGENDER** to have one intern from Spain. Their personal skills benefited from their work at the office thus preparing them for future employment, and it makes sure that their mobility increases.

In April 2016, next to three office interns there are 9 conference interns, as **ATGENDER** and the Utrecht University's Gender Studies Programme are co-organizing the 2016 Spring Conference and want students to play a key-role in

the organization of the conference. Two of these nine conference interns are also current office interns.

Under the responsibility of the Board, the Central office carries out the following tasks:

- Organization of meetings of the Board and General Assembly;
- Coordination and facilitation of Board activities and decisions;
- Management of Membership and maintenance of membership database;
- Maintenance of the financial sheet, recording of transactions.
- Coordination and supervision of intern(s)
- Coordination of the organization of the annual **ATGENDER** Conference.
- Production and dissemination of information materials (newsletter, website, social media);
- Promotion and representation the association at important meetings and activities.

The **ATGENDER** office is hosted by the Faculty of Humanities, Utrecht University, the Netherlands. This brings good synergies with international gender studies students working as **ATGENDER**-interns, as well as with the staff of that University.

During the year 2015, **ATGENDER** has taken several measures to improve and increase the communication between the members, the board and the office.

- The PayPal service for membership payment was investigated and proved to be effective, and reduced the paper work of the office.
- Several working documents were updated in order to regulate the mode and rhythm of communication between the board members and the office.
- **ATGENDER** has since January 2016 launched a new mailing list on Listserv in order to distribute information. This translates in a more horizontal way to share news. Such mailing list allows everyone to also share calls for articles, vacancies, conference calls, etc. with everyone else on the list, rather than receiving news only from our side. In April 2016 we have around 700 subscribers on Listserv.
- Besides the website, the ongoing mailing list on Mailchimp (around 1700 subscribers), and social media presence on Facebook (around 2500 "likes") and Twitter, **ATGENDER** has also a LinkedIn page to better promote our network and share relevant calls, events, and other information.

### **General Assembly 2016**

The General Assembly will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, 2016 at Utrecht University from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm, during the 2016 **ATGENDER** Spring Conference in Utrecht.

## Activities June 2015 – April 2016

During this time frame, **ATGENDER** has been involved in a wide variety of activities, encompassing participation, publication and policy oriented work that will provide visibility of the organization among the European gender academic community and also on EU level. From June 2015 until April 2016, **ATGENDER** has:

- Produced and distributed 40 weekly news updates for subscribers and one newsletter for members.
- Developed and streamlined the internal organization, membership- and financial administration. In this regards, we have developed suggestions for new models of membership (as requested during the General Assembly 2015 in Rovaniemi). These models of membership as well as other changes in the Standing Orders of the association will be proposed in the General Assembly 2016.
- Increased the participation of students and young scholars as interns and staff at the Central office.
- Offered discounts to members on the subscription of a number of key journals in the field: *European Journal of Women's Studies*, *Feminist Theory and n.paradoxa*. In addition, we also offer discounts on the Routledge 'Advances in Feminist Studies' and 'Intersectionality' book series.
- Offered grants for student members to attend the conferences co-organized by **ATGENDER** in order to present their research in front of an audience of international scholars. At the 9<sup>th</sup> European Feminist Research Conference 20 grants have been offered (financed by the University of Lapland); at the 2016 Spring Conference 14 grants, 1 travel grant for an international host and 2 fee waivers have been offered (co-financed by **ATGENDER** and Utrecht University).
- Co-organized, together with the University of Lapland, the 9<sup>th</sup> European Feminist Research Conference: "Sex and Capital" (Rovaniemi, Finland, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015). Around 300 people attended this international event. There, **ATGENDER** held its yearly General Assembly. Is co-organizing, together with the Gender Studies Programme at Utrecht University, the 2016 Spring Conference: "Feminist Spaces of Teaching and Learning: Queering movements, translations and dynamics" (Utrecht, the Netherlands, 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016). There, the yearly General Assembly will be held.
- Launched the call for papers for the 13<sup>th</sup> volume of the **ATGENDER** book series titled "Teaching with Feminist Politics of Resistance in Times of Crisis" (eds. Beatriz Revelles Benavente and Ana M. González Ramos) . The book will be published in Summer 2016 (editors: Beatriz Revelles Benavente and Ana M. González Ramos).

The book contributes to feminist materialisms' growing and innovative field of research on responsibility and the transversality of the contemporary crisis. It offers a new praxis for feminist pedagogies that help to overcome socio-economic problems and attempt at establishing solutions in order to find equal opportunities in difficult times. It works at offering a map with diverse situations across Europe, while offering theoretical frameworks that allow to reconfigure this crisis in terms of possibilities and social change through the compilation of a varied set of empirical cases of teaching and practicing politics, and theoretical frameworks that re-elaborate concepts as important as responsibility for feminist theory and practice.

- Maintained the strategic partnerships with other European institutions and Gender Studies organizations (amongst others EIGE, WINE). Board members had a meeting with EIGE (17-18 November 2015), and explored further connections such as new collaborative internship with students. In such occasion, Board members also contributed to the EIGE Expert's meeting on "Women and Poverty".
- In Spring 2015, an ERASMUS+ application "AGETA - European Teaching Academy for Gender Studies" was re-submitted by the board. **ATGENDER** and 10 institutional partners applied for ca. 400000,00 EUR to establish a teaching network and to organize workshops and meetings. The aim of AGETA was to make a gender studies teachers network working on feminist pedagogies, translating our expertise to universities' policies on training, accreditation etc. Partners in this application were: **ATGENDER**, Utrecht University, Helsinki University, University of Gent, Centar za zenske Studije, University of Vienna, Univerzitet u Beogradu, University of Roma Tre, University of Warwick, Tampere University and Linköping University. AGETA-group had a meeting and organized a joint-workshop also in Rovaniemi Conference. The decision was taken by the ERASMUS+ commission in the summer 2015, and unfortunately we were not funded. However, the same topics and ideas continue to live in the **ATGENDER**-activities for teaching and learning, like in Spring Conference 2016.
- Launched the bid to host the next European Feminist Research Conference, which will be held in 2018

### **The 9<sup>th</sup> ERFC 2015: Sex & Capital**

Over 300 visitors from 34 countries participated in the 9th European Feminist Research Conference in Rovaniemi, Finland, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The theme of the conference was 'Sex & Capital' and the topics included the role of feminism in the economic crisis, engaging with recent feminist thinking on gender politics, economics and futures. Conference delegates discussed questions such as: 'What are the different, sexualized forms of capital?' 'What are the gendered dynamics and outcomes of barefaced capitalism?' and 'How should we understand and

reconceptualise material realities, embodiment and subjectivities?' Researchers and professors, a lot of young PhD and other students, brilliant key-note speakers and a fantastic academic and social programme under the Northern sun ensured a great success of the Conference.

The Conference was organised by **ATGENDER** together with the University of Lapland. The Conference was the occasion to meet feminist colleagues around the world, create new networks and discuss current issues concerning research, study, teaching, information, and activism. There was a great diversity among the participants, both geographically and in age.

### **General Assembly 2015**

During the General Assembly in Rovaniemi the Board presented the activities (2014-2015), the budget (2014) and proposed budget (2015) and fees for 2016, which the General Assembly approved. Question raised from the Assembly (types of membership and changes to statutes and bylaws) will be addressed at the general Assembly in Utrecht (2016).

### **The 2016 Spring Conference**

From the 21st to the 23rd of April 2016, we will hold the Spring Conference titled "Spaces of Feminist Learning & Teaching. Queering movements, translations and dynamics," co-organized by **ATGENDER** and the Gender Studies Programme at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. The focus of this conference is on teaching and learning in queer and gender studies' classrooms, broadly understood as spaces inside and outside the University, traversed by multiple urgencies and agendas. It aims at bringing together researchers, activists, students, educators, graduates and those professionally engaged with gender studies and research.

New and distinctive feature of this conference, compared to the previous ones, is that it is organized and thought out almost entirely by students. For this reason, specific conference internships have been awarded to students from the Netherlands in order to carry out specific organizational tasks such as organizing panels, keeping track of finances, fundraising, PR and communication tasks, planning of social activities, catering, workshops, accommodation, etc. Moreover, in order for student participants to be able to attend the conference, 15 travel/accommodation grants (one for an international travel) and 2 fee waivers have been granted to students with few financial resources. This big amount of grants has been made possible by Prof. Berteke Waaldijk and the financial student team of the conference: they have been able to acquire more funding from Utrecht University.

### **Membership numbers**

2010: 87 individual and student members, 31 institutional members;

2011: 202 individual and student members, 54 institutional members;  
2012: 347 individual and student members, 56 institutional members;  
2013: 85 individual and student members, 44 institutional members;  
2014: 93 individual and student members, 44 institutional members;  
2015: 80 individual and student members, 22 institutional members;  
2016: 154 individual and student members, 29 institutional members (plus 5 in progress)

Signed on behalf of the Board by

Sveva Magaraggia, co-chair, **ATGENDER**  
Edyta Just, co-chair, **ATGENDER**

**ATGENDER:** the European association for gender research, education and documentation was established on September 30, 2009. **ATGENDER** brought together the three earlier main organizations in the field of women's and gender studies, feminist research, education and documentation in Europe: AOIFE, ATHENA and Wise. **ATGENDER's** main purpose is to:

- provide a professional association for academics in the interdisciplinary field of women's and gender studies, feminist research and professionals that promote women's rights, gender equality and diversity in Europe;
- advance and disseminate the knowledge and experience from the above-mentioned groups;
- support and sustain the institutionalization of women's, gender and feminist studies;
- support the development of education and training programs in women's and gender studies, feminist research, women's rights, gender equality, and diversity.

To achieve the aims of the association, **ATGENDER** employs a wide range of activities. Since its inauguration it has engaged in establishing a sustainable European platform for multidirectional academic exchange, research collaboration, dissemination and information within and between the areas in focus for the association, i.e. women's and gender studies, feminist research and professionals that promote women's rights, gender equality and diversity in Europe.