

GENDER DIMENSION IN RESEARCH AND CURRICULA

Researchers may need to take into consideration the gender dimension in their research projects and teaching curricula, as gender differences can be an important factor to consider in the definition of research and the identification of good solutions to a given problem. Gender differences arise from the different nature between females, non-male individuals and males, as they encounter different needs and problems. This need is clear in the field of Medicine, for example. As it is now well known, females have different responses to medical treatments owing to their much stronger immune system than that of males.

Hence, for integrating the gender dimension into research and curricula, there is the need of considering the biological characteristics and/or specificities (e.g. differences in the immune system, physiological differences, etc.), social environment/context we have to live in, and specific needs (e.g. pregnancy and lactation periods for females) of both females, no-male individuals and males. Hence, researchers, to be competent, need to be trained about gender issues and aspects, and be also educated to perform gender-sensitive research, which should better assist them in the design of their research and considerations for adequate problem solving. Below, interesting information can be found related to this issue.

Below is a list of good practices relating to gender dimension in research and curricula, according to R&I peers research.

PRACTICE 1: PRESAGE

General information

Title	PRESAGE – The political Science case
Organisation	Sciences Po
Type of organisation	University
Country	France

Specific information

Aim of practice	The main objective of PRESAGE is to mainstream a gender perspective in research and teaching across disciplinary boundaries (History, Economics, Sociology, Political Science and International Relations), informing about pedagogical contents in academic curricula (for first degree and postgraduate level) and lifelong learning activities, as well as enhance the visibility of gender scholarship. By grouping different research fields, PRESAGE enables a comprehensive approach to researching gender issues.
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Time Frame	2010 - 2016
Beneficiaries	First degree and postgraduate level students
Tools used	Course
Steps and procedures followed to implement tools	<p>The course is addressed to political sciences students. Gender is the core topic of the course, which intends to challenge the way political science is taught in political science institutes. It challenges social sciences in general and more specifically political science through analytical and chronological stages: unveiling the gender blindness of these academic disciplines and re-thinking the gendered order institutionalised through political science as a discipline.</p> <p>The course focuses on these two stages, articulating theoretical and disciplinary self-reflexivity. It firstly addresses the contentious usages of gender in political science as a process of normalisation. Secondly, it questions how these usages sheds a different light on canonical subjects meant to be legitimate (as parliamentary democracy), but also on the public-private division, tryptic policy/politics/polity and the interrelation of sex, gender and race.</p>
Description / benefits / comments	<p>This course has repeatedly received outstanding evaluation from students (90% of satisfaction). Along with the renowned expertise of the teacher, the main success factor is the following: this course engages with issues core to political sciences in a way that challenges the very way how the discipline was built and is being currently taught in France (and other EU countries). The gender component is thus meant not only to bring an added value, but to help rethinking the scope, methods and concepts of the discipline.</p>

Evaluation

Works well	Grouping different research fields enables a comprehensive approach to researching gender issues. For example, it is mentioned that 'approaches grounded into Economics, Law and History focus on inequalities between males and females in the professional area, education and private sphere'.
Transferability	As the teaching is cross-disciplinary, the program can be easily adopted by other faculties and departments.
Learning potential	This cross disciplinary teaching challenges the very way to rethink the scope, methods and concepts of the discipline, thus it has a huge learning value.
Gender perspective	Integrating gender in curricula enables a greater awareness amongst students about gender issues and the relevance of the consideration of gender in different disciplines.
Sustainability	In order to be sustainable, the programme needs to be endorsed by the very top of the faculty and embraced by the academics.

PRACTICE 2: Research Network - ALMA Gender IRT

General information

Title	ALMA Gender IRT - Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching network to collaborate on gender issues for developing research projects or embedding gender in the teaching curricula
Organisation	University of Bologna (UNIBO)
Type of organisation	University
Country	Italy

Specific information

Aim of practice	Alma Gender IRT's main goal is to create a network of scholars from different fields in order to promote research and teaching on gender issues and to advance gender equality within the University of Bologna's community, composed of students, academics and other employees.
Time Frame	2015- present
Beneficiaries	Scholars
Tools used	Course, seminars, website
Steps and procedures followed to implement tools	<p>Alma Gender Integrated Research Team (Alma Gender IRT) is a group of more than one hundred scholars working in twenty-eight departments of the humanities, social studies, science, technology, and medicine at the University of Bologna.</p> <p>The Alma Gender IRT is promoting internal seminars to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on topics relevant for gender issues. For example, they organised a seminar on gender in Horizon 2020 calls (April 2016). This seminar was focused on the meaning of the expression "gender innovation" and on the correspondent funding opportunities.</p> <p>The Alma Gender IRT aims also at creating a new Alma Gender website, for collecting information about gender studies and publications conducted by the members of the network. This website will enable students to find research and teaching contents regarding gender across all the Departments, but also get information about events, seminars and conferences.</p>
Description / benefits / comments	Alma Gender IRT promotes research on gender issues, focusing on how societies shape, organise, and innovate gender roles, relations, identities, and representations of gender, and how these factors interact with other variables such as nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, profession, religion, economic status, etc.

Evaluation

Works well	Alma Gender Integrated Research Team is a group of more than one hundred scholars working in twenty-eight departments of the
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	humanities, social studies, science, technology, and medicine at the University of Bologna.
Transferability	Since the program involves and employs several people, it would first need to start from a small scale that could eventually be expanded with more funds.
Learning potential	Alma Gender IRT's main goal is to create a network of scholars from different fields in order to promote research and teaching on gender issues and to advance gender equality within the University of Bologna's community of students, teachers and employees, and hence with a very large impact.
Gender perspective	With the aim of translating gender research into an innovative teaching agenda, Alma Gender IRT's scholars educate students to promote gender equality in society and remove gender barriers which hamper professional careers.
Sustainability	The programme is obviously supported by the top level of the university long term.

PARACTICE 3: GEMMA Erasmus Mundus

General information

Title	GEMMA Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies
Organisation	University of Granada (coordinator), University of Bologna, Central European University (Budapest), University of Hull, University of York, University of Łódź, University of Oviedo and University of Utrecht.
Type of organisation	University
Country	Spain, Italy, Hungary, UK, Poland, Netherlands

Specific information

Aim of practice	GEMMA is a joint interdisciplinary, postgraduate programme that provides high quality academic education for students interested in areas of Women's Studies, Gender Studies and Equal Opportunities across Europe and beyond.
Time Frame	2006 - present
Beneficiaries	Postgraduate students
Tools used	Postgraduate programme
Steps and procedures followed to implement tools	<p>The programme was created as a result of the efforts of several universities working together. It consists of two years of study at two chosen centres out of the seven prestigious European universities.</p> <p>The Home University is the university where the student starts the programme and completes the first year of study, while the Mobility University is the university where the student completes the compulsory mobility semester (third semester) in the second year of study. The core</p>

	<p>Cluster is composed by 3 core modules that are organised around the same three modules at all consortium universities (Feminist History; Feminist Theory; Feminist Methodology).</p> <p>Master Length: 4 semesters, 2 years full-time, ECTS: 120 (30 per semester)</p>
Description / benefits/ comments	<p>It is a programme of excellence supported by the European Commission and distinguished as “a pilot project and model in the field of Women’s Studies and Gender Studies with both a European and global perspective”.</p> <p>At the end of their studies, GEMMA students obtain a double degree, issued by the two institutions where they have conducted their studies.</p>

Evaluation

Works well	The programme offers transdisciplinary gender training of English Studies students with very high standards, many of whom subsequently write PhD dissertations in the field. Several GEMMA graduates have already obtained posts in English Departments in Europe.
Transferability	Being a joint interdisciplinary programme, the practice is transferable to any university or department if supported by the top level of the institution.
Learning potential	GEMMA is a joint interdisciplinary programme that provides high quality academic education and professional competencies for professional and also individuals intending to work in the specific areas of Women's Studies, Gender Studies and Equal Opportunities across Europe and beyond. Such a wide span of options and combinations makes the programme attractive to students worldwide. Courses are taught by the most distinguished and highly recognised professors in the fields of research in each one of the departments involved.
Gender perspective	GEMMA is unique in the way it brings together approaches to feminism from all cardinal points in Europe. The project is a model of excellence in the field of Women’s Studies and Gender Studies in European and global perspective”.
Sustainability	Currently the programme of excellence is supported by the European Commission. But given that this programme is beyond borders, public funds will probably necessary for sustainability.

PRACTICE 4: Multimedia exhibition to attract young people in STEMS

General information

Title	Multimedia exhibition to attract young people in STEMS
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Specific information

Aim of practice	The goal of this practice is to attract younger generations, by showing them the benefits of the research field in order to enable them to come in contact with academia and space agencies for instance. The practice involves students interacting with multimedia tools, such as educational quizzes on a tablet, which can be used by schools to promote the research field.
Beneficiaries	Students
Tools used	Multimedia tools, tablets.