



CONFERENCE

Gender in science – an obstacle or an advantage? Scientific careers and private lives

June 1st, 2010, 13.00-18.00
Banquet Hall of Tyszkiewicz-Potocki Palace
ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 32

Organized by: Institute for Social Studies of University of Warsaw, UNESCO Chair “Women – Society – Development”, Feminoteka Foundation

Research conducted so far throughout Europe has shown that it is mostly the family, regardless of the social group, to which it belongs, that provides care for its members – including in countries, in which various social services are ensured, and legal regulations are family-friendly. The conference “Gender in science – an obstacle or an advantage? Scientific careers and private lives”, carried out within the framework of the programme **WORKCARE Synergies**, has been based on the assumption that the quality of life of families that care for their members is a very significant prerequisite for social and individual development, and thus it should, to a greater extent, become a subject of the properly defined and planned social care, as well as a public discourse.

During the conference „**Gender in science – an obstacle or an advantage? Scientific careers and private lives**”, the situation of women in science will be analyzed in the context of reconciling parental roles and private lives with scientific work. The research results presented will be confronted with experiences of persons engaged in masculinized fields of science and dealing with problems of institutional support for families with regard to their duties associated with care.

The conference has been organized within the framework of the project **WORKCARE Synergies**, financed from the resources of the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission. The project was commenced in 2010 and it will be implemented until the end of year 2011. Its purpose is to present the results of more than ten research projects, conducted within the framework of the previous Framework Programmes, which pertained to the models of reconciliation of work models with care for family members in various social groups. These were both quantitative and qualitative research projects; in some cases, triangulation method was applied. **The project participants are seven countries: Austria, Denmark, Poland, Portugal, Hungary, Great Britain and Italy.** The project coordinators are doctor Michaela Gstrein and doctor Liliana Mateeva of Institut für Höhere Studien Vienna. **In Poland, the project is implemented by the Institute for Social Studies of University of Warsaw (coordinator – professor Renata Siemieńska) in cooperation with Feminoteka Foundation.** The Polish team of the Institute for Social Studies of University of Warsaw, led by professor Renata Siemieńska, cooperated in implementation of several other research projects within the framework of **WORKCARE Synergies**.

The Conference Programme

*Conference conducted within the framework of the **WORKCARE Synergies** project, financed by the European Commission*



13.00-14.15 The opening session

- Introduction - professor Renata Siemieńska (Institute of Sociology of Warsaw University, Institute for Social Studies of University of Warsaw)
- A speech delivered by a representative of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education
- Differences and similarities in the trajectories of scientific careers of women and men in the light of representative nationwide research (implemented within the framework of projects of the European Commission) – professor Renata Siemieńska (the Institute of Sociology of University of Warsaw, the Institute for Social Studies of University of Warsaw)
- Scientific career strategies and private lives from the perspective of individual experiences (research conducted within the framework of a project of the European Commission) – Ph.D Anna Domaradzka (Institute for Social Studies of University of Warsaw)

14.15-14.45 Lunch break

14.45-16.00 Women in non-feminine fields of science

- Experiences of women in sciences – professor Anna Szemik-Hojniak (Faculty of Chemistry of University of Warsaw) and Ph.D. Katarzyna Olszewska (Tele & Radio Research Institute)
- Women in good research teams – associate professor Piotr Garstecki, Ph.D. (Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences)
- Polish and Russian female students – an attempt at comparison – Tomasz Zarycki, Ph. D. hab. (Institute for Social Studies of University of Warsaw)
- Summary. Cultural and institutional forms of sexism and discrimination in science and methods of prevention – professor Magdalena Środa (University of Warsaw)

Discussion

16.00-17.30 The problem of reconciling scientific career with private life

- Mobility of scientists and reconciliation of roles – Dominika Walczak (Institute for Social Studies of University of Warsaw)
- Good practice in reconciliation of work and family– Joanna Piotrowska (Feminoteka Foundation)
- Programme „Girls to Universities of Technology” – Monika Banach (Institute for Social Studies of University of Warsaw)
- The role of institutions in supporting reconciliation of roles – recommendations on the basis of nationwide research – Irena Wóycicka (Institute of Research of Market Economy)
- The role of NGOs in supporting reconciliation of roles – Ph.D. Patrycja Dołowy (MaMa Foundation, vice editor in chief of „Academia“ periodical, Council for Popularization of Science)

Discussion

Conclusion

Information on the project and conference materials are available at www.workcaresynergies.eu