

ECREA WOMEN'S NETWORK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

24th November 2009

A meeting of the Board of the Women's Network was held on the 24th of November 2009, at the Centre for Intercultural Studies (CEI), ISCAP, Polytechnic Institute of Oporto.

Present:

Clara Sarmiento, ISCAP, Portugal

Núria Simelo, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

Sinikka Torkkola, Tampere University, Finland

Call to Order

Clara Sarmiento called the meeting to order at 4.00 p.m. and Carla Carneiro recorded the minutes.

Sinikka Torkkola started by saying that the final details of the ECREA Women's Network Workshop, that was to happen the following day, had to be defined. Clara Sarmiento said that there were to be expected about 20 persons to attend the workshop and that eight papers were going to be presented. Nuria Simelo Sòla added that, although her paper was written in cooperation with two other colleagues, she was presenting it alone, because the other two colleagues could not be present. A verification of the registration forms was made, asserting the number of persons that had confirmed their presence in the workshop. It was decided that Clara Sarmiento would chair the first panel, Sinikka Torkkola the second and the third was to be chaired by Núria Simelio.

The following point on the agenda was the discussion of the possibility of publishing the papers presented at the workshop. The possibility of publishing the papers at ECREA's website was debated, though this would pose the problem of copyright. Presenting an editorial proposal to Cambridge Scholars Publishing was regarded as an option, but not in the near future. As there was

only a reduced number of papers to be presented, it was agreed that the best thing to do was to gather the texts from this workshop and the ones from the workshops of Barcelona and Hamburg, and to compose a single book for possible publication in 2012. The board agreed to make a proposal to ECREA regarding a book collecting the texts from the three conferences (Porto, Barcelona and Hamburg). It was also proposed to approach someone with a high social, political and/or academic profile, in order to edit the book or, at least, to write the preface. In the Portuguese panorama, Clara Sarmiento suggested Lúgia Amâncio for this purpose. Two main topics were suggested for this book: Gender Equality and Women in Academia.

The meeting continued with the discussion of the construction of a new website for the ECREA Women's Network, having as a purpose the gathering of all the information about gender studies and the creation of a forum for debating this subject. Sinikka Torkkola stated that the building of a website was not a good idea, because it involves a lot of work and only three people are part of this project. Although it is possible to make a new website, it is necessary to have someone willing to gather all the information and keep it updated.

The board agreed, however, that the objectives of the ECREA Women's Network have to be transformed into something tangible. For this purpose, having a discussion forum on the website or constructing a blog would be of the utmost importance.

Bearing in mind the objectives and modus operandi of the Women's Network, Clara Sarmiento stated that this network had to reach people but, in order to do so, people needed to know where to direct their questions and information. For this reason, a website would be the best way to assemble every sort of information on what concerns gender studies. Sinikka Torkkola insisted on the idea that it is necessary to have someone to work permanently on the website, to keep information updated, though she does not have the time to ensure this kind of work. The board agreed that it would be possible to build parallel websites, with complementary information, located in different institutions. Clara Sarmiento informed that, on the side of the Centre for Intercultural Studies, two volunteer students had agreed to undertake the project of building a website for the ECREA Women's Network, during a training period of 6 to 12 months. This website would complement the information available on the existing but still incipient website, and would include a moderated forum for discussion. The board called the students Fábio Alvarenga and Alexandre Chaveiro, both

finalists of the course of Administrative Assistance and Translation at the Polytechnic Institute of Porto, who introduced themselves.

Sinikka Torkkola said that it might be possible to access the Tampere University website (where the existing Women's Network website is located) through a PHP platform, so that its contents might be modified. She continued by saying that in order to have a forum, it will be necessary to have someone able to answer all the questions that might arise. Sinikka Torkkola also mentioned that if the website has a list of conferences related to gender studies, they need to be constantly updated. Sinikka Torkkola confirmed that she was going to try to obtain from her institution the codes to access the existing website, so that the volunteer students might update the information.

The issue of the access to the website was discussed, specifically whether it should be a closed network only for the members of the Women's Network or, instead, open to all the ECREA members. Of course that, in the case of being an open network, it would grant a much wider sharing of experiences, with an input from people from all the world.

The board believes that it is possible to have the website divided by several places: e.g., the forum could be located at ISCAP's server and managed by the Centre for Intercultural Studies; whereas other information, like announcement of books or links to other relevant websites, could be located at another place.

The structure of the website was also discussed, being purposed that the website should have items related to News and Conferences, especially about women in Academia, and links to other websites. The later would have the description of the websites and their contents. In order to do this, it will be necessary to collect information on websites related to gender equality, not only in Portugal, Spain and Finland, but also in all European countries. This website would also be a guideline for women who are isolated within European academia, with a difficult access to basic information.

Sinikka Torkkola came forth with the idea of conducting a Summer School that would ultimately generate the publication of articles in English. Nevertheless, in order to do this, it will be necessary to collect funding.

A virtual meeting, by e-mail, was scheduled for September 2010, to discuss the meeting that will take place in Hamburg, in November 2010.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 18.30.

Respectfully submitted,

The Coordinator of the Centre for Intercultural Studies

(Clara Maria Laranjeira Sarmento e Santos)

The Secretary

(Carla Filipa Moreira Carneiro)