

ECREA WOMEN'S NETWORK REPORT 2011

The *Women's Network III International Workshop: Sharing Experiences* took place at the University of Tampere, Finland, from 16 to 18 November 2011. Participants addressed issues of gender in communication related academia, under an inter-disciplinary and inter-cultural perspective. This exchange of ideas constituted an effective debate and comparison of case studies, methodologies and empirical materials, which provided innovative reality-based conclusions, inferred from the "shared experiences", while discussing theories and practices of gender discrimination, that stereotypically operate in the academic world.

From the Workshop program we highlight the keynote lecture by Pirkko Mäkinen, the Finnish Ombudsman for Equality, on gender equality and sexual discrimination in the universities. Other reflection topics included: "A perspective on gender research in education: identifying gaps, blind spots and common sense", "Tabloidization in Estonian media: the gender aspect", "Blond Angels", 'Exuberant, Single Women' and 'Olive-skinned Men': How to Cover Violence against Women (Create Moral Panics and Win Elections) in 365 Days of TV Evening News", "Sharing Experiences of Vocal Emotional Communication", and "Journalism doing gender".

The ECREA Women's Network has also updated its website (<http://www.iscap.ipp.pt/~cei/SITE%20PUBLISHER%20ecrea/ECREA%20%20website/index.htm>), where interested members will be able to find information on conferences, job offers, grants, a bibliography, call for papers and contributions, research, links, and a forum. From the onset, this website has gathered and circulated information that might contribute to improving the current situation of women in higher education and academic research in Europe. Its main purpose is to identify differences, strengths, and areas of good practice, in order to stimulate the exchange of ideas, opportunities, contacts and cooperation among network members.

In October 2012, at the 4th European Communication Conference, in Istanbul, the ECREA Women's Network intends to organize a workshop that will investigate the 'state of the art' of Gender Studies, and verify if the recent transformations in the education sector, as a result of the implementation of the "Bologna Process", have paved the way to a different management from a gender perspective. In Portugal, for instance, the Process has meant the shortage of contact hours and, as a consequence, a boom in lecturers' unemployment, with female unemployment leading the way in every Humanities-related field, whereas male-dominated sciences and technologies have predictably been spared. By using quantitative and qualitative data, extracted from the Network's workshops, website and members' research/experience, this project may represent a concrete

attempt to meet the goals of the Network, through the sharing of experiences, the identification of gender-fair evaluation criteria and the development of further actions to be undertaken, in order to promote the career of female scholars.

In the future – and based upon the concrete problems and questions raised during national and international conferences, real and virtual meetings, and political discussions in general – the ECREA Women's Network will continue to advocate the need for larger institutional studies, comprehensive political actions, and thorough social and cultural reflections on the actual situation of gender in communication research, within universities, polytechnics, colleges, and research centres all over Europe.