



Academia Europaea | Barcelona Knowledge Hub International Women's Day Activities, 2015

InterSection Workshop “Women and the academic ladder” March 4

Time: 5 pm – 8.30 pm

Venue: Pi i Sunyer Room, Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC, c/ Carme 47, Barcelona)

PROGRAMME:

5 pm – 6.15 pm

Convenor: **Lynn Kamerlin**, Uppsala University, Chair Young Academy of Europe

Welcome

Clara Corbella, Engineer, Technical University of Catalonia

“Why should women graduate in engineering degrees?”

Margaret Luppino, Editor, translator and couch, Barcelona

“The power of community. Looking back on my experience at a women’s liberal arts college: Mount Holyoke, Massachusetts”

Maryam Ghafouri, Persian to Spanish translator, Spanish Language and Literature, UAM

“Women and the academic ladder in Iran”

COFFEE BREAK

6.45 pm – 8.30 pm

M. Dolors Garcia-Ramon, Autonomous University of Barcelona

“Women and the academic ladder. Gendered academic careers in Spain: some examples”

Lourdes Beneria, Cornell University (NY, USA)

“The ‘dismal science’ of Economics and women: a personal experience”

Conclusions and perspectives: **Lynn Kamerlin**

Attendance to the workshop is free, but, due to the limitation of space, registration is recommended at:
barcelona@acadeuro.org

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ABSTRACTS AND CV

CLARA CORBELLA

Why should women graduate in engineering degrees?

CLARA CORBELLA

Engineer, Technical University of Catalonia

Engineering is found behind most things we use along a day, and therefore, it also concerns women. Being an engineer means being curious, persistent, efficient and imaginative and that also includes women. However, still today in engineering degrees, not only teachers but also students are in their majority men. I am a civil engineer and I chose this degree because I loved mathematics and physics and Civil Engineering degree constituted a multidisciplinary program with a wide range of future options. It was a challenge for me, where every goal achieved provided new energy for the following. However, Civil Engineering has been historically a masculine profession and that was a particular challenge for those of us who were women. Then I started my PhD in environmental engineering, where things are quite different. However, regardless the discipline, for women, there are always barriers to overcome. Things are changing, but slowly, and there is still a lot to do.

Clara Corbella obtained her degree in Civil Engineering in 2012 in the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (Barcelona). During the last year of the degree she specialized in environmental engineering and water and wastewater treatment technologies. The study of these disciplines encouraged her to continue within the academic ladder, starting a PhD program in 2013. Nowadays, she is a predoctoral student in the Group of Environmental Engineering and Microbiology (Polytechnic University of Catalonia). The investigation she is carrying out is focused on natural wastewater treatment systems and bioenergy. To deeply study the microbiological aspects of her investigation she is planning to develop a program in Michigan State University during 2015.

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MARGARET LUPPINO

The power of community. Looking back on my experience at a women's liberal arts college: Mount Holyoke, Massachusetts

MARGARET LUPPINO

Editor, translator and coucher, Barcelona

I chose Mount Holyoke College for a number of reasons, but primarily because I was drawn to being part of a community of strong, smart, women from around the world. I had never planned to go to a women's college, but I felt at home from first day I set foot on the campus. It wasn't just the small class sizes, the ratio of teachers to students, the quality of the academics, and the beautiful campus (which the glossy brochures are sure to highlight), it was the empowering and supportive nature of the community that I appreciated most, and still do. At Mount Holyoke, I learned to trust my instincts, to speak my mind without hesitation, and to explore avenues that I might never have tried before. Most of all, I became confident that I could achieve whatever I set my mind to. Women's colleges share many common traits, and a supportive and empowering community is an important one that I will be focusing on here. I will end by speaking about how these traits have helped me in my career post-Mount Holyoke, and how I see women in Barcelona after having lived here for more than 8 years.

Margaret Luppino obtained her BA in Romance Languages and Literatures from Mount Holyoke College (Massachusetts, USA) in 2007. After completing her studies, she moved to Barcelona the same year and worked with UNESCOcat and Linguapax with a focus on sociolinguistics, law and peace studies, and subsequently as editor of InTransit, an English e-newsletter about the Catalan-speaking territories. Continuing to follow her passion of being a bridge between cultures and languages, today she works as the head of mobility at Eòlia, a private conservatory of dramatic arts in Barcelona, and as a freelance translator and editor for various clients, which include non-governmental organizations, political think tanks, and academic journals, among others. She also recently completed her CPCC (Certified Professional Career Coach) life and professional coaching certification and is currently working with individuals and organizations as an ICF (International Coach Federation) certified coach in English, Catalan, Spanish, Italian and French. She speaks these languages fluently.

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MARYAM GHAFOURI

Women and the academic ladder in Iran

MARYAM GHAFOURI

Persian and English translator, Autonomous University of Madrid

According to Prof. John Archer (University of Central Lancashire), a person who is eager to change the established power relation in his/her social or individual life will inevitably face serious challenges and difficulties resulted from the change. It implies that he/she should ignore the social controls and normative pressure. The aim of this presentation is to consider the influence of education in the Iranian women's lifestyle. This study contains my own experience as an Iranian woman who studied and lived in different countries in academic environments in recent years. This also explains my difficulties and problems pursuing academic careers and study in Iran, India and Spain. Finally, in future, I hope I would be able to increase variation of literature resources for people in Iran by translating international books that focus to the education of women.

Maryam Ghafouri is a predoctoral student at the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM, Cantoblanco). She studied Primary school in Teheran (Iran). She studied Spanish Language and Literature at Islamic Azad University in Tehran and she took the English Language Certificate at the Pune Symbiosis Institute in Pune (India). In 2006, she obtained a Master's Degree in Spanish Language and Literature and Translation English-Spanish at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (India). She has been Lecturer of Spanish at the Islamic Azad University in Tehran and she has developed different working tasks at the UAM. She also studied a Master in Teaching of Spanish as a foreign language. Currently, she is working on her thesis, entitled "Construction of intercultural and intertextuality of the Arabian Nights", while she works as a Persian teacher in the Cultural Council of Iran (Consejería Cultural de Irán, Iran Embassy, Madrid). She speaks Persian (native), Arabic, English, and Spanish.

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M. DOLORS GARCIA-RAMON

Women and the academic ladder. Gendered academic careers in Spain: some examples

M. DOLORS GARCIA-RAMON

Emerita Professor in Geography, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

The aim of this presentation is to study the experiences of women's professional careers within Spanish academic, a professional space that probably is becoming increasingly competitive and masculine. In Spain, as in many other Western countries, neoliberalization processes are taking place within universities. These include the diffusion of market and competitive logics, the rise of audit processes and cultures of accountability and the replacement of public with private funding. I will focus on women's strategies and practices—as well as their feelings and experiences—in reconciling work and family life and in obtaining promotion and power in academia. The research also draws upon male academic's accounts to compare the "masculine" and the "feminine" professional career. This presentation is based mainly on qualitative analysis (in-depth interviews) as we believe that this is the most appropriate method to study this topic. I will focus in the case of the discipline of geography because geography stands between the social sciences and the physical sciences, and this makes the findings applicable to a good number of disciplines. Moreover, as geographer, I know the context very well and this is necessary to analyse the qualitative results.

M. Dolors Garcia-Ramon is Doctor in Geography (University of Barcelona). She has been Full Professor of Geography at Autonomous University of Barcelona since 1984. She has also been a Professor or visiting researcher at several universities in USA (University of Arizona, Cornell University, University of New York), Argentina (Buenos Aires University) and UK (London School of Economics, Durham University), among others. She is particularly interested in the gender perspective in social and cultural geography. She is member of the Advisory Board of the Centre for Gender Equality (UAB) and the Advisory Board of the Interuniversity Institute of Women and Gender.

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LOURDES BENERIA

The 'dismal science' of Economics and women: a personal experience

LOURDES BENERIA

Cornell University (NY, USA)

First, I will discuss very briefly why we refer to Economics as the "dismal science" as well as the "queen of the social sciences." I'll then distinguish between Economics as a discipline and as a profession in order to point out the obstacles facing women who chose it, and I will mention the different strategies followed in order to survive in what is not an easy profession for women. Second, I'll introduce briefly the paths and strategies that I have followed within the profession, emphasizing the intellectual projects that I have been most involved with -beyond my concentration on labor economics, development economics (particularly with respect to Latin America), women's work, and teaching. In order to give specific examples, I will dwell more extensively on some of the research, publications and intellectual projects that I have been involved with: a) the reproduction/production connection to understand women's work -a theme that I developed at the ILO; b) the "accounting project" -since the early 1980s-having to do with the historical undercounting of women's work in national income and labour force statistics; c) since the mid-1980s, understanding globalization and how it has resulted in the feminization of the international labour force; d) the "Davos Man" as the liberal incarnation of "economic man" in Economics; e) the "debt crisis" in Latin America in the 1980s and 1990s; and d) comparing crises, North and South, from a gender perspective. Third, by way of a conclusion: the progress made the work still to come.

Lourdes Beneria is Professor Emerita at the Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, where she taught from 1987 to 2010. She also taught at Columbia University, Rutgers University, the New School University and various universities in Spain and Latin America. She is the author of *The Crossroads of Class and Gender* (1987), with Martha Roldán, of *Gender, Development and Globalization* (2003), and the editor of several books, including the two-volume *Gender and Development: Theoretical, Empirical and Practical Approaches* (2001), *Global Tensions. Challenges and Opportunities in the World Economy* (2003), with Savitri Bisnath, and *Rethinking Informalization; Poverty, Precarious Jobs and Social Protection* (2006), with Neema Kudva. Her work on gender and international development began in 1977-1979, as coordinator of the Programme on Rural Women at the International Labour Office in Geneva, Switzerland. Since then, she continued to be involved with projects at the UN and other international organizations in addition to the ILO, such as UNDP, UNIFEM –now UNWomen– and the World Bank. She is a former president of the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) and an associate editor of *Feminist Economics*, of *The European Journal of Development Research*, and a member of the *Editorial Board of Economia Crítica*. Beyond academic work, she has been involved with a variety of international networks, such as with peace and solidarity groups. Her updated version of *Gender, Development and Globalization* is about to appear in 2015, this time with co-authors Günseli Berik and Maria Floro.

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Conclusions and Perspectives

LYNN KAMERLIN

Uppsala University, Sweden

Lynn Kamerlin is going to offer the main conclusions and perspectives shown during the whole workshop. She is Associate Professor of Structural Biology at the Uppsala University (2014-Present). Formerly Assistant Professor at Uppsala (2011-2014) and Stockholm Universities (2011), she has been awarded with an ERC Starting Independent Research Grantee and Wallenberg Academy Fellow. Member of the Young Academy of Europe (Chair, 2014-2015). Her research sits at the interface between chemistry, biology and physics, using advanced computational tools to understand the chemical basis for the evolution of protein function. In particular, she has made substantial contributions to our molecular understanding of enzyme catalysis, for which she received the 2012 Sven and Ebba Christina Hagberg prize in Biochemistry from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (2012), and the Silver Jubilee Prize from the UK Molecular Graphics and Modeling Society (2013). She has also been an invited or plenary speaker at several of the leading conferences in her field. In addition to her research activities, she is deeply committed to empowering women in academia, in particular in natural sciences and technology. This includes (but is not limited to) work with the YAE as well as coordinating a faculty-wide mentorship programme for young female academics at Uppsala University, with the goal of both encouraging highly promising young female scientists to stay in academia, and guiding them to the best career decisions to facilitate this.

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On March 5, Lynn Kamerlin will give the BKH's International Women's Day 2015 Lecture, entitled "Empowerment of women in the academic world".