

# NEWSLETTER

## Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Regional Chair  
Women, Science and Technology  
in Latin America

### Editorial by the Coordinator of the Global Network on Gender

In 1992 [UNESCO](#) creates the [UNITWIN](#) Programme (University Twinning and Networking Programme). Today, it includes 715 UNESCO Chairs around the world, and 69 UNITWIN Networks involving over 830 institutions in 131 countries.

Among them, 25 Chairs are devoted specifically to gender studies. They all share similar objectives and activities, although each of them focuses in a particular field of knowledge and action: science and technology, media, citizenship, leadership, community health, human rights, sustainable development, science and water management.

For many years these Chairs have worked independently and rather disconnected from one another; a practice that did not take advantage of the current ways of producing and disseminating new knowledge to have an impact in social development and well-being.

As it is recognized by UNESCO *there is a "strategic value of networking (that) has helped universities all over the globe to pool their resources, both human and material (...) to overcome stumbling blocks and to encourage academic institutions to play their role fully in society"*.

The creation of academic and research networks has gained growing acceptance over the last decade: several research and experiences demonstrate that networking allows to overcome traditional and conservative institutional barriers, intertwine the intellectual and social capital produced by academies, which is usually restrained within institutional and eventually national frontiers, and cannot therefore have impacts on educational, scientific, economic and social policies, and in the emergence of innovations.

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### Editorial by the Director of the Division for Gender Equality, UNESCO

It is both a pleasure and a privilege for me to write this editorial in my capacity as Director of the Division for Gender Equality in the Office of the Director-General at UNESCO. It is exciting to be a partner in this new initiative of the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender Equality, and I would like to thank the founders and members for their hard work and inspiration in developing the network through the web-conferences, network website, and now this newsletter.

UNESCO has been making great strides in promoting women's empowerment and gender equality. Gender Equality was designated a global priority for UNESCO under its medium term strategy in 2008. And since then concrete actions have been taken to make this commitment to gender equality a reality, particularly through the Gender Equality Action Plan 2008-2013. The Division for Gender Equality is coordinating the mainstreaming of gender equality considerations into all activities carried out by UNESCO's five programme sectors, and several specific initiatives to promote gender equality and empower women have been launched.

Under the leadership of the first woman Director-General in its history, Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO is committed to transforming the idea of gender equality into reality through its programmes and special initiatives. One of the areas in which UNESCO hopes to make a real impact on the advancement of gender equality is that of education, and in May 2011 a Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education was launched by the Director-General to raise awareness and mobilize support for girls' and women's education with a specific focus on adult literacy and secondary education. In June 2011, UNESCO organized an International Women Leaders' Conference on "Science, Technology and Innovation: Education and Training for Women and Girls" in Haifa, Israel. We were delighted that some members of the Global Network were able to participate in this conference which resulted in the signing of the Haifa Declaration that stresses the importance of equal access to education for women and men as a human right.

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Saniye Gülser Corat  
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## Editorial by the Coordinator of the Global Network on Gender

Indeed, the ways of creating knowledge are going through significant changes thanks to the dissemination and use of information and communication technologies. Making good use of these resources enables collaborative work at a global scale, stimulates the acknowledgement of the complexity of all social problems, which might involve interdisciplinary approaches, visualizes the diversity of contexts and actors. All of this favors the production of knowledge and the dissemination of research findings, thanks to the constant flow of information and dialogue between researchers, educators and decision-makers of multiple institutions.

Gender Studies have a long history in networking formally or informally. This explains its quite rapid global dissemination and integration in universities and research centres as well as the diversity of approaches and continuous debates between different lines of thought.

This is the context in which the [Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender](http://www.catunescomujer.org/globalnetwork) (see its [objectives](#)) was created collaboratively in 2010 by UNESCO and the [UNESCO Regional Chair Women, Science and Technology in Latin America](#). It was launched during the International Conference "Gender Equity Policies - A Prospective View: New Scenarios, Actors and Articulations", (9-12 November 2010- Buenos Aires, Argentina).

The momentum was right and several Chairs responded to our call.

In eleven months our virtual Network has created its own site ([www.catunescomujer.org/globalnetwork](http://www.catunescomujer.org/globalnetwork)), gathered and disseminated information on the activities carried out by its members; it is building a clearinghouse with articles produced by the Chairs, it has organized and coordinated web-conferences to get to know each other in depth, and started debates on strategic gender topics.

It is now producing this first newsletter, published by our colleagues of the UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment of the University of Cyprus.

We are convinced that this Network is becoming an attractive environment for sharing ideas and resources that can "give birth" to creative knowledge and practices.

In coordination with the Division for Gender Equality at UNESCO, and contributing with its General Programme and with the National UNESCO offices is taking crucial steps for advancing in this direction.

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## Editorial by the Director of the Division for Gender Equality, UNESCO

Developing capacities for research and for teaching and training is at the heart of UNESCO's mission, and I am confident the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender Equality can make a significant contribution to this effort. In particular, I believe that one of the existing obstacles to the development of research capacity is a lack of communication and collaboration internationally, and this network is a timely initiative and an important step to overcoming that obstacle through its encouragement for the sharing of knowledge and research between scholars from across the globe in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment. This is an area where there is still so much progress to be made, and it is our sincere hope that the partnership between UNESCO and the Global Network will strengthen our efforts to advance in this shared goal.

In a response to a perceived lack of data and research on gender relations and the situation of women, UNESCO is developing a series of research and documentation centers on gender equality. Two of these centers have already been established: the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Centre in Ramallah, and the Regional Research and Documentation Centre on Women, Gender and Peace building for the Great Lakes Region, based in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. These centers produce and diffuse quality research on gender, research which will in turn feed into effective policy-making to promote gender equality and women's rights in different regional contexts. They also promote teaching and training on gender through a network of university partners. Specific foci for research and training are the issues of the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, and the increased participation of women in political decision-making and peace-building activities. A series of new centers will bring this focus on research and training to other regions and countries in the next few years.

It is our belief that a basis for advancing gender equality and the realization of women's rights worldwide is the existence of a shared base of knowledge and research, and the diffusion and sharing of this research as widely as possible. The Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender is thus clearly a key partner in this objective, and we anticipate working with Network members more closely in the coming years to move together towards our shared objectives. We look forward to developing projects and proposals with you for the advancement of gender equality.

Saniye Gülser Corat  
Director, Division for Gender Equality  
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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brenda Gael McSweeney, Ph.D. has been identified by UN Women as the "focal point for women and gender studies" at Boston University.

Breaking news: the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture, and People-Centered Development hosted at Boston University's Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program has just been awarded a four-year extension by UNESCO Paris to continue its work on gender and international development on three continents!

Victoria Uranga is no longer the head of UNESCO-Chair in Diego Portales University of Chile. Since the beginning of this month she started a new job in OREALC-UNESCO as the Coordinator of the Knowledge Management Section Unit (KMS). New email [v.uranga@unesco.org](mailto:v.uranga@unesco.org).

**Women and/in Science and Technology in TV:** The UNESCO Regional Chair Women, Science and Technology in Latin America, Argentina, have signed an agreement with TECHNOLIS TV, a TV signal from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Argentina to produce a series of TV spots and short stories on different aspects of Gender Equality in S&T. They will be shown in several TV channels in Argentina as a first step and later in other countries.

We are pleased to announce the production of a **video** that compiles thoughts expressed by the **experts panelists** who participated in the **5 Keynote Panels** of the International Conference "Gender Equity Policies - A Prospective View: New Scenarios, Actors and Articulations", held on November 9-12, 2010, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. To Access, please [click here](#). We hope it will interest you and inspire research and other innovative activities in the field of gender studies.

### MA in Gender Studies at the University of Cyprus

A new MA in Gender studies has been approved at the University of Cyprus with coordinators the UNESCO chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and the centre for Gender Studies. The MA program will be offered in English. Details on the program will appear soon at <http://www.ucy.ac.cy/>

### Girls in ICT

<http://world2011.itu.int/daily4#7>

Job opportunities in the ICT sector continue to grow, and many countries and regions are predicting a shortage of qualified staff with math, science, engineering and computing skills to meet the growing demand. At the same time, many companies are looking to increase the numbers of women in the sector. This means that highly qualified women in technical fields have significant opportunities available to them. Unfortunately teenage girls and young women often never even consider a career in ICTs. There is a lack of awareness among students, teachers and parents on the opportunities presented by a career in ICT. Different ways to encourage young women to enter the ICT sector were shared during the Girls in ICT Session at ITU Telecom World 2011.

## E-LEARNING COURSES

**2012: New e-learning courses of the UNESCO Regional Chair Women, Science and Technology in Latin America, Argentina**

**Social and political participation of women in local development** (Central America and Andean Region)

- Need assessment for public officers and women leaders in political and social arenas.
- Virtual training programme for those audiences.
- In cooperation with UN Women.

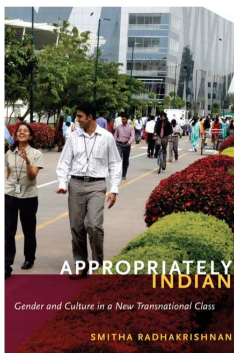
**Gender mainstreaming in monitoring and evaluation. Conceptual frameworks, methodologies and strategies.** In coordination with "Universidad Complutense de Madrid", Spain.

**Diploma on gender sensitive budgeting in Mozambique (onsite and online)** In cooperation with the University of Eduardo Mondlane and UN Women.

**Theoretical debates on continuities and changes in masculinities representations, models and behaviors. Strategies for change.**

**Virtual course on gender based violence, with a focus on indigenous and rural women** With the support of GIZ (German Cooperation for International Collaborative Work)

## New Books - Articles

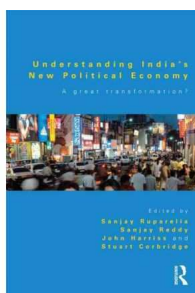


'*Appropriately Indian* is an ethnographic analysis of the class of information technology professionals at the symbolic helm of globalizing India. Comprising a small but prestigious segment of India's labor force, these transnational knowledge workers

dominate the country's economic and cultural scene, as do their notions of what it means to be Indian. Drawing on the stories of Indian professionals in Mumbai, Bangalore, Silicon Valley, and South Africa, Smitha Radhakrishnan explains how these high-tech workers create a "global Indianness" by transforming the diversity of Indian cultural practices into a generic, mobile set of "Indian" norms. Female information technology professionals are particularly influential. By reconfiguring notions of respectable femininity and the "good" Indian family, they are reshaping ideas about what it means to be Indian.' Read more at <http://www.appropriatelyindian.com/>

Author: Smitha Radhakrishnan, Visiting Scholar (2011-2012) at Boston University's Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program  
Publisher: Duke University Press, 2011

### The Transformation of Citizenship in India in the 1990s and Beyond



1990s – Hindu nationalism, backward caste mobilization and economic reform – have shaped practices of citizenship in India in recent times. Women enter this story in three ways: lower middle class women experience a new feeling of freedom by being able to enter the market; women experience social empowerment through their participation in and leadership of *panchayats*; but, as victims of sex-selective abortion, they are also disadvantaged in practices of biological citizenship. The article is published in the volume titled *Understanding India's New Political Economy: A Great Transformation?*,

Sanjay Ruparelia, *et al.* eds. (Routledge, London, 2011).

Author: Niraja Gopal Jayal;

This paper discusses how the three central transformations of the

Bio at: <http://www.jnu.ac.in/Faculty/ngjayal/Address.html>

Menon Eliophotou, M., Koutselini, M., & Solomi, D. (2011). The gender gap in the academy: The case of Cyprus. Paper presented at the Women Leading Education Conference, University of Thessaly, Volos, Greece, September 24-29.

The present paper aims at investigating the representation of women in higher education in Cyprus, with emphasis on the barriers they face in their attempt to enter, and succeed in, the academy. According to the findings, women are under-represented in both public and private universities in Cyprus, especially in relation to higher academic ranks. They are also under-represented in leadership and research posts, which are dominated by men. Male

and female academics agree that gender inequalities exist in Cyprus and attribute their presence to differences in societal expectations stemming from gender stereotypes. However, women are more likely to highlight cases of prejudice and discrimination in higher education, drawing attention to the perceived superiority of men as academics and researchers. The paper points to the need for the design and implementation of policy measures that will address gender inequalities in the academy.

To Access the whole article please visit:

<http://www.ucy.ac.cy/victims>

### Srihaswani – Five Years On: A Gender Case Study Update



Interacting with the women of Darpashila Village near Shantiniketan, West Bengal, India

In November 2010, a team from Boston University's Women's Studies Program and the *Bhab* Initiative visited and wrote on one of the original *Srihaswani* (Creative Manual Skills for Self-Reliant Development) villages near Shantiniketan, West Bengal, India. This

update captures the impressions of the village participants and in particular, reports on the extent to which the *Srihaswani* Initiative has positively impacted the lives of rural women and girls. Find the article, e-published by UNESCO Paris in 2011, at:

<http://www.catunescomujer.org/globalnetwork/publications.html>

and at <http://unitwin.blogspot.com/2011/01/just-published-by-unesco.html>

Authors: Krishno Dey, Chandana Dey and Brenda Gael McSweeney (bios at UNITWIN Who's Who):

<http://unitwin.blogspot.com/2007/07/unitwin-whos-who.html>

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Two upcoming seminars at Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan, West Bengal, India: Nov. 3-4, 2011 on "Rumi and Rabindranath Tagore: Significance for Women in Contemporary Iran and India"; and Jan. 6-7, 2012 an International Conference on Women, Creativity and Social Concerns: Remembering *Ashramkanya* Amita Sen (100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary Celebration), that Professor Martha Nussbaum is to inaugurate.

For further information: <http://www.womenforthemediterranean.org/>

## NETWORKS AND "REVOLUTIONS"

### DEMOCRACY THROUGH THE PRISM OF GENDER IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN

Thursday, 8 December 2011

at the Buffon amphitheatre – University Paris 7 Diderot | 15 rue HÃ©lie Brion - 75013 Paris Metro Bibliotheque FranÃ§ois Mitterrand

On the occasion of its inauguration, the Euro-Mediterranean Academic and Scientific Network on gender and women, currently being established within the Women's Foundation for the Mediterranean, is organising its first international symposium with a double perspective: to analyse women's mobilizations within and beyond the Mediterranean, and to examine the role of research networks on gender in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Drawing on the theoretical diversity of gender studies, the conference aims to shed light on current issues concerning democracy and to examine the links between research and recent political and social developments in the countries involved.

Registration is free but required (space is limited): [colloque@apffm.org](mailto:colloque@apffm.org)

For further information: <http://www.womenforthemediterranean.org/>

## PAST EVENTS

**The International Conference "Human Rights and Violent Behaviour: The Social and Educational Perspective"** was held at the University of Cyprus, in Nicosia, Cyprus on the 18th and 19th of November 2011. The Conference was organised by the UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at the University of Cyprus, and the Daphne III Project (JLS/2008/CFP/DAP/2008-1) entitled VI.C.T.I.MS: "An indirect harmful effect of violence: Victimization of the child and Re-victimizing the woman-mother through her child's exposure to violence against herself, sensitizing and creating awareness through research-product material, both transnational and differential according to the partner-context". It was a forum for reflection and discussion about contemporary research findings and key social and educational issues pertaining Human rights and violent behaviour. Academics, researchers, professionals, administrators and policy makers interested in the topic shared research findings and practices and created networks of collaboration. Mrs. Gloria Bonder, Coordinator of the Global Network on Gender, participated at the Conference as a key-note speaker.

### **36th General Assembly of UNESCO**

With invited delegations from 190 countries and hundreds of NGOs, the 36th General Assembly of UNESCO was held from October 25 to November 10 in Paris.

### **UNESCO/UNITWIN International Seminars and Conferences on Gender:**

International Seminar on Gender, Violence, and Development: The South Asian Experiences

12-13 October, 2011 - New Delhi

Organized by Dept. of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia in collaboration with UNESCO/UNITWIN and Indian Council of Social Science Research

This is the third in a series of UNESCO/UNITWIN international gatherings on gender and development supported by the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network in India; here are the links:

Seminar hosted at JMI: <http://unitwin.blogspot.com/2011/07/international-seminar-and-call-for.html>

Seminar at Punjabi University at Patiala, Punjab: <http://unitwin.blogspot.com/2010/12/international-seminar-on-gender.html>

Conference at Visva-Bharati University in Shantiniketan, West Bengal: <http://unitwin.blogspot.com/2008/12/agenda-from-2008-international.html>

### **Women's History Initiatives on three continents:**

The Women's History Initiative series was launched in a neighbourhood of Boston, Massachusetts to highlight the extraordinary lives, struggles and achievements of Brighton-Allston women spanning three centuries. This initiative was then taken up in Burkina Faso, West Africa, and is now being launched in India. Read more at: <http://unitwin.blogspot.com/2010/01/women-of-vision-published-by-unesco.html> - more and <http://equalityburkina.blogspot.com/2009/11/women-of-vision-burkina-faso.html>

### **Pratichi Trust Website Launch**

In August 2011, The Pratichi Institute of West Bengal, India established and sponsored by the Pratichi (India) Trust, with Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen as its Chairman launched its website. Much of the work of these entities focuses on access of girls and women to education. Read more at:

## RESEARCH NEWS

### Identity of the Project VI.C.T.I.MS (2009-2011) and Main Findings

Elaborating on the background of the effects of violence against women-mothers upon their children if exposed, the project VI.C.T.I.MS (2009-2011, JLS/2008/DAP3/AG/1157) was designed and conducted in four countries with the funding of the European programme DAPHNE III (action grants 2007-2013). The countries participating in this Project were Cyprus (UNESCO chair of the University of Cyprus), Italy (University of Rome Tre), Romania (University of Oradea) and Slovakia (University of Presov).

According to the Project's results, the main findings were: a) Children exposed to violence against their mothers prefer more aggressive reactions in an ordinary situation, while exposed to violence and while witnessing violence. Boys are those who tend to be more aggressive and externalize in a more intense way their feelings of anger, b) Children exposed to violence against their mothers prefer to adopt also more passive behaviors in an ordinary situation and while witnessing violence. Girls are those who tend to be more passive and do not externalize their feelings, c) Children exposed to violence against their mothers tend to have lower levels of self-image. They feel less accepted by peers and less popular among significant others - classmates, friends. Children exposed to violence tend to be also less happy with the way they are leading their lives and d) Children exposed to violence against their mothers tend to believe that they are not so good students. They tend to believe that they have a poor school performance and evaluate themselves as failures.

For more information about the Project, you can visit the website [www.ucy.ac.cy/victims](http://www.ucy.ac.cy/victims).

## LINKS TO PARTNERS

[UNESCO Regional Chair Women, Science and Technology in Latin America](#)

[UNESCO Chair Water, Women and Development, Brazil](#)

[UNESCO Chair Mass Media and Citizen Participation, Chile](#)

[UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Cyprus](#)

[UNESCO Chair in Gender, equity and leadership, México](#)

[UNESCO Chair on Women, Society and Development, Poland](#)

[UNESCO Políticas de Igualdad de Género y de Igualdad de Derechos entre Mujeres y Hombres](#)

[Chaire UNESCO "Femme, Science et Gestion Raisonnée de l'Eau en Afrique de l'Ouest", Togo](#)

[UNESCO Chair in Gender Research](#)

[UNESCO Chair on ICT4D, United Kingdom](#)

[UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture, and Development](#)

[Cultural Resource Conservation Initiative - Interdisciplinary, Community Focused Heritage Conservation](#)

[Boston University's Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program](#)

[UNESCO Chair in Education, United States of America](#)

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