



GENDER-NET Plus
Promoting gender equality in H2020 and the ERA

FINAL DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE

Promoting and implementing the sex and gender dimension into research

Brussels & online
13-14 February 2023



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GENDER-NET PLUS PROJECT

Despite efforts to reduce fragmentation across the European Research Area (ERA), the European scientific system is still facing challenges in achieving gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research and innovation. In this context, and in line with ERA policy goals and national contexts, GENDER-NET Plus ERA-NET Co-fund was launched under Horizon 2020 EU Framework Programme on September 15, 2017 and will run until 2023. <https://gender-net-plus.eu/>

The consortium of 15 committed organisations from 12 countries, including Canada and Israel, aims to promote the integration of sex and gender analysis into research. The 15 project partners have done so by implementing a joint co-funded call for research integrating a gender dimension in addressing urgent societal challenges. This integration gives new knowledge and insights, which ultimately will benefit all genders. 13 research projects in health & medicine, social sciences and humanities have been co-funded in the frame of the GENDER-NET Plus project.

Furthermore, the GENDER-NET Plus consortium aims to strengthen transnational collaborations between research program owners and managers, and provide support to the promotion of gender equality through institutional change. In particular, it contributes to knowledge creation in relation to promoting gender equality in research performing and funding organisations by producing [comparative analytical reports on various topics](#).

Partners:

- The National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) in France - coordinator
- The Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN) of Spain
- The Research Council of Norway (RCN)
- The Swedish Research Council (SRC)
- The Irish Research Council (HEA-IRC)
- The Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
- The Fund for Scientific Research – FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) in Belgium
- The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR)
- The Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology in Israel
- The Estonian Research Council (Eesti Teadusagentuur, ETAg)
- The Italian Ministry of Health (MoH-IT)
- The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) in Canada
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- The French National Research Agency (ANR)
- «La Caixa» Foundation (FBCL) in Spain

PROGRAMME

Monday February 13th

- 12.00-13.00 Welcome - Coffee
- 13.00-13.10 Opening words - **ALAIN MERMET** (Director of the CNRS Brussels Office)

GENDER-NET PLUS CONSORTIUM: RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JOINT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

- 13.10-13.25 **ELISABETH KOHLER** (CNRS' Gender Equality Unit, coordinator of GENDER-NET Plus): *Presentation of the GENDER-NET Plus project and its achievements.*
- 13.25-13.45 **LYDIA GONZÁLEZ ORTA** (Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology – FECYT – Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation – MICINN, GENDER-NET Plus partner): *Integrating the gender dimension in research content: existing national/ regional initiatives, and GENDER-NET Plus monitoring indicators.*
- 13.45-14.05 **INGEBORG W. OWESEN** (Research Council of Norway, RCN – GENDER-NET Plus partner): *Promoting gender equality and structural change: national/regional initiatives and innovative measures.*
- 14.05-14.25 **RICHARD OSTERBERG & KENTH HERMANSSON** (Swedish Research Council, SRC – GENDER-NET Plus partner): *Promoting gender equality in research funding.*
- 14.25-14.40 **CHLOÉ MOUR** (CNRS, coordinator of GENDER-NET Plus) and representatives of the GENDER-NET Plus research projects - **MARJA AARTSEN** (Oslo Metropolitan University); **JOSÉ M. ARMENGOL** (University of Castilla-La Mancha); **SUSAN PHILLIPS** (Queen's University): *Achievements of the GENDER-NET Plus scientific community and next steps.*
- 14.40-15.00 Coffee break

SESSION 1: IMPROVING CARE FOR THE ONES IN CONTEXT OF VULNERABILITY

- 15.00-15.20 **FutureGEN** project “Evolving gender differences in health & care across cohorts” – results presentation
– **SUSAN PHILLIPS**, Queen’s University, Canada
- 15.20-15.40 **GENPATH** project “A life course perspective on the GENDERed PATHways of social exclusion in later life, and its consequences for health and wellbeing” – results presentation
– **MARJA AARTSEN**, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway
- 15.40-16.00 **GenderARP** project “Addiction, Health Risks and Recovery in Context of Social Precarity: How to Better Address Complex Needs Taking into Account Gender and Life Stages” – results presentation
– **KARINE BERTRAND**, Sherbooke University, Canada; **MARIE JAUF-FRET-ROUSTIDE**, Inserm, France; **ANDRÉ LEMAITRE**, Liege University, Belgium; **ABDELHAKIM MISSOUM**, Sherbooke University, Canada
- 16.00-16.20 **RHCforFGC** project “Respective Health Care for women and girls experiencing Female Genital Cutting / Mutilation” – results presentation
– **ARMELLE ANDRO**, Université Paris 1, France; **BIRGITTA ESSÉN**, Uppsala University, Sweden; **SARAH O’NEILL**, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgique; **BILKIS VISSANDJÉE**, Montreal University, Canada
- 16.20-17.00 Session 1 – Q&A with FutureGEN, GENPATH, GenderARP, RHCforFGC representatives
- 17.00-17.15 Coffee break

SESSION 2: BUILDING POLICIES AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- 17.15-17.35 **GBV-MIG** project “Violence against women migrants and refugees: Analyzing causes and effective policy response” – results presentation
– **JANE FREEDMAN**, Paris VIII University, France
- 17.35-17.55 **PositivMasc** project “Masculinities and violence against women among young people- Identifying discourses and developing strategies for change using a mixed method approach” – results presentation
– **MARIANO SALAZAR TORRES**, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

17.55-18.15 Session 2 – Q&A with GBV-MIG, PositivMasc representatives

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18.15-19.00 *Panel discussion about Session 1 and Session 2*

Panelists:

JULIETTE MAURO, President of Femtech France

ANNA-LIISA UIISK, Advisor at the Ministry of Justice of Estonia

SUZANNE WALKER, Senior Executive Officer, Centre of Excellence for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Higher Education Authority (Ireland)

19.00 Cocktail-Dinner

Tuesday February 14th

8.30-9.00 Welcome - Coffee

SESSION 3: UNPACKING THE SEX/GENDER DIMENSION OF HEALTH/MEDICINE

9.00-9.20 **GOING-FWD** project “Gender Outcomes International Group: to Further Well-being Development” – results presentation
– **LOUISE PILOTE**, McGill University, Canada

9.20-9.40 **iKASCADE** project “Identifying Key Prescribing CASCADEs in the Elderly: A Transnational Initiative on Drug Safety” – results presentation - *online*
– **ROBIN MASON**, University of Toronto, Canada; **PAULA ROCHON**, University of Toronto, Canada; **RACHEL SAVAGE**, University of Toronto, Canada

9.40-10.00 **G-DEFINER** project “Gender difference in side effects of immunotherapy: a possible clue to optimize cancer treatment” – results presentation
– **ROSALBA MICELI**, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Italy

10.00-10.15 Coffee break

- 10.15-10.35 **TIGER** project “The combined role of genetic and environmental risk factors in the gender-specific development of severe tinnitus”
– results presentation
– **CHRISTOPHER CEDERROTH**, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
- 10.35-11.15 Session 3 – Q&A with GOING-FWD, iKASCADE, G-DEFINER, TIGER representatives
- 11.15-12.00 *Panel discussion about Session 3*
- Panelists:
- MAREN JOCHIMSEN**, Executive Committee Member European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS, Managing Director Essen College of Gender Research University of Duisburg-Essen, Co-founder Network Caring Economy
- DR. ANGELA KAIDA**, Scientific Director of the Institute of Gender and Health, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- INEKE KLINGE**, President of the Dutch Society of Gender and Health, Rapporteur H2020 Gendered Innovations 2nd edition at European Commission DG Research& Innovation.
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- SESSION 4: ADDRESSING GENDER ROLES**
- 13.00-13.20 **MASCAGE** project “Gendering Age: Representations of Masculinities and Ageing in Contemporary European Literatures and Cinemas” – results presentation
– **JOSÉ M. ARMENGOL**, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain
- 13.20-13.40 **SEQUAL** project “Social-ecological relations and gender equality: Dynamics and processes for transformational change across scales” – results presentation
– **GRACE WONG**, Stockholm University, Sweden
- 13.40-14.00 **GENRE** project “Overcoming the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Gender Divide: A Cross-Cultural Perspective » – results presentation
– **MAURA MCADAM**, Dublin City University, Ireland
- 14.00-14.30 Session 4 – Q&A with MASCAGE, SEQUAL, GENRE representatives

14.30-14.45 Coffee break

14.45-15.30 *Closing panel discussion*

Panelists:

CECILIA CABELLO, Director of European Policies at the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology

PATRICK FLANDRIN, French Academy of Sciences, Senior CNRS Researcher, ENS-Lyon.

DR. KAREN N. SALT, Deputy Director, R&I System Diversity and Security, UK Research & Innovation

GRÁINNE WALSH, Assistant Director, Partnerships and Impact, HEA-IRC (Irish Research Council)

15.30-15.40 Closing words - **MATHIEU ARBOGAST** (CNRS' Gender Equality Unit)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

FutureGEN

Evolving gender differences in health & care across cohorts

> Gender, Economics, Sociology, Medicine, Health Research

Overview

FutureGEN aims to build evidence on how entwined gender inequalities in health and care-giving/receiving evolve across generations in connection with cultural and social contexts and individual realities, and how identified sex/gender inequalities may evolve in the future. In particular, the main expected results will consist of:

- A scoping review of evidence on the social determinants that contribute to gender differences in health and functioning in old-age.
- A systematic review of methods used to study intersectionality in inequalities in health.
- Cohort trajectories of disability in old-age across regions and a decomposition of their determinants.
- Analysis of the effects of transitions into widowhood on use of different forms of care.
- Cohort trajectories of caregiving and care receiving across several European countries, as well as an analysis of its determinants.
- Qualitative study (semi-structured interviews) on the views of older-people across the three sites (Austria, Canada and Sweden) on the resources necessary to age well.
- A future-looking exercise on the evolution of the determinants of disability and caregiving/care receiving in the future cohorts of older people.
- Analysis of potential bias in the reporting of measures of informal caregiving used in comparative surveys

Institutions involved

European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Austria)
Queen's University (Canada)
Karolinska Institutet (Sweden)

Website: <https://futuregen.euro.centre.org/>

GBV-MIG

Violence against women migrants and refugees: Analyzing causes and effective policy response

> Sociology, Law, Political Science, Psychology

Overview

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a major infringement of women's human rights and an obstacle to sustainable development as set out in the SDGs. SGBV against migrant and refugee women is widespread, but often remains invisible and under-analysed both in academic research and policy-making. This research will take an intersectional approach to understand SGBV in the context of migration, analysing the ways in which discriminations and inequalities based on gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and age, interact to make certain women more vulnerable to SGBV and less able to access support and services for survivors than others. SGBV may be exacerbated by policies aiming to restrict migration, or to increase control of borders, which can push women into adopting dangerous routes to arrive in their country of destination. Conflict and the risks of migration may also render women vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation. Conditions of reception, and policies for integration in receiving countries may also lead to increased risk of SGBV for migrant and refugee women. But these women are not just "victims", and their strategies and agency should also be explored. In sum, while we know that female migrants and refugees are particularly exposed to violence, we lack a systematic understanding of the underlying dynamics that (re)produce patterns of violence. It is this gap that the research seeks to fill in order to make policy recommendations for reducing these women's vulnerability to SGBV and increasing their access to services.

Institutions involved

Université Paris 8, CRESPPA-GTM (France)

National University of Ireland, Galway (Ireland)

University of Vienna (Austria)

Saint Mary's University (Canada)

Norwegian Center for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies, University of Oslo (Norway)

Oriental Institute, Czech Academy of Science (Czech Republic)

Bar Ilan University (Israël)

Website: <https://gbvmigration.cnrs.fr/>

G-DEFINER

Gender difference in side effects of immunotherapy: a possible clue to optimise cancer treatment

> Clinical Oncology, Biology, Biostatistics, Bioinformatics

Overview

In patients who are suffering from cancer, the increasing use of immunotherapeutic treatments is associated with immune-related adverse events (irAEs), which are caused by non-specific activation of the immune system. Sex influences a patient's adaptive immunity, and may influence the type of irAE, as well the frequency and severity of these events. Together with genetic and biological differences, the roots of irAE inequalities between female and male patients could also be linked to psycho-social and behavioural determinants. The G-DEFINER study examines the interdependent dimensions of gender and explores psychosocial and behavioural determinants, such as: marital status, ethnicity, employment status, level of education, living arrangement, income, smoking, alcohol consumption, levels of physical activity, obesity and dietary habits. Further the G-DEFINER study also aims to determine how distress and health status can play a role in irAE events. Lastly the study is collecting biological biospecimens from patients in order to study gene-expression, genetic variations and the patient's microbiome as predictors of irAEs.

Institutions involved

Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milan (Italy)

Dept of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet, Karolinska University Hospital, (Sweden)

Dublin City University, Dublin -St Vincent's University Hospital (Ireland)

Oslo University Hospital – The Radium Hospital (Norway)

Website: <https://gdefiner.net/>

GENDER-ARP

Addiction, health risks and recovery in context of social precarity: how to better address complex needs taking into account gender and life stages

> Community Health, Public Health, Psychology, Sociology

Overview

Numerous studies show the need to design interventions for psychoactive substance (PS) users, not only from a biomedical angle, but also to act upon the different types of vulnerabilities users face. The general aim of this transnational Canadian, French and Belgian study is to better understand how gender and life stages influence addiction, health risks, and recovery trajectories – in order to guide the development of integrated services that address complex social and health care needs. The three specific objectives of the project take into account gender and life stages issues in order to: 1) identify specific vulnerabilities and capacities in people with SUD who faced with an accumulation of problems over a lifelong trajectory of PS use and related risk behaviors; 2) understand long-term service and recovery trajectories related to PS use and health risks within this population; and 3) guide the development of long-term integrated services that better address the complex social and health needs of this population. GENDER-ARP proposes to combine the following methods: semi-structured interviews on PS use, healthrisk and recovery trajectories; a systematic literature review about best practices for gender-responsive addiction and harm reduction long-term integrated services; and consensus development conferences with expert panels. This transnational study will develop contextualised knowledge that can enhance gender-responsive services taking into account life stages, locally and internationally, adapted to the complex care and social needs of specific vulnerable populations.

Institutions involved

Université de Sherbrooke (Canada)

National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM) (France)

Université de Liège (Belgium)

Website: <https://www.gender-arp.com/>

GENPATH

A life course perspective on the GENdered PATHways of social exclusion in later life, and its consequences for health and well-being

> Sociology, Social Gerontology, Social Policy, Gender Studies

Overview

Social exclusion is a multifaceted social problem with substantial disruptive consequences for individuals and society. One aspect of social exclusion is the exclusion

from social relations. Being socially connected is a universal basic human need, but a substantial number of people lack the essential social resources necessary for a healthy and happy life. GENPATH focusses on post-retirement age; a life phase where social inclusion becomes a crucial factor for health and wellbeing. Men and in particular women have an increased risk to be socially excluded after retirement. Women are more often frail, more often widowed, have lower levels of education, have more often disrupted working careers, lower pensions, and less economic resources. The large variation in social exclusion and the varying impact of gender across welfare states indicates a key role of the macro-social context. However, little is known about how precise the welfare state context influences the construction and outcomes of social exclusion. The project aims at analysing the origin of gender differences in the prevalence and generation of exclusion from social relations across European countries, and consequences of this exclusion for health and wellbeing. Findings will inform the scientific debate about gender differences in social exclusion and instruct policies towards a reduction in social exclusion among older men and women.

Institutions involved

UNIVIE, Dep. of Sociology, University of Vienna (Austria)

MUNI, Office for Population Study; Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University (Czech Republic)

Život90/Life 90 (Czech Republic)

NUIG, Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, Institute for Lifecourse and Society, National University of Ireland, Galway (Ireland)

HU, Haifa University (Israel)

NOVA, Norwegian Social Research, OsloMet - Oslo Metropolitan University (Norway)

UB, Dep. of Cognition, Developmental and Educational Psychology, University of Barcelona (Spain)

LiU, Dep. of Social and Welfare Studies, Division Ageing and Social Change, Linköping University (Sweden)

Website: <https://www.muni.cz/en/research/projects/45267>

GENRE

Overcoming the entrepreneurial ecosystem gender divide: a cross-cultural perspective

> Entrepreneurship, Gender, Innovation, Technology

Overview

Women are underrepresented in successful entrepreneurial ecosystems and a persistent gender bias continues to exist in entrepreneurship discourse and practice. GENRE aims to address this, by providing a nuanced understanding of how gender is a decisive factor, i.e. how women and men are influenced by and, in turn, influence entrepreneurial ecosystems differently. In other words, our objective is to investigate the extent to which entrepreneurship ecosystems support or hinder women's technology entrepreneurship. In order to achieve this, we focus on a specific facet of gender in entrepreneurship: namely women's technology entrepreneurship and how this relates to accepted femininity and masculinity norms in different contexts. GENRE will focus on the cultural embeddedness and interactions of gender, technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation ecosystems. Our comparison between Ireland, Sweden, Norway, and Israel will help to explain variations and similarities with regard to gender in technology entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem frameworks. The findings generated will inform policy development aimed at inclusivity and sustainability, thus benefiting both women and men.

Institutions involved

Dublin City University (Ireland)

Nord University Business School (Norway)

Center for Gender Studies, Karlstad University (Sweden)

Kinneret Academic College (Israel)

Website: <https://gender-net-plus.eu/genre/>

GOING-FWD

Gender Outcomes INternational Group: to Further Well-being Development

> e-Health and m-Health Gender Applications

Overview

Beyond biological sex, gender is increasingly recognised as a pivotal determinant of health. However, there are no standardised gender measurements. We hypothesise that gender-related factors and their effect will vary substantially between countries and diseases. The aims of GOING-FWD are to integrate sex and gender dimensions in applied health research, to evaluate their impact on clinical cost-sensitive outcomes and patient reported outcomes related to quality of life in noncommunicable di-

seases including cardiovascular disease, metabolic disease, chronic kidney disease and neurological disease. We also aim to construct innovative ways to disseminate the application of gender measurement towards personalised approaches to chronic disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment. As a five-country multidisciplinary Consortium with access to granular large databases, GOING-FWD is uniquely positioned to harness an innovative methodology that will provide a framework to close gender gaps in chronic disease management and promote knowledge transfer in the scientific community and clinical practice.

Institutions involved

Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (Canada)
Medical University of Vienna (Austria)
Karolinska Institutet (Sweden)
Universidad de Murcia (Spain)
University of Alberta (Canada)
Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)

Website: <https://www.muni.cz/en/research/projects/45267>

IKASCADE

Identifying Key prescribing CASCADEs in the Elderly: a transnational initiative on drug safety

> Geriatrics, Pharmacy, Psychology, Epidemiology, Orthopedics

Overview

iKASCADE, a project about prescribing cascades, addresses an important and under-researched aspect of this iatrogenic medication harm. Prescribing cascades occur when a health care provider misinterprets the side effect of a drug as a new medical condition and prescribes a second, potentially unnecessary drug to treat the side effect. Since women live longer than men, they are more likely to be prescribed potentially inappropriate drug therapies and experience more drug-related adverse events. It is hypothesised that prescribing cascades have different effects according to sex and gender. Our objectives are to use the expertise of our international consortium and international prescribing cascade data to: 1) Create a comprehensive inventory of prescribing cascades; 2) examine and compare the frequency of prescribing cascades by sex and country in three key settings of care (hospital, long-term care home, and community) using clinical and administrative data; and 3) explore how sex and gender are associated with the development and impact of prescribing cascades.

Institutions involved

Women's College Hospital, University of Toronto (Canada)
University College Cork (Ireland)
Istituto nazionale di ricovero e cura dell'anziano (Italy)
Clalit Research Institute (Israel)
University of Massachusetts (United States)
University of Bologna (Italy), University of Sacro Cuore (Italy)
University of Gent (Belgium).

Website: <https://www.womensresearch.ca/aging/#tab-1>

MASCAGE

Gendering age: representations of masculinities and ageing in contemporary European literatures and cinemas

> Humanities, Social Sciences

Overview

The primary objective of MASCAGE is to analyse social constructions of ageing masculinities and/through their cultural representations in contemporary European literatures and cinemas. MASCAGE specifically seeks: (a) to understand more fully the interrelationship of masculinities with a variety of social issues specifically associated with men's ageing: older men's health; social inclusion and exclusion; sexualities and affective relationships; and ageist stereotypes; (b) to explore men's experiences of, and attitudes to, ageing across different European cultures, exploring their commonalities and differences, at both national and transnational levels; (c) to gain a deeper understanding of ageing masculinities in and through cultural representations; and (d) to share the results of this project with other researchers, practitioners and policy-makers to help them devise strategies and policies designed to promote greater gender and age equity.

Institutions involved

Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha (Spain)
University of Graz (Austria)
Södertörn University (Sweden)
Tallinn University (Estonia)
University of Galway (Ireland)
Bar-Ilan University (Israel)

Website: <https://www.masstage.eu/>

POSITIVMASC

Masculinities and violence against women among young people- Identifying discourses and developing strategies for change using a mixed method approach

> Public health, Sociology, Epidemiology

Overview

The aims of POSITIVMASC are four-fold: 1) To explore and position the discourses that young people (men and women, 18-24 years) in Sweden, Spain, Ireland and Israel use in their understanding of masculinities, 2) to explore how these discourses influence young people's attitudes, behaviors and responses to violence against women (VAW), (3) to explore individual and societal factors supporting and promoting anti-VAW masculinities discourses and 4) to develop strategies and resources to support and promote anti-VAW masculinities in these settings. POSITIVMASC will achieve these aims by conducting innovative, participatory research using a multi-country, mixed methods approach. In the first phase, data will be gathered using semi-structured interviews and focus groups discussions (FGDs). In this phase, we aim to identify the discourses that young people use to conceptualize masculinities and VAW. Phase two will consist of a concept mapping study that will quantify the coherence, patterns of priorities and perceived relationship between the different strategies/actions for supporting and promoting anti-VAW masculinities identified in phase one. Phase 3 will involve the dissemination of our results with national and international stakeholders and the development of resources to promote and support anti-VAW masculinities. Engaging participants in the design and findings of the study, through interactive workshops, a young people's advisory group, community partners' advisory group, the project will develop a road map containing key strategies to reduce VAW, including the promotion of anti-VAW masculinities. Building on an inter-disciplinary team, drawn from public health, social science and law, the project will provide an evidence-base for the design and implementation of gendersensitive policies aimed at challenging and reducing VAW and patriarchy.

Institutions involved

Karolinska Institutet (Sweden)
Ben-Gurion University (Israel)
University of Alicante (Spain)
University College Cork (Ireland)

Website: <https://positivmasc.ki.se/>

RHCFORFGC

Sharing actions and strategies for Respectful and equitable Health Care for women with FGC/M.

> Public Health, Primary Care, Health Sociology

Overview

Equitable and gender-sensitive health care to women and girls with or at risk of FGC is a challenge, specifically in accessing health resources that meet their needs, which can be complex. The objectives of the consortium are as follows: 1. To gather knowledge, attitudes and practices of healthcare professionals towards FGC; 2. To identify the extent to which healthcare provider training packages incorporate the voices of women who have been subject to FGC for efficient, culturally safe and gender sensitive training tools; 3. To contrast predictive models of risk estimates across partner countries; 4. To gain better understanding of the best practices regarding policy implementations and legal frameworks with regards to the prevention of FGC; 5. To develop and pilot-test an informative video on defibulation for and by women themselves in accessible languages.

Institutions involved

Université de Montréal (Canada)

Université Paris 1 (France)

Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgique)

Uppsala University (Sweden)

Geneva University (Switzerland)

Website: <https://gender-net-plus.eu/rhcforgc/>

SEQUAL

Social-ecological relations and gender equality: dynamics and processes for transformational change across scales

> Gender Studies, Critical Policy Analysis, Natural Resource Management, Pastoralism, Forest Governance, Sustainability Science, Feminist Studies

Overview

SEQUAL is a multi-country collaborative project of research organizations in Sweden, Norway, Spain and Finland. SEQUAL aims to carry out research on the intersections and interdependencies between climate change, natural resource governance and gender, focusing on discursive analyses of policies in the Global North (Sweden, Spain, Norway) and South (Burkina Faso), and place-based case studies in Norway, Spain and Burkina Faso. The objectives of SEQUAL are to:

- Contribute to better understanding of how gender is framed and addressed within climate change and natural resource policies at different policy levels, and identify potential factors that can promote or hinder transformational change.
- Further our understanding of gender and power relations under changing environmental conditions within case studies of natural resource management at the local level.
- Provide critical analyses of the gaps and linkages between international and national gender and climate policies on the one hand, and local everyday gendered practices on the other hand.

Institutions involved

Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), Stockholm University (Sweden)

Nordland Research Institute (NRI) (Norway)

University of Vic-Central University of Catalonia (UVic) (Spain)

University of Helsinki (Finland)

Website: <https://mon.uvic.cat/sequal/>

TIGER

The combined role of genetic and environmental risk factors in the gender-specific development of severe tinnitus

> Audiology, Genetics, Epidemiology, Statistics

Overview

Tinnitus is the most frequent phantom sensation, affecting 70 million individuals in Europe. It dramatically increases with age, with near 40% of the elderly experiencing tinnitus. It can be severely debilitating, increasing the risk for sick leave, disability pension and even suicide. While prevalence is higher in men, women show greater psychological burden and loss of life quality, suggesting that different coping mechanisms operate in the two genders. From a genetic perspective, we recently found that specific forms of tinnitus displayed significant heritability in men, albeit when segregated.

gated according to age, young women showed such high genetic influences. On this basis, TIGER aims to provide three major insights needed for long-lasting prevention and therapy for tinnitus through the principal goals:

- The identification of environmental risk factors to define non-genetic risks of developing severe tinnitus.
- The identification of novel genetic and blood biomarkers.

The insights from the two first aims will be used to:

- Stratify disease risk and elaborate preventive medical recommendations for high-risk subgroups of tinnitus patients and to define molecular drivers/biological pathways relevant for the development of severe tinnitus that will be used to identify and validate new therapeutic targets.

We use epidemiological lifestyle, nutritional, and medical analytical data from large Swedish longitudinal and Italian retrospective studies, and molecular genetics, coupled to in-depth tinnitus phenotyping beyond current clinical practice.

Institutions involved

Karolinska Institutet (Sweden)

University of Bergen (Norway)

Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche “Mario Negri” (Italy)

Instituto de Investigación Biosanitaria de Granada (ibs.GRANADA)-Fundación FIBAO (Spain)

Website: <https://tiger.tinnitusresearch.net/>

