

## EDGES Conference

### *The politics of gendered difference, civil rights and the workplace*

Friday January 23, 2015

9.30 - 18.00 hrs

Utrecht University

Registration: [genderstudies@uu.nl](mailto:genderstudies@uu.nl)

EDGES is a Lifelong Learning Programme Project that involves eight academic and non-academic European institutions with a longstanding collaboration and expertise in Women's and Gender Studies. EDGES aims to shape and develop a model for a European PhD in Women's and Gender Studies. EDGES will trigger an interdisciplinary and intercultural approach to highlight crucial issues such as women's migration, violence on and exploitation of women's body, traumatic experiences in recent conflict areas, cultural and counter-memories, equal opportunities in education, careers and job market, discrimination in sexual orientation, civil rights and religious prejudices. EDGES will favour a vital change in the preparation of the next generation of academic, business, public and third sector European leaders.

The Graduate Gender Programme of Utrecht University is leader of the workpackage that designs and develops the international doctoral curriculum on Women's and Gender Studies. It makes use of Tuning Gender Studies Brochure as published by ATHENA/ATGENDER.

More information: <http://www.edgesproject.eu/>

In the morning (9.30 – 11.45 hrs) **Professor Susan Stanford Friedman** (University of Wisconsin-Madison) will give a **Doing Gender Lecture** on *'Religion, Secularism, and Migration in the Post 9/11 World: Feminist Intersectionality'*. Responses by Professor Rosemarie Buikema and Dr. Marta Zarzycka (both UU). Background reading is available at [genderstudies@uu.nl](mailto:genderstudies@uu.nl)

This lecture will be followed by a talk of Professor Sandra Fredman (University of Oxford) on *'Pregnancy and Parenting: Bringing Men into the frame'*.

In the afternoon (14.15 – 18.00 hrs) there will be short presentations of international **Stakeholders and a Round Table** that aims at the development of collaboration with non-academic institutions and international stakeholders with the objective of establishing a network which should consolidate previous collaborations and partnerships with public and private associations, organizations and foundations. The Round Table will be organized by means of short presentations and a set of preset questions. Those questions will concern the kind of academic and professional training in the Higher Education they would either encourage us to develop within the EDGES-consortium or to which they would be able to contribute.

**Attendance of the day is free of charge, but registration is compulsory: [genderstudies@uu.nl](mailto:genderstudies@uu.nl)**

## **PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME**

09.30 – 10.00 hrs: Welcome and coffee

10.00 – 10.30 hrs: Short introductions: aims of the day (Rosemarie Buikema, Utrecht University); aims of EDGES (Lilla Crisafulli, Bologna University); aims of GRACE (James Turner, Hull University); short introduction of GEMMA consortium (Adelina Sanchez, Granada University).

10.30 – 11.15 hrs: Opening talk by EDGES evaluator and cultural critic Susan Stanford Friedman (University of Wisconsin-Madison): *'Religion, Secularism, Migration in the Post 9/11 World: Feminist Intersectionality'*

11.15 – 11.45 hrs: Responses by Rosemarie Buikema and Marta Zarzycka (both UU) and Questions

11.45 – 12.15 hrs: Break

12.15 – 13.00 hrs: Sandra Fredman (University of Oxford): *'Pregnancy and Parenting: Bringing Men into the frame'*

13.00 – 14.15 hrs: Lunch

14.15 – 15.30 hrs: Introductory talks by gender experts and stakeholders, Q and A:

- From Orlando: Roberta Mori (President of the Commission on Gender Equality of the Emilia-Romagna region): *'The Gender mainstreaming in public policies for equality and development'*
- From Utrecht: Marjolein van den Brink/Christine Quinan (Law/Humanities Faculty, Utrecht University)
- From Bologna: Rita Finzi (Vice President, Lega Coop Bologna, President, Committee of Equal Opportunity, Bologna, Director of Construction Cooperatives Consortium, Bologna): *'Women's status and prospectives in Cooperatives in Emilia Romagna'*
- From Lodz: Kaja Zapędowska-Kling (Conducts gender training courses for third parties, NGOs and the private sector)
- From CEU: Zsofia Lorand (NANE, organization dealing with violence against women)

15.30 – 16.00 hrs: Tea break

16.00 – 18.00 hrs: Round Table\* chaired by Berteke Waaldijk (Utrecht University) with gender experts and stakeholders (all 7 speakers from above + Simona Lembi (President of the Municipal Council of Bologna), Susanna Zucchelli (Manager of Customer Technical Services and Diversity Manager, Hera Group), Ankica Cakardic (Women's Studies Center Zagreb), Susanne Burri (Law Faculty, Utrecht University), Kirsten van den Hull (The Change Agent, The Netherlands), Maayke Botman (Oranjefonds, The Netherlands).

### **\* Questions for the Round Table:**

#### **1. What do prospective employers and societal stakeholders expect from graduates with advanced academic expertise in Gender Studies?**

In a job market based on generic skills and competencies (communication, collaboration, creative & innovative, problem solving, analytical ) what are the specific competencies acquired in advanced Gender Studies academic training? What have gender experts to offer? Is it their expertise in collecting information about women's social position? Their ability to address intersections of gender, race, class? Is it their knowledge about women's movements? Is it their expertise in the connection between personal, social and symbolic constructions of gender?

**2. How does academic training in feminist theory and in feminist methodology translate into the requirements of professional fields of policy making, activism, cultural institutions and NGO's?**

All academic programmes training for research in Gender studies require a focus on theory and on methodology. Can you give from your experience as a stakeholder in your professional context of policy making, cultural practices, activist and/or (trans-)national NGO's examples how such training can contribute to the quality of you or your collaborators?

**3. What is the role of Gender expertise in a societal context where exclusion and marginalization are increasingly addressed in general terms, such as 'diversity', 'equality' and 'non-discrimination'?**

In some areas feminist interventions have been successful in making gender equality a topic for national and transnational (EU) policies. However gender is not the only axis of exclusion, and in many policy documents exclusion based on gender, race, sexual orientation, age, health, class and others are subsumed under 'diversity'. How do you, as a stakeholder with an interest in gender address this change? Is the contribution of gender studies to this widening of the field important, how do you make gender visible? How do you in your organization deal with the call for more inclusive approaches?

During the conference all attendants will be invited to fill in a questionnaire about competencies for gender studies graduates. This questionnaire asks them to revisit the list prepared by the European Gender Studies network ATHENA & ATGENDER in 2010: See for a full report:

<http://www.atgender.eu/index.php/initiativesmenu/tuningbrochure>

*This EU LLP EDGES conference is jointly organized with:*

*CCHR, Utrecht University: The research focus area Cultures, Citizenship and Human Rights (Utrecht University) analyses the convergence and tensions between the cultural and legal foundations of European citizenship. The aim is to offer insight into a society's level of social cohesion and ability to adapt. CCHR is unique in terms of its interdisciplinary and largely qualitative approach.*

*NOG, Utrecht University: The Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies (NOG) at Utrecht University provides a platform for gender sensitive and postcolonial research. Since 1995, the NOG has offered a highly successful training programme and research environment for postgraduate students, PhD students and senior researchers. The NOG teaching and research staff consists of an international team of professors and senior lecturers from various universities.*

*Institutions, Utrecht University: The strength of societies is to a large extent determined by the quality of their institutions, which are the formal and informal frameworks for human interaction. These institutions – laws, customs, networks, organisations, etc. – enable or constrain the realisation of an open, democratic and equitable society. They also determine a society's ability to absorb shocks and its sustainability. At Utrecht University, scholars from the fields of economics, history, public administration, culture, law, sociology, social psychology, ethics, innovation studies, and geography join forces to find answers to the following key questions: Why do societies develop so divergently? And how do institutions contribute to the formation of open and sustainable societies?*

*The research theme 'Institutions for Equality, Inclusiveness and Social Mobility' focuses on equal opportunities for people in our society: how to achieve a broad distribution of political and economic resources, avoid inequality and related tensions, ensure equal educational, wage-earning, cultural and jurisdictional opportunities. To what extent does the organization of the labour market, facing demographic transitions, allow for social mobility and cohesion? The relevant institutions to a large extent determine the agency of people at the individual level and the inclusiveness of societies at the macro level.*

*Participation is free for all EDGES, GEMMA, NOG, CCHR and Institutions members, but registration is compulsory: [genderstudies@uu.nl](mailto:genderstudies@uu.nl)*