

ATGENDER Board Members' report April 2017 – September 2018

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Introduction

The **ATGENDER** Board members' report serves the purpose of providing information about the activities of the organization during the last year. The report is in accordance with our mission to constitute a permanent structure that consolidates and expands established connections between academic educators, researchers, employers of Gender Studies graduates and to connect them with policy-oriented institutions, libraries, information centers and other organizations that work on gender equality in Europe.

Background

ATGENDER: The European association for gender research, education and documentation was established on September 30, 2009. **ATGENDER** brought together the three earlier main organizations in the field of women's and gender studies, feminist research, education and documentation in Europe: AOIFE, ATHENA and Wise. **ATGENDER's** main purpose is to:

- provide a professional association for academics in the interdisciplinary field of women's and gender studies, feminist research and professionals that promote women's rights, gender equality and diversity in Europe;
- advance and disseminate the knowledge and experience from the above-mentioned groups;
- support and sustain the institutionalization of women's, gender and feminist studies;
- support the development of education and training programs in women's and gender studies, feminist research, women's rights, gender equality, and diversity.

Organization

Board Members

The current **ATGENDER** Board consists of eleven members. Two members (Sara de Jong and Giovanna Vingelli) were re-elected at the 2017 General Assembly, and five more (Stefanie Boulila, Katarina Lončarević, Sabrina Marchetti, Aggeliki Sifaki, Sibel Yardimci) were elected in April 2017 at the 2017 General Assembly.

Current Board Members include:

- Stefanie Boulila, Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Göttingen, Germany
- Sara de Jong, Research Fellow at the Open University (till August 2018), Lecturer, University of York (from September 2018), United Kingdom
- Edyta Just, Associate Professor at Linköping University, Sweden

- Kateřina Kolářová, Assistant Professor at Charles University Prague, Czech Republic
- Katarina Lončarević, Assistant Professor at the University of Belgrade, Serbia
- Sabrina Marchetti, Associate Professor at Ca'Foscari University of Venice, Italy
- Christine Quinan, Assistant Professor at Utrecht University, the Netherlands
- Marianne Schmidbaur, Scientific Coordinator at Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany
- Aggeliki Sifaki, Affiliate of Graduate Gender Programme at Utrecht University, the Netherlands
- Giovanna Vingelli, Assistant Professor at the University of Calabria, Italy
- Sibel Yardimci, Professor at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul, Turkey

The Board is managed by two chairs (Sara de Jong and Giovanna Vingelli), and has appointed two co-treasurers (Christine Quinan and Marianne Schmidbaur) and two co-secretaries (Kateřina Kolářová and Christine Quinan). The Board currently functions in working groups that are listed in Annex 1. It meets bi-monthly via Skype and in person during the annual conference, or at other events. In 2017, the Board met in person both during the Spring conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, and in Vienna, Austria on October 28 during the meeting of the 2018 EFRC conference organization session. In 2018, the Board meets in person on September 12 and September 15, the first and last days of the EFRC conference in Göttingen, Germany.

The Central Office

The Central Office is the visible contact point of the association and carries out Board decisions and other tasks delegated to it by the Board. Delegated tasks may include tasks of the Secretaries and the Treasurers. The Board supervises and is responsible for the activities of the Central Office. The Office is a precondition for further growth of membership and activities. It is run by one employee (Office Manager, Adriano José Habed, who has held the position since November 2015), who contributes 8 hours/week, with the help of one to three office interns.

Under the responsibility of the Board, the Central Office carries out the following tasks:

- Organization of meetings of the Board and of the General Assembly
- Coordination and facilitation of Board activities and decisions
- Management of Membership and maintenance of membership database
- Maintenance of the financial sheet, recording of transactions
- Supervision of intern(s)
- Coordination of the organization of the annual **ATGENDER** Conference
- Production and dissemination of information materials (newsletter, website, social media)
- Promotion and representation of the association at important meetings and activities.

The **ATGENDER** office is based at the Faculty of Humanities, Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

In the period from May 2017 to September 2018, **ATGENDER** has continued to carry out activities facilitating good communication between the secretariat and the Board, as well as between the secretariat and **ATGENDER** members.

- **ATGENDER** maintained the number of internships affiliated to the **ATGENDER** office and working in close contact with the Board (Melanie Valanzuolo, Jorge Cidraque, Jess Cheung, Orsolya Lehotai, Gisela Souza Castro, Sierra Kane). Providing internships is one of **ATGENDER**'s goals and this recruitment process has made it possible for students from outside the Netherlands to work for **ATGENDER**.
- **ATGENDER** has maintained a Listserv since 2015. The **Listserv** allows **ATGENDER** to share information about conferences, workshops, funding, jobs, political actions, and publications related Women's, Gender, Transgender, Sexuality, and Queer studies, feminist research, women's, sexual and LGBTQI rights, equality, and diversity. As of August 2018, the Listserv has 1202 subscribers.
- In addition to the website and Listserv, **ATGENDER**'s Mailchimp mailing list continues to function on a bi-weekly basis (around 2200 subscribers). A newsletter dedicated for members only is also circulated, with relevant membership information and news. Finally, **ATGENDER** has a consistent social media presence, both on Facebook (3450 "likes" to the page) and on Twitter (924 followers). **ATGENDER** news regularly features newsfeed and external platforms, such as the Feminist and Women's Studies Association (FWSA) UK newsletter.

General Assembly

The General Assembly will be held on September 14, 2018, at Göttingen University (Germany) from 17:00 to 18:30 during the 2018 EFRC (European Feminist Research Conference).

Activities April 2017 – September 2018

During this time frame, **ATGENDER** has been involved in a wide variety of activities, encompassing participation, publication and policy-oriented work that provides visibility of the organization among the European gender academic community and also on the EU level. From April 2017 to September 2018, **ATGENDER** has:

- Articulated and published on the website a new vision statement for the association, describing the desired change resulting from its activities.
- Maintained communication with members, friends and followers through our mailing lists on Listserv and Mailchimp, our Facebook page, and our Twitter account. As for Mailchimp, we produced and distributed 27 newsletter updates for subscribers and 2 newsletters for members. Both mailing lists have been updated in order to comply with the new EU regulation on data protection.
- Partnered with the German Gender Studies Association to co-organize the 10th European Feminist Research Conference titled “Difference, Diversity, Diffraction: Confronting Hegemonies and Disposessions” (September 12-15, 2018; Göttingen, Germany). The work of the conference organizers has resulted in a substantial grant awarded jointly by the German government and the local government of Lower Saxony. This grant has fully funded the conferences and thus enabled both organizations to waive the conference fees and made the conference more accessible. The conference program includes—for instance—four keynote lectures, presentations of 16 invited roundtable speakers, 11 parallel streams, numerous workshops, open fora, book launches, and many other events. Approximately 1.000 participants have registered for the conference.
- Offered approximately 30 grants for students, junior and/or precarious faculty and unemployed members to attend the EFRC Conference in Göttingen and present their research in front of an international audience. Because of the number of grant requests received and the high quality of abstracts, ATGENDER ran a crowdfunding campaign on Ulule (<https://www.ulule.com/feminist-travel-grants/>) to increase the funding for travel grants. The campaign managed to collect € 1.041 by August 19, 2018.
- Developed an Early Career Scholars initiative. The members of this work group prepared a survey about the situation of Early Career Scholars in Gender Studies. With this survey **ATGENDER** hopes to gain insight into the challenges faced by young scholars in Women’s and Gender Studies in order to find ways of supporting and helping emerging scholars in the field. A total of 228 responses have been gathered. **ATGENDER** intern Orsolya Lehotai analyzed

the survey and prepared the report, which was finalized by **ATGENDER** intern Jess Cheung. This will be presented during a workshop at 10th EFRC in Göttingen.

- Supported the G_Grant application (H2020-SwafS-2018-1), as submitted by the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) (coordinating institution).
- Joined the “Perilous knowledge: Gender & Sexuality at risk in Europe” initiative developed by French gender studies scholar Eric Fassin to monitor attacks on gender and sexuality academics. An initial meeting was held in Brussels on June 4, 2018, hosted by Cristian Norocel and David Patternotte at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.
- Finalised the publication of the 14th volume of the **ATGENDER** Teaching with Gender book series titled “Decolonization and Feminisms in Global Teaching and Learning” (eds. Sara de Jong, Rozalba Icaza and Olivia U. Rutazibwa). It is inspired by decolonial and feminist thought, and aims to provide resources for teachers and learners, seeking to create liberating spaces in universities and beyond, through a critical evaluation of knowledge production. The book will be launched during the 10th EFRC in Göttingen (12-15 September 2015). This volume is the second published in partnership with Routledge.
- **ATGENDER** has begun negotiations with Routledge for the Teaching with Gender Series contract renewal. We attempt to make sure that the future volumes will be accessible to readers with disabilities.
- As a result of this continuing partnership with Routledge, we now can extend a number of benefits for **ATGENDER** members provided by the publisher. These benefits include, for instance 20% discount across the whole Routledge Gender Studies books, free access to thematic chapter sampler, 14-days free access to over 2,500 journals, Prize Draw for £150 worth of Routledge books and more.
- An open call for proposals for the upcoming volumes of the Teaching with Gender series has been circulated. Submissions are welcome in the fields of intersectional women’s, transgender, queer and sexuality studies. We are inviting proposals concerned with the intersectional nature of marginalization; including theoretical debates, qualitative and quantitative researches and teaching practices across international settings. Submission is open to all with priority given to **ATGENDER** members (deadline September 30, 2018).
- The Teaching with Gender series was also promoted during the Gender and Education Conference, which was organized by Sabancı University Gender and Women's Studies Center of Excellence in Istanbul, Turkey (May 11-13, 2018).
- Maintained strategic partnerships with other European Gender Studies, Research organizations and European institutions

- (amongst others EIGE, WINE, ALLEA).
- Attended international conferences to promote **ATGENDER**, in particular “Studiare il genere e la sessualità nell’Università italiana” (Verona, Italy, June 28-29, 2018). **ATGENDER** also sent a delegate (Maria do Mar Pereira) to the Women’s World Conference in Florianópolis, Brazil (July 30-August 4, 2017).
 - Issued a statement of concern regarding the proposed ban on Gender Studies programs in Hungary on our website, which was also circulated through Facebook, listserv and forwarded to a journalist of Hungarian news outlet zoom.hu. **ATGENDER** also sent a letter to the Hungarian minister of Education urging him to reconsider the proposal. All actions were planned in close conversation with affected Hungarian colleagues. The issue will be raised and discussed in the context of the 10th EFRC.
 - Updated the mission on **ATGENDER** website and proposed to amend the **ATGENDER** Statutes, to reflect the evolving landscape of feminist thought and praxis the significance of sexuality, queer, transgender, LGBTQI studies and issues for the association. The proposed changes will be discussed in the context of the General Assembly at the 10 EFRC, and voted by the members.

Membership

ATGENDER has carried out several membership campaigns in this timeframe. The campaigns have been successful and **ATGENDER** is broadening his membership base well beyond the traditional borders of ‘Western’ Europe. The grant received awarded by to fully fund the EFRC conference has allowed to reduce membership fees for 2018 in order to align the membership fee with the membership fee of the German Gender Association. For 2018 only, the individual full fee has been decreased from 75,00 to 60,00 EUR; student fee has been lowered from 25,00 to 20,00 EUR.

2010: 87 individual and student members, 31 institutional members;
 2011: 202 individual and student members, 54 institutional members;
 2012: 347 individual and student members, 56 institutional members;
 2013: 85 individual and student members, 44 institutional members;
 2014: 93 individual and student members, 44 institutional members;
 2015: 80 individual and student members, 22 institutional members;
 2016: 190 individual and student members, 40 institutional members;
 2017: 174 individual and student members, 46 institutional members;
 2018: 157 individual and student members, 44 institutional members (as of 14-08-2018).

Because **ATGENDER** relies on membership fees, we hope all current and former members will renew their membership and bring new active members with them. We have also been discussing new formats to encourage different types of memberships.

Plans for the future

- **ATGENDER** has begun planning for the 2019 ATGENDER Spring Conference, which is organized in cooperation with the University of Oviedo, AUDEM, and Espora Gender Consulting, and will be held in Gijón, Spain (May 8-10, 2019). The title of the conference is 'Feminist Teaching (through) Emotions, Feelings and Affects'.
- **ATGENDER's** policy- and activism-focused Spring conference will be held at Middlesex University (London, UK) in 2020. The first meeting is planned for Spring 2019.
- The proposal for the 15th volume of the Teaching with Gender book series titled "Feminist Perspectives on Masculinities: Teaching and Learning Beyond Stereotypes" (eds. Sveva Magaraggia, Gerlinde Mauerer and Marianne Schmidbaur) has been submitted to Routledge and is currently under review. The volume addresses the question of fostering non-hegemonic forms of masculinities, highlighting their diversity. It also foregrounds concepts of 'positive', 'caring' and 'inclusive' masculinities and thus offers a timely and much-needed counterpoint to discussions of "toxic masculinity". This will be the third and last volume published under the current contract with Routledge.
- The 13th volume of the **ATGENDER** book series titled "Teaching with Feminist Politics of Resistance in Times of Crisis" (eds. Beatriz Revelles Benavente and Ana M. González Ramos) has been chosen by Spanish prestigious publishing house Morata to be republished in Spanish translation.

Signed on behalf of the Board of directors by

Sara de Jong, co-chair, **ATGENDER**
Giovanna Vingelli, co-chair, **ATGENDER**

Annex 1

Division of tasks among the Board members as of August 17, 2018.

ATGENDER task division within the Board from June 1, 2017														
Board members	Chairs	Treasurers	Secretaries	Teaching Series	EFRC 2018	Spring conf. 2019	Communication	Membership	Interns	External Relations	Funding	Young scholars	Nomination committee	Number of tasks p/p
Edyta Just, <i>Sweden</i>					x	x				x		x		4
Sara de Jong, <i>United Kingdom</i>	x				x		x			x				4
Sibel Yardimci, <i>Turkey</i>				x		x						x	x	4
Stefanie Boulila, <i>Germany</i>								x		x	x	x		4
Aggeliki Sifaki, <i>The Netherlands</i>				x		x		x		x	x			5
Christine Quinan, <i>The Netherlands</i>		x	x				x							3
Giovanna Vingelli, <i>Italy</i>	x						x		x		x			4
Kateřina Kolářová, <i>Czech Republic</i>			x	x	x	x								4
Sabrina Marchetti, <i>Italy</i>						x		x			x			3
Marianne Schmidbaur, <i>Germany</i>		x		x	x								x	4
Katarina Loncarevic, <i>Serbia</i>				x			x	x				x		4
Task group size	2	2	2	5	4	5	4	3	2	4	3	4	2	