

ATGENDER Board Members' report May 2019 – May 2020

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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, Gender, Transgender, Sexuality, and Queer studies, feminist research and professionals that promote women's, sexual and LGBTQI rights, 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, Transgender, Sexuality, Queer Studies and feminist research;
- support the development of education and training programs in Women's, Gender, Transgender, Sexuality, and Queer Studies, feminist research, women's, sexual and LGBTQI rights, equality, and diversity.

Organization

Board Members

The current **ATGENDER** Board consists of eleven members. Three new board members were elected at the General Assembly in Gijón.

Current Board Members include:

Stefanie Boulila, Lecturer at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Switzerland

Charléne Calderaro, PhD student, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Sara de Jong, Lecturer, University of York, United Kingdom

Demet Gülçiçek, Early Career Fellow, University of Warwick

Åsa Ekvall, Independent researcher and consultant

Kateřina Kolářová, Assistant Professor at Charles University Prague, Czech Republic

Katarina Lončarević, Assistant Professor at the University of Belgrade, Serbia

Christine Quinan, Assistant Professor at Utrecht University, the Netherlands

Aggeliki Sifaki, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow 2019-2021 at Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Giovanna Vingelli, Assistant Professor at the University of Calabria, Italy

Sibel Yardımcı, Professor at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul, Turkey

The Board is managed by two chairs (Katarina Lončarević and Christine Quinan), and has appointed two co-treasurers (Åsa Ekvall and Christine Quinan) and two co-secretaries (Giovanna Vingelli and Sibel Yardımcı). 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 2019, the Board met in person on May 8 and May 10, the first and last days of the Spring Conference in Gijon, Spain.

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, Svenja Engels held the position between January-December 2019). The Office Manager contributes 8 hours/week, and supervises 1 to 4 interns per year. We worked with an interim office manager (January - March 2020) who dealt with essential tasks. We have recently hired a new Office Manager, Mina Hunt, who began on May 1, 2020.

The previous intern is Desirè Gaudioso (University of Bologna) has recently finished her term in office. 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**.

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 in the Department of Media and Culture Studies (Faculty of Humanities), Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

In the period from June 2019 to May 2020, **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** 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 May 2020, the Listserv has 1112 subscribers.
- In addition to the website and Listserv, **ATGENDER's** Mailchimp mailing list continues to function on a bi-weekly basis (1749 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 (4043 "likes" to the page and 4252 "followers") and on Twitter (1469 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 has been planned to be organized during the AtGender Spring Conference in London in May 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference has been cancelled (and it will be organized online), so the official General Assembly will have to be postponed. Currently, Dutch law does not allow for AGMs to take place virtually, but in response to COVID-19 a change to this law is now being proposed and a decision is expected shortly. Members will be notified about the next steps.

Activities May 2019 – May 2020

- **ATGENDER** partnered with the University of Oviedo, AUDEM, and Espora Gender Consulting, for the 2019 ATGENDER Spring Conference held in Gijón, Spain (May 8-10, 2019). The title of the conference was 'Feminist

Teaching (through) Emotions, Feelings and Affects'. 115 participants attended the conference. 2000 EUR were allotted for travel grants.

Since this conference, **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 June 2019 to May 2020, **ATGENDER** has:

- Prepared the 2020 policy- and activism-focused Spring conference entitled "Caring in Uncaring Times", which has been co-organized with Middlesex University (London).
- Set up an agreement with the University of Milano Bicocca for the 11th European Feminist Research Conference, to be held in Milan, Italy, in June 2021. Together both organisations took preparatory steps for the conference.
- Published the "Early Career Researchers in European Gender and Women's Studies: Professional Challenges and Ways Forward" report (Stefanie Boulila, Jessica Cheung, Orsolya Lehotai) based on the research conducted by the ECR working group. This report discusses the challenges of early career researchers in the field of women's and gender studies.
- Launched the report during the #4GenderStudies day of action on social media (December 18, 2019). The report remains available on the Atgender website.
- 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 1 newsletter updates for subscribers (June, 27 2019) and 2 newsletters for members (May, 24 2019 and May, 11 2020). Both mailing lists have been updated in order to comply with the new EU regulation on data protection.
- Maintained active Twitter presence and won several hundred followers
- circulated a call for three new board members. Edyta Just, Sabrina Marchetti and Marianne Schmidbaur stepped down as board members.
- 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) was translated into Spanish under the title *Género en la educación. Pedagogía y responsabilidad feministas en tiempos de crisis política*. Madrid: Morata, 2019.
- Editors of the 15th volume of the **ATGENDER** book series titled *Feminist Perspectives on Teaching Masculinities: Learning Beyond Stereotypes* are now planning to publish an enlarged version of the volume in German.
- Circulated a Call for Chapters for the next edited volume of AtGender/Routledge, *Teaching against Homo/Nationalism*, (Eds. Aggeliki Sifaki, Christine Quinan and Katarina Lončarević). 17 proposals were received for the volume which is planned for Spring 2021.
- Provided a letter of support for H2020 application on gender equality for the MINDtheGEPs: Modifying Institutions by Developing the Gender Equality Plans (University of Turin, Italy). MINDtheGEPs promotes gender equality plans in 7 research organisations across different countries

(Serbia, Ireland, Spain, Poland, Italy) and different disciplines (both STEM and SSH). It consists of 8 work packages (WPs) and its main objective is to create a chain for the exchange of innovative tools and methodologies for an effective and sustainable organisational cultural and structural change towards gender equality.

- Signed a public statement coordinated by Erasmus Mundus Master Degree in Women and Gender Studies (GEMMA) to free Patrick George Zaki, who was detained on February 7, 2020 upon his arrival to Egypt for a short visit to his family. Zaki is a 27-year old Egyptian human rights researcher and currently a student of the GEMMA programme at the University of Bologna and is being held in custody by the Egyptian government.
- Signed petition Gender International led petition about Sociology and philosophy under threat in Brazil.
- Signed the Feminist Alliance for Rights (FAR) petition to demand that States adopt a feminist policy to address the extraordinary challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in a manner that is consistent with human rights standards and principles.
- Attended the Women and Gender in Global Affairs COVID-19 Webinar organized by the School of International and Public Affairs Columbia University (US).
- Maintained strategic partnerships with other European Gender Studies, Research organizations, European institutions (amongst others EIGE, WINE, ALLEA) and international initiatives, such as Gender International and Women and Gender in Global Affairs (WGGA).

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.

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: 217 individual and student members, 49 institutional members
2019: 107 individual and student members, 21 institutional members* (as of May 1, 2020)

*Due to a problem with our system online, membership renewals have been delayed.

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 is preparing** the 16th volume of the "Teaching with Gender" book series. **ATGENDER** is also preparing another open call for proposals for the edited volumes.
- **ATGENDER is preparing** a Call for Bids for the 2022 and 2023 Spring Conference
- **ATGENDER** is continuing 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.

Signed on behalf of the Board of directors by

Katarina Lončarević, co-chair, **ATGENDER**
Christine Quinan , co-chair, **ATGENDER**

Annex 1 Division of Tasks

Division of tasks among the Board members, as it has been revised in the Board Meeting of May 10, 2019													
ATGENDER task division within the Board from June 2019													
Board members	Chairs	Treasurers	Secretaries	TwG	Spring conf.	EFRC 2021	Communication	Membership	Interns	External Relations	ECR	Nomination	Number of tasks p/p
Aggeliki Sifaki, The Netherlands				X		X		X					3
Ása Margareta Ekvall, Netherlands		X		X		X		X					4
Charlène Calderaro, Switzerland						X				X			3
Christine Quinan, The Netherlands	X	X										X	3
Demet Gülççek, United Kingdom				X		X					X		3
Giovanna Vingelli, Italy			X					X	X	X			4
Katarina Loncarevic, Serbia	X					X	X						3
Kateřina Kolářová, Czech Republic				X						X			2
Sara de Jong, United Kingdom				X		X	X	X					3
Sibel Yarıdımci, Turkey			X	X	X							X	4
Stefanie Boullia, Germany						X	X		X		X		4
Task group size	2	2	2	5	4	4	3	4	2	3	3	2	