



Women Shaping Science

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Vilnius, Lithuania

Throughout the history women have been making a significant contribution to the scientific discoveries, innovation and inventions. However, only very few gender specific studies on women's inventive and innovative activities have been conducted in Europe. In general, women do not appear strongly in the inventive and innovative literatures in Europe except as exceptional examples and, as such, they may not receive the credit their deserve for their scientific excellence. This appears to result, largely, from the fact that the issue has not been addressed by government policies and a general lack of research from academia. Moreover, there is, in general, an implicit assumption that scientific discoveries are largely the preserves of men perhaps reflecting the engineer-driven designs of manufacturing and male dominance in the scientific labour market.

This session focuses on the contribution of women to innovation and invention, with a focus on patent as a measurable, high quality innovation output indicator for scientific excellence. This session aims to explore and demonstrate the innovation and invention achievement of women in the European knowledge based society. It explores such issues as, the working conditions of inventors and the innovation climate for scientists with regards to gender issues, fields of technology in which women invent in comparison to their participation in research and development, and the impact of scientific activities generated by women on the society, technological capacity and economic development, as well as on personal career progression.

Speakers:

1. Kordula Kugele M.A., ESGI, Hochschule Furtwangen University, Germany
Participation of women inventors compared to women researchers
2. Iris Tinsel M.A., and Dr. Jörn Knobloch, ESGI, Hochschule Furtwangen University, Germany
Innovation climate in European R&D departments regarding gender aspects: corporate policy and working conditions
3. Professor Pooran Wynarczyk, Newcastle University Business School, UK: Women in innovation and scientific discoveries in the UK: an assessment of their impact on the scientific advancement in the UK