GENDER & ICT '11

Call for paper:
6th EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER & ICT
Feminist Interventions in Theories and Practices

Umeå University, Sweden March 8th -10th 2011

Pre-conference workshop on Gender and Technology Curricula
8th of March 9-12.00

Information Technology is everywhere, shaping the way we experience our lives, the world and each other. Some digital transformations reveal new possibilities for improving social conditions, while others suggest that social inequality may be increasing. In a changing society, understandings of digitalization and politics become important. Also, the performative and co-constructive nature of gender-technology-work relations points to the importance of paying attention to many kinds of actors (elements) in understanding ICT. As such one of the pressing questions to contemporary gender and feminist research is: How does gender and feminist research intervene in and contribute to new directions and sustainable futures of ICT-based practices?

The 6th European Gender and ICT Symposium we will take a closer look at some of the challenges emerging in contemporary society related to new configurations of bodies and technologies. The conference reflects the diversity of gender studies, incorporating interdisciplinary perspectives on information and communication technologies, digital artefacts and systems. Once central focus is on the ways imagination, knowledge and politics intervene with gendered practices in contemporary societies. The theme for the symposium is *Feminist Interventions in Theories and Practices* seeking contributions that advance our understanding of how gender and feminist research can contribute to sustainable futures of ICT-based practices.

This conference is the sixth in a row of symposia held in Europe since 2003, traditionally providing the meeting point for researchers from various disciplines and research schools dealing with gender and ICT. We invite you to share your experiences, in particular regarding the following topics:

- Gender and Innovation: Dreams for Change
- Social media and New Frontiers: Gender and Generations:
- Digital Accountability: Public, Private & Beyond
- Feminist Theories (epistemologies)
- Visibility and Invisibility in Theories and Practices

Gender and Innovation: Dreams for Change

This theme ask for research that aim towards understanding impediments to innovation processes, opportunities to promote greater involvement and influence and the differential impacts (real and perceived) of existing and future innovation systems. Who does the dreaming in innovation processes, who are involved, and who are recognized for their involvement in innovation practices?

Social media and New Frontiers: Gender and Generations

This theme highlights the new frontiers brought by the new generation of online tools that enable users to network, share resources and participate in discussions on a global scale. How is gender-generation relationships guided by a feminist consciousness thought to act as a catalyst for value change? How is gender ideology generated on a global scale through social media? What central phases exist among different generations in their status as producers in networks, discussions etc? How does different generations entitle social media for gender culture development?

Digital Accountability: Public, Private & Beyond

This theme focuses on the frictions between the public and the private in digital space. But, also on issues like geographies of care, old and new identities, post-modernity and youths, globalization and environmental change. How are norms of sexuality and gender, including masculinities, and radicalized categories co-constructed in historical and contemporary settings? What is the influence of digital materials on the lives of men and women? What is the meaning of digitalization for women and men in different geographical spaces?

Feminist Theories (epistemologies)

What are the feminist questions and challenges concerning design and development of digital technologies today? Do we need and can we develop new methods and methodologies based on feminist theories (epistemologies) and practices? Or are we happy what we have? Could and should we look for inspiration and co-operation from other fields, in order to strengthen the interdisciplinary approach, such as for example arts and politics?

Visibilities and invisibilities in theories and practices

Feminist theories and practices of information and communication technologies have come a long way since the middle of the 1970s. What strategies and tactics are employed to acknowledge previous attempts and efforts? What are the major breakthroughs, what concerns are still invisible? What kinds of interventions have been conducted based on partial, modest and situated knowledges? How has human and nonhumans actors been conceptualized? How is the entanglement of material and meaning integrated in research of gender and ICT? How has representationalism been contested?

Submission and dates

Please submit extended abstracts of about 3 pages (max. 10.000 characters) describing projects and research results via the conference homepage.

Every submission will be blind reviewed by members of the program committee. Accepted papers will be published on the conference-website.

Submission of abstracts: October 1, 2010
Notification of acceptance: November 15, 2010
Submission of full paper: January 15, 2011

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