

**Gender, knowledge production and knowledge work
in education and cultural spheres**

**Special Issue
Call for Papers**

Co-editors :

Pauline Cullen, Lecturer Sociology and Politics, Maynooth University, National University of Ireland, EIRE

Anne O' Brien, Lecturer Media Studies, Maynooth University, National University of Ireland, EIRE

Myra Marx Ferree, Professor Sociology, University of Wisconsin, USA

Mieke Verloo, Professor Comparative Politics and Inequality Issues, Radboud University, The Netherlands.

Kate Grosser, Senior Lecturer, International Business School of Management RMIT University Melbourne, Australia

Organisational contexts where knowledge production and knowledge work predominate provide an opportunity to explore the changing agents, contests and consequences of projects aimed to acknowledge and address gender inequality and promote diversity in neoliberal times. From another perspective efforts to transform knowledge production and knowledge work along neo-liberal and managerialist lines has specific (and often negative) implications for gender relations, the organization of gender and the gendering of organizations. Contexts where these processes interlink, such as higher education and cultural industries such as the media, are well established as gender unequal spheres of knowledge production and work where public and private interests have aimed to diversify, gender mainstream and improve gender representation drawing on a variety of rationales (Gill, 2014). These contexts provide a prime opportunity to study the role of knowledge production in the interaction between ongoing gender inequality production and efforts at promoting equality and diversity.

In this interdisciplinary call for papers, we are broadly interested in the changing gendered politics of knowledge and knowledge creation as it relates to organization studies (Gherardi 2010). The central aim of this special issue is to explore the emergence and fate of gender knowledge claims - understood as forms of 'gender expertise' – in change processes in knowledge production organizations such as higher education and cultural industries. These forms of gender knowledge are mobilised by different actors as they compete to shape discourse, policy and practice on gender equality (Elomaki ,2015). Previous work has explored the knowledge society and economy as gendered (Walby et al , 2011). Other research has examined the role of gender knowledge claims in public policy (Prugl and True, 2014; Roberts, 2014; Cavaghan 2013). More recently work has begun to examine gender knowledge claims in knowledge production contexts including higher education (Ferree and Zippel, 2015; Gill and Donaghue,2016; O Connor, 2014) and cultural industries (Conor, Gill

and Taylor, 2015). This later research has examined how the commercialization of knowledge and the adoption of corporate practices and ideologies has implications for working conditions, career paths of knowledge workers and control over the production of knowledge along gendered lines including the co-optation of feminist knowledge. We aim to consolidate and extend this research moving beyond analyses merely substantiating the degree of gender inequality in knowledge production organizational contexts towards scholarship that *explores reconfiguration or reform* and the *gender knowledge claims that accompany these projects*. Policies for change emphasizing accountability, excellence, well being in the workplace; improving gender representation in leadership roles, diversifying disciplines and workplaces have had profound impacts on the dynamics of power and gender in different organizations (Avdelidou, Fisher and Kirton, 2015; Gill 2002; Hesmondalgh and Baker, 2011; Mayer et al., 2009). Such developments raise issues about higher education and spheres of cultural production, currently operating as gendered domains that create challenges and opportunities for gender equality advocates and feminist knowledge production. As such we also are seeking research that explores the implications for workers, and crucially also their *responses*, and the *strategies they employ to resist* in neo-liberal contexts, including through feminist collective action (Swan and Fox, 2010; Parsons and Priola, 2013). Thus this special issue also allows for an assessment of dynamics between feminism and neoliberalism (Eschle and Maiguashca, 2013; Fraser, 2013; McRobbie, 2008; Newman, 2013; Walby, 2011) in specific empirical contexts where competing and or overlapping agendas to pursue organizational change may serve or deny the interests of different categories of workers in terms of race, class and gender (Emejulu, 2011). Ultimately we are interested in papers that explore organisations such as higher education and cultural industries where knowledge production and knowledge work are changing and being changed in gendered terms as a function of struggles and contests over what constitutes 'reform' in knowledge sectors in neo-liberal times.

Potential topics include: gender, technology, knowledge workers and working time; gender equality and academic managerialism; gender and precarity in universities and cultural industries; gender, leadership and higher education; work life balance/conflict, intersectional perspectives on knowledge production and work in educational and cultural spheres; control of recognition and reward surrounding knowledge production and work; the cooptation of feminist knowledge work and or collective resistance to these changes.

This list of topics is suggestive rather than exhaustive. We invite scholars from a variety of disciplines; sociology; political science; cultural studies; geography; management and organisational studies to submit papers that develop and explore further the theoretical trajectory of work in the field of gender, knowledge production and knowledge work for consideration in this special issue.

Articles should be submitted online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/gwo> and conform to the author guidelines of *Gender, Work and Organization*. The normal length of a submitted article should be around 9,000 words. The deadline for submission of papers is 30th September 2017

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