



CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference

Gender Variations in Educational Success: Searching for Causes

3 – 5 October 2011, Luxembourg

The **Research Unit Language, Culture, Media and Identities** of the University of Luxembourg is holding an international conference.

Theme

The gender gap in school performance and educational attainment is highly considered in the public discourse. Before the educational expansion with its core phase beginning in the 1960s, girls achieved lower educational levels than boys. Girls benefited much from the educational expansion in Europe. In many countries, girls are now more likely than boys to transit to upper secondary schools and show better performances than boys in some subjects and overall results. The higher educational success of girls is not only visible considering transitions to higher school tracks and upper school certificates, girls score also better regarding school marks. Looking at the PISA data, the advantage of girls in languages is much higher than the advantage of boys in mathematics.

Main objectives of the conference include an exploration of gender variations in educational success from a cross-cultural and historical perspective, as well as to search for possible causes of the lower school success of boys. Within the scientific debate on gender differences in educational success, several aspects are discussed that include school student characteristics as well as institutional settings and the role of the teachers. Most frequently addressed is, regarding boys, a lack of (intrinsic) motivation, a higher school-alienation, less effort in school („lazybones syndrome“), their problematic media consumption pattern and, also more often shown by boys, deviant behaviours in school. Traditional gender roles among boys seem to be linked to behavioural patterns; peer-groups of boys that are more school-alienated than girls' peer-groups and changing educational aspirations may also be causes of girls' better performances. A huge part of the debate also focuses on the role of the female school teachers who are seen by some scholars as main factor behind the lower school success of boys. Although many empirical evidences already falsified this argument, the role of the school teachers in general might also be taken into account.

Scientific Committee

Andreas Hadjar, Professor at the University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Sabine Krolak-Schwerdt, Professor at the University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Karin Priem, Professor at the University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Sabine Glock, Research Associate at the University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Sandra Hupka-Brunner, Research Associate at the University of Basel, Switzerland

Martin Neugebauer, Research Associate at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, Germany

Organizing Committee

Andreas Hadjar • Sofia Pacheco • Joëlle Arensdorff (Research Unit LCMI, University of Luxembourg)

Keynote Speakers

Rolf Becker, University of Berne, Switzerland
Gabrielle Ivinson, University of Cardiff, United Kingdom
Katharina Kellerhals, Bern School of Teacher Education, Switzerland
Elina Lahelma, University of Helsinki, Finland
Birgit Spinath, University of Heidelberg, Germany
Helmut Willems, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
and others

Format

The conference will take place over three days and includes *keynote speeches*, *paper presentations* as well as a *poster session*. All papers will be presented in plenary sessions. The poster session will include a brief oral introduction into the posters. *Conference language: English.*

Contributions

We invite social scientists to contribute to the conference with a plenary presentation of about 30 minutes (including approx. 10 minutes of discussion) or a poster. Papers and posters should focus on one of the following topics regarding gender differences in educational success:

- Accounts of Gender Differences in Educational Success
- Change of the Gender Differences in Educational Success over Time
- Educational Systems, Institutional Settings and Gender Differences in Educational Success
- Causes of Gender Differences: Focus on School Students
- The Role of the Teacher regarding Gender Differences in Educational Success
- Gender Differences in Combination with Educational Inequalities regarding Social Origin or Migration Background

Participants should apply for the conference by submitting abstracts of about 400 words. Your abstract should cover key questions, theoretical issues, methods and some results. Please provide the following information for the author(s) who will attend the conference: family name, first name(s), email address, telephone number (including country and area dialling codes), postal address (including postcode and country), title/post/appointment as well as CV and publication list (1 page). Please also indicate if the author is a young scholar (PhD student), and if you want to give a presentation or to present a poster.

The deadline for handing in abstracts is **15 March 2011**. You will be informed whether your paper has been accepted or not by **20 April 2011**.

Conference Fees and Grants

There will be a conference fee (50 EUR; reduced fees for young scholars, PhD students or student teachers: 20 EUR) to cover the some costs of location, coffee breaks and abstract volume. Grants of 500 EUR may be given to young scholars.

Venue

The conference will take place at the Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye of Neumünster in Luxembourg City (<http://www.ccrn.lu/index.php>).

Please send your abstracts by eMail to Andreas Hadjar, who will be happy to answer your questions.
Email: andreas.hadjar@uni.lu

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