

**Present**

Liisa Husu (board member, ÖU)  
Desireé Ljungcrantz (doctoral student representative, LiU)  
Marie Nordberg (representative, KaU)  
Anna G. Jónasdóttir (board member, ÖU)  
Gunnel Karlsson (from item 5C) (board member, ÖU)  
Sofia Strid (GEXcel coordinator, ÖU)  
Majléne Westerlund Panke (chair of the board)

Apologies: Nina Lykke, Tobias Axelsson

**1. Opening of the meeting**

Majléne Westerlund Panke welcomed the board and declared the meeting opened.

**2. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**3. Appointment of person/s to check the minutes**

Sofia Strid was appointed to take the minutes.

Desireé Ljungcrantz was appointed to check the minutes.

**4. Matters arising**

Minutes from GI meeting 30 January 2013, point 6: the date of the joint GEXcel International Collegium and the VR INSECT-group international conference, originally planned for 24-26 March 2014, is postponed.

**5. Updates from the Gender Studies Units**

*a) Tema Genus, Linköping University*

There are 30 new students on the masters program. The Higher Seminar has taken the form of a Mini Symposium where a senior researcher, a PhD student and an external researcher present research individually, but on a joint theme.

Tema Genus organised the Somatechnics International Conference, which gathered a great number of internationally known scholars, with keynote speakers Sara Ahmed, Susan Stryker, Alexa Wright, Jasbir Puar, Madina Tlostanova, Catherine Waldby. Jeff Hearn has left Tema Genus.

Two new professors will be recruited and Tema Genus and the Faculty, which is fully supportive, are currently negotiating the conditions. Two new postdocs have been employed, one of whom is Redi Koobak, who recently finished her PhD at Tema Genus. Rosi Braidotti has become an honorary doctor of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Linköping University. Prof Braidotti is also in the international Advisory Board of The Posthumanities Hub. There has been a large number of visiting researchers, including for

example Susan Stryker, Gillian Einstein, Astrida Neimanis and many others (e.g. six doctoral students from six different countries visiting the Posthumanities Hub).

Anne-Li Lindgren and Louise Malmström are setting up a regional gender dialogue between researchers and politicians.

Linköping had its GEXcel kick-off event on May 29, at which, for instance The Vice-Chancellor of LiU, Helen Dannetun gave a talk in the illustrious series of live speeches and online salutations from international scholars.

Since 2012 several doctoral defences have taken place at Tema Genus: Monica Obreja (2012), Dag Balkmar (2012), Tanja Joelsson (2013), Redi Koobak (2013), and a lively set of research training seminars and international workshops, including a small range of doctoral progress seminars (an example is the 90%, or final seminar, of Wibke Straube).

*b) Centrum för Genusforskning, Karlstad University*

Marie Nordberg reported that the cooperation between Karlstad, Linköping and Örebro is seen as a very positive development by various actors at Karlstad University, including the vice-chancellor. The GEXcel kick-off will take place on 24 October.

The vice-chancellor has approved funding to hire Chris Beasley as a visiting professor in 2014, the exact conditions are currently being negotiated. Peta Hinton is joining as visiting researcher. A new lecturer will be employed. A docent application is being processed.

There are students on undergraduate level but not on graduate level. Gender studies have many external commissions/projects but too few people to see commit to them all. Caroline Wamala, former postdoc in gender studies, is the new director of HumanIT. Ulf Mellström is organising a workshop on gender equality in the Nordic countries, funded by the Norwegian Research Council. The workshop will take place in December

*c) Gender Studies, and Centre for Feminist Social Studies, Örebro University*

The Örebro University School of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences (HumUS) where gender studies is based has regrouped its disciplines in smaller subunits earlier this year. Gender studies and Sociology now belong to a new subunit, called Gender Studies and Sociology (Genusvetenskap och sociologi). The administrative new head of the subunit, as well as head of studies (studierektor) for both disciplines, is Kerstin Lekare from Sociology. Gender studies and sociology are to develop more co-operation in pedagogical matters and research, but will maintain each of their own budgets and are headed by their own heads of disciplines (ämnesansvariga).

Lena Gunnarson defended her thesis *On the Ontology of Love, Sexuality and Power* in May 2013, and has a book contract with Routledge based on her thesis. She is now employed as a postdoc in gender studies and will join the VR-INSECT project. Jeff Hearn has joined Örebro Gender Studies, and been appointed Faculty Guest Research Professor by the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities.

CFS organises six to seven regular higher seminars where internal and external PhD students, senior researchers and visiting scholars present papers. A number of visiting scholars have been hosted at Örebro, including Chris Beasley, Myra Marx Ferree, Heike Kahlert, Mieke Verloo, and in September Richard Howson and Tetyana Bureychak.

The four-year EU FP7 project GenPort on building a European portal on gender, science, technology and innovation resources has started (Örebro team consisting of Liisa Husu and Jeff Hearn). A workshop for on-going EU projects on gender and science with Swedish partners will be organised in Örebro in October, with participation from Uppsala, LTU and Örebro.

Sofia Strid has been involved in a research group which finished a project for the European Parliament on the best practices to prevent rape worldwide. The project involved researchers from all over the world and was led by Sylvia Walby, Lancaster University. The final report to the EP will be published shortly

The study *The role of men in gender equality - European strategies & insights* has been released and published by the European Commission, with Jeff Hearn one of the authors and member of the Scientific Committee. .

Örebro and Karlstad are co-operating in teaching at undergraduate level, e.g. with joint seminars.

A regional cooperation around gender equality in research and practice has been initiated together with the County Administrative Board (Länsstyrelsen) in Örebro county (län), with first successful get-together called *Genusmingel* organised in September, with participants from regional authorities, civil society organisations and gender researchers of Örebro University. These will be continued.

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There was a discussion about the standing/status of gender studies as a discipline on undergraduate level and how the shift from a 'lifelong learning' perspective to an 'employability' perspective may be detrimental to gender studies courses and every other non-programme based discipline.

## **6. Report from the GEXcel International Collegium**

The cooperation agreement between the three universities has been approved by respective university lawyers and is about to be signed by the vice-chancellors of the three universities. Kick-offs have taken place at Linköping and at Örebro; Karlstad's kick off will take place on 24 October. The Collegium's main research architecture, consisting of fields, strands and projects (see GEXcel website for more info), has been negotiated and agreed on by the co-directors. A website is up and running and a graphic profile is under development. The Activity report will be sent to the GI board after it has been approved by the GEXcel Executive Board.

Desireé Ljungcrantz raised the question whether PhD students should be/must be represented on the board of the GEXcel Collegium. Anna G. Jónasdóttir will take the question to the next executive board meeting.

## **7. The Gender Dialogue**

GI board noted with satisfaction that the Gender Dialogues have become well established, with very positive feedback from both politician participants and participating researchers.

Majléne Westerlund Panke will contact Ann-Christine Johansson, our contact parliamentarian at the previous Gender Dialogue.

The next Gender Dialogue is preliminarily scheduled for week 6-7, 2014, potentially back-to-back with the next executive board meeting of the GEXcel Collegium.

Potential themes were discussed, including 1) Masculinities and health, and 2) Intersectionality and merger of discrimination/inequality commissions across Europe. There was also the suggestion to turn the dialogue around, so that the politicians give their view on a topic or policy, e.g. how they understand or deal with intersectionality in policy and practice.

Linköping will take the lead in organising the next gender dialogue, with contributions from the other two universities.

## **8. Other issues**

- a) Replacement of board members.  
ÖU: Kerstin Andersson will replace Elin Thunman
  
- b) Appointments of board members  
LiU: Cecilia Åsberg (Co-Director of GEXcel) and Anne-Li Lindgren (Head of Tema genus) will join the GI board.  
KaU is to appoint their board members in time for the next GI board meeting.

## **9. Next meeting**

Next meeting to be held at the same date as the next Gender Dialogue, around week 6-7 2014.