

## I THE PROFILE AND PROSPECTS OF THE ZFG – SUMMARY

The Centre for interdisciplinary Women's and Gender Studies Research at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg (ZFG) began its work in 2001. It was the first academic centre of its kind at a university of Lower Saxony. With its foundation the scholars who worked in the field of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Oldenburg pursued the following goals: to create networks in their fields of research, teaching, transfer of knowledge and varsity politics, and to create interdisciplinary structures of co-operation and to develop these on behalf of the further development of research and teaching in Women's and Gender Studies as well as to position the latter effectively and in a future-oriented way in this particular university and within the larger academic community. The foundation was tied in with the history of many years of the development of very different activities in women's studies, feminist scholarship and gender research at the University of Oldenburg.

The main responsibilities of the ZFG have since then been

- to stimulate communication and debate on research processes on gender-related topics, to support the initiation of research projects and to enable key aspects of research to make their mark, to present and publish the results of research,
- to stimulate and support the advancement of junior scholars,
- to actively support and design the further development of Gender Studies programmes and contents in the field of gender research within the disciplines,
- to organise the transfer of knowledge on gender-related topics to the academic and general public,
- to create networks among institutions within and beyond the university in order to effectively bring in results of gender research to social processes of change with regard to gender relations, i.e. to do so in a critical way and with the intention of promoting social change.

In the past five years the members of the Centre worked extensively and productively. This will subsequently be documented in detail. We developed a profile which cuts across the topics of research and the programmes offered. It is characterised by interdisciplinary approaches, international co-operation and regional networking. Based on this design, the ZFG integrates in its work core elements of the mission statement of the university.

The University of Oldenburg was founded as a reform university. Therefore, interdisciplinary research and teaching projects have a long-standing tradition. The Oldenburg Women's and Gender Studies programmes and the research which emerged in the meantime in the area of competency of the ZFG brings together the social sciences, the humanities, cultural studies, educational science and pedagogy, the natural sciences and mathematics. The aim of the ZFG is to create a link between the natural sciences and cultural studies, social science and the humanities. This was institutionally expressed by advertising and staffing the junior professorship "Gender, bio-technologies, and society", a measure that was supported by the head of the university.

International co-operation is an integral part of teaching and research in the environment of the ZFG. In doing so, the ZFG places special value on sustainability, i.e. on the

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intensive involvement of international academic contacts in teaching and research projects and on the continuity of academic co-operation.

The approach of the ZFG to regional networks ties in with the fact that resources for scholarship and universities in the north-west region are scarce. The aim is to consolidate existing regional resources in the field of gender research, in particular those at the University of Oldenburg and at the University of Applied Science Oldenburg/Ostfriesland/Wilhelmshaven (*Fachhochschule Oldenburg/Ostfriesland/Wilhelmshaven*, FH OOW), and to make available joint offers of knowledge transfer, education and research on gender-related topics and to co-operate with regional gender agents on this basis. We co-operate closely with the Centre for Feminist Studies – Women’s Studies/Gender Studies (*Zentrum für Feministische Studien – Frauenstudien/Gender Studies*, ZFS).

Since the ZFG was founded, members of the Centre have conducted several interdisciplinary research projects. Various main areas of research emerged. The profile of Gender Studies in Oldenburg that the ZFG represents, currently covers interdisciplinary research on the following main areas:

- Socialisation processes, gender, and pedagogy
- Gender, the nation, migration, and politics
- Gender and cultural representations
- Musicological gender research
- Gender Studies research and the natural sciences
- Gender relations in science and academia
- Jurisprudential gender studies (individual research).

These main areas constitute the starting point for the development of a research profile that points to the future. However, we need to consider that significant changes in the group of professors who belong to the ZFS will take place within the next three years. These changes will affect Gender Studies in Oldenburg fundamentally. On the one hand, we are dealing with retirements. On the other hand, and connected to this, the head of the university has so far not intended to fill the position of the only Social Science professorship with the main area “gender studies” again. In addition, the upcoming retirement of professors of Mathematics and Biology and the phasing-out of the junior professorship “Gender, bio-technology, and society” within the next few years means that this prominent element of the Oldenburg gender profile will no longer exist or will have to be reinitiated. We welcome the fact that new appointments of professors in some disciplines are taking place or are expected in the near future, respectively, who teach and do research on gender topics. However, this is not the main aspect of their work.

With regard to future consecutive programmes, the ZFG will take on an important role as the driving force in the development and realisation of the interdisciplinary programme Gender Studies (60 credit points). The latter will be situated within the framework of the two-subject BA programmes of the University of Oldenburg in collaboration with the University of Bremen. With an undergraduate programme and three further graduate and post-graduate programmes, which either have already been created or which have

reached the final stages of planning, Oldenburg as a location for studying would offer a sophisticatedly designed, nationally and internationally aligned, prominent and highly attractive Gender Studies profile, which corresponds to the mission statement of the university.

The transfer of the findings of Gender Studies research to public and professional discourses will remain an important responsibility of the ZFG in future. In this sense the Centre will take on an important function in regional processes of social change.

We need to point out to a shortcoming of the work of the ZFG that has become apparent particularly in the past two years. In part due to many colleagues' stronger involvement with disciplinary demands, regular discussions and scientific exchange in the context of the ZFG have become less frequent, and the number of active participants has become more limited. We need to counteract this development in our future work, for example by developing or intensifying the research- and teaching-related collaboration of scholars. This applies to the collaboration of scholars who are members of the ZFG and those who are not, but who are interested in this area of research, as well as to the newly appointed and primarily disciplinarily-oriented professors who (also) work on gender issues. The ZFG will become more proactive than before in order to involve more recent research activities, e.g. in the disciplines History, Theology, Legal Studies, Pedagogy of Occupations and Economy, and Educational Science. This way new outlooks on cooperation and networks can emerge, which as the case may be, contribute to refocusing main areas in research that have so far been worked on. At the same time possibilities open up to examine their contents, to render them more sophisticated, and to continuously develop them.

The focal point "diversity/heterogeneity/difference" which some scholars are working on could be a connecting factor for future collaboration. Another approach to future cooperation results from the plans for the new interdisciplinary Gender Studies programme within the framework of the two-subject bachelor programme.

An additional main area of the future work of the ZFG will be to recruit third-party funds more extensively. At the same time we will intensify the promotion of junior scholars in this process. This is vital for the future-oriented development of the main areas of research, and it is an activity members of the ZFG and its supporting executive board need to pursue more vigorously. Hence we have planned to revise the *Graduiertenkolleg* "Adolescence, gender, and diversity in pedagogical spaces" in collaboration with professors of the Faculty I (Educational and Vocational Training Sciences, *Erziehungs- und Bildungswissenschaften*). The German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, DFG) had rejected it in the first round. We will reapply to the DFG or submit it to the Hans Böckler Foundation (*Hans-Böckler-Stiftung*). With this we would create an optimal frame for the advancement of junior scholars in one of the main areas of research.

However, the continuation and development of the work of the ZFG in the way it has been described above is bound to certain basic conditions. Among these is the preservation of

the two so far existing professorships with the main areas “women’s studies research” in Cultural Studies and “women’s and gender studies research” in Sociology. The professorship for Sociology with the key aspect on Women’s and Gender Studies research is particularly endangered. However, it takes on a central function in the Women’s and Gender Studies programme and in social-scientific research and theory. In the course of the reduction of social-scientific positions and according to its reconceptualisation of the social sciences at the University of Oldenburg, the *Länder* government’s university optimisation concept (*Hochschuloptimierungskonzept*, HOK) and the scientific committee of Lower Saxony (*wissenschaftliche Kommission Niedersachsen*) decided no longer to schedule this key professorship. However, in the light of the future-oriented design of its responsibilities the ZFG cannot do without a professorship with this kind of layout. It is integrated into the structures of the ZFG and actively co-designs it. Therefore, the existence of a Social Science professorship with the main denomination “gender studies research”, which is either fully or in part associated with the ZFG is indispensable. This aim could be achieved by filling the position of the existing professorship again with one of the central and future-oriented topics of Gender Studies research, i.e. one that would e.g. represent the field of theory formation in the social sciences. In addition, is important to safeguard the future of the natural science and mathematical area after the junior professorship “Gender, bio-technologies, and gender” has phased out.

## II THE HISTORY, ORGANISATION AND RESOURCES OF THE ZFG

### 1 History

In September 2000 the Senate of the university unanimously decided to found the ZFG for a period of initially five years. The resolution of the foundation (s. appendix 1) consisted of the list of the 20 founding members of the ZFG and the regulations of the Centre. At this point the President’s Office of the university had informally approved the funding of a part-time position for an assistant researcher<sup>1</sup>, rooms, and bridgeover financing for material. This rendered possible complimentary financing from the University Science Programme “Equal Opportunities for Women in Research and Teaching” (*Hochschulwissenschaftsprogramm “Chancengleichheit für Frauen in Forschung und Lehre”*, HWP), a programme the Ministry of Science and Culture (*Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur*, MWK) had announced. The founding group of the ZFG had applied for these funds for an initial period of three years. The MWK allowed the application (for the application s. collection of materials [M] 1.1).

The founding process of the ZFG was embedded in the longstanding tradition of the broadly anchored academic and equal opportunities development of women’s studies

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the President’s Office a position as an assistant researcher which was allocated to that office was deployed at the ZFG. It was a personal post reserved for the rehabilitation of severely disabled persons.

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research or feminist research and teaching, respectively, at the University of Oldenburg.<sup>2</sup> Two professorships with the main aspect or denomination “women’s studies” existed from 1993 and 1994 onward, respectively.<sup>3</sup> The two programmes on Women’s and Gender Studies which had opened up in the academic year 1997/98 in Oldenburg were particularly important for the initiative to found the Centre. These programmes were Gender Studies in Cultural Science as a programme for further and specialised studies (*Aufbaustudiengang*), which is hosted by the *Graduiertenkolleg* Gender Studies in Cultural Science (*Kulturwissenschaftliche Geschlechterstudien*) and which was converted into a PhD programme in 2005, and Women’s and Gender Studies as a *Magister* minor subject. An interdisciplinary structure was a central feature of the programmes. The scholars who had developed the new programmes soon realised that it was going to be indispensable to develop an effective, co-operative structure with an interdisciplinary design, both within the university and in networks with other universities and academic and activist initiatives in order to intensify Women’s and Gender Studies research in Oldenburg, in which the interdisciplinary programmes were embedded, and to develop a profile for it. At the end of 2000, and in accordance with the decision of the Senate, the founding assembly elected the executive board of the ZFG (*Sprecherinnengruppe*, group of spokeswomanes). At the beginning of 2001 the latter began its work to the full extent. Quasi as a prelude to its activities, the ZFG demonstrated with the international conference “Societies in Transition – Challenges to Women’s and Gender Studies” (June 2001) its intention to establish sustainable international academic relations as an important structural feature (besides interdisciplinary studies) of its profile.<sup>4</sup> In the subsequent years the main academic areas of the ZFG were established, in particular via research projects, conferences, publications, international guest professorships and, with that international contacts and joint projects. In addition, the responsibilities which are captured in the regulations of the ZFG were realised in manifold ways. The advertisement of the junior professorship “Gender, bio-technologies, and society”, which was conceptualised by the ZFG, particularly served the goal of the interdisciplinary connection between the humanities, the social sciences and cultural studies, respectively, and the natural sciences. The position was filled in 2002 and allocated to the Department of Sociology.<sup>5</sup> Right from the beginning the Centre co-operated closely with the neighbour university Bremen within the scope of a co-operation agreement between both universities. Students

<sup>2</sup> A summary of this history was presented during the event “Curiosity, pleasure, and science” (Neugier, Lust und Wissenschaft), which was hosted by ZFG to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary jubilee of the university (s collection of materials M 5).

<sup>3</sup> Since 1993 in the area of Fine Arts with the main area Women’s and Gender Studies research (Prof. Dr. Silke Wenk), since 1994 in the area Sociology with the main area women’s studies research (Prof. Dr. Karin Flaake). A professorship in Musicology which existed at about the same time practically dealt with women’s studies research and teaching, too (Prof. Dr. Freia Hoffmann).

<sup>4</sup> The following conference publication documents this intention: H. Fleßner/L. Potts (Eds.) (2002): *Societies in Transition – Challenges to Women’s and Gender Studies*. Opladen. As early as in 1993 the women’s studies scholars of the University of Oldenburg had held an international conference on the topic. This is documented in the conference publication H. Fleßner/M. Kriszio/R. Kurth/L. Potts (Ed.) (1994): *Women’s Studies im internationalen Vergleich*. Pfaffenweiler.

<sup>5</sup> Dr. K. Smilla Ebeling filled the position. The position was allocated to the Faculty IV, because the Women’s and Gender Studies programme resided there. The Department of Sociology appeared to be suitable, because the holder of the position is, among other things, a sociologist and wanted to co-operated closely with the professorship in Sociology on women’s studies.

from Bremen enrolled in the Women's Studies and Gender Research programmes in Oldenburg, and the co-operation between the ZFG and the ZFS, which had been founded a bit earlier, developed in a productive way. We are currently working on the development of a joint BA programme Gender Studies which the University of Oldenburg will offer as a 60 credit point subject within the framework of the two-subject bachelor programmes.

In the course of the organisational reforms of the University of Oldenburg in 2003 the ZFG was approved until 2007 on the basis of a new resolution for foundation, and it was in administratively allocated to the Faculty IV (*Human- und Gesellschaftswissenschaften*, Human- and Social Sciences). In 2003 the ZFG successfully applied with the MWK for funds for another three years from HWP funds (application s. M 1.1). In addition to the funding for the further development of existing key areas of work, the funding was from now on also directed toward the newly conceptualised field of activity, i.e. the development of the academic co-operation of the gender researchers of the University of Applied Science Oldenburg/Ostfriesland/Wilhelmshaven and the ZFG. The work focuses on the development and implementation of a co-operative network "Gender Studies in the north-west region" (*Geschlechterforschung in der Nord-West-Region*). Manifold and in part longstanding contacts between the scholars of both universities constitute a sustainable basis for the new area.<sup>6</sup> HWP funds rendered possible the establishment of a third part-time BAT IIa (German civil service pay scale) position and the extension of the administrative position in order to co-ordinate and conceptually realise the programme.

Today the ZFG is intensively working on the continuous development of its main areas of research and its academic profile. Its vertices are interdisciplinary teaching and research, internationalism, and regional networking. The Centre aims to continue to develop Gender Studies in the areas of research, teaching, and the transfer of knowledge in the sense of the mission statement of the university, and to secure the basic conditions for it in the long run.

## 2 Financial resources and staffing

The financial basis for the work of the ZFG is secured temporarily. The President's Office of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg has taken on the personnel costs for a part-time position for a research assistant since the ZFG was founded in December 2000, and the MWK funds the ZFG via HWP funds. The Faculty IV does not support the ZFG financially, however, there are funds from the Faculty for the Women's and Gender Studies programme (*Magister* minor subject) and for the currently existing supplementary field Gender Studies within the framework of the BA.

The MWK approved of start-up financing for setting up the Centre in the period of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001 until February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004. In all it makes available 320,000 DM for personnel and material costs. Thus, in addition to the part-time research assistant position of the university, the ZFG was able to fill the positions of an additional part-time assistant

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<sup>6</sup> For this see the brochure "Kooperationsnetzwerk Geschlechterforschung in der Nord-West-Region" (s. M 3).

researcher position and a part-time administrator for the executive board. It was also able to cover the expenses for the ongoing operation. Furthermore, the supplementary MWK funding of 10,000 € rendered it possible to build up a library stock on women's and gender research/gender studies. The collaboration at the head of the ZFG (*Sprecherinnengruppe*, group of spokeswomen) takes place as a part of the responsibilities of self-government. There is no compensation for this work, e.g. via leave of absence. In order to consolidate, to continue to develop, and to extend the academic main areas of the ZFG, the MWK approved of a second phase of funding for the time between March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 and February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 which amounts to 323,000 € (for the application and approval s. M 1.1). On the one hand, this sum secured the number of employees on the executive board and the expenses for ongoing operations for another three years. On the other hand, it rendered it possible to employ a third part-time research assistant in order to establish the new key area, i.e. the development of a joint co-operative network "Gender research in the north-west region" with the FH OOW.

### 3 Resources (rooms and equipment)

The ZFG disposes of four neighbouring rooms which are different in size. They are located in the heavily frequented central area of the university. The rooms were provided by the Faculty IV, a fact for which the ZFG is grateful. Every room is equipped with a workstation for one employee per office. The largest room operates as a room for meetings and groups. As the central contact point it forms the spatial core of the ZFG. All the work areas are ergonomically equipped and functionally engineered. Apart from the implements that are required for everyday administrative work, such as telephones, PCs with access to the internet, printers, laptops, fax machines, etc., the ZFG disposes of training and communication media, such as flip charts, projectors and digital cameras.

### 4 The structure, members and associated members of the ZFG, the networks within the university, communication and co-operation structures within the Centre

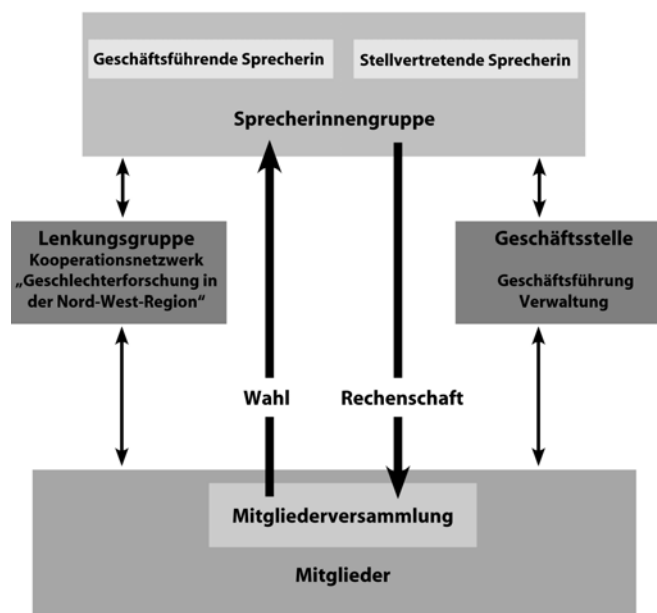
Since it has interdisciplinary aims, the ZFG considers itself to span across faculties. However, in the course of the structural reform in 2003 the allocation to a faculty has become obligatory. So far, the ZFG is administratively linked with the Faculty IV. The latter follows the plausible argument that the Women's and Gender Studies programme (minor subject in the *Magister* programmes), the professorship "Sociology with the main area gender research", and the junior professorship "Gender, bio-technologies, and society" in Sociology are located there.

The ZFG operates on the basis of regulations which entail flat hierarchies and as few regulations as possible (s. appendix 1 for the regulations). This design follows the options for the design of scientific centres as outlined in the sample regulations of the university. The general meeting is the organ which decides upon fundamental matters. It also elects the group of spokeswomen, i.e. the management body, for a term of two years. The

general meeting usually takes place twice per semester. The group of spokeswomen is responsible for the realisation of fundamental decisions and for the planning of everyday affairs. It is accountable to the general meeting. The executive board supports the spokeswomen.<sup>7</sup> The group of spokeswomen consists of three professors, one research assistant and one student member. The group elects the managing spokesperson. The group of spokeswomen decides upon the ongoing affairs of the ZFG on the basis of transparent consultation processes. The meetings which as a rule take place fortnightly during the semester are open to members of the Centre. The results of the consultation are circulated to all members via minutes.

The key area “Co-operative network gender research in the north-west region” has a steering committee of its own for conceptual work. It is equally staffed with members of the ZFG and those of the FH OOW. The group of spokeswomen elects the steering committee on the basis of the recommendations of both participating sides (s. appendix 4). In addition, this main area has a co-operation treaty of its own between the University of Oldenburg and the FH OOW (s. M 4). In contrast to other gender research centres, the ZFG does not have an advisory board. At that time the founding group was convinced that such an additional structure would sap too much energy.

Organisationsstrukturen des ZFG



<sup>7</sup> There is a linguistic ambiguity here. The resolution on the foundation by the Senate refers to the executive board in the sense of the group of spokeswomen. According to the ZFG, the executive board denotes the operative and administrative (necessarily including the conceptual) realisation of the responsibilities of the ZFG.



Since its foundation the ZFG has networked particularly constructively and effectively in political terms with the Equal Opportunities Office for Women (Frauengleichstellungsstelle) of the university. The research assistant of the Equal Opportunities Office for Women is a member of the ZFG. The present managing spokeswoman of the ZFG is, since she is a professor, a member of the Senate Committee for the Promotion of Women and Equal Opportunities (*Senatskommission für Frauenförderung und Gleichstellung*, KFG). The needs of Women's and Gender Studies research are among the responsibilities of this committee. Among the members of the ZFG are at the time of writing (June 2006) the Vice-President for teaching, a dean, directors of institutes, members of the senate and of departmental councils and faculty councils. In this respect there is a deep involvement in the structures of self-government of the varsity.

The ZFG is currently comprised of 107 scientists, of which 74 are members, 30 associate members, and three are members according to the regulations of the ZFG (s. appendix 2).

The professors, research assistants and members of the university who are affiliated with the ZFG are at the same time members of the department of their original discipline. Except for the research assistants who work on the executive board and individual research assistants or (under)graduate assistants who take on projects or temporary tasks on behalf of the ZFG, the ZFG has no academic positions of its own.

The profile, the main areas of research, and the public presence of the ZFG are the result of the active collaboration of members from various disciplines and status groups who have contributed to the development and realisation of the responsibilities of the Centre. The work is based on structures of communication and planning that are marked by a balance of decentralisation (projects, main areas of work) and centralisation (ZFG). These structures require a continuous process of exchange and feedback in order to guarantee transparency between the members and the executive board. In this sense the general meetings, the group of spokeswomen and the planning workshop serve as central fora. The latter usually takes place once a year. It is designed as a space where ideas for new projects can be exchanged, gathered and sorted, a place in which the activities so far can be assessed and where agreements on future work projects can be formulated.

The colleagues of the executive board are, among other things, responsible for assuring the circulation of information. This occurs in part via the web site which is constantly up-to-date. On the other hand, they inform the members about events, board meetings and national and international developments in Women's and Gender Studies research. Once a year the executive board compiles a newsletter with a systematic overview of the entire activities of the activities of the ZFG for this period of time and sends it to the members.

## 5 The significance of the ZFG for the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg

The advancement, co-ordination and development of Gender Studies research with an interdisciplinary and international approach are vital responsibilities of the ZFG. They will be described in more detail below. The Centre is the productive core of Gender Studies research which is characterised by interdisciplinary approaches

The significance of the ZFG as seen from an inner-university perspective:

- The ZFG initiates, co-ordinates, and publishes projects which explore the significance of the social category “sex/gender” in society as well as scholarship and work, which critically reflects upon social processes of transformation from a gendered perspective. Therefore, the main area “Gender Studies research” is visibly and effectively positioned within the university.<sup>8</sup> The significance of the scientific category “gender” was anchored more deeply in several disciplines in the course of the development of research on women and gender at the university. Gender is increasingly absorbed and accepted as an analytical cross-section category.<sup>9</sup> The ZFG or its members, respectively, constitute a productive environment in order to initiate and cross-link interdisciplinary research co-operations.
- With regard to conceptualisation and planning, the ZFG contributes to the establishment of, and critical reflection on the category “gender” at two levels of programmes of the University of Oldenburg. First, members of the ZFG initialise the cross-sectional anchoring of gender issues within the curricula, examination regulations and conditions of study. They also contribute to the contents of teaching that is necessary for this purpose. Second, since 1997 the university disposes of two interdisciplinary programmes on Women’s and Gender Studies research, which contributed to the attraction of Oldenburg as a place to study. Meanwhile members of the ZFG are planning to anchor new interdisciplinary gender studies programmes within the framework of consecutive structures of study, e.g. Gender Studies in the two-subject bachelor programmes and the Master programme Politics and Gender.
- The ZFG is the place where junior scholars in the field of gender research are promoted.<sup>10</sup>
- The ZFG contributes to supporting gender-reflexive discourses and to the further development of gender-democratic structures within the university on the basis of its results of research and the publicly well-noticed presentations. The close co-operation with the Equal Opportunities Office for Women needs to be mentioned in this context, too.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Hence, the latest edition of the research journal of the university is dedicated to the topic “Gender research in Oldenburg” (Einblicke, spring 2006; s. M 6).

<sup>9</sup> Some new appointments in individual disciplines expressly took place because the professors perform research on gender topics among other things.

<sup>10</sup> This in particular motivated groups of scholars to develop two DFG applications for the funding of *Graduiertenkollegs*.

<sup>11</sup> Three examples: a. Recommendations for the promotion of female graduate students emanated from the research project “Gender and the advancement of graduation at doctoral level”. They were discussed in detail with the previous Vice-President for Research and adopted in his concept on the promotion of junior scholars. The recommendations were also presented in the Committee of the Senate on the Promotion of Women and Equal Opportunities (*Senatskommission*

The significance of the ZFG beyond the university:

- In the course of time, important innovative impulses, both in terms of contents<sup>12</sup> and structure<sup>13</sup> emanated from gender researchers of the University of Oldenburg.
- The ZFG and its members are linked with, and active in regional, nation-wide and international co-operative structures of Gender Studies research in manifold ways.

The conceptual design and practice of the ZFG incorporate essential vertices of the mission statement of the university. Apart from an interdisciplinary approach, internationalism, the society-orientation of scholarship and research, the research-orientation of teaching, and the fortification of the promotion of junior scholars, these are regional anchoring, the support of knowledge transfer to society and the academic processing of questions on gender relations, which are, on the one hand, immensely important for society and on the other hand, especially with regard to parts of the research area, relevant to the continuous development of gender-sensitive structures of the university.

## 6 Structural dilemmas and possible approaches for change

The current and future outlook on the development of the ZFG is characterised by some structural dilemmas, which we will explain in the following.<sup>14</sup> These follow to a rather substantial extent from the varsity restructuring processes since 2003.<sup>15</sup> They appear as unintended side-effects, too. According to our experiences in the area of Gender Studies research, they render visible the really weak establishment of interdisciplinary projects in the university. Therefore, we are in part dealing with general problems, which affect other interdisciplinary contexts of work, too.

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*für Frauenförderung und Gleichstellung*). b. We conducted a yearlong study project called "Studying with a child" (Studieren mit Kind) within the framework of the realisation of the goals of the audit "Family-friendly university" (*Familiengerechte Hochschule*). The findings will be presented at a nation-wide conference during the winter term 2006. They are expected to generate recommendations for action for the University of Oldenburg. Here again, we already presented crucial findings in the Committee of the Senate on the Promotion of Women and Equal Opportunities. c. We organised an exhibition on violence against women (*Gewalt gegen Frauen*) at the university in collaboration with the Equal Opportunities Office for Women of the university and the Women's Bureau of the City of Oldenburg (*Frauenbüro der Stadt Oldenburg*) and held lectures on the issue during the exhibition.

<sup>12</sup> The link between social science, cultural studies and humanities perspectives and natural science approaches via the junior professorship "Gender, bio-technologies and society" serves as an example.

<sup>13</sup> E.g. the ZFG was involved in the initialisation of the discussions on the new structure of programmes during the first conference of German-speaking gender centres and gender studies programmes in Berlin in 2003. The issue was discussed in depth during the second conference in 2004, which the ZFG and the ZFS, Bremen, had organised together in Bremen.

<sup>14</sup> In the past years the ZFG frequently outlined in declarations of general principle and in talks with the heads of university and the responsible head of division in the MWK the structural problems that emerge especially in the context of the structural reforms of 2003. The hints at structural dilemmas and approaches in our report on us to overcome them tie up to the declarations of general principle.

<sup>15</sup> In this respect the organisational reform, the reform of the structure of the programmes, needs to be mentioned. It has been carried out all over the University of Oldenburg since the winter term 2005/06. Another factor worth mentioning is the university optimisation concept (*Hochschuloptimierungskonzept*, HOK) which the *Landes* government of Lower Saxony adopted and which resulted in a significant reduction of positions in academia, too.

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## 6.1 The relationship between interdisciplinarity and disciplinarity

The university scholar's double membership of the ZFG and of the disciplinary original department constitutes a central structural problem<sup>16</sup>: With regard to the evaluation and design, the affiliation with the discipline is prioritised on the decisive structural levels of the university, despite the great and future-oriented significance that continues to be widely attributed to interdisciplinary research and teaching. Hence, aggravating conditions follow in three respects for the interdisciplinary discipline Gender Studies and its development (and closely linked with it, the development of the ZFG):

- The weighting of performances within the framework of procedures that evaluate research occurs within a disciplinary matrix. Therefore, scholars are under pressure to prove that their interdisciplinary projects are disciplinary. For this reason these performances formally do not count as performances of the Centre, which is designated as an expressly interdisciplinary institution. Hence, the performances are not considered in the assessment of the performance and in the systems of gratification, which are attached to the evaluation.
- According to our experience with the establishment of approaches to gender, the conversion to consecutive programmes brought about a re-disciplinisation of the teaching programmes. The continuation of interdisciplinary programmes or modules were for this reason aggravated, despite the initial constructive proposals of the planning instances to resolve the problem. As a result of this development, the so far very well received *Magister* minor subject Women's and Gender Studies was discontinued in the meantime. The supplementary field Gender Studies was implemented as a successive programme. However, this could not be broadly established due to certain elements of the programme structure in the single-subject bachelor programmes. Moreover, the building block "supplementary area" (*Ergänzungsbereich*) will in general no longer be offered within the structure of the programmes. Therefore, the ZFG and the programme committee (*Studiengangskommission*) of Women's and Gender Studies initialised the establishment of a 60-cp programme Gender Studies within the framework of the two-subject bachelor programmes in collaboration with the University of Bremen, and it took up the planning of it in the meantime.
- Following a comparable logic, the future of the teaching and research staff in the field of Gender Studies research is insecure. Structural plans act on the assumption of disciplines. The plans mostly concentrate on a core stock, in particular in the light of increasingly scarce resources. Their definition is based on premises that are internal to subjects and, consequently, oriented toward disciplines. Interdisciplinary profiles have a weak position here, especially when they cannot be allocated to the disciplinary mainstream. The more or less abolishment of the existing professorship "Sociology with the main area of research on women" after the holder's retirement in 2009 is particularly serious. Without a professorship with the main area of Gender Studies research in Sociology and a research and teaching profile that relates to it, it will in future no

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<sup>16</sup> This was aggravated after the organisational reform of the university in 2003, which brought about the area-wide foundation of disciplinary institutes and the obligation to affiliate with the institute.

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longer be possible to conduct either a Gender Studies programme or to hold up interdisciplinary core research on gender to the hitherto extent. Moreover, the threat of the discontinuation of the interdisciplinary bridgeover function between the social sciences and the natural sciences, and the loss of this trend-setting area of research looms large with the expiry of the junior professorship “Gender, biotechnologies, and society” in 2009.

Due to the interdisciplinary aims of the ZFG, it has a concept of itself as an institution, which crosses over faculties. A link-up with a faculty disagrees in principle with this concept. Nonetheless, in terms of administration the Centre was allocated to the Faculty IV during the organisational reform in 2003. The ZFG does not receive any financial benefits from the Faculty IV. However, the Faculty provided the ZFG with rooms from its contingent. The changing deans of the Faculty met the ZFG and its projects with a benevolent attitude. As long as the Centre disposes of a budget of its own, based on HWP funds, no problems will arise with the allocation of the ZFG to the Faculty IV. We cannot preclude, though, that either the Faculty IV or the other faculties will be prepared to, or be able to for that matter, take on this responsibility, when university means will be required in future.

The problem outlined affects all interdisciplinary research centres of the university. Therefore, with regard to the future not only of the ZFG, a financing mode which crosses over faculties would be needed, such as the programme budget, which is established as a possibility in the budgetary concept of the present head of the university.

## 6.2 The shift of the members’ key aspects of activity

The development of the main aspects of the scholarly involvement of the members that can be denoted since the founding of the ZFG mirror to a quite significant extent the structural changes and changes of overall conditions at the university. The reform of the programme structure in particular contributed to significant additional workloads. At the same time the government of the *Land* enforced a reduction of academic positions. This has contributed to the fact that most of the colleagues who offered courses on gender topics so far, and who involved themselves intensively in the ZFG are now immersed in their work in the respective disciplines and in disciplinary requirements in the framework of the new programmes. Hence, significantly less time remains for a dedication in the context of the ZFG. The disciplinary dynamics which require of a scholar to distinguish him- or herself in his or her discipline adds to the situation. At the same time, the existing interdisciplinary main areas of research have developed relatively independently from each other. Regular discussions and scholarly exchange among the groups, which co-operate in the main areas of research have become rare. The general meetings, too, are consistently attended much less frequently than before.

We consider the clearly reduced extent of occasions where members of the ZFG can sit at the table in larger numbers and present themselves at meetings, or use them in this

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sense, a lack. However, the lectures and receptions in the framework of the Maria-Goeppert-Mayer guest professorships always prove to be places where fruitful encounters ensue. The lecture series “Lunch Talk Gender Research” (*Lunch Talk Geschlechterforschung*) which focuses on the presentation of work in progress is well-received, in particular by junior scholars and advanced students. The same applies to the lecture series of the *Kolleg Gender Studies in Cultural Science* (*Kulturwissenschaftliche Geschlechterstudien*).

On the one hand, the development outlined is plausible in the light of the heavy workloads of many members of the ZFG and with regard to the necessary scientific differentiation of the main areas of research. On the other hand, we need to think about new productive forms of communication and discussion on the contents and aims of Gender Studies research, and about the ZFG. The new forms should be able to include as many members as possible, offer starting points for more intensive scholarly networking and, in addition, be interesting for scholars outside the context of the ZFG. A starting point which links up to existing research topics and which is in line with current developments in feminist research could be the integration of discourses on “diversity/heterogeneity/difference”. A further focal point results from the planning process of the new programme Gender Studies in the two-subject bachelor programmes.

### 6.3 A new generation

The members of the ZFG feature a broad age spectrum of which there are many junior scholars and students. Therefore, the pursued goal of the ZFG to promote junior scholars is well-received. However, a further step is necessary, namely to confer to young scholars planning and leadership responsibilities and therewith to offer a space for own experiences and for the realisation of their ideas for the future in the area of university politics. Therefore, the new generation is on the agenda, also with regard to leading the ZFG. This process is, however, aggravated due to the fact that the positions of junior scholars are marked by a significant insecurity with regard to their status. There are barely any non-professorial research and teaching positions at the University of Oldenburg. The future of the junior professorships<sup>17</sup> is insecure, too. Potential transitions to professorships are not provided after the expiry of the positions, and the pressure to perform is high. With regard to the re-election of the group of spokeswomen in the summer term 2006, the leadership of the ZFG is going to stimulate a step in the direction of the new generation in accordance with the existing possibilities.

The generation question is important for the development of the ZFG in another regard, too. As with all universities that were newly founded or expanded significantly in the middle of the 1970ies, the “founding generation” is retiring successively. This also applies to Women’s and Gender Studies research. A significant part of the contributions to the research and teaching in the field of Gender Studies research at the University of Oldenburg was generated in positions and established in the curricula of the disciplines, which did not have a gender denomination. Every one of these positions, and this applies with a particularly sustainable effect to professorships, needs to be renegotiated with regard to the formally not established main area of gender as soon as the holder of the position retires. This is a process with a generally open outcome under the contemporary conditions.

We consider it a positive development that professorships are, or lately have been, filled with scholars in some disciplines at the University of Oldenburg who among their areas of research and teaching have one main area in gender research, even though this is not expressed in their denominations or in a part thereof.<sup>18</sup> However, the professors do not define themselves primarily as gender researchers. Instead, they are researchers who work disciplinarily and who are so far not, with a few exceptions, members of the ZFG.<sup>19</sup> According to the point of view of the ZFG, the increasing establishment of the aspect of gender research in individual disciplines is of great significance. As a productive result of its activities, the ZFG takes the credit for having contributed to the development of a supportive discursive environment. On the other hand, it needs to be emphasised that

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<sup>17</sup> Junior professorships are a fairly recent phenomenon at German universities. Unlike previous professors, a junior professor is not required to submit a habilitation. Based on faculty approval of his or her work after three years, a junior professor’s may be extended for another three years.

<sup>18</sup> e.g. in Law, German Studies, Occupational and Economic Pedagogy, History, Theology

<sup>19</sup> Some of them are already contributing to the modules of the supplementary programme Gender Studies (History, Theology).

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explicit denominations and part-denominations as well as an institutional framework as it is presented via the ZFG, are indispensable, if a genuine research area in Gender Studies research with a solid promotion of junior scholars and a genuine academic teaching programme is to persist or to be further developed.

It is going to be an important task for the ZFG to initialise co-operation with the newly appointed scholars in the areas of research and teaching. At the same time, we need to work emphatically on the project of securing Gender Studies research in the long run via explicit denominations and part-denominations.

#### **6.4 The material safeguarding of the ZFG**

The ZFG has been a temporary institution with regard to material and staffing so far. This aggravates the development of long-term plans. The largest part of the budget of the ZFG consists of HWP funds. These will no longer be at the disposal of the ZFG from 2007 onward. Third-party funding which needs to be raised in the field of Gender Studies research will not be sufficient in order to safeguard the permanent operation materially or to institutionalise the ZFG in the long run. Instead, a precondition for this would be a longer term or a permanent financial or material involvement/partial involvement of the university. In this involvement of which the extent needs to be negotiated, the following positions need to be decided upon positively and with priority: the safeguarding of the existing capacities for the tasks of the executive board, i.e. the retention of the part-time BAT IIa position (rehabilitation of severely disabled persons, s. footnote 1) and a BAT IIa position, which is to be paid for by the university or via mixed financing, and the securing and de-limitation of the administrative position, and the safeguarding of the accommodation.



### III WORK PLAN AND RESEARCH PROGRAMME

#### 1 Main areas of research and single research

##### 1.0 Preliminary note

The main areas of research of the ZFG are marked by the members' respective main areas of work. At the same time they are characterised by the forms and contents of interdisciplinary collaboration, e.g. between sociologists and natural scientists, which only developed in the context of the ZFG. Without the ZFG as a place that brings together gender-oriented perspectives, they would not have emerged. In this respect, the main areas of research which will be presented in the following express its members' spectrum of activities that accordingly developed relatively autonomously from each other. At the same time many of the co-operative projects that are going to be mentioned are the result of collective debates within the framework of the ZFG. The Centre rendered it possible to consolidate various strands of argumentation and theoretical cultures as well as to develop inter- and transdisciplinary perspectives in the first place.

As a space to consolidate different disciplinary and theoretical approaches, the ZFG was also important for the development of two applications with the German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, DFG). They were meant to establish and promote *Graduiertenkollegs*. One of them was located in the natural-scientific and mathematical area, the other in the social-scientific and pedagogical field. Scholars of different disciplines collaborated in these projects. As a consequence, effective long-term modes of collaboration were established (s. chap. III 5 and the collection of material M 1.2).

##### 1.1 Socialisation processes, gender and pedagogy

This main area of research deals with two closely related subject areas:

- *Processes of socialisation and identity formation* according to the way the processes are structured by the social category "gender" and via gender relations,
- correspondent processes in *pedagogical spaces*, such as schools and institutions of extracurricular youth work as well as their *pedagogical possibilities for design*.

*Processes of socialisation and identity formation (Prof. Dr. Karin Flaake)*

So far, the period of adolescence has been at the centre of this subject area. The research projects were integrated into teaching. In several research projects a series of studies were conducted, which dealt with different and until then rarely examined aspects of the socialisation of young women and men:

- with societal images of female corporality and their relevance for young women's bodily perceptions and bodily experiences;
  - with the frequently unconscious messages contained in familial interactions which attach a "social meaning" to the physical changes during the puberty of young women;
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- with the specific adolescent conflicts of young women from families with a resettler background;
- with the adolescence of young men and the dynamics in families with the therein contained concepts of masculinity that the son's puberty triggers.

A series of publications emerged from the projects. In one project this happened together with students.

Tied up to central findings of the study on the adolescence of young men, the developmental possibilities of boys and young men whose fathers were involved in childcare at an early point in time will be examined from the summer term 2006 onward. So far, studies on the subject area are rare, even internationally. Closely related to this subject area is a research project which is currently being prepared: "Family-friendly measures in firms, public offices and institutions in Lower Saxony which explicitly address fathers, too. Survey – use – experiences" (*Familienfreundliche Maßnahmen, die ausdrücklich auch Väter ansprechen, in Betrieben, Behörden und Institutionen in Niedersachsen. Bestandsaufnahme – Nutzung – Erfahrungen*). This is a co-operative project with the University of Applied Science Oldenburg/Ostfriesland/Wilhelmshaven.

#### *Main publications*

Flaake, Karin (2001): Körper, Sexualität und Geschlecht. Studien zur Adoleszenz junger Frauen, Gießen

Blanke, Mechthild/Flaake, Karin (2002): „Auf jeden Fall möchte ich mir durch meine Leistung Respekt verdienen“. Junge Frauen, die aus Russland gekommen sind. Berichte der Arbeitsstelle Interkulturelle Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung, Nr. 4, Oktober/02

Flaake, Karin (2005): Junge Männer, Adoleszenz und Familienbeziehungen. In: King, Vera/Flaake, Karin (Hg.): Männliche Adoleszenz. Sozialisation und Bildungsprozesse zwischen Kindheit und Erwachsensein. Frankfurt a. M./New York, 99 - 120

#### *Processes of socialisation and identity formation in pedagogical spaces and pedagogical possibilities for design (Prof. Dr. Heike Fleßner, Prof. Dr. Astrid Kaiser)*

The project focuses on processes socialisation and identity formation in schools and extracurricular youth work which are connected with the social category "gender" and gender relations as well as their possibilities for design. The main areas of investigation are in particular:

- *Gender relations in primary schools and didactic options for action (project management: Prof. Dr. Astrid Kaiser, research assistance: Karola Nacken, Dr. Detlef Pech)*

The conditions of sex-differentiated socialisation are analysed, e.g. via observation of interactions of boys and girls in class. The analysis aims to find didactic-methodological indications for an equal-opportunities didactics, such as the formulation of interventions that do justice to the sexes. The pedagogy which is just to boys explores the conditions for non-stereotypical male socialisation processes. Several publications emerged from these insights, and didactic material is continuously being developed in order to design a school that does justice to boys and girls. Currently we are examining via experimental designs whether didactic material, in particular for studies in natural sciences, are equally

motivating for boys and girls. This part of the research is happening in the context of the Working place for the Research on Children (*Arbeitsstelle für Kinderforschung*).

*Funding* 55.000 €

*Main publications*

Kaiser, Astrid (Hg.) (2005): Koedukation und Jungen. 2. Auflage, Weinheim

Kaiser, Astrid und Mitarbeiterinnen (2003): Projekt geschlechtergerechte Grundschule. Berichte aus der Praxis, Opladen

Kaiser, Astrid (2001): Praxisbuch Mädchen- und Jungenstunden, Baltmannsweiler

- *Gender and ethnic/cultural/national origin in the interactive everyday life of adolescents in open youth work and the role of pedagogues (Prof. Dr. Heike Fleßner)*

This thematic area was worked on in research projects of which many were integrated into teaching. The overall topic focuses on the processes of adolescents' interpretation, ascription and self-localisation in the settings of open youth work, in particular youth centres. The complex interdependence of the social categories "ethnicity" and "gender" as well as the significance of the pedagogues in their interactions with adolescents, adolescents among each other, and their concepts are considered. This topic aims to link empirical strands of research and conceptual work in the area of open youth work with other, i.e. to relate gender-related and intercultural and pedagogic concepts to each other. These aspects have so far been largely separated from each other. The research methods are participatory observations, individual and group interviews.

*Main publications*

Pech, Detlef/Herschelmann, Michael/Fleßner, Heike (Hg.) (2005): Jungenarbeit. Dialog zwischen Praxis und Wissenschaft, Oldenburg

Fleßner, Heike (2005): Geschlecht und Interkulturalität – Überlegungen zur Weiterentwicklung einer geschlechterbewussten interkulturellen Pädagogik. In: Leiprecht, Rudolf/Kerber, Anne (Hg.): Schule in der Einwanderungsgesellschaft. Ein Handbuch, Schwalbach, 162 – 179

Fleßner, Heike (2002): Mädchenpädagoginnen und ihre Mädchenbilder – Zwischen Wünschen und Widersprüchen. In: ZFG/ZFS (Hg.): Körper und Geschlecht – Bremen-Oldenburger Vorlesungen zur Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung, Opladen, 105 – 116

Pivotal findings of the research area "Socialisation processes, gender and pedagogy" were presented at the conference "Social work with boys – a dialogue between practice and science" (*Jungenarbeit – Dialog zwischen Praxis und Wissenschaft*) in addition to publications. The ZFG initiated and organised the conference, which also aimed to link the two areas, i.e. the more socialisation-theoretical area and the area which focuses on more practical pedagogical options. The series of events "Oldenburg symposium on gender and school" (*Oldenburger Fachtag Gender und Schule*) which started with the topic "Gender and School – Gender relations in theory and practice in schools" (*Geschlechterverhältnisse in Theorie und schulischer Praxis*) in March 2006 pursued the same goal. The symposium received a positive response. Therefore, we are planning a continuation of it

with the topic "Ethnic diversity, gender and school" (*Ethnische Diversität, Gender und Schule*) in 2007.

*Funding of conferences*      5.162 €

This main area of research is closely connected to the research profile of the Faculty I (Educational Science and Pedagogy, *Erziehungs- und Bildungswissenschaften*), and in particular with the main area of research "Educational processes under the conditions of heterogeneity/a pedagogical reconstruction of heterogeneous preconditions for education and processes of coping with life".

## 1.2 Politics and Gender – Approaches to transcultural research

*Constructions of gender and violence. Ambivalences of modernity in the process of globalisation (Prof. Dr. Silke Wenk, Dr. Lydia Potts, Martina Kamp, M.A.)*

The events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 were among the starting points for this interdisciplinarily designed project (Cultural Studies, Sociology, Political Science, History, Islam Studies). The interpretation of these events emphasises the necessity to develop a basis for transcultural research on violence. The project explored the manifold breaks and ambivalences in the relationship between modernity, violence and gender. The pivotal areas that were examined were the specific interlocking of gender relations and relations of violence in modern nation states on the one hand. On the other hand, the question of the perspectives and relations of power according to which violence was dealt with, because these structure the underlying notions of what counts as violence (and what is scandalised as such) and what disappears from the perception and is thus negated. Last but not least, cultural and geopolitical contexts needed to be considered.

The edition of an anthology is being prepared on the basis of a report on literature (together with Achim Rohde and Mona Motakef) and articles by members of the project team.

In addition, an international research network of researchers from Europe and North America and scholars from the Near East, North Africa and South East Asia was created within the scope of the project. This was also a result of two international work shops and lecture series (s. appendix 7).

*Funding*      86.540 €

### *Main publications*

Kamp, Martina/Motakef, Mona/Potts, Lydia/Rohde, Achim/Wenk, Silke (2003): *Geschlechterkonstruktionen und Gewalt. Ein Literaturbericht, Project Gender Constructions and Violence*, Oldenburg

Potts, Lydia/Wenk, Silke (2002): „Gender Constructions and Violence – Ambivalences of Modernity in the Process of Globalization: Towards an Interdisciplinary and International Research Network.“. In: *Signs* 28/ 1, 459 – 462

*German-Arabic university dialogue: politics and gender (Dr. Lydia Potts, Martina Kamp, M.A.)*

Gender relations and women's rights continue to be a disputed policy field where modernity and the tradition of nation states are being negotiated. Gender constructions and notions of "masculinity" and "femininity" not only influence the exercise of violence and the legitimacy thereof. They also affect the definition of citizens' rights in the interaction with other structural categories. This research topic is relevant to the Arabic world, too.

At the same time women's and gender research was institutionalised in European universities, several research centres were created in the Near East and in North Africa. This coincidence as well as the inert acceptance of Gender Studies on the part of the academic institutions constitute the similarities, which belong to the starting points for the transnational context of research.

Nevertheless, the differences are no less vital, e.g. with regard to debates on gender regimes or the lack of international attention that is paid to those voices among the globalised discourses on gender research which are not located in American and European cities.

Apart from the University of Oldenburg, the Universities of Sana'a and Aden (both are in Yemen) as well as the University of Fés (Morocco) are involved in this work context. Apart from the transcultural dimension, a transdisciplinary one emerged. Among others, Political Science, Linguistics and the Study of Literature, Natural Science, History, Media Studies were involved. The transnational teams concentrated their research on the areas of gender and citizenship, and gender and violence. Joint publications of the research findings are being prepared. Junior scholars are receiving fellowships at all universities which participated, and the collective development of a curriculum on the main areas has begun.

*Funding*            112.921 €

*Migration, globalisation and gender (Dr. Lydia Potts, Anika Walke, M.A.)*

Contexts from the 1990ies in the field of research on migration work were updated that were based on empirical-qualitative approaches and, among others, pick out biographical processes in the context of flight and migration. Junior scholars produced papers, and articles were published to this effect. Moreover, the research activities in this main area also include research on teaching and learning, whereby the lead management for the establishment of the European Programme Joint Master Migration and Intercultural Relations was taken on. The registration date is in the winter term 2006/07.

International co-operation is also the basis of work for the research on migration. Among other things, the conference "Globalization and Women's Work in South Asia and the EU" was organised, together with an Indian university. The conference had a session in the field of gender and migration. Junior scholars are granted corresponding fellowships, among others, at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and at the University of Sana'a, Yemen.

*Funding*            37.700 €

*Main publications*

Potts, Lydia (2006): Figuren der Grenze und des Übergangs. Repräsentationen von Weiblichkeit und Nation aus einer transkulturellen Perspektive. In: Adorf, Sigrid et al. (Hg.): Leitbilder, Selbstbilder, Optionen. Konzeptionen soziokultureller Repräsentationen.

Potts, Lydia/Krüger, Dorothea (2005): Alleinerziehende Migrantinnen in Deutschland – Armut als Konstante? Eine Exploration von Empirie, Statistik und Forschungsansätzen. In: Ernst, Waltraud (Hg.): Leben und Wirtschaften. Geschlechterkonstruktionen durch Arbeit, Münster

### 1.3 Cultural representations of sex

*The production of genders in political spaces (Prof. Dr. Karen Ellwanger, Prof. Dr. Silke Wenk)*

This subject area is located between different cultural sciences (Fine Arts, Textile Science and Media Studies) and Political Science. It focuses on the interlocking of material and visual culture and the meanings of gender constructions for the generation of political formations. This area can only be analysed by means of integrating various disciplinary approaches. It is just as much about clothed productions of authority, e.g. by means of a suit, and community, e.g. by means of traditional costumes, as it is about visual representations of institutions, such as e.g. the university, and imagined communities, the nation and their reciprocal relationship. Research on corresponding historical and contemporary phenomena are reflected in diverse publications and in dissertations in the field of Gender Studies in Cultural Science, too.

Recent questions that emerged in postcolonial and queer politics and theory contributed to an extension of the spectrum of topics with regard to politics of visibility in different social movements, in particular in the context of migration and globalisation, and by means of various media and materiality, e.g. press coverage, war films, recent artistic productions, fashion (s. the list of the students' dissertation topics in Gender Studies in Cultural Science in the appendix 9). Furthermore, a continuous co-operation between Cultural Studies and Political Science resulted from the interdisciplinary project "Constructions of gender and violence: Ambivalences of modernity in the process of globalisation" (s. chap. III 1.2).

*Funding* 37.000 €

#### *Main publications*

Ellwanger, Karen (2002): Kleiderwechsel in der Politik? Zur vestimentären Inszenierung der Geschlechter im Raum des Politischen (veränderter Wiederabdruck). In: Kleider machen Politik. Zur Repräsentation von Nationalstaat und Politik durch Kleidung in Europa vom 18. bis zum 20. Jahrhundert. Ausstellungskatalog, Hg. vom Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte Oldenburg, Redaktion Siegfried Müller und Michael Reinbold. Oldenburg, 108 – 124

Ellwanger, Karen (2002): Reformkleidung, Geschlecht und Nationalität. In: Kleider machen Politik. Zur Repräsentation von Nationalstaat und Politik durch Kleidung in Europa vom 18. bis zum 20. Jahrhundert. Ausstellungskatalog, Hg. vom Landesmuseum für

Kunst und Kulturgeschichte Oldenburg, Redaktion Siegfried Müller und Michael Reinbold. Oldenburg, 86 – 92

Wenk, Silke (2005): Imperiale Inszenierungen? Visuelle Politik und Irak-Krieg. In: Sabine Jaberg, Peter Schlotter (Hg.): Imperiale Weltordnung - Trend des 21. Jahrhunderts? Baden-Baden, 63 - 93 (Gekürzte Fassung in: MÖWE, Materialien zur Dekade „Frieden denken – Frieden machen“, hg. von Uwe Trittman und Thomas Ehrenberg (Amt für Mission, Ökumene und kirchliche Verantwortung), Dortmund, 17 – 25

Wenk, Silke (2005): Borussia, Brunsviga, Bavaria ... und Germania: Einheit und Differenz. In: Elisabeth Cheauré u.a. (Hg.): Vater Rhein und Mutter Wolga. Region, Diskurse um Nation und Gender in Deutschland und Russland. Würzburg, 75 – 90

Potts, Lydia/Wenk, Silke (2003): „Geschlechterdifferenz und Konstruktion des Nationalen aus einer transkulturellen Perspektive“. In: Allmendinger, Jutta (Hg.): Entstaatlichungen und soziale Sicherheit. Verhandlungen des 31. Kongresses der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie in Leipzig, Opladen

*Memory and gender (Prof. Dr. Karen Ellwanger, Prof. Dr. Silke Wenk)*

This field of research concerns a desideratum in circulating theories of the memory and the politics of remembrance. The latter usually neglect the category “gender”, and gender research in Social Science and Cultural Studies, which, in particular since the “performative turn”, have largely masked questions on the memory and commemoration. The leading question is about the ways representations of the past and dominant forms of commemoration and politics of remembrance are determined by gender-specific codifications, and how they reinforce them, respectively, and in which ways they have unintended effects on relationships of domination and power relations.

The problematised areas are

- the significance of images of gender in interpretative patterns of the national-socialist genocide in practices and depictions of remembrance and the way historical knowledge is put across, e.g. in co-operation with the memorial place Ravensbrück,
- the gendering of material culture in museum presentations and the possibilities and limits of producing minoritised cultures of commemoration against the background of a postcolonial critique of identity concepts and politics,
- questions on memory and commemoration in the context of migration, globalisation and social movements

*Main publications*

Wenk, Silke (2006): Visual Politics, Memory, and Gender. In: Ulrike Auga u. Christina von Braun (Hg.): Gender: Order and Disorder (Druck in Vorbereitung)

Wenk, Silke (2005): GenderMemory. Repräsentationen von Gedächtnis, Erinnerung und Geschlecht. FrauenKunstWissenschaft, Nr. 39, Redaktion zusammen mit Josch Hoenes u.a., Marburg

Eschebach, Insa/Jacobeit, Sigrid/Wenk, Silke (2002): Gedächtnis und Geschlecht. Deutungsmuster in Darstellungen des nationalsozialistischen Genozids, Frankfurt/M. u. New York

*Visual Studies and Gender Studies (Prof. Dr. Karen Ellwanger, Prof. Dr. Silke Wenk)*

Inter- and transdisciplinary research, respectively, requires a fundamental reflection of disciplinary developments and the methods thereof and of the relationship and the boundaries between different cultures of subjects. It is not about negating the respective methods and performances of the different disciplines. Rather, it is about exploring the possibilities they offer as necessary links for research on gender.

In the light of the “pictorial turn” which is proclaimed everywhere, this poses a particular challenge to Art History and Cultural Studies. The latter are informed by Visual Studies in the field of Gender Studies. We are trying to meet this challenge via basic research (s. the corresponding publications on “Representation” (*Repräsentation*) and “Strategies of Letting Others Take a Look” (*Strategien des Zu-Sehen-Gebens* by Prof. Dr. Silke Wenk) and also through teaching projects (e.g. “transdisciplinary modules” in the Faculty III: Language and Cultural Studies, *Sprache und Kulturwissenschaften*).

We carried out comparative studies on the conditions and possibilities of interdisciplinary research in different European countries in the first two years in the context of the project “Research integration: Crossing boundaries between the social sciences and the humanities” (Prof. Dr. Silke Wenk and the assistant Rebecca Krebs). The project was funded by the EU and involved social scientists and cultural scientists from eight countries. We are currently developing modules for integrated research methods and working on substantiate introductions for them. We are presently conceptualising a module called “Visual Studies” within this framework.

*Funding* 124.314 €

*Main publications*

Wenk, Silke (2005): *Strategien des Zu-Sehen-Gebens. Geschlechterpositionen in Kunst und Kunstgeschichte* (zusammen mit Sigrig Schade). In: Hadumod Bußmann und Renate Hof (Hg.): *Genus. Gender Studies in den Kultur- und Sozialwissenschaften*. Stuttgart, 302 - 342

Wenk, Silke (2004): “Studien zur visuellen Kultur” (zusammen mit Sigrig Schade und Daniela Hammer-Tugendhat), Jonas Verlag Marburg. Band 3: Barbara Schrödl: *Das Bild des Künstlers und seiner Frauen. Beziehungen zwischen Kunstgeschichte und Populärkultur in Spielfilmen des Nationalsozialismus und der Nachkriegszeit*

*Immaterial cultures (Prof. Dr. Ilse Dröge-Modelmog)*

The starting point for this thematic areas is a scientific approach, which could be characterised as “postmodern” in over-simplifying terms and which emanates from linguistics as an epistemologically-oriented discipline. The term “immaterial cultures” is located there, too. What makes this research special is that, among other things, it contextualises and questions the existence of an “objective subject”, which historically claimed domination, in particular vis-à-vis women. Hence, grand concepts of culture are criticised so that instead the fragment, e.g. of concepts of life, can be discussed.

The project was approached on three levels: theoretically, empirically and historically and, in addition, in an inter- and transdisciplinary way. It focused on three main areas: 1. The



question of how the “subject” describes itself, 2. the question of the culture of technology, 3. the question of everyday life.

Apart from co-operation within the university, networking developed with representatives of other universities, e.g. with Prof. Dr. Doris Janshen (Essen), Prof. Dr. Marie-Luise Karsten (Lüneburg) and Prof. Dr. Marianne Friese (Gießen). This was revealed in collective workshops. Several *Magister* and diploma theses were written within the framework of this research area.

#### *Main publication*

Modelmog, Ilse (2004): *Die Schein-Heilige, Schriften des Essener Kollegs für Geschlechterforschung*, hg. Doris Janhsen und Michael Meuser, Essen

### **1.4 Musicological gender research**

This main area of research focuses on gender relations in the pedagogy of music and in the history of music from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Prof. Dr. Freia Hoffmann is responsible for this research area. It is the goal of several publications and courses to supplement and correct the music-pedagogical practice and the traditional historiography of music. It not only includes women’s performances. Rather, it takes into consideration the aesthetics of music, the critique of musical genres, the interpretation of music, non-written traditions, the history of institutions and the like, too. It is with a broad cultural approach and with an approach that includes everyday history that it becomes possible to comprehend and describe gender relations.

Bibliographical work, questions on gender-typical socialisation, playing an instrument, and lessons in playing an instrument, analyses of opus (Mozart, Beethoven), editions (a 15-volume opus edition of the French composer Louise Farrenc which was funded by the German Research Foundation), socio-historical work, questions on method, and research on folksongs constitute the contents of this area of research.

The main areas of research represent a broad spectrum of topics that range from empirical qualitative and quantitative pedagogy of music, over the history of the pedagogy of music, to questions on gender in the history of music of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Sophie Drinker Institute for musicological women’s and gender research (*Sophie Drinker Institut*), an institute that is associated with the University of Oldenburg (*An-Institut*) and which was established by a Swiss foundation in 2001, offers a basis for larger scientific projects that can only be dealt with through teamwork (setting up a library specialised on books, notes and sound storage media, collecting articles on musicological gender research with presently more than 5000 units, making accessible inheritances of compositions, organising international conferences and so on<sup>20</sup>).

We planned an encyclopaedia of European female instrumentalists from 1700 to 1900 as our next project. We have already made extensive preparations to this effect, and we consulted several German, English, French and Italian scholars. The project will be launched as an internet encyclopaedia, presumably in 2007, and will appear in book form at a later time.

<sup>20</sup> See at [www.sophie-drinker-institut.de](http://www.sophie-drinker-institut.de)

*Funding* 167.165 €

*Main publications*

Gerards, Marion/Hoffmann, Freia (2006): Musik – Frauen – Gender. Bücherverzeichnis 1780 - 2004, Oldenburg

Hoffmann, Freia (2004): Wahrnehmungsprobleme: Beethoven und die Frauen. In: Bartsch, Cornelia/Borchard, Beatrix/Cadenbach, Rainer (Hg.): Der „männliche“ und der „weibliche“ Beethoven. Bericht über den Internationalen musikwissenschaftlichen Kongress vom 31. Oktober bis 4. November 2001 an der Universität der Künste Berlin, Bonn

Louise Farrenc, Klaviertrios Nr. 1 Es-Dur op. 33 und Nr. 2 d-Moll op. 34, vorgelegt von Freia Hoffmann (= Kritische Ausgabe. Orchester- und Kammermusik sowie ausgewählte Klavierwerke, hg. von Freia Hoffmann in Zusammenarbeit mit Christin Heitmann und Katharina Herwig Bd. II/5), Wilhelmshaven 2001

Hoffmann, Freia (1991): Instrument und Körper. Die musizierende Frau in der bürgerlichen Kultur 1780 - 1850“, Insel-Verlag Frankfurt/M. (2004 auch in japanischer Übersetzung)

### **1.5 Gender relations at the university and in science**

This main area of research focuses on the analysis of processes which produce inequalities among the sexes in universities and in scholarship. They are verifiable, e.g. in the decreasing proportion of women from one level of qualification to the other. However, these processes can be dismantled. So far, we examined the following aspects of the topic:

*Doctoral graduation and gender (Prof. Dr. Karin Flaake, Prof. Dr. Heike Fleßner, research assistants: Dorothee Noeres, Almut Kirschbaum)*

The first manifest decline in the proportion of women in terms of academic qualifications and careers can be observed during the passage to doctoral graduation. A study on conducive and hindering structures with gender-specific repercussions on promoting and supportive structures deals with this phase. The study refers to universities of Lower Saxony. It was based on an analysis of subject-specific data on final degrees and graduations at doctoral level, on the awarding of scholarships that promote post-graduate students at doctoral level (*Graduiertenförderungsstipendien*), research assistantships and on interviews with experts in the administrations, faculties and equal opportunities offices. Subject-specific general conditions and supportive structures became obvious that open up different chances for women and men to achieve a doctoral degree. On the basis of these findings and the discussion thereof with experts during a concluding workshop, we developed approaches to doctoral promotion which systematically do justice to the sexes and which found their way to a corresponding equal-opportunity-oriented advisory activity opposite the President's Office of the University of Oldenburg.

*Funding* 151.700 €

*Main publication*

Flaake, Karin/Fleißner, Heike/Kirschbaum, Almut/Noeres, Dorothee (2005): Promotionsförderung und Geschlecht. Zur Bedeutung geschlechtsspezifisch wirkender Auswahlprozesse bei der Förderung von Promotionen an niedersächsischen Hochschulen, Oldenburg

*Structures in the scientific discipline of Mathematics and the situation of women in Mathematics (Prof. Dr. Karin Flaake, Prof. Dr. Irene Pieper-Seier, Prof. Dr. Kristina Reiss)*  
Two studies focused on the so far heavily male-dominated discipline of Mathematics. The findings thereof complement each other and contribute to a differentiated picture of conducive and hindering conditions for women in this subject area. A survey of students revealed that female students in the diploma programme in Mathematics have much less faith in their academic abilities and competencies than their male fellow students. This may be considered a cause for their relatively low aptness to become more qualified via doctoral graduation (Prof. Dr. Irene Pieper-Seier, Prof. Dr. Kristina Reiss, research assistants: Sylvia Jahnke-Klein, Beate Curdes, Wiebke Lohfeld). A survey which asks 87% of the Mathematics professors teaching at German universities about their career and their status in the discipline reveals that, complementary to the findings of the interrogation of students, this academically successful path in Mathematics was rendered possible essentially through the support and encouragement of the professors in the discipline at every level of the career (Prof. Dr. Karin Flaake, Prof. Dr. Irene Pieper-Seier, research assistants: Dr. Kristina Hackmann, Stephanie Radtke).

*Funding* 387.000 €

*Main publications*

Flaake, Karin/Hackmann, Kristina/Pieper-Seier, Irene/Radtke, Stephanie (2006): Professorinnen in der Mathematik – Berufliche Werdegänge und Verortungen in der Disziplin (im Erscheinen)

Curdes, Beate/Jahnke-Klein, Sylvia/Lohfeld, Wiebke/Pieper-Seier, Irene (2003): Mathematikstudentinnen- und -studenten. Studienerfahrungen und Zukunftsvorstellungen. Wissenschaftliche Reihe des NFFG Band 5, Norderstedt

Curdes, Beate/Jahnke-Klein, Sylvia/Lohfeld, Wiebke/Pieper-Seier, Irene (2002): Zur Entwicklung von fachbezogenen Strategien. Einstellungen und Einschätzungen von Mathematikstudentinnen in den Studiengängen 'Diplom Mathematik' und 'Lehramt an Gymnasien'. Abschlussbericht des Projekts, gefördert vom Niedersächsischen Forschungsverbund für Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung in Naturwissenschaften, Technik und Medizin, Oldenburg

*Studying with a child (Prof. Dr. Karin Flaake, Prof. Dr. Heike Fleißner, undergraduate research assistants: Juliane Pegel, Petra Schmalz)*

The study focuses on the situation of a specific group of students, namely on those young women and men who have a child. The study is based on research on the University of Oldenburg. Based on quantitative and qualitative interviews, we identified vital problems of studying parents' circumstances of life and studying conditions, the productive side of studying with a child, the gender-specific and very different coping strategies for this situation as well as wishes directed toward the university in order to improve the

possibilities for them to graduate successfully. The research took place in the context of the realisation of the goals of the audit "A university that does justice to families" which was awarded the University of Oldenburg in 2004. The findings which are going to be presented at a nation-wide conference in the winter term 2006 are linked with concrete recommendations for the University of Oldenburg.

*Main publication*

Schmalz, Petra (2006): Studieren mit Kind. Ergebnisse einer empirischen Studie an der Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg, Oldenburg

## 1.6 Gender research and the natural sciences

This main area of research exists at the University of Oldenburg since the 1980ies. We are working on the following topics in:

*Women in the natural sciences – analyses of biographies (Dr. Luise Berthe-Corti, Prof. Dr. Irene Pieper-Seier)*

We pointed out in exemplary studies the contribution women made to the development of Mathematics and the natural sciences. We dealt with women who contributed significantly to their subject, but whose performances have so far not been presented adequately in the scholarly historical literature. We compiled or are compiling, respectively, their biographies, in conjunction with the analysis of their conditions of work, their approach to research and the interpretation and appraisal of these performances. Among these women is e.g. the biologist Elisabeth Schiemann (1881-1972) (Dr. Luise Berthe-Corti). The mathematician Ruth Moufang (1905-1977) marked the beginning of a new step in geometrical research. However, the politics of the Nazi regime obstructed her career in a sustainable way, especially since she was a woman. The analyses focus on bringing out her approach to research. Hel Braun (1914-1986) made important contributions to algebra. Using the example of her career, particularly conducive and hindering conditions in Mathematics in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are examined (Prof. Dr. Irene Pieper-Seier).

*Bio-technologies and the perspective taken on the human body (Dr. Luise Berthe-Corti, Prof. Dr. Ilse Dröge-Modelmog)*

Linked with social scientific and natural scientific research we brought out in this main area the gender-specific dimension of the technological culture in our society. This was carried out within the framework of research projects as well as in courses. Findings of bio-technological research as it is currently discussed in gender research constituted the basis for the main area. The collaboration of natural and social sciences rendered it possible to make a connection between the interpretation of technological culture and the understanding of biology and medicine in society.

*Main publication*

Berthe-Corti, Luise (2002): Der biotechnologische Körper. In: Zentrum für feministische Studien (ZFS) Bremen, Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Frauen und Geschlechterforschung (ZFG) Oldenburg (Hg.): Körper und Geschlecht, Opladen, 167-179

*Structures of the scientific discipline Mathematics and the situation of women in Mathematics (Prof. Dr. Karin Flaake, Prof. Dr. Irene Pieper-Seier, Prof. Dr. Kristina Reiss)*  
We analysed the conditions in the scientific discipline Mathematics that were conducive and hindering for women on the basis of two studies: on the one hand we interrogated students, on the other hand, we conducted a study on women who were successful in this discipline, i.e. professors (on these studies s. chap. III 1.5).

*Gender relations and biology (Prof. Dr. K. Smilla Ebeling)*

The research activities serve the systematic examination of the role of gender in Biology. They render it possible to analyse two related directions. On the one hand, there is the question of the inscriptions of gender relations into Biology. Gender structures Biology as a subject of study and as an occupational field, the networks and social worlds thereof, the subject-specific habitus, and the paradigms and epistemological positions. In addition, it structures the choice of topics and methods, and the constitution of objects of research. On the other hand, attention is directed toward the role of Biology in the constitution of historically and culturally bound gender relations at the individual, structural and symbolic level. The natural-scientific statements on sex and sexuality exercise a great defining power. They serve the foundation and legitimisation of gender relations. The following issues are currently being examined:

1. The sexual behaviour of animals as a basis to legitimise human sexuality

This research project picks out as an issue the interplays of common social assumptions on the sexes, sexualities, reproduction, and natural-scientific research on these subject matters. On the one hand, I examine what kind of discourses on sexes and sexualities enter biological research and the formation of theory. On the other hand, I analyse to what extent biological theories and findings of research on their part structure the social understanding of sex, sexualities and the gender relations, and the way they serve as a basis for the legitimisation and normative and symbolic orientation for the assessment of "appropriate" human behaviour and identities. The study is based on thematically guided interviews of 60 scientists who are involved in the production of discourses on sex, sexualities and gender relations. The project is carried out in co-operation with the Department of Sociology (*Institut für Soziologie*) at the University of Hamburg.

2. The construction of gender in zoology (working title)

In this project the construction of sex in the animal kingdom is analysed from a cultural-historical perspective. It deals with the development of the understanding of basic terms in Biology in the field of sexuality and reproduction, such as sex, reproduction copulation, progeny and sexuality. The project focuses on not so prominent phenomena, which have been described in Biology since the 17<sup>th</sup> century and which differ from the bi-polar concept of sex, such as e.g. hermaphrodites, mono-sexed forms of reproduction, entirely female species, intersexuality and same-sex sexual behaviour. I examine the central assumption which suggests that a heteronormative perspective in Biology operates in order to adapt phenomena that deviate from a bi-polar concept of sex to bisexuality. In addition, the research aims to render visible the process of constructing bisexuality in the animal kingdom. The latter enter social and cultural notions of sex.

### *Main publications*

Ebeling, Kirsten Smilla (2006): Heteronormativität in der Zoologie.

In: Fritzsche, Bettina/Hackmann, Kristina; Hänsch, Ulrike/Hartmann, Jutta; Klesse, Christian/Wagenknecht, Peter (Hg.): Heteronormativität. Empirische Studien zu Heterosexualität als gesellschaftlichem Machtverhältnis, Wiesbaden (im Erscheinen)

Ebeling, Kirsten Smilla (2006):

The Construction of Sexual Dimorphism and Heterosexuality in the Animal Kingdom. In: Bird, Sharon/Bystydzienski, Jill M. (Hg.): Removing Barriers: Women in Academic Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics, Indiana

Ebeling, Kirsten Smilla (2002): Die Fortpflanzung der Geschlechterverhältnisse. Das metaphorische Feld der Parthenogenese in der Evolutionsbiologie, Talheim

## **1.7 Jurisprudential gender research (single research)**

*Equality and Discrimination in the EU legal order (Prof. Dr. Dagmar Schiek, Victoria Chege, L.L.M.; L.L.M.Eur.)*

A structured linking-up with the rest of the main areas of research at the ZFG have so far not been possible. However, single activities developed in Law which belong to the field of themes of the ZFG (and which are linked with the Centre via membership). The starting point for this area of single research are examinations on the law of equal opportunities for women and men in Germany and in the EU. The examinations were extended to the research area "Equality and protection against discrimination in the law of the EU and a comparative perspective". The main area on research on Gender Equality Law (with two commentaries on the "Second equal opportunities act in the private sector", 1995, and on the "Equal opportunities for women in the Federation and the Länder" (*Frauengleichstellungsgesetzen des Bundes und der Länder*), 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2002) developed into a main area of research on the topic "Multidimensional Aspects of Equality and Diversity in Law and Legal Theory" in accordance with recent developments in feminist jurisprudence and jurisprudential research on equality and discrimination in the context of European integration. Currently we are planning the „First European Conference on Multidimensional Equality Law in Interdisciplinary Perspective“ in May 2007. Dr. Lydia Potts is involved in the preparations. Victoria Chege's doctoral thesis is part of the research programme. In addition, an application with the EU for the acceptance of bid to conduct the study "Multiple discrimination in the European Union" is currently pending. The decision will presumably be in December.

*Funding*           72.500 €

### *Main publications*

Schiek, Dagmar (Hg.): Antidiskriminierungsgesetz (ADG) – ein Kommentar aus europäischer Perspektive, Sellier European Law Publishers, <http://www.sellier.de/site/index.php?subsite=books&id=380> (im Erscheinen)

Schiek, Dagmar (2005): Broadening the Scope and the Norms of EU Gender Equality Law: Towards a Multidimensional Conception of Equality Law, 12 Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law, 427 – 466

Schieck, Dagmar u.a. (2002): Frauengleichstellungsgesetze des Bundes und der Länder, Kommentar für die Praxis, 1. Aufl. 1996, 2. Aufl. 2002

## 2 The junior professorship “Gender, bio-technologies and society: discourses on the body and constructions of gender”

By means of the junior professorship (Prof. Dr. K. Smilla Ebeling) the research area “Gender Studies in the Natural Sciences”, which has barely been institutionalised in Germany, extends and establishes this area of research and teaching through different transdisciplinary projects at the University of Oldenburg. Apart from the research activities (s. chap. III 1.6), additional projects serve the establishment and the promotion of this trend-setting area of research. Currently a supra-regional group of editors is e.g. working on the concept of an international scientific journal. The goal is to create a scientifically high-quality and acknowledged organ for publications, and to promote the scientific discussion within the growing scientific community in gender research on natural and technology sciences at a high scientific standard.

The numerous handbooks and introductory books on women’s and gender research of the past years barely deal with gender research in the natural sciences. We meet this gap with the edition of an introductory book “Gender research and the natural sciences: An introduction to a complex interplay” (*Geschlechterforschung und Naturwissenschaften. Einführung in ein komplexes Wechselspiel*) (s. appendix 8). We initialised the network “Gender Studies + TechnoMedSciences” in 2005 in order to link-up the young scientific community in gender research in the natural and technology sciences. Numerous conferences (e.g. the co-organisation of the “Kick-off meeting Gender Studies and TechnoMedSciences” at the TU Berlin in April 2006 and the “31<sup>st</sup> Congress Women in Natural Science and Technology (*31. Kongress Frauen in Naturwissenschaften und Technik*) at the University of Applied Science in Bremen in co-operation with the association FiNuT Nordwest e.v. in May 2005, the organisation of the symposium “Gender research in the natural and technology sciences – strategies for an institutionalisation” (*Geschlechterforschung in den Natur- und Technikwissenschaften – Strategien zur Institutionalisierung*) at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg in February 2005, preparations for the conference “Gender research in natural science, engineering and technology science: secret/eerie encounters?” (*Geschlechterforschung in Natur-, Ingenieurs- und Technikwissenschaften: un/heimliche Begegnungen?*) – please, note the pun in German) in co-operation with the University of Bremen) additionally contribute to the scientific exchange and to the establishment of the research area “Gender Studies research in the natural and technology sciences”.

The significance of this work and research area is revealed in the increasing demand for co-operation within the University of Oldenburg as well as on the part of some colleagues at other universities, e.g. in Bremen, Hamburg, Freiburg, at the TU Berlin and the TU Braunschweig.

*Funding* 21.899 €

*Main publications*

Ebeling, Kirsten Smilla/Schmitz, Sigrid (Hg.) (2006): *Geschlechterforschung und Naturwissenschaften – Einführung in ein komplexes Wechselspiel*, Wiesbaden

Ebeling, Kirsten Smilla (2006): Alles so schön bunt. Geschlecht, Sexualität und Reproduktion im Tierreich. In: Ebeling, Kirsten Smilla/Schmitz, Sigrid (Hg.): *Geschlechterforschung und Naturwissenschaften – Einführung in ein komplexes Wechselspiel*, Wiesbaden

### 3 The co-operation network “Gender research in the north-west region”

The co-operation network “Gender research in the north-west region” (*Geschlechterforschung in der Nord-West-Region*) is an amalgamation of gender researchers of the ZFG and the University of Applied Science Oldenburg/Ostfriesland/Wilhelmshaven (FH OOW). It has been supported by HWP funds of the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture since 2003. The steering committee of the co-operation network consists of six representatives from the FH OOW and the ZFG. The office is based in the ZFG and is equipped with a part-time research assistant position, administrative means and materials. A co-operation treaty regulates the extent and conditions of co-operation since February 2006.

It is the declared aim of the co-operation network to consolidate the existing competencies of both universities in the area of gender research and to strengthen gender research in the north-west region. On the one hand, it is about exchange and co-operation, in particular in the areas of teaching, research and university didactics. On the other hand, it is about the development of regional projects that transfer knowledge in the area of gender research. We strive to include regional institutions, e.g. institutions in the social and educational area, companies and administrations in the projects of transfer and consolidation of knowledge.

The main areas of activity of the co-operation network are so far comprised of activities in the following areas:

#### *Research and teaching*

The application to the German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, DFG) for funds to set up the *Graduiertenkolleg* “Adolescence, gender, and ethnic diversity in pedagogical spaces” (*Adoleszenz, Geschlecht und ethnische Diversität in pädagogischen Räumen*) was formulated together with scholars of the university of applied science. Encouraged by the suggestion of the DFG to incorporate the (post-)graduate programme as an innovative element of the co-operation in the university and the university of applied science, we took on this structural idea, in particular because it ties in with the founding idea of the co-operation network.

We are currently developing a collective research application on the topic “Family-friendly measures in firms, public offices and institutions in Lower Saxony which explicitly address fathers, too. Survey – use – experiences”.

In the field of teaching the co-operation network carried out a workshop for teachers in both university systems on the topic “Gender in teaching” (*Gender in der Lehre*). We will continue the workshop in the winter term 2006/07. In addition, researchers of the



respective other university were invited to give guest lectures in the framework of lecture series. We have so far not carried out an exchange of teaching, especially because the differences in the programmes and the lack of flexibility of the modularised structures of teaching make such an enterprise difficult.

*Regional networking with regard to the transfer and consolidation of knowledge on gender and gender competencies*

The following symposiums which were conceptualised in the context of the co-operation network and organised by the ZFG aimed at transferring knowledge to the region:

- Social work with boys – a dialogue between practice and scholarship (*Jungenarbeit – Dialog zwischen Praxis und Wissenschaft*)
- Challenging instead of promoting – are we dealing with a paradigm shift in children's and adolescents' aid due to the influence of Hartz IV?<sup>21</sup> (*Fordern statt Fördern – Stehen wir vor einem Paradigmenwechsel in der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe unter dem Einfluss von Hartz IV?*)
- Oldenburg symposium on "Gender and school – gender relations in theory and practice" (*Gender und Schule – Geschlechterverhältnisse in Theorie und Praxis*)

The GEW (Trade Union for Education and Science, *Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft*), the Workers' Welfare Organisation (*Arbeiterwohlfahrt*), the youth of the DGB (Federation of German Trade Unions, *Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund*), the Jugendhof Steinkimmen, the Institute for Job Market Research and occupational support for adolescents (*Institut für Arbeitsmarktforschung und Jugendberufshilfe*) and the Gender Institute Hamburg-Steinkimmen-Oldenburg (*Gender Institut Hamburg-Steinkimmen-Oldenburg*) were e.g. co-operation partners of the symposiums. The participants were especially from social education institutions, administrations, social advice centres and schools. The symposiums were explicitly aimed at students of the FH OOW, too.

In June 2006 the "Forum Social Work with Boys" (*Forum Jungenarbeit*) was founded. The forum was founded, because regional agents, e.g. from youth welfare departments and educational institutions as well as individuals from the area of research had voiced their desire for a continuous dialogue between theory and practice. The participants of the symposiums on "social work with boys" and on "gender and school" had on balance expressly advocated this continuity. The forum is meant to function as a place of exchange between educational practice and those who are working in science. It is supposed to offer a space for the development of viable concepts for educational boys work and to have an effect on the region in this sense.

In the coming years the co-operation network is going to concentrate on the following thematic main areas:

*Main area 1: Conditions of changed masculinity or male socialisation, respectively, - research and the transfer of knowledge*

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<sup>21</sup> Hartz IV is an unemployment scheme that was developed during the social-liberal coalition in Germany. Among other things, it makes the payment of a standardised amount of dole money dependent on the unemployed individual's attempts to find a job.

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Activities are going to be developed at two levels: On the one hand an empirical research project on the topic “Family-friendly measures in firms, public offices and institutions in Lower Saxony which explicitly address fathers, too. Survey – use – experiences” is being planned. With this question which is directed at fathers, we wish to take into account the social development that fathers increasingly wish to take on family responsibilities. However, they often fail to do so due to (among other things) structural obstacles on the job market.

On the other hand, the “Forum Social Work with Boys” as a place of dialogue between theory and practice will be extended.

*Main area 2: The development and strengthening of technological and natural scientific programmes for women*

Another main area brings together gender researchers from the University of Oldenburg and the FH OOW/location Wilhelmshaven in the disciplines Social Science, Mathematics and Industrial Engineering. We intend to develop and strengthen the programme for women in the area of industrial engineering<sup>22</sup> at the University of Applied Science OOW, and connected with this, to transfer the findings and experiences from this programme to the mathematical-natural scientific programmes at the university.

*Main area 3: Gender in university teaching*

The work of the co-operation network has so far revealed that the topic “Gender in university teaching” runs like a thread through discussions, co-operations, workshops and symposiums. The topic is an important constituent of the networking activities. We aim to develop concepts and strategies of teaching that can be translated into action and that do justice to the sexes. We are also striving to develop alternative methods of teaching and learning.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Gransee, Carmen (Hg.) (2003): Der Frauenstudiengang in Wilhelmshaven. Facetten und Kontexte einer „paradoxen Intervention“. Opladen (The Women’s Studies Programme in Wilhelmshaven: Aspects and Contexts of a “Paradoxical” Intervention.)

<sup>23</sup> Currently, professors at the FH OOW/located at Wilhelmshaven are writing the textbook “Gender lernen – Gender lehren. Geschlechtergerechte Lehre an Hochschulen” (Learning gender – teaching gender: Teaching at universities that does justice to the sexes).

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## 4 Teaching

### 4.1 The *Magister* minor subject Women's and Gender Studies and its continuation within the structures of the BA and MA programmes

The consolidation and structuring of the broad spectrum of courses which focus on women and gender in two interdisciplinary programmes became possible on the basis of the denomination and filling of the positions of two professorships with the main area "women's research" in Fine Arts and in Sociology in the academic year 1997/98. The programmes were the programme for additional and specialised studies (*Aufbaustudiengang*) Gender Studies in Cultural Studies, which has now become the PhD programme Gender Studies in Cultural Science, and the *Magister* minor subject Women's and Gender Studies, which has now been converted to the supplementary field Gender Studies.

The programme for further and specialised studies (*Aufbaustudiengang*) Gender Studies in Cultural Science accepted the first students in the summer term 1997. The *Magister* minor subject Women's and Gender Studies was arranged by the university in the winter semester 1997/98. The latter was, at the same time as was the part of the *Magister* programme Gender *Geschlechterstudien*/Gender Studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin, the first established programme with this kind of profile at a German university. Women's and Gender Studies in Oldenburg as an interdisciplinary minor subject within the framework of a *Magister* programme could be combined with manifold major subjects in the areas of Humanities and Social Science and Cultural Studies. The number of students who made use of this option increased from term to term, and the programmes contributed to making Oldenburg an attractive location for studying. There were just under 200 students of which 13 percent were from Bremen in the summer term 2005, the last term before the conversion of all programmes in Oldenburg into BA and MA programme structures. Women's and Gender Studies was among the subjects that were open for co-operate studies with the neighbour university. Until now 25 students of which two are from Bremen have completed their studies. Ninety students of which 13 are from Bremen have so far passed the intermediate exam (*Zwischenprüfung*) (date: July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006).

The core elements of the *Magister* minor subject, interdisciplinary studies and internationalism, of which the latter was secured via continuous guest professorships for foreign scholars, also characterise the profile of the successive project, the supplementary area Gender Studies. In order to embed a gender perspective in the new BA and MA programme structures, a 30 credit-point (cp) subject was developed, which can be studied in combination with an 90 cp subject. The University of Oldenburg belongs to the few German universities that has systematically established Gender Studies in the structures of the BA programmes. Another specific feature that can only be found at few universities is that it is possible within the Gender Studies programme to select natural-scientific gender research as an exemplary area of in-depth studies. Furthermore, gender competencies for the practical field are taught, too. This is an element of the supplementary area that tries to do justice to the more practice-oriented requirements of a BA programme.

Due to the specifics of the BA programmes in Oldenburg, a 30 cp subject, and with that the supplementary area Gender Studies, could only be offered within the context of a BA in Social Science. Since recently, though, it is clear that this option is no longer scheduled from the academic year 2007/08 onward. Meanwhile, we are working on the development of a subject called Gender Studies (60 cp) in the context of a two-subject bachelor programme at the University of Oldenburg and in co-operation with the University of Bremen or the Centre for Feminist Studies (ZFS), which is at the University of Bremen. The President's Office of the university supports this project. We are planning a joint Gender Studies programme at the universities of Oldenburg and Bremen. It is secured by a co-operation treaty, and the individuals that are responsible for planning programmes in both universities have agreed to it in principle. The programme is conceptualised in a way that students can enrol in it at both universities and in combination with a larger number of subjects in the humanities, the social sciences and cultural studies as well as possibly the natural and technology sciences. Therefore, an interdisciplinary gender perspective as a subject on a broad basis will be established in the structures of the BA programmes. In Oldenburg the subject will be balanced with other subjects with regard to the number of credit points that are allocated to it. The subject will obtain national significance as a varsity programme at undergraduate level. At the same time, such an anchoring also has repercussions on the specific disciplines. Since they are obliged to offer courses accordingly, a corresponding supply of courses will be secured and guaranteed in these subjects in the long run.

#### 4.2 The Joint MA in Migration and Intercultural Relations

Migration is one of the central phenomena of the present with a historical dimension. Migratory processes which go along with wars, conflicts and processes of political transformation have contributed to the set-up of current European societies, while the different effects of globalisation influence migration, employment and welfare policies. Migration processes produce different consequences for men and women. Therefore, gender is one of the central categories in order to analyse the causes, consequences and perceptions of world-wide migratory processes within a historical and current dimension. The MA programme which is designed for two years starts for the first time in October 2006. Dr. Lydia Potts from the Working Place Migration – Gender at the Department of Political Science (*Arbeitsstelle Migration – Gender am Institut für Politikwissenschaft*) will carry out the MA programme in co-operation with the University of Stavanger (Norway), the Universidade Aberta in Lisbon (Portugal) and the University of Nova Gorica (Slovenia). It is funded by the Erasmus initiative. Jurisprudential modules for which Prof. Dr. Dagmar Schiek is responsible, will be an integral part of the MA programme.

*Funding*            37.700 €

#### 4.3 The International MA in Politics and Gender

The international MA programme makes allowance for the fact that gender has meanwhile become a key term of the politics of democracy, transformation and development. The transcultural analysis and critical evaluation of gendered effects of political processes are the focal point of this MA programme. It is located in the area of International Politics/Development Co-operation. The programme is directed toward students in various subjects, and also toward experts who work in the area of development co-operation. Dr. Lydia Potts is developing the MA in Politics and Gender in collaboration with political scientists and gender researchers of the University Witwatersrand of Johannesburg (South Africa), the University of Sana'a (Yemen) as well as with scholars of the Makerere University of Kampala (Uganda). The programme is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (*Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, DAAD*). The registration date is scheduled for the winter term 2007/08.

*Funding* 17.200 €

#### 4.4 Culture – Power – History: A BA/MA module on gender relations in the Near East

This module was designed in order to help students develop an understanding of the dynamics of gender relations in the Near East, North Africa and Central Asia, and to teach them to analyse the subject matter from a perspective that makes allowance for the nexuses of power, history and culture, instead of simply reducing it to Islam. The module consists of a set of courses, lectures and exercises that relate to one another, with one variant for BA programmes and one at the MA level. The module is organised transdisciplinarily. The scholar of Islam and political scientist Martina Kamp developed this module together with members of the Research Group Gender of the German Association of the Near East (*Arbeitskreis Gender der Deutschen Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient, AK gender der DAVO*), in co-operation with gender researchers of the University of Fés (Morocco), the American Lebanese University in Beirut (Lebanon) as well as the Sabancı University of Istanbul (Turkey). The project is funded by the Foreign Office and is directed toward social science and cultural studies subjects of all universities that are able to import this module into their BA and MA programmes.

*Funding* 40.000 €

#### 4.5 The PhD programme Gender Studies in Cultural Science

The PhD programme Gender Studies in Cultural Science which used to be a programme of further and specialised studies (*Aufbaustudiengang*) until 2004, was set up in 1997 in the former Faculty 2 "Communication and Aesthetics" (*Kommunikation und Ästhetik*) and now Faculty III "Language and Cultural Sciences" (*Sprache und Kulturwissenschaften*). The "group of scholars and students Gender Studies in Cultural Science" (*Kolleg Kulturwissenschaftliche Geschlechterstudien*) which was founded in the same year is responsible for the organisation. It has regulations of its own, i.e. a council (*Kollegrat*) which consists of spokeswomen and three student representatives. It resides at the

“Institute for Cultural Studies: FINE ARTS – TEXTILES – MEDIA” (*Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut: KUNST-TEXTIL-MEDIEN*) in the Faculty III since its foundation in 2003. It is mainly financed by intramural means.

Prof. Dr. Karen Ellwanger and Prof. Dr. Silke Wenk are the spokeswomen of the *Kolleg*. Prof. Dr. Sabine Broeck, professor of Literature and English, and the political scientist Dr. Lydia Potts (Faculty IV of the University of Oldenburg) were co-opted as members of the *Kolleg* which are external to the Faculty. Further co-optations are scheduled, partly in order to fill the gaps that emerged with the retirement of former founding members (Prof. Dr. Ingrid Köller, Prof. Dr. Ingo Scheller, formerly of the University of Oldenburg, and Prof. Dr. Eva Rieger, formerly of the University of Bremen).

The programme was founded in order to consolidate gender research in Cultural Studies and in the Humanities. It has a transdisciplinary orientation. On the one hand, the involvement of guest professors who had the opportunity to contribute to teaching in the programme for further and specialised studies (*Aufbaustudiengang*) via the Maria-Goeppert-Mayer Programme for international women’s and gender research, contributed to the goal of transdisciplinarity and the transcultural opening of perspectives in research connected with the programme. The professors were Prof. Dr. Bozena Choluj (Warsaw, Poland), Dr. Amatalrauf Al-Sharki (Sana’a, Yemen) and Dr. Sheila Meintjes (Johannesburg, South Africa). Another guest professorship was approved for the winter term 2006/07).

On the other hand, the *Kolleg* organised a public research colloquium (*Öffentliches Forschungskolloquium*) for external experts from various disciplines. The experts inform the public about their respective research projects (s. appendix 7 about the lecturers).

Furthermore, the “Third Summer Academy” (*Dritte Sommerakademie*) of the *Kolleg* was organised on the topic “Gender – Memory: Representations of the memory, remembrance and gender” (Gender – Memory. *Repräsentationen von Gedächtnis, Erinnerung und Geschlecht*) in 2004. The fourth summer academy will presumably be dedicated to the topic “The production of truth and evidence” (*Wahrheits- und Evidenzproduktion*), which is a rather explosive issue for gender research. The event is currently being conceptualised and set up.

Right from the outset the curriculum was planned in modules. The curriculum was modified via the restructuring of the programme for further and specialised studies (*Aufbaustudiengang*) to a PhD programme. This process was completed in 2005 (s. appendix 10.3). A maximum of five students can be accepted per year. The students that have been enrolled so far are from Art History, Cultural Studies, Textile and Media Studies as well as from social science subjects. Some are from universities of applied science.

Currently, 15 PhD students are participating in the colloquium for PhD students on a regular basis. Since 2001 10 students took a certificate for the successful completion of the further and specialised studies programme (*Aufbaustudiengang*). The right to obtain a certificate is established in the conditions of study of the further and specialised studies programme. Since 2001 a total of five PhD students has graduated successfully. The topics of the completed and current dissertations deal with the politics of visibility, gender constructions and images of gender, the politics of remembrance (in Fine Arts as well as

e.g. in war films), representations of migrants as well as of queer identities in various historical and media contexts, and fashion and lifestyles from post-colonial perspectives.<sup>24</sup> The former programme for further and specialised studies (*Aufbaustudiengang*) and present PhD programme Gender Studies in Cultural Science is the first of its kind. In the meantime *Graduiertenkollegs* in the field of Cultural Studies have been set up at various German universities and have been funded by the German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, DFG). Despite the fact that the University of Oldenburg cannot offer applicants who in part come from especially German-speaking countries, financial security on the basis of a scholarship, students continue to be interested in the *Kolleg*, in particular because of its openness. Fortunately, about half of the PhD students have so far managed to obtain a scholarship from a foundation.

## 5 The promotion of junior scholars

It is among the central responsibilities of the ZFG to promote junior scholars. There are manifold opportunities for students and graduates to exchange information, to build up international contacts, to present findings of research to the public and to make plans for their academic careers at an early stage.

Since its foundation the ZFG places special emphasis on the promotion of PhD students. Initially, the Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Women's and Gender Research (*Interdisziplinäre Kolloquium zur Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung*) was such a place. It took place regularly from the summer term 2001 to the winter term 2004/05. Thereafter, the series was continued in the format of the "Lunch Talk Gender Research" (*Lunch Talk Geschlechterforschung*) There was, and is an opportunity to present and discuss the processes and results of research in both series.

Moreover, two student members of the ZFG established the *Jour fixe* in spring 2003 in order to offer junior scholars in gender research an interdisciplinary forum for informal exchange and networking. The *Jour fixe* existed until the summer term 2005.

In November 2003 the ZFG carried out a Junior Scholars' Day (*Tag des wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchses*) for students and graduates of Women's and Gender Studies. This event, among other things, highlighted possible routes from studying to taking a doctoral degree in the area of Gender Studies research. More specific work groups accompanied specialist presentations on options for funding a PhD, third-party research and project management as well as self-management. Meanwhile, the university organises this task centrally.

The goal of systematic promotion of junior scholars in the post-graduate area is pursued via the establishment of the PhD programme Gender Studies in Cultural Science (s. chap. III 4.5).

In addition, two groups of scholars of the ZFG applied, together with co-operating scholars of other universities, with the German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungs-*

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<sup>24</sup> The spokeswomen of the *Kolleg* also supervise gender studies dissertations in the area of Fine Arts and Cultural Studies outside the PhD programme. Since 2001 five dissertations have been completed successfully.

*gemeinschaft*, DFG) for the establishment and funding of a *Graduiertenkolleg*. One was in the natural-scientific and mathematical field, the other in the social-scientific and pedagogic area.

*The application "The construction of the gender regime in and via the natural and technological sciences" (s. M 1.2):*

To this day there is no *Graduiertenkolleg* on this topic at German universities. Its significance results from the unspent potentials of insight in gender research on natural sciences and technology. This applies to the constitution of the natural sciences as well as to their contribution to maintaining or changing, respectively, the gender regime in society and culture. The *Graduiertenkolleg* we applied for picks out construction processes of the gender regime in and through natural and technology sciences at an individual, structural and symbolic level and in the two directions, which shape each other reciprocally. On the one hand, it was meant to problematise the inscription of gender relations in the natural and technology sciences as well as, on the other hand, to examine the consequences of natural-scientific statements on gender and gendered technological products on society, culture and everyday life. In doing so, the natural and technology sciences and society were not considered as being separate from each other. Instead they were understood as being interwoven. The aim of the *Graduiertenkolleg* we applied for was to integrate gender research into the natural and technological sciences and, at the same time, to integrate natural- and techno-scientific analyses from a gender perspective into Women's and Gender Studies research. A group of scholars of the ZFG and of the Centre for Feminist Studies at the University of Bremen who work in the natural and technological sciences as well as in women's and gender research joined forces in order to realise the outlined aims. This form of co-operation was new for Gender Studies research in Germany. It rendered it possible to relate the problems and methodological and conceptual approaches of gender research from the respective natural- and techno-scientific "interior view" to a broad spectrum of natural- and techno-scientific disciplines. The disciplines spanned from Mathematics, Biology and Physics to Environmental/Production Engineering and Public Health. The consolidation of single projects was supposed to render possible insights on the significance of the gender regime in the interaction of natural and technological sciences with society and culture that go beyond the insights of the respective subjects. The German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, DFG) did not allow the *Graduiertenkolleg*. The scientists and additional co-operation partners who were involved in the application are planning to form an alliance on the complex of topics of the *Graduiertenkolleg*.

*The application „Adolescence, gender and ethnic diversity in educational spaces“ (s. M 1.2):*

The basic research idea aimed to create a link between the social lines of difference "ethnicity, social stratum, and gender, which have so far largely been analysed separately from one another. The research was to be particularly focused on the processes of identity formation of, and the allocation of social chances to adolescents. The adolescent phase in life was to be the theoretical and empirical point of reference. This period in life is pivotal for processes of identity formation and the allocation of social chances. We chose educational spaces, in particular schools and institutions of extracurricular youth work as the empirical "field", because they are the central places where adolescent developmental



processes take place and where institutional arrangements and pedagogical interventions structure, shape and influence them. The *Graduiertenkolleg* aimed to bring together pivotal foci of work of members of the ZFG and that of scholars who are close to the ZFG in a way that renders possible productive developments of important problems of gender research. Two professors of the University of Applied Science Oldenburg/Ostfriesland/Wilhelmshaven (branch: Emden, department: Social Work and Social Management). The application for the *Graduiertenkolleg* was not allowed. However, the basic research idea was considered important and innovative. The preparations triggered a series of co-operations, which became important for the further work of the ZFG. This applies in particular to the conceptually anchored collaboration with professors of the University of Applied Science Oldenburg/Ostfriesland/Wilhelmshaven in the main areas of work of the ZFG. We are currently preparing an application for a research project that developed during the discussion on the topic "Adolescence and concepts of femininity and masculinity" (*Adoleszenz und Weiblichkeits- und Männlichkeitsentwürfe*). The topic is an analysis of general conditions and subjective forms of dealing with "active fatherhood" ("Family-friendly measures in firms, public offices and institutions in Lower Saxony which explicitly address fathers, too. Survey – use – experiences", s. chap. III 3). The basic assumption is that an early involvement of fathers in childcare influences the images of masculinity and femininity of adolescents and may fluidise polarising established concepts. In addition, we are currently checking, whether we are going to revise the application for the establishment and funding of a *Graduiertenkolleg* and submit it to the German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, DFG) anew or to the Hans Böckler Foundation (*Hans-Böckler-Stiftung*).

The ZFG is going to carry out a PhD workshop in collaboration with the Centre for Feminist Studies at the University of Bremen at the beginning of the winter term 2006 (Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> 2006). This workshop aims to support those junior scholars who are working on their doctoral degrees in the area of gender research, but who for whatever reasons are not closely involved in varsity work and research contexts. The demand is high. Both centres are carrying out this type of work format together in order to make available a low-barrier supportive programme for PhD students.

In addition, the ZFG aims to achieve the profound qualification of junior scholars by acquainting Women's and Gender Studies students with international perspectives on gender research from the beginning of their studies onward, to arouse interest in international exchanges, and to contribute to the academic preparations thereof. This happened e.g. via courses in English, which were rendered possible via the guest professorships that take place regularly in the context of the Maria-Goeppert-Programme and via training sessions that are designed to sensitise students for cultural differences. In addition, a field excursion to South Africa was supported financially.

It is an integral part of the academic supervision to make available up-to-date and specific literature. The MWK (*Ministerium für Kultur und Wissenschaft*, Ministry of Science and Culture) granted special funds. This made it possible to build up a stock of literature that supplemented the library stock with more than 200 volumes on gender research and, in

particular, on literature with a focus on international gender research. The library included the books.

Finally, the ZFG offers junior scholars comprehensive information and advice, if they are members of the ZFG. They regularly receive notices on events, information on measures for further qualification, scholarships and job postings, references to literature and support with e.g. the creation of poster presentations.

## 6 Academic co-operation

### 6.1 National co-operation

In the past years the ZFG built up a wide network of co-operative relations. Among these are the establishment of the co-operation network “Gender research in the north-west region” in collaboration with Gender Studies researchers at the University of Applied Science Oldenburg/Ostfriesland/Wilhelmshaven (s. chap. III 3), and the co-operation with the North Saxon gender centres in Braunschweig and Hildesheim of which the latter resulted in the joint planning and realisation of the international conference “Re-Visioning the Future: Perspectives in Gender Studies/Re-Visionen der Zukunft: Perspektiven der Geschlechterforschung” in Braunschweig in May 2006 (s. chap. III 8).

Since its foundation the ZFG also maintains a continuous working relationship with the Centre for Feminist Studies – Frauenstudien/Gender Studies at the University of Bremen (ZFS). Apart from regular meetings of the groups of spokeswoman where up-to-date information is exchanged and projects are planned, events take place, which we conceptualised together, such as the Bremen-Oldenburg Lectures at Noon (*Bremer-Oldenburger-Mittagsvorlesungen*) (2000-2002), continued as Bremen-Oldenburg Summer Lectures (*Bremer-Oldenburger Sommervorlesungen*) (2002-2003) and an international conference “Gender Studies in German-speaking areas: Development in the times of the restructuring of universities” (*Geschlechterstudien im deutschsprachigen Raum – Weiterentwicklung in Zeiten der Umstrukturierung von Hochschulen*) in July 2004. Representatives of nearly all centres and study locations in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France took part in the latter. Furthermore, the series of publications which is jointly edited by the ZFG and the ZFS (s. chap. III 7) documents the productivity of the co-operation. At present, both of the centres are working intensively on the development of the joint BA programme Gender Studies (s. chap. III 4.1).

In addition, teachers of the University of Oldenburg and those of the University of Bremen have since ten years offered a joint colloquium “Methods of Gender Studies in Fine Arts and Gender Studies” (*Methoden der kunst- und kulturwissenschaftlichen Geschlechterstudien*) for PhD students and students who are in the final stages of their *Magister* thesis (Prof. Dr. Silke Wenk, Prof. Dr. Sigrid Schade und Prof. Dr. Irene Nierhaus).

The concept of the Lectures at Noon, the colloquium in Cultural Science, the collaboration on the application to the German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, DFG) for a *Graduiertenkolleg* in the natural and technology sciences (s. chap. III 5) and the planned co-operative BA in Gender Studies, in particular, express the

consolidation of complementary scholarly resources of both institutions. The aim of these projects is to create and to employ in an innovative way synergies in research and teaching.

## 6.2 International co-operation

The profile of the ZFG is marked decisively by the diversity of relationships of international co-operation. The goal of the efforts is to enter into a dialogue, and to strengthen it, in particular with scholars in the Arabian, African and Asian regions.

The international conference “Societies in Transition – Challenges to Women’s and Gender Studies” which the ZFG carried out in summer 2001 constituted the prelude to international collaboration. During the conference we, among other things, signed a co-operation treaty with the “Woman’s Research and Training Center” at the University of Aden, Yemen (s. M 4). In addition, the concept for a student exchange programme with the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, was developed. Co-operation with the University of Aden was reinforced via Dr. Rokhsana M. Ismail’s research stay in autumn 2001. The latter is the director of the “Woman’s Research and Training Center“. Contacts with the University of Sana’a also developed via Dr. Amatalrauf Al-Sharki, one of the guest professors of the ZFG (s. chap. III 6.3). Dr. Al-Sharki and Prof. Dr. Karen Ellwanger (Faculty III, Institute for Cultural Science: FINE ARTS-TEXTILES-MEDIA) collaborated to realise a joint research project on the political history of Germany and Yemen from 1948 to 2004 in representations of clothing. Furthermore, Dr. Al-Sharki and Dr. Lydia Potts initiated a book project on “Islamic feminism: Sources, theories, positions” (*Islamischer Feminismus – Quellen, Theorien, Positionen*) as well as an exchange of students.

Since the first guest professorship of the ZFG in the context of the Maria-Goeppert-Mayer programme for international women’s and gender research was filled with Dr. Sheila Meintjes from the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, in the summer term 2001, an intensive collaboration has taken place. Among other things, this resulted in the development of the international MA programme Politics and Gender, on which political scientists and gender researchers from the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, the University of Sana’a, Yemen, as well as scholars from the Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, are working together with Dr. Lydia Potts (s. chap. III 4.4). Moreover, from this year in October onward the MA programme Migration and Intercultural Relations will be offered. Dr. Lydia Potts conceptualised this programme in collaboration with the University of Stavanger, Norway, the Universidade Aberta in Lisbon, Portugal and the University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia. Also, thanks to the Dr. Lydia Pott’s commitment, a co-operation with the CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, Haryana, India, was established. Together with Prof. Dr. Savita Singal, Dr. Lydia Potts conceptualised a five-day international conference on globalisation and women’s work, which took place in Hisar in December 2004. Together with Martina Kamp, Dr. Lydia Potts initialised another work relationship called “German-Arabic University Dialogue: Politics and Gender” (*Deutsch-arabischer Hochschuldialog: Politik und Gender*). Apart from the University of Oldenburg, the universities of Sana’a and Yemen, both in Yemen, as well as the University of Fés in Morocco are involved in this project. On the one hand, this work

relationship deals with studies in the area of gender and citizenship, and with gender and violence. It is carried out in transnational teams. On the other hand, a joint curriculum is being developed for these main thematic areas.

Social and cultural scientists from eight different countries are involved in the project "Research Integration: Crossing Boundaries between Social Sciences and Humanities", which is funded by the EU. In the past two years the comparative studies on the conditions and possibilities of interdisciplinary research in various European countries were completed. Currently, the work focuses on the development of "Modules for Integrated Research Methods" and introductions that substantiate them. Within this framework Prof. Dr. Silke Wenk is involved with the conceptualisation and constitution of a module called "Visual Studies".<sup>25</sup>

### 6.3 International guest professorships

So far, six international guest scholars have worked for either one or two terms at the ZFG in the context of the Maria-Goeppert-Mayer Programme for International Women's and Gender Research. The programme is funded by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony (*Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur*, MWK). The Ministry approved further guest professorships, which the ZFG had applied for, of which one will be for the winter term 2006/07 and the other for the summer term 2007. The scientific impulses, in particular for in part co-taught courses with professors from Oldenburg and the close collaboration with researchers from the ZFG that are linked with the guest professorships, contributed to the international link-up of the ZFG and women's and gender research at the university in a sustainable way.

**Dr. Sheila Meintjes**, a political scientist and the director of the Gender Studies Programme at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, filled the first Maria-Goeppert-Mayer guest professorship during the summer term 2001. Dr. Meintjes's main areas of research are "gender and violence" and "politics and gender". Furthermore, she was politically active as one of the founders of the "United Women's Organization in Western Cape" and in the "Women's National Coalition" during the apartheid regime. She took a full-time position as the chairperson of the governmental "Commission for Gender Equality from 2001 to 2004. Her courses picked out as a central theme gender-related violence, body politics, and the involvement of women against violence in South Africa. Sustainable relations of co-operation developed beyond her stay at the ZFG. An exchange of students took place in 2003 as well as the MA programme Gender and Politics, which she conceptualised together with Dr. Lydia Potts. Furthermore, Dr. Meintjes presented a paper at the international conference "Re-Visioning the Future: Perspectives in Gender Studies/Re-Visionen der Zukunft: Perspektiven der Geschlechterforschung" in Braunschweig in 2006.

During the summer term 2002 the Literature and Cultural Studies scholar **Prof. Dr. Bozena Choluj** from Warsaw worked as a guest professor in the PhD programme Gender

<sup>25</sup> On the project and the publications that were written together with the assistant of the project, Rebecca Krebs, s.  
<http://www.hull.ac.uk/researchintegration/National%20Reports.htm>;  
<http://www.hull.ac.uk/researchintegration/Comparative%20Reports.htm>

Studies in Cultural Science. Since 1996 Prof. Dr. Choluj has been directing the subject Gender Studies at the University of Warsaw. Moreover, she held a professorship for Comparative Central European Studies at the Viadrina University of Frankfurt/Oder. Her main areas of work are the body, politics and gender, textual reproductions of gender relations of the sexes, the women's movement in Poland, and religion and gender. Prof. Dr. Choluj taught courses on the Polish women's movement, literary constructions of the body in Polish and German texts, and on the political use of the role of mothers during fascism and communism.

In the summer term 2003 **Dr. Amatalrauf Al-Sharki** held the international guest professorship. The complex "Western modernity – Islam – the public – gender" constitutes a pivotal area of her work. Dr. Al-Sharki may be considered the most prominent Yemenite researcher on women. Dr. Al-Sharki conceptualised and directed the Women's Studies Center of the University of Sana'a. Alongside her teaching activities, she worked extensively as a journalist in the Arabic region and, in particular, in her home country Yemen. She taught courses on the following topics: "Gender in/and Media" and "Islamic Feminist – Islamic Feminism?". Based on manifold contacts during her stay, joint research projects with Prof. Dr. Ellwanger and Dr. Lydia Potts emerged. The Gender Center of the University of Sana'a (which is the current name) is involved in the project "German-Arabic University Dialogue: Politics and Gender", which was conceptualised by Dr. Lydia Potts and Martina Kamp.

During the summer term 2003 **Prof. Dr. Victoria Grace** held the international guest professorship at the ZFG. Dr. Grace is an associate professor in Social Science at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. She was the Dean of the Faculty of Arts for three years. She also created the programme Feminist Studies/Gender Studies at the University of Canterbury. She taught in the programme for 10 years and directed the Department of Gender Studies for three years. Prof. Dr. Grace's main area of work are feminist theorising, the social and cultural imprinting of women's bodily experiences, research methodology in Gender Studies research, and the handling of women's bodies in medicine. She taught the following courses: "Language and Embodiment" and "Gender and Health". In May 2006 Prof. Dr. Grace held the keynote lecture at the international conference "Re-Visioning the Future: Perspectives in Gender Studies/Re-Visionen der Zukunft: Perspektiven der Geschlechterforschung".

During the winter term 2004/05 and the summer term 2005 the sociologist **PD<sup>26</sup> Dr. Ingrid Oswald** from St. Petersburg represented the guest professorship. The Department of Political Science organised the professorship. PD Dr. Oswald's main areas of research are migration and ethnic relations, and gender relations via the empirical example of Eastern Europe. She taught courses on the following topics: "Migration and Transnational Social Spaces in Eastern(Central) Europe", "Changes in Everyday Lifestyle in Post-socialism", and "Research on Teaching: A Screenplay for a Village History".

During the winter term 2005/06 the scholar of German Studies and Cultural Studies and research professor at the Korean Women's Institute at the Ewha Woman's University of

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<sup>26</sup> PD stands for *Privatdozent/in*. This status signifies a person who has completed the habilitation, i.e. an extensive thesis, which qualifies him or her to apply for a professorship at a German university. A PD is allowed to fulfil the professorial duties as a guest professor or he or she may substitute a professorship in Germany. However, unlike a professor, a PD does not hold a permanent position in the civil service.

Seoul in South Korea, **Prof. Dr. Young-Ok Kim**, was a guest at the ZFG. Prof. Dr. Kim's main areas of work are the situation of women and gender politics in the process of globalisation, analyses of the structures and conditions for women's movements in the Asian region, and feminist theorising. She taught courses on the topics "Globalisation and Gender Politics" and "Nationalism, Women's Bodies and Remembrance: The Example of the 'Comfort Women' in Korea".

**Prof. Dr. Londa Schiebinger** from Stanford University, USA, will be teaching at the University of Oldenburg in the winter term 2006/07. Dr. Schiebinger is professor of the History of Science and director of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Stanford University. She belongs to the internationally most famous gender scholars. She worked at numerous research institutes. Among other things, she was a senior research fellow at the Max-Planck Institute for the History of Science (*Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte*) in Berlin and a guest professor at the Georg August University of Göttingen.

In the summer term 2007 **Prof. Dr. Bonnie Spanier** from the University of Albany, State University of New York at Albany, USA, is going to take the position as a guest professor. The guest professorship is subject to the release of funds that have been granted. Her main areas of work are feminist science studies, the relationship of feminism and the natural sciences, the critical analysis of postulates on biological determinism, gender research and interdisciplinarity, and analyses of bio-medical studies on breast cancer and bio-politics. She is going to teach two seminars on the topics: "Is Biology Destiny? Historical and Current Issues in Biological Determinism" and "Scientific Objectivity and Politics: Women's Health Issues around the Globe".

*Funding*        266.200 €

## 7 Series of publications

The ZFG is (co-)editor of two series of publications on women's and gender research topics: Studies in interdisciplinary gender research (*Studien interdisziplinäre Geschlechterforschung*) and Oldenburg contributions to Gender Studies research (*Oldenburger Beiträge zur Geschlechterforschung*).

In 2001 the ZFG and the Centre for Feminist Studies – Frauenstudien/Gender Studies at the University of Bremen (ZFS) created a new series of publications. The series "*Studien interdisziplinäre Geschlechterforschung*" (Publisher Leske + Budrich, since 2004 VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, Publisher for Social Sciences) regularly presents recent examinations of the formation and significance of gender. Natural Science, Science of Technology, Social Science and Cultural Studies perspectives are linked with each other. Political developments with regard to universities and the outlook of gender research within and outside universities are an issue, too. The series is interdisciplinary and international. Within this thematic spectrum researchers, including those in the surroundings of the two centres, have the opportunity to publish their research. The group of editors is composed of three members of the ZFG and of the ZFS, respectively, and a co-ordinator. The group of editors decides on behalf of the centres on the acceptance of publications and on the orientation of the series. The two centres and the publisher

reached the consensus that the group of editors keeps an eye on the overall concept of the series. The series is in line with the research profiles of the ZFS and the ZFG. In the meantime, the programme of the series is comprised of 14 volumes. Further volumes are presently being planned (s. appendix 8).

Moreover, the ZFG has been editing the series “*Oldenburger Beiträge zur Geschlechterforschung*” (Oldenburg Contributions to Gender Research) in the university press, the *BIS Verlag* (BIS Publisher) in Oldenburg since September 2004. Volumes on current problems, recent research and innovative research projects in Women’s and Gender Studies by researchers in the surroundings of the ZFG appear in irregular intervals. The series of publications gives particularly junior scholars an opportunity to publish reports on research, diploma theses or doctoral theses. Three volumes have appeared so far, and more are currently being planned (s. appendix 8).

## 8 Public events

It is part of the academic culture of the ZFG to regularly organise **symposiums/expert discussions/workshops** that, apart from researchers, also address colleagues from institutions outside the university and the (expert) public in the region. The ZFG creates fora where socially relevant topics, such as reproductive technologies, addictions and drug addiction, disabilities, pedagogy and school, are taken up from the perspective of women’s and gender research, brought in line with up-to-date research and presented practically. In particular, topics are dealt with that scholars in the surroundings of the ZFG research on in order to render possible the communication of the most recent findings. Frequently, co-operation partners in the region, e.g. equal-opportunities institutions, educational institutions, political institutions such as the GEW (*Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft, Trade Union Education and Science*), are involved as co-organisers, and they support the link-up of scholarship and the (expert) public (s. appendix 7).

The ZFG or members of the ZFG, respectively, conceptualised and organised numerous **conferences and meetings** with international participation in order to link-up research and to intensify research co-operations. So far, the thematic spectrum included discussions on recent research findings, presentations of innovative approaches to interdisciplinary and international women’s and gender research, approaches to natural and techno-scientific gender research, and developments in Gender Studies on a national and international scale. The conferences opened up manifold opportunities to network and to initiate sustainable relations of co-operation, including co-operation with international scholars. Only recently the ZFG was involved in the conceptualisation and realisation of the international conference “Re-Visioning the Future: Perspectives in Gender Studies/Re-Visionen der Zukunft: Perspektiven der Geschlechterforschung”. The conference was carried out at the TU Braunschweig in May 2006. Three centres for Gender Studies research in Lower Saxony were responsible for the conference.

The ZFG organised a thematically diversified choice of lectures. Lectures are regularly made available either as **single lectures** or as a contribution to **lectures series**. Renowned scholars as well as junior scholars are invited to present their research and projects. Wherever possible, these lectures are integrated into thematically corresponding current courses, which are taught by members of the ZFG.

In collaboration with the Centre for Feminist Studies (*Zentrum für Feministische Studien*) at the University of Bremen, the ZFG organised the Bremen-Oldenburg Noon Lectures (*Bremer-Oldenburger Mittagsvorlesungen*) and the Summer Lectures (*Sommervorlesungen*) as a lecture series during the first semesters of its existence. These were carried out via a tandem system. Gender researchers from Bremen and Oldenburg gave lectures on similar topics at both university locations. The conceptually ambitious lecture series were successful from the winter term 2000/01 to the summer term 2003. The lecture series "Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Women's and Gender Research" (*Interdisziplinäres Kolloquium für Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung*) contributed to the exchange among gender researchers of the University of Oldenburg on their research topics and project. At the same time, it promoted junior researchers. This lecture series was organised up to the winter term 2004/05, together with the *Magister* minor subject Women's and Gender Studies programme. The series "Lunch Talk Gender Research" (*Lunch Talk Geschlechterforschung*) exists since 2005. Especially junior scholars use this series in order to present and discuss work in progress.

Experts and the public are informed about all of the public events of the ZFG via press releases, the varsity newspaper, the internet, flyers, posters, mailing lists and other advertising media. Documentation or publications arose from numerous conferences, symposiums, meetings or workshops in order to make the results of expert discourses that were initiated, stimulated or extended available to broader public.

*Funding*        103.159 €

#### **IV    PROSPECTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES – THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ZFG**

The evaluation of the Centre for interdisciplinary Women's and Gender Research at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg is taking place in a phase of transition and upheaval. This applies to the entire university as well to the ZFG.

The pivotal elements of transition and upheaval at the level of the university are the organisational reform, the reform of the programme structure, the process of formulating an overall concept that is focused on excellence and on an active society-oriented role of scholarship, and the process of agreeing to goals as an element of strategic planning. The ZFG is involved in this process. Consequently, the ZFG developed agreements on goals in July 2005. The general meeting adopted the concept. The President's Office and the ZFG are going to make a decision on these agreements according to the plans of agreement on goals of the University of Oldenburg no later than 2007. The goals of the Centre for the next developmental step thereafter will be

In the area of research

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- to continue to develop interdisciplinary research via the constitution and extension of research groups in productive correspondence with the research profiles of the faculties; to reinforce efforts to find funds for research projects,
- to further extend international research co-operations,
- to continue to develop regional scholarly co-operations and research co-operations, especially with the Centre for Feminist Studies at the University of Bremen (*Zentrum für feministische Studien der Universität Bremen*); to extend the co-operation network “Gender research in the north-west region” (*Geschlechterforschung in der Nord-West-Region*),
- to continue to extend innovative research co-operations between the natural sciences and the humanities/cultural/social sciences,
- to continue to develop the promotion of junior scholars via structured concepts of promotion with a high quality (reapplication for a *Graduiertenkolleg*),
- to continue to develop international scholarly co-operations by winning outstanding guest professors over to the ZFG, and via international conferences,
- to reinforce the communication and discussion on research processes and findings of gender research, and to extend the co-operation between the ZFG and other scientific centres at the university, to bring together the manifold capacities in gender research within the university,
- to publish regularly in national and international contexts and in two series of publications of the ZFG,
- to secure the resources that are required in order to reach these goals.

#### In the area of teaching

- to build up a 60 cp programme Gender Studies in the context of the two-subject bachelor programme structure in co-operation with the University of Bremen,
- to prepare selected modules of the programme for the area of professionalisation within the framework of the bachelor programmes,
- to work toward the establishment of contents and findings of Gender Studies research via specific gender modules in as many programmes (BA and MA) as possible and sensible and wherever capacities allow for this,
- to develop a varsity-wide MA programme together with the University of Bremen, provided there are sufficient capacities for such an undertaking,
- to carry out international MA programmes (Politics and Gender, Migration and Intercultural Relations),
- to secure the resources that are required in order to reach these goals.

#### In the area of transfer of knowledge

- to continue to develop networks and structured options, i.e. conferences, symposiums and fora for extra-varsity communication and the discussion of findings in Gender Studies research,
- to support the transfer of knowledge in communities, enterprises, schools, social facilities, and political institutions of the region; to extend the co-operation network “Gender research in the north-west region” (*Geschlechterforschung in der Nord-West-Region*) for this purpose.

The ZFG is in a phase of transition and upheaval, too. While we were dealing with setting up and differentiating main areas of work and research, developing academic co-operations and trying out the method of operation in an interdisciplinary amalgamation in the first five years, we will be dealing with the long-term consolidation of the project “ZFG” and the intensification of the pivotal responsibilities that are research, the promotion of junior scholars, teaching, and the transfer of knowledge in the phase that lies ahead of us.

In this phase it is of vital importance for the ZFG to continue to develop communicative strategies, in order to

- a. initiate and design spaces of discussion and exchange within the ZFG between the necessarily differentiating main areas of research and work in Gender Studies research,
- b) to integrate diverse disciplinary perspectives by promoting connecting topical fields, such as discussions and work which relates to the topical field “diversity/heterogeneity/difference”<sup>27</sup>,
- c) to arouse the interest of gender researchers who are integrated into other contexts of work at the university, in the academic exchange on questions on Gender Studies research and to, as the case may be, develop prospects for co-operations.

It should be a goal to establish a tight communicative network among scholars in the field of gender research, similar to the way this is happening in the area of teachers’ training and didactic research via the Didactic Centre (*Didaktisches Zentrum, diz*)<sup>28</sup>. In this respect the ZFG has a similarly pivotal function as does the Didactic Centre.

Two currently upcoming projects are examples of the above-mentioned task to bring together Gender Studies research competencies. On the one hand, it is the plan to resubmit the application for a *Graduiertenkolleg* on “Adolescence, gender, and ethnic diversity in educational spaces” to the German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG*) or the Hans Böckler Foundation (*Hans-Böckler-Stiftung*). We are planning to include newly appointed professors, especially in Educational Science, in the revised application. A second plan refers to the planning of the interdisciplinary Gender Studies programme (60 cp) in the context of the two-subject bachelor programme in co-operation with the University of Bremen. An agreement on the contents and a good, secure collaboration of the disciplines involved constitute an essential precondition for the planning and carrying out of the programme. On the basis of this co-operation a platform for further academic communication and collaboration may emerge in the area of research, too.

The phase of the consolidation of the Centre for interdisciplinary Women’s and Gender Research (*Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung*) at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg that lies ahead of us is dedicated to the intensification of work in research, teaching, and the transfer of knowledge. In order to succeed, we need a certain structure that renders this possible. On the one hand, the

<sup>27</sup> Scholars in Educational Science, Social Science, and Law are working on these topical areas.

<sup>28</sup> Centre for Teachers’ Training, School Development, Knowledge Transfer, and Didactic Research

human and material resources need to be secured for the Centre as an organisation as well as the presence of professors who are relevant to research and teaching in the area of gender research. This applies in particular to the future securing of a social-scientifically oriented professorship with the main area Gender Studies research, which is currently no longer scheduled in the plans of the university.

In the past five years the ZFS has taken on an important role in the University of Oldenburg in the initialising of academic debates on questions on gender relations. The findings have become important in the areas of research, teaching, the transfer of knowledge, and for social practice. The designing Centre will remain important in the future with regard to human resources and as an institution in order to reinforce gender research and Gender Studies as an element, which shapes the profile of the university according to its mission statement.