

## **RN 33 Women's and Gender Studies Biennial Report 2017-2019**

By Professor Lise Widding Isaksen, University of Bergen, Norway

### *Changes in RN33 for the period 2019-2021*

a. Vice-coordinator Consuelo Corradi, Lumsa University, Rome, Italy, ([c.corradi@lumsa.it](mailto:c.corradi@lumsa.it)) was elected for the period 2017-2019 is outgoing as vice-coordinator

b. Lise Widding Isaksen, University of Bergen, Norway, was re-elected as Coordinator for the period 2019-2021 ([lise.isaksen@uib.no](mailto:lise.isaksen@uib.no)) and Elisabetta Ruspini, University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy was elected as vice-coordinator for the period 2019-2021 ([elisabetta.ruspini@unimib.it](mailto:elisabetta.ruspini@unimib.it))

Professor Consuelo Corradi, Lumsa University, Rome, Italy is a new member in the RN33 board from 2019

### *Activities: 2017- 2019*

RN33 in collaboration with Department of Sociology, University of Bergen, Norway, organized a mid-term conference at the University of Bergen, Norway, Title: 'Gender relations and welfare policies in transition; Markets, States and Families'. June 14-15, 2018, University of Bergen, Norway

The conference had 42 participants from 14 countries including USA and Russia. Participants presented interesting and excellent papers and there were exciting discussions in all sessions. RN33 had invited keynote speakers from Russia, Czech Republic and Norway to discuss how transforming social policy regimes and right-wing ideologies influence and change gender relations in many social and political contexts. As an action taken to improve participation of PhD students and early career researchers, one of the keynotes was an early career sociologist and Ph.D. students from the Department of Sociology was invited to present papers and chair sessions at the mid-term conference.

The Department of Sociology in Bergen organized a great party with tapas and wine for all participants. The weather was as expected, - it was raining a lot as usual in Bergen. Bergen is known for being the city in Europe where it rains the most.

### *RN33 activities at the ESA Conference in Manchester 2019*

RN33 contributions in Manchester 2019:

RN33 organized the Semi-plenary SP 04: 'Sociology, Feminisms and the Future of Global Gender Research'

RN33 organized 20 sessions and 80 individual papers were presented in RN33 sessions.

RN33 has a mailing list used for distribution of news and information about publications, conferences and relevant events for RN 33 researchers. The name of our list is [Esagenderlist@uib.no](mailto:Esagenderlist@uib.no)

### *Mailing-list*

Esagenderlist@uib.no was moved from University of Frankfurt to University of Bergen as a result of changes in EU reforms, claiming individual consent from each name on the list

The [esagenderlist@uib.no](mailto:esagenderlist@uib.no) is located at University of Bergen, Norway, and coordinator Lise Widding Isaksen RN33 takes care of the list. All members of the list are invited to send and pass on

information of relevance for other RN33 members. It is organized as a mailing list and is not sent through the ESA RN website. RN33 does not have a website on its own but use the space on the official ESA website.

#### *Collaboration with the Catalan Association of Sociology, Barcelona*

Marta Soler-Gallart, present director for ESA and president of the Catalan Association of Sociology, invited me as coordinator for RN33 to participate in a panel on "New scenarios: new challenges for women and for society" that took place March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as a part of events around International Womens' Day, in Barcelona, Spain.

The Catalan sociologists organized public panel discussions with feminist activists from the feminist movements, EU associations, trade unions and minority organizations working with Roma issues. The public meeting was very successful, great audience and in the following days there were many press releases in several TV channels and newspapers.

For the time being RN33 has not on-going collaborative relations to other RNs in ESA. However, RN33 has ideas and plans for new collaborations for the period 2019-2021.

#### *RN33 10 years Anniversary – an opportunity for publication of papers presented at the RN meetings and sessions:*

RN33 has ten years anniversary this year (2019). Originally, at the mid-term conference in 2018, we planned to celebrate our anniversary by giving prizes to best junior and senior papers on gender issues at the conference. However, it was difficult to recruit members to committees and as paper reviewers. The recruitment strategies did not work as we had hoped and expected.

Instead there is a possibility to publish a book aimed at exploring global challenges for women's empowerment and gender equality which we think will be very valuable and timely. There is a great need for books on these key topics. We can use relevant papers presented at the ESA conference 2019 and/or invite relevant researchers. RN33 is still very early in a planning and discussion process.

#### *Other important activities undertaken by RN33:*

RN33 has signed, and initiated protest letters related to the closing of gender research units in Hungary/European University in Budapest. In collaboration with Centre for Women's and Gender Studies (SKOK) and Women and Global Health Unit at University of Bergen, Norway.

RN33 is member of the scientific committee and among supporters of a gender equality conference in Federico II University in Naples, Italy, September 2019.

RN33 has received mails from commercial publishing agencies being interested in establishing some forms for collaborations with RN33. We have passed on information about possibilities to publish through the mailing list. However, as a Research Network our response has been a bit reluctant, being more interested to encourage members to use ESA's publications.

RN33 invited Commissioning Editor Amela Derkatsch from Palgrave, Gender Studies, to join us at the business meeting in Manchester to inform about publication possibilities at Palgrave.

In Manchester, vice-director Elisabetta Ruspini established contact with Bristol University Press as a possible publishing house for coming RN33 publications.