



MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII
UNIVERSITATEA DE VEST DIN TIMIȘOARA
FACULTATEA DE LITERE, ISTORIE ȘI TEOLOGIE
Centrul Interdisciplinar de Studii de Gen
B-dul Vasile Pârvan, nr. 2-4
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website: www.genderstudies.uvt.ro;
www.uvt.ro/centre_de_cercetare_recunoscute.htm

Established in: 2003

Department Head: Dr. Reghina Dascal
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Assistant Department Head: Dr. Sorina Voiculescu
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Current AFP Scholars or CEP/other alumni teaching at the department:

- Ioana Stefan
isalagean@yahoo.com
tel./fax: +40 256 215 923 – alumna
- Zita Farkas
Zita13@rdslink.ro
Tel. +40- 222 559- Returning Scholar

Number of Teaching Staff: 10 (professors from different departments that are part of this interdepartmental project). In addition to teaching in the Center's MA programme, they also teach in their own departments. In addition to the MA Programme, the Center offers elective Gender Studies courses to students with a major or a minor in English.

Number of Students: 12 (only post-graduate students) enrolled in the MA programme

Degree(s) Awarded:

- M.A. degree in Gender Studies. The programme is entitled: "The socio-cultural gender: an interdisciplinary approach" (two-year duration, taught in Romania/English). Degree awarded under the umbrella of the English Department.

Core Courses offered:

The courses taught within the interdisciplinary M.A. programme in gender studies are:
-A History of Feminism in Key Works (dr. Reghina Dascal)
-The Psychology of Gender-related Issues (dr. Zoltan Bogathy)
-The Body in Words and Images (dr. Pia Branzeu)
-Social Politics and the Equality of the Sexes (dr. Teodor Mircea Alexiu)

-Geography and Gender (dr. Sorina Voiculescu)
-Feminist Film Theory (Zita Farkas)
-Feminism and the New Media Age (Ioana Stefan)
- Gender and Public Policy (Adela Dinu)

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

Current Curriculum Reform Projects:

All courses are new and have been developed especially for this MA programme;

The center enjoys total freedom in designing its curriculum.

Percentage of Optional Courses:

At present all courses are mandatory.

Teaching Methods Used in the Department: All the courses taught in the MA programme make use of student-centered methodologies of teaching, with the instructor acting as facilitator rather than the authority or the owner of the course s/he is teaching. The classroom is regarded as an important place to practice democracy. Students are strongly encouraged to speak up with their views and engage in debates. The written assignments are organized in such a manner as to be developed step by step using feedback from both instructor and peers. The center tries to make all the teachers available for students and consider of special importance both the office hours of each instructor and email correspondence between instructors and students.

Methods of Student Assessment: Students are assessed on the basis of their active participation in all classes, conferences, presentations (engaging in debate with both peers and instructor, attend classes having beforehand carefully read the text as indicated on the course schedule and be prepared to talk about it); students are given written assignments and have to present papers, organize roundtables on given topics, panels, book reviews etc.

Student Evaluation of Faculty Members: Anonymous evaluation forms are distributed at the end of each term.

Faculty Members' Fields of Research:

The center's members come from different departments: sociology, psychology, geography, linguistics, media studies or literature.

Titles and of Significant Books and Articles published by Faculty Staff during the last five years:

- Reghina Dascal, *Feminist Perspectives*, Timisoara: Western University Publishing House, 2001, 203 pp.
- Zoltan Bogathy, *Conflictele in organizatii*. Timisoara: Eurostampa, 2001, 290 pp
- Reghina Dascal, Andrea Dworkin, *Razboiul impotriva tacerii*, Iasi: Polirom, 2001 (translation, critical apparatus), 333 pp.
- Mircea Alexiu, *Parinti care isi abandoneaza copiii. (Parents that abandon their children)* Timisoara: Ed.Mirton, 1999, 135 pp.

- Mircea Alexiu, *Dezvoltare comunitara*. (The Development of the Community) Timisoara: Ed. Lybris, 2000, 109 pp.
- Reghina Dascal, *Beyond Liberal Feminism or how to Redraw the Boundaries of the Public and the Private in BAS*, Timisoara: Hestia, 2001, pp. 28-39.
- Pia Brinzeu, *Femeia si cuvantul*, in Otilia Hedesan, Folclorul. Ce facem cu el ? Ed. Universitatii de Vest, Timisoara, 2001, pp. 147-150.
- Reghina Dascal, *Despre studile de gen la Timisoara (About Gender Studies in Timisoara)* in *Directii si teme de cercetare in studiile de gen din Romania*. Baluta, I & I. Cirstocea (coord.) Bucuresti: École Doctorale Régionale en Sciences Sociales si Colegiul Noua Europa, 2003, pp. 231-236
- Ioana Stefan, *The Blues of Virginity* in R. Dascal (ed) *Gender Studies*, EUVT, vol. 1, No. 1/2002.
- Ioana, Stefan, *Patriarchy is Dead! Long Live Patriarchy!*, R. Dascal (ed) *Gender Studies*, EUVT, vol. 2 No. 2/2003
- Coralia Sulea, *Dimensiuni identitare ale grupurilor religioase minoritare din Romania* publicat in *Revista de Psihologie Aplicata*, nr. 3, an 4, Universitatea de Vest din Timisoara si Centrul de Studii si Cercetari Psihologice din Timisoara, 2002.

Faculty Members' Participation in Professional Development Events:

- Many faculty members have participated at various conferences, post-graduate and post-doctoral study programmes;
- Two staff members were senior visiting fellows at the University of Oxford;
- One staff member was a fellow of the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) Vienna;
- One staff member previously received a Fulbright scholarship;
- In 2003 the department hosted the National Conference of Sociology;
- The Center organizes regular professional symposia.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Departmental Participation in Projects Funded by International Donor Organisations:

None.

Foreign Professors Teaching/ Researching at the Department:

None at present. However, in the next academic year Dr Laura Savage will teach a course in the MA programme as part of an exchange programme offered by *Cooperative Studies Inc*.

Professors Isabel Marcus (SUNY at Buffalo) and Margaret Higonnet from Connecticut University will closely work with the Centre in the academic year 2005-2006 as AFP International Scholars

Membership of International or National Academic Associations:

- European Society for the Study of English (the centre developed as a Special Interest Group of ESSE).

Regular Partnerships or Exchange Programmes:

- The Center is currently in the process of carrying out an AFP-funded project – “Teaching and Researching Gender Studies”. In addition to focusing on strengthening the MA programme’s curriculum, the project will include a major joint event entitled “Teaching and Researching

Gender/Women's Studies in the CEE Region" together with the University of Bucharest and Babes Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca;

- Co-partners for several outreach projects with the Women's Studies Centre in Novi Sad, Serbia-Montenegro.

Support Received by the Department or its Faculty from OSI or CEU/SEP in the last Three Years:

None in the last three years. However, the Women's Studies Center in Timisoara – from which the Interdisciplinary Center developed - received a grant for developing the library in 1999.

NEEDS AND ENVISAGED BENEFITS OF COOPERATION WITH AFP

Most Pressing Needs of the Department and Departmental Staff:

- The center needs help in developing its long-term programme;
- Increased visibility;
- A need for an increased awareness of the discipline as a whole within academia and within civil society;
- Staff need increased access to publishing and research opportunities, as well as exposure to the latest developments in the discipline;
- More opportunities to participate in academic networks at both the national and international levels;
- Teacher training, especially related to course management and planning;
- Training in how to teach research skills to students.

Most Pressing Needs of Students:

- Increased academic values and professional ethics;
- Desperate need to develop research skills and to integrate these into their work;
- Access to resources – readers, books etc.

Departmental "Vision" and Perceived Benefits of Cooperation with AFP:

The Center's main immediate aim is to strengthen itself as an academic center and to develop the discipline as a relevant part of academia. Its immediate goal in this regard is to further develop the MA programme.

The center is a small, young institute for research and teaching that struggles to make its distinct voice heard in the local and national academic landscape. It was founded as a consequence of the determination of some scholars acknowledging the importance of inter-disciplinarity, of inter-departmental co-operation, and of the relevance of the study of gender-related perspectives in a former-Communist country.

HESP/AFP could offer expertise to The Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Studies, which would help it develop as a respected academic center, as well as offer training and advice to its staff members.

PROPOSED AFP ACTION AT THE DEPARTMENT

Area of Focus:

To assist in establishing Gender as an academic discipline in Timisoara and to develop the Center as a hub for Gender Studies in the region. To develop the academic programme of the Center and to connect it with the wider academic community in the discipline.

Proposed AFP Action:

- Resource Fellow to help develop the center as a whole;
- Continuing to support Returning Scholars teaching at the department;
- To offer staff increased training in teaching and research methodologies;
- To offer access to the wider academic community in the field of Gender Studies;
- Course management and planning;
- To further develop the MA programme in Gender Studies.