

Women in Science and Technology

Edited by
Katarina Prpić
Luísa Oliveira
Sven Hemlin

Institute for Social Research – Zagreb
Sociology of Science and Technology Network
of the European Sociological Association
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Foreword

The European Sociological Association's (ESA) Research Network 24 on the Sociology of Science and Technology Network (SSTNET) was founded in 1999 to promote and support the development of a European framework for the study of science and technology. Part of these activities includes the organization of a bi-annual workshop to promote the exchange of ideas and research results among the research community. Over the years the network has been able to broaden its membership base and attract a great deal of attention and interest towards its activities.

In June 2008 the SSTNET organized, in cooperation with the Institute for Social Research of Zagreb, a two day workshop entitled "Women in Science and Technology" in Zagreb, Croatia. The idea and driving force behind the workshop came from our networks co-chair Katarina Prpić who suggested that such a workshop would be timely and attract a host of international researchers to present and discuss the most recent trends and research results in this field. The two-day workshop brought forth the depth and breadth of the state of research concerning women in science and technology and highlighted the need to continue to foster further scientific enquiry into this field, as well as collaboration between researchers. It also provided an excellent opportunity to network and discuss research ideas amongst its participants.

Given the high quality of the presentations that took place it was decided that a book showcasing the best papers of the workshop should be published and contributions were therefore invited from the presenters. The production of this book would not have been possible without the commitment and hard work of its editors Katarina Prpić, Luísa Oliveira and Sven Hemlin. Besides working as members of SSTNET they have also committed themselves to furthering and facilitating the publication of research results, which is one of the goals of the network. We are grateful for their work in bringing this book to fruition. Special thanks should undoubtedly go to all those who participated in the workshop and its discussions, particularly those who have contributed to this valuable volume, including the reviewers who commented on the manuscript. The articles contained within the covers of this book provide an important cross-section of some of the most current research that is taking place in the field today.

All such undertakings also require funding and it is with gratitude that we extend our thanks to the European Sociological Association and the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports for funding the workshop and the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb as a co-organiser of the workshop. More importantly, however, we are very grateful to The Office for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports for funding this publication. However, without commitment and support of the scientific and technical staff of the Institute of Social Research in Zagreb this publication would not have been possible.

We hope that this volume will serve its reader as a valuable resource and reference source for facilitating and stimulating further research and learning into the field of women in science and technology studies.

Aaro Tupasela
Chair of SSTNET and of Book Editorial Board