



Vetenskapsrådet

# INTERIM EVALUATION OF CENTRES OF GENDER EXCELLENCE

SUPPORTED BY THE SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL



# **INTERIM EVALUATION OF CENTRES OF GENDER EXCELLENCE**

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The Swedish Research Council 2008

103 78 Stockholm

Sweden

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# Foreword

## Centres of Gender Excellence

In 2006, the Swedish Research Council announced funding for gender research centres<sup>1</sup>, to be known as ‘Centres of Gender Excellence’. This call for applications was directed at research environments with the potential for international leadership in their respective research areas. Ten applications were received as a result of the call.

To assess these applications, a group comprising six internationally eminent gender researchers was appointed<sup>2</sup>. The assessors in this ‘evaluation panel’ agreed to recommend approval of applications from the Universities of Uppsala, Umeå, and Linköping-Örebro in collaboration. Accordingly, on 27 November 2006 the Research Council approved three grants for new Centres to be set up at these universities. The grants, for a total of SEK 27 million each, were to run for five years<sup>3</sup>.

In the report on which the grant decisions were based<sup>4</sup>, the panel recommended that the new Centres should expand their collaboration with research teams outside Sweden. A higher degree of international publication was also called for. Moreover, the panel pinpointed a lack of applications that involved making use of Sweden’s large-scale, high-quality registers and archives, which Swedish researchers can access.

In conjunction with these grant decisions, the Research Council resolved that the first evaluation of activities at the new Centres would take place at year-end 2007 or New Year 2008.

## Initial evaluation

The report presented herewith is the outcome of the first evaluation of the three new Centres of Gender Excellence. The evaluation panel comprised Professor Marian Simms of the University of Otago in New Zealand (Chair); Professor Susan Phillips of Queen’s University, Canada; and Professor Dan Brändström, former Managing Director of the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation. The first two members also belonged to the group who assessed the original applications in 2006.

The Centres were then evaluated after only one year’s funding. This evaluation focused on assessing whether they had embarked on the work described in the official plans and whether they had taken the initiative in disseminating research results in the international arena. The Centres’ strategies for recruiting researchers to their respective areas were also specifically examined.

As a basis for the evaluation, the panel had brief reports from the Centres describing their organisation and funding situation, and what had been achieved during the first year, with notes on any deviations from the original plan that had occurred. The evaluation panel also visited the three Centres for oral presentations of their current activities and future plans. Summing up, the panel found that all the Centres had commenced their work according to plan and were able to present well-considered strategies for publication and internationalisation of their work, as well as plans for new recruitment.

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<sup>1</sup> Ref. 2006-2552

<sup>2</sup> Sara Arber, Yvonne Benschop, Kinhide Mushakoji, Karen Offen, Susan Phillips, Marian Simms.

<sup>3</sup> Director General’s decision No. 76, 2006, ref. 2006-7938.

<sup>4</sup> Ref. 2006-7938.

The evaluation panel recommends continued, strengthened collaboration between the newly established Centres and other Swedish research environments, focusing on gender and political changes, globalisation and Europeanisation, and international relations. The panel members also consider that Swedish register data are still underused in gender research, but note that the Centres in both Linköping–Örebro and Umeå have initiated studies that make use of data from questionnaire surveys and registers.

### **Further work**

The three Centres of Gender Excellence have been granted funding up to and including 2011. The review of their funding situation that was carried out in the course of the evaluation did not prompt any proposals for changes in the level of funding. Another evaluation, during the latter part of the grant period, is planned in accordance with the original particulars given in the call for applications.

For the Swedish Research Council

Stockholm, June 2008

Gunnel Gustafsson

Deputy Director General

Carl Jacobsson

Director, Department of Research Policy Analysis

## Summary

In November 2006, the Swedish Research Council granted funding for prominent centres for gender research, to be known as ‘Centres of Gender Excellence’, at the Universities of Uppsala, Umeå, and Linköping–Örebro in collaboration. At the same time, it was decided that the activities of the Centres would be evaluated at year-end 2007 or New Year 2008. The report presented here is the result of this initial evaluation. The evaluation panel comprised Professor Marian Simms of the University of Otago in New Zealand (Chair); Professor Susan Phillips of Queen’s University, Canada; and Professor Dan Brändström, former Managing Director of the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation.

This evaluation focused on assessing whether the Centres had embarked on the work according to the official plans and whether they had taken the initiative in disseminating research results in the international arena. Their strategies for recruiting researchers to their respective areas were also specifically examined. Summing up, the panel found that all the Centres had commenced their work according to plan and were able to present well-considered strategies for publication and internationalisation of their work, as well as plans for new recruitment.

The evaluation panel recommends continued, strengthened collaboration between the newly established Centres and other Swedish research environments, focusing on gender and political changes, globalisation and Europeanisation, and international relations. The panel members also consider that Swedish register data are still underused in gender research, but note that the Centres in both Linköping–Örebro and Umeå have initiated studies that make use of data from questionnaire surveys and registers.

## Sammanfattning

Vetenskapsrådet beviljade i november 2006 medel till tre centrumbildningar för starka genusforskningsmiljöer, kallade "Centres of Gender Excellence", vid universiteten i Uppsala, Umeå samt Linköping-Örebro i samverkan. Samtidigt beslutades att verksamheten vid de nya centrumbildningarna skulle utvärderas vid årsskiftet 2007/08. Den rapport som här presenteras är resultatet av denna första utvärdering. Utvärderingspanelen utgjordes av professorerna Marian Simms från Universitetet i Otago i Nya Zeeland (ordförande), Susan Phillips från Queens universitet i Kanada och Dan Brändström, tidigare VD för Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.

Utvärderingen av centrumbildningarna inriktades mot att bedöma om de kommit igång med verksamheten enligt de fastställda planerna och om de tagit initiativ för att föra ut forskningsresultaten på den internationella arenan. Strategierna för nyrekrytering av forskare till området granskades också särskilt. Sammanfattningsvis fann panelen att samtliga centrumbildningar kommit igång planenligt och kunnat presentera väl genomtänkta strategier för publicering och internationalisering av verksamheten, liksom för hur nyrekryteringen skulle ske.

Utvärderingspanelen rekommenderar fortsättningsvis ett förstärkt samarbete mellan de nyetablerade centrumbildningarna och andra svenska forskningsmiljöer inriktade på genus och politiska förändringar, globalisering/europeisering och internationella relationer. Utvärderarna anser också att svenska registerdata fortfarande är underutnyttjade inom genusforskningen men noterar att centrumbildningarna i såväl Linköping-Örebro som Umeå har initierat studier som utnyttjar enkät- och registerdata.

# Report by the Evaluation Committee on the follow-up visits to the three Centres of Gender Excellence

## Background

In February 2007 the Swedish Research Council appointed a three-person Evaluation Committee to provide an interim evaluation of activities of the three new Centres of Gender Excellence that had received funding from the Council. The Centres had been awarded funding in late 2006 to commence their work in 2007. The Swedish Research Council's Gender Excellence project is widely considered to be of world class significance.

The Committee comprised Professors Marian Simms, the Department of Politics, the University of Otago, New Zealand (Chair), Dan Brändström, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation) and Susan Phillips, Faculty of Health Sciences, Queens University, Canada. The Swedish Research Council, in conjunction with the evaluators, provided a list of issues to guide the evaluation process. The centres were to report by late December 2007 to enable the Committee to consider the responses in advance of the site visits, planned for early February 2008.

The evaluation criteria were:

- Quality in relation to the leading edge within international gender research
- Organisational, personal and other relevant conditions needed to create and maintain a strong international environment
- Potential for renewal

Centres were invited to provide crucial information, notably: a brief working definition of gender used by the centre; a maximum of one page explaining what being selected as a Centre of Gender Excellence enabled the group to accomplish that would not have otherwise occurred; a list of publications (i.e. outputs), both actual and scheduled, noting language of publication, and any translations; a description of international linkages, actual and scheduled; an outline of cross-disciplinary activities and outcomes; budget to date, i.e. actual and proposed expenditure; a list of major accomplishments to date; and, a proposed work plan for the remainder of the project. Centres were also invited to report on any major deviation from or extension of the original plan (participants, organisation of the work within the centre, cooperation, budget etc.), and to outline the internationalisation agenda, and plans for support from their host universities. The centres were asked to define the tangible contributions to be made by the various researchers in the programme, and the extent to which their positions enable them to conduct research.

The centres were also provided with a list of other relevant matters they could comment on, as follows:

- Description of the research that makes up the basis for the Centre of Gender Excellence.
- Plans for future research and the potential for research development
- Plans for the development of the internationalisation of the Centre of Gender Excellence, for example publication in international journals, exchange of researchers, and other forms of co-operation



- An organisational plan describing how the grant awarded by the Swedish Research Council will be used and how the work will be conducted, the procedures for decision making regarding the direction of the work and how the resources will be used. There should also be a statement of how the research group can be renewed
- State how the funding may give added value to the development of a strong international gender research environment
- A short comment stating the grounds for each item in the budget applied for
- Co-financing possibilities of the host university
- Ethical considerations

The Centres provided detailed responses to the issues raised, along with valuable and detailed appendices. (These responses are included as an Appendix to this Report). The material was provided in a timely fashion for which the evaluators were grateful. The material provided a platform on which evaluators could pose pertinent questions.

### **Site visits**

The February site visits were very well organised by the Centres of Gender Excellence with a rich array of presentations, accompanying hand-outs and publication displays. The Evaluation Committee observed that the Centres had displayed considerable initiative and enthusiasm in organising full and well-planned programmes. Based on this evidence, the Committee considered that the evaluation process pushed the Centres to think through their work strategies and research agendas, and to think through important issues relating to communication and publication strategies, international linkages and cross-disciplinary activities.

The Evaluation Committee was also impressed with the visible signs of high level support from senior university officials (Presidents and Deans) across the four host universities – Linköping, Örebro, Umeå, and Uppsala Universities. The support of senior University administrators was evident during the three site visits, although displayed in different ways. In two cases, Uppsala and Umeå, the Director of the Centre is also a Dean.

Overall the Evaluation Committee observed that all three Centres were successfully working with sophisticated definitions of gender as applied in a cross-disciplinary fashion. They were also achieving international linkages often building on pre-existing networks.

The evaluators remarked favourably on two specific types of networking. On the one hand, there were very positive signs of cooperation between the three Centres; and, on the other hand, there were very interesting indications of ‘Nordicisation’ strategies, as pursued by the Uppsala and Umeå Centres in particular. This latter process had not been predicted by the original Evaluation Committee of 2006, but is a most interesting development in terms of intellectual regionalisation.

#### **Uppsala University visit (4 February):**

This was the Evaluation Committee’s initial visit.

The Committee noted evidence of a well-organised management structure, ably co-ordinated by Professor Margaretha Fahlgren with back-up from Dr Tora Holmberg (Sociology PhD), and further supported by a local board and an international reference group. The Centre

seemed remarkably embedded into the overall University, especially given the short period of time it has been established.

With this Centre the indicators of networking were excellent. International recruitment for posts – notably postdoctoral fellows- had been achieved, Nordic wide conferences were planned for 2008 and 2009, and links with the other two Centres of Gender Excellence.

Much of the work was proceeding at a high level of theoretical sophistication especially in terms of the work on gender and physics and gender and evolutionary theory. This theoretical work was undertaken in an intellectually passionate manner. The site visit demonstrated the active involvement of a group of ‘emerging’ researchers at the post PhD level, suggesting that the Centre has much positive potential for knowledge transfer and academic recruitment, i.e., potential for renewal.

The programme is still in early stages, but more efforts towards intellectual integration and collaboration across groups would be desirable. The seminar series, ‘Gender, Science and Knowledge’ may have the potential to provide a unique forum for the development of greater intellectual coherence.

The visit confirmed the Evaluation Committee’s preliminary enthusiasm for the cross-disciplinary nature of the Centre, as evidenced by involvement of evolutionary biologists as well as physicists, and philosophers. In international terms this mixture is quite unusual and suggests a strong potential for the achievement of world class status.

There is much potential too in the proposed publication schedule, and the Committee supported the idea of the creation of a new post to support international (i.e. English language) publication.

#### Umeå University visit (5 February):

The Centre of Gender Excellence at Umeå University builds on a strong base of interdisciplinary research and advanced gender studies and augments the new Centre for Gender Studies at the university. The steering group of the Centre includes academics from law, medicine, public health, ethnology, humanities, and social work. Within gender studies, alone, Umeå University has 12 professors, approximately 60 researchers, and 60 doctoral students.

The group working at this centre plans to challenge gender by challenging existing structures, existing knowledge, academic practice, and academic theory. The researchers’ areas of focus are democracy and justice, emotions, health, and violence.

Being selected as a Centre of Gender Excellence has enabled a number of individual leaders in gender research working collectively to develop new ideas, refine concepts, and learn from the plurality of different traditions and disciplines. Central to the process is ‘the Arena’, an interdisciplinary meeting place for reflection and development of theory of particular relevance to Scandinavian/Nordic countries. The Umeå group has already explored the concepts of sex/gender with depth and breadth that positions them as international leaders in this discussion. Their willingness to challenge and be challenged will foster exceptional theoretical development and could make this Centre a resource for Sweden, the Nordic countries, and the developed world.

The well-organised presentation to the Evaluation Committee mirrors the organisational strength of the group, itself. Research leader Britta Lundgren made an introduction which also included a presentation of the university. After that followed introductions from the theme

leaders (Åsa Gunnarsson, Annelie Bränström-Öhman, Anne Hammarström, Ann Öhman, and Siv Fahlgren). The work in the arena group was presented by Katarina Hamberg and the theme Violence was given a fuller presentation by Ann Öhman. There are layers of collective work with arenas for each theme area, as well as the large arena for the 25 key researchers of the Centre. These theme arenas, as well as the undergraduate and graduate teaching activities of the steering group draw in students and junior faculty, the gender researchers of tomorrow. The group has maximized the benefits of having a Board of international gender researchers by bringing each Board member individually to Umeå to participate in meetings and conferences offering brief but intense learning. Sweden has a remarkable wealth of information available via databases and the Centre has extensive plans for using these databases to understand gender (particularly as a determinant of health).

The steering group of the Umeå Centre of Gender Excellence clearly understands the value of linking development of theory to asking research questions that will advance scholarship, then linking findings to practical outcomes, policy or practice. Their work is of international stature and merits being published in international journals even if this requires some description of the Swedish context for readers outside of Scandinavia.

In summary, the Umeå Centre of Gender Excellence has put in place processes that will enable an interdisciplinary group of highly skilled researchers to make qualitative changes in their work, utilize some of the resources that are unique to Sweden (such as databases), incorporate the expertise of international scholars, involve learners, and advance the understanding gender in many realms of life.

#### Linköping University visit (6 February):

The final visit was to Linköping University, where, of all three Centres, the makings of a strong international Centre were already in existence prior to establishment of this new Centre. The organizational structure of the Centre of Gender Excellence is built on cooperative structures between the professors in the Inter-university Institute of thematic gender studies of Linköping and Örebro universities.

The Evaluation Committee was seeking evidence of how much the grant from the Swedish Research Council had allowed the group to further develop their research, educational and networking activities.

From the outset, there was considerable evidence of high level University support and close collaboration across the two universities involved. The Vice-Chancellor Professor Mille Millnert had opened proceedings and maintained that the Centre held a strong position in the University of Linköping, as reflected in the level of current and anticipated financial support from the University. The Deans of both Örebro (via teleconference) and Linköping took part in the final session, signifying the continuing commitment of both institutions.

The Director of the Centre of Gender Excellence, Professor Nina Lykke, followed with the overall research plan, the organisational pattern and the structure of governance. She explained the role of visiting fellows, the postdoctoral fellows and the visiting doctoral students.

Her overall introduction was followed by interesting case studies from a number of the lead researchers. In the morning there were short presentations from Anna G.Jónasdóttir, Örebro University, and Chair of the Center's Research Theme 1: Gender, Sexuality and Global Change and the affiliated fellow from Stockholm University, Dr Maria Törnqvist, who

described her work in progress on emotional tourism with the example of tango tourism in Buenos Aires.

A particular highlight of this Centre is the cutting edge work on Men and Masculinities within a gender framework. Professor Jeff Hearn, Chair of Center's Research Theme 2: Deconstructing the Hegemony of Men and Masculinities, outlined the next stage of work focussing on body ageing, virtuality and transnationalisation.

Professor Anita Göransson, the Chair of Theme 3: Distinctions and authorization, an expert on Swedish power elites, also outlined the work of her group on careers and closure, absences from power, and the dynastic element. She will be using data from surveys such as European Social Survey (ESS), European Social Value Survey (ESV) and the World Value Survey (WVS). The aim is above all to provide knowledge of the development of access to power by different groups in Europe, as well as about changes in the discourse distinctions.

Themes 4-5 are headed by Nina Lykke and Barbro Wijma on Sexual Health, Embodiment and Empowerment. Professor Wijma lead the discussion on the important sub programme 'Sexual problems and Empowerment: biology, gender and ethics'. (The sub-programme analyses the sexual problems from a medical, gender and ethical perspective).

Jeff Hearn presented the centre's publishing strategy, including a proposal for a book series which has been submitted to an international publisher, as well as in-house monographs and working papers.

#### Evaluation Committee meetings and report writing (7 February)

The Committee met at the Swedish Research Council to discuss the site visits and to commence writing its report. Drafting continued via email after the two overseas members left Sweden.

### **Overall Comments and Suggestions for Future Directions**

#### **Publishing**

The Centres of Gender Excellence were asked about publications, both actual and scheduled, within a notice on language of the publications. Likewise they were asked about publishing strategies in order to reach an international arena of academic scholars.

The Uppsala centre has renamed its publication series from the Swedish name 'Skrifter från Centrum för Genusvetenskap' to the English name 'Crossroads of knowledge'. This series will also be published on the homepage.

The centre in Umeå has a series of publications comprising almost 40 titles, among them 75% in English. Persons from the Umeå centre stressed that it is also very important to publish in Swedish in order reach out in the Nordic community.

The centre in Linköping has elaborated a publication strategy with the following components: An international book series with the working title 'Intersectional Gender studies: European and Transnational Perspectives' consisting of 23 book-titles, which has been submitted to an international publishing company. A work-in-progress report series has been started. Two volumes have already been published. A catalogue of international journals to be targeted by centre fellows has been produced. Visiting fellows are generally expected to publish the outcome of their research at the centre and to acknowledge the centre. Besides publishing in

journals, they are obliged to submit papers to joint centre conferences, to contribute to the centre book series and to the work-in-progress series.

The publication strategies were rather carefully thought through by all Centres. All Centres were very much aware of the great need for international publishing even though the arguments for publishing in Swedish were entirely reasonable in some cases.

### Integrating research and education

Many questions were tabled regarding future plans and the potential for renewal of the centres. The connections between these Centres and undergraduate education were also canvassed. The answer to that question differed because of the way the centres were organised. Most of the researchers are, to varying degrees, involved in the education of research students and with students on the master level but quite a few are also involved in undergraduate education. This is perhaps so more in Umeå and Uppsala than in Linköping, although its partner Örebro has a major commitment to undergraduate education, including in the field of medical education. In addition the Linköping centre had a thought-through policy as to how the Centre could reach out to all fields of education.

### Future evaluations

The evaluated Centres have only been on the ground for one year. This international evaluation must be seen in the light of that time schedule. It is in fact a little too early to make any judgement on the outcomes. The evaluation must be seen as a first in the series of work-in-progress evaluations.

The next step could be to give a report on the further work-in-progress at the end of 2009. During the last year of the programme, 2011, a final international evaluation can be performed in order to give the Swedish Research Council a chance to consider further funding in this area of research.

### Future Research Agendas

It would be desirable to develop formal linkages with other well-established gender researchers in Sweden such as the politics researchers from Stockholm University. Their disciplinary expertise is not well represented at the three centres, and will be an important asset in interpreting the implications for gender studies of the processes of political change, globalisation, and Europeanization. The work of researchers at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm would, ideally, also be integrated into the emerging network of Swedish gender researchers.

One member also identified another important 'gap' in the existing Centres as the study of gender and international relations, although it noted that Linköping had prepared a project on gender and war. This is a thriving area in many other countries, as reflected in the strength and number of academic journals such as those supported by the International Studies Association (ISA). The global challenges are now immense, covering immigration, multiculturalism, international co-operation and terrorism, as well as global inequality, poverty and climate change.

The problem of the under-utilisation of existing Swedish and other large-scale survey data sets for gender research largely remains. It was, however, noted that several researchers at Linköping University are using survey data sets, notably the World Values Study, and the

Swedish election survey. 'Doing more with less': there is a vast array of research published already that could be re-analysed or interpreted through a gender awareness lens. The group at Umeå also had extensive plans for using both Swedish and international databases to study questions directly applicable to gender.

Gender is one of a number of social factors that operate alone and together to affect health, human rights, and well-being. There is a need for research that looks at the interactions between these social factors – for example – what is the contribution of gender bias and values (e.g. religious beliefs) to vulnerability and marginalization of girls. Gender is usually considered a determinant of health but there are no measures of its independent contribution to health outcomes. Instead researchers often apply a gender lens to findings. It is therefore important to ask whether gender, gender bias, or internalized acceptance of sex role stereotypes can really be measured and whether such measures could be included in individual and population level studies of health outcomes.

## **Conclusion**

We think that this evaluation has served well the task of encouraging the centres off to a 'flying' start. It is clear that all three Centres had from the outset carefully considered strategies for publication, international linkages and activities, and how to work across the disciplines.

We are indeed very impressed by the seriousness with which the Centres have approached their work and the amount they have already accomplished during the first year of their work.

28 February 2008

Marian Simms

Dan Brändström

Susan Phillips

Chair

# Appendix 1

## Report<sup>5</sup> from Uppsala Centre of Gender Excellence:

### *GenNa. Nature/Culture and Transgressive Encounters*

#### Follow-up and evaluation of Centre of Gender Excellence (CGEx), Uppsala University:

January - November 2007

#### Introduction

From the very start in 2003, concrete and focused efforts have enabled the Centre for Gender Research to transgress traditional organizational and scientific boundaries, since we were commissioned to “carry out research and teaching within the field of gender studies. Both teaching and research should include social as well as biological perspectives on gender” (UFV 2001/1378). For obvious reasons, this task is not an easy one, and the solution has been to invite researchers who are interested in gender from all faculties. In addition to this truly interdisciplinary venture, the Centre has a unique organization of appointments, with continual advertisement of new posts. The result is a dynamic staff makeup, and many researchers have also chosen to remain at the Centre. Drawing on our experiences from these efforts to create sustainable interdisciplinary meetings and networks between the humanities, the social sciences and the natural sciences, we applied for funding from the Swedish Research Council and its 2006 announcement for Centres of Gender Excellence (CGEx). Since then, we have launched the research programme *GenNa: Nature/Culture and Transgressive Encounters*. We want to further develop and consolidate an already strong research environment, to reach an international level of competitive research excellence focusing on gender and natural science, and based on transgressive meetings between nature and culture in research, theory and teaching. We also want to strengthen gender research at Uppsala University, since it still holds a rather weak position (for example, there is only one professorship in gender specific research at the entire university). Consequently, since we do not have a broad platform of senior staff, we aim at renowned professors for shorter or longer stay and younger, “coming”, researchers with strong competence and international network for one-year appointments. Our budget is thus mainly used for shorter and longer guest research positions, but a large post is also budgeted for own conferences, networking, conference presentations, proofreading etc. (see Appendix 1). Our efforts and strategies aim at local, national and international levels. The first six months have been used for planning, mapping other centres with GenNa-related activities, networking, organizational formation, setting up strategies for research as well as for communication, recruitments of local and international advisors, recruitments of guest researchers, producing information materials (new website, printed leaflets etc.), and so on. In August 2007, we set off at full scale.

By “transgressive encounters” we mean an actual/physical meeting in which modern boundaries between nature/culture, social/biological, sex/gender, etc., are challenged, moved or blurred. These encounters may be accomplished in, for example, a seminar, a written paper, or a research project. While working across many disciplines, we may also need a working definition of gender used by the programme, and accordingly we define gender as: 1)

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<sup>5</sup> full text report, including appendices, is available at the Swedish Research Council, dnr 2006-7267

including men and women and the power relations between them, and 2) not being reducible to sex, but socially and culturally constructed. Of particular interest for our interdisciplinary context is that we do not simply deny biology. On the contrary, we acknowledge that the body and biology are part of gender, not as given starting points, but as parts of what have to be examined.

Given that research at the Centre is also strong in the areas of labour and management, cultural studies, education and masculinities, this brief overview focuses on GenNa-related research activities, some funded by the Swedish Research Council and some receiving external funding. The point is, however, that the CGEx funding has given us a chance to strengthen existing research in a certain direction and thus to more strongly and strategically realize our focus on gender and science.

## **Organization**

The GenNa programme is headed by Professor Margaretha Fahlgren (literary historian). Margaretha Fahlgren has the ultimate responsibility for the programme. GenNa is coordinated by sociologist Tora Holmberg, PhD, who at present holds a half-time position. Tora Holmberg manages the programme independently, for example drawing up strategies, control documents and other documentation, coordinating projects in the programme and assisting in preparing individual grant applications. A managerial group, consisting of Professor Karin Johannisson, Senior Research Fellow Martha Blomqvist, Senior Research Fellow Hillevi Ganetz, Senior Research Fellow Pia Thörngren-Engblom, Fredrik Bondestam, PhD, Tora Holmberg, PhD, and economic administrator Riitta Mertanen, prepares and draws up goals, strategies, announcements of posts and recruitments. The managerial group meets once a month.

In order to promote the Centre and our GenNa programme at Uppsala University, and to get input and support from internationally renowned researchers regarding organizational matters, we have put together a local board for GenNa, consisting of human geographer, Professor Roger Andersson, chemistry Professor Kristina Edström, physics Professor Ulf Danielsson, sociologist Professor Elisabeth Näsman and medical genetics Professor Ulf Pettersson. This local board meets twice a year together with Margaretha Fahlgren and Tora Holmberg.

Finally, we have recruited an international board, consisting of experts in the field of gender and science and science studies: Professor Lynda Birke, England, Professor John Dupré, Exeter University, England, Professor Donna Haraway, UC, Santa Cruz, USA, Professor Lene Koch, Copenhagen University, Denmark, and Professor Londa Schiebinger, Stanford University, USA. Instead of arranging meetings for the entire board, our aim is to get the most out of each and every member of the panel by inviting them for an individual stay at the Centre on one occasion during the five-year CGEx funding period. In addition, our researchers are welcome to visit our panel members' home departments.

## **Activities**

The goal of all activities is to establish the Uppsala Centre for Gender Research as a leading European institution in gender research and as a partner in a strong international network for research, theory and didactics, transcending the nature/culture divide. We aim to strengthen and develop our dynamic research environment so as to attract researchers with different disciplinary and national backgrounds to the Centre. During the five-year funding period we plan to host a number of new research programmes (national and European) building on the same theme. It is our goal to become so attractive that researchers from other countries will



locate their research in Uppsala, and “our” researchers (i.e. those who are and have been here during the course of the programme) will be active in international networks and research projects and in great demand as speakers at conferences, etc. In order to reach these goals and to realize the aim of the programme, we will focus on various annual themes when planning our activities and strategies.

## 1. Annual themes (preliminary)

### **2007-2008: Gender and Animals in Research:**

Animals have traditionally been viewed as “outside” the realm of gender and feminist concerns, with some very important exceptions. Within the GenNa programme, we focus on issues concerning the gendering of animals and the animaling of gender in biological and other research.

### **Gender and Physics:**

The interface between gender research and physics has mostly been restricted to understanding “women/gender in science”, thus conditions, power relations, mechanisms of exclusion and the like. Within the GenNa programme, we also focus on questions of gendered knowledge production and materiality.

### **2008-2009: Gender and Trans-disciplinary Didactics:**

Gender didactics is an undeveloped field, particularly in Sweden, but also internationally. At the same time, in all gender research it is pivotal to understand how gender is communicated. Hence pedagogy is the key to trans-disciplinary encounters, which is why a national knowledge base in gender didactics and pedagogy is expected to help deepen the planned trans-disciplinary research and theory development.

### **2009-2010: Gender and Neuroscience**

Neuroscience is an area that usually does not sit well with gender researchers. Within this theme, we would like to move away from feminist critique of “his brain, her brain”, and ask whether and how neuroscience and gender research can meet and pursue passionate discussions.

### **2010: Gender and Bioethics**

Bioethics is a field that has grown tremendously, largely due to the expansion of the “new biology” and the growing amount of essential dilemmas concerning biotechnology and genetics. But gender and feminist perspectives are still not very well developed as potential critical dimensions, and feminist bioethics are mainly confined to reproduction technologies. We would like to expand critical bioethics to other areas of research, and contribute to the theoretical development in the area.

### **2011: Gender and Biosociality: Theoretical development.**

At this point, the time will have come to try to bring together the insights we have gained during the course of the programme. How is interdisciplinarity done in the area of gender research? What obstacles have we experienced? How are they handled? How can they be understood? The goal is to contribute to the theoretical development of both feminist epistemology and bodily matters through detailed analysis.

## 2. Guest researchers and professors

In accordance with our annual themes, we have invited post-docs and guest professors with interesting competences. In February 2007, we made a general call and announced it

internationally through different mailing lists (see Appendix 3). After a tough selection process, we have welcomed our new associates Malin Ah King, PhD in Zoology, who is working on a project called “Integrating gender theory and evolutionary research” and Associate Professor in Philosophy Pär Segerdahl. His project concerns “pan/homo-cultures” and is called: “Negotiating gender across species”. We were also happy to welcome as new guest researcher Helene Götschel, PhD, from Hamburg University, who is working with a project called “Visible Imageries and Invisible Gender in Electricity”, as well as guest Professor Elvira Scheich, Berlin Technische Universität. Her project concerns 1) gender and physics and 2) “nature” in feminist theory. Janne Bromseth, PhD, is a new guest researcher in the field of gender and didactics, from the University of Trondheim, Norway, and is working on a project focusing on gender and sexuality norms in research and educational practices at the university level. We have also been able to partly fund positions for historian of science Staffan Wennerholm (for writing a funding application, etc.), evolutionary biologist Måns Andersson (planning and organizing conference and working with homepage), and physicist Pia Thörngren-Engblom (conference planning). This strategic effort has already proven successful; Wennerholm received funding (3.2 million SEK) from the Swedish Research Council for a four-year research position at the Centre.

In January 2008, sociologist, Rebekah Fox, PhD, from Sheffield University, will be a guest researcher within GenNa, working on companion animals and behaviour genetics. Another interesting post doc is Eva Hayward, PhD from University of California Santa Cruz, who is working on a project on marine biology, positioned in the intersection of animal studies and science studies. Professor Jutta Weber from University Bielefeld, Austria, is scheduled to come to the Centre as a guest professor in spring 2009, and she will be working in the field of philosophy of science, more precisely in the area of neuroscience. Other Professors who have agreed to come as guests either 2008 or 2009 are evolutionary ecologist Patricia Gowaty, evolutionary biologist Marlene Zuk and evolutionary biologist Ingrid Ahnesjö. We also plan a special call for a couple of post-docs in spring 2008.

Besides conducting their own research, all our guest researchers are charged with contributing to the building of an international centre of excellence by participating in GenNa activities and strategies, networking, applying, together with other researchers, for further funding from national and European research councils, and by publishing internationally. Altogether, this has enabled us to create dynamic and well-functioning research groups within the themes of animals in research and physics, and to prepare our upcoming focus on pedagogy and didactics. None of this could be accomplished without the CGEx funding from the Swedish Research Council.

### 3. Conferences and workshops

On 26-29 August, the Centre hosted the international conference Society, Animals and Gender aimed at researchers and PhD students active in the field of human-animal studies. There were forty paper presentations, including a variety of issues related to the study of gender and animals, such as human-animal relations in culture, science, and labour. Attendants represented the natural and social sciences, as well as the humanities, and came from eleven different countries. Keynote speakers included Marlene Zuk, UC Riverside, USA, Patricia Adair Gowaty, University of Georgia, USA, and Nina Lykke, Linköping University, Sweden. We will follow up the conference in an inter-disciplinary Nordic workshop on human-animal studies, to be held at the Centre for Gender Research in June 9-10, 2008. Keynote speaker will be Professor Lynda Birke.

In September 24-26, 2008, an international conference on “Crossing Perspectives on Gender and Physics” will be held at the Centre for Gender Research, in connection with the annual meeting of NORWIP (Nordic Network for Women in Physics).

On 11-13 June 2009, an international conference called “Challenging pedagogies” will be held at the Centre for Gender Research. Invited keynote speakers (of whom four international speakers are now in place) include: Kevin Kumashiro (UIC, USA), Sharon Todd (York University Toronto, Canada), Nancy Brickhouse (University of Delaware) and Patti Lather (Ohio State University). We are still awaiting replies from Donna Haraway and bell hooks.

None of these conferences could be realized without the strategic efforts of GenNa.

#### 4. New seminars

- Seminar series: *Gender, Science and Knowledge*. Once a month with invited speakers.
- *GenNa brown-bag seminar*: once a month for GenNa staff, discussing relevant theoretical papers
- Internal seminar: Working seminar together with all researchers at the Centre
- Reading groups: Two organized reading groups have started in the autumn, one on Karen Barad’s book “Meeting Universe Halfway” and one on Feminist Theory of the Body (for example, Elisabeth Grosz and Toril Moi). At each meeting of these reading groups, 6-8 people have been involved in intense discussions.

#### 5. Networks (selection, see also Appendix 2)

- As a result of our aims to map and network with other GenNa-related Centres and researchers, in 18-20 April we met with gender researchers from three different universities in Berlin and presented our programme at seminars at the Technische Universität and the Max Planck Institute. We also attended an EU-conference on Women and Science.
- Another result from those efforts, is that we have initiated a network with the Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University, and will visit them in March 2008. In addition, we will make a visit to Professor Donna Haraway, UC, Santa Cruz.
- We also recently started a network on Gender and Evolutionary Biology. The first step was to set up a mailing list.
- The Centre has joined the European network EPWS (European Platform for Women in Science) [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org)
- Thanks to the funding of GenNa, the Nordic inter-disciplinary network on Embodiment and Health, hosted by the Centre, will have their first meeting in January 2008, in Sigtuna. Invited speakers are feminist philosophers Sara Heinämaa (researcher at Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies and also active as professor II at the Center for Gender Studies at the University of Oslo) and Gail Weiss (Director of the Human Sciences Program and Professor of Philosophy at George Washington University, Washington D.C).
- The Centre now hosts the Nordic Animal Studies Network, Nordic HAS, which is for researchers active in the field of human-animal studies. The network is intended for discussions and exchange of information regarding conferences, seminars and other

academic events within the multidisciplinary area of human-animal studies and to facilitate research cooperation among its participants.

- 5-15 October 2007, we visited the Great Ape Trust of Iowa to initiate research collaboration on enculturated bonobos' understanding of gender categories.

## 6. New external funding

- Uppsala University: 600,000 SEK annually 2008-2011
- The Swedish Research Council: 3,200,000 SEK for the project “In the Outskirts of Science” (Staffan Wennerholm)
- NordForsk (The Nordic Research Council) 10,000 EURO for the workshop “Investigating human-animal relations in popular culture, science and labour” (Tora Holmberg)
- VINNOVA (Swedish Funding Agency for Research and Innovation for Sustainable Growth): Förändring och Genus i FOCUS (Change and Gender in FOCUS) 250,000 SEK (Kristina Eriksson)

## 7. Publication and communication strategies

To increase our international publications, a number of measures have been taken:

- The **publication series** at the Centre has been renamed from “Skrifter från Centrum för genusvetenskap” to “Crossroads of knowledge”. The series will also be published on our homepage.
- An **edited anthology** on gender and natural science in English is under preparation. Researchers at the Centre (and a few outside) have been invited to publish on themes such as “Gender and Neuroscience”, “Gender and Physics”, “Gender and Science Education” etc. The anthology will be published in 2008.
- A **half-day seminar** on publication strategies is planned and will take place in February 2008. Speakers from NORA (Journal for Nordic Gender Research), Uppsala University and the Swedish Research Council have been invited to talk about how to publish internationally.
- In the **budget**, a special post for international publication is intended for proofreading for researchers at the Centre who write in English, or translation for those who wish to publish in English, but do not have sufficient skills in the language.

To sharpen our outreaching activities and the visibility of the Centre, a number of measures have been taken:

- A **communication strategy document** has been worked out.
- We have created a **new homepage** ([www.genna.gender.uu.se](http://www.genna.gender.uu.se)) for the excellence programme, and produced a series of printed information materials (leaflets, posters, roll-ups etc).
- We have started **collaboration with the information department** at the University. This means that they continuously receive information about our activities and write press releases. This has already proved to be a fruitful strategy. For example, the

animal studies conference in August was covered in a number of local and national papers and on national radio.

- We are arranging a **launching workshop** in 23 January 2008, aiming at national gender researchers, politicians, journalists and representatives for funding agencies, local interested parties, former and current collaborators and many more. More than 400 personal printed invitations, together with information about our activities, have been posted.
- A **one-day seminar**, co-ordinated by the information department, called “Journalists meet gender researchers” will take place in February 2008.

#### Concluding remarks:

In sum, the first year of our CGEx venture has been successful. We have put considerable time and effort into our strategies and organization, preparing an activity plan and a plan for communication, appointing local and international boards, producing website and printed information material, building networks, etc. This investment has been essential to acquiring the staff we have managed to hire: very interesting guest researchers and professors. After less than a year of activities, we have already noted great surplus value in the form of, e.g., new collaborations between guest researchers and “old” staff in terms of funding applications, joint articles, interdisciplinary reading groups, and new network initiatives. It is also worth noting that collaborations between the CGExs are working well, with regular meetings (April and December, plus a phone conference in October), a joint workshop in Örebro, Sweden, in 10 April 2008, and a Brussels conference on Swedish Gender Research, which is planned for autumn 2008. We therefore look forward to continuing to work in this manner for the following years, and believe that the outcome will be even more rewarding than our work so far has already proved to be.

# Appendix 2

## Report<sup>6</sup> from Umeå Centre of Gender Excellence:

### *Challenging Gender*

#### Umeå advanced gender studies – challenging gender

#### Report to evaluation group, site visit Umeå February 5, 2008

*Research leader:* Professor Britta Lundgren

*Steering group/Theme leaders:*

Senior Lecturer Annelie Bränström-Öhman

Senior Lecturer Siv Fahlgren

Professor Åsa Gunnarsson

Associate Professor Katarina Hamberg

Professor Anne Hammarström

Associate Professor Ann Öhman

### Introduction

In this report we have followed the outline of questions provided from the National Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet). To give a better view of what is going on within the programme we are also enclosing some appendices.

### A brief working definition of gender used by the project

Our research programme is characterised by a theoretical plurality and the analytical frameworks involved include a wide scope of approaches from more structuralist understandings to post-structural and deconstructionist perspectives. What connects the different themes are the critical and urging dimensions of the concept “Challenging gender” – including challenging gendered structures, existing knowledge and academic practice. The programme also has a strong self-reflexive dimension – to challenge the concept of gender and enhance gender theory.

The goal for the programme is to make use of this pluralism and to make gender theory a working tool for transformation of academia and society. It is our belief that the theoretical plurality serves to gain an explanatory depth that otherwise might be neglected.

What being selected as a Centre enabled the group to accomplish that would not have otherwise occurred:

The over-arching experience having worked with the programme for almost one year is that the grant enabled us to strengthen the cross-cutting potentials and our strong will to cross-fertilise within all our research areas. As described in the application the UAGS as a whole has a unique breadth, spread throughout the university and situated in all faculties and in a

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<sup>6</sup> full text report, including appendices, is available at the Swedish Research Council, dnr 2006-7280

great number of research disciplines. This however also carries a risk for fragmentation and disintegration. Turning breadth into a valuable critical mass can only be completely workable and practicable when strong resources are allocated to the environment – resources to build the organization and to make strategic long-term decisions.

The grant made it possible to connect researchers from the five broad themes, themes that were chosen with the aim to build on previous research to make a strong platform for future international collaboration. The broad themes that constitute the “flower” connect us in seminar groups where participants exchange experiences, read texts, co-write and discuss theory. Although we previously have worked in the same university it is only now that this strong “pulling together” of research can be put into practical work on a larger scale. See *App. 1 List of projects and App. 2 Cross-disciplinary activities and outcomes* for a fuller description.

The grant also made it possible to further enhance cooperation (mostly within Normalization theme) with Mid Sweden University, a collaboration that has successfully been established within the National Graduate School of Gender Studies. We are also happy to collaborate with researchers from Luleå Technical University in the Emotions theme.

Because all three Centers of Gender Excellence were established at the same time it has been very natural to have regular contacts and meetings between the three of us. We have had two meetings in Stockholm and we are planning conferences throughout the whole period with each CGEx as a host. We are also planning a national conference on topics of great interest for society as a whole, topics that show the value of gender research and where gender research has led to changes in politics and policies.

The grant has also been very important to help to gain further authority within Umeå University and Mid Sweden University and to strengthen the position as one of the strong research areas. See below for support from the university.

### **Publications (i.e. outputs) both actual and scheduled, noting language of publication, translation etc**

We have made strong efforts to be able to produce publications (see below) and as we can judge at the moment (Dec. 07) the publication list for the researchers financed by the programme (published/accepted) comprises almost 40 titles, among them 75% in English. For researchers not financed from the programme but collaborating within the themes we can see approximately similar figures.

*List of publication, see App. 3 a and 3 b*

### **International linkages, actual and scheduled (See App. 4)**

All themes have worked to strengthen the international linkages. We have had international guests, participated in conferences and planned for future activities and had important strategic discussions with our *International Reference Group*. This groups consists of professor Raewyn Connell (Australia), Professor Gabriele Griffin (Great Britain), Professor Philomena Essed (USA), Professor Margaret Davies (Australia) , Professor Johanna Niemi (Finland) and Professor Ellen Annandale (Great Britain). They are chosen because of their broad gender research experiences, their networking capabilities and there capabilities in building up strong research environments.

The group (all except Connell and Davies) has paid a first visit to Umeå and we had very fruitful discussions with them during two days in November 2007. We have also made plans for their work with us for the time to come.

It should also be pointed out that Umeå University and Mid Sweden University also gives a special financial support to the internationalization work (see below under the heading “Support from the university...”) *Internationalization/Other Activities, see App. 4.*

### **Cross disciplinary activities and outcomes**

*Accomplishment within themes:* Within all themes there have been interdisciplinary seminar groups engaging in activities such as seminars, workshops and participation in conferences. *See list App 2.*

*Accomplishment within arena work:* The most “challenging challenge”, in the programme, is to establish the “arena for reflexivity and theoretical development”. The main purpose for the arena work is to produce intellectual coherence to enable synergy between the themes. In the arena we meet all together to further discuss and enhance the results made from the work within the themes. The work has started with a one-day arena meeting in September 2007 and a two-day meeting in January 2008. In the September meeting the goal was to start the discussions and to find constructive forms for working together. We also prepared the first meeting with the international reference group.

In the January meeting in 2008 the issue is *contextualization* and the *sex-gender-debate*. All themes are working together to produce on the one hand a thematic overview from each theme involved and on the other hand a cross-thematic discussion.

We are planning to have several arena meetings every year and the aim is to be able to produce “arena articles” and to produce applications for additional funding. We are also working on the arena to become a major component in attracting international gender scholars to Umeå. It has to be emphasized once again that the accomplishment for the arena work is highly a matter of process and is dependent on a successful and creative climate for discussions and collaboration within the themes and between the themes. The organizational change (described below under the heading “Other relevant matters”) is important in these efforts and the theme leaders will have a central role to play to unite the themes, to focus important research issues and to contribute to the reflexive and theoretical work on the arena.

### **The budget to date, i.e. actual and proposed expenditure**

See *App. 5* for an overview of the budget to date (Dec. 2007). We have a surplus in the Democracy/Justice theme due to difficulties in planning and to the fact that researchers got other grants. In 2008 this will be settled. We have also a surplus for costs (administration, webb, travels etc) that also will be settled next year. The website is in need of changing and improvement, but this work is delayed because the whole web-profile for the university is reorganized.

### **Accomplishment of work during the first year**

During the first year the heavy and time-consuming work has been for the steering group to build up the organization for the programme. We have selected the researchers that are financed during year 1-2 and set up *individual research plans*. All researchers that are financed are chosen to fit the criteria:



- high quality in gender research
- high ambition and ability for publication
- internationalization strategies
- personal contribution to Challenging Gender to promote a strong research environment

We have established the work in the theme groups and started the discussions on the arena. We have set the obligations for the *theme leaders* to

- stimulate to creative collaboration within the theme
- to stimulate and participate in the arena work
- to make suggestions to the steering board about the researchers to be financed from the programme
- to discuss and create the individual research plans together with the researchers
- to be the leaders in the seminars and meetings for the themes and be responsible for documentation
- to be the link between the research leader for the programme and the participants in the themes
- to do follow-ups of individual research plans and make annual reports
- to report to the steering group

This infrastructural work is of utmost importance for the future of the programme. During the first year we have also established the *International Reference Group*.

*Projects: See App. 1*

*Cross-disciplinary activities: See App 2*

*Publications: See App. 3 a and 3 b*

*Internationalization/Other activities: See App. 4*

### **A proposed work plan for the remainder of the project See App. 4**

We have not yet made a full plan for the whole period. This is also a matter of process but the strategies to become an internationally highly regarded Center of Gender Excellence requires success in the arena work, strong planning for internationalisation including a programme for guest researchers and strong international publication.

### **Deviation from or extension of the plan (participants, organization of the work within the centre, cooperation, budget etc.)**

Professor Britt-Marie Thurén that was one of the applicants has retired. She is not in the steering group but collaborates with and supports the Normalization theme at Mid Sweden University. Professor Johanna Niemi has moved to Finland and is not in the steering group, but she is a member of the International Reference Group.

We haven't yet accomplished to build a communication strategy group. For budget, see heading above.

**Activities for internalization of research area such as > activities for publishing in international journals, activities > for building up international contacts, exchange of gender > researchers, coordinated projects etc.**

Activities for publishing:

1. Writing workshops for publication strategies (theme emotions)
2. Workshop for publication strategies arranged by the National Graduate School of Gender Studies.
3. Workshop Nov 8: "Publication Strategies for Gender Research"- lectures and discussion:

Gabriele Griffin, "Getting Published in International Journals. . . and a little bit on book publications"

Camilla Norrbin, National Secretariat for Gender Research, Gothenburg: "Is Swedish Gender Research Internationalized?"

Olle Persson, professor of Sociology, Umeå University: "Bibliometrics and Publication Strategies"

Activities for building up international contacts:

1. International reference group settled. First meeting Nov 8-9.
2. Inviting lecturers to Umeå and Mid Sweden University
3. Visiting other universities
4. Participation in conferences
5. Collaboration with EU-project QUING
6. Mapping of gender departments for future collaboration (Linda Berg report)

### **Support from university and potential for renewal with funding from other sources**

The grant has made it possible to obtain substantial support from the universities of Umeå and Mid Sweden for an internationalization programme. Umeå will provide 750 000 SEK per year and Mid Sweden University 150 000 per year. For the years 2010 and 2011 Umeå University will also fund positions for tenure track (2 000 000 SEK).

The grant will also facilitate the working procedures for writing applications for funding from other sources. To date we have also had success for a couple of researchers that have been given additional funding.

### **Other relevant matters**

During 2007 the organization for gender research at Umeå University is changed. The units Centre for Women Studies and The National Graduate School of Gender Studies are connected into one interdisciplinary centre, Umeå Center for Gender Studies. The board is not yet completely decided but there will be an external chair person, Britta Lundgren will be the vice-chairperson in the board and will have special responsibility for research. The re-

organization will make the collaboration more effective and will further enhance the possibilities to make Umeå Center for Gender Studies an attractive center worldwide.

# Appendix 3

## Report<sup>7</sup> from Linköping-Örebro Centre of Gender Excellence:

***Gendering Excellence - GEXcel: Towards a European Centre of Excellence in Transnational and Transdisciplinary Studies of Changing Gender Relations, Intersectionalities and Embodiment***

**Report on CGEX, Linköping Univ. and Örebro Univ.**

### *a) Brief working definition of gender:*

In the working definition of GEXcel, gender is defined as a relational, plural and shifting social, cultural and embodied process through which power differentials between and among women, men and other genders (in intersections with other kinds of power differentials, based on class, ethnicity, racialisation, sexuality, age, geopolitical position, language etc) are produced, as well as contested and resisted.

### *b) What selection as a CGEX enable the group to accomplish that would not otherwise have occurred:*

\* *Firstly*, the CGEX grant has made it possible for the six Gender Studies professors who carried the application, and their local research groups at the universities of Linköping and Örebro to initiate major new joint research endeavours together with a large, highly profiled and excellent group of international key researchers within the field of interdisciplinary Gender Studies as well as with promising younger gender researchers from a diversity of disciplinary and national backgrounds. GEXcel has given the six professors resources to build up excellent, international research teams and carry out high quality transnational and transdisciplinary research on 12 central themes, defined within the framework of changing gender relations, intersectionalities and embodiment. Each of the six professors will get the opportunity to head 2 research themes during the life cycle of GEXcel. Research themes are chosen in accordance with the excellence records of the six professors and, moreover, carefully selected in order to enable GEXcel as a whole to build decisively new and intersecting theoretical lenses, innovative methodological approaches and new understandings of contemporary gender relations and gendered power differentials, as seen in transnational, transdisciplinary and intersectional perspectives.

\* The research is primarily carried out via GEXcel's visiting fellowship programme, but a *second* positive factor is the included possibility for outgoing exchange, where local GEXcel staff will go abroad and do further research on their themes, among others together with former GEXcel fellows.

\* A *third* important factor is the 5 year horizon of the CGEX grant. This has opened a space for an effective use of the research results of the first five themes (that, according to plan, will take place 2007-2009) to define the research themes for the second phase (2009-2011). The 5 year horizon makes it possible to systematically integrate new ideas and perspectives emerging out of the long-term partnerships and team-building with the group of excellent

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<sup>7</sup> full text report, including appendices, is available at the Swedish Research Council, dnr 2006-7295

international scholars to be affiliated with GEXcel via its core activity: the fellowship programme. A major and much needed transnationalizing and transdisciplining gender research effort is assumed to be one of the important results of this, creating huge potentials for international publishing of decisively new results and for joint development of strong applications to international funding agencies such as the EU Commission and the European Science Foundation (from which GEXcel professors (Hearn and Lykke) earlier have received grants).

\* *Fourthly*, the long-term international research cooperation with top-scholars from many countries, made possible by the grant, opens a unique opportunity to a far more systematic application of cross-national comparisons that will yield new theoretical developments, as well as allow the use and building up of databases with material from many countries, making possible systematic European and broader transnational comparisons of gender orders and other divisions over time.

\* *Fifthly*, the CGEX grant has made it possible to set up GEXcel as a developmental scheme for a more permanent Sweden-based European feminist research institute. The creating of new transnational and transdisciplinary gender research and the long-term research partnerships with an outstanding group of excellent international scholars can significantly sustain the project of launching a permanent Collegium for Advanced Transnational and Transdisciplinary Gender Research (CATSgender), defined as the more long-term goal of GEXcel.

c) *Publications (i.e. outputs), both actual and scheduled:* ---- During the first year, GEXcel has elaborated on its publication strategy with the following components:

- An international book series with the working title ‘Intersectional Gender Studies: European and Transnational Perspectives’ is in prep.; a series proposal will be submitted to publisher (Polity Press) primo 2008. (See *App. 1*).
- A work in progress report series has been planned; two vol.s will be published primo 2008. (See *App. 2*)
- A catalogue of international journals to be targeted by GEXcel fellows has been produced; as a first step, the catalogue is based on international journals in which GEXcel professors are involved as editors, advisory board members etc. (see *App. 3*). The list will be further elaborated, and internal publication seminars will be organized regularly to discuss publication strategies for each GEXcel research theme. This will also be part of a mentoring strategy for younger researchers.

\* Visiting fellows are generally expected to publish the outcomes of their GEXcel research and acknowledge GEXcel. Besides publications in journals, they are obliged to submit papers to joint GEXcel conferences, to contribute to the GEXcel book series and to the work in progress series.

d) *International linkages, actual and scheduled:* ----

\* The visiting fellows programme, the publications and planned, new international applications will give GEXcel a strong international profile, and build on the extensive international networks in which GEXcel professors are involved. (See key examples of major European projects and networks of participating professors in *App. 4*)

\* The international advisory board of GEXcel (see *App. A, Application Research Programme*) composed of international gender researchers with strong international excellence records, was invited to a two-day kick-off conference in May 2007 and consulted on a) GEXcel's research programme, 2) the virtualization strategy, 3) the long-term goal of setting up CATSgender, 4) the process of GEXflex, i.e. the ways in which GEXcel is to be developed as an explicitly reflexive organizational project, which handles the continuous improvement of the organization as an integral and critical part of the unfolding of gender excellence in research, and not just as an instrumental matter or an optional add-on. --- The international advisory board will be consulted further and invited to advisory conference at least once a year.

\* An international editorial and advisory board is set up for the GEXcel book series; the members are selected on the grounds of their excellence records. (See *App. 1*).

\* Based on the extensive knowledge of European Gender Studies, which GEXcel professors have accumulated via longstanding commitment to European Gender Studies and via participation in a substantial number of European projects, a group of 6-7 of the strongest and most excellent European Gender Studies institutions will be selected as core partners in preparation for CATSgender.

e) *Cross disciplinary activities and outcomes*: The GEXcel programme is cross- and transdisciplinary in its nature. It is based on the expertises of six Gender Studies professors who together cover both the social sciences (economic history, sociology, political science), the humanities (cultural studies and literary studies), and medicine. Moreover, the thematic foci of GEXcel research is defined as transdisciplinary. The transdisciplinarity is clearly reflected in the research programme. The research carried out within the framework of the first five themes will, for example, from a transdisciplinary perspective, focus on intertwinement of political economy and political sexuality, unequal transnational relations and the ways in which they are influencing and being influenced by transpatriarchies and gendered elites, and on ways to bridge major epistemological gaps between analyses of bodies from a gender and medicine/biology perspective, on the one hand, and from a cultural and philosophical viewpoint, on the other.

f) *The budget to date, i.e. actual and proposed expenditure*:

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE, VR GRANT, YEAR 1

Fellowships (Theme 1) (incl. travel and accommodation):	480 kSEK
Conferences	57 kSEK
Meetings, communication, publication, IT	80 kSEK
Management	433 kSEK
<b>TOTAL (EXCL OVERHEAD)</b>	<b>1.050 kSEK</b>
Overhead costs	367 kSEK
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.417 kSEK</b>

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE, VR GRANT, YEAR 1

Fellowships (incl. travel and accommodation)	789 kSEK
Conferences	760 kSEK
Meetings, communication, publication, IT	108 kSEK
Management	175 kSEK
<b>TOTAL (EXCL. OVERHEADS)</b>	<b>1832 kSEK</b>
Overhead costs	641 kSEK
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.473 kSEK</b>

## BUDGETED EXPENDITURE, VR GRANT, YEAR 2-5

Theme 1 (2008)	871 kSEK
11 main research themes (2-12) a 1.381 kSEK	15.191 kSEK
3 cross-cutting themes	650 kSEK
Management, 4 years	2.238 kSEK
<u>TOTAL (EXCL OVERHEADS)</u>	<u>18.950 kSEK</u>
Overhead costs	6.633 kSEK
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>25.583 KSEK</u>

g) *Accomplishment of work during the first year: ----*

\* *Milestone 1: Initiating of new internationally framed research around research theme 1 "Gender, Sexuality and Global Change",* headed by GEXcel lead team member Prof. Anna G. Jónasdóttir, Univ. of Örebro. Fellowships for this theme has been announced twice in 2007, and a post-doc of 10 months as well as 5 international guest PhD students have been selected for GEXcel fellowships (of each 1 month) to team up with the group of internationally highly esteemed senior scholars which have been invited as visiting GEXcel fellows for 1-2 weeks' research stays (2007-08, see *App. 5 and 7-8-9*). The research team has also included Prof. Em, Kathleen B. Jones, US, member of the international advisory board of GEXcel, and co-coordinator of theme 1, funded by local resources. The Theme 1 research team addresses globalization from new perspectives, theorizing and analysing overall socio-sexual structures and the ways in which gender and sexuality are being produced and performed as part of intertwined trends of global political economy and global political sexuality. An important framework for the analysis is the internationally recognized, feminist historical materialist theories of Prof. Jónasdóttir. A work in progress report, a volume of the planned international GEXcel book series, a joint conference in May 2008 as well as a broader public conference in the Autumn of 2008 are initiated as first results of the work. The selection of visiting fellows has been done on the basis of careful and rigorous academic evaluations of the merits of all participating senior and junior scholars.

\* *Milestone 2: Initiating of 3-stage virtualization strategy: Stage 1:* the setting up of GEXcel web page (see [www.genderexcel.org](http://www.genderexcel.org)) has been accomplished. *Stage 2:* the plans to create an innovative virtual infrastructure which shall sustain the cross-institutional and cross-national work of GEXcel research teams (before and after physical meetings) have been elaborated in significant ways. A pilot project to establish an Intranet ([igenderexcel.org](http://igenderexcel.org)) which, in both theory and practice, will explore new Web.2 resources for participatory e-research collaboration as well as virtual management formats has been launched; the Intranet is planned to be up and running for all GEXcel participants by Spring 2008. PhD student Peter Giger, Blekinge Inst. of Technology, is doing the developmental design in collaboration with the GEXcel board, while writing a chapter of his PhD on Web2. and participatory design with GEXcel's experimental virtualisation strategy as case study. *Stage 3:* Initial planning for a public blog for research discussions on GEXcel themes and an electronic open peer review journal, to be launched in 2008-09, have also started.

\* *Milestone 3: Initiating of Europeanization strategy:* The long-term goal of GEXcel - to provide a platform for a more permanent European feminist research institute (CATSgender) - has been pursued from the start. A brainstorm discussion of paths to take was held at a seminar with members of GEXcel's international advisory board in May 2007 and followed up by a GEXcel seminar in September with a presentation by Sanne Bor, Hanken, Finland, who has researched the management and other factors that make European networks of excellence successful on a long-term basis. Strategies have also been informally discussed

with key players of the European Gender Studies scene within the framework of Athena (Advanced thematic network in European Women's Studies) and AOIFE (Association of Institutions of Feminist Education and Research in Europe).

\* *Milestone 4: Initiating of publication strategy* - see item c above.

*h) Proposed plan for the remainder of the project: ----*

\* *YEAR 2, 2008:* ----Spring term: Theme 1, term 2, + announcements, Themes 2-3. ---- Autumn term: Themes 2-3, term 1 + announcements, Themes 4-5.

\* *YEAR 3, 2009:* ----Spring term: Themes 2-3, term 2, + Themes 4-5, term 1 + announcements, Themes 6-7-8 + GEXcel self-evaluation. ---- Autumn term: Themes 4-5, term 2 + Themes 6-7-8, term 1, + implementation of results of self-evaluation in terms of possible readjustments of contents and format.

\* *YEAR 4, 2010:* ----Spring term: Themes 6-7-8, term 2 + announcements, Themes 9-10. ---- Autumn term: Themes 9-10, term 1 + announcements, Themes 11-12.

\* *YEAR 5, 2011:* ----Spring term: Themes 9-10, term 2 + Themes 11-12, term 1. ----Autumn term: Themes 11-12, term 2. Start-up of CATSgender, if the search for funding and support has been successful.

Three cross-cutting themes will run parallel with the main themes 2008-2011: ---- 1) Reflections on virtualisation strategy.----- 2) Reflections on Europeanization and long-term organizational strategy (GEXflex, see, item b). ----- 3) Reflections on the development of theories and methodologies

*i) Deviation from or extension of the plan: ----* \* GEXcel has overall developed according to plan.

\* An addition to the activities of the 12 main research themes has been implemented: besides a kick-off and a final international research conference, each theme will organize a conference for a broader public audience to ensure dialogue beyond the research community, cf. "the third task" of Swedish research.

\* Another addition is a programme of "open positions": excellent scholars from Sweden and abroad can apply to come on their own funding and after evaluation of their merits be granted a study space at GEXcel. (See *App. 6*)

\* Some discrepancies between budgeted and actual expenditures for year 1: ----- 1) Only 61% of the budget for fellowships for year 1 has been spent by now, as it turned out to be more relevant for the research programme to take in a bigger part of Theme 1 visiting fellows in Spring 2008 and to start the three cross-cutting themes, primarily based on internal resources, i.e. without intake of visiting fellows until the experiences from the start-up have been reflected more thoroughly in a prolonged planning phase (cf the process of GEXflex, see item d). The underspent 309kSEK is planned to be spent in 2008. ----- 2) Only 8% of the conference budget for year 1 has been spent. This is due to the way in which the conference and workshop budget for overview purposes technically was divided up in equally big sums in the application. As it can be seen from the workplan above (item h), which is overall identical with the one proposed in the application, the themes are, however, unequally distributed timewise. While 2007, for the sake of thorough preparation, only have had one half theme (1) running, 2008-09 are planned to have 7 parallel themes (2-8) running, and as every theme are planned to run 3 conferences (a kick off workshop, a final conference and



one for a broader public), this will involve 21 conferences altogether. Therefore, the 700kSEK underspent in 2007, is planned to be spent as part of the conference budget for 2008-09. ----- 3) Actual expenditures on management in 2007 are 258 kSEK higher than budgeted for, but this is balanced by overhead costs for 2007 being 294 kSEK lower than budgeted for. This is due to technical changes in the ways these costs are registered at the institution.

*j) Activities for internationalization of research area:* Internationalization activities in terms of exchange, publishing, networking, coordinated projects etc. are all core activities of GEXcel and described in more detail in particular in items b, c, d, and h.

*k) Support from university and potential for renewal with funding from other sources.* GEXcel has generated major support from the local universities, Linköping and Örebro. As stated in the application, Linköping Univ. has followed up upon the VR grant with a local additional grant of 5 mio SEK, while Örebro has granted 3 mio SEK in addition to the VR grant. Moreover, since GEXcel started other kinds of additional support have been granted, which also may generate major synergies with GEXcel and potentials for future renewal.

*Additional support to Dept. of Gender Studies at Linköping Univ.:*

- The university board have decided, from 2008, to grant the Dept. *a new interdisciplinary Gender Studies professorship* in “Gender and Knowledge Production with special reference to the Medical, Technical and Natural Science Professions”. The professorship will be added to the staff of 3 Gender Studies professors already employed at the Dept.
- The university board has declared that the Dept. has the potential to become “one of the university’s strongest research milieus” (cf. dnr LiU 141/06-10), and decided that it shall be given means to undertake *a major staff expansion in the period 2007-2011* not only at professors’ level (from 3 to 4), but also at the level of associate professors and postdoctoral researchers (from 2 to 8).
- Two GEXcel professors (Lykke and Wijma) have been appointed “*contract*” professors (a special recognition of excellence, which Linköping Univ. has awarded a small number of its professors; the award is accompanied by a special budget of 2 mio SEK/year in five years).
- *EU applications* to be launched as part of theme 2-3-4-5 are also being planned with *economic support for preparation from Linköping Univ.*
- The Dept. has become host of a *national Swedish research school in interdisciplinary Gender Studies*, funded by the Swedish Research Council (2008-2011, 10 mio/SEK) with GEXcel Director (Lykke) as scientific director. This means that synergies can be created between GEXcel and the development of a large-scale national-international PhD programme in interdisciplinary Gender Studies.

*Additional support at Örebro Univ.:* Here, too, Gender Studies is under evaluation as strong research milieu, and it is to be assumed that it will get the status as such a milieu very soon.