



in cooperation with



End-of-term Conference

Crossing gender. Sociology meets other disciplines

University of Perugia (Narni branch)

December 6th – 7th 2024

Since its first formalization by Gayle Rubin (1975), gender has emerged as an increasingly relevant key to observing and understanding the contemporary world and its change (Connell 1987, Bourdieu 1999). Indeed, among the most relevant recent social transformations are to be counted precisely those pertaining to the specific weight of this identifying category for individuals and groups (Risman 2004, Ruspini 2023).

The culture on gender is progressively entering the public debate also thanks to the possibilities of representation and "taking the floor" offered by digital media and, in particular, by social media (Farci, Scarcelli, 2022) and has become the subject of political decisions on aspects and issues that affect personal rights (civil unions, parental leave, etc.) from a perspective of overcoming gender dualism (Connell 1995, Butler 1999). Meanwhile, sexual identity has begun to be socially perceived as culturally defined, regulated and symbolized (Gregersen 2022). It follows that reflecting on the dimension of gender and how it exerts a critical function in the domains of social life - from education, to socialization or language - as cultural constructs through which gender is concretized - is the task not only of a single discipline, but of the social sciences in dialogue with other disciplines (Corbisiero, Nocenzi, eds., 2022).

Each discipline encounters gender as a strategic object of study in the prevailing sphere in which it operates, but, at the same time, any social fact reflects in a more or less direct way the transformations related to gender, its multiple representations and explanations, diversified in

in cooperation with

synchronic and diachronic terms, on the micro and macro, material and symbolic planes. The gender pay gap phenomenon, for example, affects the conditions of female workers by investing law and business economics with questions about a patently discriminatory form. This, however, must be read in an integrated way with the socio-anthropological dynamics of power management connected to the emerging capitalist mode of production (Engels 1884) and access to material and relational resources, of sedimentation in history from the transition from nomadism to horticultural societies (O’Kelly and Carney 1986, Magda I., Cukrowska-Torzewska E. 2019). In recent years, moreover, great attention is paid by the scientific community to the issue of gender variance, and to all the subjective conditions of those who do not identify with a binary view of gender. The latter constitute an aspect still little investigated by sociology and, therefore, it will be crucial to engage with those expert knowledge that within other disciplines (including clinical psychology, cultural anthropology, and medicine) have begun to accrue expertise decades ago (Monro, 2019). And the connection between fields and disciplines could follow for several more steps.

Despite the obvious transversality of gender, there is a struggle to apply its holistic property, except in frameworks such as the one outlined in the 2030 Agenda (UN 2015) in which goals such as No. 5 (gender equality) and No. 10 (reducing inequality) are prerequisites to the realization of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The outcomes of this “strategic resistance” are now tangible, and the ineffectiveness of responses to dramatic problems such as gender-based violence - when they aim at specialization and not integration of expertise and disciplinary visions to counter, study and prevent it - is one of many examples (Brink et al, 2021). Indeed, multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches are gradually being joined by trans-disciplinary approaches whose different types of knowledge production for social change are based not only on the integration of knowledge from different disciplines (interdisciplinarity), but also on the inclusion of values, knowledge, know-how and skills from non-academic sources (Klein, 2017). This implies “mutual learning between science and society, (...) embodying a mission of science with society rather than for society” (Seidl et al. 2013). Therefore, it builds on established methods to produce “reliable knowledge”, but goes beyond that to generate “socially sound knowledge” as is increasingly required of science in applied research projects” (Green Deal, NRP).

The conference is proposed as an opportunity for discussion and debate, aimed at the scientific community, the sociological community, and all other disciplines, on the topic of gender

in cooperation with

transversality. The proposal for conceptual and/or research papers is also addressed to the world of professions, representatives of civil society and associations.

Some of the cognitive questions that may animate the debate, although not exhaustive, are:

- Ø How can gender be defined in light of its transversality? What are the epistemological difficulties? What are its manifestations?
- Ø Does the transversality of gender, which requires a form of humility on the part of the researcher in addressing issues and not presuming to “know exactly what the problem is”, constitute a challenge to the disciplines?
- Ø What is the role of sociology and, more broadly, that of the social sciences in heuristics on gender? What, specifically, toward other disciplines?
- Ø Is a multi- or inter-disciplinary approach still appropriate for the study of a research object when it is related to gender? What are the strengths and what are the weaknesses?
- Ø How to do transdisciplinary research on gender or social facts characterized by this factor?
- Ø What added value and/or critical issues does adopt the transdisciplinary approach in gender research propose?
- Ø How can gender be the common goal of different and rarely integrated disciplines?
- Ø Are there disciplinary areas that can integrate with each other more successfully in analyzing the gender factor? If yes, what facilitates their coming together? If not, what are the major impediments?
- Ø How do we achieve that integration between academic and conventional knowledge that characterizes transdisciplinary studies and that gender-related issues require to be better understood?
- Ø Can gender promote mutual learning processes between science and society that embody a mission of science with society rather than for society?
- Ø What resistance does science itself face to cross-fertilization in gender studies?
- Ø Can the intersectionality approach enrich the debate on gender cross-fertilization by bringing in new visions and new empirical evidence?
- Ø Is it possible to think of a new paradigm for research from gender across disciplines (transdisciplinarity) that creates and applies knowledge produced with stakeholders while maximizing its social impact?



in cooperation with



Building on these questions and thematic cues, the call invites proposals with a theoretical and/or empirical slant that intend to measure up to one or more of the above questions. Proposals from transdisciplinary research teams and Ph.D. and research fellows will be particularly welcome.

Submissions may be articulated in relation and interconnectedness in the following thematic areas:

- Gender, sexuality and identity
- Gender representation and social change
- Socialization to gender and educational processes
- Gender in media representation
- Health and gender
- Violence and secondary victimization
- Migration processes from a gender perspective
- Gender as a goal of sustainable development
- Gender in multi-cultural societies
- Gender pay gap and other forms of asymmetry in the labour market
- Women's bio capital and the use of the body
- Gender and power
- Gender in the academy
- Gender studies and intersectionality

References

- Bourdieu, P. (1998), *La domination masculine*, Seuil, Paris.
- (Brink J., Cullen P., Beek K., & Peters S. A. (2021), Intimate partner violence during the COVID-19 pandemic in Western and Southern European countries, *European journal of public health*, 31(5), 1058-1063.
- Connell R. (1995), *Masculinities*, Polity Press, Cambridge.
- Connell R. (1987), *Questioni di genere*, Bologna, il Mulino.
- Corbisiero F., Nocenzi M., (a cura di), (2022), *Manuale di Educazione al Genere e alla Sessualità*, Torino, UTET.
- Farci, M., Scarcelli, C. M. (a cura di). (2022), *Media digitali, genere e sessualità*. Mondadori Università, Milano.

in cooperation with

- Gregersen E., (2022). Human sexuality in cross-cultural perspective, *Alternative Approaches To the Study of Sexual Behavior*, 87-102), Psychology Press.
- Keitsch M. M., Vermeulen W. J.V., (eds.) (2020), *Transdisciplinarity For Sustainability. Aligning*
- Klein, J. T., 'Typologies of Interdisciplinarity: The Boundary Work of Definition', in Robert Frodeman (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Interdisciplinarity*, 2nd edn, Oxford Handbooks (2017; online edn, Oxford Academic, 6 Mar. 2017)
- Magda I., Cukrowska-Torzewska E. (2019), Do women managers lower gender pay gaps? Evidence from public and private firms, *Feminist Economics*, 25(4), 185-210.
- Monro (2019) "Non-binary and genderqueer: An overview of the field" in *International Journal of transgenderism*; 20(2-3): 126–131.
- O’Kelly C. G., Carney L. S. (1986), *Women and Men in society. Cross cultural Perspectives on Gender stratification*, Belmont, Wadsworth.
- Pearse, R., Hitchcock, J. N., & Keane, H. (2019, January). Gender, inter/disciplinarity and marginality in the social sciences and humanities: A comparison of six disciplines. In *Women's Studies International Forum* (Vol. 72, pp. 109-126). Pergamon.
- Pulkkinen, T. (2015). Identity and intervention: Disciplinarity as transdisciplinarity in gender studies. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 32(5-6), 183-205.
- Risman B. J. (2004), Gender as a social structure: Theory wrestling with activism, in “Gender & Society”, 18, 4 pp. 429-450.
- Risman B. J., *Where the Millennials will Take Us: A New Generation Wrestles with the Gender Structure*, Oxford University Press, New York.
- Rubin G., (1975), *The Traffic in Women: Notes on the “Political economy” of Sex*, in Reiter R. R. (ed.), *Toward an Anthropology of Women*, New York and London, Monthly Review Press., pp. 157-210.
- Seidl R., Brand F.S., Stauffacher, M. *et al.*, (2013), Science with Society in the Anthropocene, *AMBIO*, 42, 5–12.
- United Nations, (2015), *Take Action for the Sustainable Development Goals*, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Conference abstract submission start: July 30th, 2024

Proposal instructions: max 400 words and no more than 5 keywords with the full name, affiliation and email address of the* proposer. The paper must be sent in .pdf format via email to genere@ais-sociologia.it

Abstract submission deadline: ~~by September 2nd, 2024~~ **extended to September 22nd, 2024**

Notification of acceptance: ~~September 25th, 2024~~ **postponed to October 2nd, 2024**



in cooperation with



Long abstract submission deadline: November 25th, 2024 (max 2500 words including tables, figures and references)

Book of abstract publication: November 30th, 2024

Participation fee: all those who will be included in the programme, with the sole exception of those in not-structured academic roles (PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and research fellows, RTD-A) will be charged € 40.00

Contact informations:

● **Italian Sociological Association - Gender Studies Section Scientific Committee:**

coordinator Prof. Silvia Fornari, Secretary: Prof. Mariella Nocenzi

● **Email:** genere@ais-sociologia.it

● **Website:** [Studi di Genere - AIS \(ais-sociologia.it\)](http://Studi di Genere - AIS (ais-sociologia.it))

Scientific and Organization Committee:

Silvia Fornari, University of Perugia

Mariella Nocenzi, Sapienza University of Rome

Erika Bernacchi, University of Florence

Giada Bonu Rosenkranz, Scuola Normale Superiore

Isabella Crespi, University of Macerata

Giuseppe Masullo, University of Salerno

Santina Musolino, Rome Tre University

Maria Lucia Piga, University of Sassari

Simona Tirocchi, University of Turin