Seminar

Strategies to increase girls' interest in STEM

Programme:

10:00 – 10:15   Welcome and opening by Pastora Martínez (UOC's Vice President for Globalization and Cooperation).

10:20 – 11:30   *How to Increase the Representation of Women in STEM.* Janet Hyde (University of Wisconsin, USA).

11:30 – 11:45   Break

11:45 – 12:45   *Interventions to increase women interest in STEM.* Milagros Sáinz (Director of GenTIC research group, UOC).

12:45 – 13:15   Questions & Closing

Date: 8 January 2019

Venue: UOC, 22@ Room -1H (Rambla de Poblenou, 156. 08018 Barcelona)

This seminar will be held in **English. Free attendance by sending an email to: emelian@uoc.edu*

Abstracts of the presentations:

How to Increase the Representation of Women in STEM. Janet Hyde (University of Wisconsin, USA).

To increase the representation of women in STEM fields, one must first understand the reasons why they are underrepresented. I review 6 hypotheses: women lack interest in STEM; women do not have the necessary math skills; women experience a hostile environment and discrimination in STEM fields and feel that they don't "belong" in them; women lack role models in STEM; stereotypic attribution bias; and the belief in geniuses in some fields. I then consider the implications for policy and for interventions to increase women's participation in STEM.

GESTEMI. Analysis of some psychosocial interventions to raise girls' interest in STEM. Milagros Sáinz (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya).

GESTEMI project aims at analysing the effect of a series of interventions on how to improve and increase young girls' interest in STEM subject areas and professions. For this purpose, a meta-analysis on the content and efficacy of the interventions being carried out to reduce the gender gap in STEM fields is being conducted. In addition, a replica of three interventions originally conducted in the US to increase the presence of women in STEM. The objective of the first intervention revolves around how to improve girls' performance in traditionally masculine fields, such as math or science. Likewise, the main objective of the second intervention consists of contrasting the effect of highlighting the altruism of STEM careers on students' self-perception of competence, perceived utility, and interest in STEM fields. The third and last intervention aims at examining the extent to which highlighting the possibilities that STEM fields offer to attain communal goals (working with people or helping others) raise students' (above all girls') interest in STEM fields.

Speakers

Janet Shibley Hyde is the Helen Thompson Woolley Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is known for her research on human sexuality, sex differences, gender development, gender and science, and feminist theory, and is considered one of the leading academics in the field of gender studies.

Milagros Sáinz, PhD in Social Psychology, is a senior researcher at the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) of the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), where she leads the Gender and ICT research group. He is part of the editorial team of several international journals and scientific boards and an active member of the Consortium for Cross-cultural Research on Education and the Gender and STEM Network. Her research interests focus on the influence of family and school in the choice of studies and careers, the development of gender roles during adolescence, the construction of gender in professional careers, or the attitudes of teachers and students of secondary schools towards technological disciplines, from a gender perspective