10 years of the UNESCO Chair in Gender Research

PROF SYLVIA WALBY
1. THE FIRST DECADE

IN APRIL 2008, UNESCO appointed Prof Sylvia Walby to the UNESCO Chair in Gender Research in order to develop policy-relevant research on gender equality and women’s human rights around the world and to develop international networking to build capacity in this field.

The Chair was established with the following objectives:

1) Facilitate the development of policy-relevant research on gender equality and women’s human rights around the world;

2) Support and develop international networking to facilitate the exchange of ideas, research and policy developments, especially between the North and South;

3) Support research and build capacity on policy-relevant gender equality issues; curriculum development, student training at graduate level; staff exchanges;

4) Facilitate exchanges between researchers and policy makers, in the context of UN instruments for promoting women’s human rights and the Millennium Development Goals;

5) Collaborate with UNESCO in its Gender Equality policy and strategy.

Four main research projects were developed: Gender and the financial crisis; Violence against women; Measuring equality; Gender equality policies.

Contents

This overview of the work of the UNESCO Chair in Gender Research is divided as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Violence and Society UNESCO Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Research, Publications, and Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Capacity-building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>International Networking for Research and Policy Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Future plans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The current focus of the UNESCO Chair in Gender Research is violence. The Violence and Society UNESCO Centre was established in 2016.

The aim of the Centre is to build a coherent understanding and explanation of variations in violence and to contribute research expertise to public debate and policy making.

The core team comprises Prof Sylvia Walby (Director), Prof Brian Francis and Dr Jude Towers (Associate Directors), and Dr David Mansley (Research Administrator).

A coalition of researchers from different backgrounds are also linked to the centre. We collaborate in projects with colleagues in the United Kingdom, European Union and beyond including: Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United States.

The Centre has five major themes:

1) Theory and concepts
2) Measurement
3) Types of violence (including trafficking in human beings, violent crime, domestic violence and rape)
4) Policy and interventions
5) Change: What is the future of violence? What might it mean to move towards ‘zero violence’?

We have developed a programme of events (public lectures and symposia, termly workshops), funded research, and educational courses. The work of the Centre is promoted on our website (wp.lancs.ac.uk/violence-and-society-unesco-centre), via our emailing list, and with support from the University Press Office.


Editorship of journal special issues


Verloo, Mieke and Sylvia Walby (2012) ’Introduction: The implications for theory and practice of comparing the treatment of intersectionality in the

**Refereed journal articles**


2015 European Commission. ‘Policy review of EU anti-trafficking projects.’

2015 Council of Europe. ‘Guidelines for Member States on how to comply with Istanbul Convention Article 11 on data collection’.

2014 European Commission. ‘The gender dimension of trafficking in human beings for purposes of sexual exploitation.’


2013 European Institute for Gender Equality ‘Study on methodology to determine the economic costs of gender-based violence in the EU’.

2013 New Zealand Ministry of Social Development. ‘Costs of Family Violence Project evaluation’.


2011 UN Women ‘Costing interventions into violence against women’.

2011 Trust for London and Northern Rock Foundation. ‘Cuts in services for violence against women.’


2009 National Institute for Health Research: ‘Pathways through emergency health care services for women abused by an intimate partner’. Doctoral Fellowship held by Philippa Olive.


2009 EU Presidency, Sweden: Advice on ‘violence against women’.


CAPACITY-BUILDING

Teaching and postgraduate supervision

BA

New BA module, ‘Violence and society’, 2012-

MA

New MA module, ‘Gender and violence’, 2011-

PhD

Current

Jess Phoenix: ‘Use of police time for domestic violence’, ESRC. 2017-

Geoff Burrows: ‘Violence, gender regimes, and violence against women: British prisons’. ESRC. 2015-

Linta Mathews: ‘Gender and climate change.’ 2016–


Visiting


Completed 2008-17


Postdoctoral Fellows

ESRC ‘Global Challenges’ Postdoctoral fellowship, held by Sarah Becklake on ‘Touristic securitisation’, 2017


EU Quing Postdoctoral fellowship held by Jo Armstrong, 2011.

EU Quing Postdoctoral fellowship held by Sofia Strid, 2011.
Institution-building at Lancaster University

Annual UNESCO Chair Public Lecture

Established 2008. Speakers from: UNESCO; former Secretary of State for International Development; European Commission Anti-Trafficking Coordinator; London Metropolitan University Professor of Sexual Violence; UN Office of Drugs and Crime; Northeastern University, US.

Annual external symposium


2017: ‘New ways of measuring change in violence against women and men.’

Ad hoc Workshops

Lancaster University:
‘Where is the boundary between violence and non-violence’
‘Researching trafficking: thinking laterally’
‘Gender and violence’
‘Measuring violence’
‘Researching the policing of violence’.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING FOR RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

UNITED NATIONS

UNESCO

UK National Commission (UKNC) for UNESCO, Non-Executive Director, 2011-3.


UN Women


UN Women, New York, led ‘think day’: the roots of gender inequality, 2016.
UN Secretary-General

UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment, contribution to European Stakeholder Engagement Meeting, Brussels, 2016

United Nations Development Programme

Consulted on measuring gender equality in the Human Development Reports, Istanbul, 2010

Contributed to training meeting for UNDP fieldworkers on violence against women, Venezuela, 2009

UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women

Advice on indicators for measuring violence against women, 2008

UN Human Rights Council

Advice on indicators for measuring violence against women, 2008

European Union

European Parliament

Presentations on Trafficking in Human Beings, 2015, 2016.


European Institute for Gender Equality


Council of Europe

Advice on data required by States to meet their obligations under the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, 2011-6.
2. FUTURE PLANS

RESEARCH

The UNESCO Chair in Gender Research will focus on four inter-related theme relevant to UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 for gender equality:

1) Gender and violence
   —Developing the measurement of the gender dimension of violence.
   —Explaining changes in domestic violent crime.
   —Investigating trafficking in human beings, especially its gender dimension.

2) Gender and crisis
   —investigating the gender dimensions of the cascading crisis.

3) Measurement
   —Developing the measurement framework and data for gender (in)equality in the context of the SDGs.

4) Theory of change
   —Investigating variations in gender regimes and institutions to develop the theory of change to underpin effective policy interventions.

CAPACITY-BUILDING

Capacity will be built:

1) Develop the Violence and Society Centre, to provide administrative capacity.

2) Develop education and training.

3) Consolidate and develop events to increase opportunities for cooperation.
   —Annual lecture; external facing symposiums; internal workshops.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING FOR RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Contribute to the building of international exchange, networking and cooperation:

1) Develop international engagement with entities important for policy-relevant research, including: UNESCO, other UN entities (e.g. UN Women), international social science (e.g. International Sociological Association).

2) Develop the Chair as a node in international networks for research and policy development for gender equality.

FUNDING

Funding already includes:

1) Anneliese Maier Research Award, Humboldt Foundation, for research on the theory of change in gender regimes.

2) RCUK funding to improve measurement of changes in domestic violence within project on domestic violence and mental health.

3) PhD funding from the ESRC.