RESEARCH STRATEGY 2013 – 2016

FGV is a regional knowledge centre in collaboration carrying out innovative research with national and international excellence

Aims and mission

The Forum for Gender Studies (FGV) is an interdisciplinary and intercampus platform that initiates and coordinates all gender research at Mid Sweden University. It offers seminars, international networks, conferences, and workshops, but also substantial collaborations in the shape of joint research and publications. Although the FGV is already active at Mid Sweden University as well as regionally, nationally and internationally, we are seeking to advance this collaborative research, the better to fulfil our vision of being a regional knowledge centre for innovative research of the highest national and international standards.

Ever since the advent of gender studies at Swedish universities in the 1970s, it has been supported by the body of knowledge itself, the *discipline*, with its own theory-building, research, and interdisciplinary courses. It first arose in response to the limitations of mainstream research in terms of language, methods, attitudes, and values, which were rightly regarded as andocentric, ethnocentric, and biased (Liinason 2009: 54). Equally, gender studies have been integrated as a *perspective* in teaching and research in many other established disciplines at the universities. This integration relies on the existence of a specific, developed knowledge area (Liinason 2009: 55). Indeed, it is our conviction that each is a requirement for the other.

Gender studies the discipline is the foundation of the education provided by Mid Sweden University as well as its more profiled research. In order to develop the important problematiques of gender studies, a close collaboration between several disciplines is required. It is in the dislocations and interactions between different scholarly perspectives that groundbreaking research is possible, and this is where the FGV has an important part to play. Within Forum, we have contributions from different fields; gender studies, literary studies, sociology, informatics, geography, ethnography, political science and public health.

Challenges that gender and feminist theory have to meet in global and neoliberal times

Gender research has as one of its points of departure to explore how different power structures operate. One challenge is therefore to try to understand and analyse the changes that have occurred in recent decades in terms of the democratic welfare state. An inevitable concept in such a context is neo-liberalism. It does not necessarily have to be used as a negatively or positively charged concept, but could, as Foucault (2010) would have it, signify the changes in 'governmentality' that have come to pass in the last fifty years.

Neo-liberalism has come to mean, first of all, that the idea of choice made in a market to play a more prominent role as a model in an increasing number of social areas; second, that there has been an increasing individualization in terms of views on responsibilities and rights, and that as a result there has been a dismantling or restructuring of the modern welfare state; third, that there is increased inequality, seen either as a problem or as a requirement for the best operation of a market that ultimately is meant to bring prosperity; fourth, that financial methods of analysis have come to be used in areas that have previously been unaffected; and fifth, that the state is admittedly less financially

interventionist but *more* legally interventionist, which means that finances are left alone, but that the law is expected *actively* to create development opportunities in relation to civil society (Foucault 2010: 167). Measurability and fulfilment of objectives have also come to dominate the 'evaluation culture' that has increasingly penetrated most social areas, not least academe (Davies et al. 2006; Davies & Bansel 2010; Carbin & Rönnblom 2012). These relations pose several challenges for gender research, among which we have identified the following three to be of particular importance for our research:

The narrative of the Swedish gender equality confronts antifeminism and racism

There is a widespread and normalized notion that Sweden is among the world's most gender-equal countries, and gender equality as a concept is often included in Swedes' self-image as something that characterizes 'us' (Fahlgren 2013; de los Reyes et al. 2002; Hellgren & Hobson 2008: 400), as is the notion that we belong to a country where there is no racism (de los Reyes & Gröndahl 2007). At the same time, in spite of this, there is still great lack of equality in circumstances and opportunities in society depending on gender, but also gender in intersections with other power relations such as race/ethnicity, age, and class. This is true not least in the academic community, as has been shown by a long succession of recent works (for example, Eduards 2007; Husu 2005; Lindgren et al. 2010; SOU 2011:1; Wahl et al. 2008; Wold & Chrapkowska 2004).

At the same time, there is a strong, parallel narrative, one which is transmitted in different media such as blogs and online comment fields. This narrative consists of the widespread abuse of femininity and women, but primarily of feminists, feminist journalists, and women advocating gender equality (Sveland 2013). On the one hand, this narrative is supported by right-wing extremist movements that hold feminism responsible for the 'emasculation' of Scandinavian men, and at the same time for the collapse of the Western World through immigration and multiculturalism. As a result, (anti-Muslim) racism and anti-feminism often coincide (Mulinari & Nergård 2012; Walton 2012).

On the other hand, this social narrative is supported by a wider, rhetorical social discourse that systematically conveys a widespread anti-feminism in everyday language practices in schools and workplaces (Gillander Gådin 2012), often also including the academic community and even gender researchers (Wahl et al. 2008; Wold & Chrapkowska 2004). The neo-liberal discourse highlighting individualism and the individual's freedom of choice, rather than structural obstacles, has done much to sustain this narrative. Because this and similar narratives are so normalized, they require us repeatedly to investigate the conditions which promote the articulation of hate speech and the possibility for effective counter-narratives.

Neoliberal narratives confronting narratives of democracy

Freedom of choice in a market is a particular type of freedom that bears with it certain restrictions, requirements and consequences of which need to be analysed and understood with respect to the types of participation and democracy it renders im/possible. If politics increasingly takes place through networks and in the shape of partnerships, projects, and process politics, a number of questions about responsibility, representation, participation, and democracy are raised (Nyhlén & Giritli Nygren 2013, Newman 2013; Caplan & Stott 2008). A key challenge for gender research is to explore these changes.

In neo-liberal welfare states, responsibility has shifted from the state and collective political movements to individuals. Individual freedom and responsibility have become the central mantras of neo-liberal governmentality. Even though the *intention* may be to promote participative agency among citizens by extending choice and responsibility to them, these same mantras reflect a shifting focus from inclusivity to exclusivity (Young 1999; Connell 2008; Mulinari 2011; Schmauch 2011; Olofsdotter 2011). Those who are included are silent and normalized, assumed, and assumed by themselves, to belong because of the choices they make as individuals. By contrast, those who are excluded are lumped together as a group thought to lack real subjecthood and agency in their 'outsiderhood' (Fahlgren et al. 2011; Sahlin & Macado 2008).[1] Inequalities in gender, ethnicity or class cutting across different sections of the population tend to increase where people find it difficult

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[1] The Swedish for outsiderhood, *utanförskap*, is a coinage frequently used by the conservative government in Sweden since 2006.

to participate or exert influence. Ideas of representation and participation are rarely neutral; consciously or subconsciously, they make participation possible for some and damage the chances of others. A challenge for gender studies is how these relationships affect issues of democracy and influence.

Narratives of gender mainstreaming and neoliberal workfare regimes

In a Swedish context, such terms as 'work, not welfare' ('*arbetslinjen*') and 'outsiderhood' ('*utanförskap*'), used together with much stricter social and labour market policies, have contributed to legitimizing the treatment of the (long-term) unemployed as the 'undeserving poor', thereby also depriving the individual of any claims on the welfare state. At a time when a workfare regime is gaining ground, the fear of not being employable and not having a stable job might well make workers and job-seekers deferential and obedient subjects, as they navigate the labour market and/or specific workplaces, trying to maintain their position and not risk a socially downward stumble (Crisp 2008; Rutherford 2010).

Feminist research has repeatedly shown that an increased emphasis on work as an ideological node for organizing society consistently neglects 'the operation of the axis of gender and other social inequalities in the labour market' (MacLeavy 2007: 736) as well as in individual workplaces (for example, Zampoukos & Ioannides 2011; Sjöstedt Landén 2012). The Swedish welfare state has undergone a major restructuring since the 1990s, with the intensification of the policy of 'work, not welfare'. This has also given rise to further demands to govern workers' health and working life commitments more closely. In this context, women and young people have come to be viewed as particularly problematic. The increase in the number of Swedes on sick leave for long periods has been construed as an acute problem for the public purse, the labour market, and for the individuals on sick leave. It has also been constructed as a 'gendered' issue in debate and policy, as it has been observed that men's and women's sick leave rates follow different patterns. Women in the public sector show the largest increase in sick leave rates since the late 1990s, and their sick leave periods are longer than men's. The assumption is that women are in some way defective, deviating from the labour-market standard, and that being a woman is a risk factor in itself (Lejon 2011).However, the explanations behind the high sick-leave rates have been heavily discussed, debated and investigated without finding a clear answer. Still, many of the current explanations are closely related with lack of gender equality seen from individual as well as societal perspectives. Gender mainstreaming has been taken up globally in politics, policy, and social organizations as a strategy to promote gender equality.

A central challenge for gender research is therefore to address the importance to investigate this formulation of a 'female problem' of workfare regimes, framed by a greater focus on gender mainstreaming forged in national as well as EU legislation and policy, and to explore this further by untangling how gender mainstreaming practices are carried through in a wide range of public-sector work.

Three prioritized research areas within FGV

The multidisciplinary research at the FGV currently falls into three major research areas: Gender and normalization in neo-liberal times; Lifecourse and gendered cultures; and Gender and working conditions. One joint interest for all three areas is to explore gendered institutional practices and discourses, and new types of techniques of governing during the restructuring of the Swedish welfare state in an advanced liberal context.

The research environment at the FGV is characterized by intellectual curiosity both in terms of our own research as well as that of others. Our approach is constructively critical, always applied in an open, welcoming, and inclusive spirit, since it is our firm belief that creative research environments require room for diversity. We consider gender equality and fair practice central to the quality of our work, and therefore continually work to embrace different experiences and situations.

Research Theme 1: Gender and normalization in neoliberal times

Most scholars agree that the post-war era was an era of inclusion and conformity. The role of the welfare state was to decrease social inequalities and to ensure social justice. Social policies aimed at

redistribution and recognition (Fraser & Olson 2008) were largely developed in welfare states such as Sweden (Young 1999). Normalization here also took on the meaning of the *right to be treated as 'normal'*, where the normal was something common, desirable, and achievable for all (Piuva 2005; Lindqvist & Nygren 2006). During the last decades of the twentieth century, this view of normalization as unproblematic has been challenged, insofar as normalization processes also depend on and produce exclusions and deviations.

In advanced liberal programmes of today what we see is a new type of techniques of governing. The responsibility for achieving normalization is no longer that of the state or of collective political movements. The human beings who are to be governed are now conceived as individuals who are to be active in and responsible for their own government. Normality has become a matter of (by economic arguments) regulated individual choices re-signified as individuals exercising their freedom. These normalization processes have profound consequences for the understanding of gender as a structurally based concept, and for the possibilities of gender theory to produce knowledge for social change. This kind of normalization might seem to be an inevitable effect of community formation, and it may therefore appear to be neutral, but the process of drawing distinctions is in effect an exercise of power, and it is therefore always normative.

One joint aim of this research area is to reflect on and further develop the theoretical and empirical understanding of normalization from a gender perspective within the context of the Swedish neo-liberal welfare state. The current research projects within this research area are the mutual challenges posed by gender theory to normalization and the neo-liberal welfare state, and the doing and undoing of risk (Giritli Nygren & Fahlgren 2013).

Normalization and neoliberal welfare state. Challenges of and for gender theory

The primary focus of gender and feminist theory has often been very empirical, analysing the ways power and knowledge have discriminated against women by recognizing the inadequacy of existing models to explain women's position (Grosz 2010). Most of the research carried out at the FGV is therefore based on a solid empirical ground (for example, Fahlgren et al. 2011; Fahlgren & Johansson 2010; Gillander Gådin 2012; Giritli Nygren & Schmauch 2012; Söderberg 2012). Empiricism proceeds from conceptualizations of how a given context operates and is thus always theoretically informed and in turn gives rise to theorizations. Hence, our research is also concerned with theoretical and conceptual questions, for as Grosz (2010: 49) writes, 'not because the empirical has no place, but because, without a conceptual frame, the empirical has no value, no context, no power, it simply is'. Theoretical frameworks enable us to discuss how gendered power positions and discrimination/privileges may be undone, or done differently. Feminist theory development in a neo-liberal age is therefore the focus of one of the large interdisciplinary projects at the FGV: 'Normalization and the neoliberal welfare state: challenges of and for gender theory' (The NW-project; Swedish Research Council 2012–2015).

Shifting governmentalities and the doings and undoings of risk

The use of risk, risk calculation, and risk prevention as a kind of normalizing politics that connects human bodies with policy issues and constitutive power is the theme of this research project performed in close collaborations with researchers at the Risk and Crisis Research center (RCR). Following Foucault (1990), normalcy can be said to constitute a new power order among many in society, one that is both tightly regulated and unstable, and connected to the new processes that Foucault terms the biopolitics of the population, designed to regulate the population and control the body as the bearer of life—processes concerned with controlling reproduction, birth, mortality, health, domestic hygiene, and so on, and administered using various power techniques in a number of different institutions, including education, the health service, and the social services. It is a question of administering and managing life. The biopolitics of today are *risk politics* (Hacking 1990; Rose 2001), with a variety of strategies to identify, treat, manage, or administer those individuals, groups, or localities where risk seems high (Peterson & Wilkinson 2008). This research project thus explores the doing and undoing of 'risk' and its joint processes of normalization in terms of gender, ethnicity, generation, and class-based inequality and discrimination, as well as inclusion and privilege

(Montelius 2013, Giritli Nygren & Fahlgren 2013) (partly founded by the NW-project and in cooperation with the Risk and Crisis Centre and a PhD-project).

Research Theme 2: Lifecourse and gendered cultures

Gender roles are under pressure in neo-liberal times as traditional roles move into different positions. This research area explores how our lives are shaped by different gender cultures over their full course. The research is carried out by analysing conceptions of masculinity and femininity; gender relations; gender inequalities; gender-based violence; the intersections of gender with other power relations such as class, race, sexuality, and stages in the life cycle; and the broad impact of gender on society (for example, in the political, legal, economic, popular, and religious arenas). By recognizing the influence of the wider structures of society, in conjunction with how individual biographies are situated within different types of gendered cultural practice, and how this may change over time, the knowledge necessary for resistance is made available.

School health promotion and gender based violence

This research area has developed from research on school children's health promotion and gender based violence ("Challenging Gender", VR, 2007-2011; Folkhälsoinstitutet 2009-2012, PhD-project on gender and health, PhD-project on gender and cultural practices, and work done within the Nordic network FlickForsk (Nordic network for girlhood studies)). School is an institution in which teachers and pupils negotiate the gender regime, and where boys and girls construct masculinities and femininities from an early age (Connell 1996), making it an important arena for change in gender relations. School can be a powerful agent in creating a supportive environment in which individuals are able to develop to their potential without hindrance from gender boundaries, and where empowerment can be facilitated regardless of gender. In order to increase the participation of young boys and girls in cooperation with staff at school and stakeholders in the community, new methods need to be developed that give young people a voice and see them as active agents in their own lives, individually and collectively.

The negative trend in children's and adolescents' health in recent decades, along with the asymmetric gender patterns where girls report more health problems than boys, have been acknowledged in politics and in research (Gillander Gådin et al. 2013). However, the dominant interpretations do not include a gender perspective, and it is possible to claim that being a girl and having mental health problems has become normalized (Landstedt et al. 2009; Gillander Gådin 2011). At the same time, lower school achievement among boys compared with girls has received far more interest (KVA 2010). Bullying has been recognized as a problem related to ill health among the young, but other forms of violence such as sexual harassment, physical violence, threats, sexual abuse, online harassment, and the like have not beenexplored enough. This has been the focus of work within public health, highlightening gender-based violence and asymmetric power among pupils and students in relation to gender and other power orders, and developing methods to use in schools (Gillander Gådin 2007, 2011).

Age, gender and health

In the new and recently started research project "Safe living for the elderly in rural areas – housing, gender and health within regional politics and everyday life" (founded by Länsförsäkringar) we will explore how the social transformations born of risk, consumption, and individualization, are reflected in the construction of later-life identities and how they intersect with gender, health and class in a Swedish context.

Research Theme 3: Gender and working life conditions

Current labour-market and working-life divides are both spatial and social in character. They run between core and peripheral regions, between the employed and the unemployed, between core workers with permanent positions and peripheral workers in contingent and precarious employment, between labour markets and sectors mapped as male/female (Zampoukos & Ioannides, forthcoming). In the last two decades, salaried occupations and waged work have become increasingly privileged and idealized (Peck 2002; Rutherford 2010). In most modern states moving from welfare to workfare

ideals, people must demonstrate that they are motivated and available to work or that they are willing to undertake other activities in order to be guaranteed a minimum income (Newman 2010; Crisp 2008). Although gender has been identified as important in this context, it has too often been overlooked in official as well as scholarly debate. The sick-leave rates have also a class bias, as people belonging to the lower social classes more often report in sick compared to people in better economic situations (Olofsdotter Stensöta 2009). Despite all the policy documents underlining men's and women's equal opportunities, several studies show gendered inequalities in rehabilitation measures (Eklund et al. 2005). Men are likely to be offered far-reaching measures in terms of education and analysis, while women more often receive 'work training', the least costly and least ambitious measure (Eklund et al. 2005; SOU 2005:66). In spite of all these explanations for the differences observed between men's and women's sick-leave patterns, relations between insufficient gender equality and rising sick-leave rates have not been much examined (Palmer 2005). It seems that a traditional view of masculinities and femininities retains its social value in Swedish society, although the context and practices have changed (for example, Martinsson 2006). In neo-liberal times, with rapid economic and social change, it is an important task for feminist scholars to continue to analyse the processes, structures, and mechanisms creating more equal opportunities for people in working life, and to formulate new ideals and narratives in order to bring this about.

Temporary Work Agencies

The growing significance of temporary work agencies (TWAs) has an active role in the ongoing remaking of labour markets by facilitating more efficient and flexible employment systems, despite the industry's self-representation as a neutral mediator (Peck & Theodore 2002; Olofsdotter 2012, 2013). In TWAs, employment itself is converted from a relationship into a commodity; that is, TWAs 'profit upon handling the commodity labour power' (Endresen 2010: 218). In a Nordic context, corporate TWA networks in the Norwegian and Swedish labour markets are becoming more frequent. Migrant worker movements across national borders are often linked to flexible and casual forms of employment (McDowell 2009). TWAs are active in facilitating labour migration and are developing fairly sophisticated training and recruitment strategies for Swedish workers to come to work for example, in Norway, where a substantial number of young Swedes go for their first jobs. The research project "The Impact of Temporary Work Agencies on the Politics of Work" will thus explore how TWAs impact on the Nordic model of industrial relations by analysing the gendered and age-marked implications of the politics of work, identifying both trends and consequences (founded by the research council of Norway).

Gender mainstreaming

At the FGV there is a general interest in gender mainstreaming practices and their entwinement with neo-liberal forms of governance (EU funded project). Lean management, for example, is one of the governing practices intended to make the public sector more 'effective', broadly implemented at all levels of the public sector. Current research indicates that gender mainstreaming does not challenge market forces and power relations underlying structural inequalities (Mósesdóttir 2011: 44). The project "Women's work environment" will therefore contribute insights into the everyday doing of gender mainstreaming practices and how they could be adapted for use in varied and contradictory ways that even undercut workfare regimes, privileging the already privileged (funded by the The Swedish Work Environment Authority).

Long-term Vision for the Research Environment

The research environment at FGV is characterized by intellectual curiosity both in terms of our own research as well that of others. We consider equality and possibilities to work under similar conditions as key equality aspects of our work and are therefore continually working with including different experiences and living conditions.

In order to guarantee the long-term sustainability of the research environment, a critical mass of researchers, doctoral students and supervisors is required, which is reinforced through collaborations,

primarily interdisciplinary collaborations within the university, but also in national and international networks. In order to move steadily towards the future FGV needs to secure significant and stable funding from a wide range of contributors, and guarantee that the basic resources of FGV, for the coordination duties at the university, are sufficient and stable. During the next few years, our focus will be on strengthening the environment in all these respects.

In the theme *Gender and normalization in neoliberal times* researchers from very different backgrounds, disciplines and research areas – such as gender studies, social work, literary studies, sociology and political science, have approached this field of investigation from radically different angles, but with a shared theoretical ambition to challenge common understandings of gender normalization processes within the context of the neo-liberal welfare state. A strength is that the research group are working with both theory-and method-development within gender studies, and a goal for this theme is to contribute to current international debates on general feminist theory. Further on, in cooperation with RCR, the purpose is to initiate new research by further developing a research program about the role of risk in contemporary society. This will be achieved through the collaboration with some of the world's leading researchers in the field of risk research. In October 2013 an international workshop (funded by Riksbankens Jubielumsfond) will be arranged in Stockholm to continue towards our aim of a funded research program.
Theme leader: Siv Fahlgren and Katarina Giritli Nygren.

In the theme *Lifecourse and gendered cultures* different researchers are studying how discourses of gender are operating within cultural practices to support the continued gendering of the public and private spheres – within for example schools (Gillander Gådin 2013), independent music (Andersson 2013), wedding preparations (Jarnkvist 2011), but also in art and theater (Fahlgren et al. forthcoming) and related to other areas of interests such as risk and the diverse forms of digital practices (Giritli Nygren & Lindblad Gidlund 2012, Lidén & Giritli Nygren 2013). This research examines the power structures and normalization processes that exclude certain groups from these fields, and therefore enlighten the structures that enable which voices are heard, and which aren't. In the following years we will develop our knowledge on art and risk (in cooperation with RCR, application sent to the Swedish Research Council), gendered risk regimes in children's life: its practices, its discursivity, its actions or inactions and its intersections with race (in cooperation with RCR, application sent to the Swedish Research Council) and the ways in which young people are positioned and position themselves in the public sphere (application sent to the Swedish national boards for youth affairs)
Theme leader: Katja Gillander Gådin.

In the theme *Gender and working lives conditions* the competencies from gender studies are used from a various of perspectives, for example: on work life research exploring the service sector (Zampoukos 2013) sociological perspectives on work in temporary work agencies (Olofsdotter & Randevåg 2012) national decentralization and restructuring (Sjöstedt Landén 2012) and employees' health in the public sector (Sjöstedt Landén & Olofsdotter 2013) and changed ways of resisting and making the conditions of (new) public (management) sector work visible (Granberg 2013), ICT, work practices and its gendered implications (Sefyrin 2010, Girirtli Nygren 2012). In the coming years the aim is to further develop knowledge about working conditions, health and organizational changes and how these intersect with gender (application sent to AFA insurance).
Theme leader: Angelika Sjöstedt Landén.

Work process and management

FGV is organised as a network of researchers from different disciplines and departments working together in research projects, and with different outreach activities. The network is coordinated and administered by a director. Since 2013 a research leader for each of the three prioritized research areas has been appointed. FGV has a board with both internal and external representatives. The board meets four times a year.

FGV offers seminars, international networks, conferences, and workshops. FGV has an ongoing seminar series with invited guest researchers, as well as a seminar series for discussing research applications. Research area 1 holds a special ongoing seminar on the theme normalization.

Every year an internal two-day research conference is arranged for gender researchers at Mid Sweden University, followed by two one-day workshops/conferences a year with specially invited researchers. Every third year since 2004 an internal research conference is arranged that consists of

one day of short open lectures, called "Gender Marathon", where all gender researchers at the Mid Sweden University are given the opportunity to make a 15 minute presentation of their research. Usually, the day includes approximately 20 talks, from early in the morning until late at night. These open research days have been very well-attended and also recorded by Swedish television (UR – *Utbildningsradion*) both in 2010 and 2013. Our aim is to continue this work.

Finally, every year one international workshop/conference is arranged. Moreover, there are also substantial collaborations in the form of joint research and publications.

Researchers at Mid Sweden University: Visiting professor *Gabriele Griffin*, *Siv Fahlgren*, associate prof. in gender studies, *Anders Johansson*, PhD in literary studies, *Katarina Giritli Nygren*, associate prof. in sociology, *Jonny Bergman*, PhD in sociology, Sara Nyhlén, PhD in political science, *Gunilla Olofsdotter,* PhD in Sociology*, Kristina Zampoukos,* PhD in Human Geography*, Angelika Sjöstedt Landén,* PhD in Ethnology*, Johanna Sefyrin,* PhD in Informatics*, Malin Bolin,* PhD in Sociology*. Katja Gillander Gådin*, Associate professor in public health, Eva Söderberg, PhD in literary studies, Karin Jarnkvist, PhD in Sociology of religion Eva Andersson, PhD in Sociology.
PhD students: *Elin Montelius, Lasse Reinikainen, Magnus Granberg*

Strategy for national and international collaboration
FGV is active at Mid Sweden University as well as regionally, nationally and internationally, and aims to advance collaborative research – the better to fulfil our vision of being a regional knowledge centre for innovative research of the highest national and international standards.

In order to strengthen the research integration in the international research community and to maintain a high international quality, research is carried out in national and international collaboration. Important contacts for national and international collaboration have been built up within FGV, and formalized in the two networks MING (Mid Sweden International Network for Gender Studies) and *FlickForsk* (Nordic Network for Girlhood Studies). FGV will continue 2013–2015, and also deepen and broaden its international research collaboration.

International workshops and conferences will be organized on a yearly basis. Between 2012 and 2014 Professor Gabriele Griffin is a visiting professor at FGV. An important strategy for coming years will be to continue to invite international visiting researchers to the milieu.

The strategy is to be open to all collaborations, but at the same time intends to establish strong ties to specific researchers and research environments:

National nodes: Prof. *Diana Mulinari*, Lund University, Ass. Prof. *Kerstin Sandell*, Lund University, Prof. *Lena Martinsson*, University of Gothenburg, Ass.Prof. *Lena Sawyer*, University of Gothenburg, Prof *Nora Räthzel*, Umeå University, *Ulrika Schmauch***,** PhD in Sociology, Umeå University.

International nodes: *Gabriele Griffin*, Professor at the Centre for Women's Studies, York University, England. *Philomena Essed,* Professor in Critical Race, Gender and Leadership Studies, Antioch University, USA. *Bronwyn Davies***,** Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne, Australia. *Bob Pease***,** Professor and Chair of Social Work at Deakin University in Geelong, Australia. *Ann Cecilie Bergene,* Arbeidsforskningsinstitutet (AFI), Oslo, Norway. *Johanna Wyn*, Youth Research Centre, Melbourne University, Australia. *Beverly D Leipert,* Ontario Women´s Health CouncilChair in Rural Women health research, University of western Ontario, Canada. *Claudia Mitchell,* James McGill Professor at McGill University, Montreal, Canada. *Nan Stein,* senior research scientist at the Center for Research on Women, Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College, USA.

Publication strategy
The close collaboration FGV has with international researchers has resulted in the researchers being published internationally and in English to a greater extent than what is perhaps common in Swedish gender research and in several of the disciplines represented here. In the environment, several interdisciplinary texts have been published; the texts having been co-written by researchers from different disciplines (for example Fahlgren & Johansson 2010; Fahlgren, Johansson & Mulinari, 2011; Giritli Nygren & Lindblad Gidlund 2012). The aim of FGV is for these publication strategies to continue and develop further.

FGV also has its own *series of publications*, of which is an example. Up to now it has been used to present working papers from the Gender Marathon (2007:1), the day of open lectures held every third year, working papers presented at international network meetings (2011:3), and a more popular scientific and interdisciplinary gender reading of the Millennium series by Stieg Larsson (2013:4). All volumes included in this series of publications have been interdisciplinary and has also included researchers from the FGV network, national as well as international. The series of publications will from now on be used for an annual collection and publication of working papers more specifically belonging to the three prioritised research areas, and our goal is to continue to publish more strictly academic working papers as well as papers of a more popular scientific nature, catering to a wider audience. All volumes included in the series of publications will be made available on open access.

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