Gender and Diversity in Teaching
- Added Value for Science

Gender Summit 3, North America
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Univ.-Prof. Dr. Carmen Leicht-Scholten, RWTH Aachen University

Gender and Diversity in Engineering
Faculty of Civil Engineering
RWTH Aachen, Germany
Welcome to Aachen!
RWTH Aachen University

498 Professors
37,917 Students
793.6 million € Budget

1,900 Non-academic staff
3,000 Staff from Third-Party Funding
2,000 Research assistants

130 Courses of study
For the second time in a row, RWTH Aachen University has succeeded in the **Excellence Initiative** by the German federal and state governments, thus being able to consolidate its leading position within the German research landscape in the years between 2012 and 2017.

- **Division of Neuropsychological Gender Studies at University Hospital Aachen**
- **Professorship of Sociology with a focus on gender and technology in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities**
- **Professorship for Gender and Diversity in Engineering**
RWTH Aachen University – Being a pioneer: Bridging Professorship
Gender and Diversity in Engineering (GDE)

Advice of administration and companies

Teaching

G&D theory and methods transfer into engineering
Consideration of heterogeneity
Transfer of G&D competence

Research

Integration of G&D perspectives in research and development processes
Development of G&D-Research
Development of social responsibility research

interdisciplinarity, dialogue, internationalisation

Company cooperations
Outline

1. Focusing on Gender and Diversity to face Global Challenges
2. Gender and Diversity in SET
3. Gender and Diversity Modules in Science
4. Perspectives
5. Points for Discussion
1. Focusing on Gender and Diversity to face Global Challenges

Major Global Challenges

- Health
- Energy
- Demography
- Climate

Source: GDI 2013, Images: Wikimedia Commons
1. Focusing on Gender and Diversity to face Global Challenges
The Importance of Gender and Diversity Aspects

Current economic, social and political conditions demand for new strategies to future global challenges

In the competition for the most qualified and bright people new strategies are required and institutions of higher education have to act increasingly according to the needs of the market

in particular women and minorities have to be addressed, included and promoted within the educational system otherwise these institutions will face severe problems in the future

Source: GDI 2013, Images: Wikimedia Commons, justbathroomsigns.com
„Excellence in education depends on diversity.”

(Lawrence Summers, president of Harvard University 2004)
2. Gender and Diversity in SET – Aims for Teaching and Study

- Sensitizing through knowledge transfer for students and teachers
- Integration of gender and diversity aspects in curricula of different areas of specialisation
- Mediation of gender and diversity competences through a combination of theoretical foundation and application-oriented examples
2. Gender and Diversity in SET – Possibilities of Curricular Anchorage

- Integrated lectures
- Mediation of gender and diversity competences
- Instructions and advanced trainings for instructors
- Integration of specialist aspects of gender and diversity research in different subject modules
3. Gender and Diversity Modules in Science

Gender and Diversity in Science

Elective module provided by social sciences

Elective module provided by engineering

Mandatory module as part of curriculum

© GDI 2013
3. Gender and Diversity Modules in Science

Mandatory module as part of curriculum

RWTH Aachen University:
Introduction Gender and Diversity Perspectives:
Discussion of social questions with regard to the area of specialisation in civil engineering
4. Perspectives
Innovative, interdisciplinary research projects at GDE

IGaDtools4MINT

build|NG|bridges
5. Points for Discussion

- The integration of gender and diversity perspectives in education is crucial to foster innovative research.
- Is there a best solution of integrating gender and diversity perspectives in teaching?
- Or should there be different ways for different organisations?
- Credit Points as the lowest common denominator?
Thank you for your attention!

Univ.-Prof. Dr. phil. Carmen Leicht-Scholten

RWTH Aachen University
Department of Gender and Diversity in Engineering
Templergraben 55
52056 Aachen
Germany

www.rwth-aachen.de