Gender, Science, Technology and Innovation in Argentina: between facts and the mirage of equality

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National Assessment on Gender and STI

A collaborative initiative of Women in Global Science and Technology (WISAT), the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), the Elsevier Foundation, and GenderInSITE (Gender in science, innovation, technology and engineering).

- What conditions are needed to facilitate women's full participation in the KS in this country?
- Is progress being made in this direction? How so? What are the results?
- What resources do women in each country need to achieve this objective?

Based on the Gender Equality – Knowledge Society (GE&KS) indicator framework

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Restoration of a democratic political system in 1983.

Urban population 92%

Mobile phone line 79% (Census, 2010).

Internet users 75% of population. 50% women

Poverty rate decreased from 5.7% in 2011 to 4.3% in 2012 (ECLAC, 2013) No data for 2015.

Population: 42.98 million

HDI: 49 (World rank)

Primary school enrollment 124%

Literacy rates of youth (15-24) reached 99%.

Universities enrollment rate - women 57.5%

Among graduates, represented 61.5%

Education budget: + 6% of the GDP (2003-2013)

Universities 47 public (15 in 2003-2013); 50 private
Women in brief

GDI (Gender Related Development Index). Argentina ranks 46th in the world (out of 155 countries) and third in LA (behind Chile and Uruguay).

GEM (Gender Empowerment/ possibility for women to engage in decision making), Argentina stands out at the regional and international levels, ranking 24th out of 109 countries and being the 1st LA country.

• 1991. Quota law for women political participation (30%).
• 1994. CEDAW acquired constitutional rank. Optional Protocol was ratified in 2007;
• 1996. Convention of Belém do Pará

• Female participation in public and private employment (urban population) 40.4%
• Women fill the majority of traditionally female positions in the fields of education, health, and service.
• Around 20% work as domestic workers.
• Women fill 34.2% of management positions (UNDP, 2011) and as little as 4% of large private companies are headed by women (ELA, 2010).
• The pay gap has been decreasing over the last decade from 34% less than men. In 2011, to 25% (at the expense of women),

• Since 1983, the proportion of women in Congress has increased from 4.3% to 38.1% in the Lower House and from 6.5% to 36.1% in the Senate.
• Of 16 National Ministries, 4 are headed by women: Culture, Industry, Social Development, and Security. A woman is the current President and is carrying out her second term.

• Maternal mortality is not even across the provinces; the indices varied between 0 and 13.3 in 2007 (Ministry of Health).

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Enabling Policy Environment for the Integration of Women into the Science and Technology System

**SOCIAL POLICIES & PROGRAMS:**
- Universal Child Allowance (AUH), 2009.
- Law on Technical and Vocational Education.
- CONECTAR –IGUALDAD (One Laptop per Child)
- PROCREAR HOUSING PROGRAM
- PROGRESAR PROGRAM

**LAWs:**
- Gender based violence (physical, psychological, sexual, economic and patrimonial, symbolic)
- Gender Identity
- Egalitarian (LGBT) marriage
- Integral sexual education

**Ministry of Science, Technology, and Productive Innovation (2007).**
S&T budget (2002-2010) + 532%

- CONICET budget: 260 million in 2003 to 2.9 billion pesos in 2013. 50% salary increase for CONICET researchers.

- + fellows, researchers, and technicians, as well as infrastructural expansion (2003: 488 scientist (-40 y.); 2012: 2156)

- TEC TV and TECNOPOLIS

- Raices (Roots) Program (more than 1000 scientist return to Argentina)

- Gender studies units in most of the universities.

- Women's NGO working against violence, trafficking and women's rights.
### Women’s participation in Science, Technology and Innovation

#### Argentina, 2001 and 2009: Female participation among undergraduate students by fields of education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCIENTIFIC AREAS*</th>
<th>Disciplines</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Both sexes</td>
<td>% Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Agriculture, forestry and fishery</td>
<td>25.570</td>
<td>25.2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Veterinary</td>
<td>18.479</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>44.049</td>
<td>26.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering,</td>
<td>Architecture and building</td>
<td>80.410</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manufacturing and</td>
<td>Engineering, manufacturing and</td>
<td>78.652</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>construction</td>
<td>construction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>159.062</td>
<td>20.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities and</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>39.043</td>
<td>59.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and</td>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>55.901</td>
<td>57.3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>94.944</td>
<td>58.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>46.011</td>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical sciences</td>
<td>13.399</td>
<td>45.7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>88.634</td>
<td>26.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics and statistics</td>
<td>7.547</td>
<td>60.8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>155.591</td>
<td>46.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social sciences,</td>
<td>Social and behavioural science</td>
<td>234.021</td>
<td>38.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>business and</td>
<td>Business and administration</td>
<td>114.995</td>
<td>38.4</td>
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<td>law</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>201.273</td>
<td>43.5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Journalism and information</td>
<td>54.997</td>
<td>41.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>605.286</td>
<td>40.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Teacher training and education</td>
<td>57.436</td>
<td>76.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>248.915</td>
<td>59.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>226.416</td>
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<tr>
<td>welfare</td>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>22.499</td>
<td>73.4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>248.915</td>
<td>59.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Environmental protection</td>
<td>4.425</td>
<td>51.3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Security services</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>7.3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transport services</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>22.1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Personal services</td>
<td>22.312</td>
<td>64.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>27.841</td>
<td>36.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*missing cases* 19.875, 33.404

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Women’s participation in Science, Technology and Innovation

Just one in five countries has achieved gender parity, whereby 45% to 55% of researchers are women.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

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Women’s participation in Science, Technology and Innovation

Researchers by Broad Knowledge Area and Gender (2013)

- In 2010, the MINCYT registered 22,839 female researchers (51%) and 21,715 male (49%).

- Inequalities persist both within different disciplines and within the highest ranking categories.

Researchers by category CONICET

- Inequalities persist both within different disciplines and within the highest ranking categories.
In 2008, for the first time since Conicet creation, one women became president of this institution.

- **2 women on the Board of Directors**: the Vice-President of Scientific Affairs and the Director of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Women account for a third of all employees working in the management and coordination of the MINCYT. The Department of Planning and Policy, both Scientific Advisory Committees, the Committee of Ethics, the National Directorate of International Relations, and the Secretariat of Administrative Coordination are all run by women.

One National Academy of Science (that of Economic Sciences) is headed by a woman.

- **53 national universities**: 8 female rectors; vice-rectors: of 47, only 9 are women.
- **37.7% of university deans** are women (88 of 233 available positions). The representation of each sex in the total national university faculty body is practically equal.

**Senior positions**: only 37.4% of full professors are women while this situation is reversed for junior positions.
Men comprise the majority of the personnel in the Information and Communication sector 72.76% men vs. 27.23% women.

Men fill 53% and women 47% of positions of “Professional” rank, while in n the “Technical” rank (50% and 50%).
Women’s participation in Science, Technology and Innovation

Policies 2003-2013

• **Maternity Leave** (including monoparental families, adoption and people with different sexual orientations) : 100 days of leave for both entry-level researchers and those promoted to higher positions. This regulation also provides mothers with the possibility of deferring the productivity report without penalties..

• **Age limits for entering research council**: extension of application age limits for researchers who have had children.

• **Other Regulations**: medical coverage associated with fellowships; day care facilities in some science centers (they have not yet been established across the Council's entire network).

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Do women scientists and technologists represent themselves as workers?

Mirage of the equality

Privileges vs. Rights

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Experts Workshop: Innovation of scientific and a technological education with a gender perspective

April 16th and 17th, Buenos Aires

Host by the UNESCO Regional Chair on Women, Science and Technology in Latin America, supported by UNESCO.

Twenty specialists from academic institutions and international organizations from diverse Latin American countries gathered in Buenos Aires to:

- Debate the current situation of S&T education in Latin America and the innovation processes that need to be put in place.
- Make recommendations to optimize the quality and relevance of a gender sensitive S&T education, by integrating the contributions of gender studies in these areas.

This Workshop is part of a program supported by UNESCO Paris, the UNESCO Regional Office for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean and counted with the auspices of the European States, Google and of OI (Organization of Iberoamerican States). OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), and GenderINsite - Focal Point Latin America.

Awareness Campaigns

Awareness campaign launched on March 8th, 2014. Sent to over 70,000 addresses and published in several media.

“What would I do without ICT?”

Women are increasingly using Information and Communication Technology (ICT). We also CAN and WANT to create them in terms to achieve better quality on people and communities’ lives.

Equality of opportunities to access and decide the future of ICT is a benefit for the whole society.

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http://genderinsite.net/
http://catunescomujer.org/gisalc/