Bringing a gender lens to science policy: the multidimensional strategy of GenderInSITE

Alice Abreu
Professor Emerita
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
Director of GenderInSITE

Gender Summit 12 Latin America - Santiago, Chile, December 6-7, 2017
Panel The multidimensional strategy of GenderInSITE: influencing gender policies in education, innovation and scientific research
GIS Vision

The GIS vision is that an equitable and sustainable development can only be achieved if STI are at the basis of the equation and if you include both men and women in that effort. A greater diversity of perspectives and insights in SITE will make its processes and products more equitable overall; a greater equity in the products of science (knowledge, technologies and the ways they are applied) will in turn lead to more sustainable solutions to development challenges.

To achieve this it is needed:

- Equality in the representation of women and men at decision-making levels and in the agenda-setting process
- Equality in the access of women and men to SITE careers and to the knowledge created by SITE research and production
- Equality in the impacts of SITE on women and men – that is, who benefits from the products of SITE?
Transforming the production of knowledge

By “applying a gender lens to SITE,” GenderInSITE means to embed awareness of and sensitivity to all three of these issues in the institutions that determine the scientific agenda and that carry it out.

Only by mainstreaming gender awareness in the norms and cultures as well as the policies of these entities can the outcomes of SITE be systematically transformed in a way that meets the needs of both women and men.
Three initiatives in 2017

Two experts’ seminars:

1. Integration of gender perspectives in science and technology in Higher Education: contributions to the advancement of SDG’s. April 20-21 2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina - presented by Gloria Bonder

2. Gender and Innovation: Implications for Sustainable Development. September 4-6, 2017, Pretoria, South Africa

One report:

3. Pathways to Success: bringing a gender lens to the scientific leadership of global challenges
Gender and Innovation: Implications for Sustainable Development

- To find solutions to the SDGs will require new mechanisms to determine real needs and priorities, a joint effort which needs collaboration and facilitation between governments, academia, business and industry.
- In particular, it needs all these players to become acutely aware of the need for gender inclusion and to act upon this awareness.
- There is a desperate need to expose all STEM and Social Science graduate students, especially women, to entrepreneurial concepts and innovation stages in order to enhance innovation from research.
- There is a paucity of information on the impact of gendered innovation in the economy.
Gender and Innovation: Implications for Sustainable Development

- International project of case studies of gendered innovations in the South
  Five case studies showcasing innovation from the South: Sub-Saharan Africa/ Central and East Asia / South and Southeast Asia / Latin America & Caribbean / Middle East and North Africa

Showcase the complex link between gender, innovation and SDGs; demonstrate the value of gendered innovations by showing the positive impacts as well as by showing the consequences when gender is not considered; analyze the environment needed to enable the innovations.

- Influencing the funders.
Unequal gender representation in science leadership across all levels, BUT variable substantive commitment to transformative change.

Combination of promise and stagnation within and across layers, and varies in time.

Promising new policy pathways have opened in EU science governance structures

Gender policies in scientific organizations appear – at present – to remain largely rhetorical with very little action taking place.

At the grassroots-level, little rhetoric, or even formal policy, but lots of actions, large and small, taken to support women scientists in their pathways toward leadership.
Where have progressive policies (and practices) on gender in science emerged and where have they stalled?

Who and what have been the primary change agents and driving forces behind these developments?

What are the relationships between policy and behaviour change, and individual women scientists’ pathways to leadership?

Policy pathways and individual women scientists’ career pathways are intimately intertwined across the levels of the scientific system.