

Gender analysis as a part of research works at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, Czech Republic

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INTRODUCTION

We are introducing an ongoing **process of structural changes of culture at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague (UCT Prague) in terms of gender equality**, incorporation of gendering content into research and new approaches to scientific topics. We are participating in the FP7 project TRIGGER - Transforming Institutions by Gendering Contents and Gaining Equality in Research running since January 1st 2014.

In order to encourage and make our students and researchers think of potential topics where sex/gender analysis is relevant, **we organize an award contest of student papers including sex/ gender analysis**. The award (*JH Award*) was named after female **Professor Julie Hamackova (Figure 1), the first female student, professor and Dean (1957) at the Technical University** in former Czechoslovakia; she was the founder of the Czech hydrochemistry schools.



Figure 1: Professor Julie Hamáčková

PROPOSED TOPICS

- 1 Hazardous substances for risk groups working in laboratories
- 2 Subjective effects on the quality of laboratory techniques
- 3 Drinking water indicators limits
- 4 Differential absorption of substances from drinking water (depending on the target organism)
- 5 Different absorption of compound selected from the drinking water (e.g. calcium, copper, lead, mercury etc.).
- 6 Endocrine disruptors
- 7 Endocrine disruptor (eg. Bisphenol A)
- 8 The consequences of long-term supply of various forms of medicinal substances into the environment
- 9 Hygienic, economic, geographic, cultural and social aspects of wastewater management
- 10 Hormones in food
- 11 Gender in the sensory analysis of food
- 12 Textile fibers
- 13 Population genetics
- 14 The genes responsible for local adaptation
- 15 The influence of adult education on HIV
- 16 Listeria monocytogenes
- 17 Campylobacter spp.
- 18 Bordetella pertussis
- 19 Anabolic androgenic steroids
- 20 Anabolic androgenic steroids (eg. Oxymetholone)
- 21 Prohibited substances used by athletes
- 22 Production of food supplements and its effects on human health (eg. Resveratrol, natto)
- 23 Food adulteration
- 24 Adulteration of cattle meat
- 25 Individual topic including the gender dimension in chemical research

Figure 3: A list of topics proposed in the category of student's scientific work

Anabolic androgenic steroids (AAS)

- Definition of AAS, legislation
- The use of anabolic androgenic steroids
- Side effects of anabolic androgenic steroids (focusing on sex)
- The incidence of AAS
- Elimination of the AAS cycle in the environment

Figure 4: A sample of topic annotation



Figure 2: A logo of Julie Hamáčková Award 2015

APPROACHES

- ▶ **Relevant information about Professor Hamackova was looked up** on the internet, in the CTU Prague and UCT Prague archives and via Professor Hamackova's former colleagues.
- ▶ **Visualisation of the JH Award – a logo (Figure 2)** and related visualisations were created by a professional graphic designer
- ▶ **Research of suitable topics at UCT Prague**
 - ▶ **A research on the student works competition** from the previous 5 years was conducted, we were looking for potential research topics at UCT Prague
 - ▶ We hosted **three discussions in small groups** consisting of 10–20 specialists from the biochemistry, microbiology and water analysis departments
- **25 topics proposed this year (Figure 3)**, one of them left “open”. For each topic, we submitted annotation as well. A sample of annotation is shown in *Figure 4*.
- ▶ **The drawing up of the JH Award statute, where three categories of the award are specified:**
 - award for special contribution of women** – female employees of UCT Prague to the development of science, research, pedagogy and innovations including the work in the academic sphere
 - public award for special contribution of employees of UCT Prague** in the field of support and procuring of equal opportunities in work relations and research at UCT Prague
 - Award for the UCT Prague students' works with gender dimension** that contain the analysis on basis of gender and/or sex. The students can handle the topic either by themselves or in couples.
- **in 2015 we announced the JH Award categories a. and c.**
- ▶ **Acknowledgement**
 - ▶ **the winner of the a. category will receive a medal (Figure 5)** and monetary reward
 - ▶ **in the c. category, the three best student works will be awarded with a certificate (Figure 6)** and a monetary reward
- ▶ **Promotion of JH Award** - via <http://gro.vscht.cz/> webpage



Figure 5: A medal for the winner in the category a.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- ▶ We created a **Dictionary of basic terms and a handbook for the evaluators** of the student works
- ▶ All essential **documents and important dates** for both announced categories (*Figure 7*) **have been published** on time and visibly at the internal university webpage
- ▶ Organizing **seminars with the experts from Yellow Window** about “**Gender Equality & Research**” – aimed at competitors, evaluators and others interested – positive feedback
- ▶ We currently have **13 competitors signed up in category c., three of which chose their own topics**. One of the topics had been selected twice. We are providing individual consultation to current and potential competitors
- ▶ At the same time, **we are addressing the members of the committee in category c.**
- ▶ We are also **receiving nominations in category a.**, as stated in *Figure 7*



Figure 6: A certificate for three winners in the category c.

CATEGORIES OPENED IN 2015 - IMPORTANT DATES

| Category a. | |
|---|--------------|
| nomination of candidates deadline | 27. 11. 2015 |
| results announcement | 04. 12. 2015 |
| Award ceremony | 12. 12. 2015 |
| Category c. | |
| publication of topics | 15. 06. 2015 |
| applications deadline | 08. 11. 2015 |
| presentation of works | 18. 11. 2015 |
| results announcement and award ceremony | 18. 11. 2015 |
| results publication | 23. 11. 2015 |

Figure 7: Categories opened in 2015 – important dates

CONCLUSION

- ▶ **Chemistry** is a scientific discipline that **affects nearly all fields of everyday human activities**. Therefore it is necessary to **encourage researchers to think about sex/gender analysis** as an innovative part of research. During the project, we often met with resistance, including gender dimension in research. Therefore we decided to try and point out that specific science topics researched at UCT can be broadened by the gender aspect via the JH Award. We want for the employees and students to **find their own relevant integration of gender into research**.
- ▶ **The JH Award is accepted positively** among the employees and a part of the UCT management. With the help of this award, **more researchers**, who might be open to this viewpoint, **will be addressed**. They could currently benefit from a public and monetary reward and are also familiar with broadening their research via the gender dimension.

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