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## SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECT OF GENDER EQUALITY IMPLEMENTATION IN SWEDEN (Gothenburg university as case study)

*This small project is the case study of gender researches in Gothenburg University particularly and «hot» gender topics in Swedish society on the whole. Using quantitative content-analysis methodology of semi-structured in-depth expert interviews I showed variety of gender topics on different departments of the University, analyzed main gender issues in public discourse and on the political arena in Sweden. Connection between researchers and policy makers in the field of implementing gender equality has also been examined in this article.*

The idea to choose Sweden and its gender politics as an object of my research appeared after studying distance course «Cross-Culture Communication» in Gotland University<sup>1</sup> (Sweden) and participating in the workshop «Gender Equality» during Multilateral Youth Exchange in Moscow, Russia. These two events stimulated me to think about Swedish values, traditions, and Swedish society. I realized that it is a good idea to compare Sweden and my country. I have decided to apply for Visby Program<sup>2</sup> small research grant to conduct a «pilot» research. I am very grateful to Swedish Institute<sup>3</sup> for the opportunity to come to Sweden and implement my idea. I chose Gothenburg University<sup>4</sup> (one of the famous Swedish Universities) as case study. My host department was Centre for Global Gender Studies<sup>5</sup> and Ann Schlyter was my research advisor.

Research hypotheses and ideas

To begin with, I offer some research hypotheses about gender situation and gender researches in Sweden.

**Hypothesis № 1.1** suppose that despite very good gender policy Sweden may still have some unsolved problems connected with gender issues. I wanted to name them or find at least three main gender problems.

**Hypothesis № 2.1** believe that there are a number of centres or departments in Gothenburg Uni-

versity where students and professors are involved in gender researches. Actually, I do not plan to describe all gender researches in Gothenburg University but rather to show the variety of research topics.

**Hypothesis № 3.1** suppose that there is an interaction (or connection) between gender researches and gender politics. From one side, researchers present their results to general public and politicians who use this information for improving gender situation in the country. From the other side, policy makers may involve sociologists or other researchers in investigating and explaining gender situation in Sweden.

So, the main aim of this project is to monitor gender studies in Gothenburg University, gender problems in Sweden, and show the link between researchers and policy makers in the process of solution gender equality problem. Taking into account these all hypotheses my research project includes 3 main aspects:

1. «Hot» gender topics (that are actively discussed in Swedish society) in Sweden now.

2. Gender studies and research (main topics, aspects, fields etc.) in Gothenburg University.

3. Practical implementation of research results in gender politics. Interaction between researchers and policy-makers.

To sum up, I planned to visit Gothenburg Uni-

<sup>1</sup> [www.hgo.se](http://www.hgo.se)

<sup>2</sup> [www.studyinsweden.se](http://www.studyinsweden.se)

<sup>3</sup> [www.si.se](http://www.si.se)

<sup>4</sup> Gothenburg University has about 51,000 students and 5,500 employees. It is the largest university in Scandinavia. It is also the most popular university among Swedish school leavers. With its eight faculties and approximately sixty departments, Gothenburg University is also the most wide-ranging and versatile university in Sweden, offering unique opportunities for cooperation and development. From <http://gu.se/english>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cggs.gu.se/>

versity centres/ departments to study what they research and how do they (gender researches) help to implement/ support gender policy in Sweden.

### Research methodology

After discussing the aim of my research I describe the methodology, which was used in analysis. The object of my research is Gothenburg University research community (i.e. teachers, professors, PhD students, researchers) that is involved in gender researches and gender studies. Accordingly, the subject of my research is gender researches particularly in Gothenburg University, gender equality implementation (gender politics) in Sweden and the link between them.

I planned to take at least 20 expert interviews with «key» persons in gender research. First contact names I found through Gothenburg University webpage and also through Gothenburg University «gender network» (that my research advisor Ann Schlyter provided me). Approximately 7-8 interviews I arranged in advanced being in Ukraine. Then during two weeks of project period (January 9-21, 2006) I met with a number of experts that I found in Sweden. I formed further sample using «snowball» methodology.

As a result, I made 23 expert semi-structured in-depth interviews. The average time of each interview was approximately forty minutes - one hour. My interviewees were from 11 different departments and centres of Gothenburg University: Department of Sociology (Head of the Department, 2 professors and 2 PhD students), Department of Gender Studies (Head of the Department, researcher, professor and PhD student), Department of Political Science (Associated Professor and 3 PhD students), Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (PhD student and researcher), Department of Ethnology (2 PhD students), Department of History of Science and Theory of Ideas (PhD student), Department of Education (1 professor), Department for Law (1 professor), Department of Peace and Development Research (1 PhD student), Centre for Global Gender Studies (Head of the Centre), Swedish Secretariat for Gender Studies (1 employee).

In order to analyze the content of information received from semi-structured in-depth interviews I use one of the qualitative methods called «qualitative

content-analysis». When using qualitative content-analysis I show the variety of all aspects of research object and subject. I use citations from interviews and research materials (papers, articles from scientific journals, reports, books, web pages) that interviewees gave me to check my hypothesis.

### Results of the Research Project

#### 1. «Hot» Gender Topics in Contemporary Swedish Society

Most experts emphasized such three main gender problems that nowadays are being actively discussed in Sweden: men's violence against women, parental leave, and women in labour market.

##### Violence against women

The most important «hot» gender issue is violence against women especially **domestic violence**. Almost all interviewees agree that this is the most important gender issue in Swedish society now. Violence against women got political attention during last period of time. Monica Erwer<sup>6</sup> underlines the present situation, «*I think that violence against women is issue that coming much more in public debate that had been earlier*».

Different researchers pay attention to different types of violence against women. Monica Løfgren-Nilsson<sup>7</sup> emphasizes domestic violence as a huge problem for women, «*It is mostly domestic violence because if you look at the rapes for example it is connected to domestic violence*». Helena Rohdén<sup>8</sup> tells about so called **street violence** against women that is now also widely debated, «*violence against women ... more concerning the safety of women when they come alone in nights and the risk of being raped in dark park. This is also a continuing debate*». Some researchers like Marie Nordberg<sup>9</sup> and Eva-Maria Svensson<sup>10</sup> add problems of **trafficking** and **prostitution** to the violence issue. Eva-Maria Svensson tells about trafficking and prostitutions, «*it is not a big topic legally any more but it is still hot topic because the existence of problem is big*».

Problem of violence is not being recognized by some people at all. «*People are not familiar with this problem so it is not the problem for them. It is problematic because men do not recognize it*» (Monica Løfgren-Nilsson). Another aspect of this issue is **the men's position in violence**. Hans Ekbrand<sup>11</sup> who writes PhD thesis about violence against women considers, «*In a discourse violence against*

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<sup>9</sup> PhD, Department of Ethnology, Faculty of Humanities.

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<sup>11</sup> PhD Student, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences.

women is not considered men's problem ... Violence against women is not yet creating problems for men. They do not get punishment in court. I hope that it would become men 's problem but currently I don't think this is men 's problem. It should. Most cases do not reach the court. If they do reach, men are not guilty».

The issue of violence creates also problems for **children**. For example, Anna-Karin Kollind<sup>12</sup> notices, «It is about who should take care about children after divorce. If father could be a danger for the children should he see them. Responsibility for children is quite a complicated thing». Domestic violence is connected both with women and children.

Some researchers tell about the visibility of violence that could be observed not only by politicians or sociologists but by ordinary people. Oksana S. Green<sup>13</sup> describes, «This problematic is very visible because there are centres for women who are violated. There are centres for men who can get help how not to violate». Some experts compare situation with men's violence against women in Sweden and other countries. «It doesn't mean that other countries have no problems about that. But in Sweden we speak about this openly and there are different associations» (Oksana S. Green). Nevertheless violence topic «is the main in the media and society» (Kerstin Pilnebratt<sup>14</sup>). Hans Ekbrand believes that «more research is needed». Maria Ericsson<sup>15</sup> shows the appearance of violence problem in Sweden through historical perspective, «So, the citizenship and the work issue have been very central. And then came the impressions of women as gender beings, in terms of body and sexuality etc. But violence and gender equality topics have become really different in 1990<sup>th</sup>. In the law I could say violence and abuse relationships are more neglected that topic of gender equality in labour market for example». Ulla Bjornberg<sup>16</sup> describes the seriousness of this problem both in Swedish society and in Academia: «Men are not allowed to use violence in this country but it is how the court deals with violence. It's not only the judges but also the lawyers and prosecutors and police and everyone who are somehow involved in the process. Men 's violence is not treated with the seriousness. And research with this topic is not much developed. It

is more developed in USA, Canada and the UK compared to Sweden».

To conclude, men's violence against women is very important gender problem both in Sweden and other countries. In Sweden this issue is now in public discourse and that is a very positive step. But experts agree that more researches are needed in Academia and more discussions should be put on the political arena.

### Parental leave

Actually, two other hot gender issues - parental leave and women on labour market - are closely connected with family roles in the society. Who should be responsible for taking care of children or how should this responsibility be divided between spouses? A lot of discussions are concentrated near such issue - «How to made more men to take care about the children?» (Oksana S. Green).

Anna-Karin Kollind raises such questions that are debated on the political arena, «Should be something for the parents to decide how long can father or mother stay with children? Or in that case how - half for the father and half for the mother or parent should decide?» Some interviewees share their own point of view, «There are suggestions that father and mother should have the same amount of time. It is very hot question. But I think you should have to make the choice of your own» (Eva Borgstrom<sup>17</sup>).

Ulla Bjornberg explains the situation with maternity leave in Sweden, «There is a discussion how it is defined. Both men and women have their right to take as much as the like, but women take 90% of available days. So they made a reform saying that men should take two of 60 days, that corresponding to two months at least. We have 1.5 years all together for each child. And if they didn't take advantage of these two months they were gone, they could not be transferred to the women. It had been discussed that putting these obligations to men, make them more linked to the child, would make them more interested in childcare. " Oksana S. Green also tells about reality of gender politics in Sweden connected with parental leave, «But in the practice it doesn't mean that men do this to the same extend as women ... Because if it is statistic, for

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example, only 14% of all Swedish men take their rights to have parental leave».

The question of parental leave is closely connected with economical system in Sweden. Andrea Spehar<sup>18</sup> pays attention to this topic, «Swedish system is economical system because state gives a lot of money to families. If there would be economical crisis there would be also crisis in gender equality system. The question is why you can't change this?» Moreover, some experts believe that **pension system** is connected with this question but still it is not on political agenda. Ann Schlyter<sup>19</sup> explains, «Question which I think is important thing but which is not on political agenda now. Less than ten years ago they introduced the new pension system . . . that makes women poor for the rest of their lives because it tied directly to what you have earned. And women take care about children much more and their wages are much lower».

Sometimes women have even **double responsibility** such as they take care not only about their children but also about their old parents. «I think today women have very tuff life because you take care about your children and your parents. I mean you don't split this responsibility» (Maria Edström<sup>20</sup>).

So, parental leave is connected with gender roles division in the family. On the one hand, couple should decide how to share responsibility. On the other hand, Swedish state needs «more tool, increasing of father 's leave» (Maria Edstrom).

### Women on Labour Market

Sweden is supposed to be an example of gender equality among European countries when we mean women on the political arena. But interviews show that situation in the economical sphere is absolutely different. Anna-Karin Kollind «thinks still a very hot issue is reproduction of gender differences and inequality in work places, in the labour market».

First of all, there is **wages gap** among women and men in Sweden. «The difference in salary between men and women in many spheres» (Lisbeth Lewander<sup>21</sup>) is now «hot» question in Sweden. Experts give some explanations to this phenomenon. Oksana S. Green argues, «to speak about labour market we have high inequality because women earn only 90% of men 's salaries». Ann Schlyter tells about no improvement in wages differences, «Male still having - it is different in different sec-

tors — but 10 % higher wages we cannot be explained by anything. They really have done research about this and there is no other explanation except sex. Women may have lower wages because they have lower positions but also on the same positions women have between 10 and 20 % lower wages. Wages in Sweden are set in individual negotiations between employee and employer. So, that is one - wages difference according to sex. There is also a wages difference due to sectors. But the sectors where women are dominated have absolutely low wages».

Secondly, some experts tell about «dramatical sex segregation on the labour market» (Oksana S. Green). «There are some professions that considered to be totally female like for example medical sisters or kindergarden personal or all kind of caring professions. Earlier teachers were mostly men, old men, like men after 40. Now it is woman. And the development of this problem has the same direction. Before it was higher wages for teachers» (Oksana S. Green). Bengt Fureker<sup>22</sup> tells about male and female jobs and wages differences, «In certain areas it is not huge problem. The certain jobs that are considered to be female — childcare, healthcare, being a teacher, especially for small children and these jobs are generally lower paid. There is a difference in these jobs and jobs related to information, technology, engineering. And there is rather big gap of employment in private sector or market oriented sector and public sector».

The other question is **women in business** where even in Sweden the situation needs to be improved. Helena Rohdén tells about «the representation of women perhaps not now in the political arena but in the private sector among business companies and the borders of largest business companies in Sweden - there are only 10 or 12 % of women. And that is in most gender friendly country at least in the global debate». Oksana S. Green adds that «Sweden in a country where women usually occupied positions like secretary, but the leader of large corporation is man».

And all these gender problems exist nevertheless the fact that in Sweden women are more educated. «And you still have this separation, this situation where more women go to the university. This is 60 to 40 % today» (Kerstin Pilnebratt). The very acute topic especially for women is **how to combine professional career with the family**. «Of course it concern both women and men but it is very

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important to change relations that both men and women have good life to combine family and careers of course» (Lena Wångnerud<sup>23</sup>). **Unemployment** is the problem that is also connected to gender situation on labour market.

#### Other Gender Issues. Masculinity

Masculinity and «men in changing gender relations» (Maria Ericsson<sup>24</sup>) are also hot topics. First of all, the issue of masculinity is connected to urbanization, especially in some parts of Sweden. Kerstin Pilnebratt tells about this, «We have a big problem in Northern Sweden and in less populated areas where men are less educated than women, they remain in home while most women go to the big cities to enter the university. And then they stayed there. And that is the big urban problem for male population». Lisbeth Lewander also explains problem of urbanization and masculinity, «Some young men in the regions far from big cities are displaced such as they are not interested in getting higher education. There is no traditional work left for them in heavy industries and so on because Sweden has modernized very quickly from industry to service industry. And then several young men are feeling displaced I think». Elisabet Ôhrn<sup>25</sup> tells about masculinity and education, «I would say that in comparison to some other international research in education we have very little research about boys and men . . . What to do with difficulties for men not to get to the university? There is still quite a lot of pressure from the government on researching why working class and emigrant young men are not going to the university».

#### Intersectionality (How Gender is Connected with Age, Race, Class and so on)

Actually, this issue is «hot» mostly among researchers in Academia not in the public opinion. Erika Alm<sup>26</sup> mentions the term of intersectionality in the context of «the ways which science may help the researchers think about sexuality and gender identity, race and ethnicity». Ulla Bjornberg describes intersectionality as so-called «linguistic term» from post-structural theory to structural

approach (i.e. how gender is connected with other structures of society). Intersectionality means to see and explain, «How different structures are connected between each other, class structures, social economic, ethnic and gender structures. And there is hierarchy and evaluation in these structures» (Ulla Bjornberg).

To conclude, I cite the words of Lena Martinsson<sup>27</sup>, «Gender studies look only on gender - this is problematic. We must see how different power relations are formed».

#### Queer studies

Queer studies are rather developed in Academia but there are some unsolved problems in the public discourse. Talking about homosexuality, the topics of marriage and adoption of children are important. For example, Ulla Bjornberg mentions, «There were a lot of debates about whether homosexual couples can get marriage». Homosexual partners can be registered as partnership. On the other hand, marriage is also religious matter. Nowadays in Sweden church is separated from state<sup>28</sup>. Ulla Bjornberg concludes, «the church should decide whether they could accept marriage between same sex couple and get marriage under the church».

Moreover, Anna-Karin Kollind names other queer «hot» issue, «One of them that have been a hot question is about adoption of homosexual couple. But this now regulated in law»<sup>29</sup>. So, in Sweden homosexual couples are still striving for their rights and there are debates in public opinion connected with this issue.

#### Immigrants and Ethnic Problems

Sweden has multicultural society. Position of ethnic minorities is being on public discourse nowadays. Experts explain the importance of ethnic problem in Sweden, «I do think that white ethnic Swedes have the tendency to be the main in the researches, policy making and media actually, you know. It is not so easy to see gender and power relations among so called "others" you see among ethnic minorities» (Maria Ericsson). Marie Nordberg who researches masculinity also connects

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<sup>26</sup> PhD Student, Department of History of Science and Theory of Ideas, Faculty of Humanities .

<sup>27</sup> PhD, Department of Ethnology, Faculty of Humanities.

<sup>28</sup> In 1999 the Church was separated from the state and became an independent organization. From [www.answers.com/topic/constitution-of-sweden](http://www.answers.com/topic/constitution-of-sweden).

<sup>29</sup> Under the newly amended act, which came into force on 1 February 2003, homosexual couples registered in a legally recognized partnership have the same rights as married couples to apply to become adoptive parents. In addition, legally registered partners and cohabiters of the same sex are also eligible to be appointed as special joint custodians of a child. From <http://www.helpinelaw.com/law/sweden/adoption/adoption1.php>.

gender and ethnicity. For example, she notices, *«And there is also hierarchy among men. There are a lot of men from other countries that don't have the same chances as Swedish men».*

Lisbeth Lewander - researcher in gender and race - tells, *«Immigrant women were on the worse position than Swedish born».* Professor in Education Elisabet Öhrn also agrees, *«Gender is being understood as ethnic problem».* She tells about some ethnic issues like schools with large percentage of immigrants, and the problem how to involve young immigrant men to go to the universities.

Ulla Björnberg names **«honour killing»**<sup>30</sup> as gender problem connected with immigrant families and describes it, *«Some people have difficulties accepting coming to Sweden they have quite a different approach, so that young girls are as allowed as young boys to meet friends, to go out, have fun, dance and so on. So there have been several cases not only in Sweden but everywhere of murders of young women who wanted to live «normal» Swedish lives with a Swedish partner. But it also strikes young boys, because they are obliged to guard the girls and can't choose the friends they want».*

## **2. Research Interests, Topics, and Projects Connected with Gender Studies (Women's, Men's and Queer Studies)**

In the second part of my research I will show the variety of gender research topics that 23 interviewees are involved in. To begin with, gender research in Gothenburg University is interdisciplinary and widely spread not only on the Departments of Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Social Sciences but also for example on the Department of Law and Education. As Kerstin Pilnebratt notices, *«I think that today in most spheres connected with society and humanity we have a lot of researches that deal with gender issues. I think you can say that in most areas you have gender issues».*

**Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences** (5 experts). Actually, at this Department of Sociology I interviewed the largest number of experts. So, they are doing (or did) research in **«sociology of family»**: family counselling in Sweden from a social historical point of view (*«In Sweden there is a law, which gives everyone the right who need counselling, advise in family issues and it is responsibility of municipalities. How do they become, what forms and which persons, which groups are active in constructing this kind of or-*

*ganizations»*, Anna-Karin Kollind); women's efforts to organize something around the family; research programme on «Family relations in modern society»; gender society and welfare policy; family policy in Iceland from historical perspective; alone motherhood; parental leave; men's violence against women, domestic violence.

Other part of topics that is connected to women on labour market, position of women on work places may be included to **«sociology of economics»**: class mobility among women; labour market with gender aspects, i.e. work related travel in some gender related situations like *«the way of conserving more traditional gender role»* (Bengt Furåker); people who have had large lottery winnings (*«What do they do with their jobs? If you have family obligations you may have children or old parent and you need to care about them. And if you have some extra money it may be possible for you to quit for a some period of time to take care about your children. And it is probably more likely that women do this than men do this»*, Bengt Furåker); labour mobility and locking mechanism, family situation may be as one of these mechanisms.

And one more sphere is **«sociology of profession»** where fire fighters in gender environment are being researched (*«I interviewed male fire fighters that were working on the stations with no female firefighters. And their impressions and ideas on gender equality in the fire services. I am supposed to continue it now and do more on theoretical studies. And I will ask about how do they describe changes in hierarchy and how do they try using gender issues to get power in organizations. And how the chiefs of organizations use gender issues to get power»*, Mathias Ericson<sup>31</sup> )

The head of Sociology Department Anna-Karin Kollind tells about the department in general, *«We don't have one specific gender area. It is connected to some other area like gender and criminology, gender and labour market, gender and profession».* Among research topics that Anna-Karin Kollind named criminology and crime is also connected with gender (how rapes have been judged over time period).

**Department of Gender Studies, Faculty of Humanities** (4 experts). Among gender research topics we can see **intersectionality**, especially how gender is connected with **race and ethnicity**: racism and gender issues (*«We investigate issues on racism at workplaces. We have investigat-*

<sup>30</sup> Honor killing is the practice of a family member killing a female relative when that relative has been considered to have brought «dishonor» to the family, often through unsanctioned sexual activity—often including cases when a woman is raped. From [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honor\\_killing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honor_killing).

<sup>31</sup> PhD student in Sociology, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences.

*ed ambulance drivers, firemen and policemen and the culture of femininity and masculinity on those working places», Lisbeth Lewander); race and gender by showing historical parallel; gender and nation, {«how nationality, Swedish, were constructed parallel to masculinity and femininity. As a case study — travel stories from polar area», Lisbeth Lewander).*

Also at the Department of Gender Studies there are some theoretical issues *like gender discourse in philosophy, gender researches in Sweden* (main topics and problems): practical philosophy, on mothering and practice; feminist philosophical essay; women's studies in humanities in the Northern region; what kind of subject is gender studies and the critic against gender studies. Lisbeth Lewander names other research topics on the department: gender and violence; queer studies about homosexuality men and how they are living in urban places; interdisciplinary gender studies in Europe; literature. So, the issue of violence against women that is «hot» gender topic in Sweden now is being researched on several departments. Maria Eriksson does research on **gender violence** or men's violence against women and children.

**Department of Political Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences** (4 experts). Most gender research topics at this Department are connected with **women in political and economic spheres**: women's representation in Parliament in Sweden [ 1 ] through historical perspective; labour market politics, especially the questions about the working day and working hours; social class (occupation group) and gender. (*«In this debate you can see a lot of different arguments and there are two clear dimensions. One is class and another is gender. And I investigate how these two interact and relate to one another. The class conflict on the one hand and the gender based conflict on the other», Helena Rohdén);* démocratisation theory in the Eastern Europe from the gender aspect; politics and the women's organizations (*«I am studying new policies which were introduced. I compare Croatia and Slovenia. . . What kind of impact they had and what kind of impact had the international organization on these policies», Andrea Spehar).*

**Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research** (1 expert). SCGR was established by Swedish Parliament in 1996. Promotion of gender researches (conferences, seminars, journal «Genus», annual reports [2] is important aspect of SCGR work. Eva

Borgström tells about the mission of SSGR, *«We try to promote gender studies. We organize conferences, seminars. We have website. We have this for people who want to know more about gender studies».*

**Centre for Global Gender Studies, School of Global Studies** (2 experts). CGGS was founded in 2003. The researches are being extended to areas such as security, sexuality, politics, education [3], urbanization, transport, *religion, etc.* One of the research topics in CGGS is **urbanization studies** that *«is still an area where gender issues are neglected, this is male dominated area»* (Ann Schlyter) especially gender and urbanization in housing. Other topics are: gender and development in different disciplines, i.e. development and organization issues Zambia and Zimbabwe; women's movement and how women are generally involved in politics (*«How women, specifically in Asia, specifically in India, are working in the state», Monica Erwer<sup>32)</sup>*, comparison between India in general, Shri-Lanka, and also Pakistan.

**Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences** (2 experts). At this Department there are some researches that study **gender issues in media**: gender elites on television (*«How men are women are portrait in all text of television programs», Maria Edstrom);* female business leaders in the Swedish media; connections between news and fictions and soap operas or documentaries. There are also some **projects** at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication that are closely connected to gender issues: *«Media and Culture», («We try to see how gender is constructed and reconstructed. This is based on content analyses. We try to see what is considered to be masculine or feminine», Monica Lôfgren-Nilsson);* *«Research program about elites»* - project *«that look at the Swedish society to see why more women are coming to be leaders in politics than in business»* (Maria Edström); Gender and newsroom cultures: identities at work [4]; who makes the news [5]. Also studies about Feminist Initiative<sup>33</sup> in Media that is rather discussible topic in Sweden are being done.

**Department of Ethnology, Faculty of Humanities** (2 experts). **Men and masculinity** aspect of gender issues has been researched by Marie Nordberg, especially in such topics as: men in female occupation (*«male preschool teachers, male nurses in hospital, and male hairdressers that are*

<sup>32</sup> PhD thesis «Challenging the Gender Paradox: Women's Collective Agency in the Transformation of Kerala Politics» (2003).

<sup>33</sup> Political party in Sweden, <http://www.feministisktinitiativ.se>.

doing female hairdressing, for women», Marie Nordberg); gender equal men in Nordic countries; men and fashion; masculinity and schools {*how masculinity is made in schools. How masculinity is made among the boys and how hierarchy between boys is formed*}, Marie Nordberg); small project about men and masculinity {*how men and women talk about their feelings when they cry, how they manage their feelings*}, Marie Nordberg); short study about men and action movies. Lena Martinsson tells about some projects like project about hetero-normativity in school, project about working life and diversities in working life and also queer research (Don Kulick [6]).

**Department of Education, Faculty of Education (1 expert).** Sociology of Education is research area connected with gender issues. Elisabeth Ohm focuses on classroom processes, gender/ power relations in secondary school and conditions for developing social responsibility in the classrooms. She made research «*ChangingPattern? Reflection on Contemporary Swedish Research and Debate on Gender and Education*» [7].

**Department of Law, School of Business, Faculty of Economics and Law (1 expert).** At this Department gender research topics are gender issues in family law and public law, family law in Europe, influence of media on representation of gender. Moreover, Eva-Maria Svensson notices some projects like: interdisciplinary project about politics and gender equality and how politics are implemented in gender relations; project about the use of the concept of social citizenship, the process of becoming a citizen and how the process is handing on images of men and women in media {*in this project I go to the issues of conflict between the gender identity and the freedom of speech. The issues of commercial sex photos are not regulated when it comes to gender equality issue. So, I am looking at the process of becoming a gender person and the influence of media on it*}, Eva-Maria Svensson)

**Department of History of Thoughts and Ideas, Faculty of Humanities (1 expert).** Erika Alm researches the governmental reports (1967-1976), the topics of sex change, the possibility to change your sex medically and juridically [8]. She also studies such gender issues as abortion and sterilization. Erika Alm discusses important questions like separation of the biological parts of person's sex from the social or psychological parts of person's sexual identity.

So, the number and the variety of gender topics and researches in different departments of Gothenburg University are really large. Actually, research

topics reflect the gender issues in Swedish society (i.e. violence against women, women on labour market, parental leave, and so on). Moreover, some of these researches are interdisciplinary and shown through historical and/ or cross-cultural (especially in comparison with other Northern and European countries) perspective. On the other hand, we could notice that majority of sociological research in gender sphere is connected with women's studies. But it doesn't mean that men's and queer studies are not popular in Gothenburg University (masculinity in the Department of Ethnology and transsexuality in the Department of History of Thoughts and Ideas in my examples). And from the advise of Marie Nordberg («*Gender equality in Sweden focuses a lot on gender relations between men and women. I think it should also focus on hierarchies between men and hierarchies between women*») we could see that intersectionality should have been more used in gender researches.

#### **Presentation of Results. Link between Gender Researches and Gender Politics**

Practical implementation of results is important for experts. It depends on research topic in gender sphere that may vary from violence study that is «hot» issue in gender policy perspective and to fashion in male hairdressers that helps understand masculinity issues.

On the whole, researchers expect that their results will be used to improve gender situation in Swedish society where there are still some gender problems. Some experts expect that results will be useful first of all for so called «object» of their research that may be from the whole Swedish society to very specific categories of people like women who are being abused, old people, fire fighters and so on to understand the problem. Some experts believe that other researches or politicians may use results of their research to study situation deeply or even to improve it.

Results of researches are being presented to different types of public: academic public, non-academic public, specific public, and politicians. By **academic public** I mean people inside Academia: students, professors or teachers, researchers. On the contrary, **non-academic public** are people outside Academia, those who are not experts in gender issues. And finally **specific public** are people outside Academia but they are experts in gender topics (i.e. work with gender problems like violence against women) or they are decision-makers in gender issues (i.e. members of NGOs or municipalities).



There are different ways to reach **academic public**. Researchers write articles, chapters in books or separate books, PhD thesis in the form of book (in Ukraine we don't have this), reports (especially when we talk about some project). Researchers also visit academic events like conferences, seminars, and so on where present their results. Moreover, some interviewees tell that their students are target group of academic public. Lectures in the universities are rather usual way to reach so called «academic public».

But almost all experts tell about the importance to reach **non-academic public**, people who are not specialists in this particular sphere of research interest. Actually, they use the same tools like articles in newspapers or magazines, open lectures for general public, «*speeches and discussions outside the University*» (Lena Martinsson), participation in TV programs, and so on. For example, Lena Wångnerud sincerely replays, «*I always try to be open. For example, yesterday I was on the radio about gender issues.*» Ulla Björnberg tells about annual event in Gothenburg University, «*And also Gothenburg University has special week. We call it «Festival of Science» where they give long row of seminars, which are brief seminars, or public lectures where everybody can come and it is advertised in newspaper. And you can find a program. And there are specific days for social sciences and one day for human sciences. And this is very popular event.*» Media could provide the link between researchers and non-academic public. Ulla Björnberg also tells about annual event in Gothenburg Bookfair.

Some interviewees want reach **specific public** that they research. For example, social services are target group for Hans Ekbrand who is doing research about violence. Other researchers like Ann Schlyter teach for specific public or do speeches like Eva-Maria Svensson. Monica Løfgren-Nilsson presents results to journalists. Monica Erwer share information among international target group.

Experts have different opinions about relationships between researchers and politicians in Sweden. Eva Borgström from Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research describes present situation rather positively, «*Today I think generally it is easier for people that are doing gender research to talk to politicians. I think gender researches in Sweden have very good relationships to politicians. Feminist topics are very hot in Sweden. And when there are some problems politicians have the commissions and they try to use the gender researches.*» On the other hand, Eva-Maria Svensson underlines the territorial aspect of relationships between researchers and politicians, «*The closer connection be-*

*tween researchers and politicians are in Stockholm. I think it is quite hard to be heard when you are doing research outside the centre of Sweden.*»

The distance between researchers and decision makers is not very large. Interviewees name different ways of interaction between them: governmental hearings with researchers, lectures and seminars for politicians, governmental investigations in gender equality sphere where researchers are being involved (and researchers may be used as experts). On the other hand, politicians «*control what researchers have done sometimes by granting money. If you are granted money and you research something you can be pretty sure that your results can be used on one way or another. Of course it depends if this is right or left wing politician*» (Lisbeth Lewander). It could be also link between researchers and financing bodies of researches. The issue of «freedom» is important for some researchers. «*It can be questions for some kind how are you free you could actually be as the researcher? It might also be a problem to get to close*» (Elisabet Ohrn).

So, there is interaction between researchers and decision-makers in the process of improvement gender situation in the country. Mechanisms of this link are different. And initiative to start communication between researchers and politicians come from both sides.

### Concluding Discussion

Talking about three hypotheses, I conclude that I proved all of them. In the first hypothesis I supposed that in Sweden some gender problems still exist despite the long tradition of gender equality implementation. Men's violence against women (most of all, domestic violence), parental leave, and situation with women in labour market are three main gender issues in Sweden now.

Having been checked the second hypothesis, during two weeks of my research period I visited II different departments and centres at Gothenburg University and made 23 semi-structured in-depth interviews with heads of department/centre, professors, researchers, PhD students. I believe that I managed to show the variety of research gender topics in Gothenburg University. It is very important that they are connected with gender issues that are «hot» in Swedish society now. Some researches are interdisciplinary and made in historical and/or cross-cultural perspective. Despite the fact that majority of sociological research in gender sphere is connected with women's studies, men's and queer studies are also popular in Gothenburg University. Variety of research topics is really large i.e. from violence issues to male hairdressing saloons.

Thirdly, I studied the link between researchers and politicians. Researchers expect that their results will be used to improve gender situation in Swedish society where there are still some gender problems. Interaction between researchers and decision-makers in the process of improvement gender situation in the country includes different mechanisms. And both sides try to start communication. Results of researches are being presented to academic public, non-academic public, spe-

cific public, and politicians. On the other hand, policy-makers organise governmental hearing and investigations, they invite researchers to be experts and to give lectures for politicians. There is a link between researchers and financing bodies of researches. And that is why the problem of «freedom for researchers» has been raised. But interviewees tell also about some examples of policy changing as a result of research.

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*Марценюк Т. О.*

## СОЦІОЛОГІЧНА СКЛАДОВА ВПРОВАДЖЕННЯ ТЕНДЕРНОЇ РІВНОСТІ У ШВЕЦІЇ (на прикладі Гьотебурзького університету)

*У статті здійснено огляд, тендерних досліджень на прикладі Гьотебурзького університету та загалом важливих Тендерних тем у шведському суспільстві. Використовуючи методологію якісного контент-аналізу напівструктурованих глибинних експертних інтерв'ю, показано різноманітність Тендерної тематики на різних кафедрах університету, проаналізовано основні Тендерні напрями в публічному дискурсі та на політичній арені Швеції. Окрім того, у статті досліджено також зв'язок між дослідниками та політиками з приводу впровадження Тендерної політики на державному рівні.*