

## **Report of the Commission on Women and Gender Studies, (DHST/IUHPS) 2011-2012**

by Annette B. Vogt, (MPI-Berlin, President; to be presented at HSS Women's Caucus Breakfast, 11-16-12, San Diego, 7:30am, by Margaret W. Rossiter. (1<sup>st</sup> Commission President; text adapted by Pnina G. Abir-Am, International Commission Board Member)

The Commission on Women and Gender Studies (The Women's Commission) of the DHST/IUHPS was **created in 1981 at the 16th International Congress in Bucharest, with Margaret Rossiter as its first President**. This Commission is an unusual one, when compared to the other Commissions for the history of disciplines in the DHST because of its dual mandate: The Women's Commission deals with the history of women in science, technology, and medicine, but also with the acceptance of women colleagues in scientific disciplines. The aim of the Women's Commission is two-fold: (1) to support research on women and gender in science, technology, and medicine, from ancient time until the present day, in all scientific areas and disciplines, and from different perspectives; (2) to promote women scientists and scholars in our discipline; support women as candidates for different positions in the DHST and the IUHPS; and recommend that both its Committees and Program strive to achieve a gender balance. The Commission on Women and Gender Studies also has the responsibility to observe the actual gender balance in the DHST/IUHPS Committees and bring imbalances to DHST and IUHPS attention.

The current Women's Commission was elected on **July, 30th 2009 during the International Congress for History of Science held in Budapest; Board Members are:**

Honorary president :	Margaret W. Rossiter,	mwr4@cornell.edu
Past-president	Ida H. Stamhuis	stamhuis@nat.vu.nl
President	Annette B. Vogt	vogt@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de
Members	Pnina G. Abir-Am	pninaga@brandeis.edu
(alphab.)	Anne-Sophie Godfroy-Genin	anne-sophie.genin@ens-cachan.fr
	Annette Lykknes	annette.lykknes@chem.ntnu.no
	Maria Rentetzi	mrentetz@vt.edu
	Felicitas Seebacher	felicitas.seebacher@uni-klu.ac.at

### ***Conference of the Women's Commission held in Paris, September 14-17, 2011***

An international conference on "Women and Gender Studies - Where do we stand" was organized by the Women's Commission as its „in between IUHPS Congresses event“ and held at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, on September 14-17, 2011. The Program included 9 sessions, one round table discussion, and one interview with Professor Claudine Hermann, a leading engineer and activist in the French Association for Women in Science. 30 speakers from 13 countries presented papers: USA (9), Canada, Czech Republic and

Germany (3 each), France, India and Israel (2 each), Netherlands, UK, Spain, Portugal and Trinidad. (1 each)

In the "Call for Papers" for the conference the Commission offered travel grants; 3 out of 6 applicants received such grants. (on the basis of their abstracts and location)

***The Women's Commission's Sessions at the 5th ESHS Conference, Athens, November 1-3, 2012***

The Commission had also organized special sessions or symposia at each of the Conferences of the European Society for the History of Science (ESHS), in 2006 in Cracow, in 2008 in Vienna, 2010 in Barcelona, and 2012 in Athens.

At the most recent ESHS biennial Meeting in Athens two symposia were organised by members of the Board of the Women's Commission and their co-organizers. Symposium 9 "Gender and the cosmopolitan character of science" was organised by Annette B. Vogt and Maria Rentetzi; Symposium 32 "Women in the laboratory from the early modern times to the 20th century" was organised by Annette Lykknes and Brigitte van Tiggelen. Unfortunately not all speakers participated, obviously because of current economic problems. Both symposia were successful. The Women's Commission will support sessions or symposia also on the 6th Conference of the ESHS which will be held in September 2014 in Lisboa (Lisbon, Portugal).

The *budget of the Commission*, as of November 2012, is: 3.257,00 €; a separate financial report has also been compiled by Annette Vogt.

***Website of the Commission***

Our Board member and Chair of the local organizing cmte. Anne-Sophie Godfroy (Paris) constructed a website before the Commission symposium held in Paris on September 14-17, 2011, which she expanded afterwards. It has been available since January 2012:

[www.womenscommission-dhst.net](http://www.womenscommission-dhst.net)

Because of new developments in IT, the Commission website is in a process of being redesigned. Hopefully this task will be completed by the end of 2012.