

Quick scan gender aspects of research at the Faculty of Science, Universiteit Leiden

In 2015 an analysis was done of the way in which gender plays a role in research at the Faculty of Science.¹ As part of this study, a roundtable discussion was held with the Scientific Directors of the 8 institutes at the Faculty, focusing on the gender aspects of research. This led to the quick scan below, which summarizes research within the Faculty of Science that explicitly takes gender aspects into account.

The *Gendered Innovations*-project², an initiative from the EU, Stanford University and the American National Science Foundation, makes a convincing case for the inclusion of (gender) diversity in research. For instance: failing to use male and female cell lines for drug research can lead to faulty, one-sided results, and medicine suitable for only one of the sexes. Or failing to take difference between (pregnant) women and men into account in crash tests, could lead to greater injury in car accidents.

The quick scan of how gender is taken into account in the research taking place at the Faculty of Science lead to the following list. This list should be considered as an ongoing inventory, when scientists at the Faculty start new research relevant in this respect, this will be added.

Institute		Relevant links
Astronomy (LO), Environmental Science (CML)	- Within the research at the Astronomy department, gender aspects have no relevance for research.	
Mathematics (MI)	- Gender aspects could play a role in applied statistics, currently no examples are available.	
Chemistry (LIC)	- Research on the endocannabinoid system by Dr. Mario van der Stelt takes gender aspects into account: researchers use male animals to exclude variations that are related to hormonal cycles. This research is funded partly by NWO.	- Link
Physics (LION)	- The overwhelming majority of the research in LION involves non-living matter and is thereby gender neutral in the sense of "gendered innovations". The research involving living cells uses, in certain cases, gendered material such as breast-cancer cells.	
Biology (IBL)	- Research related to evolution and to behavioral biology usually does study differences between males and females. - Dr. Katharina Riebel investigates causes and consequences of condition and learning dependent phenotypic variation in sexually selected traits and preference. As she looks at sexual selection/partner selection, for example among zebra fish, she is very explicitly inquiring into gender differences.	- Link
Computer Science (LIACS)	- Gender is a very important aspect in data mining, for instance in the analysis of health and insurance data.	- Link
Drug Research (LACDR)	- Gender is integrated in drug research: it is a concern in research using laboratory animals and an essential dimension in clinical trials. - Prof. Catherijne Knibbe holds a chair that is specifically concerned with 'special populations'.	- Link - Link

¹ The analysis was carried out by Dr. Isabel Hoving, Diversity Officer of the Universiteit Leiden

² <http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/> (all examples mentioned are elaborated in detail on the site)