Introduction

What Gender Mainstreaming Has to Offer Research: The Benefits and Pitfalls of Gender Mainstreaming in Research

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From the classic binary definition of gender to the much more nuanced ones which approach gender as embodied, as a performance, a structure, a multidimensional process, a spectrum, concepts and theories in the area of Gender Studies/Feminist Studies have evolved rapidly and consistently in the last decades.

Gender is seen today as a key analytical category of analysis, not only a descriptive and explanatory variable in social and political science research. Gender mainstreaming research, integrating gender sensitivity and gender awareness within interdisciplinary research, paying attention to gender aspects in all stages of research is considered by many a key component of research excellence. Nevertheless, in the current conservative global and local environments, more than ever, strengthening and improve the quality and visibility of the research in the area of Gender Studies/Feminist Studies should be an academic responsibility.

Starting from the premise that gendering research is necessary condition in order to better grasp the dynamics of the social worlds we live in, we provided for this issue of *AnaLize Journal* an academic open space mainly for young academics to propose gender mainstreamed articles based on their research interests coming from various fields, and to critically reflect on the benefits and pitfalls resulting in the process of gender mainstreaming the research projects.

We selected articles that investigate diverse gendered aspects using diverse epistemological and methodological perspectives: how gender balanced governance affects social welfare, health, equity and the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming policies in specific countries (Marijke Russo); the universe of subjective meanings that women with jobs attribute to remote work during the pandemic (Raluca-Mihaela Molea); the multilayered phenomenon of obstetric violence, such a marginalized subject in many countries (Cătălina Nicoleta Anghel); the deliberate/strategic performance to avoid domestic responsibilities within heterosexual relationships (David-Theodor Fejér) and also an essay on the concept of citizenship- reflecting on how being a woman intersects with structures of power, identity, and participation in public life (Andrada-Cristiana Bercioiu).

We hope this issue, giving voice to the young academics, will bring some valid arguments for the benefits of gendering research.