

V. International Gender Workshop

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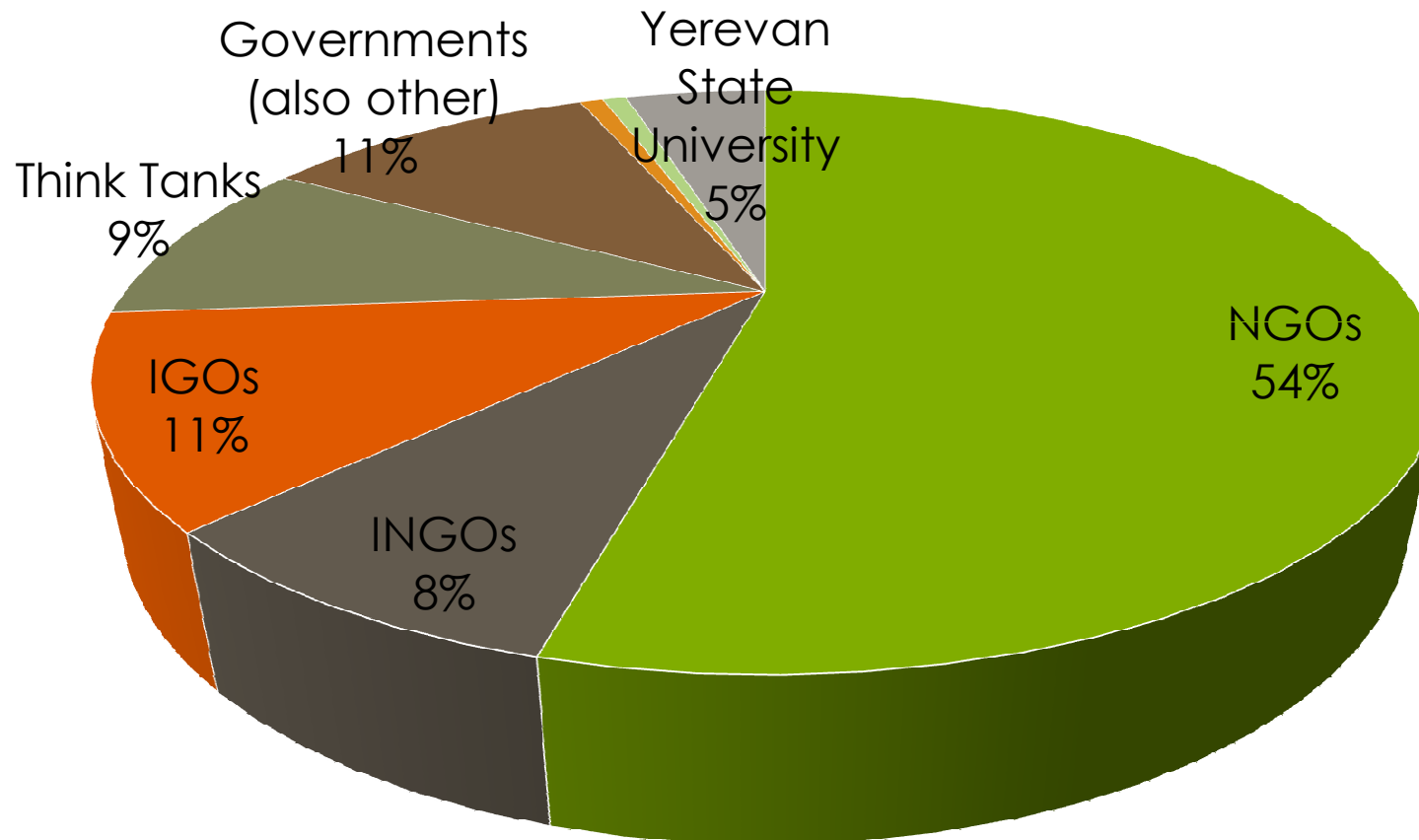
ARMENIA

***Feminist Debates in
Academic Spaces***

Nvard V. Manasian

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG

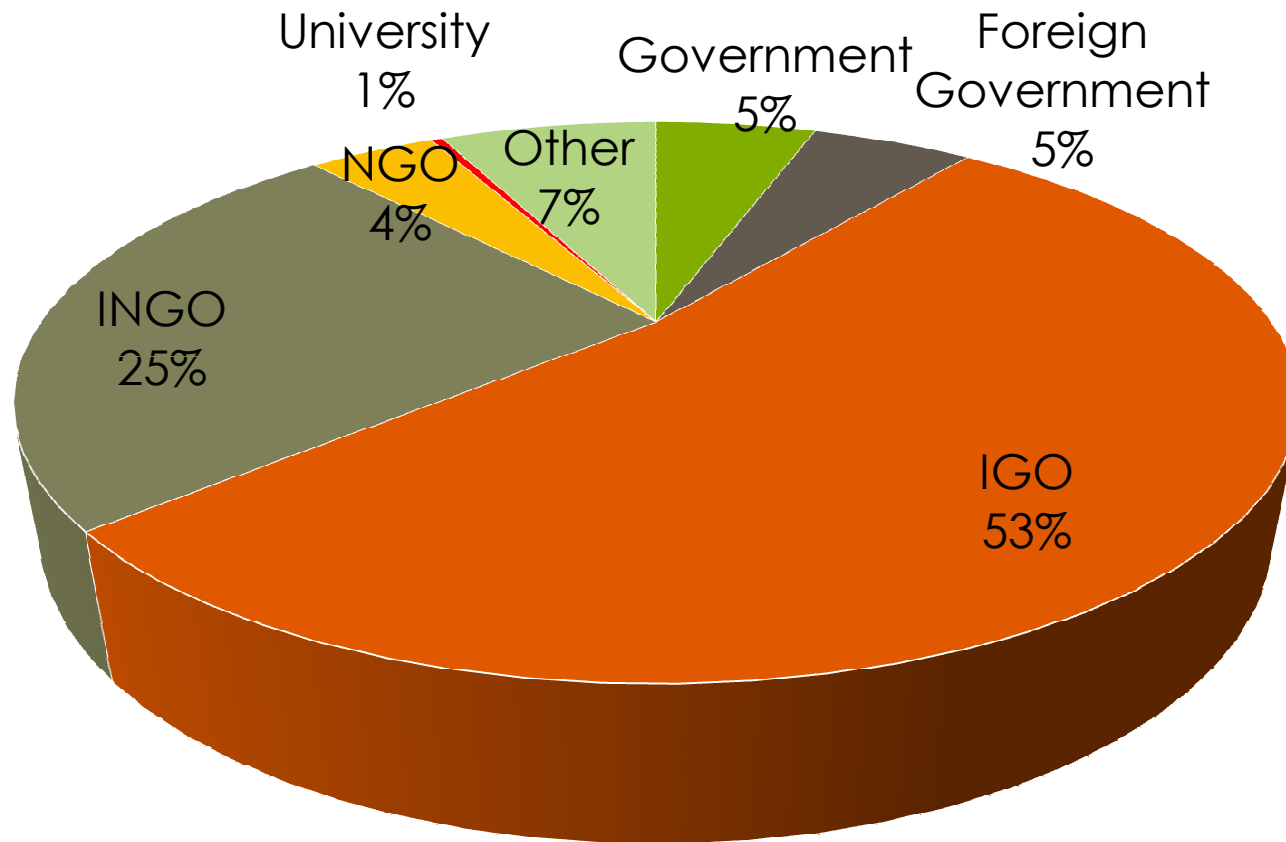
What have been the major challenges for feminist scholars to introduce feminist theories in academia?



Implementing Entities

Nvard V. Manasian, Center for Gender and Leadership Studies

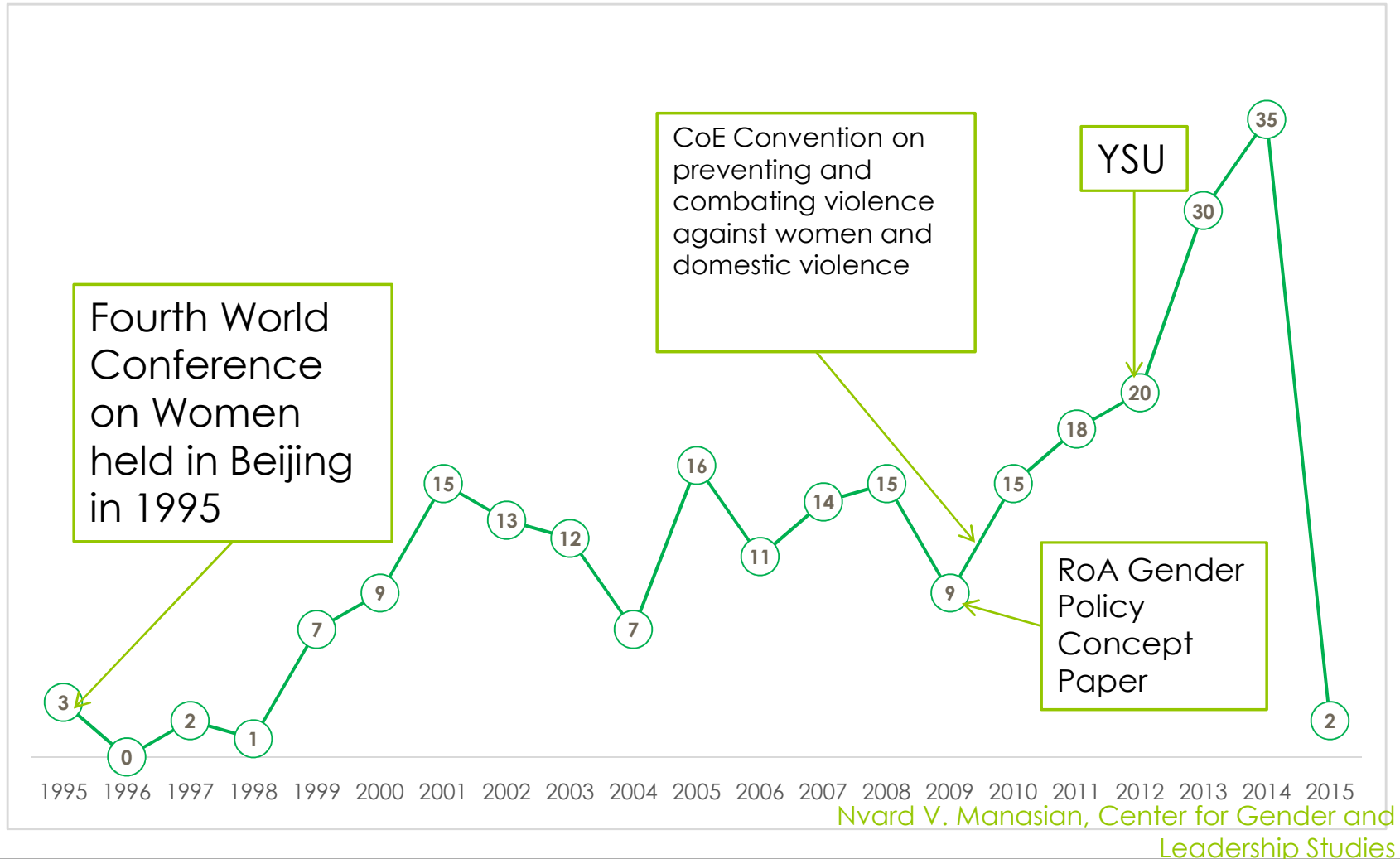
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Commissioning Organizations

Nvard V. Manasian, Center for Gender and
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- Women's NGOs that were established in Armenia in the wake of the Beijing Conference gradually realized the importance of research
- Women's NGOs, whose share in those years was three-fourth of all research already developed a potential and built self-confidence
- Those were the years when Beijing+5 review was in progress, MDGs were adopted and Armenia was preparing, submitting and presenting a country report to the CEDAW Committee
- 2010, Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and RoA Gender Policy Concept Note
- *Law on Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities to Women and Men* in 2013, accompanying action plans, work on the draft law on prevention of domestic violence and even the so-called "anti-gender campaign" further energized women's NGOs, international organizations and donor community and the RoA Government in their efforts to provide evidence-based, research-supported arguments and vision

Key Themes

- ◉ **Women's political and civic participation** is the most popular issue, with 43 studies
- ◉ **Violence against women (gender-based violence)** is the second one with at least 31 studies and surveys
- ◉ Third is **gender-based discrimination** with 29 studies
- ◉ **Health** issues, including sub-areas of SRHR and HIV/AIDS-related. There are at least 18 studies, including 3 DHS and 4 reports to the CEDAW Committee
- ◉ **Human rights of women** with at least 21 studies peaked in early 2000s and then gradually waned
- ◉ In **education** and **training** there are two groups of studies: (i) *gender issues in education system* (at least 10 studies) and (ii) *gender education* (at least 13 studies)
- ◉ Studies on **rural women** (18) focus primarily on economic, agricultural and health-related issues
- ◉ **Women and media** is quite important, as evidenced by the fact that at least 16 studies were produced over the years.

FEMINISM as a TERM and Frame of Mind

- A separate, albeit closely related, issue is that of ***feminism***.
- At least 11 studies addressed various aspects of feminism in 1999-2005.
- Interest, however, was short-lived, as after 2005 there were virtually no studies.

What have been challenged to establish gender studies faculties?

YSU Center for Gender and Leadership Studies was established on May 7, 2013 in the framework of “Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Armenia” three-year USAID project.

The project is implemented with the cooperation The Melikian Center; Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies and The School of Social Transformations, Arizona State University.

● **Mission**

The main goal of the Center is to promote gender equality and leadership in the Armenian society. YSU Center for Gender and Leadership Studies provides comprehensive research, training, and outreach functions engaging Armenian higher education institutions, local NGOs and international agencies in training women for career promotion and professional leadership.

The gender discourse: from hysteria to constructive policy and academic debate

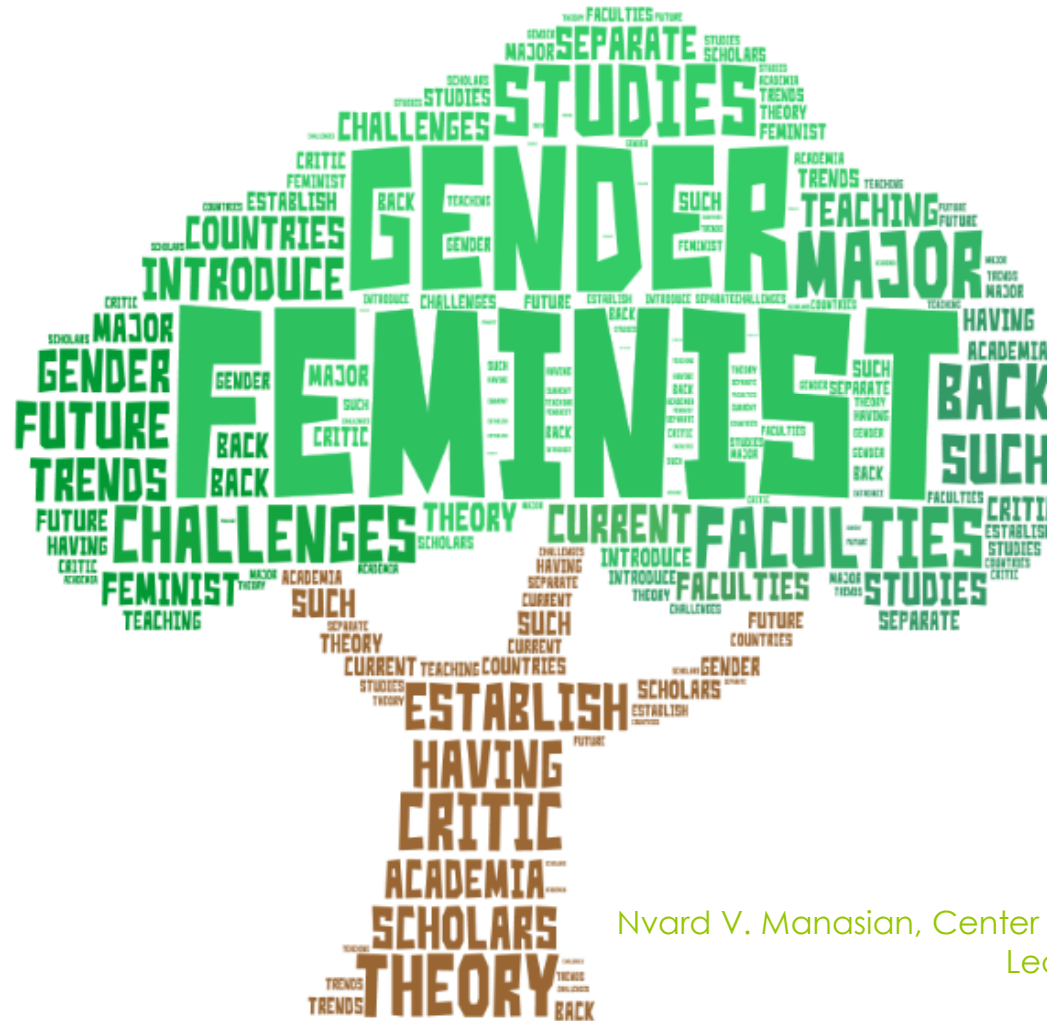
Knowledge and understanding of gender and gender equality our citizens

- “The knowledge is incomplete or does not exist, because the organizations that are eligible to transfer knowledge, also face lack of knowledge, and if there is no lack of knowledge, there is also no lack of opportunities,” - said Anna Harutyunyan.
- The researcher has come to the conclusion there is no gender discourse in Armenia. One reason is that people have different perceptions on the subject. In addition, there is no mutual understanding among our NGOs. They do not consider each other on the same plane and do not try to debate.
- “There is no personalization, critical approach to knowledge and there is a lack of knowledge sharing between intellectuals. All this leads to the absence of gender discourse,” - she said.
- As a solution, she brought the example of Europe. It all began with literature. Intellectuals should speak, people raise their issues, tell their own stories.

In the countries, where gender studies have been established back in 90's, 80s, what are current trends of teaching feminist theory?

1. The inclusion of gender component in ICT Development Policy and Information Society building in Armenia
2. Gendered power in Armenian Soap Operas: Women, masculinity and violence
3. Sex-selective abortion as a part of gender discrimination in Armenian family
4. Woman in rural livelihood in Armenia: economic activities, social and family status
5. Security issues from gender perspectives: Nagorno Karabakh through the eyes of Armenian and Azerbaijani women
6. Analysis of factors impacting rural women's labour force participation in Armenia
7. Women in Armenian Armed forces: self-perception and opportunities for the better recruitment and adaptation policies
8. Deciphering women in Armenian political discourse
9. Promotion or prevention? Socio-cultural factors in women's academic career building
10. Inclusive Medical Services for Women With Disabilities
11. Strengthening Women's Political Participation in the Republic of Armenia: Existing Efforts, Challenges and Opportunities
12. Women Role Perceptions in Traditional and Non-Traditional Religious Communities in Armenia
13. Armenian Women in Military Affairs
14. From Gender Practices to Gender Policy: A participatory Case Study of Armenian Public School Community
15. Introducing Female Authors into High School Curricula of Literature
16. Political Participation of Women in the Elections for the Local Territorial Administration Bodies: Problems and Perspectives
17. Investigation of Factors Associated with the Elevated HIV/AIDS risk of Female Sex Partners of Armenian Seasonal Labor Migrants: Developing Recommendations aimed to Address the Risk
18. Gender Gap in Entrepreneurship in Shirak Region
19. Human Trafficking: Awareness Raising on Victim Behavior and Its Prevention
20. Gender Socialization Process Analysis: Perspectives and Status of Girls and Women in Armenian Families
21. Armenian Woman Image in Mass Media (TV): From Gender Sensitivity to Gender Stereotypes
22. The Impact of Migration on Transformation of Gender Roles in the Gegharqunik Region of Armenia
23. Gender Inequality and Everyday Practices: Problems and Challenges
24. Sexual Harassment in the Workplace as a Hindering Factor for the Women in their Career Promotion: Sociological Analyses of the Present Situation in Armenia
25. Gender Factor in Ethics of Public Service: Survey of Armenia Public Organizations
26. Unearthing the Gender Discourse in Armenia: from Hysteria to Constructive Dialogue?
27. Gender Aspects of Aging in Rural Armenia: Health and Well-being of Elderly Women in Rural Communities of Armenia
28. Perceptions and Experiences with Contraception and Abortion among Women with Migrants Husbands in Gegharkunik
29. Gender attitudes of Yerevan State University students
30. «Gender barometer. Armenia» a sociological survey

What can be a future of such faculties?



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THANK YOU!

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