

Gathering a Community of Researchers around the History of Science and Gender in France Today: A Challenge?



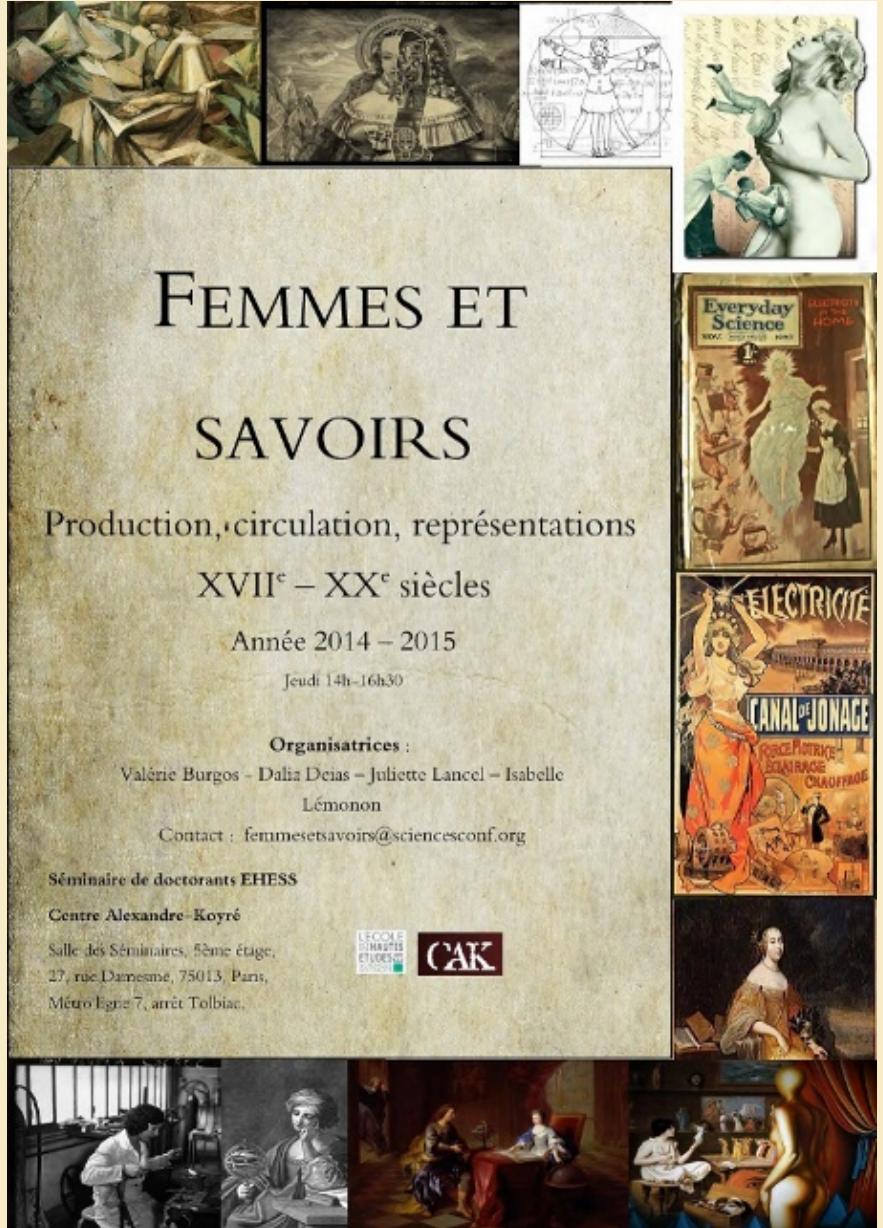
Dalia Deias – Valérie Burgos – Juliette Lancel – Isabelle Lémonon
EHESS – Centre Alexandre-Koyré - GDR 3398 Histoire des mathématiques

Outline

- Introduction
 - Purpose
 - Audience
- Assessment
- Perspectives

1. Introduction

- **What ?** Seminar about women and knowledge
- **When ?** Nov 2014 to June 2015 (9 meetings)
- **Who ?** 4 female PhD students (history of knowledge / different periods / different subjects)



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1. Introduction

- Program

- | History of knowledge and gender
- | Sources
- | Productions
- | Circulations
- | Institutions of knowledge
- | Representations

2.Purpose

- Personal questioning (PhD / Curiosity /different subjects)
- No seminar about this field (except in Sociology/ Philosophy/ Political Sciences...)
- Intellectual and institutional legitimacy of history of women not ensured in France (Françoise Thébaud, 2007)
- Personal remarks :
 - « No need to look for women in this institution, there are none ! »
 - « Tell me you are not writing a PhD thesis about gender ! »
 - « You want to study women, you are a feminist ? »
 - | Paternalism

French context about gender

Legalization of same-sex marriage : May 2013

« ABCD de l'égalité » : 2014

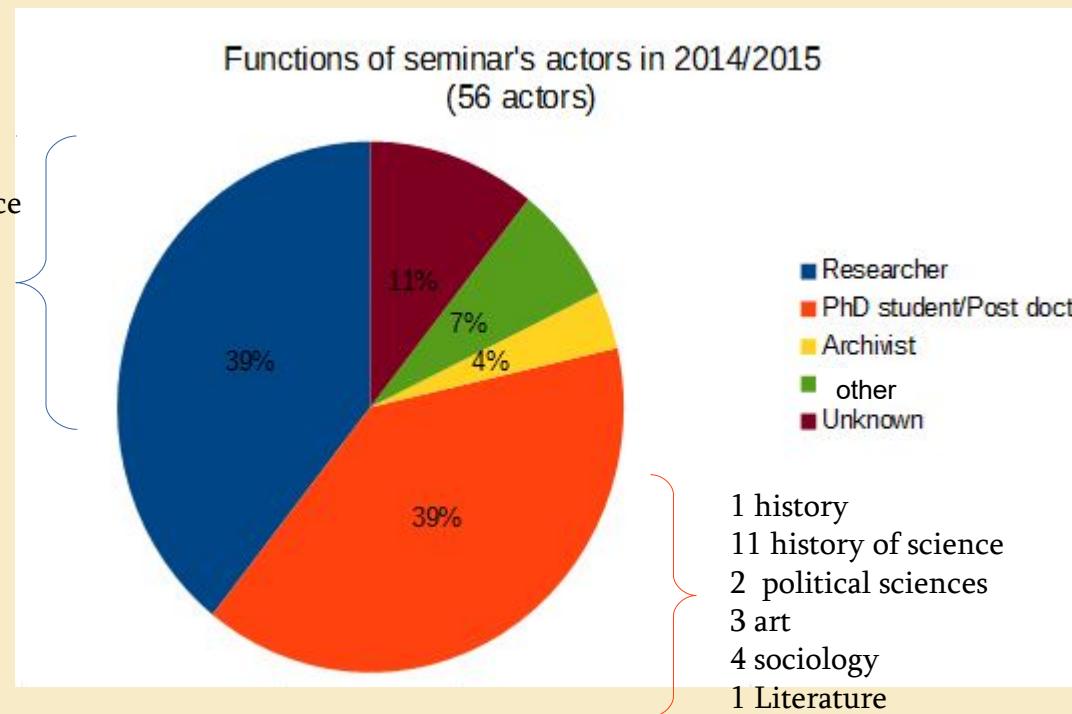
First congress of gender studies in France : September 2014

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3.Audience

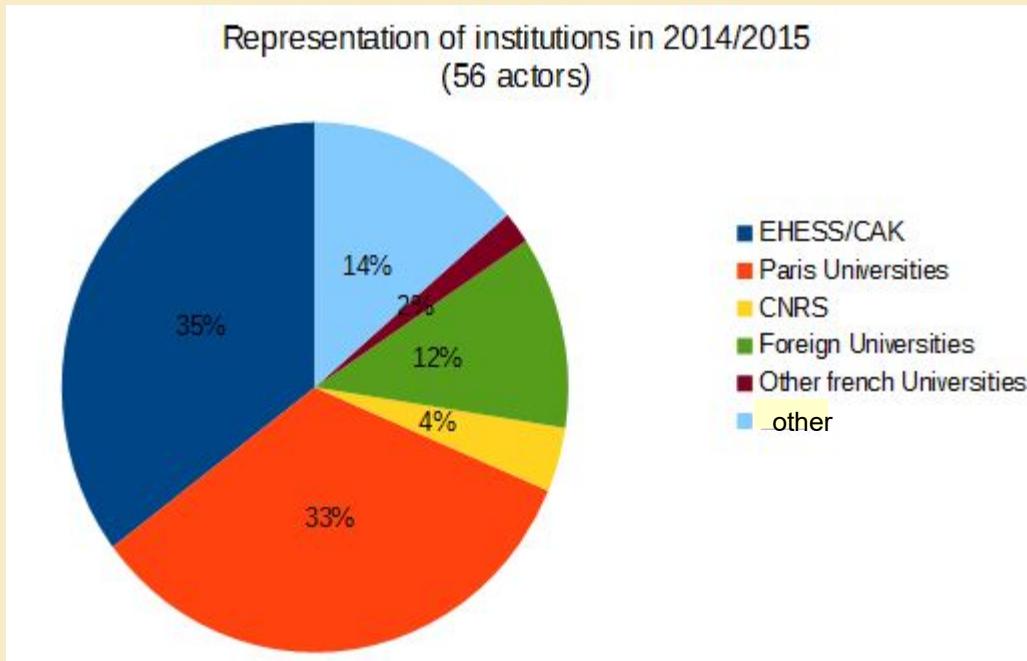
- 56 different participants in 8 meetings : average of 16 per meeting
87 % of women (48-14i) 13 % of men (8-3i)

- Positions of participants :



3. Audience

- Institutions represented



- 1/5 of the participants came to at least 4 meetings (out of 8)

4. Assessment

- The main questions of the seminar « cross » the long time period of study we chose (17th-20th c) and the different spaces evoked in the seminar.
- Wherever you look for women in knowledge production or circulation, you find them ! They are just next to men producing knowledge !
- Women's sources about knowledge production are fainter than men's (production/ego-documents)
- Importance of social rules on visibility/invisibility of women (salons / pen-name, « anonymat », « disguise »...)
- Importance of education (or lack of !)
- Female special areas of skills : sex segregation (M.Rossiter, Women scientists in America, vol 1, p.51)
- Value of female knowledge production ?

4. Assessment

- Need for such reflections / for such an « interaction space »
- Ask for podcasts or communications
- Female audience !
- Interdisciplinary audience
- Reflection on science / knowledge (initially gendered defined : music/sewing/ birthing / beauty /...)
- Bias of our study as women
- Bias of our study as historians in the 20th c
- Deconstruction of image of the « pionnières » women
- Institutional support (CAK / GDR 3398)

5. Perspectives

- Consistent Community
- Seminar 2015 /2016 : *Spaces, frontiers, margins*
- Publication project (3 years)
- Contacted by Universcience
- Analysis on the way of producing knowledge in the seminar ?
- What kind of knowledge produced there ?
- Bias ?