# Executive Board Annual Report 2022

## Name of the Section/Network/Temporary Working Group: Women’s Network

## Management team:

Chair: Gizem Melek

Vice-chair: Antje Glück

Vice-chair: María Martínez

## Social media: We use Twitter and Facebook to circulate call for papers of upcoming conferences and publications. We also share news about online events and articles about recent developments in higher education as well as inspiring and worrying practices in universities from diverse geographies. Currently, we have …. followers on Twitter with …. new members in 2022. We have 153 members in our Facebook group with 4 new members in the last year. We also have a website which is going to be updated very soon.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ecrea_women>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/348976009038672/>

Website: <https://ecreawomensnetwork.wixsite.com/website>

## Activities in 2022:

“Challenging norms in academia: The potential of open access and alternative forms of publishing for improving diversity and equality” on October 7, 2022 at 15.45 (CEST).

“From unruliness to collective action: Resisting norms on gender and sexuality in media” in the official website of ECREA Gender, Sexuality and Communication Section.

Anna Backman Rogers (University of Gothenburg, Sweden) and Houman Sadri (University of South-Eastern Norway) from MAI Feminism and Visual Culture

Rebekka Kiesewetter (Centre for Postdigital Cultures, Coventry University, UK) - Researcher at Community-led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs (COPIM) Project

In the panel, presenters attracted our attention to the significance of open access and alternative publishing for creating an inclusive, equal and diverse platform to share academic research. They mentioned how important it is to have academics on the management side of publishing which makes the whole process being based on devotion, mentorship and trust. They explained that peer review processes in open access publications such as MAI are also managed with the same fundamental values. They do not only review the articles that are sent for the journal but also examine the reviewers' responses in order to make sure that the peer review process is constructive rather than destructive. By means of this approach, they create a safe space to discuss, develop and share academic research, not only in the conventional article format but also in alternative ways such as in video essay or graphic novel format. The significance of developing close networks and communities which are built on mutual trust and development is once again emphasized at the end of the panel in order to create academic spaces that are stripped of hierarchies and toxicity.

## Plans for 2023:

Drawing on the primary goal of the Women’s Network regarding providing female academics with a forum to discuss issues they face in academia, firstly we aim to focus on issues that are difficult to recognize. Our plans for late 2023 include setting the agenda by digging into the issue of harassment in higher education across Europe and beyond by organizing a panel.

We aim also to work on increasing the visibility of female academics through social media sharing research and calls for papers in relation to Gender Studies or any topic associated with the LGTBIQ+ community or women issues. We aspire to grow the Women's Network through digital media and strengthen the network by collaborating with other ECREA entities.