

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR A SPECIAL ISSUE OF GENDER, WORK AND ORGANIZATION
Gendering the Knowledge Economy

Special Issue Editor Sylvia Walby, Lancaster University.

The knowledge economy is often considered the future of work, although its definition and what this might mean is highly contested with rival accounts as to the extent to which there is something new and important and its implications for the increase or decrease in the quality of working life. The focus of this special issue is on the gendering of the knowledge economy and the implications of this for gender equality. This may involve theoretical or substantive work in the re-thinking of key concepts in the analysis of both work and gender relations and the reporting of original empirical findings. The following are some examples of possible topics.

What are the different ways in which the knowledge economy is gendered? How do different ways of conceptualising the knowledge economy affect conclusions as to the gendered nature and quality of emerging practices in working life? For example, what are the implications of the narrow traditional image of the knowledge economy as high technology manufacturing and ICTs, where the knowledge is seen as embedded in machines and codes, rather than the broader notion of the knowledge economy, where knowledge is seen as embedded in humans? Does the former produce a more 'male' picture than the latter?

What counts as gender equality in the knowledge economy? This question both includes and goes beyond the gender composition of the different components of the knowledge economy sectors. For example, do new networked forms of work coordination create flatter hierarchies, or do such informal practices tend to reproduce gendered exclusion? Are women and men differently positioned in the processes of knowledge creation, and, if so, with what implications for the development of knowledge?

There is controversy as to the implications of policies to promote the knowledge economy, especially following the European Council in Lisbon in 2000 which set the goal of the EU becoming 'the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion'. How do policies at the EU and national levels affect the development of the gendered knowledge economy? How does the intersection of such policies and differently gendered national contexts affect the outcome for gender equality?

Please send abstracts for possible papers to the Editor of the special issue, Sylvia Walby, Department of Sociology, Lancaster University, S.Walby@lancaster.ac.uk by 5th June 2006. The deadline for submission of full papers will be **3rd November 2006**. For submission guidelines please consult the *Gender, Work and Organization* Journal at: <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0968-6673> Full papers should be sent to both Sylvia Walby and the editorial assistant Annie Dempsey gwo.journal@mngt. Keele.ac.uk