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Presentations	Session 7.2	<i>Gender and inclusivity in forest sciences: theoretical and empirical insights.</i>

Abstract Session 7.2 – #MeToo – and then what? Women’s experiences of gender (in)equality in the Swedish forestry sector.

In 2017-2018, connecting to the #MeToo movement, testimonies within the campaign #slutavverkat were published on Instagram to highlight experiences of sexual harassment of women in the Swedish forest sector. While policy-makers, researchers and industry representatives were already discussing gender imbalance, the narrative of gender equality in Swedish forest sector tend to be constructed around notions of a before and an after #slutavverket. Nevertheless, how the industry in practice have changed – or not – have remained unexplored, especially from the perspectives of forestry professionals. The aim of this presentation is to analyze women forestry professionals’ meaning-making of the developments – including all forms of change and continuity – of gender (in)equality in Swedish forestry sector. To do so, we draw on 102 questionnaire responses from women and none-binary forestry professionals collected during the spring of 2020. The questionnaire included six questions mapping the demographic of the respondents and ten open-ended questions asking the respondent to describe and reflect on issues relating to gender equality based on their experiences. Preliminary analyses suggest that women experiences and perception of gender equality varies. Some are more optimistic, focusing on the perceived progression being made, particularly relating to policy-makers and industry representatives increased attention to gender equality. Other are more critical, describing instead the persistent of masculine cultures and traditions that revolve around constructing and maintaining bonds between men that explicitly or implicitly disadvantage women. As the more optimistic descriptions seem to involve an improvement in the preconditions to improve gender equality, rather than an improvement in the gender equality per se, the findings indicate a potential discrepancy between the industry’s more official narratives and the perception of the professionals themselves.