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Presentations	Session 8.2	<i>Gender and inclusivity in forest sciences: theoretical and empirical insights</i>

Abstract Session 8.2 – Gender (in)equality in forest research networks – the IUFRO case.

Gender differences in networking have been cited as one of the main reasons for gender career development and promotion gaps, and academic networks have shown to be no exception. Based on a study of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, considered as the leading global network for forest science cooperation, this presentation will explore the “doing” of gender in forest research settings. An analysis of functions and positions at different organizational levels shows a substantial lower representation of women, and a high dominance of men, on all levels. Women researchers make up to less than a quarter of the representatives of the International Council (IC) and in the IUFRO Board, and about one third of the office holders of Division units and Task forces. In addition, women are more likely to hold less prominent positions, i.e. as alternative representatives (IC), vice-president, and deputy coordinator. There is also an uneven representation of women across the different Divisions and Task Forces - which make up the majority of the research network. In Division 3, which brings together researcher dealing with forest operations, engineering and management, only one out of seven office holders are women. In contrast, more than half of the officeholders in the division that focus on the social aspects of forests and forestry, i.e. Division 6 are women. A survey among officeholders provides some further insights e.g. on how women and men experience and perceive gender (in)equalities in the network. Among the respondents, there is a general positive attitude to gender equality work within IUFRO. Fewer men than women experienced the network as gender unequal, while fewer women than men considered the IUFRO as very important to their professional development. However, the difference was small then expected.