

Gender and inclusivity in forest sciences: theoretical and empirical insights		
Panel 11		
Session Chair	Alice Ludvig & Susanne Koch	
Presenters	Session 8.2	Elena Matviichuk Susanne Koch Gun Lidestav Teppo Hujala

Abstract Panel 11 – Gender and inclusivity in forest sciences: theoretical and empirical insights.

Gender was implemented as a cross-cutting issue in the recent IUFRO strategy. Convened by the IUFRO task force “Gender equality in forestry”, this panel draws attention on how gender (im-)balances impact on forest sciences and the knowledge they generate. We present theoretical and empirical contributions dealing with gender representation and strategic actions for enhancing diversity within the forest research community and within IUFRO as one of its principal global representative networks. The panel departs from the assumption that a gender-balanced and inclusive academic community strengthens science-society interaction in relation to forests by improving capacities for scientific cooperation, addressing emerging issues in a proactive manner, and viewing research topics from multiple perspectives. Adopting a reflexive stance, it invites the forest research community to discuss critical questions, such as which challenges and opportunities emerge in attempts to make the scientific field more inclusive, and which epistemic effects the current social structure of the field may have.

As a basis of discussion, the contributions present insights from international, regional and local studies that deal with gender representation, diversity, and the professional development of (under-) represented voices in forest research and the related scientific networks. With that, the panel aims to trigger debates among forest scholars and collectively reflect on how to make the field and the knowledge it generates more inclusive.

Schedule:

03:30 Welcome and short introduction

03:35-04:35 Presentations

1. Elena Matviichuk, Susanne Koch: Gender- and geography-related inequalities in global forest science conferences: an actor-centred analysis of IUFRO World Congresses
15 min presentation; 5 min short questions and answers
2. Gun Lidestav, Elias Andersson, Alice Ludvig: Gender (in)equality in forest research networks – the IUFRO case
15 min presentation; 5 min short questions and answers
3. Teppo Hujala, Birger Vennesland, Björg Björnsdóttir, Ann Dolling, Line Nybakken, Niels Strange, Sara Maria Hildebrand: Gender balance in the Nordic forest research and higher education
15 min presentation; 5 min short questions and answers

04:35 Joint discussion and reflection:

- Why does representation matter in forest sciences?
- Are patterns of (unbalanced) representation a cause or a symptom in the forest sciences?
- What are the consequences for forest sciences?

05:00 Closing of the session