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## **The relevance of gender in research: Presentation of four literature reviews at TU Wien**

**What's nearly as important as conducting research? Presenting the results to a network of stakeholders. This was done with the results of literature reviews on gender and selected technical research fields at TU Wien.**

On December 12<sup>th</sup> 2019, Brigitte Ratzer invited relevant stakeholders of TU Wien to a presentation of literature reviews that were produced within the H2020 project "Gender Equality in Engineering through Communication and Commitment" (GEECCO). These reviews serve as a knowledge base on the four topics [gender and energy](#), [gender and mobility](#), [gender and robotics](#), [gender and human computer interaction](#) and are milestones for a better understanding of gender in research in these areas.

When applying for funding, scientists more and more often are asked about the gender aspect in their research. Often, they have not been trained on gender issues or think that there is no gender aspect in their research. In order to support excellent research, it is important to provide up to date answers for researchers: comprehensible and connectable. At TU Wien the Research and Transfer Support Office supports individual scientists and research teams in various research and transfer activities which also includes support in answering "the gender question". It is obvious that members of this office are among the most relevant stakeholders in order to spread the knowledge that has been produced in the mentioned literature reviews. Together with TU Wien members of research ethics, Vienna Center for Technology and Society, HR Department and the Office for Gender Competence they attended Brigitte Ratzer's presentation and lively discussion.

The literature reviews focused on the question what has already been known in the fields of energy, mobility, robotics and human computer interaction (HCI) when asking about gender aspects. Starting with energy, the results show that there are two main discourses: first, gender as a factor in the success or failure of energy interventions and second, what are the connections between energy and gender equality? The topic mobility also revealed two main discourses: Quantitative approaches have asked about who is when and how mobile whereas qualitative approaches focus on how subjective aspects such as individual experiences, preferences and attitudes affect mobility behaviour. The review on HCI found research questions focusing on sex differences and gender differences and concludes with some pitfalls researchers should avoid, such as I-Methodology or "one size fits all". Finally, in robotics the main research questions on gender are about how humanoid robots might change our perception of masculinity and femininity. Findings of the reviews on robotics and HCI have also been presented in two explanatory videos (Robots in our society: <https://youtu.be/bfXr29VAuwU>, Humans & Computers: <https://youtu.be/vrWx91RdmGo>), the same will be provided regarding energy and mobility by the end of 2020.



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Not only are the reviews and explanatory videos by themselves important steps in order to spread the knowledge about gender in research, but also dissemination events such as described are key to reach this objective. Brigitte Ratzer as coordinator of GEECCO and work package leader of “Focusing on the gender dimension in research and teaching” is very satisfied with the results of the reviews which established a sound gender knowledge base that from now on will serve as useful knowledge base for all scientists.

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