

Enhancing Gender in Research and Writing: Workshop for Graduate Students.

The Gender Institute generously provided funding for a workshop which was held on the 6th and 7th of September, 2017, from 10 am to 4 pm in the Coombs building. The event was advertised across campus through the GI newsletter and GI institute members were also asked to promote it. Funding received from the GI was used to cater for the event on both days.

Gender is sometimes an under-developed component of graduate students' research topics. This workshop was designed for students who wanted to enhance the gendered aspects of their research and writing by discussing their work with 'gender experts' and with other students. Students talked about their work for 15 minutes and the remaining 5 minutes was allotted to focus discussion of relevant theories, books and articles. Dorothy Broom, Kathryn Robinson, Christine Phillips, Cathy Banwell, Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Joyce Das, Shameem Black, Lyndall Strazdins, Anna Olsen, and Bonnie McConnell generously gave offered students their expertise and insights. Sixteen students, including two men, from CMBE, CAPS, and CASS participated in the workshop.

Two and sometimes three experts were 'on duty' at each set of presentations. They provided advice and guidance on gender components of students' research, sometimes recommending texts or drawing attention to aspects of gendered language. In many cases, experts also provided considerable assistance to students concerning research methods and approaches. The workshop encouraged cross-university linkages although many of the experts already knew each other. The students made contacts, found shared research interests and several discovered they were pursuing similar topics. We experimented with a speed dating session on the final day to encourage students to identify someone with whom they shared a research interest.

Participants were provided with a light lunch, morning and afternoon tea at a total cost of \$818.00 leaving \$792.00 remaining from the grant of \$1500.00. We propose, with the Gender Institute's agreement, to invite the same students and experts to participate in a writing group in early 2018 and use the remaining funds to cater for the event. The students were enthusiastic about the idea of meeting again for this purpose. Kathryn Robinson who has considerable experience in running writing workshops, will lead the event.

In conclusion, we thank the Gender Institute for its support of the workshop and the eight experts who generously provided their time and wisdom to support the participants.

Cathy Banwell

25 October 2017.