

Review of: "Quality assessment program of the teaching activity of the higher education faculty staff. A case study"

Irene Epifanio¹

¹ Universitat Jaume I de Castellón

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I think authors make a good summary of DOCENTIA program from ANECA and the specific implementation in their university. However, I miss a link with all the details of the program in their university (how much each item counts?, etc.).

There is a point that is not mentioned in the paper, and I think it is very important: the assessment of mainstreaming gender and diversity in university teaching. The current legislation entails that this is mandatory since many years ago (Ley Orgánica 1/2004). Mas de les Valls et al. (2019) detected different treatment of women and men by the teacher or classmates, and less than half of women feel comfortable participating in the classroom. This study was carried in the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, a university with a similar profile to the Universitat Politècnica de València. Another study (ISONOMIA, 2020) concluded that 98% of university teaching guides do not use inclusive language.

There are DOCENTIA programs, such as that of Universitat d'Alacant that considers specifically the gender perspective training in their DOCENTIA program (Universitat d'Alacant, 2019).

In Spain, there are guides in different languages (Catalan, Spanish, English, Galician) about teaching with a gender perspective in many different degrees (Xarxa Vives d'Universitats, 2019). Furthermore, the Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (AQU) has worked in this line (AQU Catalunya, 2019).

Finally, there is a gender gap in STEM, especially in many technological degrees in many occidental countries, but this is not universal. For example, Computer Science in Malaysia is dominated by women (Mellström, 2009). However, some occidental universities have achieved parity enrolment in computer science, such as Carnegie Mellon (Margolis and Fisher, 2002) and Harvey Mudd College (Frieze and Quesenberry, 2019).

Assessing mainstreaming gender and diversity in university teaching in DOCENTIA program is not just a matter of social justice but also teaching quality (Xarxa Vives d'Universitats, 2019).

References:

Ley Orgánica 1/2004, de 28 de diciembre, de Medidas de Protección Integral contra la Violencia de Género.

<https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2004-21760#a4>

Mas de les Valls, E. [et al.]. Perspectiva de género en docencia STEM. A: Xornada Universitaria Galega en Xénero. " (Re)construíndo o coñecemento. VI Xornada Universitaria Galega en Xénero: A Coruña, España: Xuño 14, 2019". A

Coruña: Universidade da Coruña, Servizo de Publicacións, 2019, p. 249-260. DOI: 10.17979/spudc.9788497497589

ISONOMIA. GUIA per la integració de la perspectiva de gènere en les guies docents de les assignatures de grau de la Universitat Jaume I. 2020. Available at:

<https://ujiapps.uji.es/ade/rest/storage/QEU4LAZAHDORE1JUHGK3JPRBNVSDYXQR>

Universitat d'Alacant. DOCENTIA-2019/20. Available at: <https://web.ua.es/es/vr-qualinnova/docentia/docentia-2019-20.html>

Xarxa Vives d'Universitats 2019. Guides for university teaching with a gender perspective. Available at:

<https://www.vives.org/coleccio/guies-per-a-una-docencia-universitaria-amb-perspectiva-de-genere/>

AQU Catalunya 2019. Available at: <https://www.aqu.cat/doc/Universitats/Metodologia/Marco-general-para-la-incorporacion-de-la-perspectiva-de-genero-en-la-docencia-universitaria>

Mellström, U. (2009). The Intersection of Gender, Race and Cultural Boundaries, or Why is Computer Science in Malaysia Dominated by Women? Social Studies of Science, 39(6), 885–907. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306312709334636>

Margolis, J., Fisher, A. (2002). Unlocking the clubhouse: Women in computing. MIT press.

Frieze, C., Quesenberry, J. L. (Eds.). (2019). Cracking the digital ceiling: Women in computing around the world. Cambridge University Press.