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Dr. Brigitte Ratzer studied Chemical Engineering at Vienna University of Technology (VUT) and made her PhD in Social Science Studies at VUT. Longstanding lecturer at various Austrian universities and junior researcher at VUT with research-projects in the fields of Bioethics and Biomedical Technology-Assessment, Social Studies of Knowledge and Feminist Research in Science and Technology. Since 2005 Head of Center for the Promotion of Women and Gender Studies, VUT.

Brigitte Ratzer

Center for the Promotion of Women and Gender Studies, VUT, Austria

Gender in the Culture of Technological Sciences

The agenda for Technical Sciences may well be summarised with three central tasks that Londa Schiebinger related to as Fix the number of Women, Fix the Institutions and Fix the Knowledge. Since all fields of actions have already been specified in numerous publications I solely want to single out those points where Technological Sciences differ significantly from other Sciences. This is first the notion of a highly masculinized sector where women are not only absent in upper hierarchical levels but are already largely absent in education and training. At the institutional level Techno Cultures turn out to be especially challenging for those who made it to medium or top levels. And last but not least the knowledge and artefacts produced are highly gendered as well. While concepts for “gendered innovations” are developed and spread we observe as well an alarming amount of developments towards highly gender-stereotyped products and a disposition towards “shrink it and pink it” when gender-inclusive design should be debated. The presentation will outline the whole agenda but focus on good practices and measures to be taken in Technological Sciences for decreasing constraints for women.