

PANTEION UNIVERSITY Centre for Gender Studies

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**'Changing Gender! Research, Theory and Policy
for Gendered Realities of the 21st century'**

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ABSTRACT

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TITLE

**Power: still a Male Locus?
Language Change: Stances and Resistances**

The aim of this research is to record the adjustment and evolution of language following the establishment of women both in the political sphere as well as/ and in the neuralgic centers of power. The research in question compares and contrasts the situation in two European Union countries-Greece and France-by focusing mainly on the following key points: how is the female presence in the political domain reflected upon the Greek and French language as well as on its impact in the fields of lexicography, mass media, political organizations and public speeches.

On one hand, this research attempts to record the grammatical problems-as they arose after the serious change in the legislative system that diminished male monopoly of power- while on the other hand it thoroughly examines the first attempts to approach this issue from a linguistic point of view. Have linguists regarded this issue worthwhile enough to be examined per se, as an object of special scientific research? Have they proposed alternative structures, or, have they remained attached to the traditional-patriarchal grammar, stubbornly ignoring the dawn of a new social reality?

Moreover, in this paper we deal with more practical concerns, such as governmental policies on women issues (e.g. decrees, committees, funding of research programmes, etc.) as well as with official organizations which examine linguistic matters such as the French Academy, Universities, Institutes, and Research Programs etc.

The research, also, extends to include the study of everyday use of gender markers (e.g. female, male adjectives to characterize offices etc) as deployed in the press and the mass media. What will be noted as well is the action taken by women themselves, either individually or via organizations, towards the pursuing of this linguistic adjustment.

Finally, we will present the results of a student research which was conducted under the auspices of a new graduate program entitled "Gender and Power" ran by the Department of French Language and Literature and funded by the European Community.