

PANTEION UNIVERSITY Centre for Gender Studies

134 Sygrou Avenue, 1st floor, GR 17671 ATHENS, Tel: +30- 210 9210177-8, fax: +30- 210 9210178

<http://www.genderpanteion.gr>, e-mail: gender@panteion.gr

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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

**June 2-3, 2005
Panteion University
Athens, Greece**

ABSTRACT

Olga Pantouli, *Instructor in the Department of Philosophy, Section of Education, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.*

TITLE

Female students talk about computers

As part of the requirements of an MA thesis a research was conducted aiming to explore the subjective beliefs and opinions of female students in relation to computers.

The analysis of the texts was conducted using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis method. An attempt is made to interpret women's experiences concerning computers as well as the way the participants view their own experiences.

On the basis of what female students said, applying the focus group method, specific patterns are formed in the way they view themselves in relation to computers, like the following ones:

1. Boys are 'by nature' more involved with machinery and computers
2. Computers may be deemed to be useful, but their use does not seem particularly pleasant for girls
3. Being professionally involved in computer technology, may prevent them from applying themselves to other female roles.
4. Girls prefer interpersonal relationships and feel secluded and isolated when they occupy themselves with computers.
5. They would rather specialize in a field that will satisfy them as individuals even though they feel that it will not provide professional security rather than specialize in the field of computers even though that would possibly provide better job perspectives.