

HUMAN PLUS 2004

**First Conference of the Archipelago of Humanistic Thematic Networks
"The role of the humanistic arts and sciences in European society, education and research"**

Name: Jeannette van der Sanden

Work group: 3

Thematic Network: ATHENA - **Advanced Thematic Network in European Women's Studies**

3. Sharing insights and knowledge with respect to learning/teaching strategies.

ATHENA aims at contributing to the knowledge and good practices needed for the mainstreaming of European policies on higher education.

Especially when dealing with the Humanities / the Humanistic Arts and Sciences, we think it is important that Higher Education institutions can operate autonomously with respect to the labour market, i.e. learning outcomes should not be defined on the basis of demand from the labour market, but we must be able to look beyond that.

As regards methods of teaching and learning, Women's Studies has since many years used ICTs in teaching and learning Women's Studies. Research has been carried out about the relationship between technology and gender, and about the relation between ICT and feminist pedagogical strategies. In the ATHENA publication 'ICTs in Teaching and Learning Women's Studies' the impact of ICT on teaching practices in Europe is analysed.

ATHENA has focused in its activities on the European and multicultural dimension of Women's Studies. One of the results of this is the publication of a teaching manual in European Women's Studies ('Thinking Differently').

ATHENA hosts an active European network of students in Women's Studies and feminism, called AthenaStudentForum@NEXTGENDERation. The forum concentrates on themes related to Women's Studies today from both students' and graduates' perspectives. We would very much encourage the involvement of students in the Archipelago.