



Concept Note

We are glad to launch our webinar series on **teaching about attitudes to sex and gender in history**, set to take place in May and June 2022.

During these two months' period, we will welcome 30 motivated history and citizenship educators from all across the world for five live sessions. During these sessions, participants will be able to engage in interesting discussions, join active workshops, and enjoy networking opportunities.

The webinar series will reflect on a series of key challenges and strategies that can foster the promotion of inclusive history education, especially in relation to increasing the visibility of women in school curricular and matters of sex and gender in society across time.

One of the main goals of the webinar series is the preparation of teachers and pupils alike with tools, aimed at bringing more voices to the foreground during history lessons. The tools and strategies shared during the webinar series will be presented in the context of gender inclusion, but can be used also in conjunction with other topics.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
The RETHINK Project	3
The case for Remembrance Education	3
Key questions	4
The design of the webinar series	4
Aims of the training	4
Expected outcomes	4
Links between the training and the school curricula	5

Making history more representative for all learners

Citizens' participation in politics is essential to ensuring a robust and healthy democracy. When citizens become complacent, indifferent, or otherwise unengaged, the wellbeing of a democracy suffers as voices go unheard and needs unmet. This is still the case with many women and many members of the LGBTQI+ community. While there are many exceptions, the overall representation of women and members of the LGBTQI+ community is still poor in the fora of political decision-making at local, national, and European levels.[1] We can assert that this underrepresentation in politics is a loss for society as a whole. For example, evidence shows that women's leadership in political decision-making processes improves them: women can be more keen to work across party lines and to champion issues of gender equality, such as the elimination of gender-based violence, parental leave and childcare, pensions, gender-equality laws and electoral reform.[2]

In order to promote diversity and inclusion, we cannot only focus on the present, but we must also invest in the future by fostering young generations' political engagement and active citizenship. Research shows that formal education can play a fundamental role in preparing young people for participation in democratic life,[3] and the teaching of history is particularly suitable for this end because the subject can provide political literacy while teaching social responsibility and encouraging community involvement. However, history curricula often contribute to undermine pupils' ambition and self-respect by presenting powerful male-dominated narratives that ignore or marginalise the role of women and people who have not been viewed as conforming to changing societal norms around sex and gender across time in past events due to their emphasis on high politics, diplomatic and military history, and the causes, rather than the consequences of changes and events. .

So the question remains: how can we provide all our students with a representative history of the past in relation to gender and sexuality that encourages them to be active citizens and political leaders in the future?

Luckily, there are many resources and methodologies out there that can help us develop lesson plans that help us teach history in a more representative and inclusive way. During this webinar series, we will present some that we and the members of our community have tried, discussing with you their positive aspects, as well as potential pitfalls.

Key questions

In addition to the main question

“how can we provide all our students with a representative history of the past that encourages them to be active citizens and political leaders in the future?”,

during this webinar series, we will tackle the following questions:

- What does it mean to promote inclusive and representative history in our classroom, especially in relation to sex and gender?
- What is Gender Mainstreaming, and what tools can we use to effectively mainstream gender in our history lessons?

The design of the webinar series

Breaking up with the EuroClio tradition, the webinar series will open with a warm up workshop on **Gender and Kingship: Visual Representations in Eighteenth Century France**. This workshop, which will be hosted by Stefania Gargioni, will allow participants to get to know each other, breaking the ice and creating meaningful connections to foster throughout the webinar series.

The opening workshop will be followed by a Keynote Lecture, hosted by Prof. Dr. Claudia Jarzebowski. During the keynote lecture, participants will explore the current state of women and gender history, talking about intersectionality and about what steps need to be taken to mainstream gender inclusion in history classrooms.

Two active workshops, on **Talking Gender Diversity and Sexuality: Including 2SLGBTQ+ Stories in the Humanities Classroom** and **Do We Still Need Feminism?** will follow, focusing on teaching strategies to promote gender mainstreaming in the classroom and to make the history lesson more representative.

The webinar series will end with a sharing and networking session, facilitated by the EuroClio staff, on the topic “How do members of the EuroClio Community teach history in a gender-inclusive and representative way?”. In this session, participants will have the possibility to present their own teaching approaches, share challenges that they are encountering, and answer the dreaded question “where do we go from here?”.

Aims of the training

During the webinar series, participants will:

- Gain subject knowledge about gender and sexuality across time
- Learn about how academic historians are researching women’s history and queer history
- Discuss how to integrate the history of women and gender non-conforming people across the school history curriculum
- Work as a group to form some plans for making changes to your own teaching.

Expected outcomes

The webinar series will result in:

- Increased knowledge of gender and sexuality across time;
- Access to innovative history education tools with a focus on promoting inclusive and representative history;
- Recognition of developed competences in history education through lifelong learning in the international context;
- A 2-5 pages booklet collecting tools and practices shared during the webinar series and related thematic month, aimed at teaching women’s history and queer history

- A 1-2 pages handout on practical tips and tricks on how to deal with the topic in the classroom.

Resources consulted to write this concept note

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