

1. Género, feminismos e estudos sobre as mulheres

OC - (23137) - THE SPECIAL ADDED VALUE OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE - CONSIDERABLY UNDERESTIMATED.

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Why do we need more women in science?

Two arguments dominate the list of potential responses. First, because it is a question of justice to share these highly respected positions with women. Second, the science system (and our economy) benefits from competition for talents, and for reasons of efficiency and productivity, the potential of women cannot be dispensed. From this point of view, however, it does not matter whether the "won" talents are male or female.

I want to add a new perspective to this debate. To understand the comprehensive added value of women in science, it is worth looking at the basic principles of scientific practice from a feminist perspective. Although the contribution of women in science at the epistemic level has been analysed by numerous feminist philosophers, these arguments did not really find their way into the discourse on gender equality policy in science.

Based on the feminist critique of science as well as the empirical literature, I expound that:

1. Without women, science cannot live up to its own claim to objectivity and universality
2. Without women in science, many questions would never have been asked and answered
3. Women in science break down negative gender stereotypes and thereby limit the dysfunction of the science system, especially the testimonial injustice, as described by Fricker (2009).

My conclusions are relevant for universities and their members to recognize the special added value of women in science and thus to implement bolder gender equality policies. Since the arguments equally apply to other marginalized groups (e.g. PoC, scientists from the global south), my conclusions are also relevant in a broad context. In addition, my reflections turn out to be "epistemological empowerment", as they provide arguments for more appreciation of women in science and thus boost the interest in a scientific career.

Palavras-chave : women in science, feminist philosophy of science, equality policy