

Contrastive Perspective on Gendered Academic Cultures in the Natural Sciences

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The increasing differentiation of science in multitudinous disciplines or research areas leads to the rejection of Snow's theses (1959) of the Two Cultures. In contrast „[t]oday, across the disciplinary map, calls for the disunity of science can be heard, echoing across the fields of science and science studies” (Galison 1996, 2). Subsequently the presentation considers the question whether disciplinary cultures of chemistry and geology differ referring to their epistemic and social practices. Situated within Feminist STS therefore the focus lays on processes of gendering based on the assumption that the heterogeneous cultures offer different scopes for the co-construction of cultural perception of science and perceptions of gender. That means that the way how social ideas of gender are embedded in scientific cultures and therefore produce inequalities do not follow one and the same principle but differs according to disciplinary (sub-)culture. Based on qualitative empirical interview data with scientists in organic and theoretical chemistry as well as in geology and hydrogeology the presentation shows that social perceptions are incorporated in the way how science is produced and scientific cultures work and that this leads to different chance of men and women in academia.

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