

Wikimedia CH @CSW67

United Nation Organisation – 04-12 March 2023

CSW67

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

During the Commission's annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. They discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the "1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action », the key global policy document on gender equality, and the 23rd special session of the General Assembly held in 2000 (Beijing+5), as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic, and social fields. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

The sixty-seventh session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) took place from 6 to 17 March 2023 at the UN Headquarter, New York. Representatives of [Member States](#), UN entities, and [ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations \(NGOs\)](#) from all regions of the world were invited to contribute around the theme **"Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls"**.

Main points addressed during the CSW67

Many great talks and round table were given during the CSW67 that it is hard to make them justice. Nonetheless, we still want to underline some very important points we heard during our week there.

The digital revolution is leaving girls and women behind. Discrimination, repression, harassment is all over the digital world, wherever it is on the social media, on the web, etc. There is an unequal access to internet. Technology is becoming a tool for more bias and misinformation. We have to bring more woman to the table, engage them in the IT field and educate our girls for this digital world and make it safer. We have to shape the new technologies to be more inclusive. Politics must here be involved. Countries must contribute to a sustainable and equal future. We must shape the digital revolution to a more human centred perspective.

Artificial Intelligence is currently contributing to gender inequality and misinformation about women and girls. AI is not neutral because it is based on the actual structure of power. This have and will have more and more impact. For example, photos of men and women are classified very differently, creating more sexism when the photo displays a women's body. We need to shape AI by developing confidence skills and education in the IT fields for girls and women. We need to get past the so-called women's characteristics that are perpetuating the gender inequality. We must make conscious political choices and build a more equal future.

Knowledge Equity

The Wikimedia GLAM Program includes a strong strategy point around Knowledge Equity.

Mainly, we wish to:

- Address the gender gap and the issue of representativeness in the Wikimedia Projects;
- Support women and their projects;
- Reduce the gender gap in the Wikimedia Projects, both in the subjects and in the contributors.

Why talk about Knowledge Equity?

Knowledge Equity is a social science concept and a process which reflects on what is valued as knowledge and how communities and minorities may have been excluded from the discourses through imbalanced structures of power and privilege.

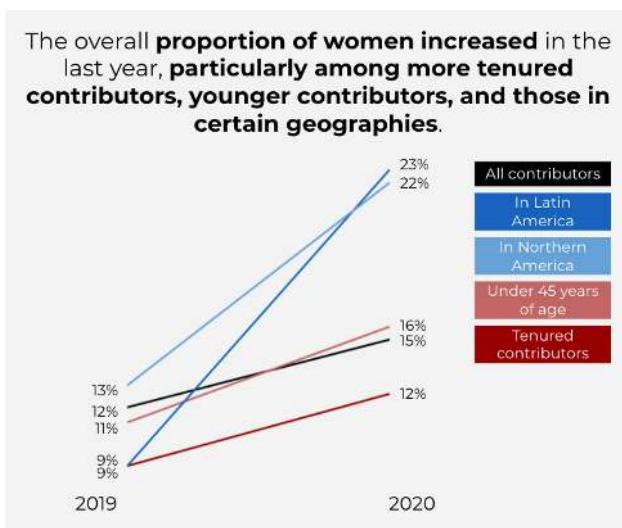
It is paramount to address the concept of Knowledge Equity in the GLAM area. On one hand, there is both a gender gap in the collections, with only a small proportion of women's art and artist, and a gender gap in the professional field with few women at key positions. There is also a problem of representativity of African and Asian objects and cultures in the GLAM exhibitions and collections.

On the other hand, there are also several issues regarding knowledge equity, representativity and gender gap in the Wikimedia Projects.

In 2018, 9% of users were registered as woman for all the Wikimedia projects, and only 1% as non-binary¹. There was a modest increase in women contributors between 2019 (11,5%) and 2020 (15%). But we still only have 2.6% of contributors identified as transgender or non-binary². We must underline that for 2019 and 2020, newcomers in the Wikimedia Projects were more likely to be women than tenured contributors. Plus, the retention of women as improved. Also, there was a growth in the proportion of women among contributors living in Latin and Northern America, as shown on the graphic below.

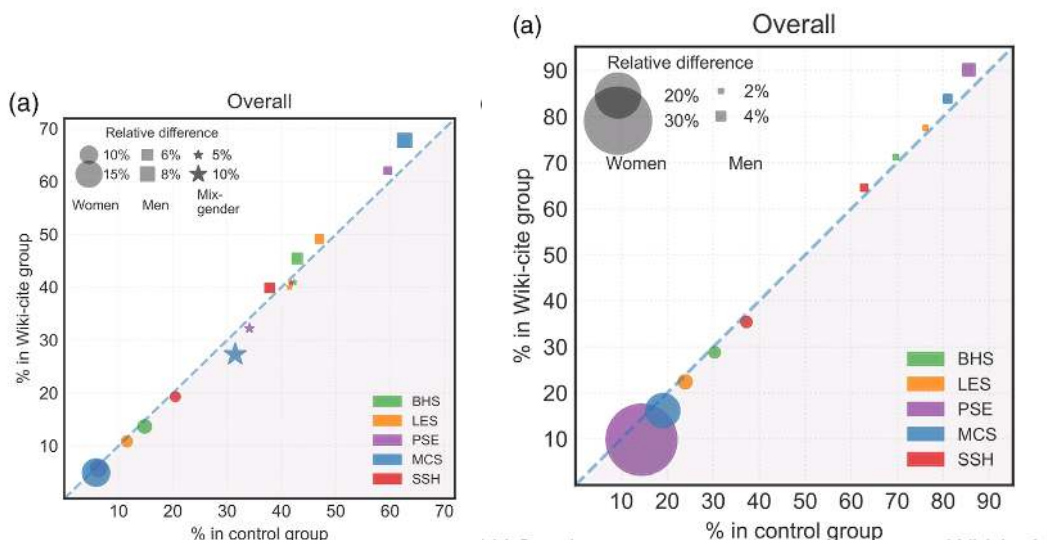
¹ Wikimedia Foundation, Community Insight Report 2021.

² Wikimedia Foundation, Community Insight Report 2021.



Still, we see a clear gender gap when we have a look at the Wikimedians contributors. The lack of women contributors is the cause of an under representation of subjects related to women’s history, health, issues and to women’s biography.

It is also important to underline recent research conducted by the WikiResearch Project who shows that publications with women in key authorship position are significantly less likely to be cited by Wikipedia than those with men. It concerns both publications with women as single author and publications with mixed gender authors, as shown on both graphics below.

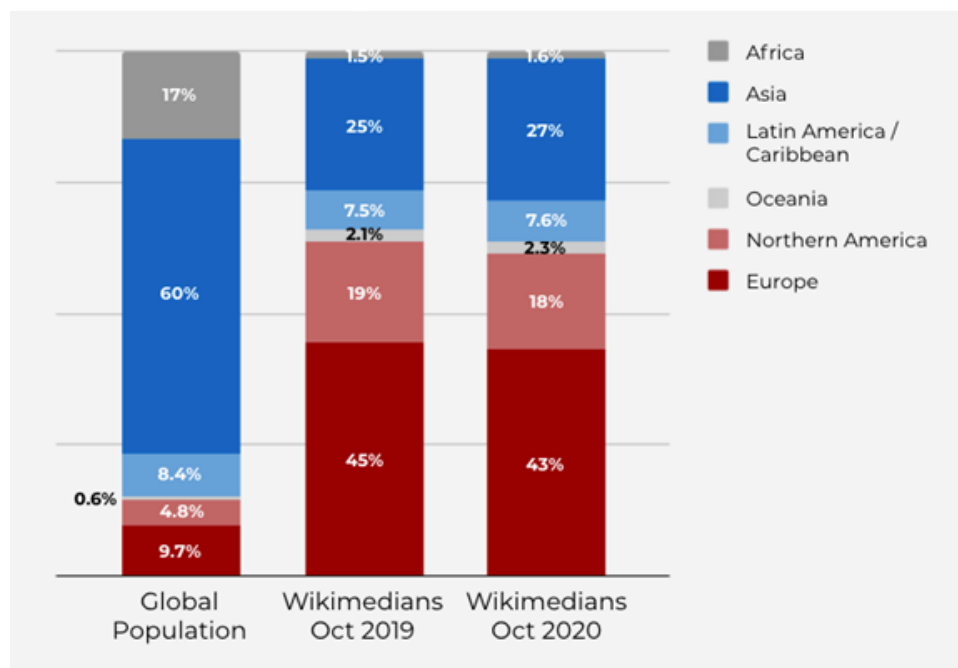


This leads to an under representation of research conducted by and with women. Plus, the impact of mixed contributors' authorships is less significant, leading to a false image of the

current researches in various fields, mainly Physical Science and Engineering, as shown in the graphics.

Atop a gender gap in both contributors and content in the Wikimedia Projects, some cultures are less present.

The Community Insight Report for 2021 showed a lack of geographic representation in the contributors. As shown on the graphic below, compared to the overall population, we see a persistent over representation of European and American contributors and an under representation of African and Asian contributors. This conducts to an overrepresentation of white contributors and a lack of diversity in the subjects presented on the Wikimedia Projects. The movement also struggles to retain editors who lives outside Europe and America



The same research conducted under the patronage of WikiResearch talked before, also underlined that scholarly publications by authors affiliated with non-Anglosphere countries are also disadvantaged in getting cited by Wikipedia, compared with those by authors affiliated with Anglosphere countries.

Both the WikiResearch study and the Community Insight Report for 2021 found that knowledge in the Wikimedia universe is not inclusive. It is partial and non-representative of our diversity. The Wikimedia Projects represents a certain way of seeing and building knowledge. For example, Wikipedia articles are based on written sources. This leaves out other traditional way of building knowledge, for example the oral tradition.

Conclusions

Our talk and the discussion with the participants led to four conclusions:

- It is paramount that we team together, cooperate and ally with each other to bridge the gender and representation gaps. Only in bringing together the Community, GLAM institutions, associations, etc. we will be able to address all this challenges.
- We must empower women, bring them education, and keep them safe, whatever the context. We also must support African and Asian people to the Wikimedia Projects and encourage them to contribute and share. We must take in account the differences in their culture and knowledge sharing.
- We must take in account the sensibilities and diversities of every culture when we bring them to the table. Respect and understanding must be our guiding lines. Some knowledges are not made to be shared.
- We ought to collect and share more systematically data, knowledge of all culture, even the smallest one. But it is impossible to make general projects. We must take in account the specificities of the culture.