



This is a study commissioned by Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation in 2015, a report Gromada, A., Budacz, D., Kawalerowicz, J., Walewska, A.

<http://katarzynakozyrafoundation.pl/en/projects/research>

Summary:

Poland's visual art academies are extremely feminised as places of study while exceptionally masculinised as places of work (women constitute 77% of students but only 22% of professors). The gender discrepancy between these two career stages – being a student and being a teacher – comparable only to that observed in theological schools, surprised us and became the main focus of this research. The report starts with presenting statistics on participation of women at different stages of education and career at art academies and seeks to identify mechanisms which contributed towards creating the gender disproportions that can be observed.

Research Methodology:

We researched nine major institutions offering visual art training. Data has been collected from three sources: freedom of information requests, 966 surveys and 32 in-depth interviews.

Key findings:

- Male students are more likely to receive encouragements from teachers (both male and female) while female students are more likely to be recipients of negative comments
- Male students are more likely to receive assistantship offers from teachers; this gender gap is not explained by scholarship status

- Female and male students have similar aspirations; for both the most desired prospect is to be an active artist or to find employment in a profession related to art, the least attractive prospects are: change of qualifications and employment in a profession unrelated to art.
- 58% of female respondents and 52% of male respondents declared that they would not be willing to give up their artistic aspirations for the sake of the family
- Female students find employment at art academies less attractive; employment at art university as a prospect for future career is evaluated as attractive by 47% of women and 66% of men. The gender gap in evaluation of this prospect increases between 1st and 5th (final) year students
- On average students do not see 'taking care of the family' as an attractive prospect for the future, and this evaluation applies as much to women as to men.
- Only 7% of female art students and 16% of male art students agreed with the statement that 'women should be prepared to cut down on paid work for the sake of a family'.
- Students generally tend to agree with the statement that 'men should take as much responsibility as women for home and children', even though more women (89%) tended to agree than men (78%)