

Being a Young Feminist Nowadays

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Representing both the Italian 30 Something Network and the European Nextgeneration network, as a PhD student at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza' places me in a difficult position. In fact, it is almost impossible to give an accurate account of both networks in just a few lines. It is equally difficult to rapidly portray the results of Italian women's literary studies.

The most recent debate held within the Italian network has argued that the different political, cultural and individual perspectives are the underlying cause of the diverging view points. Personally, I think these differences should be an element of interest and a point to work upon for my generation. Furthermore, I believe that differences are always a precious gift, and should not be lost in the attempt to create unity. In fact, I think we should not only consider and praise the gaps within our own generation but also seriously study and come to terms with the gap which separates us from the former generation. In short, just as there is not a single generation of feminists, our generation is not one of a kind. Only by comparing the different individual paths and motives, the different perspectives and studies, can this generation of young women be narrated.

In going through my personal experience and my personal interest in women's studies, I found I have many elements in common with other people in the network. Thus I think it is both useful and necessary to think back on our different paths, on the places and means through which we acquired knowledge. The places, that for so many of us were universities - though the Italian University yet lacks a women's studies department -; and the teachings linked to gender studies, which depend on the one hand on the relationship with the different teacher, due to the absence of specific formation programs within University, and on the other on the study of literature written by women.

The use of a gender-perspective implies that we follow the trail left by the previous generation so as to apply it to our studies and thereby find our own individual viewpoints. The progression of feminist thought has brought to a change in the analytical devices and critical methodology.

In this context many young students are introducing further innovative elements thus highlighting the need, in Italy, of new studies on the forms of writing and on the new styles which go to change both the idea of literature and that of the literary genres. An example of such changes can be found in the new science fiction works, which offer a whole new perspective on women and their bodies and are not yet subject to an academic analysis.

Thus I believe that the new generation has a lot of work ahead of it, in Italy and a variety of fields to study, starting from those opened by the former generation.