

STK: Strategy 2030

This strategy is an adaption of, and an addition to, UiO: Strategy 2030.

The University of Oslo (UiO) shall:

- promote independent, ground-breaking, long-term research**
- educate students with the knowledge, ability, and willingness to create a better world**
- strengthen its dialogue with the outside world and work to ensure that knowledge is utilized**
- be an innovative organization and an attractive educational institution in which to work and study**

STK's purpose:

The Centre for Gender Research (STK) is a university centre which has the overarching purpose of carrying out interdisciplinary research, teaching, and dissemination within the field of gender studies, as well as promoting gender research at the university's other units.

The centre should be outward facing, play an active role in developing interdisciplinary arenas and networks, and seek contact and cooperation with other research institutions, both in Norway and abroad, and with authorities and other social institutions.

The centre should be able to offer teaching at every level, and, by agreement, to offer singular courses or larger course groups to cooperating faculties. The centre has a particular responsibility to encourage high-quality research training within its field.

Research on gender and gender equality at STK is characterized by its interdisciplinary nature, as well as its methodological and theoretical diversity. STK does not aim to define what gender research is, but instead to ensure that different views meet in constructive and attentive debate, where there should be openness to differing perspectives.

At the start of this strategy period, we see that questions relating to gender, feminism, and equality are central to many important discussions both within and outside of academia. Questions relating to gender balance and equality have become a steadily more integrated part of policy making nationally and internationally. At the same time, gender research is a field under increasing pressure. In this context, the development, teaching, and dissemination of different research- and knowledge-based understandings of gender are more important than ever. STK will contribute to facilitating and developing gender research as a broad and multifaceted research field that interrogates the historical foundations of current understandings of gender and equality, challenges established ways of thinking, and provides further insights into gender norms and gender relations in different contexts. By making this

research visible in public life, gender research can help strengthen democracy and diversity. This will make it possible to increase trust in gender research and help legitimize the role of gender research in society.

Questions relating to equality, democratization, and difference are the central focus of gender research, both theoretically, empirically, and methodologically. This means that gender research has a particular ability to contribute to a more sustainable society in the broadest sense. The field also has a long history of problematizing our relationship to nature, both within science and research, and within society and culture more generally. Feminist theories and methods can help develop critical thinking skills. By strengthening this potential through our teaching and research, STK will help students become knowledgeable, independent, and reflective citizens who play an important role in developing a more sustainable society.

STK will help to facilitate and make visible the importance of theoretical and methodological diversity within academic life. Interdisciplinary gender research is founded on the notion that working across disciplinary boundaries is necessary to grapple with complex problems and knowledge gaps. The “umbrella model”, that folds out and gathers thematic concerns in line with the competences at the centre and current societal challenges, is a suitable approach in this regard.

STK will strengthen and further develop its interdisciplinary competence in confronting societal challenges linked to the environment and climate threats, ethics, health and welfare challenges, polarization and democracy building, knowledge production, migration and war, dominance, exclusion, and difference. Gender is a central dimension of all these challenges.

STK will hold onto its distinctive character and its academic advantages and will maintain a portfolio of projects and courses that ensures this. At the same time, our portfolio is constantly under reconsideration and renewal in the face of new societal challenges and funding opportunities. STK is however a unit with a small staff of permanent academic employees, and this means that not every possibility will be realized.

STK will promote independent, ground-breaking, long-term research

Goals:

- STK will develop its research environment, cooperate with other research environments, and help to cultivate excellence in research.
- STK will further develop its disciplinary depth and interdisciplinary cooperation.
- STK will use goal-orientated recruitment and systematic career assessment to cultivate academic talent.
- STK will contribute to an intensified focus on research ethics and research integrity at UiO.

STK will educate students with the knowledge, ability, and willingness to create a better world

Goals:

- STK will contribute to making UiO an outstanding educational institution that provides research-based teaching of a high international calibre.
- STK will educate students who see their studies in a larger political context, contributing to a broad understanding of sustainable development and the green shift.
- STK will increase the relevance of programmes of study to research and working life and students' awareness of their own competence.
- STK will develop and renew the programmes of study and respond to society's need for interdisciplinary knowledge.
- STK will make it possible for students to take part in exploratory and innovative learning that motivates them and makes them a resource for each other.
- STK will explore the possibilities of offering research-based and flexible further education.

STK will strengthen its dialogue with the outside world and work to ensure that knowledge is utilized

Goals:

- STK will help UiO promote sustainable social development and the green shift.
- STK will contribute to knowledge-based discussions and opinions and be present where important discussions of relevance to gender research are happening.
- STK will carry out socially relevant dissemination that is visible and accessible.

STK will be an innovative organization and an attractive educational institution in which to work and study

Goals:

- STK will be a place for innovative thinking and creative ideas.
- STK will work systematically to create a safe, interdisciplinary, and pleasant working and learning environment, to have greater diversity among students and staff when it comes to gender and background, and to create an inclusive environment for students and staff.
- STK will contribute to innovative forms of organization, work, and learning, with efficient utilization of the digital resources available at UiO.
- STK will provide staff and students with opportunities for professional and academic development, and equip them to face changes in technology, society, and working life.
- STK will contribute to lowering UiO's climate footprint and will enable staff and students to make environmentally conscious choices.