

Report for EFA Homepage

I am Anshika Suri, a recent graduate from Masters in International Cooperation in Urban Development (M.Sc. Mundus Urbano) at the department of Architecture in TU Darmstadt. As part of my second year requirements, I had to undertake an internship for 3 months (mid April-mid July 2014) related to my master thesis. As part of my internship requirements, I applied to present a research project proposal at the “Gender and STEM Conference” at TU Berlin from July 3-5, 2014.

My Master’s thesis was based on Urban Gender Violence in Urban Public Transport and as part of my internship; I worked with Prof. Donna J. Drucker from the Fachgebiet Raum- und Infrastrukturplanung at TU Darmstadt, who is a Guest Professor in Gender and Technology. The “Gender and STEM Conference” was aimed at presenting empirical research and educational policies showing how individual and social aspects impact individuals’ motivation, attitudes, performance, educational and career choices and pathways into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) fields. Abstracts were invited on seeking newer perspectives on how such pathways could be facilitated at various points along students’ and young adults’ educational and occupational development.

The research proposal submitted to the conference was based on studying- “Gender attitudes in technical universities in Germany.” Our aim was to create an annotated bibliography of existing research on gender in STEM fields and then analyse the current existing demographics of students in technical universities around Germany and possibly Europe. The research was aimed at studying the motivation and inspiration of female students studying in architecture and civil engineering departments in technical universities in Germany. The proposal consisted of data gathered from TU Darmstadt showing the increase in the number of female students studying civil engineering and architecture at the university. Hence I, along with Dipl.-Ing. Biljana Stefanovska (a Doctoral Candidate from TU Darmstadt) attended this conference to present our proposal after it was selected for presentation. We successfully presented our proposal at the conference and managed to get three international universities from Italy, Greece and Germany interested in collaborating with us on developing the research project.

Report by:

MSc Anshika Suri

B.Arch, SSAA, India

MSc International Cooperation in Sustainable Emergency Architecture, UIC-Barcelona, Spain

MSc International Cooperation in Urban Development (MSc Mundus Urbano) TU-Darmstadt, Germany