

WS 212 - Navigating gender and youth challenges: telling stories about women, technology and creation

Session Title	WS212 - Navigating gender and youth challenges: telling stories about women, technology and creation
Date	December, 20th 2017
Time	11:50 - 13:20
Session Organizers	Bruna Santos, Youth Observatory/Internet Society IGF Ambassador Louise Marie Hurel, London School of Economics
Onsite Moderator	Bruna Martins dos Santos, Youth Observatory/Internet Society IGF Ambassador
Online Moderator	Angelica Contreras, Youth Observatory
Rapporteur	Sara Fratti, Youth Observatory
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Barbara Wanner, USCIB Jennifer Chung, DotAsia Jackie Treiber, IcanWiki Louise Marie Hurel, London School of Economics Heshadharani Poornima, ISOC's 25 under 25 awardee
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barriers faced by women when entering the ICT field. - Women's relation with technology. - Gender digital divide. - Safe online environment for women.
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	<p>There were five presentations. Each speaker had one question to address and the following paragraphs summarize their answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbara Wanner, Vice President for ICT Policy, US Council for International Business (USCIB), when answering the question (a) <i>What could be done in order to bridge the generations and to engage the ones that are still to come?</i> said that the bridge of the gender divide needs a holistic approach with the engagement of the different stakeholders: private sector, government and civil society. She talked about a project for women between 18 and 20 years in which women have to think creatively to develop an application that address society needs. For her, this is an inspiring example how to understand computer

science and which can solve social problems. In the end of her participation, Wanner shared her professional experience, stressing the importance to reinvent yourself and good communication skills.

- Jennifer Chung, DotAsia, had two questions to answer: (a) *What are the main barriers encountered by women on the ICT field?* and (b) *what should be done to empower and engage young women regarding the Use of ICTs ?* During her intervention, she mentioned that girls are not encouraged to enroll in science, technology and mathematics (STEM) careers in the Asia-Pacific because the gender stereotypes and norms are a big barrier. Despite this, Chung believes in the empowerment that education can offer to women. She talked about the importance of having women role models like Kathy Brown (CEO of the Internet Society) and Alissa Cooper (chair of the Internet Engineering Task Force). In her speech, Chung said that the big dropout rate of women in the middle of a STEM career is caused as consequence of few women in leadership roles.

- Jackie Treiber, IcannWiki, on *How do women engage with and in with the Internet in order to provide meaningful insights on the way we see/perceive the relationship between women and tech?* emphasized the importance of proper female representation. Treiber said that one of the main challenges is to attract more women editors for Wiki projects. She said that women are not creating content in these platforms and reinforced the importance of doing that. Treiber discussed ICANNWiki and invited everyone to edit it, adding content about women that can be considered 'mothers of the Internet' in their regions or country .

- Louise Marie Hurel, Gender Youth, when addressing *Why the gender digital divide is still so pronounced even though all stakeholders know that it exists?* mentioned the work of the Best Practice forum on gender and Access and the narrative mapping work promoted in 2016. According to Hurel, mapping different initiatives that include women and young women around the world, shows that that young women in Latin America face some different challenges when it comes to the Internet. As a result a

	<p>Latin America Women's Declaration was launched. She said that to have women role models in the cybersecurity area was of great importance to her.</p> <p>- Heshadharani Poornima, 25 under 25 awardee, talked about her experience in Pakistan with the project Respect Girls on the Internet project in order to address the questions: <i>How can we create a safer Internet for women? How can we reassure the importance of freedom of expression online?</i> Poornima mentioned the importance of creating a safe space for women online. <i>She said that Asian women are not encouraged to express their opinion in the real world and it is more complicated on online platforms.</i> Poornima explained how the Respect Girls on Internet project in Sri Lanka worked with partners to make digital content on Internet safety available in local languages to ensure accessibility for all. <i>She said she is also working on the support of victims of cyber harassment, and developed a network of youth committed to preventing future harassment. She ended her participation by stressing the importance of spreading empathy to fight against hate speech on the Internet.</i></p>
<p>Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<p>After the four presentations, the panelists took questions from the audience.</p> <p>It is important to include men in the gender debate in order to avoid that some of us get protective when the gender issue comes up. Men also should be more inclusive of women in their own projects - on a local level-, and more sensitive to the women's claims. Using the proper language and keeping our minds open is also important when avoiding being disrespectful with a fellow colleague. We should also allow and enable women to take part in policy discussions by empowering them and supporting them through their academic career and afterwards in the employment field. Women should be able to choose what they are doing in the future.</p> <p>When one of the attendees commented on how the rooms at this IGF and industry are all male centred and full of older ppl in different stages of their careers, what gives her a hard</p>

	<p>time as a young women while navigating these rooms and meetings, Louise Marie answered that despite the fact that most of this IGF's attendance were men, there was a lot of great and inspiring women onsite. And we, as young women should not be afraid of approaching people and being judged. By getting our ideas flowing and saying whats on our minds is a way of making our way through this scenarios.</p> <p>The audience also pointed that women tend to have less solidarity with other women than men have with each other, while men have boys club we do not have or talk about the girls club. So women should form allyship and support each other to the same extend. Think about a group of professional women to network and share experiences with. Women also have a whether or not we chose to start a family, a burden that is located exclusively in the women's shoulders, men do not have to think about leaving a very important position in their careers in order to take care of the children when women do. Men should take into account the decisions their peer women have to take on a daily basis. Women should not step back when there's a dominant male in the room, a behaviour we normally adopt. It is already very hard to make our voices be heard and women should have an opinion on AI, or robotics or Cybersecurity as we have more influence in our daughters and sons careers. Last but not least, age was noted as another important thing throughout our lives - we tend respect older men but when a women is talking, she is normally direspected - we suffer from age much more than men do.</p>
<p>Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men should take into account the decisions their peer women have to take on a daily basis. - Men should also be concerned about how much space they take of a place and whether or not they should talk in a determined momennt. - Men should be able to ask women what are they good at, in order to enable them to take the spaces they should be empowered at. - Women should look up to female

	<p>groups in their local communities and network with them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More successful stories of women in the tech field should be shared in order to empower the newer generations.
--	--

Gender Reporting

<p>Estimate the overall number of the participant present at the session</p>	<p>There were approximately 60 people.</p>
<p>Estimate the overall number of women present at the session</p>	<p>There were approximately 50 women in the room.</p>
<p>To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?</p>	<p>The session was exclusively dedicated Gender Equality and Women's empowerment.</p>
<p>If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion</p>	<p>The workshop consisted on a exchange between generations of women in the tech field on the challenges faced by them and also on what should we do in order to empower our gender through the ICT field.</p>

