

Abstract. In the past two decades, the judiciary has undergone significant change, with rapidly rising numbers of women judges and prosecutors. The question is what effect this feminization of the profession has on decision making: Do female judges judge differently? Historically women had been kept out of the legal profession as it was feared that they were not rational and objective. Evaluations of court decisions have shown that, in principle, the sex of a judge does not influence the outcome of a case - with some exceptions which are however difficult to assess and measure. On the other hand it has to be asked whether judges take into account different needs of women and men. What about their overall gender awareness? Do judges need gender education?

The conclusions presented are based on Ulrike Schultz's work in Germany and an international comparative project on gender and judging

Bio

Ulrike Schultz is a lawyer and Senior Academic at the FernUniversität Hagen, Germany (the German distance-learning university). After heading the Law Faculty's Teaching and Learning Unit for thirty years, she has moved back into the law faculty specialising on questions of gender and law. Ulrike Schultz is active in many functions in the university's equal opportunity work, namely working as communication trainer for lawyers and the judiciary.

Her research in recent years has been focussed on women lawyers, women in leading positions of the judiciary and gender and careers in the legal academy, participating in many socio-legal projects, e.g. on legal ethics, legal education, study of the professions, critical legal thinking. She has published widely in all these fields; co-edited and co-authored books on women and law, images of women, women and demographic change, women's rights in Europe, namely *Women in the World's Legal Professions* (2003, ed. together with Gisela Shaw) and *Women in the Judiciary* (2012, ed. together with Gisela Shaw). Her current projects are *Women in Leading Positions of the Judiciary*, *Gender and Careers in the Legal Academy*, *Law and Gender*.