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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/wsifIntroduction: Gendered innovations in the social sciences[☆]Fiona Jenkins^a, Helen Keane^b, Claire Donovan^{c,*}^a School of Philosophy, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia.^b School of Sociology, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia.^c Division of Health Sciences, Department of Clinical Sciences, Brunel University London, Uxbridge, UB8 3PH Middlesex, United Kingdom.

This special issue of *Women's Studies International Forum* presents evidence that feminist approaches and gendered analysis are marginalised to a greater or lesser extent across most of the range of social science disciplines. Since the social sciences are concerned with the study of human society and social relationships, this leads to an impoverished and blinkered understanding of the social world within mainstream social science, and a consequent diminution of the value of feminist scholarship. Moreover, this marginalisation of feminist and gender scholarship has as one further consequence the reduction of opportunities for women's academic career progression in a world where citation counts matter.

How can these costs be demonstrated? Fiona Jenkins, Helen Keane and Claire Donovan introduce and extend the idea of gendered innovations, which was originally applied to STEM disciplines in the Stanford "Gendered Innovations" Project. This has sought to reveal how science is impoverished by sex and gender blindness in basic research design, via a series of case studies. As such, it offers a useful model and strategy. However, gendered innovations in the social sciences go beyond taking up sex and gender as analytic variables to be registered in empirical research, and engage in an extended critique of mainstream social science, contesting entrenched androcentric social ontologies, and reframing questions of economic and political interests. This entails that demonstrating the value of feminist and gender research and the costs of its neglect in disciplinary mainstreams must deal not just with empirical limitations but with the more politically challenging and charged obstacles posed by hegemonic perspectives in the social sciences. Moreover, the disagreements between diverse feminist perspectives and the complexities of tracking gender relations more broadly must also be registered.

The papers in this special issue share two common themes: (i) feminist and gender research reside in the periphery of all social science

disciplines, albeit to a greater or lesser extent; and (ii) there is a hard core of disciplinary knowledge that "normal" or "androcentric" science works to protect, which entails excluding feminist perspectives. It is by disrupting and permeating this hard core that gendered innovations have the potential to transform social science disciplines. Rebecca Pearse, James N. Hitchcock and Helen Keane document inequalities for women academics across all social science disciplines in editorial board membership for influential journals, and low recognition and citation of feminist research. They present evidence that the reception of feminist ideas in mainstream sociology and history is "strong", "modest" in international relations and political science, and "minimal" in economics and philosophy. There follow three case studies of gendered innovations in the more recalcitrant disciplines: political science (Laurel S. Weldon), economics (Paul Dalziel and Caroline Saunders) and philosophy (Catriona Mackenzie). These case studies amplify the themes above, and also make a further important point: that gendered innovations in the social sciences are typically underpinned by a commitment to impact, activism, and gender equality.

The papers in this special issue contribute to our understanding of gendered innovations in the social sciences and demonstrate that change is possible. We hope these examples will stimulate discussion and action. We are continuing to build this evidence base, and to work towards the transformation of all social science disciplines through fostering the impact of feminist and gendered research and offering evidence of its systemic under-valuation by disciplines that remain heavily male-dominated. Further evidence and case studies have been collected at our project website 'Gendered Excellence in the Social Sciences'¹ and we welcome contributions (please contact the editors of this special issue). We thank the Australian Research Council for its support of this project through a Discovery award and also our collaborator on the project, Professor Marian Sawer.

[☆] Introduction for special issue on Gendered Innovations in the Social Sciences, written by the guest editors.

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¹ <http://genderinstitute.anu.edu.au/gess-home>