

# Sexual harassment in academia

Preliminary conclusions and recommendations  
from an international research review

*Fredrik Bondestam*



The Secretariat has been a central actor in the area of gender research since 1998

We are currently carrying out assignments on behalf of national, Nordic and European actors

# — International research review

- Assignments from The Swedish Research Council and The Swedish Council for Higher Education
- 5 562 peer-reviewed texts on SH in Web of Science
- Published 1966-2018
- A report will be published in autumn 2018
- Co-worker: Maja Lundqvist, project coordinator at the Secretariat





“The unnamed should not be mistaken for the nonexistent.”

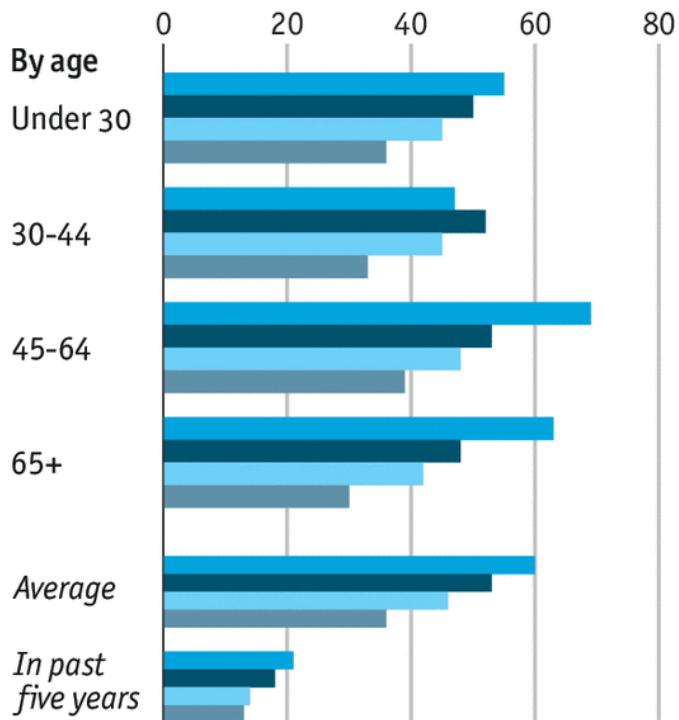
MacKinnon, C. 1979. *Sexual Harassment of Working Women: A Case of Sex Discrimination*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press., p. 28.

## Unwanted attention

*"Have you ever been sexually harassed by a man?"*

% of women responding "yes"

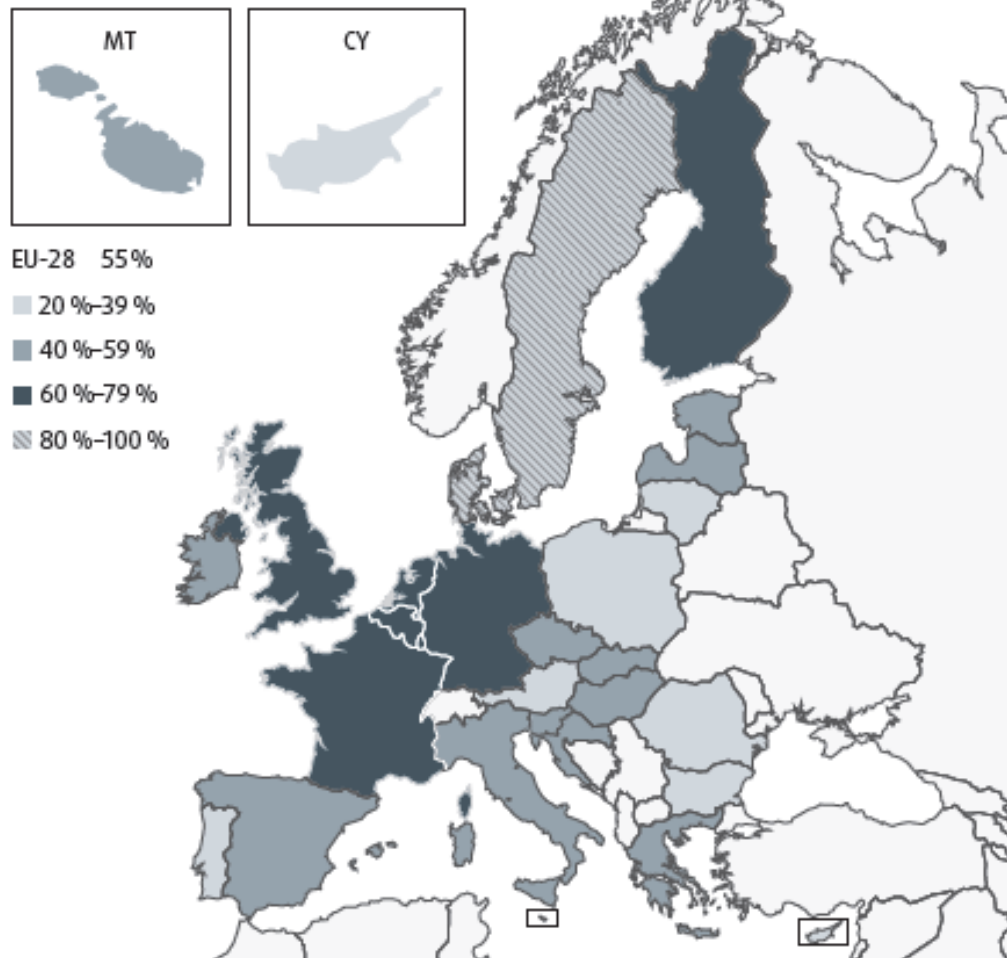
United States    Britain  
Germany    France



Source: YouGov

\* Surveys fielded Oct-Nov 2017

Figure 6.4: Prevalence of sexual harassment since the age of 15, EU-28 (%)



Source: FRA gender-based violence against women survey data et, 2012

# — Sexual harassment

EU28: 45 - 55% women in working life (Latcheva 2017)

US, HE: 4 - 99,4% women; 2 - 78% men (Bondestam & Lundqvist 2018)

SWE, HE: 2 - 52% women; 0 - 15% men (Bondestam & Lundqvist 2018)

Global: countries with laws on SH: 86,5% (World Bank 2018)  
1.5 billion women live in countries without sufficient laws in education

# — Preliminary conclusions...

- Victim: white, heterosexual, abled, middle class, woman student
- Perpetrator: (mainly a male) professor, head of dep, teacher, researcher, assistant, graduate student, undergrad student, doctor, nurse, patient, patients' boyfriend...and it's all online nowadays
- Consequences: fear, anger, stress, time-consuming coping strategies, dropouts, sick leave, health issues, career breaks, dysfunctional groups, unhealthy work environment, reduced efficiency, decreasing economy, unwanted pregnancy, HIV...
- Formal complaints are rare/insufficient, especially in HE outside US
- Policy and education does not seem to reduce prevalence

# — What to do in Nordic HE?

Admit fully that SH is at the very core of HE and working life...

...use 40 years of global research results as a point of departure...

...pinpoint the major reasons why SH occurs in HE, which is...

...men's violence against women, men, children, and others...

...beware in mind to use research-based, preventive measures...

...foremost systematic, educational bystander-programs for men...

...finance permanent employment contracts for academic women...

...listen carefully to all who experience SH and other forms of violence



Current Priorities and Future Challenges: Higher Education in the Nordic Region, June 13, 2018

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