

the status of women in spanish political science

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Abstract

This article incorporates and analyses some quantitative indicators relating to the status of women in the field of political science in Spain. These statistics are broken down according to the gender of undergraduates and Ph.D. dissertations, as well as the teaching staff in all Spanish political science departments. Likewise, in order to offer information concerning those working in this field, the gender gap of members and the executive board of the Spanish Association of Political Science is also included. Finally, the same gender breakdowns have been made for the scientific committees of the political science conferences held in Spain, and the authorship of articles published in the Spanish Journal of Political Science since its inception.

Keywords political science; gender gap; indicators at universities

INTRODUCTION

Political studies has a long tradition in Spain, but it was the democratic transformation of the political system from 1977 onwards that brought about the consolidation and institutionalisation of political science as a discipline in its own right. The return of democracy gave rise to numerous studies concerning the political and administrative changes through which Spain was going. These studies were undertaken by specialists acquainted with the perspectives of

political science in Britain, America, France and Germany and they were then applied in Spain. Until that time political science at various Spanish universities was linked to political and constitutional law, however from 1977 onwards it became more closely linked to sociology, and in many cases to public administration.

Sixteen state universities currently offer Political Science and Public Administration degrees and four private universities have joined the list in recent years. It is worth mentioning that political science in Spain is a subject typically associated with

universities and its importance in the working world outside education has primarily been to provide technical staff for the different tiers of the civil service. This means that outside the university world most people with degrees in political science work as civil servants.

This article incorporates tables of quantitative indicators relating to the field of political science in Spain. These statistics are broken down according to the gender of undergraduates and Ph.D. dissertations presented, as well as the teaching staff in political science departments at all universities where it is offered. Likewise, in order to offer information concerning those working in this field, the gender makeup of members of the Spanish Association of Political Science and Public Administration (AECPA in Spanish), as well as the executive board of this association and of the Professional Association of Graduates in Political Science and Sociology is listed. Finally, gender breakdowns are presented for the scientific committees of the state Political Science and Public Administration Conferences, held in Spain since 1994, and the authorship of articles published in the Spanish *Journal of Political Science* since it started in 1999. It is worth mentioning that all these statistics are closely interlinked: most teaching and research staff in political science belong to AECPA, which also organises the academic conferences and publishes the specialist journal.

Much of the data gathered here has come from the University Education Statistics, compiled annually by the Spanish Statistics Office, which contains detailed information for all Spanish universities, both public and private. Other sources have been the websites of all the departments of political science and of the aforementioned associations. Despite data limitations, we can consider that the available figures offer sufficient information to analyse the current gender ratio in Spanish political science.

POLITICAL SCIENCE IN SPAIN

Degree courses in political science were implemented at universities in the 1980s. This field of study has enjoyed close links with the study of Sociology or with Law, depending on the school in which the courses were established. Degree courses in political and administration sciences are offered by twenty Spanish universities, sixteen of which are state funded and the other four are private. In greater Madrid and Barcelona there are as many as six universities offering this degree (Table 1).

Changes were made to the curriculum of the political and administration sciences degree in order to adapt it to the demands of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The new curriculum was implemented in 2010.

Table 1: Universities that offer Political and Administration Science Degrees (2012)

Public state universities (16)

Autónoma de Barcelona
 Autónoma de Madrid
 Barcelona
 Carlos III
 Complutense de Madrid
 Granada
 Internacional de Catalunya
 Murcia
 Pablo Olavide de Sevilla
 País Vasco
 Pompeu Fabra
 Rey Juan Carlos
 Salamanca
 Santiago de Compostela
 UNED
 Valencia

Private universities (4)

Abat Oliba (CEU)
 Cardenal Herrera
 Oberta de Catalunya
 Pontificia de Comillas

Source: Spanish Statistics Office: Education statistics.

It now takes 4 years to complete the degree and consists of 240 credits, sixty per year. According to the guidelines, one credit equals 25–30 h of work by the student, divided between lectures (normally ten or so) and other activities like assignments or practical work. A common syllabus accounts for 144 of the 240 credits, and each individual university decides the rest of the content (Table 2).

QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS REGARDING THE RATIO OF WOMEN IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The figures show that women make up less than half of students enrolled in political science courses at universities in Spain, although at 45 per cent it is close to parity.

Comparing figures over the last 12 years, we can see that the ratio of women has slowly declined by almost nine points since 1998, when women made up 54.8 per cent of all students. In recent years, large-scale changes have been made to degree syllabi in Spain in order to adapt them to the specifications of the EHEA. At the same time, as an outcome of the

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crisis, there have been large cuts in public service vacancies. One of the main work opportunities for political science graduates is public administration, and in Spain women make up the majority of those employed in this sector. As a result of these circumstances and reforms, political science degrees do not count for as much as they used to, which has probably prompted fewer women to take them (Table 3).

While the proportion of female undergraduates has steadily declined, the figures contrast with the number Ph.D. theses passed. In the last 6 years, of the total of doctoral theses passed, the percentage written by women has increased from 39.6 to 49 per cent (Table 4).

The higher up the academic scale one goes, the greater the ratio of men to women (MEC, 2007). This phenomenon is also found in political science, where the percentage of women lecturing is very different from the percentage of female students.

Table 2: Political and Administration Science Degree common syllabus, according to subject area

Subject area	Credits	Percentage
Political science	42	29.2
Administration science and public policymaking	38	26.4
Law	20	13.9
Research methods and techniques	18	12.5
Others (Economy, Sociology, History)	26	18.1
Total	144	100

Source: Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación (Spanish National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation) 2005. White paper: *Títulos de Grado en Ciencias Políticas y de la Administración, Sociología y Gestión y Administración Pública* (Degrees in Political and Administration Science; Sociology; Public Policy and Management).

Table 3: Students enrolled on Political and Administration Science Degrees at Spanish universities by sex (1998–2011)

Year	Total	Women	Women (%)	Men	Men (%)
1998/1999	11,147	6,109	54.8	5,038	45.2
1999/2000	11,352	6,102	53.7	5,250	46.3
2000/2001	11,444	5,985	52.3	5,459	47.7
2001/2002	10,332	5,388	52.2	4,944	47.8
2002/2003	10,697	5,486	51.3	5,211	48.7
2003/2004	10,600	5,270	49.7	5,330	50.3
2004/2005	10,306	5,036	48.9	5,270	51.1
2005/2006	11,282	5,452	48.3	5,830	51.7
2006/2007	11,159	5,425	48.6	5,734	51.4
2007/2008	11,474	5,565	48.5	5,909	51.5
2008/2009	11,348	5,264	46.4	6,084	53.6
2009/2010	16,363	7,397	45.2	8,966	54.8
2010/2011	12,430	5,595	45.0	6,835	55.0

Source: Spanish Statistics office: Education statistics.

Table 4: Political science doctoral theses passed by sex (2005–2011)

Year	Total	Women	Women %	Men	Men %
2005/06	139	55	39.6	84	60.4
2006/07	315	145	46.0	170	54.0
2007/08	127	69	54.3	58	45.7
2008/09	122	56	45.9	66	54.1
2009/10	149	65	43.6	84	56.4
2010/11	157	77	49.0	80	51.0

Source: Spanish Statistics Office: Education statistics.

In this field, men form the majority of teaching staff in almost all the universities, and the gender gap here can be quite striking.

Following Izquierdo's (1999) classification, in what follows, Spanish university departments have been categorised in three groups, according to staff makeup by sex: feminised, intermediate and masculinised.

- *Feminised*: Departments where at least half the staff are women. These include Salamanca University (62.5 per cent women), the Open University of Catalonia and Rey Juan Carlos University (both 50 per cent).

- *Intermediate*: Departments where the proportion of women to men is at least 30:70. This is the most usual case in the universities under review.

- *Masculinised*: Departments where the presence of women is palpably below average (less than 26 per cent, in fact). Another distinction can be made here, depending on the departments' size: low female presence is even more striking in departments with larger staffs, where it would have been easier to take on more women. This is the case in the universities of Santiago, País Vasco, Pompeu Fabra and Valencia (Table 5).

The ratio of men to women in each of the different categories of teaching staff is

also of interest. Women currently account for a third of the total staff.

In the above table, both the column and row percentages are worthy of attention, as they give us two different angles regarding the gender makeup of the various categories. Analysis of the row percentages shows the distribution of women and men in professional categories. We can observe that the smallest group is that of full professor. And in the case of women, just 2.5 per cent reach this rank. The distribution of tenured and associate lecturers is similar, 25–30 per cent of the total for each sex, while there is a significant divergence regarding assistant and temporary lecturers, with 28.3 per cent of women in this category and 18.5 per cent of men.

The column percentages allow us to see the gender ratio in each category. Although it is true that full professors make up just a small proportion of

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teaching staff, the fact is that 92.7 per cent of them are men and just 7.3 per cent women. The reason so often given for this imbalance is that it is only in recent times that women have entered academia. Sustaining this justification is difficult however if we look at a ratio commonly quoted: the ratio of tenured lecturers to full professors. Currently, there is a full professor for every 1.6 tenured lecturers among men, while for women it is one for every 12. These figures also show that 63.9 per cent of tenured lecturer posts are held by men. Thus it can be said that men occupy the most stable, esteemed and best paid positions in academia (Table 6).

Another significant indicator of the presence of women in Spanish political

Table 5: Women university lecturers in political science departments in Spanish Universities (2012)

	Total	Women	Women %
Feminised (≥50%)			
Salamanca	8	5	62.5
Oberta de Catalunya	28	14	50.0
Rey Juan Carlos	20	10	50.0
Intermediate (50%-30%)			
UNED	21	10	47.6
Internacional de Catalunya	30	13	43.3
Murcia	14	6	42.9
Autónoma de Barcelona	36	13	36.1
Autónoma de Madrid	23	8	34.8
Complutense de Madrid	63	21	33.3
Granada	30	10	33.3
Carlos III	22	7	31.8
Barcelona	48	15	31.3
Masculinised (<30%)			
Santiago de Compostela	31	8	25.8
País Vasco	20	5	25
Pompeu Fabra	32	8	25
Valencia	39	9	23.1
Cardenal Herrera	26	5	19.2
Pablo Olavide	12	1	8.3
TOTAL	503	168	33.4

Source: websites of the departments.

Table 6: Teaching staff in Spanish State University Political Science Departments according to category and sex (2012)

	Total		Women		Men		
	<i>N</i>	Row (%)	Column (%)	<i>N</i>	Row (%)	Column (%)	
(Full) Professors	55	4	7.3	2.5	51	92.7	15.5
Tenured lecturer posts	133	48	36.1	30.2	85	63.9	25.8
Associate lecturers	150	46	30.7	28.9	104	69.3	31.5
Assistant and temporary lecturers	106	45	42.5	28.3	61	57.5	18.5
Others	45	16	35.6	10.1	29	64.4	8.8
Total	489	159	32.5	100	330	67.5	100

Source: Spanish Statistics Office: Education statistics.

science and public administration is related to the various professional associations that exist. This next section deals with data concerning the Spanish Political Science and Public Administration Association (AECPA) and the Professional Association of Graduates in Political Science and Sociology.

The AECPA has 649 members, of which 245 are women, 37.8 per cent of the total. The overriding male presence is comparable to that of university lecturers. Although there are also research staff and professionals from other fields, we should remember that the bulk of AECPA members are also university lecturers (Table 7).

Regarding the management board of the AECPA, there are more women (eight) than men (seven). With the executive team of the Professional Association of Graduates in Political Science and Sociology, this is reversed and of the twelve board members, five are women. Both associations have a male president and one has a female vice-president (Table 8).

It is also worth mentioning some data regarding AECPA-organised political science conferences. To date they have coordinated eleven state-wide conferences in Spain, and 113 individuals have participated in the scientific committees.

Table 7: AECPA members by sex (2013)

Total	649
Women	245
Women (%)	37.8
Men	404
Men (%)	62.2

Source: AECPA website.

Of these, twenty-five have been women; 22.1 per cent of the total (Table 9).

289 working groups have been organised at these conferences as they started. Twelve have been related to gender research, or just 4.2 per cent. Two of the eleven conferences have ignored the matter (Table 10).

Finally, the *Revista Española de Ciencia Política (RECP)* – the Spanish Journal of Political Science – was created by the AECPA in 1999. Of 188 articles in its twenty-seven editions, fifty-nine (31.4 per cent) were written by women.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO PROMOTE EQUALITY

Women teachers and researchers from Spanish universities have worked within the framework of AECPA to promote

Table 8: Professional Association of Graduates in Political Science and Sociology and AECPA Management Boards by sex (2014)

	Total	Women	Women (%)	Men	Men (%)
<i>Professional association</i>	12	5	41.7	7	58.3
President (male)					
Vice-president (female)					
<i>AECPA</i>	15	8	53.3	7	46.7
President (male)					
Vice-presidents (two male)					

Source: AECPA and Professional Association websites.

Table 9: Conference Scientific Committees by sex of AECPA (1994–2013)

	Total	Women	Women (%)	Men	Men (%)
1994	11	1	9.1	10	90.9
1996	15	1	6.7	14	93.3
1997	13	2	15.4	11	84.6
1998	12	1	8.3	11	91.7
2001	11	0	0.0	11	100.0
2003	8	2	25.0	6	75.0
2005	8	2	25.0	6	75.0
2007	9	4	44.4	5	55.6
2009	9	4	44.4	5	55.6
2011	9	4	44.4	5	55.6
2013	8	4	50.0	4	50.0
Total	113	25	22.1	89	77.9

Source: AECPA website.

Table 10: Number of Gender Research Working Groups at AECPA Conferences (1994–2013)

	Total	Gender
1994	—	0
1996	—	0
1997	—	1
1998	32	3
2001	26	0
2003	22	1
2005	29	1
2007	28	1
2009	35	2
2011	48	1
2013	69	2
Total	289	12

Source: AECPA website.

gender research and assist women in political science. These professionals have gradually consolidated themselves into an informal grouping through their participation in gender research working parties at conferences organised by AECPA since 1997.

The first coordinated action aimed at increasing the number of women in the association was for the 2009 election of the management board. The group lobbied hard for the election of women who had presented themselves as candidates. As a result, the current executive team is, for the first time, composed of more women (eight) than men (seven).

Subsequently, this group of political scientists proposed the creation of a

standing group within AECPA, however they failed to get authorisation from the management board who alleged this kind of body did not exist. In any event, the group continued working informally. They were behind the setting up of a keynote debate on political science from the gender perspective at the following AECPA conference in 2011. Two male professors and two female tenured lecturers took part, and for the first time gender research was the object of debate at a keynote session, going beyond the limits of the specialised workshops.

Another undertaking initiated by this group in 2010 was a project called 'Including the gender perspective into Political Science'. This was done as part of a redrafting of the Political Science degree

syllabus. Gender studies will now be introduced into some of the subjects on the new syllabus and new teaching material is being prepared in order to facilitate this.

The group worked together with the European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) Standing Group on Gender and Politics to organise the third European Conference on Politics and Gender that was held in Barcelona in March 2013.

CONCLUSION

As shown by the data in this report, the proportion of women in the field of political science in Spain has crossed the critical mass threshold, accounting for more than a third in the different areas under analysis (Table 11).

In respect of political science teaching and research staff, there are to date, no studies or data in existence that detail the importance of variables such as age or having to care for children in order to gauge the influence of family responsibilities. Nor are there statistics regarding part-time work or working reduced hours. However, what is clear from the data available is that the employment situation for women is less stable as they occupy lower grade and less permanent positions. The key here is a scarcity of female

Table 11: Data summary: Percentage of women in Political Science in Spain (2011–2013)

Sphere	Women (%)
Undergraduates	45.0
Doctoral thesis passes	49.0
Teaching staff	32.5
Full professors	7.3
AECPA members	37.8

Source: Spanish Statistics Office: Education statistics, AECPA website.

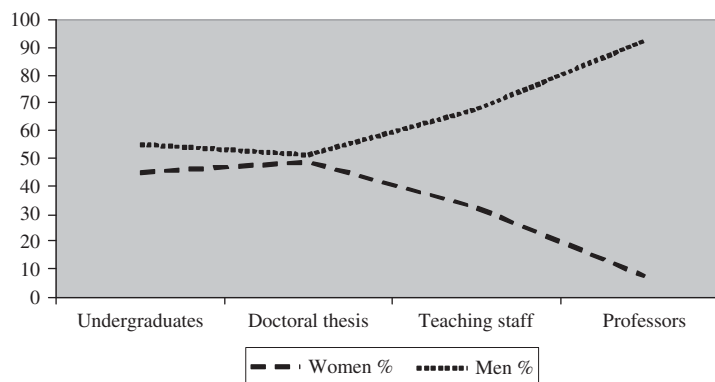


Figure 1 Percentage of women and men at different academic levels (2012).

Source: Spanish Statistics Office: Education statistics.

political science professors. As in many other disciplines, the percentage of women decreases substantially from lower and intermediate academic levels to the highest position, that of professor (Figure 1).

Bearing in mind the criteria considered necessary to gain the post of full professor, it would be particularly useful to have figures that shed light on other important questions regarding the differences between male and female political scientists in Spain. For instance, in order to achieve a deeper analysis of the status of women in Spanish political science, but which is beyond the scope of this article, it would be useful to have a breakdown according to gender of publicly funded research teams, as well as research team leaders. These are fundamental issues, as scientific papers are based on research, and both points are key to achieving the rank of professor. It would also be of great interest to be in possession of information regarding male and female mobility, grants applied for and conferred by the

'The key here is a scarcity of female political science professors'.

candidates. Similarly, research project and doctoral thesis supervisors should also be taken into account.

The role of the recently created equality offices at Spanish universities should also be noted. The first of these units was set up in 2004, in order to defend the principle of equality between men and women. Legislation was passed in Spain in 2007 establishing the compulsory creation of units or structures to guarantee the principle of equality at universities. Since then the number of offices has burgeoned and nowadays it is rare to find a university without one. Considering their remit, these units could play a fundamental part in developing mentoring or assessment and assistance programs in young women's career development.

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