CURRICULUM VITAE

I. General Information

1.1. Name: O’Dorchai, Síle Pádraigín
1.2. Sex: Female
1.3. Children: 2 (Simon and Lara)
1.4. Place and date of birth: Antwerp, 09/06/1975
1.5. Nationality: Belgian
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1.9. Languages: Dutch (mother tongue), English (father’s language), French (excellent), Russian (good), Polish (good), German (passive only)
1.10. N° carte SIS: 1189976600
1.11. N° NISS: 750609 392 82

II. Educational career

2.1. Ph.D. in Economics
Doctoral programme of the Department for Applied Economics (DULBEA) Université Libre de Bruxelles, 2007 (January)

Title: “Family, work and welfare states in Europe: Women’s juggling with multiple roles - A series of empirical essays”

Supervisor: Prof. Danièle Meulders (ULB)

Members of the Jury: Prof. Jacques Le Cacheux (OFCE and Université de Pau), Prof. Robert Plasman (ULB), Prof. François Rycx (ULB), Prof. Maria Jepsen (ULB and ETUI), Prof. Catherine Dehon (ULB)

2.2. Master (DEA) in Economics (Economic policy)
Doctoral programme of the Department for Applied Economics (DULBEA) Université Libre de Bruxelles, 2005.

Thesis of the Master: “The comparative effectiveness of public policies to fight motherhood-induced employment penalties and decreasing fertility in the former EU-15”.

Supervisor: Prof. Khalid Sekkat (ULB)

2.3. Bachelor’s degree in Economics (specialisation: public economics), score: grande distinction, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 2001.


### III. Professional experience

3.1. **Assistant professor (maître de conférences)** at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, October 2010 –

3.2. **Post-doctoral mandate** at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, October 2008 – September 2010

3.3. **Post-doctoral research programme** at the Observatoire Français des Conjonctures Economiques (OFCE), Paris, 2008

*Title*: « Les femmes sur le marché du travail - Les faiblesses spécifiques dans 8 pays représentatifs de l’Union Européenne » / « Women on the labour market – Specific weaknesses in eight countries representing the European Union »


*Co-author*: Hélène Périvier (OFCE)

3.4. **Research fellow** at DULBEA-ETE, Department of Applied Economics of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (DULBEA), Unit of Labour and Employment Economics. Since September 2001.

3.5. **Substitute professor** for the course “Politiques européennes de l’emploi / Emploi et politique sociale en Europe (POLI-D-427-T0 and SOCA-D-548)” by Professor Meulders, Université Libre de Bruxelles, September 2007 – August 2008.


### IV. Teaching experience

4.1. **Relations collectives de travail dans le « non-marchand »** (SOCA-D-542), 3 ECTS, Faculté des sciences sociales et politiques, Université Libre de Bruxelles. October 2010 –

4.2. **Fondements et enjeux socio-économiques des organismes non marchands** (SOCA-D-541), 3 ECTS, Faculté des sciences sociales et politiques, Université Libre de Bruxelles. October 2010 –

4.3. **Diagnostic et gestion de projets** (SOCA-D-544), 3 ECTS, Faculté des sciences sociales et politiques, Université Libre de Bruxelles. October 2010 –

4.4. **Séminaire : Dimension européenne de la politique de l’emploi dans le tiers secteur** (GEST-D-539), 3 ECTS, Faculté des sciences sociales et politiques, Université Libre de Bruxelles. October 2010 –
V. Scientific experience

5.1. Main Research Contracts

- “Inventaire et analyse des données ventilées par sexe et des indicateurs de genre au niveau fédéral belge” (2012-2013), a research project carried out for the Belgian Institute for equality of women and men. The aim of this research is to analyse the degree to which gender is taken into account in all the statistics and indicators assembled and published by the Belgian federal public services, through Belgian surveys and in Belgian administrative data sources. The analysis of the gender bias in these statistics has led to the formulation of recommendations to improve the gender dimension in the collection, treatment and dissemination of data in Belgium.

- “She Figures 2012” (2011-2012) – This is an update of previous She Figures (cfr. She Figures 2009 below).

- « European indicators of migrant integration » (2012), a research project for the European Commission realized in collaboration with the Migration Policy Group, the European Service Network, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and other scientific experts: Dirk Jacobs (GERME), Pierre Desmarez (METICES) and Andrea Rea (GERME, MAM). The aim is to organise a series of European reports and seminars around the new European indicators of migrant integration in order to analyse whether the different integration realities in the EU Member States are the result of different integration and migration policies, different immigrant populations, and/or different general contexts and policies. The project will also improve how the European indicators of migrant integration capture and monitor the specific outcomes of integration policies.

- “Euro-Mediterranean research cooperation on gender and science: SHE Euro-Mediterranean Research Area (SHEMERA)” (2011-2013). The overall objective of this research project is to enhance research cooperation on gender and science between the European Union and the Mediterranean countries. It aims at better understanding the roots of gender inequality in science in this geographical area, taking into account cultural diversities and traditions and at analysing how the Mediterranean countries are addressing the issue of gender and science. It assesses
gender equality from a twofold perspective: the representation of women in scientific research and technological development and the integration of the gender dimension in research policy. The project includes a state of the art description of the problem, data collection and relevant comparative analysis on gender and science in all Mediterranean countries, focusing on three key themes: statistics on women in science, gender equality policies and research on gender inequalities in science careers. Results will be made accessible to the research community and policy makers via an online database, publishable reports and workshops. With the overall purpose of enhancing networking and steering policy-making on gender and science in the years to come, the project will develop recommendations for policy-makers aimed at enhancing the presence of women in scientific research and technological development at all levels and ensuring a better integration of the gender dimension in research policy. The Mediterranean countries included in the proposal are the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs), i.e. the Mediterranean countries included in the list of International Co-operation Partner Countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian-administered areas, Syrian Arab Republic, and Tunisia.

- “Inégalités entre femmes et hommes dans les universités de la Communauté française de Belgique (GENIUF)” (2011), a research project for the ministerial cabinets of Minister Marcourt, Minister for Higher Education and of Minister Laanan, Minister for Equal Opportunities in the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles. This project aimed at analysing the evolution in the student population over the last decade in the French-speaking universities of Belgium as well as the representation of women at the different levels of the academic career in order to test the assumption of an automatic move towards gender equality in academia. It was also interested in mapping and analysing both the causes of observed gender disparities and possible policy responses to correct them.

- “Analysis of the gender pay gap in the EU-27”, a research project commissioned by the Institute for equality of women and men in preparation of the Belgian presidency of the EU (July-December 2010). The objective of this project was to establish a European report on the gender wage gap based on 2006 data from the European Structure of Earnings Survey that is analogous to the annual reports for Belgium (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011) published by the Institute for equality of women and men on the occasion of the Equal Pay Day.

- “Meta-analysis of gender and science research”, a three-year research project of the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Commission that ended in the fall of 2010. The objectives of the study were to: Provide an exhaustive overview and analysis of all research carried out on gender and science at European, national, and regional levels; Make the study results accessible to researchers and policy-makers via publishable reports and an informed bibliography available in a database; Steer future policy-making on gender and science and define future research priorities within the Seventh Framework Programme, in particular through good practice examples and gap analysis in the various research topics. The study covered the 27 EU Member States as well as the Associated States to the Seventh Framework Programme (Norway, Iceland, Israel, Switzerland, Turkey, and Croatia). The inventory covered research produced in all European languages, from 1980 to 2006.

- “Evaluation of the effectiveness of the current legal framework on equal pay for equal work or work of equal value in tackling the gender pay gap (EQPA)”, a research commissioned by the DG Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission and carried out by Particip (Germany) in collaboration with scientific experts. The final report was published at the end of 2009.
• “She Figures 2009” (August 2008 – June 2009) - The objective of this project was to continue previous methodological developments and data gathering and processing so as to yield the statistics and indicators necessary for monitoring the progress towards gender equality in science. More concretely, the necessary sex-disaggregated data were collected and the indicators were computed that were needed for the 2009 She Figures publication of the Scientific Culture and Gender Issues Unit of the Directorate General Research and Technological Developments of the European Commission. The data were collected for the 27 EU Member States plus Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey from the early nineties until 2007 or the latest data available.

• Coordinator of the project “Belgian Gender and Income Analysis (BGIA)” (September 2007 - December 2009), AGORA research project financed by the Federal Public Service for Scientific Policy.
This was a joint research with the Institute for equality of women and men (Institut pour l’égalité des femmes et des hommes), the Federal Public Service for Scientific Policy (la Politique scientifique fédérale) and the Directorate general for Statistics and economic Information (Direction générale des Statistiques et de l’Information économique). The aim of this project was to provide an in-depth analysis at the individual level of the comparative income and poverty situation of women and men in Belgium on the basis of the different data sources available (EU-SILC 2005, ESES, Enquête belge sur le budget des ménages and fiscal data). New methods and indicators were developed and a “gender and income” database was constructed to facilitate and encourage future research on the topic.

• Support to Eurostat (subcontractor: Sogeti, Luxembourg) for the production of 10 Statistics in Focus and especially a statistical Panorama publication about the reconciliation between work, private and family life in the European Union. The panorama publication was published in 2009.

• The project “Public policies towards employment of parents and social inclusion (PEPSI)” (December 2005 – December 2008), a research sponsored by the Federal Public Service for Scientific Policy under the pluri-annual research programme “Society and Future” (2005-2010). My contribution to this project focused on examining the wage gap between men and women, mothers and non-mothers, and between mothers and fathers. The wage gap between mothers and non-mothers was thoroughly analysed along the wage distribution using quantile regression techniques. I also contributed to the analysis of leave policies throughout Europe.

• « The Rationale of Motherhood Choices: Influence of Employment Conditions and of Public Policies (MOCHO) ». This project was part of the Key Action « Improving Human Research Potential and the Socio-economic Knowledge Base » of the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Commission. It was a three-year project that started on the 1st of October 2001 and ran until the 1st of October 2004. The final synthesis report is available on the project’s website: http://www.ulb.ac.be/soco/mocho

• Assistance to Danièle Meulders who represents Belgium in the European Network of Experts on Gender Equality (ENEGE) of the European Commission. This group carries out a yearly assessment of the National Reform Programme for Employment from a gender point of view. Each year, we also write a national thematic report (“the costs of non-gender equality”, “Making work pay”, “the gender wage gap”, etc.) and on a quarterly basis we evaluate the labour market indicators and trends from a gender perspective as well as newly announced or implemented policy changes to promote gender equality.
“Women in industrial research” (December 2001 – June 2003). The aim of the final report we have written was to provide a complete analysis of the issue of women in industrial research, as well as of the obstacles they encounter as their career develops and how they can overcome them. Thanks to the efforts made by the DG Research Women and Science unit, for the first time official data were made available. A literature review at the European and international levels has been carried out as well as two kinds of analysis: (i) quantitative and (ii) qualitative. Good practices and recommendations have also been gathered in order to help in the construction of actions to improve the current situation of women in industrial research.


« Fiscalité du tabac : évaluation des effets sur la consommation et les recettes fiscales » – a research requested by Rudy Demotte, Minister of Social Affairs and of Public Health (March 2004)

5.2. Studies abroad

- 2 months at University of St.-Petersburg, 1995

VI. Publications and Scientific Activities

6.1. Publications

6.1.1. Collectively written publications (with referee procedure)


GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GENDER, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EMPLOYMENT (2006)

GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GENDER, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EMPLOYMENT (2006)

GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GENDER, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EMPLOYMENT (2005)


6.1.2. Articles in international scientific journals (with referee procedure)


6.1.3. Articles in national scientific journals (with referee procedure)


6.1.4. Working papers


6.1.5 Research reports

• MEULDERS D., S. O’DORCHAI, S. AVANZO et S. CLESSE (2013), Inventaire et analyse des données ventilées par sexe et des indicateurs de genre au niveau fédéral belge, final report of a research project carried out for the Institute for equality of women and men, 366p.

• MEULDERS D. and S. O’DORCHAI, (2011), After-school care facilities and reconciliation of work and family life, report by the European Commission’s Network of Experts in the fields of Employment and Gender equality issues (EGGE) for the Equal Opportunities Unit, DG Employment.

• MEULDERS D. and S. O’DORCHAI, (2011), The impact of the crisis and macro-economic policies on the labour market and social situation of women and men, report by the European Commission’s Network of Experts in the fields of Employment and Gender equality issues (EGGE) for the Equal Opportunities Unit, DG Employment.


MARON L., E. MARTINEZ, D. MEULDERS and S. O’DORCHAI, (2008), Gender segregation in the labour market: roots, implications and policy responses in Belgium, report by the European Commission’s Network of Experts in the fields of Employment and Gender equality issues (EGGE) for the Equal Opportunities Unit, DG Employment.

MEULDERS D. and S. O’DORCHAI, (2008), The provision of childcare services in Belgium, report by the European Commission’s Network of Experts in the fields of Employment and Gender equality issues (EGGE) for the Equal Opportunities Unit, DG Employment.


6.1.6. Publications in conference proceedings


6.2. Scientific activities

6.2.1. Presentations at conferences, colloquia, seminars and workshops

• Conference “L’égalité salariale et professionnelle” organised by the CSC (Confederation of Christian Trade Unions), Brussels, December 5, 2013.
  **Paper presented:** O’DORCHAI S. (2013) « Le genre face à la crise et perspectives pour l’avenir”

• Conference “Genderkloof in werk, loopbaan en familie” organised by the Flemish Minister for Equal Opportunities Pascal Smet and the Flemish Minister for Work Philippe Muyters, Muntpunt, Brussels, November 28, 2013.
  **Paper presented:** O’DORCHAI S. (2013) “Gender, ouderschap en werk: De uitdagingen voor het Belgisch beleid in het licht van de situatie in Europa”

• Seminar organised by the Maison de l’Emploi d’Uccle on "Etre une femme sur le marché de l’Emploi, comment?”, Centre Culturel d’Uccle, November 6, 2013
  **Paper presented:** O’DORCHAI S. (2013) “ Les inégalités entre femmes et hommes sur les marchés du travail européens”

• ETUC Women’s Committee Meeting, International Trade Union House, Brussels, 8 – 9 October 2013
  **Paper presented:** O’DORCHAI S. (2013) “Gender in the crisis and prospects for the future”
• LERA-IAFFE session at the 2013 ASSA/AEA annual conference, January 4-6, 2013 in San Diego, California, USA.

**Paper presented:** MEULDERS D. and S. O’DORCHAI (2011) “The working poor: too low wage or too many kids?”

• 23rd Annual conference of the European Association of Labour Economists (EALE), Pafos, Cyprus, September 22-24, 2011

**Paper presented:** MEULDERS D. and S. O’DORCHAI (2011) “The working poor: too low wage or too many kids?”


**Paper presented:** MEULDERS D. and S. O’DORCHAI (2010) “Divided we stand, united we fall – A good society needs an individual poverty measure”

• 2nd Equal is not enough conference on “Challenging differences and inequalities in contemporary societies”, Antwerp, December 1-3, 2010

**Paper presented:** MEULDERS D. and S. O’DORCHAI (2010) “Who are the working poor in Europe: The importance of concepts and definitions”

• “Sur la corde raide – Précarités: Enjeux et réflexions au féminin”, colloquium organised by Femmes Prévoyantes Socialistes, Brussels, June 4, 2010


• 2010 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, March 18-21


• Annual IAFFE Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, June 26-28, 2009


• 14th annual meeting of the Society of Labor Economists (SOLE), Boston, May 8-9, 2009

**Paper presented:** O’DORCHAI S. (2008) “Do women gain or lose from becoming mothers? A comparative wage analysis in 20 European countries” (presented as a poster)

• First EU-Microdata User-conference, Mannheim, March 6-7, 2009


• Séminaire "Genre" de l'Université de Paris, Centre d’Economie de la Sorbonne (CES), Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, March 1-2, 2009


• “Parentalité et emploi – Un défi pour les politiques publiques”, conference organised by the Groupement de recherche européen du CNRS – Marché du travail et genre en Europe (MAGE) in collaboration with the Département d’économie appliquée of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (DULBEA) and the Unit Politiques et Services à l’Enfance of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB-ESP), Brussels, 18 December, 2008.

- « Les discriminations sur le marché de l'emploi en Wallonie, face visible d'un système inégalitaire, un défi pour la FGTB », conference organised by the CEPAG, Brussels, 8 December 2008

Paper presented: O’DORCHAI S. (2008) ”L’écart salarial de genre: une question de capital humain, de caractéristiques d'entreprise ou de discrimination?”

- 2008 IAFFE Summer Conference, Torino, June 19 – 21


- 35th CEIES Seminar “New family relationships and living arrangements - demands for change in social statistics”, Warsaw, January 24-25, 2008


- “50 ans d’économie appliquée au service de la société”, conference organised by DULBEA (ULB), Brussels, October 11-12, 2007


- 12th Annual Meeting of the Society of Labor Economists (SOLE), Chicago (USA), May 4-5, 2007


- American Economic Association (AEA) Conference, Chicago, United States, January 5-7, 2007

As member of IAFFE, I helped organise a special IAFFE session on Parenthood and work in Europe and in the US at this conference


- Annual EALE Conference, Prague, Czech Republic, 21-23 September 2006.


- International conference on The rationale of parenthood choices / Analyse des choix parentaux, hosted by the Applied Econometrics Association (AEA), Pau, France, March 4-5, 2005


- International conference on The rationale of parenthood choices / Analyse des choix parentaux, hosted by the Applied Econometrics Association (AEA), Pau, France, March 4-5, 2005


13th IAFFE International Annual Conference on Feminist economics, St. Hilda’s College, Oxford, England, August 5-7, 2004


12th IAFFE International Annual Conference on Feminist economics, University of the west Indies, Cave Hill Campus St. Michael, Barbados, West Indies, June 27-29, 2003


« Marché du Travail et Genre dans les Pays du Maghreb : Spécificités, points communs et synergies avec l’Europe », colloquium organised by MAGE, INSEA and DULBEA, Rabat, April 11-12, 2003


« EU-Enlargement and Social Cohesion », international conference organised by the thematic network EPOC (Improvement of Economic Policy Coordination for Full Employment and Social Cohesion in Europe), Budapest, March 7-9, 2003


6.2.2. **Invitations as a speaker (excl. conferences and colloquia)**

- Invitation to present She Figures 2009 in a GENDERA workshop, Athens, 23 November 2011.

- Invitation to give a lecture on the gender wage gap for the Commission on Gender Equality of the Belgian Senate, Palais des Nations, Brussels, June 28, 2006.

**papers presented**:

- MEULDERS D. and R. PLASMAN (2006) « Les inégalités salariales de genre:
expliquer l'injustifiable ou justifier l'inexplicable »


### 6.2.3. Referee Reports for Scientific Journals


- Referee report for *Transfer* concerning the article “Absence from work among women employees in Sweden” (May 2009)

- Referee report for *Brussels Economic Review/Cahiers Economiques de Bruxelles* concerning the article “The welfare of poorer elderly in Belgium and the Netherlands” (April 2010)

- Referee report for *Brussels Economic Review/Cahiers Economiques de Bruxelles* concerning the article “Poor old grandmas? A note on the gender dimension of pension reforms” (May 2010)

- Referee report for *Feminist Economics* concerning the article “The gendered nature of poverty in the European Union: A comment to Bärcena-Martìn and Moro-Egido” (November 2013)

### 6.2.4. Editorial Boards

- Member of the scientific committee and editorial board of Brussels Economic Review / Cahiers Economiques de Bruxelles (2006-)

- Managing editor of Brussels Economic Review / Cahiers Economiques de Bruxelles (2011-)

### 6.2.5. Member of Dissertation Committees

- Nesrine El Imayem, ongoing (supervisor: Robert Plasman)
- Hafsatou Diallo, ongoing (supervisor: Robert Plasman)
- Sébastien Avanzo, ongoing (supervisor: Mejed Hamzaoui)
- François Ghesquière, ongoing (supervisor: Pierre Desmarez)
- Pierre Artois, ULB, ongoing (supervisor: Mejed Hamzaoui)
- Stephan Kampelmann, ULB et Université de Lille 1 (Ph.D. defended in May 2011, Supervisors: F. Rycx et F. Jany-Catrice).

### VII. Other Responsibilities

#### 7.1. Organisation of Conferences and Workshops

- “Femmes et universités”, organised by Danièle Meulders and Síle O’Dorchai (ULB), Brussels, 10 March 2014 (theme: Travail et genre dans le monde - L’état des savoirs).
- “Femmes et universités”, organised by Danièle Meulders and Síle O’Dorchai (ULB), Brussels, 7 March 2013.
- “Femmes et universités”, final conference of the project « Les inégalités entre femmes et hommes dans les universités francophones de Belgique (GENIUF) », organised by
Danièle Meulders and Síle O’Dorchai (ULB), Brussels, 7 March 2012.

- « Beyond the leaky pipeline. Challenges for research on gender and science », final conference of the project « Meta-analysis of gender and science research », organised as an event of the Belgian presidency of the EU by DULBEA (ULB, Bruxelles) and CIREM (Barcelona) in collaboration with the Institut pour l’égalité des femmes et des hommes, Brussels, 19-20 octobre 2010.
- “50 ans d’économie appliquée au service de la société”, conference organised by DULBEA (ULB), Brussels, October 11-12, 2007
- American Economic Association (AEA) Conference, Chicago, United States, January 5-7, 2007: As member of IAFFE, I helped organise a special IAFFE session on Parenthood and work in Europe and in the US at this conference

7.2. Member of Scientific Committees of Conferences

- Member of the Organisation Committee and of the Scientific Committee of the AEA international conference on “The Rationale of Parenthood Choices”, held at the University of Pau, March 4-5, 2005.

7.3. Member of scientific associations

- Since 2001, member of the International Association For Feminist Economics (IAFFE).
- Since 2004, member of the American Economic Association (AEA)
- Since 2006, member of Applied Econometrics Association (AEA)
- Since 2009, member of Society of Labor Economists (SOLE)
- Since 2011, member of the European Association of Labour Economists (EALE)

7.4. Administrative Responsibilities at the ULB

- December 2003 – December 2004: effective representative of the scientific personnel in the faculty board of the Institut des sciences du travail

7.5. Expert or consultant activities

In the period 2011-2013, I participated in an expert group for the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) situated in Vilnius (Lithuania) in order to assist the Institute in its mission to construct a Gender Equality Index. The group met twice a year.

Assistance to Danièle Meulders who represents Belgium in the European Commission’s Network of Experts on Gender Equality (ENEGE). Each year this group carries out an assessment of the National Reform Programmes for Employment from a gender point of view, experts write two national thematic reports (“the costs of non-gender equality”, “Making work pay”, “the gender wage gap”, etc.) and on a quarterly basis they evaluate the labour market indicators and trends from a gender perspective as well as all newly announced or implemented policy changes to promote gender equality.

“Evaluation of the effectiveness of the current legal framework on equal pay for equal work or work of equal value in tackling the gender pay gap (EQPA)”, a research commissioned by the DG Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission and carried out by Particip, Germany in collaboration with scientific experts. The final report will be published at the end of 2009.
Support to Eurostat (subcontractor: Sogeti, Luxembourg) for the production of 10 Statistics in Focus and especially a statistical Panorama publication about the reconciliation between work, private and family life in the European Union. The panorama publication will be out by the end of 2009.

VIII. Brief description of the research subjects

As an illustration, a brief description of one of my recent research projects is provided hereafter.

English title: Belgian Gender and Income Analysis (BGIA)
French title: Genre et revenu : analyse et développement d’indicateurs

Problem:
The data currently available give little indication as to existing income inequalities between men and women. Information is available for singles but as regards couples, most analyses are based on the idea of equal sharing of resources between both partners. This presents a major obstacle for an efficient design of policies and analytical assessment according to either level of income or gender or both.

Social and political value:
For various reasons it is important to have a clear idea of existing income inequalities between men and women.
Firstly, income is a key factor of our society: it is both the source and consequence of individuals’ social position. Gender differences as regards income are thus at the heart of more general gender inequalities.
Secondly, the analysis of households’ risk at living in poverty sheds valuable insight into the current state of affairs but fails to inform about the precariousness of each of the household’s members’ situation were it to dissolve. However, within an overarching context of a destabilising household model, this latter aspect is of utmost importance. Currently available statistical information fails to sufficiently assess the correlation between income, or personal access to income, and life’s hazards. For example, the “cost” of children, in the sense of the loss of income they entail both in the short and the long run, is unequally borne by women. Another example, the high poverty risks of elderly women living as singles are directly related to gender inequalities in the constitution of pension rights.
Thirdly, an equal division of income within the household is in fact an abstract notion, not a real-life fact. Indeed, the process of income allocation and the differences in consumption level and behaviour within households are too frequently ignored. As a result, an in-depth gender and income analysis should also include an assessment of gender inequalities in access to financial resources and in the allocation of financial responsibilities within the family.

Scientific value:
In Belgium, very high-quality poverty indicators exist which have inspired poverty research at the European level. Belgium could once again play a pioneer role. Indeed, it is not the only country where it is difficult to examine income inequalities between women and men based on currently available statistical indicators. However, the Belgian tax and social security system is very specific so that the methodology used to develop new indicators needs to be sufficiently transparent in order for other countries to be able to adapt it and make it workable within their own national contexts. Only then can our method and results be useful for our colleague researchers abroad.
Moreover, in Belgium, high-quality data regarding income exist. So far they have not sufficiently been analysed from a gender perspective. However, the availability of individual data that can be linked to household information makes it possible to considerably widen the scope of existing analyses.

Objective of the project:
The aim of the project is to provide an in-depth analysis at the individual level of the actual income situation of women and men on the basis of the different data sources available. The data are coded. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a methodology et to construct indicators. This methodology and the creation of a new data base on “gender and income” will on the one hand allow computing identical indicators in the future and on the other hand, encourage further research on this subject.

Date and signature