



Forum for Gender Studies (FGV) is an interdisciplinary and intercampus platform from which to initiate and co-ordinate Gender Studies at Mid Sweden University. FGV shall contribute to creating a productive research environment, and the activities of FGV shall encompass the entire university. This research environment has created a network of national and international researchers called MING, The Mid Sweden International Network on Gender Studies. We are very happy to be able to publish here, as work-in-progress, some of the talks and presentations that the network members have given at the network meetings that have taken place in 2009 and 2010.

[www.miun.se/genus](http://www.miun.se/genus)



# CHALLENGING GENDER: Normalization and Beyond

**Ed Siv Fahlgren**

---

FORUM FÖR  
GENUSVETENSKAP

---

## ABOUT THE BOOK

The research programme Challenging Gender at Umeå University with Mid Sweden University as a partner was awarded the Swedish Research Council's funding for Centres of Gender Excellence 2007–2011. The study of gender is a dynamic and growing research field which often challenges traditional forms of knowledge production. These challenges are also directed at its own activities – hence the title of this research program. One of the five themes, Challenging Normalization Processes, has its base in the interdisciplinary Forum for Gender Studies at Mid Sweden University. Its focus is on cultural normalization processes: the demands for conformity and sameness and how technologies of power create boundaries which define "them" and "us" within a wide variety of social institutions.

One of the most important objectives of this program has been to increase the internationalization of Swedish gender research. Thus two international networks were founded at Mid Sweden University; The MING network (The Mid Sweden international network on gender studies, financed by Mid Sweden University, Department of social work and Department of health science) and FlickForsk (The international network for girlhood studies, financed by RJ). This book presents, as work in progress, some of the presentations that have taken place within the MING network during 2009 and 2010 and the joint network meeting with MING and FlickForsk 2009. We have chosen to present the papers as a discussion taking place within the theoretical framework of Challenging normalization processes.

## Contents

Acknowledgements

Contributors

1	Introduction: Challenging normalization and beyond <i>Siv Fahlgren</i>	
<b>Part I: Challenging “the normal” and normalization processes</b>		
2	Reflections on sexism at school on the basis of a research project conducted in Northwest Russia and Northern Finland <i>Vappu Sunnari</i>	27
3	Teaching children and youth about sexual harassment, gender violence and bullying in schools <i>Nan Stein</i>	39
<b>Part II: Challenging normalized knowledge positions</b>		
4	Rural and remote women and resilience: Grounded Theory and Photovoice Variations on a Theme <i>Beverly Leipert</i>	59
5	Transcending subject–object dualism. Challenging normalized power relations in research practice <i>Katarina Giritli Nygren and Ulrika Schmauch</i>	79
6	Daughter-girls, sister-girls, mom-girls and old lady-girls: Thoughts on subjectivity and reflexivity in girlhood-studies <i>Annelie Bränström Öhman</i>	91
7	Reading as transgressing “the normal”: On the importance of literary reading for social research <i>Anders Johansson</i>	97
<b>Part III: ... and beyond</b>		
8	Listening: a radical pedagogy <i>Bronwyn Davies</i>	107
9	From picture – to subject: Some thoughts about studying the function of speaking and clothed animals in children’s literature <i>Eva Söderberg</i>	121