

# **Comparing the Status of Women in Political Science**

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*The status of women in Spanish political science*

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## **1. Introduction**

This paper incorporates tables of quantitative indicators relating to the field of political science in Spain. These statistics reveal the breakdown according to gender of undergraduates and PhD 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. Finally, the same gender breakdowns have been made 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, who also organise the academic conferences and publish the specialist journal.

Much of the data gathered here has come from the University Education Statistics, compiled annually by the Spanish Statistics Office, and containing 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.

## **2. 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 which school the courses were set up in. Degree courses in political and administration sciences are offered by 20 Spanish universities, 16 of which are state funded and the other four private. In greater Madrid and Barcelona there are as many as six universities offering this degree.

**Table 1. Universities which offer political and administration science degrees. 2012.**

<b>Public state universities (16)</b>
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
<b>Private universities (4)</b>
Abat Oliba (CEU)
Cardenal Herrera
Oberta de Catalunya
Pontificia de Comillas

Source: Spanish Statistics Office: Education statistics.

While in practice political science in Spain seems closely tied to universities, outside the academic field its significance can be seen in a wide range of occupations: in particular technical staff (in public authorities, social and employment programs) and consulting firms (in recruitment agencies; market, social and public opinion research) as well as those related to non-university teaching.

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. The new curriculum was implemented in 2010. It takes four years to complete and consists of 240 credits, 60 per year. According to the guidelines, one credit equals 25-30 hours of work by the student, divided between lectures (normally 10 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. Political and administration science degree common syllabus, according to subject area.**

<b>Subject area</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>%</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100</b>

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)*.

### **3. Quantitative indicators regarding the ratio of women in political science**

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

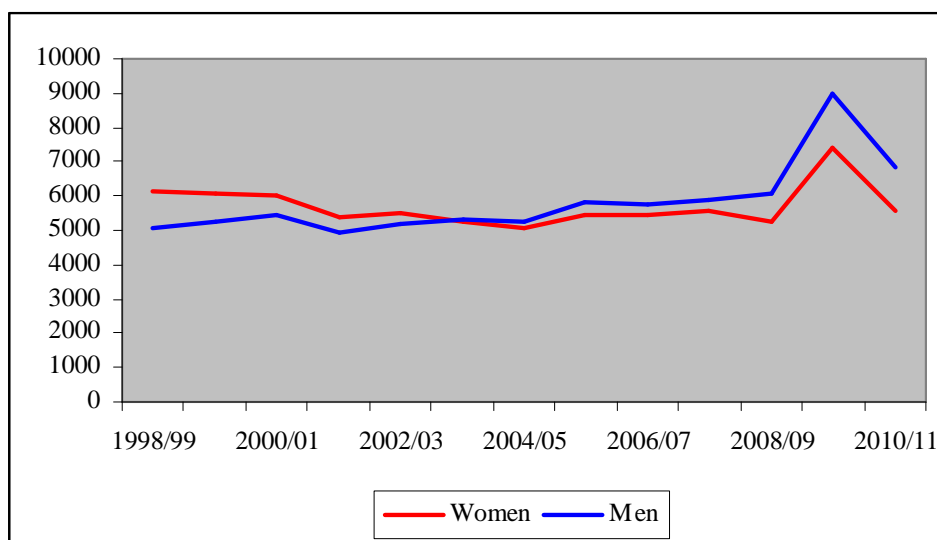
**Table 3. Students enrolled on political and administration science degrees at Spanish universities by sex. 1998-2011.**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Women %</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Men %</b>
<b>1998/99</b>	11147	6109	54,8	5038	45,2
<b>1999/00</b>	11352	6102	53,7	5250	46,3
<b>2000/01</b>	11444	5985	52,3	5459	47,7
<b>2001/02</b>	10332	5388	52,2	4944	47,8
<b>2002/03</b>	10697	5486	51,3	5211	48,7
<b>2003/04</b>	10600	5270	49,7	5330	50,3
<b>2004/05</b>	10.306	5036	48,9	5270	51,1
<b>2005/06</b>	11282	5452	48,3	5830	51,7
<b>2006/07</b>	11159	5425	48,6	5734	51,4
<b>2007/08</b>	11474	5565	48,5	5909	51,5
<b>2008/09</b>	11348	5264	46,4	6084	53,6
<b>2009/10</b>	16363	7397	45,2	8966	54,8
<b>2010/11</b>	12430	5595	45,0	6835	55,0

Source: Spanish Statistics Office: Education statistics.

Comparing figures over the last 12 years, we can see that the ratio of women has slowly declined by almost 9 points since 1998, when women made up 54.8% of all students.

**Graph 1. Variation in the number of students enrolled on political and administration science degrees at Spanish universities by sex. 1998-2011.**



Source: Spanish Statistics Office: Education statistics.

While the proportion of female undergraduates has steadily declined, the figures contrast with the number PhD theses passed. In the last six years, of the total of doctoral theses passed the percentage written by women has increased from 39.6% to 49%.

**Table 4. Political science doctoral theses passed by sex. 2005-2011.**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Women %</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Men %</b>
<b>2005/06</b>	139	55	39,6	84	60,4
<b>2006/07</b>	315	145	46,0	170	54,0
<b>2007/08</b>	127	69	54,3	58	45,7
<b>2008/09</b>	122	56	45,9	66	54,1
<b>2009/10</b>	149	65	43,6	84	56,4
<b>2010/11</b>	157	77	49,0	80	51,0

Source: Spanish Statistics Office: Education statistics.

The higher up the academic scale one goes, the greater the ratio of men to women becomes (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. 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, after analysing the data the university departments have been categorized in three groups: feminised, intermediate and masculinised, according to staff makeup by sex:

- Feminised: departments where at least half the staff are women. These include Salamanca University (62.5% women), the Open University of Catalonia and Rey Juan Carlos University (both 50%).
- 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 the average (less than 26%, in fact). Another distinction can be made here, depending on the departments' size: the 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. Women university lecturers in political science departments in Spanish Universities, 2012.**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Women %</b>
<b>Feminised (<math>\geq 50\%</math>)</b>			
Salamanca	8	5	62,5
Oberta de Catalunya	28	14	50,0
Rey Juan Carlos	20	10	50,0
<b>Intermediate (50%-30%)</b>			
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
<b>Masculinised (<math>&lt; 30\%</math>)</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>33,4</b>

Source: websites of the departments.

The ratio of men to women in each of the different categories of teaching staff is also worthy of interest. Women currently account for a third of the total staff.

**Table 6. Teaching staff in Spanish state university political science departments according to category and sex, 2012.**

	Total	Women			Men		
		Abs.	% horiz	% vert	Abs.	% horiz	% vert
<b>(Full) Professors</b>	55	4	7,3	2,5	51	92,7	15,5
<b>Tenured lecturer posts</b>	133	48	36,1	30,2	85	63,9	25,8
<b>Associate Lecturers</b>	150	46	30,7	28,9	104	69,3	31,5
<b>Assistant and Temporary Lecturers</b>	106	45	42,5	28,3	61	57,5	18,5
<b>Others</b>	45	16	35,6	10,1	29	64,4	8,8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>32,5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>67,5</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Spanish Statistics Office: Education statistics.

In the above table, both the horizontal and vertical percentages are worthy of attention, as they give us two different angles regarding the gender makeup of the various categories. Analysis of the vertical percentages allows us to compare how both men and women are distributed according to category, and observe that the smallest group is that of full professor – especially in the case of women, just 2.5% of whom reach this rank. The distribution of tenured and associate lecturers is similar, 25-30% of the total for each sex, while there is a significant divergence regarding assistant and temporary lecturers, with 28.3% of women in this category and 18.5% of men.

The horizontal percentages allow us to see the gender ratio by category, shedding more light on the previous figures. For instance, while it is true that full professors make up just a small proportion of teaching staff, the fact is that 92.7% of them are men and just 7.3% 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 if we look at a ratio commonly quoted – when analysing gender imbalance - the ratio of tenured lecturers to full professors. Currently, there is a full professor for every 1.6 tenured lecturers amongst men, while for women it is one for every twelve.



These figures also show that 63.9% 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.

Another significant indicator of the presence of women in Spanish Political Science and Public Administration has to do with 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 639 members, of which 245 are women, 38.3% of the total. The overriding male presence is comparable to that of university lecturers. While 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. AECPA members by sex, 2012.**

<b>TOTAL</b>	639
<b>Women</b>	245
<b>Women %</b>	38,3
<b>Men</b>	394
<b>Men %</b>	61,7

Source: AECPA website.

Regarding the management board of the AECPA, there are more women (8) than men (7). With the executive team of the Professional Association of Graduates in Political Science and Sociology, this is reversed and of the 12 member board, five are women. Both associations have a male president and one has a female vice-president.

**Table 8. Professional Association of Graduates in Political Science and Sociology and AECPA management boards by sex. 2012.**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Women %</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Men %</b>
<b>Professional Association</b>	12	5	41,7	7	58,3
President (male)					
Vice-president (female)					
<b>AECPA</b>	15	8	53,3	7	46,7
President (male)					
Vice-presidents (1 male, 1 female)					

Source: AECPA and Professional Association websites.

It is worth mentioning some data regarding AECPA-organised political science conferences. To date they have coordinated 10 statewide conferences in Spain, and 105 individuals have participated in the scientific committees. Of these, 21 have been women, 20% of the total. In more recent conferences, the number of women has increased and has stayed at four.

**Table 9. Conference scientific committees by sex of AECPA. 1994-2011.**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Women %</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Men %</b>
<b>1994</b>	11	1	9,1	10	90,9
<b>1996</b>	15	1	6,7	14	93,3
<b>1997</b>	13	2	15,4	11	84,6
<b>1998</b>	12	1	8,3	11	91,7
<b>2001</b>	11	0	0,0	11	100,0
<b>2003</b>	8	2	25,0	6	75,0
<b>2005</b>	8	2	25,0	6	75,0
<b>2007</b>	9	4	44,4	5	55,6
<b>2009</b>	9	4	44,4	5	55,6
<b>2011</b>	9	4	44,4	5	55,6
<b>Total</b>	105	21	20,0	84	80,0

Source: AECPA website.

220 working groups have been organised at these conferences since they started. 10 have been related to gender research, or just 4.5%. Two of the ten conferences ignored the matter.

**Table 10. Number of gender research working groups at AECPA Conferences 1994-2011.**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Gender</b>
<b>1994</b>	--	0
<b>1996</b>	--	0
<b>1997</b>	--	1
<b>1998</b>	32	3
<b>2001</b>	26	0
<b>2003</b>	22	1
<b>2005</b>	29	1
<b>2007</b>	28	1
<b>2009</b>	35	2
<b>2011</b>	48	1
<b>Total</b>	220	10

Source: AECPA website.

To finish with, 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 27 editions, 59 (31.4%) were written by women.

#### **4. Actions taken to promote equality**

Women teachers and researchers from Spanish universities have worked within the framework of AECPA to promote 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 (8) than men (7).

Subsequently, this group of political scientists proposed the creation of a standing group within AECPA, however they failed to get authorization 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” as part of a redrafting of the political science degree syllabus. Gender studies will 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 is currently working together with the European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) Standing Group on Gender and Politics to organize the third European Conference on Politics and Gender which will be held in Barcelona in March 2013.

## 5. Conclusions

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.

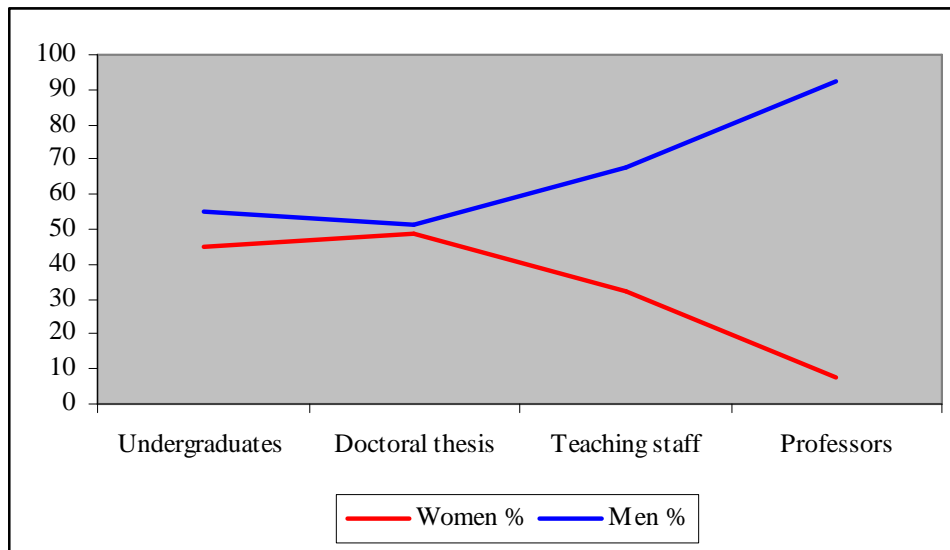
**Table 11. Data summary. Percentage of women in political science in Spain. 2011-2012.**

<b>Sphere</b>	<b>Women %</b>
Undergraduates	45,0
Doctoral thesis passes	49,0
Teaching staff	32,5
Full professors	7,3
AECPA members	38,3

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

Regarding political science teaching and research staff, there are no studies or data in existence which 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. 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 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.

**Graph 2. Percentage of women and men at different academic levels. 2012.**



Source: Spanish Statistics Office. Education statistics

A deeper analysis of the question - which is not the objective of this paper – would examine aspects such as: bearing in mind the criteria considered to gain the post of full professor, it would be particularly useful to have figures which shed light on important questions regarding the differences between men and women. For instance, a breakdown according to gender of publicly funded research teams as well as research team leaders. This is a fundamental issue 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 candidates. Similarly, research project and doctoral thesis supervisors should also be taken into account.

In any event, the role of the recently created equality offices at Spanish universities should be considered regarding any endeavours that may be undertaken. The first of these units was set up in 2004, in order to defend the principle of equality between men and women. Some universities already had structures before this date, designed not just to research equality but to promote it internally. 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.

To finish with, the key way to achieve equality between women and men is by lobbying and strengthening national and international networks. Although political science in Spain has moved forward in this respect, there is still a long way to go. Improving cooperation from female lecturers and researchers specialising in gender studies is leading to ever-greater accomplishments.

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