



Editorial

Our special issue in this edition of the journal focuses on Brazil and the papers are introduced by our Guest Editor, Elizabeth Silva, in a separate [editorial paper](#) and [podcast](#). We are pleased to be able to bring a focus on new gender and STEM scholarship in Brazil, one of the world's rapidly growing economies. A recent study of women in SET workforces in the US, China, India and Brazil found that they were "ambitious, eager to be promoted, and dedicated to their professions: 80 percent of U.S., 87 percent of Brazilian, 90 percent of Chinese and 93 percent of Indian SET women say they love their work" (Hewlett et al. 2014, p2). However the report also showed that hostile macho cultures, isolation and scarcity of effective sponsors were still causing women's careers to stall in all of these countries. The five papers in the special issue offer a unique opportunity to examine these issues in more depth in the Brazilian context.

The rest of this editorial will focus on the other papers and reviews in this issue. For researchers in European Union countries, the new programme of funding, Horizon 2020, requires an explicit analysis of gender both in the design and evaluation of the project. This is a welcome move but it raises issues about the relationship of gender experts to other team members when they become involved in scientific and technical projects. The paper by Brigitte Ratzer and colleagues, [Bringing Gender into Technology: A Case Study in User-Interface-Design and the Perspective of Gender Experts](#) provides some fascinating insights into the complexities of this at a micro level as well as addressing the broader policy issues.

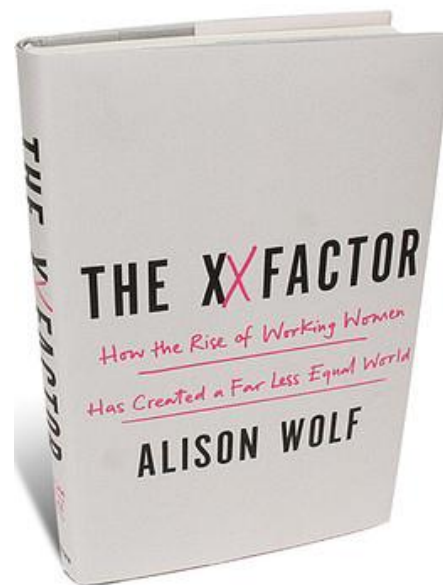
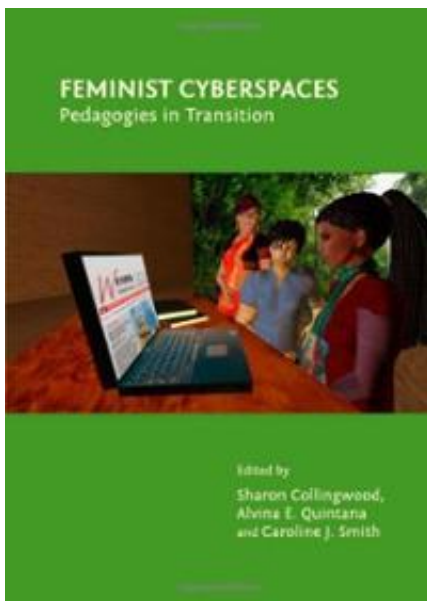
Roxanne Hughes contributes to the discussion often had in the pages of this journal and elsewhere in the field of gender and STEM about whether single sex education and training is an effective way of ensuring more women remain in STEM. In [The Effects of a Single-Sex STEM Living and Learning Program on Female Undergraduates' Persistence](#), Hughes suggests that this strategy is not necessarily effective on its own but must include a culture change within university STEM departments.

Gendered relationships in the workplace are addressed by Pinar Kaygan in her case study of a Turkish factory entitled ["The Shop Floor is not for Every Woman": Narratives on Women Industrial Designers' Relationships with Shop Floor Workers](#), exploring implications of these relationships for women's status as professional technological workers within the manufacturing organisations.



In the review section, Diane Patricia McCarthy gives an engaging account of a weekend workshop, held in New Zealand/Aotearoa, to engage young women in technology through textile design, entitled [E-textiles: There's the Bling of the Thing](#).

Two book reviews complete this section. Gill Kirkup's review of Alison Wolf's book [The XX Factor: How Working Women are Creating a New Society](#) highlights how elite professional women now have similar opportunities to men but that the gap between them and other women is increasing. As Kirkup notes, this raises an important question about where gender and STEM scholars should be focusing our research. As a journal we welcome further research in this area and encourage publication of case studies about initiatives that raise aspirations and opportunities for women more widely. Finally, in Marian Carr's review of [Feminist Cyberspaces: Pedagogies in Transition](#), (edited by Sharon Collingwood, Alvina E. Quintana and Caroline J. Smith) we hear about a range of initiatives that are bringing feminist perspectives and practices into teaching and learning with technology.



Clem Herman, on behalf of the editorial executive: Helen Donelan, Barbara Hodgson, Gill Kirkup, Elizabeth Whitelegg

REFERENCES

Hewlett, S. A., Sherbin, L., Dieudonné, F., Fagnoli, C., & Fredman, C. (2014). Athena Factor 2.0: Accelerating Female Talent in Science, Engineering & Technology. New York: Centre for Talent Innovation, accessed 01 Apr 2014 from <http://www.talentinnovation.org/assets/Athena-2-ExecSummFINAL-CTI.pdf>