

Sent via email, September 4, 2022

Dear all,

I was planning to attend the meeting in person but unfortunately I had a small accident during my holidays and I cannot travel. I walk on crutches for the next two weeks so I am unable to fly.

Maria asked us to share a few sentences with all of you and please allow me to do so.

To me my involvement to the Commission marks more or less the beginnings of my career. I first presented a paper to a commission's meeting as a freshly graduated PhD scholar in 2004 in Prague. It was then and there I organized a special session on gender and radioactivity. The session was a great success as it gathered a number of young scholars that remained connected to our commission for years and since have greatly contributed to the field of gender and science (i.e. Anette Lykkness). After this Sona Strobanova one of the pillars of our Commission (in cc here), invited me to get more seriously involved in the workings of the commission. This is how I became the Commission's secretary and worked together with the then president Annette Vogt for 8 years. With ups and downs I learned from Annette that what really matters is to care about early career scholars and open the doors of our field to them. This is how we can go forward. My thanks to her! Throughout my term as president, the then secretary Donald Opitz taught me what it means to be professional, innovative and diverse in practice. We slightly changed the name of the commission and included gender to reflect changes in the field; we introduced the Agnodike fellowship; we tried to attract scholars from other continents beyond Europe and the US.

Maria Santessmases brings a new, fresh perspective and style of leadership. Let's help her together with Don, Nurit [Kirsh] and Isabel [Lémonon] to bring the commission even further and support the new generation of scholars in our field.

To me the Commission has always been my support group, an inspiration, the reason I was able to go through rough times in my home country.

Thanks to all of you and I am sorry I will miss our meeting

Best regards
Maria