Abstract: The increasing qualification of women relative to men should contribute to the gender equality in the labour market. However, the existing empirical studies do not confirm this kind of direct relation. A possible explanation is that women and men choose, or, as a matter of fact, are directed towards a choice of different fields of education, and thus contribute to the gender segregation in the sphere of education. Men are overrepresented in the fields of study, which are different from those of dominated by women. The main aims of this lecture are to conduct a cross-national comparison of levels of educational gender segregation and to examine horizontal gender disparity in education by cohort and country. It aims to answer the question whether the horizontal gender segregation in secondary and tertiary education is declining over time (younger cohorts exhibit less gender segregation) or it persists and whether this trend is uniform across analyzed countries. Secondly, it aims to uncover whether there are some countries clusters that demonstrate similarity with respect to the evolution of the horizontal gender segregation in education. The analyses are based on data for 22 countries participated in program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) conducted in 2013 by the OECD. Our results confirm an enormous variation across countries. Yet, the trends are – against what we expected – relatively stable across cohorts or without clear trend, with a few exceptions. We conclude with implications for the educational system and the labour market.

Biography: Anne Hartung, postdoctoral researcher at IRSEI with a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Leuven (Belgium), has specialised in quantitative methods, social stratification, and socio-economic inequalities. Her research has a particular focus on migrants, gender, and cross-country comparisons. She gained expertise in these fields through formal studies (M.Sc.s in Quantitative Analysis and in Social Policy Analysis, PhD on ethnic inequalities in labour market outcomes) and professional experience, which includes, in addition to research methodological and social policy teaching and M.A. supervision at different universities in Europe (Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg). Previously, Anne worked as Assistant Professor at the University of Leuven (Belgium) and LISER (Luxembourg). She has also served as a consultant for the European Migration Network (EMN) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Her current research investigates comparative aspects of social class origins and intergenerational mobility, gender and ethnic inequalities as well as the association between inequality and social mobility (“Great Gatsby Curve”).

Important Publications:

Contact: Sophie Freitag, LEAD Graduate School & Research Network, sophie.freitag@uni-tuebingen.de