

Deborah Dean FIA Gender Equality Project

Of interest to researchers engaging with: gender, age and other social identity categories; employment (contingent working); trade unions

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Keywords

1. Performers
2. Gender, Age
3. Access to work

A European Commission-funded project of the International Federation of Actors (FIA), looking at gender and age representation in relation to performers' access to work, principally in theatre, television and film. An online survey is currently asking performers in 28 European countries for experiences of maintaining a career as an actor, in relation to gender and age, ethnicity, sexual orientation and impairment

Research Methods

Online survey of performers (members of entertainment industry unions in 28 European countries)

Structured/semi-structured interviews carried out by FIA member unions with 'gatekeepers' such as agents, casting directors, producers, TV commissioning executives

Project meetings of all EuroFIA member unions

Key Ideas

- **Women performers' job opportunities decline as they age (in contrast to men)**
- **These opportunities closely linked to positions and perceptions of women and men in general society (so, telling us something about our ideas of gender more widely)**
- **No previous research giving a European-wide picture of these issues**
- **FIA aims to use findings to: promote awareness of EU laws on gender equality; lobby employers for meaningful equality clauses in collective agreements**