

Katherine Harrison

*Information management, gender and organisation*

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My current research project is titled *Information management, gender and organisation*. This is part of a wider research project for *Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap* (MSB) (the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) titled “Gender, Rescue Services and Organisation” which I am conducting with six colleagues during the period 2010-2013. The project team aims to engage actively with MSB and its employees in working towards building a more gender-equal organisation, through combining interactive research methodologies with intersectional perspectives.

My particular subproject focuses on information and communication technologies (ICTs) used by the rescue services. The main research question that this project seeks to answer is: what are the effects of the interaction between gender and ICTs on the processing and sharing of information? As such this study takes into account the effects of both material limitations of technology and user representations in shaping the data that is presented in one particular ICT used by MSB.

In this workshop I will present a paper-in-progress titled “Unpacking the black box of IDA: tracking the (gendered) information flow?”. This paper takes inspiration from feminist Science and Technology Studies and Actor Network Theory-based approaches to explore the processes of simplification, categorisation and “tidying-up” that take place as information on accidents travels from the scene of an accident to the local fire station computer to a national database to the webportal known as IDA (<http://ida.msb.se/ida2#page=a0087>).