

The gender dimension in research projects: Theoretical perspectives and examples from different research fields

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Outline of the presentation

- About Kilden gender research.no
- Horizon Europe's requirements to include the gender dimension in research
- Kildens booklet *What is the gender dimension in research?*
- Sex/gender dimensions in research content: concepts and examples



Kilden Gender Research

- A national knowledge centre for gender perspectives and gender balance in research
- Independent unit of the Research Council of Norway since 1998
- Disseminate research with gender perspectives in a variety of channels (newsmagazine, reports, lectures, seminars etc.)
- Check our website: <https://kjonnsforskning.no/en>
- Sign up for our newsletter: post@kilden.forskningsradet.no

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Kilden website. It includes the Kilden logo, a search bar, and menu items: NEWS MAGAZINE, WE OFFER, REPORTS, THE JOURNAL, WHAT'S ON, and ABOUT GENDER RESEARCH. Below the navigation bar, there is a main content area with a light blue background. On the left, the text reads "Kilden genderresearch.no" followed by a description: "Kilden genderresearch.no is a national knowledge centre for gender perspectives and gender balance in research. We cooperate with a broad range of partners and serve as a forum where researchers, the authorities and civil society meet." Below this, there are three purple buttons labeled "Climate", "Gender equality", and "Gender dimension". On the right side of the main content area, there is a featured article titled "Gender equality and the green transition of the labour market" with a "NEW POLICY BRIEF" tag and an arrow icon.

The screenshot shows the "News magazine" section of the Kilden website. The header includes the text "News magazine" and "Our news magazine is an independent online newspaper and a member of the Norwegian Specialised Press Association Fagpressen." Below the header, there is a large featured article with a photo of Toril Moi. The title is "The speaking subject: A conversation with Toril Moi" and the text reads: "I believe that any sentence you utter is an expression of a judgment. It's a judgment of how you see the world", Toril Moi says. Below the featured article, there are three smaller article teasers. The first is titled "A forgotten suitcase from a queer life" with a sub-headline: "An old, anonymous leather suitcase found in a museum storage area in Halden put three eager museum employees on the trail of the life of 'The Fencing Lady'." The second is titled "Danish research on violence under political pressure" with a sub-headline: "Last year, Signe Uldbjerg's research on digital violence against women became a hot political issue at the Danish Folketinget. Followed by a political statement on the relationship between activism and research, outrage from Danish academia and a debate on academic freedom." The third is titled "Andrea Pető: 'Working within higher education has become high-risk'" with a sub-headline: "The Hungarian researcher receives the University of Oslo's Human Rights Award for her work in academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Gender research is like the canary in the coal mine, she says." Each teaser includes a small photo of the person mentioned in the article.

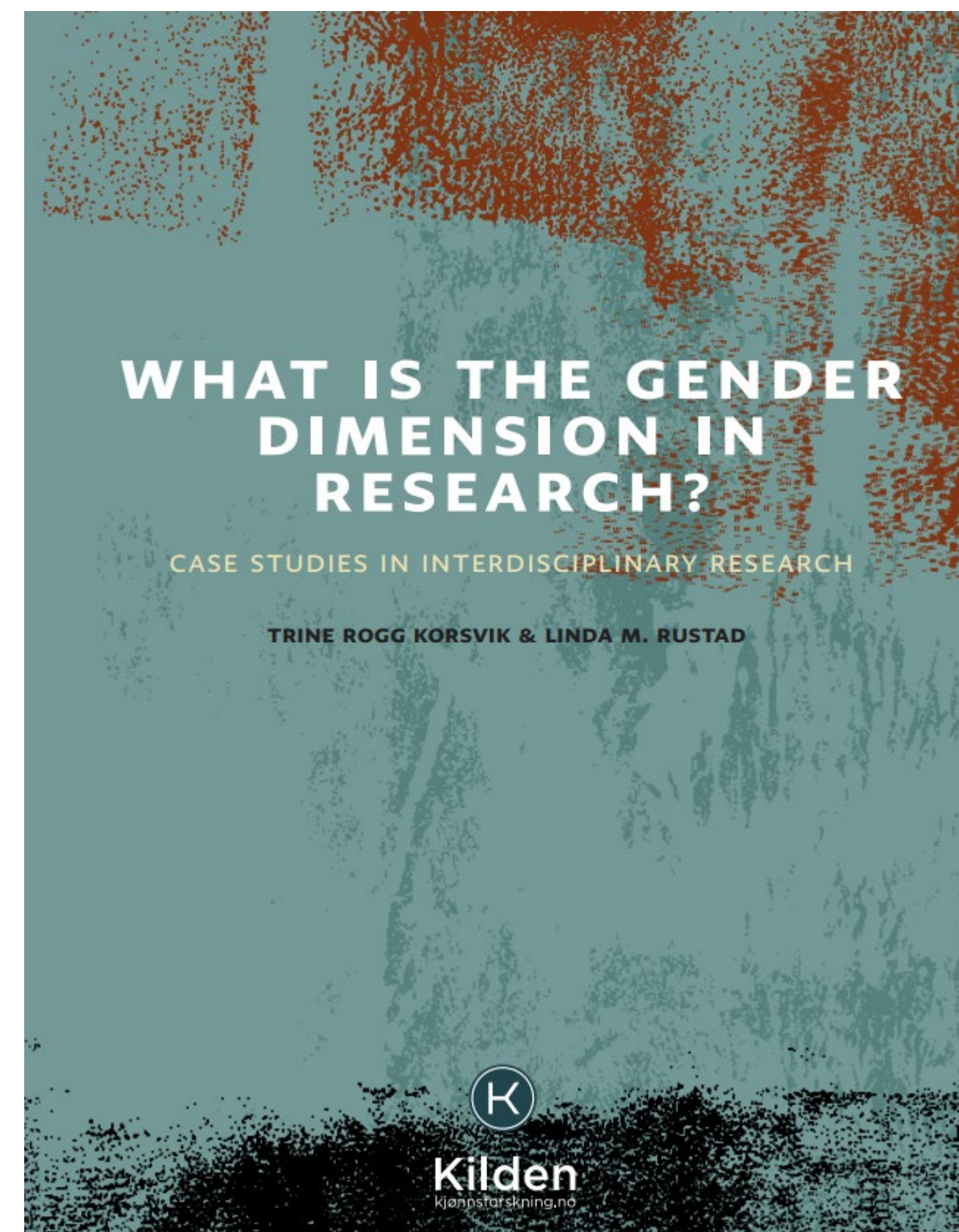


The booklet *What is the gender dimension in research?*

- Provides examples from research that include gender perspectives
- Topics inspired by UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and societal challenges of Horizon 2020:
 - Health and quality of life
 - Food, agriculture, fisheries and the bioeconomy
 - Energy
 - Transport
 - Environment and climate
 - Safe societies

- Link to the booklet:

https://kjonnsforskning.no/sites/default/files/what_is_the_gender_dimension_roggkorsvik_kilden_genderresearch.no_.pdf





Horizon Europe's demands to include the gender dimension in research



GENDER EQUALITY

A STRENGTHENED COMMITMENT IN HORIZON EUROPE

What is the challenge?

Despite progress achieved on gender equality in research and innovation under the [Horizon 2020](#) research and innovation programme, we still need better implementation of EU gender equality objectives by research and innovation organisations across the EU, notably:

- More women participating in research and innovation programmes
- Better **integration of the gender dimension in the content of research and innovation projects**
- More participation of EU widening countries in actions dedicated to gender equality in research and innovation organisations
- Broadening gender equality policies in research and innovation to intersections with other potential grounds for discrimination such as ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation



How we will tackle it and for whom

- Horizon Europe sets **gender equality as a crosscutting principle** and aims to **eliminate gender inequality and intersecting socio-economic inequalities** throughout research and innovation systems, including by addressing unconscious bias and systemic structural barriers.

- Main novelties include the following:

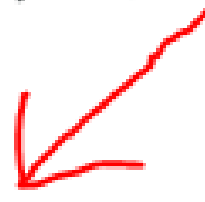
✓ A new eligibility criterion to get access to Horizon Europe funding: public bodies, research organisations and higher education establishments will be required, starting in 2022, to have a **gender equality plan (GEP)** in place. This will ensure sustainable institutional change.

✓ The integration of the **gender dimension into research and innovation content** (i.e. sex and gender analysis) becomes a **requirement by default across the whole programme** (for more information see the 'Gendered Innovations' policy report).

✓ Specific funding will be made available for actions supporting the development of **inclusive gender equality plans** in research and innovation organisations across Member States and associated countries under the "Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area" part of the Programme. Specific funding will be allocated for **gender studies and intersectional research**, in particular in Pillar II Cluster 2 - Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society.

✓ Particular attention will be paid to ensuring **gender balance** in evaluation panels and in other relevant advisory bodies, such as boards and expert groups. Gender balance among researchers involved in projects will be strongly encouraged and will be taken into account for equally ranked proposals.

✓ Flagship measures and activities promoting gender equality under the **European Innovation Council (EIC)**, including a target of 40% women-led companies invited to pitch their projects, a target of 50% women among members of advisory structures, a prize for women innovators and a dedicated initiative to support women-led start-ups.





Sex/gender dimensions in research content: The concepts of sex and gender

- **Sex**

Biological, physiological and anatomical sex differences between females and males.

- **Gender**

Socially and culturally constructed norms, values and expectations related to men or women, boys or girls, that varies across time and space.

- **No absolute distinction**



Challenging gender roles ca. 1900. The photographer and feminist Marie Høeg and an unknown man. Preus Museum



Sex/gender in research

- **Gender-blind research**

Does not take gender into account and assumes that the research is gender neutral or that potential differences between men and women are not relevant.

- **Gender bias**

Reproduces gender stereotypes in research or ignores sex/gender differences.

- **Sex/gender as variable**

Does not guarantee that the gender dimension will be included in research. Still, sex or gender-aggregated data or gender-differentiated statistics are essential because they form the basis of further gender analysis.

- **Gender research**

Interdisciplinary field developed mainly within the humanities and social sciences. Gender researchers generally use gender as their starting point for analysis.

- **Sex/gender analysis**

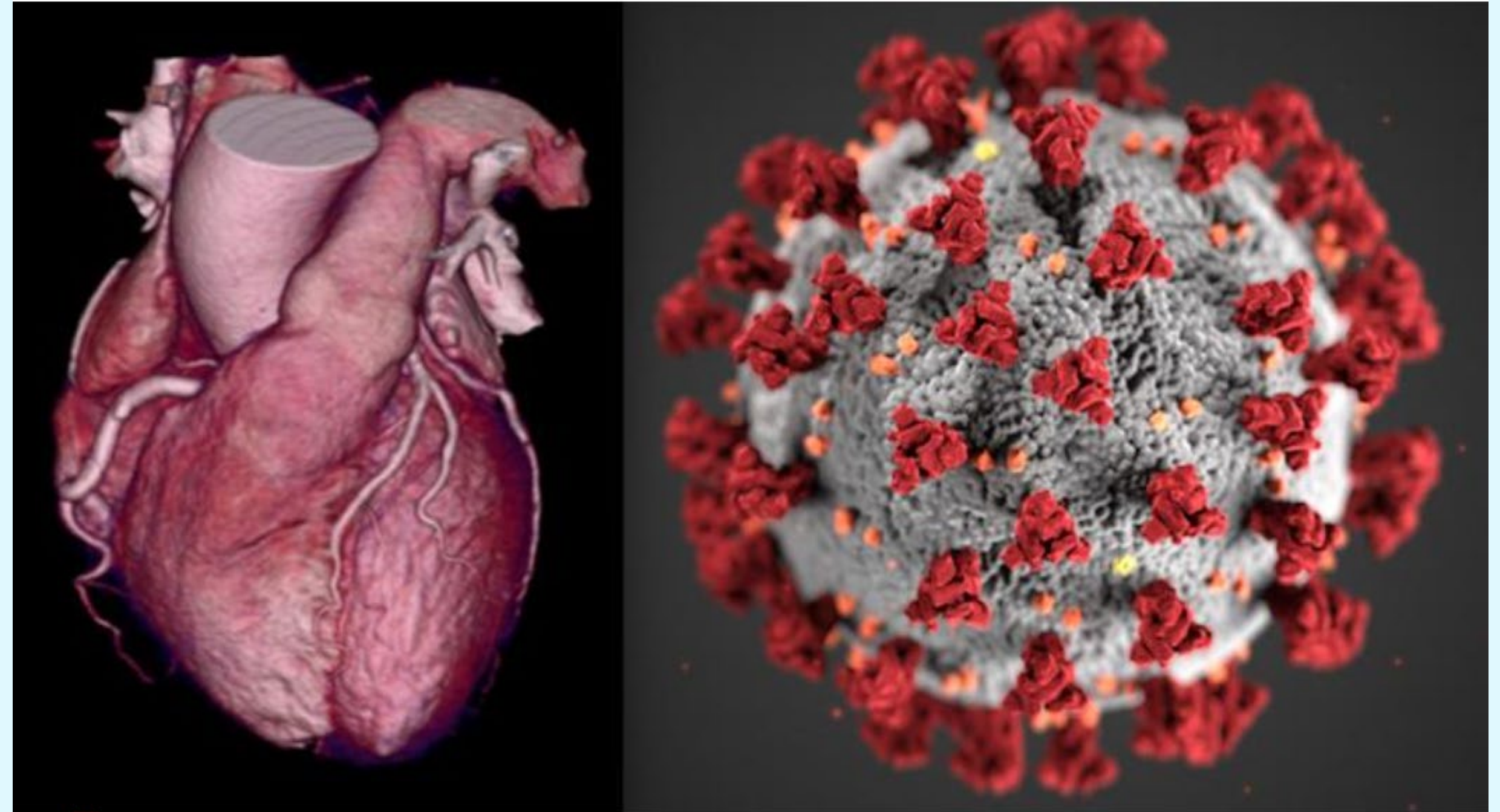
Sex and/or gender is part of the research design and systematically controlled for throughout the research process without necessarily being at the centre of the analysis. Must not necessarily focus on differences between women and men.



Why is the sex/gender dimension in research important?

Two cases:

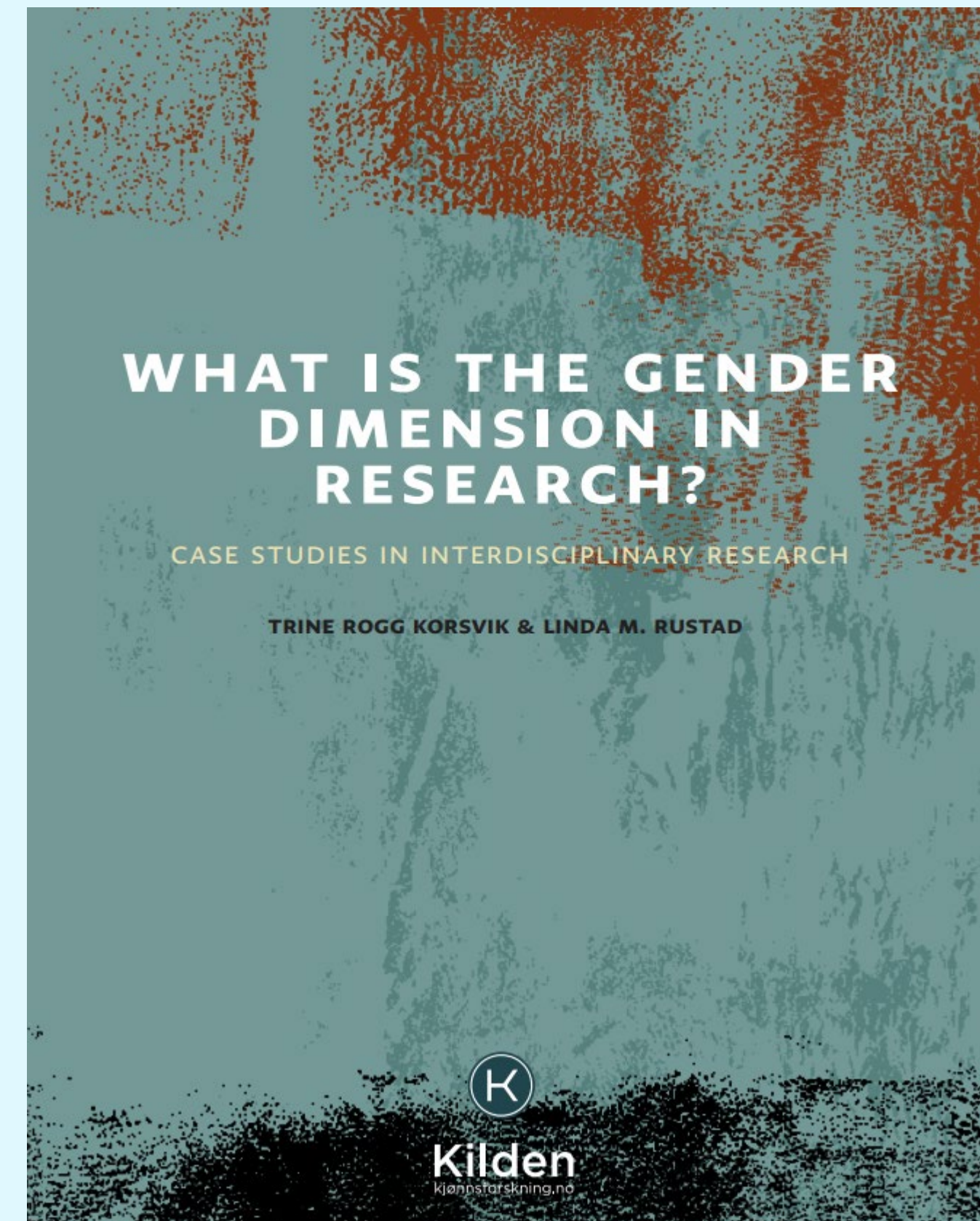
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Covid 19





Checklist: sex/gender dimension in research content

- Research idea phase
- Proposal phase
- Research phase
- Dissemination phase





Conclusion

- No definitive answer to what sex/gender perspectives *are* – rather what they *may* entail.
- Not necessarily focussing on sex/gender differences, but how gender comes into play in various contexts.
- “Gender perspectives are relevant when the research has or may have consequences for people” (rector of NHH Norwegian School of Economics).



Thank you!

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