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## A Dossier on Women's Studies in the Balkan

### Presentation of the Dossier

*Rosi Braidotti*

The Spring 2001 meeting of the ATHENA network was hosted by the Gender programme of the European University Institute in Florence, thanks to Prof. Luisa Passerini and Ms Dawn Lyon, and by the University of Florence, through the ATHENA member Prof. Liana Borghi. It was a particularly eventful meeting which combined elements which by now are the features of this network : reports of on-going activities were run alongside more content-oriented discussions. The latter were quite prominent at this meeting, which in fact contributed to a conference on "Gender Studies in Europe". A great deal of attention was devoted to the issues related to the construction of Women's Studies in the European context. Both administrative, managerial and more theoretical and methodological questions were raised. The proceedings of this section of the activities will be published by the European University Institute Gender programme. In another session, special attention was given to the question of the geographical representation and the focus of the Spring 2001 meeting was Eastern Europe, more particularly the Balkans. A full panel of experts spoke at length about the issues and the type of activities that are currently undertaken by different feminist networks in this region. This dossier is included here as part of the ATHENA joint publication. In the dossier that follows we are reporting step-by-step on this rich and fruitful meeting. The dossier opens with the general report of the conference "Gender Studies in Europe" by the main organisers. Then we open the dossier on women in the Balkans with a general introduction by Dr. Annamaria Tagliavini of the Women's Centre in Bologna which co-ordinates most of the activities on women in the Balkans. There follows a number of relevant research papers, the aims and scope of which are outlined in the general introduction to this issue.