**Brief Summary**

Archives, Gender Equality and Sexual Harassment – Social Memory as a Constructor of Societal Understanding

Gender equality and the absence of sexual harassment are basic rights for individuals. People pay attention on these themes nowadays. Nevertheless, they are not just modern phenomena as they can be recognised from historical documents even if the terminology alters from our current societal understanding.

As for societal understanding, document describing our own time or the past are essential contributors for it. This is the point in which archives have important role. They contain the documents which, for instance, contains information about the past, data upon that we build our understanding… but only if the relevant documents have been spared in archives. It is: the archives are the base of our social memory. Consequently, the archive materials are constructors of our societal understanding.

In this presentation, we tell how and why the archives construct our societal understanding when it comes to gender equality and sexual harassment. The point of view is based on archival theory and practical knowledge on Archival Studies. Gender equality and sexual harassment are used as examples so that the essential mater related on basic right can be high-lighted and discussion about the topic could be risen.