HERitage Amplified

Women and cultural diversity om Wikipedia

Marios Magioladitis

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COMMUNITY USER GROUP
GREECE

11.02.2024

Data

- Established: 2001
- Contributions:
  - 62 millions articles in 326 languages
  - 6.7m articles in English Wikipedia
  - 0.23m articles in Greek Wikipedia

The purpose of Wikipedia

«Imagine a world in which **every single person** on the planet is given free access to **the sum of all human knowledge**. That's what we're doing.

(Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia)

How does Wikipedia work?

- Everyone can contribute

- No paid editing

- Everything is decided "by consensus"

- Additional roles are decided by the community itself

- Crowdsourcing is the act of taking a job traditionally performed by a designated agent (usually an employee) and outsourcing it to an undefined, generally large group of people in the form of an open call.
  (Howe, 2008)

The 5 pillars of Wikipedia

Wikipedia is an encyclopedia

Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view

Wikipedia is free content that anyone can use, edit, and distribute

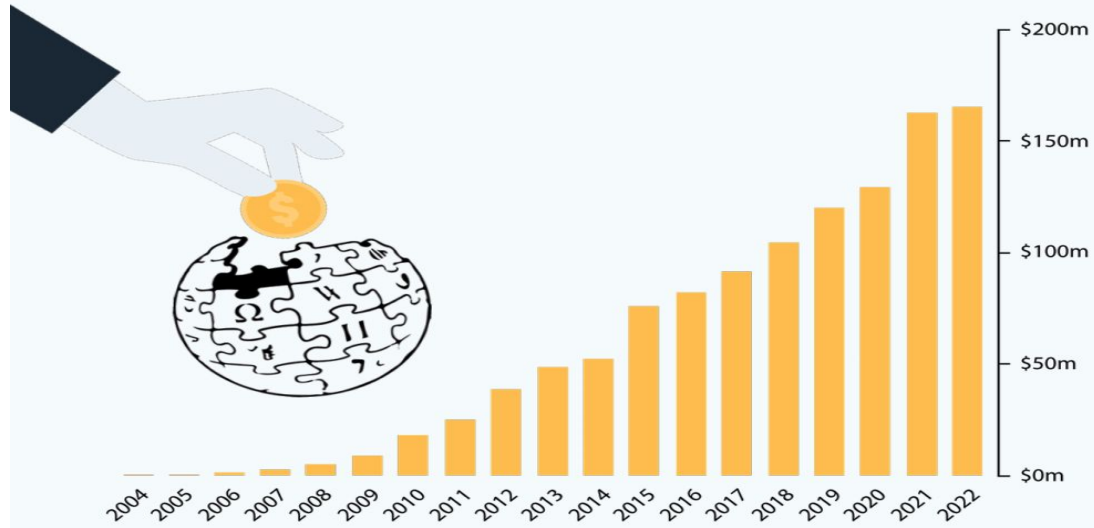Editors should treat each other with respect and civility

Wikipedia has no firm rules

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Trust

Wikipedia's fundraising by year

In 2022, $165m+ was raised across 13m+ donations

DATA: Wikimedia Foundation

the HUSTLE

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Wikipedia for World Heritage

The gender gap

Wikipedia editors are predominantly male

1%

9%

90%

- Male
- Female
- Transsexual/Transgender

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Gender declaration on Wikipedia

Language	Percentage
Russian (ru.wikipedia.org)	22.58%
Vietnamese (vi.wikipedia.org)	10.54%
Ukrainian (uk.wikipedia.org)	9.43%
Thai (th.wikipedia.org)	9.12%
Portuguese (pt.wikipedia.org)	8.72%
Turkish (tr.wikipedia.org)	8.40%
Arabic (ar.wikipedia.org)	8.16%
Marathi (mr.wikipedia.org)	7.53%
Japanese (ja.wikipedia.org)	7.49%
Chinese (zh.wikipedia.org)	7.14%
Farsi (fa.wikipedia.org)	6.59%
Tamil (ta.wikipedia.org)	6.43%
Indonesian (id.wikipedia.org)	6.43%
English (en.wikipedia.org)	4.85%

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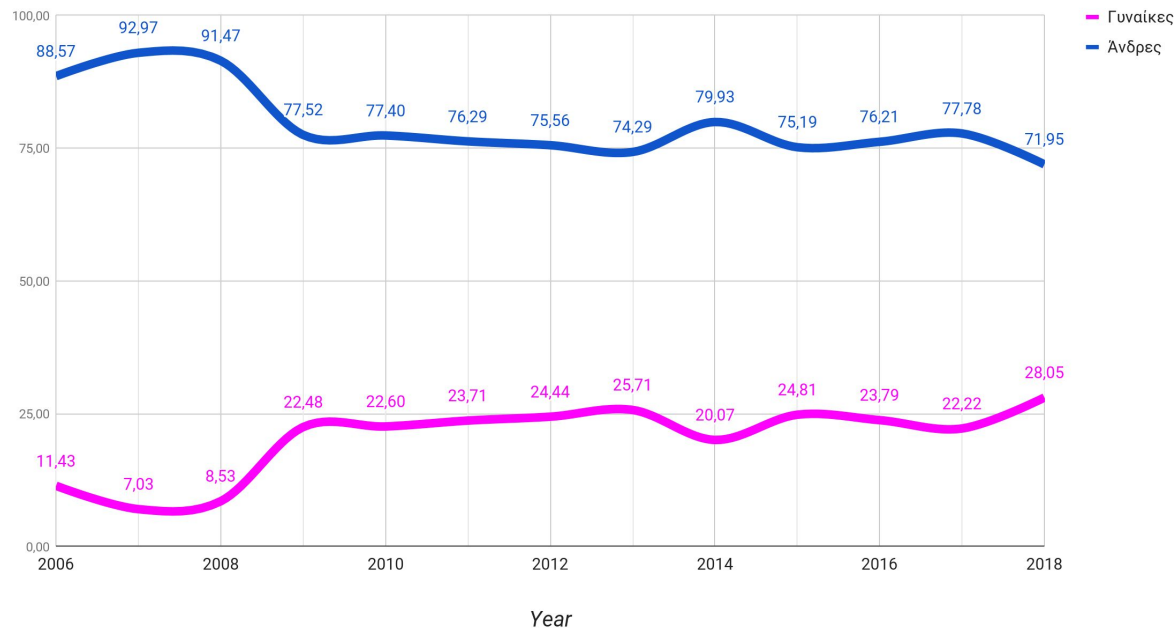**GREECE**

The participation problem

80% of the editors that defined their gender are male.

Wikimedia User Group Greece had no active female members in January 2016.
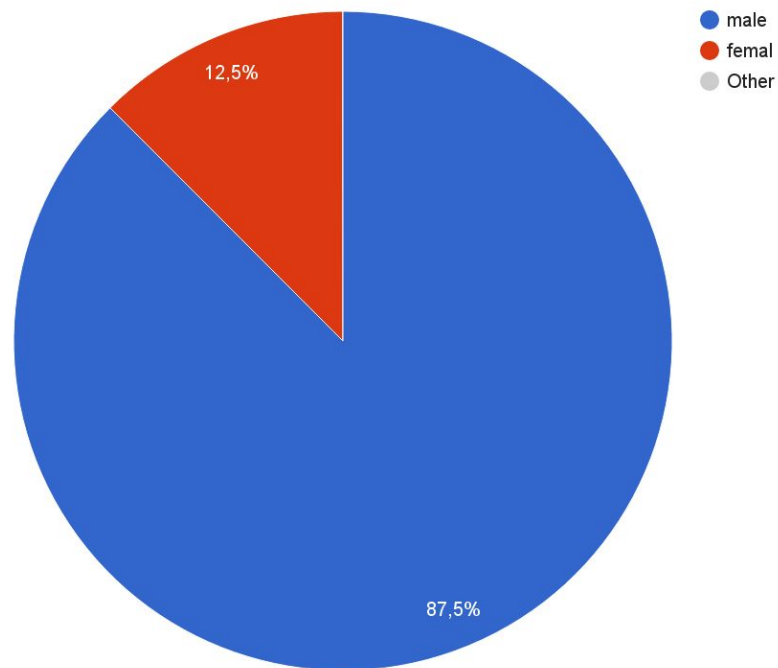
Gender declaration on Wikipedia

The editors are mainly male

Females and Males in elwiki

Legend: ■ Γυναίκες ■ Άνδρες

Άνδρες (blue): 88,57 · 92,97 · 91,47 · 77,52 · 77,40 · 76,29 · 75,56 · 74,29 · 79,93 · 75,19 · 76,21 · 77,78 · 71,95

Γυναίκες (magenta): 11,43 · 7,03 · 8,53 · 22,48 · 22,60 · 23,71 · 24,44 · 25,71 · 20,07 · 24,81 · 23,79 · 22,22 · 28,05

Year

The content problem

Articles per gender in elwiki

- male
- femal
- Other

12,5%

87,5%

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The content problem

Greek Wikipedia has few articles, especially articles concerning women's issues.

A strong feminist movement existed in the country during the late seventies and it raised many serious issues concerning women's **reproductive rights** (abortions, free contraception), **sexuality** and **prostitution**. Despite its struggles against the traditional roles of woman in the Greek family and its serious impact in Greek society, there is still not even one article written in Wikipedia about it.

Κατηγορία Συζήτηση

Ανάγνωση Επεξεργασία Προβολή ιστορικού ☆ Περισσότερα ▾

Αναζήτηση σε Wikimedia Commons

Category:Feminism by country

Από Wikimedia Commons

ⓘ **This meta category should only contain other categories.** Files should either be in the relevant subcategory or in the parent category.

Good pictures ▾ ⑦ Βοήθεια

Υποκατηγορίες

Αυτή η κατηγορία έχει τις ακόλουθες 52 υποκατηγορίες, από 52 συνολικά.

▶ Demonstrations and protests in support of feminism by country (6 K)
▶ Feminists by country (68 K)
▶ Women's rights by country (35 K)

A
▶ Feminism in Afghanistan (3 K, 2 A)
▶ Feminism in Argentina (5 K, 1 A)
▶ Feminism in Australia (3 K, 2 A)

B
▶ Feminism in Bangladesh (2 K)
▶ Feminism in the Basque Country (1 K)
▶ Feminism in Belgium (6 K, 7 A)
▶ Feminism in Brazil (6 K, 28 A)

C
▶ Feminism in Cameroon (1 K, 1 A)
▶ Feminism in Canada (5 K, 3 A)
▶ Feminism in the Catalan Countries (4 K, 23 A)
▶ Feminism in Chile (1 K, 8 A)
▶ Feminism in Croatia (1 K)

▶ Feminism in Egypt (2 K, 2 A)

F
▶ Feminism in Catalonia (21 A)
▶ Feminism in Finland (2 K)
▶ Feminism in France (11 K, 39 A)

G
▶ Feminism in Germany (7 K, 20 A)
▶ Feminism in Ghana (1 K)
▶ Feminism in Guatemala (1 K)

H
▶ Feminism in Hungary (1 K)

I
▶ Feminism in India (3 K)
▶ Feminism in Iran (2 K)
▶ Feminism in Iraq (2 K)
▶ Feminism in Ireland (2 K, 5 A)
▶ Feminism in Israel (7 K, 5 A)
▶ Feminism in Italy (7 K, 7 A)

J

▶ Feminism in Morocco (1 K)

N
▶ Feminism in Nepal (1 K)
▶ Feminism in the Netherlands (5 K, 7 A)
▶ Feminism in New Zealand (2 K)
▶ Feminism in Norway (2 K, 7 A)

P
▶ Feminism in Peru (1 K)

R
▶ Feminism in Romania (1 K, 3 A)

S
▶ Feminism in Slovenia (1 K, 5 A)
▶ Feminism in South Africa (1 K, 5 A)
▶ Feminism in South Korea (1 K)
▶ Feminism in Spain (9 K, 53 A)
▶ Feminism in Sweden (4 K, 7 A)
▶ Feminism in Switzerland (3 K, 4 A)

T
▶ Feminism in Tunisia (1 K, 1 A)

The Question of Knowledge

- Access to information is power
- The control of information is of strategic importance
- The view of History is not subjective, not gender neutral
- The way articles are written leads to conclusions (even indirectly)
- Social power is reflected on the articles
- "Wikipedia is sexist. Women lack confidence. Women have less spare time. Women have problems with the editing interface. Editing is tedious. Women have fewer opportunities to develop social relationships than on other websites". (New York Magazine)
- Wikipedia is a field of debate.
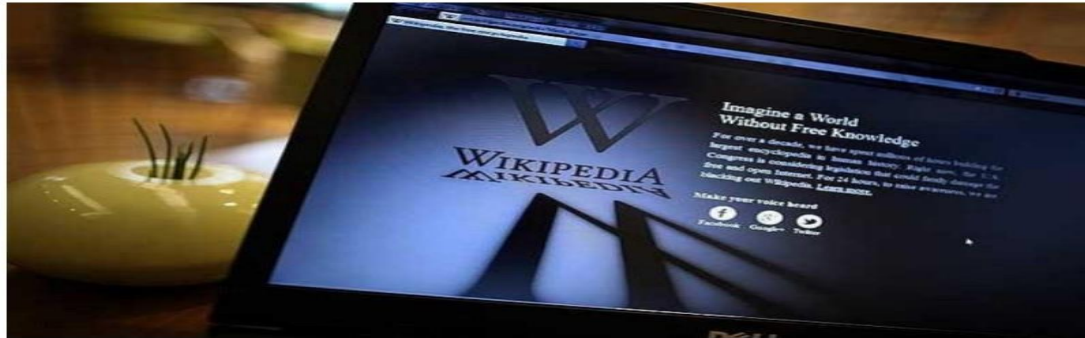
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From gender gap to gender bias

Lack of women editing articles leads to:

- Sexism in the article content
- Articles that mainly satisfy male interests
- Male view in a series of questions

Wikipedia and sexism

Happy birthday sexist Wikipedia. Why do men still control our history?

f share 🐦

Wikipedia: 15 today

By **Sirena Bergman**
15 JANUARY 2016 • 11:36AM

Today marks a momentous anniversary for those of us who believe that the democratisation of knowledge is key to reaching a truly equal society: it's exactly 15 years since Jimmy Wales launched Wikipedia.

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Wikipedia and sexism

...Even when the articles are there, they are often skewed to reflect gender imbalances. A study conducted by MIT last year showed that in pages about women, gender is overly-emphasised, using an unnecessarily high number of words such as 'female', 'woman' or 'lady'. What's more, there's often an obvious focus on their 'personal lives' and families – not always the case in articles about men.

[…] Student Emily Temple-Wood discovered one of the most well-known instances of sexism on Wikipedia, identifying more than 4,000 female scientists - including fellows of the Royal Society - who did not have a page on the site, while obscure male scientists had dozens of paragraphs written about them.

Wikipedia and sexism

GENDER

Wikipedia's Sexist Turn: Men Are Novelists, Women Are 'Women Novelists'

The latest Wikipedia flap is a reminder that sub-categorizing by minority creates implicit bias.
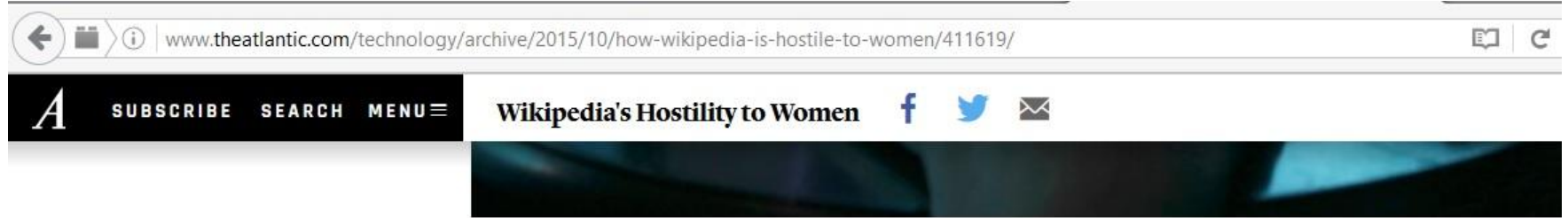
By *Sandip Roy* / **New America Media** | *May 1, 2013*

25 COMMENTS

At 5:44 PM on April 1, John Pack Lambert, a 32-year-old student of history at Wayne State University took a small step for one man which proved to be a giant leap for mankind.
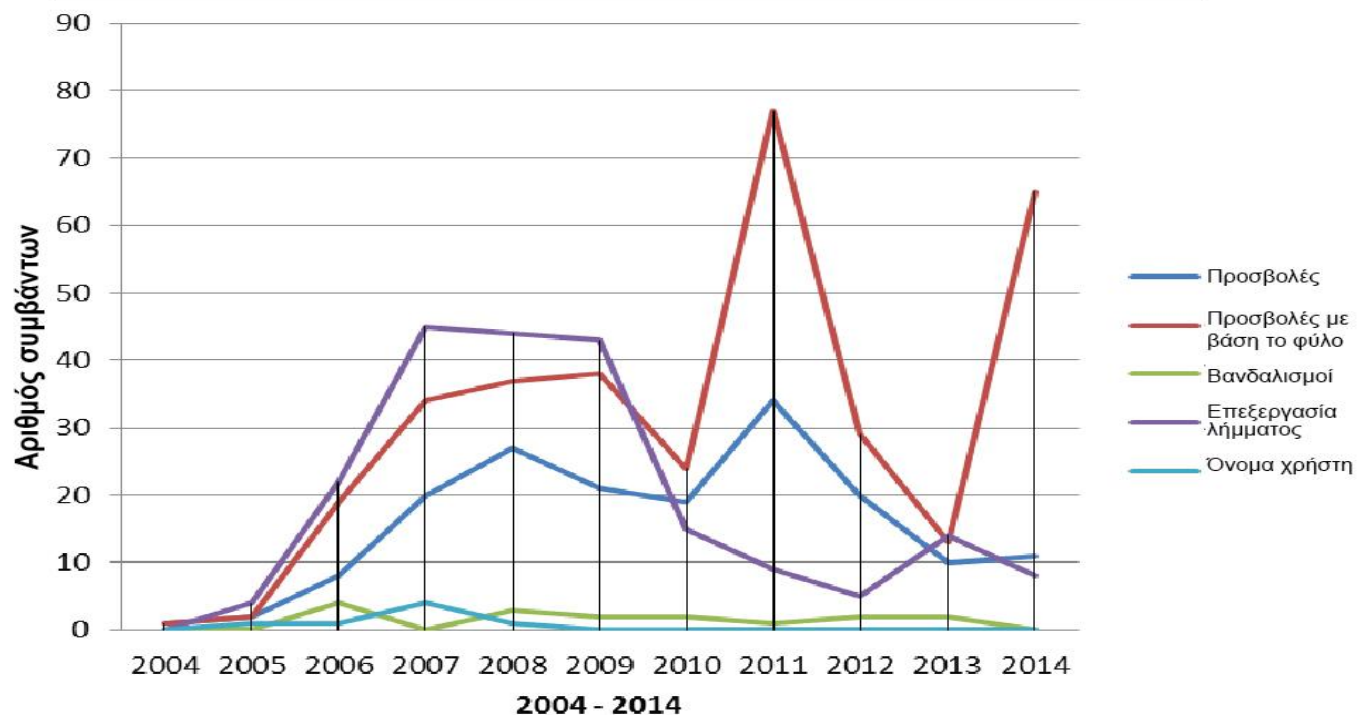
And I mean MANkind, not humanity.

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Wikipedia's hostility to Women

The use of the word "cunt"

The females as victims of attacks by males

In talk pages:

- Female users are often victims of attacks based on their gender
- Gender is often used as tool to insult and impose male power against females

Wikipedia: Something more than just an Encyclopaedia

MonmouthpediA

image filter controversy

World Heritage

Nupedia

Categories

visual editor

flagged revisions

user interface

thematic organizations

GFDL

GLAM

free knowledge

version history

encyclopedia

wiki principle

language versions

sister projects

Wikisource

Meta Wiki

spoken Wikipedia

national chapters

Neutral Point of View

Wikipedia Zero

Wikimania

NOR

WCA

edit-a-thon

Wiki loves monuments

MediaWiki

Wikimedia Foundation

We need you!

Forbes / ForbesWoman

APR 26, 2013 @ 02:00 PM   **7,339** VIEWS

Yes, Wikipedia Is Sexist
-- That's Why It Needs You

Deanna Zandt
CONTRIBUTOR

I cover the intersection of technology, social, activism & women.

FOLLOW ON FORBES (67)

FULL BIO >

Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.

Am I Sexist?

In a *New York Times* op-ed, writer Amanda Filipacchi shared her discovery that sexism on Wikipedia is intrusively shaping how women are represented, and in this case, how women are sometimes categorized as a special subset within a broader occupation.
[Disclaimer: one of the services my agency offers is teaching webinars and workshops on the principles of Wikipedia editing.]

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Open questions

- Can we change Wikipedia in a way that does not reproduce the sexist stereotypes?

- Should women write on Wikipedia?

- Why Women Don't Edit Wikipedia?

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Some ideas

Workshops – Meetings, talks, round tables

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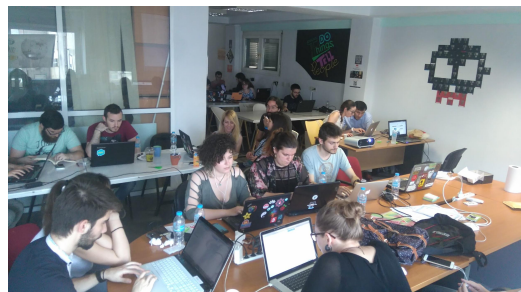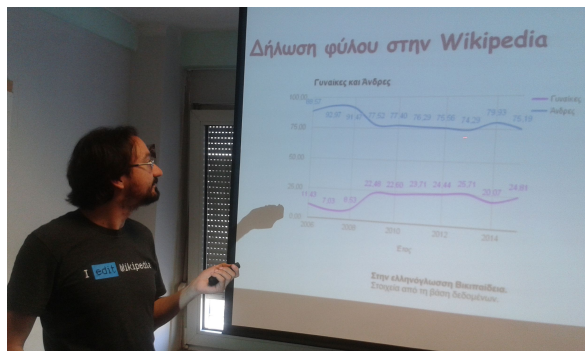
gendergap.wikimedia.gr

Home Blog Ερωτηματολόγιο Στατιστικά Συναντήσεις Υποστήριξη

Ο σκοπός μας

Greek Wikipedia has few articles, especially articles concerning women's issues. For example: a strong feminist movement existed in the country during the late seventies and it raised many serious issues concerning women's reproductive rights (abortions, free contraception), sexuality and prostitution. Despite its struggles against the traditional roles of woman in the Greek family and its serious impact in Greek society, there is still not even one article written in Wikipedia about it.

Moreover, the synthesis of the Greek Wikipedia community is largely male oriented.

In the foreign literature, the limited participation of women in Wikipedia is often attributed to causes such as: "Wikipedia is sexist. Women lack confidence. Women have less spare time. Women have problems with the editing interface. Editing is tedious. Women have fewer opportunities to develop social relationships than on other websites". The same common beliefs also prevail in Greece.

Following the outreach method we used last year with success (talks, meetings with feminist groups and female targeted groups, edit-a-thons) in a larger scale we want to raise awareness of these problems and increase female participation in Wikipedia projects, Wikimedia community and at the same with creating more articles of female interest.

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Questions?

I will be happy to answer to your questions
and listen to your suggestions!

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Thank you!

- Marios Magioladitis would like to thank the *Wikimedia Community User Group Cyprus and Anna Prodromou* for their invitation
- All the images are available in Wikimedia Commons
- The slides of the talk are available in Commons and in https://ionio.academia.edu/MariosMagioladitis/

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