

Gender and Development Workshop: A 21st Century Renewal in Australia and the Pacific

Location: 1.89 Barton Theatre, Crawford Building, ANU

Program Day 1: 26th July 2023

- 9-9.30 Set Up and Registrations
- 9.30-9.45 **Introduction**
- 9.45-10.45 **Keynote: Virisila Buadromo, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, Asia & Pacific:**
'Transforming Gender and Development in the Pacific'.
- 10.45-11.15 Morning tea
- 11.15-12.45 **Panel 1 Speakers**
Associate Professor Rochelle Spencer, Murdoch University:
'Gender Transformative Approaches to Rural Development in the Anthropocene'.
Professor Sharon Bessell, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University:
'Reclaiming Resisting Remaking: The Possibilities for GAD in the 21st Century'.
Dr Annabel Dulhunty, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University:
'Using a Feminist Dignity Framework for Gender and Development'.
- 12.45-1.45 Lunch
- 1.45-3.15 **Panel 2 Speakers**
Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University:
'Intersectionality in Gender and Development Practice: Useful Tool or a Blunt-Edged Sword?'
Yeva Avakyan, Save the Children USA:
'Let's Talk about Power: Using Gender and Power Analysis to Advance Gender Equality and Social Justice'.
Honorary Associate Professor Sally Moyle, Gender Institute, The Australian National University:
'Gender Equality in Development – Towards a Feminist Future? View from Practice'.
- 3.15-4 Afternoon tea
- 4-5 **Jenny Hedman and Mollie Cretsinger, OECD DAC Gendernet Secretariat**
'Global Policy on Development Co-operation for Gender Equality: An Evolving Field'.

Program Day 2: 27th July 2023

9.15-9.30 Set Up and Registrations

9.30-11 Panel 3 Speakers

Associate Professor Sonia Palmieri, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, The Australian National University:

'A Tale of Two Programs: Australia's Role in Supporting Women Political Leaders in the Pacific'.

Dr Siobhan McDonnell, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University:

'Volcanic Ancestors as Kin: Disaster Management and the Unmaking of Mountains'.

Vania Budianto, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University:

'Women and Social Assistance: Revisiting the Gender Equality Agenda in Indonesia's Social Protection Policy'.

11-11.30 Morning tea

11.30-1 Panel 4 Speakers

Professor Bina D'Costa, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, The Australian National University:

'Gendering Development Practices in Humanitarian Contexts'.

Dr Kelly Gerard, University of Western Australia:

'Preserving Women's Empowerment: Advocating for Feminist Participatory Action Research'.

Dr Mandy Yap, CAEPR, The Australian National University and Associate Professor Krushil Watene, Massey University:

'From Gender Equality to Indigenous Wellbeing: Reflections from Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand'.

1-2 Lunch

2-3.30 Developing DFAT's Gender Strategy with Sarah Goulding and DFAT Panel: Past, Present and Future with Sarah Goulding, Honorary Associate Professor Sally Moyle and Dr Ludmilla Kwitko, Honorary Associate Professor.

3.30-4 Afternoon tea

4-5 Concluding Panel Discussion with Virisila Buadromo, Yeva Avakyan and Dr Annabel Dulhunty.

Abstracts

'Transforming Gender and Development in the Pacific'

Virisila Buadromo, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, Asia & Pacific

The Pacific is one of the most unsafe regions in the world to be a woman or girl in all their diversity. They are at the forefront of the climate crisis, more likely to experience domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence, with little or limited voice or agency to negotiate the laws and policies that govern their lives. As a result, there are wide-ranging impacts on their access to education, employment, healthcare, and housing. These barriers harm Pacific women and their development and impact and hinder the region's overall development indicators.

The latest OECD data and analysis indicate that resourcing and funding for women's rights and gender equality have decreased. The 2021 report shows how only 4% of total bilateral aid was dedicated to programmes with gender equality as the principal objective, representing a decrease compared to 5% in the previous period. Bilateral allocable overseas development aid (ODA) to women's rights organisations and movements between 2020 to 2021 was USD 574 million on average per year, a decrease of 0.5% compared to 2019 to 2020. Asia and the Pacific are among the poorly resourced regions of the global South. Geographical remoteness and the small populations have also resulted in the Pacific islands and countries continuing to be severely underfunded. The reality is that there is hardly any national funding across this region, and most gender-based work is dependent on bilateral aid received.

In this paper, we argue that narrowing the gap in gender inequality is everyone's responsibility. However, most projects or work initiated with a gender-equity lens is in the service of a narrow or restrictive political agenda of the bilateral funder or the national government. Transformative change needs an unshackling of political agenda-driven funding to listen deeply to the needs and aspirations of the communities that these resources will support and for them to be at the table where decisions are made. In this context, feminist communities and movements of the Pacific must have access to opportunities and resources to be the implementers of transformative change. After all, these communities and movements hold the line against (and often are the first responders to) a multitude of crises, including the rollback of gender equality and the de-prioritization of women's human rights. Using case studies, and examples of successful partnerships between feminist movements and feminist funds, we will present the case for how feminist movements and feminist funds play independent and interdependent roles in transforming gender and development in the Pacific. This paper seeks to document and analyse the alternate ways bilateral funders can support the needs and aspirations of feminist movements of the Pacific and, in turn, meet their goals to promote gender equality and equity in the Pacific. Collectively, we can seek and fight for more for the Pacific.

'Gender transformative approaches to rural development in the Anthropocene'

Associate Professor Rochelle Spencer, Murdoch University

Feminist theory has long been concerned with the anthropogenic impact of human development on the environment. This paper draws on gender research in northern Vietnam with Thai ethnic minority coffee farmers. We reflect on the use of gender transformative approaches (GTAs) and feminist participatory action research (FPAR) as tools that center gender and women's experiences both theoretically and practically in rural development; that place women's relationships at the heart of how development in this age of the Anthropocene can be practised. We offer insights about how gender transformative approaches to rural development actively examine, question, and seek to change unequal gender norms as a means of achieving sectoral (productivity, food security, market access) and gender equality outcomes. GTAs are arguably a feminist response to the techno-normative approaches to development at a time when poverty and inequality continue to increase with the surge in extreme weather events. We also introduce and reflect on using an FPAR conceptual framework for its attempt to blend feminist theories and research with participatory action research. We pose that GTAs and FPAR could very well contribute to an 'Anthropocene Feminism' to highlight the alternatives a feminist lens can offer us for thinking relationally about achieving progress in gender equity.

'Reclaiming Resisting Remaking: The possibilities for GAD in the 21st century'

Professor Sharon Bessell, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University

The GAD scholarship and activism of the 1980s focused on social relations and the nature of power in ways that promised the transformation of unequal and unjust structures. Captured by a neoliberal agenda, the language of GAD has often been co-opted and its transformative ideas depoliticised. 'Economic' came to precede empowerment and 'smart economics' replaced social relations analysis. In the 21st century, gender equality and women's empowerment have been subsumed by the juggernaut of financialised capitalism. While ideas such as intersectionality and decoloniality have enriched much gender analysis, unequal and unjust structures remain firmly in place. This paper begins to explore the potential for GAD in the 21st century, to resist financialisation and commodification; (re)claim priorities of care, community and connection; and remake power in ways that are constructive and inclusive.

'Using a Feminist Dignity Framework for Gender and Development'

Dr Annabel Dulhunty, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University

In this current era where women's rights are being rolled back in many countries, and with global challenges such as climate change and increased poverty and debt, women's empowerment programming and gender responsive frameworks remain more important than ever. Yet to what extent do these programs consider the importance of human dignity? In this talk, I will argue that feminist conceptions of dignity must be at the heart of Gender and Development programming. I will expand further on a feminist framework for dignity which addresses four dimensions: inner dignity; dignity from others; holistic dignity beyond masculinist notions of the public sphere; and equality of dignity. I will describe how each of these elements is crucial for meaningful feminist approaches to development and will outline examples of how dignity has either been valued or diminished through Gender and Development programming.

'Intersectionality in gender and development practice: Useful tool or a blunt-edged sword?'

Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

Contemporary Gender and Development (GAD) analytical frameworks have predominantly been based on a sex-based binary interpretation. Intersectionality, described as a 'The greatest contribution [of feminist theorists] to social science as a whole' (Belkhir, 2009:3), is becoming increasingly popular in GAD policy and practice, and there is increasing concern over the term becoming a 'buzzword'. The 'travels' of the theory is clearly related to the stagnation of gender analytical frameworks and tools, and their reluctance to go beyond sex-based binary into the domain of complex gendered identities. The widespread invocation of the term raises the question: does intersectionality offer to GAD practitioners a reliable and replicable analytical tool that can be used in interpreting complex fieldwork data on gendered lives? Despite the popularity of intersectionality as a theoretical, methodological, and research paradigm, the increasing complexity in the scholarship of identity and difference is at odds with the use of the concept as a 'handy tool' that gender practitioners seek in their work on development. From a critical feminist perspective, this presentation will analyse these initiatives, underline the potential pitfalls of diluting the theory, and the implications of such 'practical' translations of complex feminist theories rooted in a specific context.

'Let's Talk about Power: using gender and power analysis to advance gender equality and social justice'

Yeva Avakyan, Save the Children USA

Global movements like #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter have reignited calls for gender equality and social justice in international development. Many donors and non-governmental organizations are responding but still struggle to address systemic inequality across their programs and within their organizations. Reimagining systems and fostering equality and social justice requires us to ask: How can we decolonize research and practice and disrupt unequal gender and power relations? How can the research process itself be transformative and an opportunity for co-liberation? What practical tools and steps facilitate power sharing? How can research, like gender analyses, be used to advance

decolonization, gender equality and social justice? How can the international development sector reframe its approaches to focus on the understanding of power and intersectionality in research and programming and away from one-dimensional, single-axis analysis and additive approaches?

Save the Children has been using the [Gender and Power](#) (GAP) Analysis framework to examine, understand and outline approaches that address the root causes of inequality. It's a type of action research that investigates how gender and power inequalities intersect and supports programming design and implementation that can promote systemic and long-term, transformative social change. By employing feminist, intersectional, child-centered, and inclusive methodologies, it outlines how to conduct participatory research in collaboration with minoritized populations. It's a type of action research that investigates how gender and power inequalities intersect and support programming design and implementation that can promote systemic and long-term transformative change.

'Gender equality in development – towards a feminist future? View from practice

Honorary Associate Professor Sally Moyle, Gender Institute, ANU

This paper reflects on how gender equality in development practice over the last 20 years informs theory and considers opportunities for further study and work. It considers two relevant intersecting strands.

First, we have seen significant developments in understanding within and across development organisations about the value and ends of gender equality work. Understandings and practice, while still very far from perfect, are much more sophisticated. What can the last 20 years of practice teach us about gender equality in development theory?

Second, we live in a different world, geo-strategically, than we did 20 years ago. We now have a smaller global development budget and diminishing commitment to good development. We live in a region that is increasingly not seeking traditional development assistance and is increasingly middle class. How should development evolve to assist in this context?

How do these two strands intersect to help us devise a way ahead to a feminist future?

'A tale of two programs: Australia's role in supporting women political leaders in the Pacific'

Associate Professor Sonia Palmieri, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

When recently asked to reflect on the role of women leaders in the Pacific, the Samoan Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mata'afa noted 'Australia has been a leading donor on gender equality in the Pacific ... a lot of resourcing has gone into this, both fiscal and human resources, technological resources. The question being posed is, why is there not enough change?' Prime Minister Fiame's response questions not only the desired outcome (more women in leadership), but the process (Australia's support for women's increased political participation in the region). In this paper, I will compare two programs funded by the Australian Government that I have been involved with over the past ten years: the Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships, implemented by officers in the Australian Parliament, and the Balance of Power program, implemented by Pacific Islanders across its three countries, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu. I argue that Australia is changing its approach to gender equality programming, including through the adoption of localisation practices, but that there is scope for more 'ceding of space' to Pacific knowledge and expertise.

'Volcanic ancestors as kin: disaster management and the unmaking of mountains'

Dr Siobhan McDonnell, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

In her essay on modernity, development and the Anthropocene, environmental anthropologist Debbie Bird Rose challenges us to think through the practices of 'unmaking' the fragmentation that is taking place in the world around us--- stripping people from jobs, creating processes of individualisation, removing the fabric of community and relational webs of multispecies connection (Bird Rose 2013). These same practices of 'unmaking' Bird Rose warns enabled the sacred Kluscap mountain of the Mi'kmaq people to be reimagined as a gravel pit (Bird Rose 2013).

Building from the work of Bird Rose, this paper critically considers the modernist logic that informs the development practice of disaster management in this time of the Anthropocene. It explores the 2017-2018 evacuation of 11,700 people from Ambae Island due to volcanic activity. In this process of evacuation all elderly people, and people designated as 'disabled', were forcibly removed from Ambae island and relocated to the neighbouring island of Santo.

In this paper I argue that the modernist logic of disaster management sees the volcano simply as a threat. By contrast, using feminist ethnography and insights from emotional geography and Oceanic concepts of 'place', this paper will focus on the accounts of the family who are the caretakers of the ancestral beings who inhabit the volcano. In their accounts the volcano is inhabited by ancestors who form part of a relational web of care. The principle caretaker being an elderly woman, expert in *kastom* (custom), who expresses deep concern about her initial evacuation from the island, and her ongoing inability to return and care for the beings that inhabit the Monaro Vui Volcano. Until such time as she can return, the volcano will remain unsafe for all.

'Women and social assistance: revisiting the gender equality agenda in Indonesia's social protection policy'

Vania Budianto, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

Over the past two decades, Indonesia has made significant progress in developing its social protection system, marked by the introduction of various social assistance programs. Initially introduced as a response to the Asian Financial Crisis in the early 2000s, these social assistance initiatives have now become an integral part of Indonesia's social policy. They are primarily designed to target poor families, specifically those in the bottom 10 to 20 per cent of the population (World Bank 2020, OECD 2019), with a particular focus on women who have emerged as the primary recipients, especially since the implementation of the conditional cash transfer program, Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH). Despite these efforts, Indonesia's social protection system continues to grapple with exclusion and systemic gender inequalities (OECD 2019). To address this issue comprehensively, this paper examines how the notions of deservingness lead to a pattern of exclusion (Leisering 2019). The study seeks to provide insights into the progress made in advancing gender equality and diversity within social policy. Through a synthesis of existing studies and in-depth interviews with key policy actors, this paper will argue that social assistance programs view women primarily as instrumental to social development goals rather than promoting gender equality. The notions of deservingness reinforce existing gender norms and limit women's entitlement to their roles as mothers or female household members. This neglects their vulnerability across the life cycle, particularly among elderly women and women in the informal sector.

'Preserving women's empowerment: advocating for Feminist Participatory Action Research'

Dr Kelly Gerard, University of Western Australia

While women's empowerment has been embraced as a global development objective, studies have underscored the declining usefulness of this approach. This declining usefulness is attributed to two factors. First, the instrumentalization of the women's empowerment approach has meant that a once-radical agenda of collectively mobilising women to advance structural change has been harnessed to the 'business-as-usual' approach in global development: pursuing gender equality through women's market inclusion. Second, its declining usefulness is underscored by gender experts' preference not to use the term in their work, in light of contemporary usages where it is synonymous with women's market inclusion; historical critiques of the approach's inattention to the power relationships between women; its potential to be perceived as threatening for men; and its assumed power dynamics between practitioner and participant. In light of the declining usefulness of women's empowerment — and in considering new trajectories for Gender and Development — this paper explores how feminist participatory action research can sustain the objectives of the women's empowerment approach, as it was originally conceived. The paper first outlines the shared conceptual underpinnings of the women's empowerment approach and feminist participatory action research. It then reviews existing studies that deploy feminist participatory action research and evaluates their findings according to the objectives of the women's empowerment approach. The third section analyses the funding landscape for feminist participatory action research, describing the donors involved and the types of projects pursued, as well as their geographies and impacts. Finally, the paper identifies leverage points in promoting feminist participatory action research for those advocates seeking to advance alternatives to women's market

inclusion in gender equality programming. The paper's insights build on recent studies exploring, first, whether the women's empowerment approach can be re-radicalised (Cornwall 2018; Gregoratti 2016; Prügl 2015); second, those highlighting how feminist participatory action research offers a potent tool for marginalised women by enabling them to document their situation and demand structural change (Chakma 2016; Godden 2018; Godden et al. 2020); and third; studies underscoring how local women's organisations are increasingly locked out of the funding ecosystem, despite resources being at a historic high (Arutyunova and Clark 2013; GADN 2019; Hodgson 2020; Miller and Jones 2019).

'From gender equality to Indigenous wellbeing: reflections from Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand'

Dr Mandy Yap, CAEPR, ANU and Associate Professor Krushil Watene, Massey University in Aotearoa New Zealand

The pursuit of gender equality has long been an international development objective with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 highlighting nine targets for achieving gender parity globally. This paper will describe the ways in which gender equality is currently reflected and argue that these measures do not go far enough to capture the things that matters for Indigenous communities. Instead, philosophies of living well advocated by Indigenous communities and reflective and decolonising research practices provide the means to meaningfully centre culture and relationality as important pathways for a transformative agenda.