

Meeting Climate Challenges in the US & Beyond: Building On Women's Leadership

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The big picture

Contrasting gender lenses on climate change

Focus on women and climate justice in the US

Cautionary notes

Overview

The burden of risk
Gendered effects & responses
Climate justice, gender justice

The big picture

The burden of risk

- * Disaster and climate risk – parallels & differences
Disconnected responsibility & impacts
 - * Global redistribution of harm
 - * Disproportionate impact and control at all levels
 - * Cross-cutting gender bias in decision making and effects
 - * Always culturally/historically specific
 - * Mediated by sex, sexuality, gender & gender relations

O'Brien, et al. (2006). Climate change and disaster management. *Disasters* 30(1), 64-80;
Dankelman, I. (Ed.) (2010). *Gender and climate change: An introduction*. London: Earthscan.

Gendered effects

- * Emerging knowledge on gendered effects, e.g. on
 - * Livelihood (including biodiversity, land loss, food security)
 - * Health
 - * Safety
 - * Family
 - * Mobility
 - * Rights
 - * Gender relations

Cross-cutting all other social relationships
Varying by context- environmental, cultural, political economic
Changing over time

Gendered responses

- * Emerging knowledge on gendered mitigation and adaptation
 - * Women's and men's differential capacity
 - * Gendered risk perception and decision making
 - * Conflicting gender interests
 - * Gendered division of labor- social placement-local knowledge

“Women often play a key role in determining the neutrality of their household's contribution to climate change and can lead the way in low-emission living. In developing countries, women typically eat a lower green-house gas diet (less meat) than men and more often choose public transportation and ‘green’ products when provided that option.” Global Gender and Climate Alliance fact sheet, p 2

http://www.unifem.org/partnerships/climate_change/facts_figures.html. Citing S. Hansson, Swedish Defence Research Agency, *Gender Issues in Climate Adaptation* (2007); R. A. Carlsson-Kanyama, *Energy Consumption by Gender in some European Countries* (2009).

“Billions of women around the world make decisions every day that influence the amount of carbon that is released into the atmosphere.” World Bank, *Gender and climate change: Three things you should know*, fact sheet: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=23873>

Gender justice, climate justice

- * Climate change and human security
 - * Gender dimensions
- * Climate change and human rights
 - * Gender dimensions
- * Climate change and disasters
 - * Gender dimensions
- * Climate change and gender justice
 - * The missing connection--but increasingly evident
 - * The missing connection-- especially in the USA (& HDCs)

Manila Declaration for Global Action on Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, 2008

NOTING the lack of awareness in many countries on the issue of climate change and disaster risk reduction; and DENOUNCING the absence of a gender perspective in the global agreements on climate change, despite national, regional and international commitments, and legally binding instruments on gender equality, HEREIN DECLARE THAT: (3 of 13 points below)

- 1 Climate change and its negative impacts must be understood as a development issue with gender implications that cuts across all sectors (social, cultural, economic, and political) from the community to the global level; and concerted efforts are required by all stakeholders to ensure that climate change and disaster risk reduction measures are gender responsive, **sensitive to indigenous knowledge systems** and respect human rights;
2. **Women and men must equally participate in climate change, disaster risk reduction decision-making processes at community, national, regional and international levels;**
3. The Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) should urge its Secretariat to **adhere to human rights frameworks and standards**, and international and national commitments to gender equality, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Agenda 21, the Beijing Platform for Action, Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, ECOSOC Resolution 2005/31, the Millennium Development Goals, the Hyogo Framework for Action and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

http://www.unisdr.org/files/8731_maniladeclarationforglobalactionongenderinclimatechangeanddisasterriskreduction1.pdf

Gender and climate policy
Gender-responsive practice
Research agendas

Contrasting gender lenses

Gender and climate policy work

* Issues

- * Gender imbalance at policy tables
- * Gender silent policy, e.g. Kyoto, IPCC, IFCCC
- * Lack of integration, e.g. in development projects, in disasters

* Actors

- * genCC , Global Gender and Climate Alliance , Gender Constituency
- * Gender & Disaster Network (little climate work)
- * Governmental and non-governmental orgs, UN (e.g. CSW)
- * Technical/professional agencies (little gender work but cf WMO)
- * Environmental /social justice groups (little gender work but cf IUCN)
- * Feminist networks (little global work on climate or disaster work)
- * Impacted communities (can be highly gender aware-- or not)

Alber, G. (2009). The women and gender constituency in the climate negotiations. ” www.isiswomen.org/index.php?...gender-constituency...climate; Raczek, et al. (2010), Climate change and gender: Policies in place. In I. Dankelman, *Gender and climate change* (pp. 194-211). London: Earthscan.

Research agendas

- * Range of topics and methods
 - * Climate variability & warming; climate disasters
 - * Gendered impacts, mitigation, adaptation
 - * Policy environments
 - * Grassroots organizing
 - * Public opinion/risk perception
 - * Science practice
- * Concerns
 - * reproducing vulnerability discourse, neglect of gender in HDCs, focus on women, focus on adaptation

Tuana, N. (2013). Gendering climate knowledge for justice: Catalyzing a new research agenda. In M. Alston and K. Whittenbury, eds., *Research, Action, and Policy* (pp. 17-31). New York: Springer.

Carbon footprints- his, hers, ours
Gender-specific effects on US women and men

Gendered attitudes and action

Focus on the US

Carbon footprints

* Commonalities

- * Shared oil dependence, cultures, and lifestyles
- * Social class /occupation/region, etc. cut across gender

* Differences

- * Women's higher use of mass transit use (but cf family work in suburban transit islands)
- * Men's driving patterns ("jackrabbit" starts, lower concern for fuel efficiency)*
- * Women's higher levels of "green" household practices

Noting the significant lack of gender analysis in US footprint analysis but see Raty, R. & Carlsson-Kanyama, A. (2009), *Comparing energy use by gender, age, and income in some European countries.* Swedish Defence Research Agency, <http://www.compromisorse.com/upload/noticias/001/1560/foir2800.pdf>. For a gender critique of "footprint" analysis, with European data, see Johnsson-Latham, G. (2007). A study on gender equality as a prerequisite for sustainable development. Report to the Environment Advisory Council, Stockholm, <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/1106617/A-Study-on-Gender-Equality-as-a-Prerequisite-for-Sustainable-Development>

Gender specific effects

- * Pregnant women, e.g. extreme weather stress
- * Care work expands (e.g. increased respiratory disease/childhood illness)
- * Livelihood, e.g. in farming /fishing families, resource towns (ND)
- * Food stress among the poorest (female) and stress of food providers (female)
- * Increased risk of gender-based violence
- * Displacement, migration, resettlement, e.g. the women of Katrina
- * Agricultural work (highly gendered) shifts
- * Socially isolated men, e.g. Chicago heat wave deaths
- * Senior women in substandard housing (hypothermia)
- * Increased domestic labor, e.g. declining water quality/quantity/reliability
- * Health of men (and women) in energy occupations, e.g. oil & gas
- * Harm to men (and women) “first responders” e.g. fighting fire
- * Health risk for men (heat stress)
- * Increased flooding/flood deaths (higher among US men)
- * Loss of land/traditional foods & medicine (e.g. for indigenous women)

Gender cuts across other patterns of impact

Noting the lack of US data but see the larger US gender and disaster literatures

Gendered attitudes/risk perception

- * US women more risk averse than men (but cf “the white male effect”)
- * US women more knowledgeable about climate science than men (but doubt themselves more)
- * US women more supportive of climate mitigation & adaptation policy reform
- * US women’s environmental views

For a synthesis and review see Goldsmith, R., Feygina, I., & Jost, J. (2013). The gender gap in environmental attitudes: A system justification perspective. In M. Alston & K. Whittenbury (Eds.), *Research, Action and Policy: Addressing the gendered aspects of climate change* (pp. 159-171). New York: Springer. McCright, A. (2010). The effects of gender on climate change knowledge and concern in the American public.” *Population and Environment* 32, 66-87; McCright & Dunlap (2011). Cool dudes: The denial of climate change among conservative white males in the United States. *Global Environmental Change* 21 (4), 1163–1172.

Gendered mitigation

- * Higher levels of support for government action e.g. in support of renewable energy, EPA standards, mass transit funding, pricing emissions
- * Greater use of mass transit
- * More support for energy conservation
- * Organic gardening/community gardening/composting, recycling, water conservation
- * Historically high levels of activism on environmental issues including energy conservation

McCright, A. (2010). The effects of gender on climate change knowledge and concern in the American public." *Population and Environment* 32, 66-87; Semeza, et al. (2011), Climate change and climate variability: Personal motivation for adaptation and mitigation, *Environmental Health* 10, 46-58; Neal, D. & Phillips, B. (1990). Female-dominated local social movement organizations in disaster-threat situations. In G. West and R. Blumberg (eds.), *Women and Social Protest* (pp. 243-255). New York: Oxford.

Gendered adaptation

- * Livelihood diversification
- * Migration, family resettlement
- * Higher levels of household disaster preparedness*
- * More engagement in local disaster risk reduction
Consumer choices, e.g. organic foods, 'green' choices
- * Advocacy- organizing as women around CCA and DRR
- * Child-focused CCA work primarily led by women
(mothers, teachers, youth leaders, girls rights groups)

*Major, A. (1999). Gender differences in risk and communication behavior: Responses to the New Madrid earthquake prediction. *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 17 (3), 313-338; O'Brien, P. & Atchison, P. (1998), Gender differentiation and aftershock warning response. In E. Enarson & B.H. Morrow (eds.), *The gendered terrain of disaster* (pp. 161-172). Westport: Greenwood.; but see Semeza, et al. (2011), Climate change and climate variability: Personal motivation for adaptation and mitigation, *Environmental Health* 10, 46-58.

Why gender analysis matters

(just one example)

- * US women often have reduced capacity for proactive CCA and may strive to adapt differently than do men
- * Georgia workshop with 43 African American farmers in the US Southeast found “two distinct narratives”

Bartels, W., Furman, C., & Royce, F. (2011). Agricultural adaptation to climate variability and change among African American growers in the Southeast USA.

<http://www.seclimate.org/pdfpubs/2012%20Bartels%20et%20al%20SECC%20Technical%20Series%20Adaptation%20among%20African%20American%20growers%20in%20the%20Southeast%20USA.pdf>

Mostly male group

Focus on row crops
Larger cultivated area
Industrial technology adopters
Focus on market
Conventional agriculture

Mixed gender, discussion dominated by women

Focus on vegetables
Smaller cultivated area
Industrial technology rejecters
Focus on family subsistence
Agro-ecology

Formal & informal
Gender justice and climate justice organizing

Focus on US women's leadership

Formal and informal leadership

Active Women

- * Office holders, elected/appointed
- * Leaders in climate action orgs
- * Climate scientists & researchers
- * Global advocacy of US women for climate justice, e.g. through WEDO, Energia, Global Water Alliance, UN agencies

* Women Activists

- * Feminist/women's rights
- * Gender-based
- * Faith-based
- * Post-disaster/emergent
- * Environmental justice/antiracist
- * Advocacy in and about the US for gender/climate justice



Secretary of State Hillary global women leaders working on climate policy.

Networking Women Leaders

Clinton hosted biologists, ecologists, sociologists, and educators from around the world who visited 7 states over 2 weeks in 2012, meeting with leaders from NGOs and government to discuss climate change, urban sustainability, clean, green, and new technologies, as well as women's empowerment.

<http://www.meridian.org/news/item/738-delegation-of-women-climate-leaders-on-state-department-program-meet-us-secretary-of-state-hillary-clinton>



United Methodist Women members at the Climate Witness in Washington, D.C. Photo by Leigh Rogers.

United Methodist Women

“The collective Climate Witness took place on the Capitol lawn and called for accountability by U.S. leaders for the sustainability of the planet and protection of those most vulnerable. Immediately following, participants personally delivered nearly 14,000 postcards to Senate offices and Obama administration officials. A majority of participants in the witness were United Methodist Women members from across the United States.

United Methodist Women's Delegation to Copenhagen Marches in Climate Change Demonstration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeiA18Ukn28>



Colorado-Mothers for Sustainable Energy

<http://www.facebook.com/TheMothersProject.orgColorado>

Erie Rising- The Mothers' Project

“ Erie Rising is a grassroots, mom (parent) powered organization, dedicated to protecting our children, our health, our environment and our community, as well as those beyond our reach. Founded by accomplished women, mothers and business owners, Erie Rising is quickly becoming the an effective grassroots mom-powered organization bringing awareness to the issues related to hydraulic fracturing and concerns for children’s health in Colorado and beyond.”

A Mother’s Day Letter to the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama

We are mothers from all walks of life writing to you about an urgent matter: the health threats to our children posed by extreme forms of fossil fuel extraction, in particular, the process of drilling oil and natural gas using high-volume, hydraulic fracturing, known as “fracking.

<http://www.erierising.com/the-mothers-project-comes-to-erie/>



Women's Environmental Network (WEN)

WEN is “an educational and networking community of professional women who work in environmental fields in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.”

<http://www.wencal.org>



True Blue Women

True Blue Women—active in Kansas and Missouri around a variety of progressive issues including education, health, social justice, and environmental and energy policy. Web-based resources on fracking can be found here:

<http://www.truebluewomen.org/Default.aspx?pageid=1179060>

<http://www.truebluewomen.org/>



Girl Scouts of America

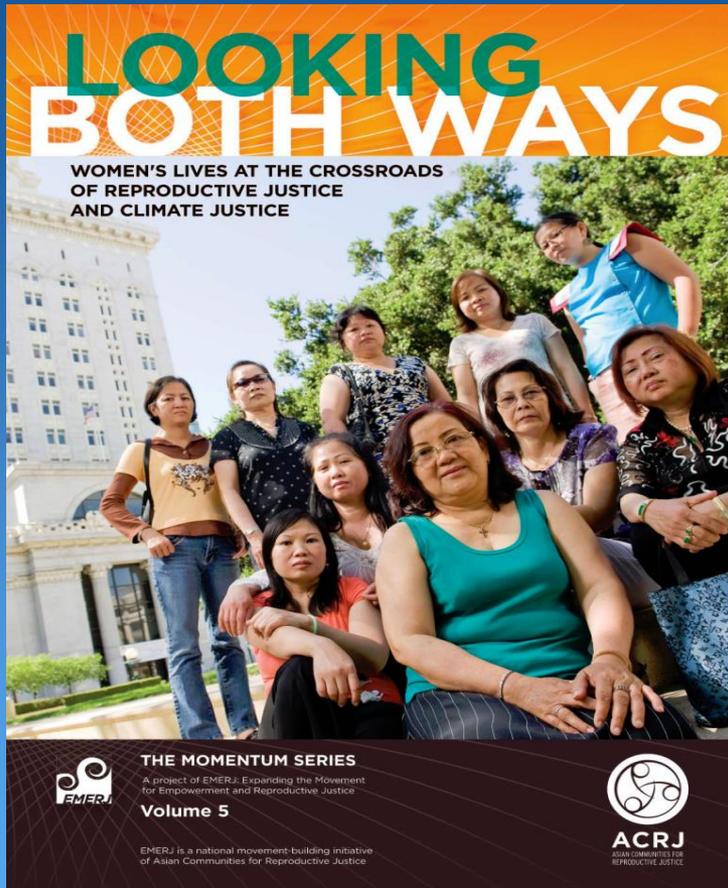
“Girl Scouts are taking the lead in preparing and educating their families and other young people about potential disasters,” said Lidia Soto-Harmon, GSCNC Acting Executive Director. “We want to empower youth of all ages to act with confidence in an emergency situation.”

Girl Scout Troop 5127. . . . The girls created the slogan, “Don’t Be Scared, Be Prepared”, and produced and starred in their own public service announcement with the help of EMPOWER, an emergency management organization for women:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=TEwwAJR_ilo

What Girl Scout Leadership Looks Like In Times of Disaster: Responding to Hurricane Sandy, National Program Guidance, Winter 2012 :

http://www.gs-top.org/sites/default/files/downloadable_forms/GS_DisasterResponse_2012_forAdults.pdf

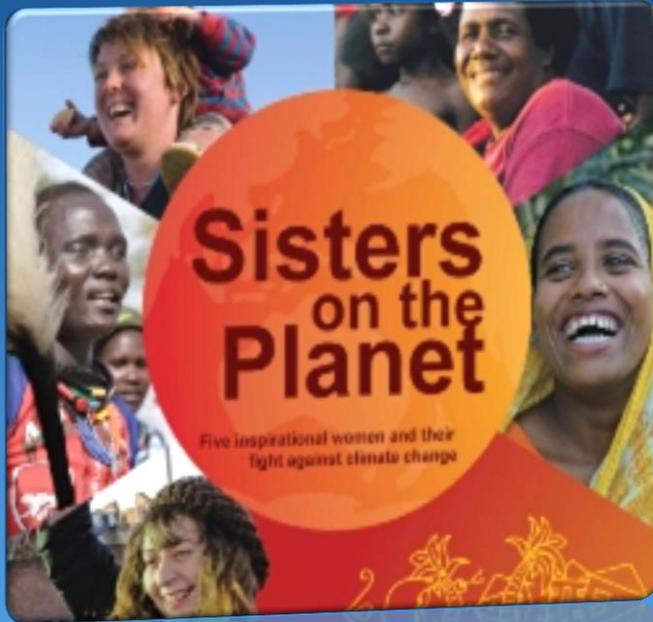


Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice, San Francisco

“These women’s bodies literally lie at the intersection of reproductive justice and climate change.”

POLISH Campaign (Participatory Research and Organizing Leadership Initiative for Safety and Health)

http://www.movementgeneration.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/looking_both_ways.pdf



“Let the women go to Washington. Let them tell the stories that are not being told. Their message is simple: we’re still here. We’re going to be here. And climate change affects all of us.”

Sharon Hanshaw,, Oxfam US “Sisters on the Planet” speaking tour
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHLBXeaOJjc>

Women of Color United for Climate justice

“While communities of color globally will be disproportionately disadvantaged by the impacts of climate change, women of color and their communities are the least responsible for the rampant consumption and emissions that are driving climate change. The leadership of women of color, along with the stories of their experiences, is largely missing from the climate debate. But their existence, perspectives and expertise are at the very core of a justice agenda that needs to be advanced.”

Natural Disasters, Climate Change Uproot Women of Color, by Jacqui Patterson
http://www.ontheissuesmagazine.com/2009fall/2009fall_patterson.php

Mandisa Moore, New Orleans, 2009 video. Mandisa describes how climate change affects her life. . . She particularly organizes around violence, reproduction, and sexuality of women of color.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=wtCFiA2HBMI#



Michelle Roberts, Policy Coordinator, AEHR and environmental justice activist in the southeastern US linked climate disasters in low-income communities at home to climate action globally at the COP 16 event in Cancun, 2009.

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, Michelle Roberts

AEHR advocates for a just, sustainable, and anti-racist rebuilding of Gulf Coast communities that respects the human right of all residents to return. Central to our advocacy is raising public awareness about the need for implementing the United Nations' *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* in every aspect of Gulf Coast recovery efforts in order to protect the human rights of displaced and returning residents.

<http://www.ehumanrights.org/>



Atakapa women of the Grand Bayou, Louisiana

Activist Rosina Philippe speaks on BP spill's impacts on indigenous people's culture and livelihood, linking back to resource extraction, land loss, and the extreme storms tied to climate change.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDTgyr7wLr4>

Among other videos, see *Grand Bayou After Katrina*:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smpenIZeUJw>

Cautionary notes
Recommended core readings
Some positive examples
Recommended websites
Your thoughts?

Conclusions

Cautionary notes

- “We’re all in this together” --but we’re not
- “Women united” –but when do women’s interests differ?
- “The population bomb” again
- Reproducing ideology: subordination/emancipation myths
- Reproducing gaps: the “two solitudes of DRR and CCA *
- Gender=men (again . . .)
- Corporate appropriation of feminist symbolism (cf Women of Marcellus (pro-fracking video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QADyWoy64w>))

Enarson, E. (2013). Two solitudes, many bridges, big tent: Women’s leadership in climate and disaster risk reduction. In Alston, M. & Whittenbury, K. (Eds.), (2013). *Research, action and policy: Addressing the gendered aspects of climate change* (pp. 563-74). New York: Springer.

Recommended Core Readings

Alston, M. & Whittenbury, K. (Eds.), (2013). *Research, action and policy: Addressing the gendered aspects of climate change*. New York: Springer.

Aguilar, L. (2009). Training manual on gender and climate change. International Union for Conservation of Nature and UNDP. http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/eng_version_web_final_1.pdf

Brody, A., Demetriades, J. & Esplen, E. (2008). *Gender and climate change: Mapping the linkages*. BRIDGE/IDS.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/Resources/DFID_Gender_Climate_Change.pdf

Dankleman, I. (Ed.) (2010). *Gender and climate change: An introduction*. London: Earthscan.
2009). *Climate Change and Climate Justice*.

Masika, R. (Ed.) (2002) Gender, development and climate change. Special issue. *Gender and Development Journal* 10(2). London: Oxfam.

Terry, G. (Ed.) (2009). *Climate change and gender justice*. Special issue. *Gender and Development Journal* 17(1). London: Oxfam.

Some positive examples (research, policy, practice)

Practice and policy (examples):

UN ISDR. (2008). *Gender perspectives: Integrating disaster risk reduction into climate change adaptation-good practices and lessons learned*

http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/2008_isdr_gender_perspectives_disaster_risk_reduction_cc_eng.pdf

UN Women Watch , Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change, Fact Sheet,

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/

Gender and Climate Change: Toolkit for Women on Climate Change

<http://www.comminit.com/global/content/gender-and-climate-change-toolkit-women-climate-change-0>

Research (in addition to Recommended Core Readings) :

Alston, M. (2013), Gender and climate change in Australia and the Pacific. In M. Alston & K. Whittenbury (eds.), *Research, action, policy: Addressing the gendered impacts of climate change* (175-188). New York: Springer.

Anderson, C. (2008). *Stories from the Pacific: The gendered dimensions of disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change*. AusAID, UNDP http://www.preventionweb.net/files/9527_UNDPPCClimateChange1.pdf

Babugura, A. (2010). Gender and climate change: South Africa case study. Heinrich Boll Foundation G&CC paper series http://www.za.boell.org/downloads/GCC_south_africa.pdf

Oxfam, (2009). Responding to climate change in Viet Nam: Opportunities for improving gender equality. <http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/responding-to-climate-change-in-vietnam-opportunities-for-improving-gender-equa-112555>

Van Voorst, R. (2009). “I work all the time” – He just waits for the animals to come back.’ Social impacts of climate changes:: A Greenlandic case study. *Journal of Disaster Risk Studies* 2 (3), 235-252.

Recommended websites

Recommended websites include:

GenCC <http://www.gendercc.net/>

WEDO/GGCA <http://www.wedo.org/>

Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice <http://www.mrfcj.org/>

Gender and Disaster Network <http://www.gdnonline.org>

UN Women Watch

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_and_environment_3011.htm

G2C2 (Gender justice/climate justice, Penn State U)

<http://rockethics.psu.edu/climate/g2c2/index.shtml>

GROOTS International/Disaster Watch <http://www.disasterwatch.net/>