



Gender, Disaster and Climate Risk : Perspectives from Scandinavia and South Asia

1. Unpacking Sex, Gender and Sexuality in Disaster and Climate Risk reduction: Perspectives from the Scandinavia and South Asia

In everyday usage the terms sex, gender and sexuality are often conflated, attached to a physical and biological connotation. Despite criticisms, the conflation and usage of the terms as a biological and anatomical division persists. This session involves a critical analysis of such conflation through discussions of the dominant discourses on sex, gender and sexuality in relation to disaster risks and climate change. This session will allow participants to discuss and develop an understanding of:

1. How sex, gender and sexuality is framed in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the global North and South.
2. The overlaps and convergence in the framings between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
3. Problematizing these constructions. What are the missing components or the needs for elaboration?

2. The Question of Gender in “Building back better” and “Climate smart”

Building back better is defined by UNISDR as *“recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases after a disaster to increase the resilience of nations and communities through integrating disaster risk reduction measures into the restoration of physical infrastructure and societal systems, and into the revitalization of livelihoods, economies and the environment”*. Climate smart approach also connotes similar elements of transformability and revitalization in reducing greenhouse gases. An opportunity for gender equity is sought through these approaches.

This session will involve discussion on:

1. How gender is integrated in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of the project.
2. What aspects of gender that are specifically considered in the Disaster Risk Reduction approaches.
3. In what way such approaches hold the potential to transform gender inequalities or produce new inequalities and exacerbate existing ones.

3. Gender, Power and Politics

Power and politics are inherent in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts such that both materially and discursively dictate issues of access, needs and opportunities. Both disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are highly political processes where the above mentioned issues are negotiated and power determines the space for such negotiation. This session will involve a discussion on:

1. In what way climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is constructed and defined by those in positions of power that can shift according to context.
2. The material and discursive role of power in terms of amplifying and disguising issues that create hetero-normativity.
3. How power and powerlessness can be theorized in relation to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction that can contribute to a nuanced understanding of gender issues in disaster risk and climate change.

4. Gender and Participation: Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

The importance of addressing gender issues in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation has assumed importance particularly in relation to reducing vulnerabilities of the “vulnerable” through participation in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation process. However, ambiguity persists on what this participation entails; and what it means in terms of reducing vulnerabilities and risk. This session will involve discussions around:

1. How participatory approaches have addressed issues of gender in relation to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
2. The nature of participation and what it means to reduce vulnerability and achieve gender equality on the other.
3. The goal of participation and what it means to be inclusive.
4. Differences and similarities between what is meant by gender mainstreaming, to be gender sensitive and gender aware as well as their instrumental and transformational qualities.

5. Gender and Research

Conducting feminist research in relation to climate change and disasters can be like walking a tight rope where the researcher unknowingly can reproduce gender bias and heteronormativity. This session will address certain methodological dilemmas, when addressing gender in disaster and climate change research. Discussion on:

1. Issues of men and masculinities.
2. How to position the conducted research.
3. Going from data collection analysis to representation, and issues in portraying the everyday, experiences and performativity.

Presentation Description

1. Selected participants shall submit papers, as part of the course preparation, before the commencement of the summer school. Practitioners in DRR and CCA interested in attending the summer school may only submit a 500 word motivation letter.
2. The paper may not necessarily adhere to the five themes but should be more or less related to discussions around gender in climate change and disaster risk reduction.
3. Each participant will be allotted two reviewers beforehand, fellow Ph.D participant and a senior researcher, to have a thorough and fruitful discussion of the papers submitted.
4. The participants (students) will be given 15-20 minutes for a presentation of his/her paper and this will be followed by a discussion with their allotted reviewers and then a question and answer session with all the participants.
5. The presentation of the paper can be in any form: oral, power point or poster. The idea is to cover the key arguments of the paper.

Exercise Description

1. During the lectures, exercises will be conducted in groups to make the session more interactive.
2. Details regarding the exercises will either be given on the day of the session or a day in advance depending on the nature of the exercise. More details will follow soon.