

gender@ sustainability

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WIDE Switzerland Conference
Friday, 31st October 2014 in Bern

The international agenda and national policy debates have been dominated by the discourses on sustainability as a response to the ongoing crises. But what exactly does sustainability encompass and what influence does it have on the global regimes? Who has the power to de/regulate and what kind of logic is hiding behind it? Can we speak of a sustainable development at all, when visions of statehood, democracy and our common future seem to disregard gender justice?

Is sustainability a viable 'domain' for gender justice? What do feminist perspectives on work and standard of living, on social security and justice disclose on the processes of development and sustainability? Can they influence these processes?

Experts at the WIDE conference analyse the responses to the economic and ecological crises and reflect on the social consequences. Researchers, activists and interested parties are welcome to participate in the discussions.

Program

Conference facilitation: WIDE Conference Coordinators Franziska Müller cfd, Dögg Sigmarsdóttir

09.15 Words of Welcome

WIDE – Women in Development Europe

09.40 Gender Justice in the Discourse on Sustainability

Daniela Gottschlich, Political scientist, Leuphana University of Lüneburg

10.10 Talks: Feminist Debates on Ecology and (Care) Economy

The UN seeks sustainability with the sustainable development goals, Europe focuses on the discourse of energy transition and the private sector promotes the 'green economy'. At the same time social security systems are being dismantled and services of the welfare state are delegated to the private sector. What exactly is sustainability about? How are the political strategies on ecology, care and economy related to each other? Why is it so difficult to interlink the different discourses? What insights can be gained from feminist thinking?

Ulrike Röhr, Civil engineer and Sociologist, genanet – Leitstelle Gender, Umwelt, Nachhaltigkeit, Berlin

Mascha Madörin, Economist with key expertise in feminist political economy

Christa Wichterich, Sociologist, Publicist and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Basel

Facilitation: Christine Michel, Unia, WIDE Switzerland

11.15 Break

Program

11.45 Contexts: Social Sustainability in Times of Deregulation

Feminist experts from Sweden, Switzerland and Spain analyse and compare measures taken by states, as well as poverty reduction strategies in development cooperation, and ask about their impact on gender relations. What kind of governance is required to put in place social security systems and to ensure adequate living standard in a gender-just way? What do governments need to know and how do they have to allocate their budgets to be able to finance care economy as well as socially just policies of sustainability?

Ulla Björnberg, Sociologist, University of Gothenburg

Paula Rodríguez Modroño, Economist, Pablo de Olavide University, Sevilla

Ursula Keller, Senior Gender Policy Advisor SDC

Facilitation: Nina Schneider, WIDE Switzerland

12.45 Lunch

14.00 Contradictions: Trade Regimes and Sustainable Development Goals

Women's organisations from all over the world have demonstrated their commitment to incorporate gender justice throughout the post-2015 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). At the same time there are negotiations between states taking place on free trade agreements such as Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). How can feminist approaches challenge such opposing processes and gain scope for social change?

Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director WECF – Women in Europe for a Common Future

Andreas Zumach, Journalist, Publicist and UN-Expert

Facilitation: Christa Wichterich, Sociologist, Publicist und Visiting Lecturer at the University of Basel

15.00 Break

15.30 Workspaces

Workspace 1: Theory & Analysis – Feminist Debate on the Crisis of Gender Justice

Workspace 2: Political Practice and Movements – Shaping the Glocal Space

Workspace 3: Feminist political economy – Taking Care into Account

Workspace 4: Economic Literacy – Standard of Living from the Household Perspective

17.30 Sustaining Feminist Visions!

Talk show with Ulrike Röhr

18.15 End of Conference

19.00 An Evening of WIDE Utopias – a Toast to WIDE+ Celebration at the Frauenraum, Reitschule, Bern

Workspaces 15:30 – 17:30

Workspace 1: Theory & Analysis

Feminist Debate on the Crisis of Gender Justice

Sustainability is omnipresent in the international agenda. Behind this catch-all term stand the most divergent strategies, such as those aiming at increasing economic growth and reducing poverty, or promoting environmental protection and the empowerment of women. Gender justice as a goal and a social vision becomes less and less visible. Where are divergences and interlinkages between feminist approaches aiming at structural changes?

Debate with **Jeannette Behringer**, Fachstelle Gesellschaft & Ethik der ev.-ref. Landeskirche Zürich | **Edmé Dominguez**, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg | **Sascha Gabizon** | **Daniela Gottschlich** | **Ulrike Röhr**
Facilitation: Tina Goethe, Bread for all, WIDE Switzerland
Language: English and German with simultaneous translation

Workspace 2: Political Practice and Movements

Shaping the Glocal Space

As states cultivate national myths, governance is increasingly characterized by democratic deficiency. How do political movements and civil society initiatives act and interact in this context? To what extent are their practices comparable, despite their different approaches to strengthening democratic processes? Can they achieve their goals together? An exchange on perspective discrepancies and alliances, on gender relations and the importance of gender justice within the movements.

Exchange with **Elena Laporta**, Otro Tiempo, Spain | **Kinga Lohmann**, KARAT, Poland | **Christa Luginbühl**, EvB, Clean Clothes Campaign | **Ulrike Minkner**, Uniterre | **Paula Rodríguez-Modroño** | **Yvonne Zimmermann**, SOLIFONDS (tbc) | **Andreas Zumach**
Facilitation: Annemarie Sancar, KOFF – swisspeace, WIDE Switzerland
Language: English

Workspace 3: Feminist political economy

Taking Care into Account

An important point of reference for economic policies are the national accounts. What possibilities open up for a feminist economic policy, when the national accounts include unpaid care work? An introduction to the critique of the gross domestic product GDP and living standard calculations.

Seminar with **Mascha Madörin**, Economist with key expertise in feminist political economy
Facilitation: Jelena Lenggenhager, WIDE Switzerland
Language: German

Workspace 4: Economic Literacy

Standard of Living from the Household Perspective

'The 5-Sector Model of the Economy', developed by Luise Gubitzer, places the household at the centre of the economy, side by side with other sectors, e.g. the public sector. In the workshop we illuminate the understanding of the concepts 'standard of living' and 'quality of life' by and for women and men in the various sectors, with the aim to develop questions and ideas for gender-just governance.

Workshop organised by the **JOAN ROBINSON Association**, **WIDE Austria** and the **Economic Literacy Group**, **WIDE Switzerland**
Language: German or English, depending on demand
With the support of the EU Grundtvig Lifelong Learning Programme

Online-Registration Closing date 16th October 2014

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Contact: Dögg Sigmarsdóttir, wide@cf-d.ch.org

Location

University of Bern, Von Roll Areal, Fabrikstrasse 2-8 (Bus 11 to Güterbahnhof.)

Conference fee

120 CHF (100 EUR) / 80 CHF (67 EUR) for WIDE Members & low-income earners.

Languages

The conference is held in German and English.

The opening and keynote lectures, as well as workspace 1 will be translated.

Concept and Co-ordination

Tina Goethe (Bread for all), Andrea Graf (ICFG University of Bern), Katrin Haltmeier (FachFrauen Umwelt), Jelena Lenggenhager (gibb), Ulrike Minkner (uniterre), Franziska Müller (cf-d), Annemarie Sancar (KOFF – swisspeace), Nina Schneider (Development expert), Dögg Sigmarsdóttir (Conference Coordinator), Heike Wach (ProGender)

Sponsored by

Alliance Sud – the Swiss Alliance of Development Organisations | Bread for all | cf-d – The Feminist Peace Organisation | FachFrauen Umwelt | Fastenopfer – Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund | HEKS – the Aid Organisation of the Protestant Churches of Switzerland | Reformed churches Bern-Jura-Solothurn, OeME-Migration | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC | SWISSAID | Unia – Switzerland's inter-professional trade union



WIDE Switzerland is a network of NGO representative, academics and activists working in the field of gender and development. The objective of WIDE Switzerland is to investigate Swiss development policies as well as economic and social policy with a focus on gender relations, to engage in public debates and to promote networking and knowledge dissemination in these subject areas. WIDE Switzerland is a member of Women in Development Europe – WIDE+.

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