CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS: Feminist Pathways to Just and Sustainable Futures

OCTOBER 7-9, 2020
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Preface

From October 7th-9th, 2020 the Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights held a virtual symposium on “Confronting the Climate Crisis: Feminist Pathways to Just and Sustainable Futures.”

The symposium aimed to call attention not only to the climate crisis, but also to what is at stake in the kinds of responses to it that are proposed. Many of the proposed “fixes” are rooted in the same political economic paradigms and worldviews that created the current climate and ecological crises in the first place; they often not only pose great environmental risks themselves, but also threaten to gravely deepen existing gender, racial and global inequalities. However, there are also encouraging signs that many activists and researchers are approaching climate breakdown with a global justice perspective. Our goal was to highlight, among them, the critically important work being done by diverse feminist thinkers, from feminist political economists and ecologists to indigenous and racial justice activists, who outline the sorts of radical solutions that the crisis demands, proposing fundamental shifts in the dominant global economic model. Throughout the event, we explored how intersectional feminist analysis, with an emphasis on global justice, can lead to the fundamental transformations urgently needed to forestall climate catastrophe.

In this compilation, you will find listings of articles, reports, projects and organizations that were referenced during panelists’ comments, as well as selected relevant examples of the panelists’ own writing, and resources the panelists recommend for further exploration of feminist approaches to the climate crisis.

Below, we have provided an overview of the agenda. For more detailed information about the agenda and the topics of the speakers’ talks, click here. To watch recordings of the symposium panels, click here.

Agenda

Wednesday, October 7th

Feminist Approaches to the Climate Crisis

Framing the Symposium

Carol Cohn, Director, Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights

Panel 1: Feminist Approaches to the Climate Crisis

- Indigenous Feminism and Challenging the Climate Crisis Narrative, Deborah McGregor, Associate Professor & Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice, York University
- The Politics and Possibilities of Co-creating Anti-capitalist and Decolonial Feminist Movements for Climate Justice, Ruth Nyambura, Kenyan, Feminist Political Ecologist
- Toward an Ecofeminist Green New Deal? Reflections on Politics, Process and Prospects, Sherilyn MacGregor, Reader in Environmental Politics, University of Manchester
- Petro-Bromance: Masculinities Driving the Climate Crisis, Joni Seager, Professor of Global Studies, Bentley University
- Pandemic and Protest as Potential Portal beyond Patriarchy, Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Founding Pastor of New Roots AME Church, Dorchester, MA

Thursday, October 8th
Panel 2: Feminist Critiques of Mainstream “Solutions”
- Climate Non-Negotiables: Not “Something that Markets Can Handle”, Anita Nayar, Director, Regions Refocus
- Rebooting the Scarcity Scare: Population, Conflict and Climate Change, Betsy Hartmann, Professor Emerita of Development Studies, Hampshire College
- Injustices of Solar Geoengineering: A Feminist, Antiracist Perspective on the Ultimate Technological Fix, Jennie Stephens, Director, School of Public Policy & Urban Affairs; Dean’s Professor of Sustainability Science & Policy; Director for Strategic Research Collaborations, Global Resilience Institute, Northeastern University
- Women, E-Waste and Technological Solutions to Climate Change, Lucy McAllister, Postdoctoral Researcher of Sustainability, Technical University of Munich, Center for Energy Markets
- Confronting the Climate Crisis: A View From Feminist Economics, Julie Nelson, Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Massachusetts Boston

Thursday, October 8th
Panel 3: Gender, Sustainable Development and the Climate Crisis
- More than (Wo)men: Why Intersectionality is Critical for Effective and Just Adaptation, Edward Carr, Director and Professor of the International Development, Community, and Environment Department, Clark University
- Weathering Development on an Empty Stomach: Women Farmers, Climate Precarity, and the Fate of the "Green Revolution" in Mozambique, Heidi Gengenbach, Associate Professor of History, University of Massachusetts Boston
- Gender Perspectives in UN Climate Processes, Maria Ivanova, Associate Professor of Global Governance and Director of Center for Governance and Sustainability, and Candace Famiglietti, PhD student, Global Governance and Human Security, University of Massachusetts Boston
- Feminist Fears in Gender(ed) Discourses of Sustainable Development and the Environment, Kiran Asher, Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, University of Massachusetts Amherst
• **Trade, Climate Change and Gender: Challenges for Development and Social and Gender Equity**, Mariama Williams, *Programme Coordinator, Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Gender, South Centre*

Friday, October 9th

**Panel 4: Feminist Pathways to Just and Sustainable Futures, Part 1**

• **Engendering Just Transitions: Dilemmas in Climate Policy**, Seema Arora-Jonsson, *Professor, Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences*

• **Feminist "Just Transitions" and the Sustainability of Peace**, Carol Cohn, *Director, Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights*, and Claire Duncanson, *Senior Lecturer in International Relations, University of Edinburgh*

• **Towards Gender-Transformative Change: Experience of the Climate Investment Funds**, Anne Kuriakose, *Senior Social Development Specialist, Climate Investment Funds (CIF)*

• **Care Not Growth: Rethinking Sustainability**, Giovanna Di Chiro, *Professor of Environmental Studies, Swarthmore College*

Friday, October 9th

**Panel 5: Feminist Pathways to Just and Sustainable Futures, Part 2**

• **Healing the Land is Healing Ourselves: Indigenous Solutions to Climate Change**, Lindsey Bacigal, *Communications Director, Indigenous Climate Action*

• **Towards a Feminist Green New Deal**, Bridget Burns, *Director, Women’s Environment and Development Organization*

• **Fertilizing Engagement: Building Trans-Community Collaborations Inspiring and Moving Us toward Climate Justice**, .O, *Climate and Social Justice Activist in Philadelphia*

• **Revolutionary Power: An Activist’s Love Letter to Heal the Planet and Transform Our Energy System**, Shalanda Baker, *Professor of Law, Public Policy and Urban Affairs, Northeastern University*

• **Transnational Feminist Analysis: Spotlighting Pitfalls and Pathways on the Road to a Just, Sustainable Future**, Diana Duarte, *Director of Policy and Strategic Engagement, MADRE*
Panel 1: Feminist Approaches to the Climate Crisis

Deborah McGregor

Resources referenced during her remarks:

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:

Ruth Nyambura

Resources referenced during her remarks:

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:


**Sherilyn MacGregor**

**Resources referenced during her remarks:**


**Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:**


**Other resources she recommends:**


**Joni Seager**

*Resources referenced during her remarks:*


*Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:*


*Other resources she recommends:*


**Reverend Mariama White-Hammond**

*Resources referenced during her remarks:*


Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:
- Green Justice Coalition
- New Roots AME Church

Elora Chowdhury (Moderator)

Resources referenced during her remarks:

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:

Panel 2: Feminist Critiques of Mainstream “Solutions”

Anita Nayar

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:

Regions Refocus

Other resources she recommends:

Betsy Hartmann

Resources referenced during her remarks:

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:

Other resources she recommends:

Jennie Stephens

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:


Lucy McAllister

Resources referenced during her remarks:

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:

Julie Nelson

Resources referenced during her remarks:

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:
Sindiso Mnisi Weeks (Moderator)

Resources referenced during her remarks:


Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:


Other resources she recommends:


Panel 3: Gender, Sustainable Development and the Climate Crisis

Edward Carr

Resources referenced during his remarks:


Selected relevant pieces of his writing and/or information about his work:


**Other resources he recommends:**


**Heidi Gengenbach**

*Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:*


**Maria Ivanova & Candace Famiglietti**

*Resources referenced during their remarks:*


Selected relevant pieces of their writing and/or information about their work:


Kiran Asher

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:


Other resources she recommends:


Mariama Williams

Resources referenced during her remarks:


Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:


Nada Mustafa Ali (Moderator)

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:
Panel 4: Feminist Pathways to Just and Sustainable Futures, Part 1

Seema Arora-Jonsson

Resources referenced during her remarks:


Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:


Arora-Jonsson, Seema. 2014. “Forty Years of Gender Research and Environmental Policy: Where Do We Stand?” Women’s Studies International Forum, Special Issue on Gender, Mobility and Social Change - Guest Edited by Lena Nare and Parveen Akhtar, 47 (November): 295–308.


**Carol Cohn & Claire Duncanson**

*Resources referenced during their remarks:*


*Selected relevant pieces of their writing and/or information about their work:*

doi:10.1080/14616742.2020.1843364


*Other resources they recommend:*


Mothers of Invention Podcast


Anne Kuriakose

Resources referenced during her remarks:


Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:


Giovanna Di Chiro

Resources referenced during her remarks:

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:


Diana Duarte (Moderator)

See Panel 5: Feminist Pathways to Just and Sustainable Futures, Part 2.

Panel 5: Feminist Pathways to Just and Sustainable Futures, Part 2

Lindsey Bacigal

Resources referenced during her remarks:


Grassroots Grandmothers Circle
Sacred Earth Solar
Tiny House Warriors
Treaty Truck House

Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:


Indigenous Climate Action
Pauktuutit

Bridget Burns

Resources referenced during her remarks:

Feminist Agenda for a Green New Deal
Building Feminist Futures Tunes
Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:


Gender Climate Tracker

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

Other resources she recommends:

Rodriguez Acha, Maria Alejandra. 2016. *Climate and Environmental Justice Summary of Umbrella Issue eDiscussion 2016*. Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID); Women's Environmental and Development Organization (WEDO); Institute of Development Studies (IDS).


Resources referenced during their remarks:


Selected relevant pieces of their writing and/or information about their work:

Philly Thrive: Rights to Breathe Campaign

Serenity Soular

Shalanda Baker

**Resources referenced during her remarks:**


Initiative for Energy Justice


**Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:**


Diana Duarte

**Resources referenced during her remarks:**


**Selected relevant pieces of her writing and/or information about her work:**

MADRE

Claire Duncanson (Moderator)
See Panel 4: Feminist Pathways to Just and Sustainable Futures, Part 1.

Recommended in the Chat: