

## **Panel HH: Gender, space and urbanity (chair: Ann Schlyter)**

### **1) Rasel Madaha (State UnivNY at Buffalo, USA ) and Prof. Barbara Wejnert (State UnivNY at Buffalo, USA): Gender, Scholars and Development**

It is believed that there is a clear relationship between Gender and Development as it is argued by one of experienced gender scholars Reddock (2000) who has critically examined the work of various scholars dealing with development. Yet little emphasis is given to real gender sensitive Interventions: it has been a daily talk among scholars, academicians and students (future scholars in this sense) alike that gender is important, if really development is to be achieved. In other words, scholars, though not implementers, play a key role in creating, shaping and challenging various discourses on gender and development. Undeniably, scholars have played a key role in facilitating incorporation of gender into the development agenda. Then do we need to examine our current gender approaches and perhaps move to another approach; are there any efforts purposely aimed at blocking efforts to achieve gender equality? The findings of this paper were derived from a mini-research (opinion survey) aimed at getting the views of scholars from both developed and developing country. By and large, 96.1 of 102 scholars who participated in the survey agreed that there are many challenges faced by scholars in addressing gender issues. Again, 89.2% of the same unanimously agreed that development of any country is at risk if gender is not incorporated. Regression analysis will be presented in the paper.

### **2) Ann Schlyter (Gothenburg University, Sweden)**

My paper will be a development of the paper published in *Feminist Africa* nr 13, ([www.feministafrica.org](http://www.feministafrica.org)) which explored how women in George compound, a peri-urban area in Lusaka have crafted their citizenship by applying the perspective of body politics. This paper will reflect on the meaning and effects of peri-urban space in this crafting of citizenship by focusing on few old women and men who have lived their life in George compound since the early days of independence, and relate this to spatial policies of the Zambian state.

### **3) Anne Rosenlew (University of Helsinki, Finland): Evolving women's groups in urbanizing Senegal. Tracing social capital and livelihood trajectories in Rufisque**

In West African Senegal informal women's groups have traditionally been instrumental for women's saving as well as for financing their livelihoods activities. Furthermore, they have played important roles in the urbanization process, especially at neighborhood level, where the groups have proved to be crucial in creating and preserving social cohesion. Frequently, though, traditional African women's groups have been described as maintaining hierarchical structures and as obstructing development. Various forms of micro-credit schemes inspired by the Grameen bank model are massively introduced in Senegal and they are to replace the credit and saving functions of the traditional groups. The schemes logically undermine the foundations of the groups, and the question is whether traditional groups will survive the new constellations on the money-market directed especially to poor women. In my longitudinal ethnographic study from 1993 to 2008, livelihood trajectories of members from three women's groups from the town of Rufisque have been followed up. The study reveals the significance of social capital emanating from the groups to their members, as well as the adaptability of the groups to new challenges to their members' livelihoods. In some cases, available external micro-credits are used to maintain the groups – not to annihilate them. However, the

constraints and the limits of solidarity, as well as the growing socio-economic deficiency of the surrounding society, shape the confines for the utility of the groups for their members. In spite of these limits, on the whole, the results of the study speak for the valuable impact traditional informal women's groups have for urban women's livelihoods in Senegal as well as for a sustainable society on quarter level in general.

#### **4) Marit Widman (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences): Intra-household bargaining power and child health in Madagascar**

Both the theory of intra-household bargaining, and a wealth of empirical evidence, suggest that when women control resources this affects the household's spending priorities, which in turn may have positive effects on child health and nutrition. In this paper I investigate whether this relationship holds in rural Madagascar. I estimate an intra-household bargaining model econometrically using data from the Madagascar Demographic and Health Survey. Bargaining power is measured in terms of having the final say in household decisions and of controlling assets. Special attention is paid to the role of holding individual land rights, which might improve welfare directly via increased food security or income; and indirectly via greater empowerment. I measure child health using direct indicators of nutritional status (e.g. weight) and indirect indicators such as health-related expenditure. The hypothesis is that children in households where the mother has stronger bargaining power will have better health and nutritional outcomes, even after controlling for the household's socio-economic, cultural and demographic characteristics. The results can contribute to the understanding of gender differences in priorities for children's welfare, and will be important in light of the current land policy reform in Madagascar.

#### **5) Roseline M. Achieng' (Monash – South Africa): Shifting meaning: Young African Women in the Public Space**

The generational shift in Africa is putting the theories of time, space and place onto the limelight once again and in more ways than one. The shifting meaning of neighbourhoods that introduces the concepts of interconnectedness, interconnectivity and discontinuity, are found to be useful analytic categories into understanding how the changing meaning of time, place and space that is introduced by the generational shift in Africa occurs in the everyday African lived realities. Through their economic, social and political activities, young people, especially young African women show, ingenuity in shifting the meaning of neighbourhoods.