

Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU)
Freie Universität Berlin

PhD Workshop

“Gender dimensions of environmental policy”

Tuesday, 18th December 2012, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Henry-Ford-Bau, Konferenzraum III,
Garystr. 35, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

In recent years extreme weather events around the world have shown how men and women are affected to very different degrees by environmental changes. Especially concerning developing countries, studies have shown that women suffer more from environmental change because of the division of labor and social inequality. This might be due to workload, hunger or accidents. The special vulnerability of women should not obscure the fact that they also bring specific skills and resources to deal with environmental changes. These have so far been insufficiently recognized in environmental policy.

Hence women and their interests are not yet fairly represented despite approaches of institutional anchoring, for example within the international climate negotiations under the UNFCCC. Also gender-specific references are made mainly for adaptation or developmental contexts - mitigation in developed countries, however, has no gender reference. Even if international or national environmental policy is subjected to gender mainstreaming, the gender dimension has remained a niche topic. At the local level, insights into the gender dimension of adjacent policy areas, such as urban planning and transport policy, have not yet been established as an integral part of the environmental debate.

This neglect of the gender dimension of environmental policy is reflected in scientific analysis – or lack thereof: gender issues are still under-represented in both the environmental policy research and in the development of theory for environmental policy analysis. Conversely, the feminist research refers only rarely on the field of environmental policy.

The PhD workshop “**Gender dimensions of environmental policy**” at the Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU), the Freie Universität Berlin, deals with this untapped potential. The workshop gives young researchers the opportunity to gain awareness of the importance of and to relate their research to gender questions in environmental policy research.

Program

10:00 Welcome and introduction: Lena Bendlin

10:10 Keynote: Prof. Miranda Schreurs

10:30 Workshop: Gotelind Alber

12:30 Lunch break

13:30 Group work

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Closing note: Irene Wiese-von Ofen

16:45 Conclusions and farewell: Inken Reimer

17:00 End of the Workshop

followed by end of the season PhD Party at FFU

Invited speakers

Gotelind Alber is an independent researcher and advisor on sustainable energy and climate change policy with a special focus on local strategies to address climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy, multi-level governance, gender issues and climate justice. She is physicist by education and has 25 years of working experience in research, policy and management, among others as managing director of the Climate Alliance of European Cities. She is co-founder and board member of the global network GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice, and Focal Point of the Women and Gender observer constituency in the UNFCCC process. Recent projects include research on the role of cooperatives in local climate policy; gender aspects of EU members states’ energy and transport policy; gender, cities and climate change; evaluation of national energy research programmes; local 100% renewable energy scenarios; advice for national institutions and international agencies on renewable energy and local governments’ approaches to climate policy; and strategic advice, capacity building and training for local and regional governments.

Dr. Irene Wiese von Ofen was born in Berlin and now lives in Essen. She graduated as an architect, has a post graduate degree in town-planning and received a PhD in urban planning. She spent part of her professional career working for the City of Essen, in the office of Town-Planning, Spatial Planning and Urban Renewal. From 1990 – 1998 she was Deputy Mayor of the City of Essen. Until 1998 she was also member of several commissions of the German “Städtetag” as well as jury member and chair of several national and international urban competitions, conferences and workshops. Since 1998 she is a free lance private consultant in urban planning and mediation. She holds several honorary functions, amongst others as President of the German Association for Housing and Planning, Berlin, Deputy chair of the Advisory Board to the Federal Ministry for Housing and Traffic, Berlin. Furthermore she is the founding President of the Local Agenda 21 in Essen.