

Gender, Climate, Movement

Feminist research and activism meet climate change and mobility

9th RINGS Conference

University of Paderborn, Germany,

18 - 20 October 2023

(hybrid)

Anthropogenic climate change and its environmental, social and economic impacts are one of the great challenges of our time. It is also deeply gendered – with the concept of gender here understood as a social construct mediated by various axes of power, including race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, age, and further dimensions such as space, locality, and time. Current global and local crises go hand in hand with, among other things, gender-related inequalities. This is also true for the respective framings as crisis and the approaches to dealing with it. Gender research has shown that an analogy exists between the disregard and exploitation of environmental ecological processes through neo-liberal capitalist economies and the gendered social fabric of care. Even though ecology as well as care constitute a necessary social and economic basis, both are deeply neglected and rendered invisible. Contemporary feminist research, as well as activism in different parts of the world, revolve around the effects of climate change on environment, communities, and social relations.

Gender research is situated in complex global-local spaces. – with the concept of space seen as a social construct, shaping individuals and societies in their everyday surroundings on a local, regional and global scale linked with different kinds of mobilities. In this vein, we understand “mobility” as examining the processes, structures, and consequences of the movement of people and things – be they physical, virtual or mental. Hence it is used as a broad concept with multiple, overlapping dimensions.

For this conference, we invite contributions engaging with the project of intersectional gender perspectives, climate, and mobility in scholarship and activism, not only in symbolic and metaphorical ways, but with a commitment to material, structural change in the world. We are soliciting papers from various perspectives in the RINGS community and beyond that address and deal with the fundamental socio-ecological transformations urgently needed, questioning traditional paths, and outlining opportunities offered by readjustments.

Such contributions could explore any of the following questions (but need not be limited to them):

- How are climate change and socio-ecological inequalities intertwined from an intersectional gender perspective?
- What kind of new theoretical, epistemological and methodological approaches are necessary or can be developed against this backdrop?
- What changes in gender relations due to climate (change) and / or mobility can be identified? What are the primary drivers behind these changes?
- How do the effects of climate change influence individual biographies (e.g. existential impacts of heat waves and floods, housing, water, nutrition, reproduction, care, geopolitical mobility)?
- What role do ecological and climate issues play in contemporary social movements?
- Which concrete theoretical and empirical approaches, including intersectional gender perspectives, can contribute most usefully to analysis of the social dimension of climate change and / or mobility?
- What is the contribution of intersectional gender justice to inter- and intragenerational climate justice?
- How are colonialism, mobility, and climate change intertwined from a historical and decolonial feminist perspective?
- How are the effects of mobility and climate policies to be evaluated with respect to social and / or gender inequalities?
- What sources of analysis and knowledge in different parts of the world and different communities past and present offer a fundamental critique of the devastating effects of neo-liberal and technical-rationalist economic thought and action on social equality and ecological sustainability? Which alternative scenarios do they propose?
- What strategies of intervention regarding the causes and consequences of climate-induced mobility patterns are successful in terms of gender-responsive climate actions and performances? What are the favourable conditions for successful feminist interventions to mitigate climate change effects?
- What gender-sensitive climate and mobility policies can be found at local, regional, national, or international levels? What are the characteristics of these?
- How can the gendered constraints put in place by spatial separation that may confine women to certain locations or social spheres be overcome?
- Which visions or visionary projects should we discuss? What other images and narratives of the future, e.g., from feminist science fiction or queer utopias, are relevant with regard to the nexus of gender, climate, and mobility?

We solicit contributions on empirical studies, projects, and theoretical discussions on the gender dimension of geography, climate, and mobility from a variety of disciplinary and trans-, post-, and

interdisciplinary approaches (including cultural, social, historical, legal, medical, and technical) and encourage intersectional, postcolonial, and queer perspectives. Papers can refer to phenomena from the local to the global and be undertaken in an internationally comparative or otherwise contrasting manner. They may address the gender dimension of one of the areas above or study their interrelatedness. Formats other than single presentations, particularly more interactive formats (such as panels, roundtables or more experimental modalities) are welcome. We invite submissions from scholars from all disciplines all over the world and especially encourage Early Career Researchers to apply.

This call is directed to RINGS members, but non-members can also submit abstracts. Member organisations are encouraged to invite others towards extending membership, with particular emphasis on strengthening the participation from the Global South.

RINGS, the International Research Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies (ringsgender.org), is a global association of centres of advanced gender studies. The participating centres span Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and the Americas. Eight RINGS assembly meetings and conferences have been held since the inauguration of RINGS in October 2014 at Örebro University: Prague (2015), Cape Town (2016), Reykjavik (2017), Lisbon (2018), Tallinn (2019), online (2020 – Cape Town), Budapest (2021), and Durban (2022).

The 9th RINGS annual meeting and conference will be hosted in Germany by the Center of Gender Studies (ZG) at the University of Paderborn, in cooperation with Essen College of Gender Research (EKfG) at the University of Duisburg-Essen, and the Chair of Sociology / Social Inequality and Gender at the Ruhr University Bochum.

Practical information

Host and Venue organisation: Paderborn University, Paderborn, Germany.

Best to reach via Hannover airport or Düsseldorf International airport.

Registration fee: A minimum of 100€ per individual attendee/participant variable by financial situation. The fee will support the RINGS solidarity fund. Members from lower income countries can apply for funding from the solidarity fund to offset participation costs.

Assistance from the solidarity fund is subject to sufficient availability of funds. Please contact Beth Gum bethanygracegum@gmail.com for possible assistance.

Accommodation and travel: Accommodation and travel costs are to be covered by the participants. The hosts will suggest accommodation options and arrange reduced prices.

Deadlines and important dates:

- Abstracts of a maximum of 350 words and a brief bio-note are to be submitted by May 1st 2023 to Beth Gum at bethanygracegum@gmail.com, with the subject line “RINGS abstract”. Please also indicate at the end of your abstract whether you will be attending the conference in person or virtually.
- Acceptance notifications will be issued by June 2023.
- Conference registration will open in August 2023.

Contact for inquiries: Beth Gum (bethanygracegum@gmail.com)

Conference Committee

Local organising committee:

- Annalisa Mattei, Research Assistant, Center of Gender Studies, Paderborn University
- Annette von Alemann, Professor of Social Inequality and Gender Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen
- Antje Langer, Professor of Educational Science, School Pedagogy and Gender Research, Paderborn University
- Beth Gum, RINGS Associate
- Claudia Mahs, Managing Director, Center of Gender Studies, Paderborn University
- Heike Kahlert, Professor of Sociology, Social Inequality and Gender, Ruhr University Bochum
- Maren Jochimsen, Managing Director, Essen College of Gender Research, University of Duisburg-Essen
- Sabine Grenz, Associate Professor of Gender Studies, University of Vienna, Head of the Gender Research Office

International Advisory Committee:

- Deevia Bhana, Professor of South African Research, Gender and Childhood Sexuality, University of KwaZulu-Natal
- Jeff Hearn, Professor Emeritus, Hanken School of Economics
- Kadri Aavik, Associate Professor of Gender Studies, School of Governance, Law and Society, University of Tallinn