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# Gender Equality Norms in Regional Governance

**Transnational Dynamics in Europe,  
South America and Southern Africa**

Edited by

**Anna van der Vleuten**

*Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands*

**Anouka van Eerdewijk**

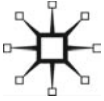
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and

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# Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	viii
<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	x
<i>List of Acronyms</i>	xii
Introduction	1
<i>Anna van der Vleuten, Anouka van Eerdewijk and Conny Roggeband</i>	

## Part I

1 Regional Governance, Gender and Transnationalism: A First Exploration	17
<i>Anna van der Vleuten and Anouka van Eerdewijk</i>	
2 Gender Equality Norm Diffusion and Actor Constellations: A First Exploration	42
<i>Anouka van Eerdewijk and Conny Roggeband</i>	

## Part II

3 EU and the Export of Gender Equality Norms: Myth and Facts	67
<i>Alison E. Woodward and Anna van der Vleuten</i>	
4 Gender Mainstreaming in EU Development Policy towards Southern Africa and South America	93
<i>Petra Debusscher</i>	
5 Gender Mainstreaming in Mercosur and Mercosur–EU Trade Relations	117
<i>Andrea Ribeiro Hoffmann</i>	
6 Latin American Advocacy on Violence against Women and the OAS Convention	139
<i>Conny Roggeband</i>	

7	Gender Mainstreaming in SADC and SADC–EU Trade Relations	165
	<i>Anna van der Vleuten and Merran Hulse</i>	
8	Violence against Women and Southern African Advocacy on the SADC Gender Protocol	193
	<i>Anouka van Eerdewijk and Joni van de Sand</i>	

### Part III

9	Reconceptualizing Gender Equality Norm Diffusion and Regional Governance: Logics and Geometries	221
	<i>Conny Roggeband, Anouka van Eerdewijk and Anna van der Vleuten</i>	
	<i>Index</i>	247

# List of Illustrations

## Figure

1.1	Multilevel, multiway, multiactor interaction patterns	37
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## Tables

3.1	The <i>gender acquis</i> : secondary EU law on gender equality	73
5.1	Mercosur norms in relation to gender	122
6.1	Belém do Pará Convention: member state ratification and national legislation	141
7.1	The definition of gender mainstreaming in SADC documents	173
7.2	References to gender in SADC documents on trade	177

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To call a research project *Granddeur* (Gender and Regional Norm Diffusion: Debunking Eurocentrism) might seem sheer hubris – but also an invitation to do something extraordinary. Such were our feelings from the very beginning of this project in 2009, when we started thinking about gender equality, travelling norms and regional governance. We sensed the complexity of the issue and the limits of our academic vocabulary in dealing with it, but also the excitement of exploring new territories. We travelled a lot to make this project happen. We travelled physically, presenting our ideas at conferences in Europe and the US – but more importantly, we travelled beyond the borders of our disciplines in order to question concepts and amalgamate insights from different bodies of thinking.

Our travels were not without their problems; events such as having to switch jobs or fight the budget cuts hitting the Dutch school in Ecuador were demanding and energy-consuming. Our travels were enriched, fortunately, by inspiring moments and encounters. We will not forget the brainwave we shared when drawing a first version of the multilevel polycentric norm diffusion model on a paper tablecloth in the famous Budapest *Strudel* café in January 2011. The intense three-day workshop in Nijmegen in June 2012, where we wondered about the *cupcake*-fication of women's lives, provided a critical edge to our thinking. The theoretical chapters took further shape during the many transregional Skype conversations in which we negotiated our ways through differing paradigms, vocabularies, preferences and allergies of all sorts (not to mention poor internet connections). Tough discussions on a sunny balcony in Barcelona marked a breakthrough for putting the pieces of the puzzle together.

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*Anna van der Vleuten, Anouka van Eerdewijk and Conny Roggeband  
Nijmegen/Amsterdam/Quito, July 2013*

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# List of Acronyms

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
ALBA	<i>Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América</i> (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America)
ANC	African National Congress (South Africa)
APRODEV	Association of World Council of Churches Related Development Organizations in Europe
ASC	<i>Alianza Social Continental</i> (Hemispheric Social Alliance)
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
AWID	Association for Women's Rights in Development
BF	<i>Bancada Feminina</i> (Women's Bench, Uruguay)
BTC	Belgian Development Agency
CCSCS	<i>Coordenadora de Centrais Sindicais do Cone Sul</i> (Southern Cone Union Head Offices Coordinating Agency)
CECF	<i>Conselho Estadual da Condição Feminina</i> (State Council on the Status of Women, Brazil)
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEJIL	Center for Justice and International Law
CELAC	<i>Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños</i> (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States)
CEPAM	<i>Centro Ecuatoriano para la Promoción y Acción de la Mujer</i> (Ecuadorian Center for Women's Promotion and Action)
CIM	<i>Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres</i> (Inter-American Commission of Women)
CISCA	<i>Centro de Intercambio y Servicios Cono Sur</i> (Center of Services and Exchange for the Southern Cone, Argentina)
CLADEM	<i>Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de las Mujeres</i> (Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights)
CMC	Common Market Council (Mercosur)
CMG	Common Market Group (Mercosur)
CNDM	<i>Conselho Nacional dos Direitos das Mulher</i> (National Council on Women's Rights, Brazil)
CONAMU	<i>Consejo Nacional de Mujeres</i> (National Council of Women, Uruguay, Ecuador)

CONAPRO	<i>Concertación Nacional Programática</i> (National Programmatic Concertation, Uruguay)
CONCORD	Confederation for Cooperation of Relief and Development NGOs
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
CSW	United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
DEAM	<i>Delegacia Especializada de Atendimento à Mulher</i> (Specialized Women's Police Unit, Brazil)
DEVAW	Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DG	Directorate-General
DG DEVCO–EuropeAid	Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation–EuropeAid
DG EMPL	Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
DG JUST	Directorate-General for Justice
DG Trade	Directorate-General for Trade
DINAMU	<i>Dirección Nacional de la Mujer</i> (National Directorate for Women, Ecuador)
EC	European Community
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EEAS	European External Action Service
EIGE	European Institute for Gender Equality
EP	European Parliament
EPA	European Partnership Agreement
ESA	Eastern and Southern Africa
EU	European Union
EWL	European Women's Lobby
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCES	<i>Foro Consultivo Económico-Social del Mercosur</i> (Mercosur Economic and Social Consultative Forum)
FEMM	European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
FGM	female genital mutilation

FLACSO	<i>Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales</i> (Latin American School of Social Sciences)
FLS	Frontline States
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas
GAD	gender and development
GBV	gender-based violence
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	gross domestic product
GEM	<i>Grupo de Educación Popular con Mujeres</i> (Women's Popular Education Group, Mexico)
GEMSA	Gender and Media Southern Africa
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IGO	intergovernmental organization
IGTN	International Gender and Trade Network
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IR	international relations
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
Mercosur	<i>Mercado Común del Sur</i> (Southern Common Market)
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIP	National Indicative Programme
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NPE	Normative Power Europe
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPS	<i>Organización Panamericana de la Salud</i> (Pan American Health Organization)
PEP	post-exposure prophylaxis
RandD	research and development
RAN	regional advocacy network
REBRIP	<i>Rede Brasileira pela Integração dos Povos</i> (Brazilian Network for the Integration of the Peoples)
REM	<i>Reunión Especializada de la Mujer del Mercosur</i> (Mercosur Specialized Meeting of Women)

REMTE	<i>Red Latinoamericana Mujeres Transformando la Economía</i> (Latin American Women's Network to Transform the Economy)
RIP	Regional Indicative Programme
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
RMAAM	<i>Reunión de Ministras y Altas Autoridades de la Mujer del Mercosur</i> (Mercosur Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities)
RNGS	Research Network on Gender Politics and the State
RO	regional organization
RUDVS	<i>Red Uruguayaya contra la Violencia Doméstica y Sexual</i> (Uruguayan Network against Domestic and Sexual Violence)
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC GU	SADC Gender Unit
SADC PF	SADC Parliamentary Forum
SADCC	Southern African Development Cooperation Conference
SafAIDS	Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service
SARDC/WIDSAA	Southern African Research and Documentation Centre/Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness
SARPN	Southern African Regional Poverty Network
SGDI	SADC Gender and Development Index
SIA	Sustainability Impact Assessment
SNC	SADC National Committee
SOA	spheres of authority
SPM/PR	<i>Secretaria Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres da Presidência da República</i> (Presidency of the Republic Special Secretariat for Policies for Women, Brazil)
TAN	transnational advocacy network
TEU	Treaty on European Union
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNASUR	<i>Unión de Naciones Suramericanas</i> (Union of South American Nations)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
USA	United States of America
VAW	violence against women
WAD	Women's Affairs Department (Botswana)
WHO	World Health Organization
WID	Women in Development (policy)
WIDE	Women in Development Europe
WILDAF	Women in Law in Development in Africa
WLSA	Women and Law Southern Africa
WTO	World Trade Organization
WUSC	World University Service of Canada