

Gender, Development and Social Change

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The *Gender, Development and Social Change* series brings together path-breaking writing from gender scholars and activist researchers who are engaged in development as a process of transformation and change. The series pinpoints where gender and development analysis and practice are creating major 'change moments'. Multidisciplinary in scope, it features some of the most important and innovative gender perspectives on development knowledge, policy and social change. The distinctive feature of the series is its dual nature: to publish both scholarly research on key issues informing the gender and development agenda as well as featuring young scholars and activists' accounts of how gender analysis and practice is shaping political and social development processes. The authors aim to capture innovative thinking on a range of hot spot gender and development debates from women's lives on the margins to high level global politics. Each book pivots around a key 'social change' moment or process conceptually envisaged from an intersectional, gender and rights based approach to development.

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Anita Lacey
Editor

Women, Urbanization and Sustainability

Practices of Survival, Adaptation and Resistance

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Editor

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Gender, Development and Social Change

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SERIES EDITOR'S PREFACE

Anita Lacey has put together an exciting volume that brings to the series the important issues of gender, urbanization and sustainability. The chapters analyse women's practices in urban centres in the global South as they face the challenges and opportunities of finding sustainable solutions for their urban lives. The studies show how the city is a gendered space through layered examinations of governmental, non-governmental, local grassroots, and individual efforts towards sustainable urban life.

The three sections of the volume look at women's experiences, practices, and resistances, at new modes of sustainable practice that engage women in solutions to: insecure livelihoods, land, and tenure in Part I; food and water access, and insecurity in Part II; and dislocation, exclusion, and violence in Part III.

There are several unique aspects of this volume. First, that women are seen as a fluid grouping, with a focus on women-identifying individual and collective experiences of urbanization that break the binary of gender identities. Secondly, the book queries the binary divide of rural/urban by looking at different sizes of urban spaces and different forms of urban dwellings. The chapters reveal the great variation between and within urban centres and how imagining the urban as full of possibilities does not always fit with the complex reality offered by urban life. Thirdly, the volume provocatively suggests that what are seen as survival strategies of the poor could perhaps be better seen as practices of resistance in exploring the interplay between survival, adaptive, and resistant strategies.

The discussion on sustainability is particularly timely given the new Sustainable Development Goals, call for sustainability to be mainstreamed into all development efforts. This volume contributes to this debate with critical feminist, postcolonial, and post-development understandings of sustainability. Importantly, its focus is on sustainable lives within cities, rather than sustainable cities per se. In looking at women's lives the contributions show how urban politics from below is producing people-led long-term solutions to food and water insecurity, to land and tenancy insecurity and to conflict and violence.

Taken together, the chapters offer an important message, described by the editor Anita Lacey as 'urbanization of hope' or 'a realization of desires' where 'security of tenure, of food, of water, of environmental wellbeing, of livelihoods, of association, and of mental and physical wellbeing' can be met in the present and the future. It is a welcome addition to the series, with the detailed studies helping us to understand ways forward to sustainability led by women and transformative practices for social change and development.

Rotterdam
5 June 2016

Wendy Harcourt

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This edited volume came about as a result of a conversation with the series editor following an article on the lives of women in Honiara, Solomon Islands; in other words, it had a rather academic beginning. In the process of its creation and assembly, however, it has become an organic entity, quite removed from that initial conversation. The reason for this is the composition of its parts and the unexpected and rewarding turns taken as the community of contributors evolved. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the contributors for their work on this volume, and of course their participants. The volume is rich with the stories and ideas of countless participants, and those of their own communities. I would also like to thank Wendy Harcourt, the series editor, for her original and sustained encouragement, as well as the ever patient staff at Palgrave Macmillan. Thanks too to colleagues at the University of Auckland, to Azim Shea and Clara Morrell, and to the generous institutional research funding provided. Lastly, thank-you to Alan for sustaining me during this project.

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