

Climate Change and Gender Justice

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In *Climate Change and Gender Justice* Terry has brought together a fine collection of articles originally published in the journal *Gender and Development* during 2002 and 2009. The articles, together with an introduction and conclusion authored by Terry, provide a useful overview of how working towards the goal of achieving gender justice is fundamental to developments in managing the impacts of climate change as well in developing mitigation and risk management strategies.

The articles in this collection describe past climatic events, climatic predictions, and local initiatives from diverse developing communities including those in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Tanzania, and Bolivia, to name a few. Together, the articles in this book describe the gender differentials at work in access to resources, decision-making, wellbeing and livelihood strategies that assist – or hinder – coping strategies, for example, following a natural disaster. Moreover, the articles describe in detail how climate change predictions that result in extreme weather events may exacerbate existing (gendered) vulnerabilities.

In Rosa Rivero Ryes's chapter 'Gendering responses to El Niño in rural Peru', the El Niño events of the late 1990s are described in the context of climate change predictions that climate-related disasters will increase in this part of the world. The climatic events of the late 1990s resulted in substantial environmental degradation, reduced income, food insecurity and other disaster-related health issues. This review of past events highlights the importance of matters specific to the 'emergency context' but also, given both existing and (post-disaster) ensuing gendered inequalities, the need for inclusive and supportive community participation in all processes and policy that support disaster management. The latter includes technical responses, preventative and risk reduction measures, and disaster preparation strategies. Rivero Ryes draws on the work of an NGO and its pro-women's agenda to increase women's access to critical decision-making processes and develop community-based disaster management plans that will also empower women to fully participate in climate change related disaster management planning.

In her Introduction Terry makes the important distinction between 'coping' and 'adaptation' and advocates that there is a need for strategic intent to support adaptive capacity to climate change that in turn promotes gender equality. Miru Hemmati and Ulrike Röhr provide a brief history of women's participation in UN climate change negotiations as they illustrate the importance of women's involvement in all levels of climate change policy development. The authors also describe and connect the notion of 'climate justice' with 'gender justice' to assert that for dominant climate change discourses to support gender equality, they must consider the experience of justice and care as well as the usual focus on technological and economic imperatives.

Climate Change and Gender Justice offers the reader an engagement with the broad geography of gendered climate change related social and health issues. The stories and initiatives relayed in this collection are diverse and I admire Terry's efforts to bring together articles that focus on gender justice and equality. Thus I see this book as situated with the emerging literature that carefully considers the importance of just and fair responses to climate change (see also Adger et al.).¹ As many of the articles in this collection demonstrate, climate change adaptation efforts need to recognise gender, social diversity and the importance of local knowledge and cultural protocols.

I found the format of the book useful: Terry introduces each article with a summary and concludes the book with a comprehensive list of resources that she has compiled with Liz Cooke. These resources point the reader in the direction of fact sheets, published research, and useful organisations as well as many resources that specifically pertain to subjects such as 'gender and climate change', 'water' or 'security and disaster risk reduction'.

This book is a timely contribution to the literature that describes and critiques the efforts of many individuals and communities to adapt to climate change. The collection of articles succinctly links local perspectives and initiatives to global matters including the role of NGOs, researchers, and policy-makers in supporting communities, and overarching global governance strategies such as those developed by individual governments and the UN. Most importantly this book provides clear documentation about the gendered experience of climate change and offers a plethora of strategies that will support existing efforts to improve women's health and wellbeing.

Reference

1. Adger WN, Paavola J, Huq S, Mace MJ, editors. *Fairness in Adaptation to Climate Change*. Cambridge (MA): MIT Press; 2006.