

Feminist foreign policy and feminist aid: rethinking gender and development?

Conveners:

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The Gender and Development (GaD) approach is established in research as well as in practice, moving away from a specific focus on women as previously seen in Women in Development (WiD) approaches, and towards an increased emphasis on socially constructed differences and relationships. The question is if the adoption of Feminist Foreign Policy represents another move, towards an approach that addresses issues of power and transformation to a greater extent?

Sweden's pioneering Feminist Foreign Policy and its influence on foreign aid has attracted attention internationally and is now starting to appear in the aid policies and practices of other donor countries. For instance, in 2017, Canada followed Sweden's lead in adopting its own *Feminist International Assistance Policy*. In Australia and other countries, civil society groups, activists, and researchers have been advocating for the adoption of a feminist approach to foreign policy and aid.

As feminist aid policies become more common, questions arise about their transformative power. How do feminist foreign and aid policies compel us to rethink approaches to gender and development? Are feminist approaches fundamentally changing aid policy and programming, or is feminist rhetoric simply being used to reframe the status quo? How do feminist aid policies reconcile the often conflicting views of gender and development between aid donors and recipients?

This panel seeks papers which examine these and other relevant questions about feminist approaches to aid from any relevant theoretical, methodological, and disciplinary perspective.