

**GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GLOBALIZATION:
FROM GOAL TO GOVERNANCE**

CONFERENCE

SPONSORED BY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND UN WOMEN

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CLUB
15 WEST 43RD STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
MARCH 13, 2015**

PROGRAM

(AS OF MARCH 10, 2015)

8:30 – 9:00 Registration and Breakfast

9:00 – 9:20 Welcome and Opening Remarks by Merit Janow, Dean and Professor, and Jan Svejnar, Professor and Director of the Center on Global Economic Governance, Columbia|SIPA, and Dan Seymour, Deputy Director of Programmes, UN Women

9:20 – 10:40 Panel I: Strategies for More Inclusive Economic Development and Stronger Social Protection Schemes

Topics to consider:

Gender-equitable policy responses to global economic crises, austerity measures and deepening global inequalities, including financial system reform, equal pay and “social protection floor” initiatives;

Feminist proposals for a “pink New Deal;”

Gender implications of new financing schemes to promote sustainable development (including Tobin taxes, climate funds, social or development impact bonds, crowd-sourcing platforms and blended financing platforms); and

Strategies for effective mainstreaming of gender equality policies in the work of organizations called for by the UN Secretary-General in his December synthesis report, including with respect to: the expert technical assistance group to be tasked with developing a coherent framework that accounts for climate finance and ODA, the Technology Bank and the Science, Technology, and Innovation Capacity Building Mechanism for LDCs.

Panelists:

- Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University
- Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Professor of International Affairs, New School for Social Research
- Patricia Morris, President, Women Thrive Worldwide
- Shauna Olney, Director, Gender, Equality and Diversity, International Labour Organization
- Liane Schalatek, Associate Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation North America
- Eugenia McGill, Lecturer and Associate Director, Economic and Political Development Concentration, Columbia|SIPA (moderator)

10:50 – 12:10 Panel II: The Globalization of Production: Uses and Abuses of Gendered Labor Markets

Topics to consider:

ILO Conventions, international labor standards and trade agreements (including with respect to export processing zones);
Modes of production and service delivery: contractors, sub-contractors and problems of monitoring and accountability;
Ways in which global production chains promote the migration of women, including from rural to urban areas;
Global corporate codes of conduct and their actual and potential impact on women workers; and
Experiences of transnational mobilization of women workers.

Panelists:

- Kalpona Akter, Executive Director, Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity
- Judy Gearhart, Executive Director, International Labor Rights Forum, and Adjunct Professor, Columbia University|SIPA
- Anita Househam, Senior Manager, Policy & Legal/Supply Chain Sustainability, United Nations Global Compact
- Rosa Pavanelli, Secretary General, Public Services International
- Sally Roever, Urban Research Director, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing
- Sarah Gammage, Policy Advisor, Economic Institutions, UN Women (moderator)

12:20 – 1:40 On-site luncheon. Speakers will address issues related to gender issues in global migration.

Speakers:

- Gregory Maniatis, Senior European Policy Fellow, Migration Policy Institute, and Advisor to the United Nations Special Representative on Migration
- Bianca Pomeranzi, Senior Advisor for Gender and Development, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Member, CEDAW Committee
- May-i Fabros, Board Member of Philippine Commission on Women and Coordinator of Young Women's Collective, WomanHealth Philippines
- Sarah Gammage, Policy Advisor, Economic Institutions, UN Women (moderator)

1:50 – 3:10 Panel III: The Globalization of Reproduction: Commodifying Care and Procreation

Topics to consider:

The Development of Care Chains:

Push/pull factors affecting the global market for care workers (including demographic trends and the nexus between labor market dynamics in states that “export” and in those that “import” care workers);
The imperfect overlap of domestic work and care work (and the global demand for each);

National policies – and the conflicts among them -- in regard to care workers, both as emigrants and immigrants (including with respect to visas and remittances); and Globalization and the possibilities of international organization: the mobilization of domestic workers and the ILO Convention.

The Development of Procreative Chains:

Push/pull factors affecting the emerging global market for babies, adoption, gametes and gestational services (including demographic and attitudinal changes); National policies towards the emergence of international commercial surrogacy (and the conflicts among them), specifically with regard to gametes, pregnancy as a form of commodified labor and the status and rights of the women, men and children involved; The Adoption Convention and its relevance or inapplicability with respect to the possibilities of attaining a global agreement on reproductive surrogacy; and Regional organizations, regional standards and judicial enforcement.

Panelists:

- Yasmine Ergas, Lecturer and Director, Gender and Public Policy Specialization, Columbia|SIPA
- Marieke Koning, Equality Policy Advisor, International Trade Union Confederation
- Sonya Michel, Professor of History, University of Maryland
- Elizabeth Tang, International Coordinator, International Domestic Workers Federation
- Maxine Weisgrau, Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia|SIPA (moderator)

3:20 – 4:40 Panel IV: Promoting Freedom from Violence across Borders

Topics to consider:

Violence against women in transnational contexts, including:
Conflict and post-conflict settings, humanitarian crises and economic crises;
Migration, voluntary and forced: risk scenarios for migrant women in urban contexts; trafficking; coerced prostitution; bridal markets; child marriages.

Panelists:

- Dale Buscher, Senior Director for Programs, Women’s Refugee Commission, and Adjunct Professor, Columbia|SIPA
- Liesl Gertholtz, Executive Director, Women’s Rights Division, Human Rights Watch
- Aurora Javate-de Dios, Professor and Executive Director, Women and Gender Institute, Miriam College, and Philippine Representative to the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
- Susannah Sirkin, Director of International Policy and Partnerships/Senior Advisor, Physicians for Human Rights
- Jessica Stern, Director, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
- Yasmine Ergas, Lecturer and Director, Gender and Public Policy Specialization, Columbia|SIPA (moderator)

4:50 – 5:10 Concluding Remarks, including identifying issues for further analysis and action.

