

Climate and gender justice: models for inclusive and equitable climate action

Workshop Factsheet | GIWL Youth Summit

Workshop overview

Climate change is a global crisis that is having a devastating impact on people and communities around the world, and this impact is not gender neutral. Women, girls, and gender diverse groups experience the greatest impacts of climate change, which entrenches existing inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety. But despite this, a gender lens is often missing when it comes to climate change research and interventions.

In this workshop, we'll explore this vital intersection of climate justice and gender, and how we can work together to create a more just and sustainable future for everyone. You'll learn about the gendered impacts of climate change, the importance of integrating a gender lens into climate action, and how to shift the narrative from one of anger and anxiety to that of hope and action. You'll also hear from young changemakers about their varied experiences of climate activism in their communities, from ecopoetry and performance, to the intersection of climate and faith.

What are the gendered impacts of climate change?

- **Women and children are 14x more likely than men to die or be injured due to a natural disaster, and the number of climate-related disasters has tripled in the last 30 years**, as changes in the global climate exacerbate climate hazards and amplify the risk of extreme weather disasters.
- **Across the world, women carry out more than 75 percent of unpaid care work – 3.2 times more than men.** When climate-induced disasters hit, this figure only increases as women take on additional burdens to help their households and communities recover and rebuild.
- **Women make up nearly half of the agricultural labour force in developing countries and are responsible for fetching water in 7/10 households without supplies on premises globally.** During periods of drought and erratic rainfall, women, as primary procurers, have to work harder to secure food, water, and cooking fuel for their families. This puts added pressure on girls, who often have to drop out of school to help their mothers manage the increased burden and leaves women vulnerable

to sexual violence as they are forced to travel further from home, across unfamiliar areas, for supplies.

- **Women make up the majority of the developing world's 1.4 billion poor.** These women generally have lower incomes, less access to credit and decision making authority, and limited control over resources, increasing their vulnerability to climate-induced stressors.

Climate change and gender-based violence

- **Around 21.5 million people are displaced each year because of climate-related issues and estimates show this could rise to more than 143 million people by 2050 – and most of them will be women and children.** People who lose their livelihoods, income and ties to their community are often made vulnerable to exploitation, and in the worst cases, modern slavery or sex trafficking, as they are forced to migrate.
- **Women face a heightened risk of sexual violence in refugee camps or other temporary housing where they have limited access to privacy.** This danger that sexual assault poses to young girls in refugee camps has also decreased their access to education, as it causes families to pull their girls out of school to protect them from the long walks between school and camps.
- **Research has found that drought causes an increase in sexual exploitation of women needing to purchase goods, food, or rent.** Women who are not able to pay certain prices are manipulated into providing sex in exchange for the goods they need.
- **Drought has been associated with increased levels of intimate partner violence.** When women return home from long treks for resources, they may be too physically exhausted for sex, leading some husbands to respond with violence. Furthermore, some men have turned to alcohol in response to the threat that poor harvests, livestock loss, and lower earnings pose to their traditional role as providers

–and this has been linked to an increase in physical violence against their wives and partners.

- **Areas experiencing extreme drought see an increase in child marriages.** As families who rely on seasonal rains for crop and livestock production struggle to provide for their children, an increased number of girls as young as twelve have been forced to undergo female genital mutilation in preparation for dowry-producing child marriages. For example in areas of Ethiopia experiencing the most severe impacts of drought, child marriage more than doubled between 2021 and 2022.

Why does an intersectional lens matter?

Looking at climate change through the lens of intersectional feminism, it is clear that climate change risks are heightened for women and gender diverse people who experience intersectional forms of discrimination. For example, women of colour, older women, LGBTIQ+ people, people with disabilities, migrants and Indigenous communities are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because they are more likely to live in poverty and have less access to resources and decision-making powers.

Moreover, Indigenous peoples –who make up 5% of the world’s poorest and maintain 80% of the planet’s biodiversity on their lands –have been among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change, given their inextricable links to the lands on which they live and the resources upon which they depend.

Why we need a gender-inclusive response to the climate crisis

Including more women and gender diverse people in climate action at every level of decision-making will create a more sustainable and equitable future for all...

- **When provided with the same access to resources as men, women can increase their agricultural yields by 20-30%.** This boost can help reduce world hunger by around 15%. By providing appropriate technology and resources, we can promote more sustainable farming and conservation practices and by reducing poverty, we can help individuals better adapt to the effects of climate change.
- **Women and particularly indigenous women, have been at the forefront of environmental conservation** and have invaluable knowledge and expertise that can help build resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Research shows that countries with high representation of women in parliament are more likely to ratify international environmental treaties.**
- **Women are usually first responders in community responses to natural disasters and contribute to post recovery by addressing the early recovery needs of their communities,** so by involving women in community planning and disaster response efforts, we can build stronger, more resilient communities that are better equipped to face the challenges of climate change.

Key terms

Climate justice

Recognising that the impacts of climate change are not distributed equally and applying a human rights lens to climate action

Climate adaptation

Adjusting to actual or expected climate and its effects, e.g. designing and building infrastructure (roads, buildings, railways, etc) capable of withstanding higher temperatures or powerful storms, diversifying crops, or

adopting ecosystem-based solutions to problems arising from climate impacts.

Climate mobility

The movement of people due to environmental change or climate events like rising sea levels, storms, droughts, and floods. This can be voluntary or forced and can be temporary or permanent.

Gender justice

The systemic redistribution of power, access and opportunities for people of all genders.

Sources & further reading

[Climate Justice: Amnesty International](#)

[Explainer: How gender inequality and climate change are interconnected](#)

[Gender equality: A cornerstone for environmental and climate justice](#)

[Toward a gender-transformative agenda for climate and environmental action](#)

[Invest in Women to Tackle Climate Change and Conserve the Environment](#)

[Five Reasons Why Climate Action Needs Women](#)

[What does gender equality have to do with climate change?](#)



Anthropocene Poetics Part 2

Noemie Huttner-Koros

the man next to me on the train has a swastika tattooed on his left forearm,
three empty seats to my left.
the man next to me on the train is wearing a green and yellow t-shirt of the Australian cricket team.
the man next to me on the train catches me looking, checking, making sure my history isn't deceiving me.
avert my gaze. History tucked into a back pocket.

English-speaking, jeans-made-in-China, op-shop green converse shoes, never-seen-a-shtetl-or-a-pogrom, lives-with-a-housemate-on-a-diet-of-toast-and-bananas: third

culture Jew

the man next to me on the train has other stuff tattooed on his left forearm but they don't bear repeating so i won't.
A Fascist on the Fremantle line
i hear grandma whisper something in my ear about how symbols chase/pounce
Questions for grandma:
-Do they chase us or do we chase them?
-Who do they pounce on?
-How hard?
-In this interspecies metaphoric paradigm, are fascists clawed or pawed creatures?
the day after the election, dad and i run a half-marathon together
we cross the finish line hands lifted to the sky in celebration
i am wearing my 350 t-shirt
By 350, I mean 350 parts per million, that is, the amount scientists have agreed is the safe limit of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere.
(when i was 16 i was obsessed with this number).
every time we pass a group of random people on the side of the roads watching the race go past, we go full performance spectacle.
dad and i whoop and cheer and wave, like we are champions.
I hold my shirt out.
somewhere around the 8 kilometre mark dad murmurs: 'yes, 350,
that'll be a museum piece. long gone now, 400, 410?..'

the morning of the election,
handing out how-to-vote cards at morley primary school,
on the way riding my bike through wide suburban tree-lined streets & white picket fences,
feeling like Democracy Oprah,
every house I pass yelling:

'you get to vote! and you get to vote! and you get to vote!
democracy sausage smell wafting through the air,
through the facade of choice,
as we all line up to play the game.

that night,
watching the country becoming blue,
magicians turn over cards,
stupefied like we didn't even see him put one card behind his back,
shuffle the deck, rigged like so, pick out more from his top hat...but i digress / detour / delineate / deliberate / devastate...
the playwright at the panel on theatre and politics says artists shouldn't talk about their feelings in public political spaces:
"We don't want to hear it, stick to the facts",
she says.

But I'm sad, I wanna yell. Aren't you?
dad is an agricultural plant scientist,
goes to a meeting in Seattle,
and talks to other scientists about food security.
'how was it?' I ask.
'The other scientists were mostly wheat experts', he says.
'Most wheat cycles last ten years. They joked that we're 3-6 wheat cycles til the end of the world.'
'Right',
feet dangling off the side of the wooden bridge at Baigup Wetlands,
meaning 'place of rushes',
the Derbal Yerrigan murmuring softly below.
A yellow-billed spoonbill digs digs digs.
Eduardo Kohn says all living beings think.
Animals, plants, forests, spirits,
-all living beings forming habits, using signs to make sense of the world around them, of their world - that this pattern forming is "what makes life a semiotic process".
"All life forms continuously engaged in appearing to one another in a process of sign making."
That the tick differentiates between mammals and reptiles for survival,
but not between a lion or a deer because it doesn't need to,
That the ant eaters snout is shaped like the burrows of the termites it feasts on,
That pumas don't eat you if you're lying sleeping face up,
because then it sees another self, another being.
sign-reading / sign-making / misconstrued signs / misreading
(i don't know what any of this means)
(contradictions? interspecies love?)
(they are just signs after all?)
as fremantle fascist and I look at each other, across three empty train seats

Clodia Stanislaus

This ecopoem is titleless - however it should be noted that it was written in reflection of Meanjin

Forage fish, hide in the darkness.
A pensive reflection of a 3-month life span.
Predators, baited over the ocean from a 5/0 circle hook

Blood emanated into the ocean,
a marble portrait of man.
Colours seep from the coral,
liquid dye concentrated in diluted morals.
Suffocating algae dances you into the darkness.
Hands against your throat, fingers inside your lungs
A slight breath before submersion
gone.

Smoke through your nose, fire in your lungs.
A saddened look at the sky as it pillows with black.
Tree frogs hang from their feet
a rod down their throats as they dangle from their homes.

u n i v e r s e collapsed

stars travel home.

Devils on display, a carcass on its feet.
Wrapped up in wire, skinned of its fleece
There is a place we could be, beyond the falsities of reality.

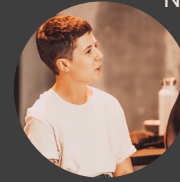
Time ticks on.

Bombs rain down on a forest in pain - a moment in solace,

before our lungs begin
to strain.

Snaking beneath your feet, unearthed and unhinged - the devil is among us

Noemie Huttner-Koros



Noemie is a performance-maker, writer, dramaturg and community organiser based between Wurundjeri country and Whadjuk Noongar country. Noemie's artistic practice often engages with sites and histories where queer culture, composting and ecological crises occur, and their work taken place in theatres, galleries, alleyways, dinner parties and blanket forts.

They were the 2021 WA Young Environmentalist of the Year and won the 2020 Venie Holmgren Environmental Poetry Prize for this poem, Antropocene Poetics Part 2. Noemie is passionate about empowering people to participate in culture and democracy, the civic role of the artist in society, and dreaming up vibrant, queer, collective futures on this precious planet.

Clodia Stanislaus



Born and raised in the Western suburbs of Sydney, Clodia's lived experiences within her marginalised community is something she passionately advocates

for through her writing and activism. Having been published and commissioned by Red Room Poetry for her ecopoetry, Clodia uses her writing to discuss issues of climate change, gender inequity and mental health.

Having worked with leadership and activism companies across both western Sydney and Australia such as Max Potential, Macquarie Universities leadership group and Raise Our Voice Australia, Clodia knows first hand the significance of educating young people on the power and merit of their voices, ideas and values.

