

# Unpacking



## EMPOWERMENT:

Implications for Research, Policy, and Practice in  
International Development

ISID's Annual Conference  
2018

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# Unpacking WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Implications for Research, Policy, and Practice in International Development

Annual Conference of the Institute for the Study of International Development  
at McGill University Faculty Club, 3450 McTavish  
March 15-16 2018

Since the 1970s governments and various civil society actors at international and domestic levels have engaged in legal, political, economic and social efforts to advance diverse visions of women's empowerment. Yet, more work needs to be done to clarify what constitutes women's empowerment in contemporary circumstances, and how to evaluate various policies or practices in terms of their impact on promoting various forms of women's empowerment. These tasks are complicated by the diversity of development contexts, as well as the multidimensional nature of factors affecting women's empowerment. They are also especially policy relevant given Canada's new *Feminist International Assistance Policy* aimed at promoting gender equality in aid programming.

For this year's annual conference at ISID we chose to explore the topic of women's empowerment in global development, with an interdisciplinary group of experts who will discuss contemporary challenges and opportunities for research, policy and practice, as well as examine some of the recent evidence on empowerment initiatives in resource-poor settings. The conference will focus on various challenges that confront scholars and policy makers seeking to construct policies and assess their impact on increasing women's autonomy, voice, and/or well-being in the household, civil society, and national politics. Some of these challenges include the difficulties associated with how to measure and benchmark progress toward achieving women's empowerment in diverse development contexts, as well as concerns that the design and implementation of women's empowerment policies obscure their politically contested nature. Other challenges have to do with how to incorporate evidence of social and political backlash in assessing the impact and success of various policies.

This conference will also highlight ISID's current partnership with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), to disseminate the results of their \$17.5 million women's economic empowerment program, GrOW, taking place in over 50 countries around the world. We must take advantage of this opportune moment in Canadian politics to unpack the concept of women's empowerment and move the national and international agendas forward.

We appreciate the generous support from:



## Policy Keynote by the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau



The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau was elected as the Member of Parliament for Compton–Stanstead in October 2015, and very shortly thereafter, she was appointed Minister of International Development and La Francophonie by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Before entering politics, Bibeau obtained a Bachelor's degree in economics and a graduate diploma in environmental management from Université de Sherbrooke. Following her graduation, she worked for the Canadian International Development Agency, and was variously posted in Ottawa, Montreal, Morocco and Benin. In her capacity as Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Minister Bibeau has a mandate to refocus Canada's international assistance on helping the poorest and most vulnerable people and on supporting fragile states. In June 2017, after several months of consultations, Minister Bibeau launched Canada's new Feminist International Assistance Policy. This new vision will make Canada a leader in the fight against poverty by prioritizing gender equality in the country's international assistance programming.

## Academic Keynote by Professor Naila Kabeer

Dr. Naila Kabeer is joint Professor of Gender and International Development at the Departments of International Development and of Gender Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK. She has had extensive experience in research, teaching and policy advice in the fields of poverty, gender, labour markets and livelihoods, social protection and collective action. Her most recent publications include *Organizing women in the informal economy: beyond the weapons of the weak* (Zed Press), *Intersecting inequalities and the Sustainable Development Goals: insights from Brazil* (LSE International Inequalities Institute/WIDER) and *Women workers and the politics of claims-making in a globalizing economy* (UnRISD).



# SPEAKERS



## Siwan Anderson

Siwan Anderson is a Professor at the Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia. Her main area of research is development economics with a focus on micro-level institutions. Some of her work focuses on the role of gender. Recent projects include studies of rural governments and credit cooperative in India and missing women in developing countries. She is currently collecting data in rural Maharashtra, India with the aim to understand some implications of the new UID government initiative. Siwan Anderson is also Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), Associate, a Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) Fellow, a Theoretical Research in Development Economics (ThReD) Associate, and a Faculty Associate with the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA).

## Lisa Baldez

Lisa Baldez is Professor of Government and Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Studies and Cheheyl Director of the Dartmouth Center for the Advancement of Learning at Dartmouth College. She is the author of *Why Women Protest: Women's Movements in Chile* (2002) and *Defying Convention: US Resistance to the UN Treaty on Women's* (2014). *Defying Convention* won the 2015 Victoria Schuck Award for best book on women and politics and 2015 best book on human rights, both from the American Political Science Association. She is one of the founding editors, with Karen Beckwith, of *Politics & Gender*, the official journal of the Women and Politics Section of the American Political Science Association.



## Bipasha Baruah

Bipasha Baruah is the Canada Research Chair in Global Women's Issues and a tenured full professor in the Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research at the University of Western Ontario. Dr. Baruah conducts interdisciplinary research on gender, development and globalization; women and work; and social, political and economic inequality. Her research on women and property ownership and women's employment in renewable energy and resource efficiency has influenced policy within governments, financial institutions and non-governmental organizations. Dr. Baruah has 12 years of professional experience with organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, Asian Development Bank, World Resources Institute, The Energy and Resources Institute, Self-Employed Women's Association, the Association for Women's Rights in Development, the International Development Research Centre, Natural Resources Canada, and Global Affairs Canada. The Royal Society of Canada named Dr. Baruah to The College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists in 2015.



## Mayra Buvinic

Mayra Buvinic, an internationally recognized expert on gender and development and social development, is a Senior Fellow both at the Center for Global Development and the United Nations Foundation. Previously, she was Director for Gender and Development at the World Bank. She also worked at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) where she headed the Social Development Division and was founding member and President of the International Center for Research on Women. She has a PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison



# SPEAKERS



**Laura Doering**

Laura Doering is an Assistant Professor of Strategic Management at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. She examines how micro-level decisions, relationships, and circumstances affect economic outcomes in developing countries. Substantively, she focuses on entrepreneurship and financial access in low-income areas. For her research, she collaborates with private banks, government ministries, and non-profit organizations. Her research has been published in the *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, and *Sociology of Development*. In the mainstream press, Professor Doering's research has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Globe and Mail*, *BBC News*, *CBS News*, *Salon*, and other outlets. She earned a joint PhD in sociology and business administration from the University of Chicago, and is a faculty affiliate in the Latin American Studies program.

**Kathleen Fallon**

Kathleen Fallon is an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Sociology at Stony Brook University. Her research focuses on women's social movements, women's political rights, women's health, and democracy within sub-Saharan Africa, as well as across developing countries more broadly. She has done in-depth field research within Ghana, examining the influence of democratization on women's rights and the emergence of the women's movement, in addition to studying the influence of the international women's movement on local activism. Through comparative analyses across developing countries, and using both qualitative and quantitative methods, she has also researched how types of democratic transitions influence women's political representation, how women's legislative representation is linked to children's health outcomes, and how women's activism contributes to the spread of women's political quotas. She is currently working on projects that examine the effects of maternity leave policies on fertility and child health outcomes, as well as exploring what factors contribute to the passage of domestic violence laws across developing countries.



**Eleonor Faur**

Eleonor Faur is an Associate Professor at the National University of San Martín, and a Researcher at the Institute for Economic and Social Development (IDES, Argentina). She specialized in linking gender and human rights perspectives in public policies towards development. Her experience combines social research, teaching, program management and design and policy dialogue. She led UNFPA's Argentina Country Office for almost 7 years, and served as a Consultant for UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA in Latin America. Her main books are: *El cuidado infantil en el siglo XXI. Mujeres malabaristas en una sociedad desigual* (Siglo XXI Editors), *Mitomanías de los sexos* (co-authored with Alejandro Grimson), *Mujeres y varones en la Argentina de hoy* (Siglo XXI) and *Las lógicas del cuidado infantil* (Co-authored with Valeria Esquivel and Elizabeth Jelin).



**Markus Goldstein**

Markus Goldstein is a development economist with experience working in Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, and South Asia. He is currently the Gender Practice Leader in the Africa Region and a Lead Economist in the Research Group of the World Bank. His current research centers on issues of gender and economic activity, focusing on agriculture and small scale enterprises. He is currently involved in several impact evaluations on these topics across Africa. Markus has taught at the London School of Economics, the University of Ghana, Legon, and Georgetown University. He holds a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.



# SPEAKERS



## Arjan de Haan

Arjan de Haan is a development expert who focuses on public policy and poverty in Asia. He is currently Program Lead on the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) program “Supporting Inclusive Growth,” including the flagship Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) program. Before joining IDRC, de Haan worked at the Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus University Rotterdam) in The Hague, where he was convenor of the master’s program in social policy and led the development of a database called Indices of Social Development. Before that, he worked for 10 years with the UK Department for International Development in London, India, and China. He also managed the Poverty Research Unit at the University of Sussex (UK). He has published widely and is co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Development Studies. De Haan holds a PhD in social history from Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

## Deirdre Kent

Deirdre Kent is the Director General for International Assistance Policy within Global Affairs Canada responsible for the advancement of strategic development policy and emerging issues, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1994, Ms. Kent’s career has focussed on multilateral diplomacy including international development policy, peace and security issues and human rights. From 2012-2015, she was responsible for operational responses to complex crises, police and civilian deployments and program finances with the Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force (START) which coordinated Canada’s whole-of-government engagement for stabilization and reconstruction in fragile and conflict-affected states. Her last overseas assignment was as Human Rights Counsellor at the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from 2002 to 2006, where she was elected Rapporteur for the United Nations Human Rights Commission in 2005. She has also served abroad in Israel and the West Bank/Gaza.



## Mona Lena Krook

Mona Lena Krook is Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Women and Politics Ph.D. Program at Rutgers University. She has published widely on electoral gender quotas and women’s political representation in a global perspective. Her first book, *Quotas for Women in Politics: Gender and Candidate Selection Worldwide* (2009), received the American Political Science Association’s Victoria Schuck Award for the Best Book on Women and Politics. Her current work focuses on violence and harassment against politically active women and has included collaboration with the National Democratic Institute since 2015 on its #NotTheCost campaign. She was recently awarded an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship to research and write an academic book on violence and harassment against women in politics, featuring testimonies from women around the world. Her recent publications address the democratic implications of violence against women in politics (*Journal of Democracy*, 2017) and sexual harassment in British politics (*Political Quarterly*, 2018).

## Lotus McDougal

Lotus McDougal, PhD, MPH, is a Project Scientist at the Center on Gender Equity and Health at the University of California San Diego. Her areas of expertise include service utilization and health outcomes along the reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health continuum of care, child marriage and the measurement of gender equity and empowerment. Current research is focused on measuring subnational gender inequities and qualitative exploration of child marriage decision-making. Dr. McDougal has served as a consultant for UNICEF and UNAIDS, and has worked for the Clinton Health Access Initiative and the American Refugee Committee. She holds a PhD in Public Health (Global Health) from the University of California, San Diego / San Diego State University, a MPH in International Public Health and a Certificate in Managing Complex Humanitarian Emergencies from Boston University, and BA in biological anthropology from Swarthmore College.



# SPEAKERS



## Agnes Quisumbing

Agnes Quisumbing is a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC, and leads the cross-cutting research theme on gender. She received her Ph.D. and M.A. in economics from the University of the Philippines, Quezon City, was a Fulbright-Hays Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Visiting Fellow at the Economic Growth Center, Yale University, and an economist at the World Bank. She has published widely on gender, intrahousehold allocation, property rights, poverty, and economic mobility, and has done field work in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, and the Philippines. She is undertaking impact evaluations of nutrition-sensitive agricultural development programs in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on their impacts on women's empowerment and gender asset inequality. She is co-developer of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) and is co-editor of *Gender in agriculture and food security: Closing the knowledge gap*.

## Stéphanie Rousseau

Stéphanie Rousseau is Associate Professor of Political Science at the Department of Social Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. She has a PhD in Political Science from McGill University. She also worked as Associate Professor of Sociology at Université Laval (Canada) from 2005 to 2013. Her research interests are social movements and citizenship, gender, and ethnicity in Peru and Bolivia. She is the author of *Women's Citizenship in Peru. The Paradoxes of Neopopulism in Latin America* (Palgrave Macmillan 2009) and co-author of *Indigenous Women's Movements in Latin America. Gender and Ethnicity in Peru, Mexico and Bolivia* (Palgrave Macmillan 2017). She has published articles in *Latin American Research Review*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Latin American Politics & Society*, and *Social Politics*, among others.



## Khalil Shariff

Mr. Khalil Shariff joined Aga Khan Foundation Canada as Chief Executive Officer in August 2005. He was previously with the Toronto office of McKinsey & Company, an international management consultancy, where he advised governments, financial institutions, and health care providers on strategy, organization, and operational improvement. Khalil served on AKFC's National Committee for five years, and has cultivated his interest in international development and conflict resolution issues through a variety of activities including as: Deputy Editor-in-Chief, *Harvard Negotiation Law Review*; Policy Co-ordinator and Research Associate, Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research; Legal Intern, Chambers of the Vice-President, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania; Intern, Office of Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations. He was the youngest member ever elected as a School Trustee in 1993 for the Board of School Trustees in Richmond, B.C.



## Rt Hon. Aminata Touré

Aminata Touré is a Senegalese politician who served as the Prime Minister of Senegal from September 2013 - July 2014; the second woman ever to hold this position. She previously served as Justice Minister of Senegal from 2012 to 2013. Aminata has a PhD in International Business Administration and Finances from the International School of Management ISM in New York and Paris, an MBA from University of Dijon Business School in France, and a Master Degree in Economics from Aix Marseille II University in France. Currently, Aminata works as a Special Envoy of President Macky Sall for Internal and External Affairs. Her other recent work includes Head of Carter Center Observation Missions in Kenya and Liberia. From 2009-2012 she worked as Director of the Gender and Human Rights World Department of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in New York. She has also worked as a Senior Adviser for UNFPA headquarters in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and New York.



# PANEL CHAIRS



## Kelly Gordon

Kelly Gordon is an Assistant Professor in the department of political science at McGill University. Her research focuses on the role that women and representations of gender play in structuring conservative political persuasion in Canada and the United States. Her areas of expertise lie in the study of gender and Canadian politics, conservatism, feminist and reproductive justice theory, and anti-abortion activism. Kelly's research on the North American anti-abortion movement was awarded the 2014 McMenemy Prize for the best article in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* and the 2016 Donald Smiley Prize for the best book published in the field of Canadian politics.

## Arijit Nandi

Arijit Nandi is an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair jointly appointed at the Institute for Health and Social Policy and the Department of Epidemiology at McGill University. Arijit is generally interested in the understanding the effects of programs and policies on health and health inequalities in a global context using experimental and quasi-experimental approaches. Specific interests include policies and programs targeting work and family dynamics, including parental leave policies, early childhood education policies and daycare programs, and medical leave policies, which have the potential to promote gender equality and benefit health and well-being over the life-course. A former Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at Harvard University, Arijit received a PhD from the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



## Vrinda Narain

Vrinda Narain is Associate Professor and Associate Dean (Academic) at the Faculty of Law at McGill University. Her research and teaching focus on constitutional law, social diversity and feminist legal theory. She is the 2017 recipient of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice's Charles D. Gonthier Research Fellowship.



## Chris Ragan

Chris Ragan is the inaugural director of the Max Bell School of Public Policy and an Associate Professor of Economics at McGill. He is also Chair of Canada's Ecofiscal Commission. Previously Ragan has been a Research Fellow at the C.D. Howe Institute, from 2010-13 he held the Institute's David Dodge Chair in Monetary Policy, and for many years was a member of its Monetary Policy Council. In 2010-12 he was the President of the Ottawa Economics Association. Prior to that, in 2009-10, Ragan was the Clifford Clark Visiting Economist at Finance Canada, and in 2004-05 he served as Special Advisor to the Governor of the Bank of Canada. Ragan's published research focuses mostly on the conduct of macroeconomic policy. He is the author of several books including *Economics*, which after fifteen editions is still the most widely used introductory economics textbook in Canada. Ragan also teaches in several MBA and Executive MBA programs, including at McGill, EDHEC in France, and in special courses offered by McKinsey & Co.



## Elissar Sarouh

Elissar Sarouh is a former UN Diplomat, a Professor of Practice at ISID/McGill, a founding CEO of Expert Consulting on Governance and an experienced Board Director on a wide range of Canadian and international organisations. She is a highly skillful negotiator with a track record of building consensus around sensitive political reforms and unlocking stagnant processes and decisions. Elissar represented different UN agencies in countries with conflict and stable contexts, and has led teams in developing the United Nations Agencies Development Frameworks, UNDP Country Programs and Emergency Response Plans, human development reports, and funding instruments and institutional frameworks. While representing UNIFEM/UN Women in Brussels, Sarouh led the UN Country Team in developing the EU gender policy. Elissar Sarouh provides consulting services on international and corporate governance, women empowerment, the 2030 Agenda and peace building. Serves on a number of Boards including the Canadian Association for International Development Professionals, the Women Business Network, and the Canadian Federation University Women (CFUW) Governance Steering Committee.



# Thursday, March 15

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Arrival and Registration

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm

**Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Introduction of Conference Theme**

Sonia Laszlo - Director of the Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

Catherine Lu - Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

3:15 pm - 4:00 pm

**Policy Keynote Address**

The Honorable Marie-Claude Bibeau (Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Government of Canada)

Introduction by Antonia Maioni (Dean of the Faculty of Arts, McGill University)

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Panel 1: Unpacking Women's Empowerment**

Bipasha Baruah (University of Western Ontario)

Eleonor Faur (National University of San Martin)

Lisa Baldez (Dartmouth College)

Panel Chair: Vrinda Narain (Associate Dean of the Faculty of Law, McGill University)

5:00 pm - 5:15 pm

Health Break

5:15 pm - 6:00 pm

**Academic Keynote Address**

Naila Kabeer (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Introduction by Sonia Laszlo (Director of the Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University)

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Reception



# Friday, March 16



8:30 am - 9:00 am

Arrival and Registration

9:00 am - 9:15 am

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Suzanne Fortier (Principal of McGill University)

Introduction by Catherine Lu - Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

9:15 am - 11:00 am

### **Panel 2: Women and Markets**

Markus Goldstein (World Bank)

Khalil Shariff (Aga Khan Foundation)

Laura Doering (University of Toronto)

Panel Chair: Elissar Sarrouh (Professor of Practice, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University)

11:00 am - 11:15 am

Coffee Break

11:15 am - 1:00 pm

### **Panel 3: Empowerment within the Household**

Agnes Quisumbing (International Food Policy Research Institute)

Lotus McDougal (University of California, San Diego School of Medicine)

Siwan Anderson (University of British Columbia)

Panel Chair: Arijit Nandi (Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, and The Institute for Health and Social Policy, McGill University)

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Lunch Break

2:00 pm - 3:45 pm

### **Panel 4: Community and State Level Analysis**

Kathleen Fallon (Stony Brook University)

Mona Lena Krook (Rutgers University)

Stéphanie Rousseau (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú)

Panel Chair: Kelly Gordon (Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, McGill University)

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm

Coffee Break

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

### **Policy Roundtable: Implications for Research, Policy, and Practice**

Arjan de Haan (International Development Research Center)

Rt Hon. Aminata Touré (Former Prime Minister of Senegal)

Mayra Buvinic (Center for Global Development and UN Foundation)

Deirdre Kent (Global Affairs Canada)

Panel Chair: Chris Ragan (Director of the Max Bell School of Public Policy, McGill University)

## Panel 1

### Unpacking Women's Empowerment

Leaders and international organizations such as the United Nations have declared women's empowerment in household/domestic, social/economic/communal, and political spheres of society to be 'fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace' (Beijing Declaration 1995 – para 13). This panel unpacks some concepts and practices currently associated to the agenda of women's empowerment, including gender equality, women's rights as human rights, women's political leadership and political participation, ending violence and discrimination against women, as well as women's economic empowerment in the household, and control over reproductive decisions and health. Are these concepts and practices adequate for realizing women's empowerment, and in ways that would count as advances towards development? What relationships and tensions might exist between these diverse faces of women's empowerment, and how well or poorly do international formulations of the agenda of women's empowerment connect with local social, economic and political agendas?

## Panel 2

### Women and Markets

One central notion in women's empowerment is her ability to be gainfully and meaningfully employed, to gain her financial autonomy, benefit equally from a good education, gain skills and have access to productive resources such as land and capital. Despite universal agreement that girls' and women's education is of central importance to their well-being and to development itself, the gender gap persists in many places in the world. Despite increases in labour force participation, the glass ceiling remains unbroken and the job opportunities available to women who often shoulder the burden of care of the young and elderly are often of poor quality and low remuneration. Meanwhile, considerable efforts in development programming to 'level the playing field' (e.g. microfinance, job-training, etc.) have been met with mixed results. This panel will explore contemporary challenges and ways forward to narrow these gender gaps and promote access to productive resources and opportunities.

## Panel 3

### Empowerment within the Household

Recent years have seen increased attention to women's decision-making power within the household, from a wide array of scholars, practitioners and program designers. A central dimension of a woman's empowerment is her ability to affirm her voice and exert her preferences in relation to fundamental decisions such as her freedom of movement and association, her degree of access and control over household resources, her autonomy in securing livelihoods and financial independence, her control over her health and fertility and influence on the care and wellbeing of her children. This panel will highlight important advances in conceptualizing empowerment within the household decision-making sphere and survey recent evidence from programs which have aimed at improving women's agency, voice and outcomes in household matters. How successful have these programs been? Is increasing women's bargaining power within the household necessarily a zero-sum game where empowerment will lead to backlash? How can theory help better inform practice?

## Panel 4

### Community and State Level Analysis

Historically, women have been systematically underrepresented both at national and local level politics throughout the world. Even now, after years of attention to women's political engagement, we see a large gender gap in political involvement. These issues of women's political exclusion become even more severe when we take an intersectional view and look at women from racial or ethnic minorities. In the last decades, we have seen increased attention to the empowerment of women at local and national level politics, both from researchers as well as from policy makers. This panel will look at advances and outstanding issues when it comes to women's empowerment in community and national level politics, paying special attention to women's leadership, while considering intersectional issues of race and ethnicity. What has been the effect of the multiple electoral quota laws enacted in the last decades on women representation? When and how do women reach positions of power and leadership at both local and national level politics, and to what effect? What added obstacles do indigenous women face at the community level?

## Roundtable and Open Discussion

### Implications for Research, Policy, and Practice

This roundtable panel will distill the conversations that have taken place throughout the conference, and provide an opportunity for open discussion with a view to implications for research, policy and practice. Specific attention will be paid to how policy and interventions can be improved such that backlash and unintended consequences for women's empowerment can be addressed and eliminated.

[#WomenEmpowermentMcGill](https://twitter.com/WomenEmpowermentMcGill)



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Recordings of the conference will be available on  
ISID's Youtube Channel



# About ISID

The Institute for the Study of International Development is home to an interdisciplinary group of scholars doing research that focuses on the areas of poverty and inequality; governance and society; and environment and sustainability. ISID is also the institutional home of three undergraduate programs: International Development Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and African Studies, as well as the Development Studies Option (DSO) M.A. program in the Faculty of Arts. Through cutting edge research, academic programs, and executive education programs, ISID makes a difference by building bridges between research, teaching, policymaking, and development practice.

## About GrOW Research Series

The GrOW Research Series, housed at ISID, brings together scholarly research on women's economic empowerment and economic growth in low-income countries. Through the dissemination of working papers, policy briefs and other original scholarship, our website serves as an open access platform to showcase current research with a view to promote evidence-based policy-making. The official research platform for the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) program, a multi-founder partnership between the UK Government's Department for International Development, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Canada's International Development Research Centre. With 14 projects in 50 countries, the GrOW program works with researchers to improve economic outcomes and opportunities for poor women on the themes of employment, the care economy, and women's economic agency. Each of these projects is generating new data on different dimensions of women's economic empowerment, and the GrOW Research Series serves as a repository for this global body of evidence. Visit our website to learn more: <http://grow.research.mcgill.ca/>

Coming soon! Our research-to-practice lab: **Women's Empowerment in Development (WED) Lab**. Visit our website to learn more: <http://womensempowerment.lab.mcgill.ca>

## Conference Organizing Committee

Sonia Laszlo

Kate Grantham

Catherine Lu

Manuel Balán

Franque Grimard

### Special thanks to

Iain Blair

Sherryl Ramsahai

Avril Rios



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