

Helpdesk Research Report: Mapping key authorities on women and work in low income countries

Date: 27.05.2011

Query: Which academics are key authorities in research on women and work (paid and unpaid) in low-income countries, and what are the themes of their research?

Enquirer: Growth and Resilience Department, DFID, UK

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1. Overview

This helpdesk research report provides an overview of key academics researching women and (paid and unpaid) work in low-income countries. The authorities live in, and work on, different geographical regions, based at universities and other research institutions. Many of the themes to do with women and work are crosscutting, demonstrated by the multiple areas of research tackled by the academics highlighted in this paper. However, for convenience, their areas of research can be broadly divided by the following thematic areas:

- Social factors and equality
- Economic growth and globalisation
- Labour standards and markets

The authorities featured here are included on the basis of having received two or more referrals from their peers, who were contacted in the course of the research for this paper. A further list of academics researching women and work in low-income countries is included in section 5, based solely on desk research and a literature review.

2. Authorities working on social factors and equality

Debbie Budlender, Researcher, CASE

Debbie Budlender is a specialist researcher with the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE), a South African non-governmental organization working in the area of social policy research. Debbie has worked for CASE since 1988, and is also a Council member at the University of Cape Town.

Contact details

20 Alfred Street, Observatory, 7925 Cape Town, South Africa

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Thematic Expertise: gender budgets; unpaid care work

Geographic Expertise: South Africa; Africa

Selected publications (available online):

Budlender, D. and Hewitt, G., 2002, 'Gender Budgets Make More Cents: Country Studies and Good Practice, Gender Section, Commonwealth Secretariat

http://www.thecommonwealth.org/shared_asp_files/uploadedfiles/%7B94E74D65-1E1F-4BE2-81D6-A68AB9D1959C%7D_Gender%20Budgets%20Makes%20More%20Cents.pdf

Diane Elson, Professor, University of Essex

Diane Elson is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Essex. She has also been a Senior Scholar at the Levy Economics Institute, and an Affiliated Professor in Feminist Development Economics at the Institute of Social Studies, in The Hague. She also regularly works with women's organisations and UN agencies. Her research and teaching interests are in global social change and the realisation of human rights, with a particular focus on gender inequality, economic policy and social rights.

Contact details

The Department of Sociology, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, UK

Email: drelson@essex.ac.uk

Tel: +44(0)1206 873539

Thematic Expertise: human rights; economic policy

Geographic Expertise: Global; cross-country analysis

Selected publications (available online):

Elson, D., 2007, 'Macroeconomic Policy, Employment, Unemployment, and Gender Equality', in J.A Ocampo and Jomo K.S. (eds.), *Towards Full and Decent Employment*, United Nations/Zed Books, New York

http://www.casablanca-dream.net/pdf/elson_061030.pdf

Elson, D., 2005, 'Unpaid Work, the Millennium Development Goals, and Capital Accumulation' Paper presented at the Conference on Unpaid Work and the Economy: Gender, Poverty, and the Millennium Development Goals, October 1-3, 2005, Levy Economics Institute

http://www.levyinstitute.org/undp-levy-conference/papers/paper_Elson.pdf

More information and resources:

<http://cresi.essex.ac.uk/getperson?personID=29>

Naila Kabeer, Professor, SOAS

Naila Kabeer is a Professor of Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of Sussex. Prior to that, she was a Professorial Fellow at IDS and a Senior Research Fellow at DFID. She has been active in developing frameworks and methodologies for integrating gender concerns into policy and planning. She is a social economist working on the social and economic interactions between households, communities and the wider economy. Areas of specialisation include poverty, social exclusion and gender in relation to labour markets and livelihood strategies in the context of globalisation. Her main areas of research have been in South and Southeast Asia. She has been active in developing frameworks and methodologies for integrating gender concerns into policy and planning and has substantial experience of training and advisory work with governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies and NGOs. She is currently engaged in research on social protection strategies and struggles for citizenship among workers in the informal economy.

Contact details:

School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, UK

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Tel: +44(0)20 7898 4488

Thematic Expertise: livelihoods; social protection; microfinance

Geographic Expertise: Central and South Asia; South East Asia

Selected publications (available online):

Kabeer, N., 2008, 'Gender, Labour Markets and Poverty: An Overview' Poverty in Focus Special Issue on Gender Equality, vol. 13, pp. 3-5

www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPC PovertyInFocus13.pdf

Kabeer, N., 'Paid Work, Women's Empowerment and Gender Justice: Critical Pathways of Social Change' Pathways Working Paper 3

<http://www.pathwaysofempowerment.org/PathwaysWP3-website.pdf>

Kabeer, N., 'Marriage, Motherhood and Masculinity in the Global Economy: Reconfiguration of Personal and Economic Life', IDS Working Paper 209, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton

<http://www.ntd.co.uk/idsbookshop/details.asp?id=999>

More information and resources:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff59643.php>

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/idsperson/naila-kabeer>

Frances Lund, Senior Research Associate, University of KwaZulu Natal

Francie Lund is a Senior Research Associate at the School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, where she specialises in social policy. She is also involved in WIEGO - Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising. She is engaged locally and globally in research and policy advocacy around informal workers, especially regarding local government intervention, and around the provision of social security. An emerging research interest is in occupational health and safety for informal workers. She is also a Research Associate at the Brooks World Poverty Institute, University of Manchester.

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Room F233 Memorial Tower Building, Howard College, University of KwaZulu-Natal,
DURBAN, South Africa

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Thematic Expertise: informal economy; social security

Geographic Expertise: Southern Africa

Selected publications:

Lund, F., 2010, 'Hierarchies of Care Work in South Africa: Nurses, Social Workers and Home-based Care Workers. *International Labour Review*, vol. 149, no. 4

Shahra Razavi, Research Coordinator, UNRISD

Shahra Razavi is a Research Coordinator at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). She specialises in the gender dimensions of social development, with a particular focus on livelihoods and social policies. She has led a number of the Institute's research projects on gender, including *Gender, Poverty and Well-Being; Agrarian Change, Gender and Land Rights*; and *Globalisation, Export-Oriented Employment for Women and Social Policy*.

Contact details

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

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Tel: +41 22 9172885

Thematic Expertise: care workers; inequality; agrarian development

Geographic Expertise: Middle East

Selected publications (available online):

Rasavi, S. and Staab, S., 2010, 'Underpaid and Overworked: A Cross-national Perspective on Care Workers' (with Silke Staab), *International Labour Review*, vol. 149, no. 4

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1564-913X.2010.00095.x/pdf>

More information and resources:

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BC203/%28httpPeople%29/D978A8DEC0EA8D5680256B5D00391902?OpenDocument>

3. Authorities working on economic growth and globalisation

Stephanie Barrientos, Senior Lecturer, IDPM, University of Manchester

Stephanie Barrientos is a Senior Lecturer in Global Development and the Programme Director of the MSc Globalisation and Development at the University of Manchester's Institute for Development Policy and Management. She was previously a Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. She has researched and published widely on gender, global production, employment, decent work, international labour standards, corporate social responsibility, fair trade, and ethical trade. Stephanie has advised and provided training for a number of companies, NGOs and international organisations on issues concerning gender, agribusiness, ethical trade, decent work, and impact assessment.

Contact details

Institute for Development Policy and Management, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, UK

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Thematic Expertise: gender and ethical trade; labour codes; global production networks/value chains; migrant and contract labour; strategies for mainstreaming fairer trade.

Geographic Expertise: Africa, Asia, Latin America

Selected publications (available online):

With Smith, D. et al. 2004, 'Summary of Findings: Ethical Trade in African Horticulture: Gender, Rights and Participation', IDS Working Paper 223, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton

<http://www.nri.org/projects/NRET/idswp223.pdf>

More information and resources:

<http://staffprofiles.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/Profile.aspx?Id=s.barrientos&curTab=1>

Lourdes Benería, Professor Emerita, Professor of Graduate Studies

Lourdes Benería holds a joint appointment with the Department of City and Regional Planning, and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Cornell University in the USA. Her work and publications have focused on issues related to labour and the informal economy, women's work, gender and development, globalization, and Latin American development. More recently, her research has concentrated on the feminization of international migration and the care crisis in Europe. Benería has also worked with international organizations and served on international committees.

Contact details:

Department of City & Regional Planning, 209 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA

Email: lb21@cornell.edu

Tel: +1 607 255 2148

Thematic Expertise: informal economy; globalisation; inequality

Geographic Expertise: Latin America

Selected publications (available online):

Benería, L., 2010, 'Globalization, Women's Work, and Care Needs: The Urgency of Reconciliation Policies' North Carolina Law Review, vol. 88, pp 1502-1529

http://nclawreview.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Beneria.wptd_.pdf

Benería, L. and Floro, M., 2005, 'Distribution, Gender, and Labour Market Informalization: A Conceptual Framework with a Focus on Homeworkers' in L. Benería, and M. Floro.(eds.) Rethinking Informalization: Poverty, precarious jobs and social protection, Cornell University Open Access Repository

http://www.wiego.org/publications/Rethinking_Informalization.pdf

More information and resources:

http://aap.cornell.edu/crp/faculty/faculty-profile.cfm?custome!_datapageid_7102=16871

Jayati Ghosh, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Jayati Ghosh is Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and the executive secretary of International Development Economics Associates (Ideas). She was also a Collaborating Researcher for the UNRISD Project on Globalization, Export-Oriented Employment for Women and Social Policy. She is a regular columnist for several Indian journals and newspapers, a member of the National Knowledge Commission advising the prime minister of India, and is closely involved with a range of progressive organisations and social movements

Contact details

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Thematic Expertise: globalisation, international finance, employment patterns

Geographic Expertise: India; South Asia

Selected publications (available online):

Ghosh, J., 2005, 'Globalisation, Export-oriented Employment for Women and Social Policy: A Case Study of India', UNRISD Draft Paper for the Globalization, Export-Oriented Employment for Women and Social Policy Project, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva

[http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/\(httpPublications\)/52ACD683F6A65699C1256BCA0052710D?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/(httpPublications)/52ACD683F6A65699C1256BCA0052710D?OpenDocument)

Ghosh, J., 2005, 'Informalisation and Women's Workforce Participation: A Consideration of Recent Trends in India', Background paper prepared for the UNRISD report "Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World", United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva

[http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/\(httpPublications\)/24EF649B47EEDBFEC1256FDC003BB860?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/(httpPublications)/24EF649B47EEDBFEC1256FDC003BB860?OpenDocument)

More information and resources:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/profile/jayatighosh>

<http://www.policyinnovations.org/innovators/people/data/06738>

Stephanie Sequino, Professor, University of Vermont

Stephanie Sequino is Professor of Economics at the University of Vermont, USA. Her research interests include the relationship between inequality, growth, and development, and the determinants of well-being. Her recent work attempts to identify a unified framework for understanding the determinants of race and gender inequality. Her current projects include the differential unemployment effects of contractionary monetary policy on women and/or ethnic subaltern groups in developed and developing economies; the reciprocal relationship between gender relations and macroeconomic outcomes; and the implications of the global economic crisis for women and/or ethnic subaltern groups. She is a Research Scholar at the Political Economy Research Institute, Associate Editor of *Feminist Economics*, board member of Eastern Economics Association, and a member of the International Working Group on Engendering Macroeconomics and Trade Theory (IWG-GEM).

Contact details

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Thematic Expertise: inequality and growth

Geographic Expertise: Latin America and the Caribbean

Selected publications (available online):

Seguino, S., Berik, G. and Rodgers, Y., 2010, 'An Investment that Pays Off: Promoting Gender Equality as a Means to Finance Development' Occasional Paper, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation

<http://www.uvm.edu/~ssequino/pdf/FES.pdf>

Seguino, S., 2006, 'Taking Gender Differences in Bargaining Power Seriously: Equity, Living Wages, and Labor Standards' 2006. In E. Kupier and D. Barker (eds), *Feminist Perspectives on Gender and the World Bank*, Routledge, London

http://www.uvm.edu/~ssequino/pdf/bargaining_power.pdf

More information and resources:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~ssequino/>

<http://www.iaffe.org/pages/about-iaffe/board-members/stephanie-seguino/>

4. Authorities working on labour standards and markets

Valeria Esquivel, Assistant Professor, Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento

Valeria Esquivel is a researcher and assistant professor of economics at Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and research associate at the Levy Economics Institute. She is coordinator of the time-use group within the International Working Group on Gender, Macroeconomics, and International Economics and a member of GEM-LAC, the working group on gender and macroeconomics for Latin America and the Caribbean. Her current research focuses on the tensions between paid and unpaid care work based on time-use results with a strong public policy focus. She has published in the areas of labour market regulation and informal labour, poverty and income distribution, time-use methodologies, and the care economy.

Contact details

Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento Instituto de Ciencias J.M.Gutiérrez 1150, Los Polvorines, (1613) Provincia de Buenos Aires Argentina

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Thematic Expertise: macroeconomics, labour markets, and social policy from a gender perspective

Geographic Expertise: Latin America and the Caribbean

Selected publications (available online):

Esquivel, V., Budlender, D., Folbre, N. and Hirway, I., 2008, 'Explorations: Time-use surveys in the south', *Feminist Economics*, vol. 14, no. 3, pp. 107-52

<http://www.observatoriodegenero.gov.br/menu/noticias/time-use-surveys-in-the-south-valeria-esquivel.pdf>

More information and resources:

<http://www.levyinstitute.org/scholars/?auth=368>

http://www.ungs.edu.ar/areas/area_economia_inicio/2/ici-area-economia.html

Marzia Fontana, Research Fellow

Marzia Fontana is a development economist with particular interest in social and economic dimensions of inequality, based at the Institute of Development Studies. She has particular interests in the interactions between trade, labour and income distribution; gender inequalities and intra-household resource allocation; labour markets (including unpaid work); and international trade. She has a strong background in analysing economic data. Her recent research focuses on the gender impact of trade liberalisation in Bangladesh. She has previously worked at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington D.C. and at the Reserve Bank of Fiji.

Contact details

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Tel: +44 (0)1273 915690

Thematic Expertise: gender; poverty; trade; economic growth

Geographic Expertise: Central and South Asia; Middle East and North Africa; Mozambique; Tanzania

Selected publications (available online):

Fontana, M. and Paciello, C., 2007, 'Labour Regulations and Anti-Discrimination Legislation: How Do They Influence Gender Equality in Employment and Pay?' Institute of Development Studies, Brighton

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/index.cfm?objectid=FA0B9859-5056-8171-7BFF8879A42B3E5E>

Fontana, M. 2003, 'Modelling the Effects of Trade on Women, At Work and At Home: Comparative Perspectives', IFPRI, Trade and Macroeconomics Division Discussion Paper no. 110, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/tmdp110.pdf>

More information and resources:

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/idsperson/marzia-fontana>

5. Academics identified through literature review

This section provides brief details of other academics and authorities whose research includes women and work in low-income countries. They were identified either through the literature review process for this report, or were suggested by one of the other researchers contacted with regard to this report.

Radhika Balakrishnan (Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University) <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/globalcenter/staff.html>

Mayra Buvinic (Senior spokesperson on gender and development issues, World Bank) <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20625607~menuPK:34489~pagePK:116743~piPK:36693~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

Sarah Cook (Director, UNRISD; gender and informal employment in China) [http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BC203/\(httpPeople\)/D2D20CF809EA269FC12576640033F0D5?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BC203/(httpPeople)/D2D20CF809EA269FC12576640033F0D5?OpenDocument)

Tsikata, Dzodzi (Research Fellow at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER); gender, state policy and livelihoods) http://ecbiz71.inmotionhosting.com/~issero5/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=48&Itemid=118

Caren Grown (Professor of Economics, American University; Assets and women's well-being, gender equality and public finance, gender and international economic policy, population and reproductive health) <http://www1.american.edu/cas/econ/faculty/grown/grown.htm>

James Heintz (Associate Director/Assistant Research Professor, Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts; job creation; global labour markets) <http://www.peri.umass.edu/staff/#c126>

Maria Floro (Professor of Economics, American University; research: intersection of gender, finance and employment in urban low-income communities in Latin America and Asia) <http://www1.american.edu/cas/econ/faculty/floro.htm>

Ruth Pearson (Professor of Development Studies, University of Leeds; gender and work in the global economy) <http://www.polis.leeds.ac.uk/about/staff/pearson/>

Dorrit Posel (University of KwaZulu-Natal; feminisation of labour)

Shirin M. Rai (Professor, Warwick University; feminist international political economy)

Martha Chen (Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard University; international coordinator of the global research policy network Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)) <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/about/faculty-staff-directory/martha-chen>

Irene van Staveren (Professor of Pluralist Development Economics, International Institute for Social Studies; labour markets, trade impacts and macroeconomic policy) <http://www.iss.nl/iss/profile/AC1222>

6. Additional information

Author

This query response was prepared by Freida M'Cormack, freida@gsdrc.org

Selected websites visited

Pathways of Women's Empowerment:

http://www.pathwaysofempowerment.org/resources_pathways.html#Work

UNRISD Gender and Development:

[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BB128/\(httpProgrammeAreas\)/BAC527EAC4F1F59C8025718B003C2B65?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BB128/(httpProgrammeAreas)/BAC527EAC4F1F59C8025718B003C2B65?OpenDocument)

Time Use Studies and Unpaid Care Work, Related Information Section:

[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpPublications\)/414BA4D59E6D9AB1C125775B04480FD7?OpenDocument&panel=relatedinformation](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpPublications)/414BA4D59E6D9AB1C125775B04480FD7?OpenDocument&panel=relatedinformation)

Conference Page: Unpaid work and the economy: gender, poverty and the MDGs:

http://www.levyinstitute.org/undp-levy-conference/program_documents.php

ILO Bureau for Gender Equality: <http://www.ilo.org/gender/>

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO): <http://www.wiego.org/>

Experts consulted

Stephanie Barrientos, University of Manchester

Sarah Cook, UNRISD

James Heintz, University of Massachusetts

Ruth Pearson, University of Leeds

Shireen Rai, Warwick University

Shahra Razavi, UNRISD

Stephanie Seguino, University of Vermont

Maarten van Klaveren, Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies, University of Amsterdam

About Helpdesk research reports: Helpdesk reports are based on 2 days of desk-based research. They are designed to provide a brief overview of the key issues, and a summary of some of the best literature available. Experts are contacted during the course of the research, and those able to provide input within the short time-frame are acknowledged