

Gender and Environmental Law. Challenges and opportunities for promoting the role of gender in environmental justice

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PANEL 3. New and critical developments of Ecofeminism. Intersectionality and multiple discriminations. Environmental and gender-critical theories. Gender mechanisms, methodologies and strategies for the protection, promotion and defense of environmental defenders.

Framing Feminization of Agriculture: from Gender-environment Theories to International Environmental Law.

Sabrina Brizioli (University of Perugia)

Since 70s the debate about women and environment has registered a considerable change in the perception of the role played by women and different conceptual and methodological approaches have been developed to identify the women – gender – environment interrelationship in order to compare the feminist standpoint with the androcentric culture that makes male (andros) at the center of economic, socio-cultural and political life.

This paper focuses on the Feminization of agriculture phenomenon i.e. women's work and their responsibilities in agriculture by exploring what this really means in terms of women's empowerment and participation in decision-making concerning the allocation of resources. The interconnection between agriculture and women is firstly examined according to the main theories, which study the gender-environment relationship, to be finally analyzed through the international environmental law lens.

This first part of the study gives an overview of the more significant approaches (a) ecofeminism; b) women and environment; c) gender, the environment and sustainable development), their complex features and multiple facets. These lines of thought are explored in depth and put under scrutiny in order to verify whether international environmental law has embodied a specific framework or an alternative mixture of viewpoints to tackle with the situation of rural women. Therefore, particular attention needs to be focus on the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Fao Treaty, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.

The ultimate goal of this contribution is to highlight that feminization of agriculture, which implies gender equality and women empowerment, is not only a goal in its own but also a key factor for environmental sustainability, social development and sustainable economic growth that needs to be taken forward through the efforts of international organizations at global and regional levels as well as of national institutions.