

NIKK

magasin 2.2011

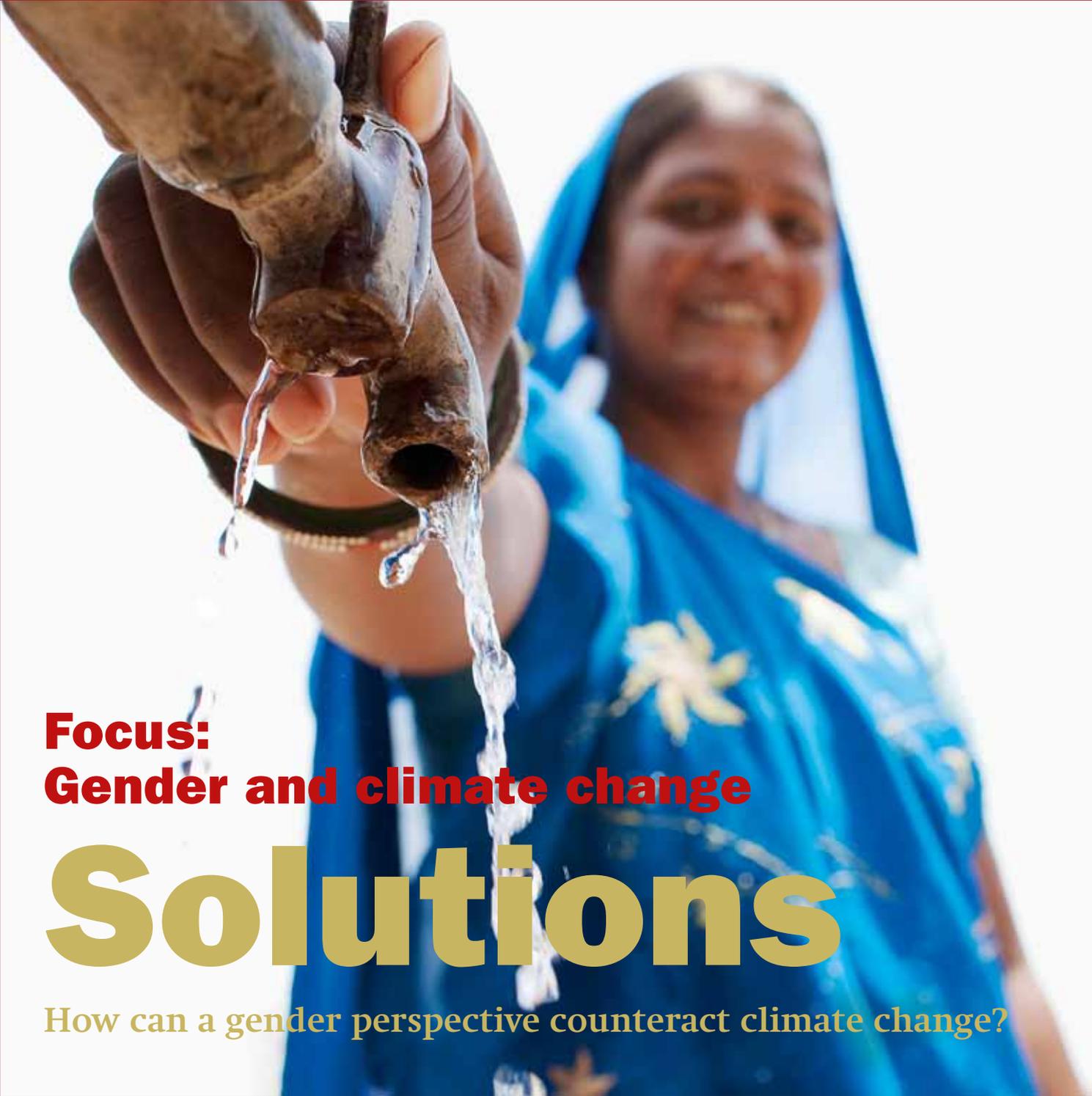
Everyday climate experts

Adaptation below the melting glaciers

Gender is the key to a green future

The Arctic - untouched and to be conquered

NORDIC GENDER INSTITUTE



Focus:
Gender and climate change

Solutions

How can a gender perspective counteract climate change?



Intro

BOSSE PARBRING EDITOR OF NIKK MAGASIN

Gender solutions can mitigate climate change



The change of the climate on Earth has an impact on everybody. There will be more floods, droughts, famines, poverty, conflicts and migration as the climate changes because of the increasing emission of greenhouse gases caused by humans.

However, the consequences of the climate change are not equal for everybody. Who are the victims of floods, famine and who has to flee from areas of conflict? People also, to various extents, contribute to climate change. Who are those who drive cars, fly, eat large amounts of meat and consume energy intensive goods? The consequences of and reasons for climate change bring to the fore the importance of discussing the differences between North and South, rich and poor, men and women, young and old, etc.

Leading up to the UN Climate Change Conference COP 15 in Copenhagen, *NIKK magasin* published a special issue, exploring the differences in the ways men and women are affected by and contribute to climate change. Wealthy Western

men drive cars, while poor women in the South find it harder to till their soil. This is a way of putting the difference bluntly. Nevertheless, it is important to also consider other categories than gender and the fact that various categories might interact.

This special issue is a follow-up to that issue, discussing various methods for tackling climate change where a gender perspective is crucial for the solutions. By taking into account the different conditions of women and men, it is possible to find new solutions for mitigating climate change. This special issue is thus a contribution to the decision of Finland as chair of the Nordic Council of Ministers this year to focus on climate solutions.

This issue of *NIKK magasin* is my last one as editor. It has been a privilege to edit a magazine which aims at functioning as a bridge between gender research and gender equality politics in the Nordic region. Given the challenges caused by the continued unequal power structure between women and men in the Nordic countries, there is a great need for research based knowledge as a foundation for gender equality politics.

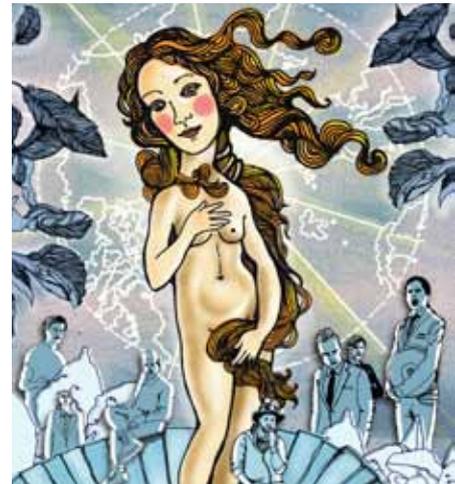
– Bosse Parbring



12 Gendered traffic habits. Women move at a slower pace and have access to a smaller area of space.



20 Emissions exported. If you shop at IKEA, only a few items are manufactured in your own country.



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— MARIE CHIMWEMWE DEGNBOL,
RESEARCHER

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— LYKKE FRIIS, DANISH MINISTER FOR
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15 Local adaptation below the melting glaciers

The Hindu Kush-Himalaya is an area where the impact of climate change is receiving increasing attention. Norway is one of the agencies supporting research in the area and demanding the inclusion of a gender perspective. What is important, though, is to avoid reinforcing the generalisations about women in the South and their vulnerability.

18 Gender is the key to a green future

If the battle against climate change is to be successful, innovation and new ways of thinking are needed. This is something society cannot achieve without women.

20 Emissions exported

Solutions to climate changes are often sought within technological innovation and eco-friendlier production. The researcher Annika Carlsson-Kanyama, however, approaches the issue from a different angle. She focuses on consumption and believes that individual emission allowances would be a good idea.

22 Untouched and to be conquered

Climate change has put the Arctic back on the map of geopolitics. But does the melting of the ice threaten peace and stability in the region? And what is the relevance of feminism in this context?

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Gender aspects make climate change policies more effective, writes Virginija Langbakk is Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality, EIGE, in a column.

27 A focus for Europe in 2012

Denmark will hold the Presidency of the EU Council in January-June 2012. The Danish Government and the European Institute for Gender Equality, EIGE, have agreed to focus the analysis and discussions on gender and climate change.

28 Striving to finance climate solutions

Adaptation funding must take into account the requests of vulnerable groups, local communities and ecosystems and the contributions of holders of traditional and indigenous knowledge. Gotelind Alber from the NGO GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice, is involved in the negotiations for the Green Climate Fund.

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Anti-feminism is one dimension evident in the world view of the man behind the terror in Norway.

Current

“She represents everything Breivik hates, that’s why he particularly wanted to get Gro.”

— GENDER RESEARCHER JØRGEN LORENTZEN ON THE PLAN TO ATTACK UTØYA WHILE FORMER PRIME MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND GAVE A SPEECH THERE.

NORWAY

No single Non-Discrimination Act

The various Norwegian non-discrimination acts will not be merged into one single act. Instead, a new law will be issued to protect the LGBT population against discrimination. The Minister for Gender Equality is pleased, but the LGBT organisation would have preferred a single act covering everybody. There has been a similar debate in Finland.

The Norwegian government has decided not to merge the Gender Equality Act, the Non-Discrimination Act and the Non-Discrimination and Accessibility Act. Instead, the government will introduce a new law providing protection against discrimination because of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. This was announced by Minister Audun Lysbakken on 22 June this year as she opened Pride Park on Rådhusplassen in Oslo.

Currently, discrimination because of sexual orientation is prohibited only in the Work Environment Act and in laws regulating housing. The new law is to cover all areas of society. Today, the Gender Equality Act protects transgender persons, but only those who have undergone an operation. They can then be covered by the category of ‘gender’. Other transgender persons have not had any protection, which is a shortcoming now to be amended.

Bård Nylund, chair of the Norwegian LGBT Association, would have preferred a joint and merged non-discrimination act, which he thinks would have secured the best protection for those discriminated on several grounds simultaneously.

“We think the time has come for an overall approach to discrimination,” he said to the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, NRK, when the government’s decision was made public.

During the consultation round, the concern was expressed that all groups would get less protection under one single act, and the suggestion to make the merger was not taken forward. Those who opposed a merged law included, for example, women’s groups and the Minister for Gender Equality Audun Lysbakken.

“There has been widespread support for retaining the Gender Equality Act, and I share many of the objections voiced against its abolition. I think that would have given a false signal. Norway is to give gender equality politics a high priority and needs a separate law for that,” Audun Lysbakken said to the NRK.

In Finland, too, the anti-discrimination acts are being reformed. The Gender Equality Act covers equality between the sexes, while the Non-Discrimination Act includes other grounds for discrimination. It has been suggested that the acts should be merged, but because this has met with strong objections, the acts will be kept separate.

Now the work focuses on reforming the Non-Discrimination Act – for example, by extending its area of application and adding new



Audun Lysbakken, Minister of Gender Equality, and Bård Nylund, leader of the Norwegian LGBT Association, at the opening of Pride Park in Oslo. Photo: BLD

discrimination prohibitions. The area of application of the Gender Equality Act will also be extended and the Act is to be renewed to also include transsexual and intersexual persons.

Sweden has taken an alternative route and a new Non-Discrimination Act came into force on 1 January 2009. The new Act is a combination of the earlier acts, with two new grounds of discrimination introduced: age and transgender identity or expression. At the same time the government agency, the Equality Ombudsman (DO), was established by merging the previous four anti-discrimination ombudsmen.

Even if Norway retains the various anti-discrimination acts, the overall authority, the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombudsman (LDO) has been in charge of monitoring all grounds for discrimination since January 2006.

JENNIE WESTLUND

DENMARK

New think tank on the role of men within gender equality politics

Far too much of the debate on gender and gender equality in Denmark is based on attitudes and assumptions, claims Marie Valentin Beck. She has initiated the think tank *Viden om Mænd* (Knowledge of Men) with the aim of contributing to a more fact-based social debate.

The think tank was inspired by the Men's Panel, appointed by the Danish Minister for Gender Equality, Lykke Friis on 7 March 2011.

The statutes of the think tank state that it basically agrees with the Minister: it is important to include men in gender equality politics and work. However, the founding principle of the new think tank is the desire for a broader and more practical adaption of the knowledge that exists and is produced on gender, masculinities and society.



Many of the social problems we face today come into focus if we adopt a gender perspective, the initiative states. Examples of such problems are found in the areas of boys in education, men and health, fathers and their rights, and the gender divisions in the labour market. Correspondingly, these problems can be solved by means of initiatives and changes which apply a gendered approach.

According to the think tank, there is no tradition in Denmark for understanding the concept of 'gendered problems'

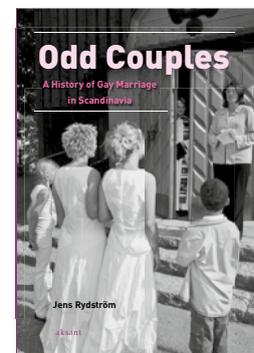
in a social context, and not even for regarding gender research as being able to contribute to political decisions and standpoints. This is something that the think tank aims to change.

It consists of persons who are theoretically or practically engaged in issues involving men and masculinities. The 17 members will suggest concrete actions and political initiatives, and the ideas and suggestions will be presented to the Minister for Gender Equality, Lykke Friis, on 1 November 2011.

PETER USSING

Odd couples

Jens Rydström, researcher in gender studies and history at Lund University in Sweden, has published the book "Odd Couples. A History of Gay Marriage in Scandinavia." The study is the first of its kind and provides an extensive explanation of how and why registered partnerships have been introduced in the Scandinavian countries. The various experiences and conditions of the Scandinavian countries are explored using interviews, parliamentary surveys and party political documents. These show the way in which the political process that started in the 1960s has changed the view of the family, sexuality and nation.

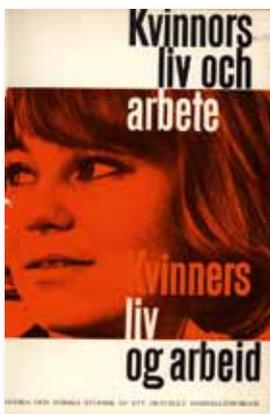


European Parliament calls for quotas

If voluntary measures fail to boost the number of women in senior positions, EU legislation must be used, believe Members of the European Parliament in a resolution adopted in July 2011. The European Parliament urge the Commission to "propose legislation including quotas by 2012 for increasing female representation in corporate management bodies of enterprises to 30 per cent by 2015 and to 40 per cent by 2020", if voluntary measures do not manage to increase the proportion of women. Norway's quota legislation is seen as a good example and Parliament also welcomes decisions by France, the Netherlands and Spain to set thresholds. To help more women assume management posts, the Commission and Member States should implement new policies, for example by developing women's individual capabilities in-house through further training courses and other forms of professional support, such as mentoring and networking.

Core feminist texts made available

Three hundred core feminist texts from the second wave of feminism in Europe have been made available in an online database.



While gender equality as an object of policy making has originated in the feminist movements of the second part of the 20th century, this connection has not yet been the object of serious systematic study. This is presented as the cause of the FRAGEN-project (FRAMES on GENder), which aims to facilitate comparative research into the history of feminist thinking.

After several years of work three hundred core feminist texts from the second wave of feminism in Europe have now been made available to researchers and others in an easily accessible online database.

The FRAGEN project brings together books, articles and pamphlets that were influential in the development of feminist ideas in 27 EU countries plus Croatia and Turkey during the second half of the 20th century.

FRAGEN is part of the European research project QUING (Quality in Gender + Equality Politics), which explains why there is no Icelandic or Norwegian texts in the database. The project is coordinated by Aletta, Institute for Women's History in Amsterdam.

Visit the database: www.fragen.eu

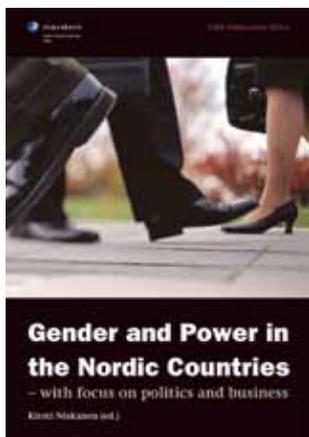
QUOTED:

“From my service in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Norway I have experienced that units with personnel of both sexes are those that perform best.”

— HEAD OF THE NORWEGIAN BORDER GUARD LIEUTENANT COLONEL JØRN ERIK BERNTSEN IS AWARDED THE NORWEGIAN ARMED FORCES’ GENDER EQUALITY AWARD.

Analysing women and men in decision-making positions

In this report, three articles from the project “Gender and Power in the Nordic Countries” are made available in English. In the research project, an interdisciplinary Nordic research team mapped out and analysed the representation of women and men in politics and business in the Nordic countries over the last 15 years. Researcher Kirsti Niskanen compiles comparative figures on the representation of women and men in decision-making positions in politics and business, and analyses and interprets the data that was collected in the project from a Nordic and comparative perspective. In the article that follows, researcher Drude Dahlerup discusses whether women in Nordic politics are to be seen as a continuing success story. Lastly, researcher Mari Teigen explores some central aspects pertaining to the Norwegian law on gender quotas on corporate boards, and discusses what circumstances might form the background to such a radical law being accepted. The report also includes a summary of the results from all the studies of the project. Download the report at nikk.no/English.



Nordic men for the care sector

Men are also capable of providing care. This, however, is a rare sight in the labour market. New research report presents Nordic examples of efforts made to attract men to the typical “women’s jobs” – industries in which the future job opportunities are predicted to be better and more stable. BY PETER USSING

Denmark’s 2010 chairmanship of the Nordic Council of Ministers called attention to men as the losers of the financial crisis. This has e.g. resulted in the publication of the report *Nordiske mænd til omsorgsarbejde!* (Nordic men for the care sector!), edited by Steen Baagøe Nielsen at Roskilde University.

The comprehensive report includes contributions from gender scholars from the entire Nordic region. It scrutinises experiences from both completed and ongoing Nordic projects that all share a focus on the dissolution of gender barriers through attracting, educating and maintaining men in a care sector dominated by women.

The Norwegian experiences from kindergartens are positive. During the past 15 years, 8,400 men have found jobs in Norwegian kindergartens. Today, a soaring 10 per cent of the staff is male. How was this achieved?

“As far as the Norwegian project is concerned, it is characteristic that it is a project of longer duration with centrally established objectives involving many actors ranging from the national political level to the kindergartens of the smallest fylkes in Norway. Even though this recruitment sounds impressive, the project has not fully realised its ambitions in terms of the politically established objectives. However, in light of the magnitude of the efforts that have been put into a host of other projects which have little to show for them, the Norwegian project can be said to be rather successful,” says Steen Baagøe Nielsen.

The report’s focus on Swedish experiences tells a slightly different story. Here, difficult problems pertaining to the relation between the means and ends of the politics of gender equality conflict. According to the author of the section on Sweden, gender scholar Marie Nordberg, no – or hardly any – national initiatives aim to attract more men to the care sector. This distinguishes Sweden from Norway. Steen Baagøe Nielsen elaborates:



“It was Sweden that – historically early – launched official political strategies to attract more male students and employees to the child care sector. However, favouring male applicants for e.g. nursing education meant that female applicants who were better qualified professionally speaking were rejected. As seen from an equal treatment perspective, the discussion of more men in women’s jobs also entails certain pitfalls,” he says.

- 
- A composite image featuring a world map in the background, a traffic light in the center, and a miniature city model in the foreground. The traffic light is illuminated with green, yellow, and red lights. The city model is detailed with various buildings, streets, and trees, and is illuminated with warm lights. The overall scene is set against a dark background.
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Focus: SOLUTIONS

By taking into account the different conditions of women and men, it is possible to find new solutions for mitigating climate change. Women do not need to be passive victims to climate change, but can be part of the solution.

Several Danish housing areas have successfully trained women from ethnic minority backgrounds to be local role models for living in a more climate conscious way. The Environmental Ambassadors Project combines climate expertise and empowerment.

BY ULRIKKE MOUSTGAARD

Environmental ambassadors

Everyday climate experts

Sharing their knowledge with the local community

Use a bowl in the sink when cleaning or peeling vegetables – and turn off the tap in the bathroom when you are brushing your teeth or shaving. Don't just let the water run. Turn off the standby button on your TV, stereo and DVD player to save electricity. Don't place your sofa or other furniture in front of the radiator, since this soaks up the heat.

When the inhabitants of the Vollsmose area in the Danish city of Odense get their next annual report on how much electricity, heat and water they have consumed during the year, many will certainly send a grateful thought to the so-called environmental ambassadors.

They often appear in the local paper with their good energy saving advice. They also visit families in their neighbourhood, who want to avoid huge electricity, heating and water bills.

The Environmental Ambassadors is a green project which in practice means that female inhabitants of Vollsmose participate in a course of study on how to make the household greener and save money – in everything from waste recycling to the family's washing habits. What they learn, they use in their own homes, but they can also make an impact as local 'environmental experts' from whom their neighbours and friends can ask for advice.

Having run for five years, the project was started by earlier local advisors in the area and is one of several projects within the overall plan for Vollsmose, where inhabitants, housing organisations and the City of Odense cooperate to solve various social housing challenges.

And the Environmental Ambassadors Project has been a success. Many families which previously were getting enormous additional energy bills have managed to

decrease their consumption by means of a few simple changes in their everyday lives.

"People come up to me all the time and happily tell me: 'This year our bill was 0 crowns!'" says Fadumo Ibrahim, environmental coordinator at the *Fælledrift* office, which runs the daily administration of the projects within the Vollsmose overall plan.

But the project is also important for the women in Vollsmose. They have acquired new roles, both in the local community and within their families – and gained a strong internal feeling of togetherness in the area.

"When we started the project we saw that many women here did not have a good experience of everyday life. They continually suffered social failures – many of them lacked an education and were excluded from the labour market. At the same time, they were under pressure at home. They were alone and worked hard at home, but their husbands did not always appreciate what



they did. Now the women save thousands of crowns for the families. They have knowledge that others need. And they share ideas and support each other,” says Fadumo Ibrahim.

Culture and environmental awareness

Vollsmose is one of the Danish neighbourhoods that have appeared most frequently in the media – and it is often presented as a social ‘ghetto’ by both the media and politicians.

Consisting of six housing blocks with flats and terraced houses, the area is characterised by many of the inhabitants having an immigrant background and several living on income support. And it was precisely this combination of inhabitants that created a need for a project like that of the Environmental Ambassadors in Vollsmose, says Fadumo Ibrahim.

This was so because Vollsmose consumes more energy – and thus also spends more

money on energy – than other areas in Odense. Many of the inhabitants come from countries where heating is not needed in houses for several months of the year, or they are not used to having running water at home. Therefore it is not unusual that those living in Vollsmose receive bills of thousands of crowns every year. Fadumo Ibrahim has met families that have got additional bills for water and heating adding up to 28,000 Danish crowns.

Also, many of the inhabitants are not aware of environmental or climate issues at stake at all.

“They come from communities or cultures where there is not the same awareness of energy consumption as there is in Denmark. People from countries in the third world come from a society where everyday life is a matter of survival. They have not grown up with a consideration for the environment and have no knowledge of such issues,” says

Environmental ambassadors. *The environmental course provides the women with new competences that can give them an advantage.* Photo: Mediehus Vollsmose

Fadumo Ibrahim, who herself came to Denmark as a refugee from Somalia 19 years ago.

For example, some inhabitants think that water is an endless natural resource that comes from the sea. They have never heard of groundwater which can run out. Others are used to tap water being contaminated, so they buy their drinking water in plastic bottles. Some always clean their home using chlorine, since they have learnt to do so – without any idea that chlorine is very harmful for both the health and the environment.

But all this has changed with the Environmental Ambassadors Project – and Fadumo Ibrahim’s good advice in the *Vollsmose Avisen* newspaper.

Vollsmose is far from the only neighbourhood in Denmark with environmental ambassadors. Several cities and housing associations run similar projects where local inhabitants are being actively involved in creating a greener everyday life. This is a very good idea, if the aim is to create changes in attitudes and behaviour that have an impact.

Women as a target group

Marie Chimwemwe Degnbol, Ph.D., works at the Copenhagen University Faculty of Biosciences and participates in the research network CIDEA on inhabitant oriented environmental initiatives.

She monitors several climate projects within CIDEA, and she has no doubt that local measures are decisive if the world is to reduce its CO2 emissions, and if we can fight climate change.

“If we want people to change their everyday habits, they must absolutely be involved themselves. People don’t necessarily change their behaviour because they receive a folder or see an information campaign, or if they get something forced upon them from on high. There is more chance of a change if they themselves participate in making it meaningful to change their habits,” says Marie Chimwemwe Degnbol.

Therefore it is also fruitful to aim environmental and climate initiatives at women as a primary target group, as is done in Vollsmose and many other Environmental Ambassadors Projects in Denmark, she finds.

“If it’s the women who mainly take care of the household and the daily shopping, then they are also the target group with which to start a dialogue in order to change habits and consumption patterns in the household,” she says.

The 16 female environmental ambassadors who have so far been trained in Valby in Copenhagen, can affirm this. They advise other families in the area. However, originally the target group for the Environmental Ambassadors Project was not gender specific, says Mette Leisner, social housing coordinator in Akacieparken, one of the housing



The women save thousands of crowns for the families. They have knowledge that others need.

— FADUMA IBRAHIM,
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR

areas in Valby, and project manager of the Environmental Ambassador Project.

When the project started, both women and men were invited to be ambassadors. But only the women turned up. And those who wanted to be environmental ambassadors were pleased about this.

“Danes typically don’t have a problem with there being both men and women in a group. But women with other than a Danish ethnic background don’t necessarily share this attitude. Many of them might be embarrassed or find it difficult to stand up and talk when there is a man present,” says Mette Leisner.

For Akacieparken this was a problem, since many of the families comprise a single mother without a man in the household. And if they felt they had to withdraw in order to avoid working with a man, the project would not reach as many inhabitants as possible.

Gender equality or oppression?

But how important is it actually for gender equality that all environmental ambassadors are women? This is a question that Mette Leisner has considered.

“The objection might easily be raised that the project is involved in an element of ‘female oppression’, since the focus is on the woman’s role in the home – and on the woman as the one responsible for the household. Meanwhile, men would also very much benefit from learning something about saving energy in the household,” says Mette Leisner.

Nevertheless she finds that the Environmental Ambassadors Project has a potential for furthering gender equality, as it gives bonuses to the women who would often be placed at the end of the queue for a job. Many lack an education and might find it difficult to get a job, even an unskilled one. The environmental course provides them with new competences that can give them an advantage. For example, when they apply for a cleaning job, they can show documented knowledge of cleaning products and environmental labelling.

The same potential is seen in Vollsmose. Here, empowerment was a key element in the Environmental Ambassadors Project from the start – that is, the aim was to strengthen the women in their own lives, says Randi Bang Rønning, social housing project manager at Fælledsdrift in Vollsmose.

“These women are typically met in society with an attitude that continually focuses on their problems: poor Danish, lacking a position in the labour market, etc. Instead, we took their resources as our point of departure – the things they know and are good at,” Randi Bang Rønning explains.

When the Environmental Ambassadors Project started in Vollsmose, the initiators

We have women who have attended language school for several years in order to learn Danish – but failed. The same women have learnt complicated mathematical formulas for calculating energy consumption – formulas that few can understand.

– RANDI BANG RØNNING, SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT MANAGER

encountered many persistent notions that their target group would not be able to acquire the knowledge the project offered. For example, that the teaching material was far too difficult, since how would uneducated women from an ethnic minority background be able to learn chemistry, when for many years they have failed to learn Danish?

The Environmental Ambassadors Project dispelled all these concerns – by starting from the women’s resources and a practical approach to learning, says Bang Rønning.

“We have women who have attended language school for several years in order to learn Danish – but failed to do so. The same women have learnt complicated mathematical formulas for calculating energy consumption – formulas that few can understand,” she says.

Ethnicity can be decisive

Both Akacieparken and Vollsmose have inhabitants with an ethnic Danish background. But they are difficult to spot among the environmental ambassadors. In Vollsmose, only one of the environmental ambassadors is a woman with an ethnic Danish background. Why is this?

“In the first instance, our target group was inhabitants with a refugee or immigrant background, simply because they were from the families with the highest energy bills and the least knowledge of environmental issues and energy consumption,” says Fadumo Ibrahim.

She would like to involve more inhabitants with an ethnic Danish background – and also more men. So if and when Vollsmose puts together a new team of ambassadors, there is ground for extending the target group, she thinks.

Akacieparken, too, does not exclude a more extensive representation of inhabitants among future environmental ambassadors, but Mette Leisner maintains that the profile of the current environmental ambassadors gives a great advantage, if the aim is to involve as many inhabitants as possible in learning how to contribute to a greener

life. This is shown by the experiences of the environmental ambassadors participating in various events with their environmental huts.

“For inhabitants with an other than Danish ethnic background, it might be easier to approach a Turkish woman with a veil, who explains why one shouldn’t throw cigarette butts on the ground, than if there was a Dane standing by the hut”, she says.

Ulrikke Moustgaard is freelance journalist specialising in gender research.



Environmental ambassadors

- Take a course which consists of theory, practical examples and visits to enterprises such as waste combustion plants, waterworks and other relevant places.
- Are taught how to save on heating, water and electricity, handle waste, secure a healthy indoor climate and decorate their homes in a way which is more environmentally aware and saves energy.
- Also learn how to share their knowledge, as they make a commitment to disseminate what they have learnt.
- Work on a voluntary basis.

Gender equal *and* sustainable public transport

Setting national targets for gender equality and sustainability is one thing. Putting these into practice at a regional and local level is something completely different. The decision of the Swedish city of Malmö to introduce gender mainstreaming in the development of a new public transport plan resulted in visits both to the hospital and the police.

BY KAJSA LINDQVIST ILLUSTRATION ANNE AAGAARD

Car journeys account for a significant part of all CO2 emissions. Many traffic planners aim to encourage travellers to take those journeys by means of public transport, walking or cycling instead. There are however, other aspects of the system which also have to be taken into consideration. Targets pertaining to economic and regional competitiveness are often crucial, too. And in recent years, gender equality has also emerged as an issue to be taken into account in the politics of transport. The objectives of the Swedish transport policy of 2010 demand that the transport system should be gender equal, that is, respond equally to the needs of both women and men.

So called 'travel habit surveys', based on questionnaires in which people answer questions about how they travel over a specific period of time, usually one day, have provided useful information on the travelling patterns of men and women. Within both groups, car journeys make up approximately half of all travel. An important difference is that

men sit in the driver's seat to a greater extent than women, who are more often passengers. Cycling and walking are the second most common ways of travelling. Together, they account for roughly one third of our means of travel. Just over one tenth of all travel happens on public transport. For women, this share is somewhat larger than for men. These statistics might make it seem that there are not particularly large differences between the travelling habits of men and women.

Travel habits and needs

Ana Gil Sola, researcher into commuting to work from a gender and mobility perspective at the School of Business, Economics and Law in Gothenburg, has explored the statistics in more detail. She says that men commute, on an average, 40 per cent longer distances than women do, but they spend almost the same amount of time travelling to and from work. The statistics for 1994/1995 and 2005/2006 show more or less the same trends between men and women, although both groups have increased their travelling both in time and

length. In a purely technical sense, this means that women move at a slower pace and that women have access to a smaller area of space (the area increases with the square).

"However, travel habit surveys have their limitations. They show how men and women travel today, but do not show what their travel needs actually are," Ana Gil Sola explains.

One example of the gap between what is needed and what actually happens is illustrated by the experiences of single mothers who are over-represented in the group that does not have access to a car. It is hard to believe that their need for easy travel to supermarkets and day care would be smaller than that of other families. Introducing a means-tested car allowance or other ways of improving their financial ability to get a car could be one method of responding to their assumed need, if gender equality was the only concern.

Traditional consultations

However, for means of transportation to be both gender equal *and* sustainable, better ideas are required. Possible practical solu-



tions which take this aim into account have been studied by Lena Levin, researcher at the Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI), as part of a project on sustainable gender equality in the planning of future public transport in Malmö. Together with her research colleague Charlotta Faith-Ell, she has previously studied the consultation process in connection with larger road building projects. Hardly surprisingly, these consultations followed a highly traditional pattern: a notice in the newspapers, a meeting at the village hall or similar venue, a PowerPoint presentation, followed by questions. At these meetings, 80 per cent of the participants were men and the average age was over 60 years.

“We presented some suggestions for improvements. But basically there was very little understanding among the staff of the Road Administration that consultations could be done in any other way,” says Lena Levin.

Some years later she was contacted by the city of Malmö and asked to help them in developing gender mainstreaming as the city

compiled a new plan for its public transport. Malmö experienced a similar over-representation of older men among the participants of consultation meetings, but the city was open to trying new methods. They actively sought groups that they knew little about. Dialogue meetings were carried out with high school pupils, shop employees and representatives of hobby activities. The agenda also included a dialogue meeting with a female dominated working place, and the one chosen for this was the hospital. After Lena Levin had suggested that it might also be interesting to visit a male dominated working place as counterbalance, the police station was included in the survey.

Unsafe to use public transport

Safety was an issue raised by female high school students, hospital staff and the police. The high school students and hospital staff felt it was unsafe to use public transport at night. The police partly talked about professional experiences and partly about their worries concerning family members. Lena

Gendered traffic habits. *In recent years, gender equality has emerged as an issue to be taken into account in the politics of transport.*

It has been observed that a larger labour market region increases the opportunities for a higher salary for men to a greater extent than for women.

— ANA GIL SOLA, RESEARCHER

Levin says that she thinks that the male high school students are also afraid, but that the focus groups were single gendered and that it is not socially acceptable to talk about one's fear in front of other young men. This is a shortcoming in the method that should be adjusted, she thinks.

Many municipalities have addressed safety issues. Shrubs around bus stops have been cut down and alternative routes have replaced badly lit subways. The city of Kalmar has introduced *night stops* for the night busses, meaning that the bus also stops between ordinary stops so that a passenger can ensure that he or she gets off alone.

The project also included focus group discussions with administrators and politicians about their views on gender and public transport. These showed that there was a marked focus on men as a group. This included partly the “problematic” older men, who are the most difficult to convince that their driving harms the environment, and partly the “quality-conscious” men, who could be convinced to become users – as long as the system is adjusted to meet their demands. Public transport is to be made more attractive for the latter group.

Men as a potential group

Focussing on men as a potential group to increase the use of public transport is a method familiar also to Ana Gil Sola. From an environmental perspective this might be a positive method, but not necessarily from a gender equality perspective. Various types of public transport initiatives benefit different groups, for which routes, ticket prices, reliability, frequency and comfort are of varying importance.

One significant issue for current planning work is a process called region enlargement. This means that the labour market regions grow as more people commute over longer distances and cross municipality borders. Since a positive connection has been observed between the population size of a labour market region and the average income, the aim is to make it easier for people to travel further to work by various infrastructure investments.



Illustration photo: Colourbox

“But it has also been observed that a larger labour market region increases the opportunities for a higher salary for men to a greater extent than for women,” Ana Gil Sola points out.

This can depend on many factors, such as men working within sectors with a larger salary spread, but also on them having better opportunities to seek jobs across the whole region. In the classic nuclear family, the usual pattern is that the woman works close to home.

“Think of the snow chaos this last winter. A commuter distance which normally takes just over an hour suddenly took five hours. This system is based on the assumption that there is somebody else to take care of the home,” says Lena Levin.

Financial equality complicated

And it is precisely questions of financial equality and distribution of the unpaid household and caring work which have proven the most difficult for the planners in Malmö to integrate during the project.

“These are more complicated questions than influence and safety. There is great potential here for continued strategic work,” Lena Levin notes.

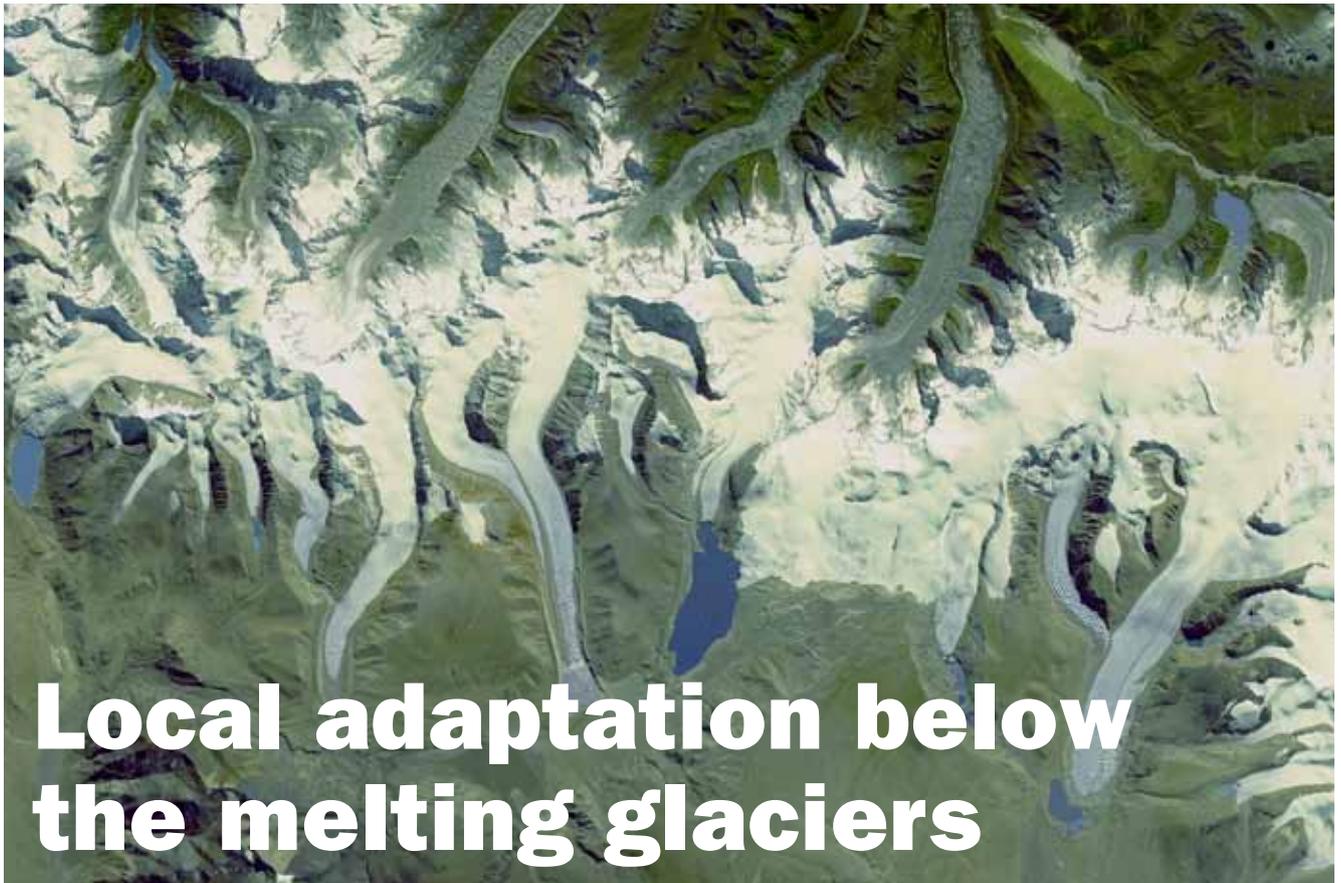
This is work, which will, in fact, start this autumn. Lena Levin will be participating then when the city of Malmö starts to develop a new working model for more sustainable travel, where gender equality is one of the aspects to be integrated into the scheme.

Kajsa Lindqvist is freelance journalist specialising in gender and environment.

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Local adaptation below the melting glaciers

Photo: Scampix

The Hindu Kush-Himalaya is an area where the impact of climate change is receiving increasing attention. Norway is one of the agencies supporting research in the area and demanding the inclusion of a gender perspective. What is important, though, is to avoid reinforcing the generalisations about women in the South and their vulnerability.

BY JENNIE WESTLUND

In no other place in the world are so many people being affected in so short a time by climate change," says researcher Christian Nellemann.

He refers to the region of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya, a 3,500 km long mountain range covering eight countries from Afghanistan in the west to Burma in the east. Hundreds of millions of people there are being forced to adapt to a new reality: climate change. Unpredictable rain patterns cause both extreme drought and extreme floods. The glaciers are melting and form dangerous lakes of melt water high in the mountains, which threaten the population, the infrastructure and the tillage. Time is running out.

During the climate change conference held in Cancun in December 2010, the Norwegian Minister for the Environment and International Development, Erik Solheim, announced that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will fund research into the Himalayas with 75 million Norwegian crowns. The five-year project *Himalayan Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Assessment* (HICIA), aims at producing information on how the climate will change in the Himalayas, what the consequences of this will be and how the countries in the region can best adapt to the consequences of warmer climate causing snow and ice to melt. One of the requirements of the Ministry is that gender is an aspect of the situation to be explored in detail.

Women are indeed vulnerable in many situations. But powerlessness can also make men vulnerable to climate change, but in different ways.

— SEEMA ARORA-JONSSON, RESEARCH ASSISTANT

The programme is a follow-up of a pilot project carried out in 2007–2009. Senior expert Christian Nellemann at UNEP GRID-Arendal was responsible for a focus on gender which formed part of the pilot project and he is now one of the three project managers of the follow-up programme.

Women central to adaptation

“The impact of climate change on women has two aspects. Women are in a subordinate position and have less influence over resources. This means that women are more exposed to catastrophes such as floods and draughts. But climate change also offers, at least in theory, opportunities for contributing to an increased gender equality and an improvement of the situation of women. Theoretically, it can be claimed that women in the countryside have a chance to gain more control as men migrate periodically in order to work in towns. Gradually climate change over time can provide women with opportunities, but this requires particular investments in women,” Christian Nellemann points out.

The results from the pilot project showed that a continued gender perspective is important. Not just because women are more vulnerable, but also because of the special situation of women in the mountain regions when it comes to food security and food production. In the farming industry of the Himalayas, women do 50–80 per cent of all the work.

“Women are central to climate adaptation since they carry such a large responsibility here,” says Christian Nellemann.

The programme is ambitious, not least since it comprises activities at so many different levels; from national to international policy, to practical work in the villages.

“The extensive scope is a new aspect of the programme. And this is needed since there isn’t time for anything else. Time is running so short. We don’t have the time to wait for a research programme,” says Christian Nellemann, who hopes that the results will facilitate political decision-making and generate development aid funding.

The connection to development aid is not unproblematic. Seema Arora-Jonsson, research assistant at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, studies gender, environment and development. She notes how the gender perspective on climate change is characterised by the ways in which women have been talked about within aid and development politics.

Women reduced to victims

“Using this rhetoric, there is a risk that women are being reduced to the status of victims. Meanwhile there is a widespread discourse which characterises women as hard workers, those who actually do most of the work in the countryside. The conclusion in that case is that more money is made available for them, which means a heavier work-load and more responsibility for development and climate. But this doesn’t always benefit the women. Researchers have called this ‘the feminisation of responsibility’.”

In her article *Virtue and vulnerability: Discourses on women, gender and climate change*, Seema Arora-Jonsson argues that two themes dominate the limited literature on gender and climate change: women as vulnerable and women as virtuous in relation to the environment. Women in the South are affected more than men in the area, while men in the North cause more pollution than women, who are more environmentally aware. Gender is important, but it must be seen in its context, she claims.

“If the discourse of gender is reduced to one only of vulnerability or virtue, one doesn’t see what actually happens in specific contexts. One can’t see the openings and opportunities for change, or how patterns of inequality can be broken by changing behaviours. This is a problem at policy level. Vulnerability and virtue are popular topics to catch the interest of politicians; then bags of money are given, people feel that gender has been dealt with and then nothing more happens,” says Seema Arora-Jonsson.

The literature on gender and climate change has so far mainly been written for the purpose of lobbying for a gender perspective

in international politics, Seema Arora-Jonsson writes. And this has undesired consequences. Data, statistics and evidence are often poorly validated and many reports and articles tend to quote each other. This also creates and strengthens dichotomies such as North-South, Vulnerable-Virtuous, Victim-Heroine. Seema Arora argues it is easier to see gender if it is viewed through these lenses. It is more difficult to see gender as a decisive element connected to class, nationality and ethnicity.

She calls for context specific studies and would like to see support for NGOs and women’s groups at a local level.

“Each new project or programme wants to start something new, but what should be done is to find out what already exists and support women and men who already work and organise themselves locally.”

“In the 1990s there was a lot of talk about ‘local management’ within the discourse of aid and development and it was admitted that traditional, top-down managed projects had not been successful. But in the climate issue ordinary people have disappeared from the discourse. Local management is not a priority. And this is partly due to new interests having entered the scene, private interests concerning, for example, carbon credits etc.,” says Seema Arora-Jonsson.

Local management and micro loans

However, local management is exactly what HICIA aims to focus on. In the report from the pilot project, it is noted that historically a global, large-scale or sector-based perspective has mainly been applied pertaining to climate adaptation. There is a gap in the research on local adaptation processes and a need for studies based on knowledge from local adaptation practices. And in this women are important. At a grassroots level there are many women’s groups working in climate adaptation.

One of the big questions is how best to support the work of women and improve their situation.

“This is a central issue in our programme,” Christian Nellemann explains. “How do



Photo: Scampix

we channel initiatives for women so that they can make the most of their living conditions? Providing micro financing can be one way. But we must also be realistic and realise that we cannot form a programme which fits all women in all life situations.”

Handling power is difficult

Seema Arora-Jonsson thinks that power imbalances often fall off the agenda when discussing climate change; both generally and from a gender perspective. Insisting on the vulnerability of women makes power imbalances invisible, since it is assumed that we already know what the problem is: women’s vulnerability.

“This also denies women as actors and strengthens the differences between women and men as given and unchangeable. Women are indeed vulnerable in many situations. But generalising says little about how social power structures function in different contexts, or how vulnerability is produced for other groups. Powerlessness can also make men vulnerable to climate change, but in different ways. The numbers of male farmers who have committed suicide in India over the last few years gives an indication of the stress caused by a lack of food for men who are expected to provide for their families.”

It is also difficult to address the issue of power in the international debate.

“Everybody focuses on the economical instruments, such as financing, the Clean Development Mechanism and carbon trading – the cornerstone of the Kyoto Protocol. Issues concerning power, North-South, small island states etc., can’t be agreed upon. But money, that’s a thing you can agree upon; financial instruments can be formed,” says Seema Arora-Jonsson.

“But that’s not where the revolution that the climate crisis calls for is to be found. That is found in addressing the difficult issues that nobody wants to concern themselves with,” she concludes.

Jennie Westlund is adviser at NIKK.

Innovation outside of the box

Gender is the key to a green future

If the battle against climate change is to be successful, innovation and new ways of thinking are needed. This is something society cannot achieve without women.

BY ULRIKKE MOUSTGAARD

They were excited to hear what people would say. When a “consumer meeting” on climate friendly households was arranged in Southern Jutland in Denmark in the spring of 2011, the scene was set for a new experiment: ask people in general to present good ideas on how we can save energy in our homes – and then let developers and companies take the ideas out into real life.

The experiment was carried out by the joint Nordic team behind the project *Transnational Nordic Smart City Living Lab Pilot*, the aim of which is to create consumer driven innovative solutions to meet the global climate challenge. The pattern is the same in the whole of the Nordic region: first, user meetings are arranged for the development of ideas. Then, the best ideas from these are selected for further development, and professionals step in to develop the technology that matches the ideas. And finally, the process results in the prototype, for example, of a device which can control the amount of electricity consumed in a household.

The user meeting in Southern Jutland proved to be a success. One of the winning ideas was presented by the female participants of the meeting: a campaign aimed at showing children and young people how they can contribute to making the world more climate friendly.

“The women were very concerned with finding ways to change attitudes among children and young people. Several of them were mothers of teenagers who can be the

cause of large electricity bills when, for example, they take long, hot baths,” says Annie Joan Olesen, who is the director of A9 Consulting and the Danish project manager of the *Transnational Nordic Smart City Living Lab Pilot*.

The project team has sought to involve both men and women in the process of getting consumers to think up innovative climate solutions.

“We’ve been very concerned that there should be a reasonable gender balance at our consumer meetings. But also a balance in respect of other parameters – age, for example. Different people have different needs and ways of thinking, and it’s important to involve the ideas of everybody, in order to achieve something innovative,” says Annie Joan Olesen.

Equality can generate growth

The joint Nordic project is a good example of how gender can be concretely included in future climate initiatives. And the gender perspective is to be included in Nordic projects also.

This is a promise which was given by a number of Nordic organisations, enterprises and authorities two years ago in Copenhagen at a Nordic Summit on equality, gender and climate change. The conference, which was one of the outcomes of the focus of the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic Ministers for Gender Equality on gender equality and climate change, concluded that gender and sustainable growth are interdependent.

Just as the Nordic economy grew by 40 per cent in the 1970s, when women seriously entered the labour market, the green economy will be dependent on the contribution of both sexes. This, however, is not how it is at the moment.

A concrete problem is that there are not enough wise heads to develop the kinds of new thoughts that society needs in order for us to live in a more climate friendly way.

“One third of the Danish clean-tech companies have experienced problems with recruiting qualified employees,” the Danish Minister for Climate and Gender Equality, Lykke Friis pointed out when the global forum for the development of clean energy technology, Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM), held its first meeting in Washington in 2010.

One of the reasons for this is that women are strongly under-represented in the natural sciences and technological subjects, which are crucial in kick-starting the green revolution.

“If we don’t put together all the wise heads, those of both men and women, we risk facing difficulties in carrying out the great changeover from fossil fuels to clean energy, which is the ultimate goal,” said Lykke Friis.

Girls to have green careers

Therefore Denmark, Norway and a number of other countries have launched the C-3E initiative (Clean Energy, Education & Empowerment), which is to ensure that more young women seek education and make themselves a career within sustainable energy and green technology.

One sticks to the traditional rather than opening up into wider spheres, more variety and diversity – all things that otherwise characterise ‘innovation’.

– MALIN LINDBERG, RESEARCHER

This is to be realised by aiming various initiatives particularly at girls. Denmark, for example, has recently started a project where 8th grade girls are invited to take work placements in companies where the employees have an education within the natural sciences and technology. The objective of the project is to show girls what they can do with such an education.

“We know that many girls make their educational choices based on a wish to make a difference for other people. Few of them are aware of the fact that girls with a science or technology education can create products and solutions that have a positive impact on the lives of others. This we want to remedy,” said Frida Frost, chair of the Danish Society of Engineers, IDA, when the project was launched in June.

Nevertheless, if the concept of ‘innovation’ is to be taken seriously in climate initiatives, it is not enough just to include gender in the context of natural sciences or technology. This is just old wine in new bottles, as a research project has demonstrated.

Malin Lindberg, Ph.D., working at the Division of Gender and Innovation at Luleå University of Technology in Sweden, has studied government innovation policies in the Nordic countries, and has discerned a general pattern in what the Nordic states in practice understand innovation to be. She found out that it is the same few classic areas which benefit from innovation funding: industry, natural resources and IT.

Innovation with gender

“These are areas which are traditionally male dominated, and thus innovation is associated with masculinity – or with what men do, rather than with what women do,” Malin Lindberg explains.

She finds these priorities problematic. Instead of shaking things up, thinking in new and different ways and investing in non-traditional and other unusual sectors, the focus continues to be on traditional industries.

“This seems paradoxical, when one wishes to achieve renewal. One sticks to the traditio-



nal rather than opening up into wider spheres, more variety and diversity – all things that otherwise characterise ‘innovation’,” she says.

If the Nordic region is to be part of the green wave which is gradually forming, we must start thinking outside of the box. Many enterprises and organisations have already included gender mainstreaming in competing for the best heads and creating innovative green solutions. What is further needed, however, is that government innovation politicians also have a gender awareness – and are able to recognise their own blind spots.

“Which industries are seen as self-evident when formulating innovation policies? And what is equally important: which do we NOT see? Who have we forgotten? What is the gender distribution within various industries? If we want diversity, we must apply a perspective of diversity on the area under development,” says Malin Lindberg.

Ulrikke Moustgaard is freelance journalist specialising in gender research.

Winning ideas. “The women were very concerned with finding ways to change attitudes among children and young people. Several of them were mothers of teenagers who can be the cause of large electricity bills when, for example, they take long, hot baths,” says Annie Joan Olesen, director of A9 Consulting. Photo: Colourbox

EqualClimate

The Finnish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers will, in cooperation with NIKK, launch a website on gender and climate change at the Session of the Nordic Council in November. The website – EqualClimate – will also contain information in English. The website will be placed at www.nikk.no.

Emissions caused by Swedes. "If you shop at IKEA, only a few items are manufactured in Sweden", researcher Annika Carlsson-Kanyama exemplifies. Photo: Jim Reed/Jim Reed Photography - Severe & Corbis/Citat:



Consumption perspective redraws emission maps

Emissions exported

Solutions to climate changes are often sought within technological innovation and eco-friendlier production. The researcher Annika Carlsson-Kanyama, however, approaches the issue from a different angle. She focuses on consumption and believes that individual emission allowances would be a good idea.

BY JENNIE WESTLUND

I think that individual emission quotas would be a good idea. That would do away with a lot of moralising about consumption.

— ANNIKA CARLSSON-KANYAMA, RESEARCHER

Annika Carlsson-Kanyama is research director at the Swedish Defence Research Agency and is managing the research programme Climatools. Her point of departure is a consumption perspective which in many senses challenges conventional ways of working with the climate issue.

Global climate responsibility

According to international statistics, the average Nordic citizen emits relatively little CO₂ annually. With appr. 5.4 tons per person Sweden is best in class. But there are several ways of calculating emissions. Rather than focusing on emissions taking place in Sweden, the point of departure could be the emissions caused by Swedes. Such a calculation includes all the greenhouse gases that Swedish consumption contributes to, also emissions that occurred in other countries due to imported services and goods. As seen from a climate point of view, it does not matter where in the world the emissions take place: they all affect the environment to the same extent.

“If you shop at IKEA, only a few items are manufactured in Sweden. Same rule applies if you walk into a food store. If you call your bank at their call centre in India, they probably have air conditioning at the office causing a certain amount of greenhouse gases,” Annika Carlsson-Kanyama exemplifies.

A consumption perspective changes the picture and distributes the burden of guilt in an entirely different way, not least internationally.

“At present, the whole controversy is about China surpassing the U.S. in emissions statistics, but as seen from a consumption perspective taking into account the emissions you effect in other countries, the U.S. emits way more than the big export country China,” she notes.

Big variations

Another picture that Annika Carlsson-Kanyama would like to nuance is the average person’s emission. The differences in emis-

sion levels caused by different types of households are vast. Together with her colleague Riitta Rätty she conducted a study of women and men’s energy consumption in 2008. They found that single Swedish men without children consume 20 percent more energy than women in the same situation. The difference can first and foremost be ascribed to men consuming more CO₂-intensive goods, such as fuel for cars, while women consume more energy on clothing and consumer goods which in turn do not cause the same levels of pollution.

The most decisive factor to your emission level, however, is the amount of money you have available. Boasting the highest consumption levels in the survey, Norway is a case in point. Also in Norway, men are responsible for a higher consumption of energy-intensive transportation, but the results show no statistically significant difference between Norwegian single men and women’s energy consumption.

“Norwegians have a lot of money. This effects high emissions, it is as simple as that,” says Annika Carlsson-Kanyama.

Emission quotas

Individual emission rights are sometimes presented as an imaginable regulation tool to reduce emissions. Such a system would highlight individual emissions, and Annika Carlsson-Kanyama believes that it might be a good way to even out the differences and make sure that total emissions do not exceed a certain level during a certain interval.

“I think that individual emission quotas would be a good idea. That would do away with a lot of moralising about consumption. All these recommendations and lists of what you should and should not do in order to reduce your environmental footprint can easily become a bit too righteous. Individual emission rights would entail a quota to answer to, but otherwise you would be free to do as you pleased. If you want to eat steak every day, you would be free to do so, but then you might not be able to drive a car. Allowing everyone the same quota to me seems

like the simplest and fairest idea, and then bargaining could always happen later on.”

Annika Carlsson-Kanyama would like to see many different means of regulation combined. Legislation is one. She points out that it is not uncommon to use legislation as a means to regulate people’s behaviour.

“We have seen many regulations as far as safety and health are concerned, such as e.g. prohibiting smoking in pubs, or taxing non-nutritious victuals more heavily, or making seat belt usage mandatory. This could also be done in consideration of the climate. By extension, sustainable development is about health and safety,” she says.

Jennie Westlund is advisor at NIKK.

Climatools

Climatools research programme is run by the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) on behalf of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The focus of the programme is principally on areas such as health, habitation and infrastructure as well as tourism and outdoor life.

The tools are developed in close interaction with stakeholders, mainly officers in municipalities, and cover aspects such as ethics, economics and medicine with focus on handling uncertainties by using scenarios. They can be used in on-going planning processes such as comprehensive and detailed planning and risk and vulnerability assessments.

A guide is being produced for the handling of gender equality issues in work concerning adaptation to climate change.

“We would like to know whether the climate-related measures and adaptation work which are necessary in Sweden will impact men and women differently. Major changes do appear to have such effects. Looking at the international scene, it is no surprise to see that gender equality is affected, especially in countries where the gender differences are more marked than they are in Sweden. But even in Sweden one can see a pattern,” says Project Manager Sven Ove Hansson.

A final seminar will be held by the Climatools program early in 2012 where the tools and a toolbox will be presented.

Climate change and security in the Arctic:

Untouched and to be conquered

Climate change has put the Arctic back on the map of geopolitics. But does the melting of the ice threaten peace and stability in the region? And what is the relevance of feminism in this context?

BY AUÐUR H INGÓLFSÐÓTTIR ILLUSTRATION: ANNE AAGAARD

The Arctic has often been presented as a pristine territory, waiting to be discovered. The travelogues of Arctic explorers created an image of a cold, dangerous and distant, yet mysterious region. Only the brave and heroic dared to travel there. The gendered aspect of discourses related to Arctic exploration in the 19th and early 20th century is obvious. Not only were all the explorers men, but the image of the explorer was one of a warrior whose goal was to conquer. In his recent book *The Future History of the Arctic*, Emerson recalls a quote from a letter written by the famous Arctic explorer Fridtjof Nansen to the journalist W.T. Stead: “True civilization will not have been reached until all nations see that it is nobler to conquer nature than to conquer each other”.

Whereas the image of the explorer is of the masculine hero, the Arctic as a region is feminized. The Arctic environment is pristine, untouched, almost virginal. It is to be conquered by the brave explorer, as demonstrated in Nansen’s quote.

Masculine values have also dominated in more recent times, when the Arctic became a playing field for superpowers to demonstrate their military might. After the Cold War, however, there has been greater emphasis on demilitarization of the region and cooperation among states.

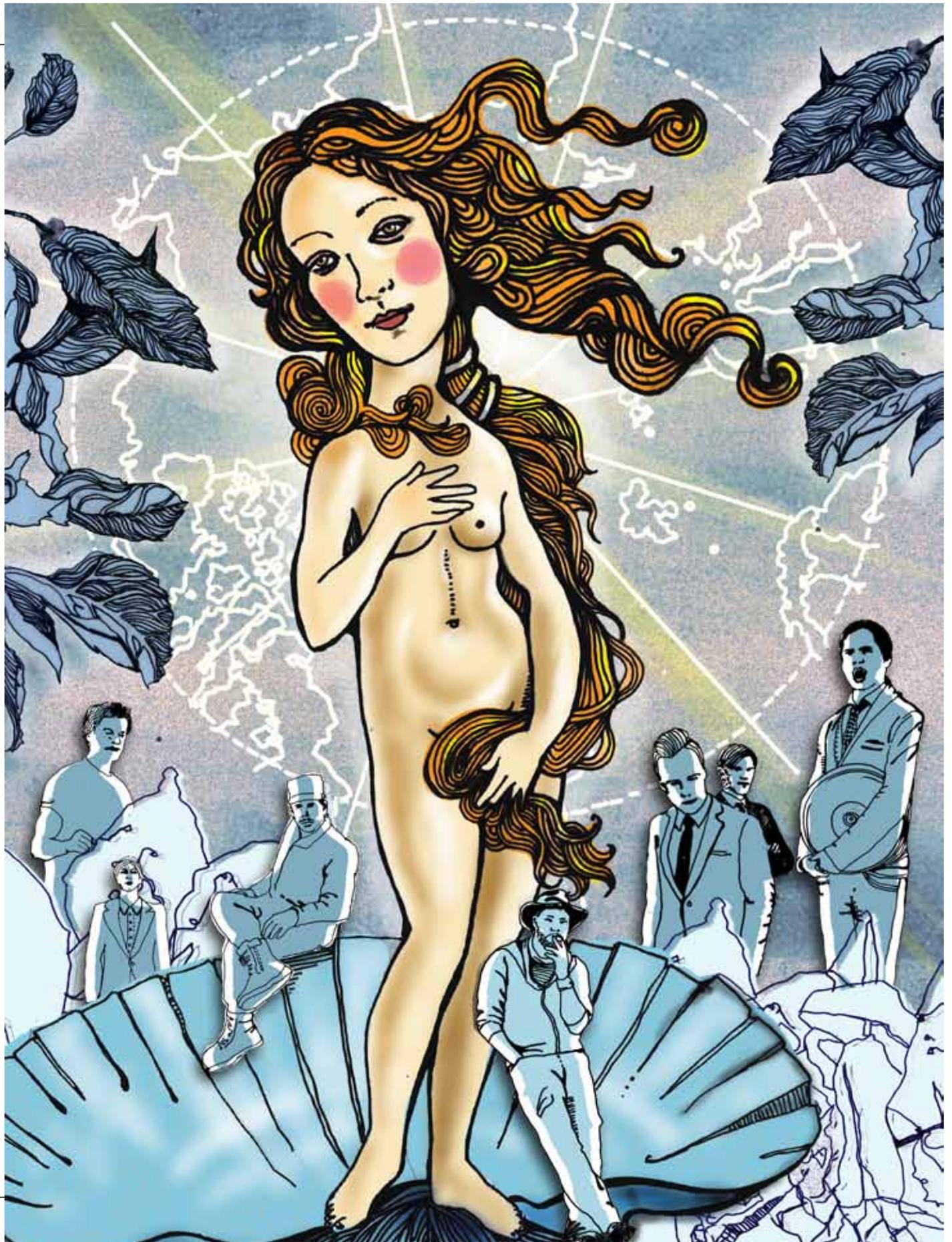
But how does climate change and the melting of the Arctic ice cap influence this picture? Will these environmental changes threaten the peace and stability of the region, leading to a race for resources and a competition between and among states? Or will climate change provide added incentives for cooperation among states and other stakeholders?

The answers are not clear. Currently there are two competing discourses on climate change and security in the Arctic. One draws from the realist perspective in international relations, in which power politics between states dominates; the other can be linked to liberalism, emphasizing the mutual benefits of cooperation. Certain aspects of the second discourse, however, could also

be identified with other, more radical approaches calling for a transformation of values and of the relationships between states and citizens and between humans and nature. This is where feminism becomes relevant. Are feminine values still pushed to the margins in the field of geopolitics? Or have they entered the stage as an accepted player, capable of making a useful contribution to the shaping and implementation of policy?

Masculinity and state behaviour

Published in 1992, Ann Tickner’s book *Gender in International Relations* serves as a landmark in feminist writings in the field of international relations. Tickner points out that because foreign and military policy-making has largely been conducted by men, the discipline that analyses these activities is bound to be primarily about men and masculinity. “We seldom realize we think in these terms,” she writes, “...however; in most fields of knowledge we have become accustomed to equating what is human with what is masculine.”





The Arctic environment is pristine, untouched, almost virginal. It is to be conquered by the brave explorer.

Tickner traces how in realism, the dominant school of thought within international relations, the ideal of the glorified male warrior, has been projected onto the behaviour of states. Throughout history, characteristics associated with masculinity, such as toughness, courage, power, independence, and even physical strength, have been those most valued in international politics. This glorification of male warrior attributes celebrates only one type of masculinity, however, subordinating other types of masculinity.

According to Tickner, liberalism, the main competing theory of international relations to realism, is not free from the masculine values underpinning basic assumptions. While realists emphasize competition and

power struggles, liberals are advocates of free trade and cooperation between states that will maximize benefits. To liberals, human beings are driven by rational self-interest. “The rational economic man” is posited in contrast to “the political man”. But perhaps the difference is not so great? Tickner argues that the rational economic man has many similarities to the political man, but his aggressive passions have been tamed by the rational pursuit of profit. Women are still absent from the picture, and feminine values related to caring, nurture and service, all of which are crucial for reproduction and the survival of the younger generation, are nowhere to be found.

Competition or cooperation?

Climate changes are being experienced particularly intensely in the Arctic. For example, according to the Arctic Council Impact Assessment of 2004, average Arctic temperatures have increased at almost twice the rate of the rest of the world. The warming of the region is impacting ecosystems, threatening

By employing a feminist perspective, policy interventions can be better designed and more effectively targeted to address the real security needs of people at risk.

species and causing a wide range of human security challenges at the local level. However, media attention has been more focused on the national security issues related to the melting of the Arctic ice cap. The consequent opening up of new sea routes and easier access to natural resources, including oil and gas resources, is expected to lead to a “scramble for resources” in the region, according to several newspaper accounts in recent years, some stressing the danger that this resource race may lead to a violent conflict between states.

The stakes are high. According to a study by the US Geological Survey, about 30 per cent of the world’s undiscovered gas and 13 per cent of the world’s undiscovered oil may be found north of the Arctic Circle. While the rhetoric of state officials has been one of cooperation, tensions are lurking beneath the surface. There are indications of a military build-up in certain regions and although the Arctic strategies of the eight Arctic states (the USA, Canada, Russia and the five Nordic states) all stress the need for cooperation, the protection of sovereignty and the right to utilize resources is higher on the list of priorities.

It is clear, therefore, that a certain tension exists between the need to cooperate and the wish to protect one’s interests. When it comes to the rights of humans to exploit nature, however, dominant values seem to go unchallenged. Instead of seeing the melting of the ice as an incentive to take more radical action to mitigate climate change, the focus is on how to extract more fossil fuels, which is likely to further intensify problems associated with climate change. The short-term economic gains of individual states take priority over the long-term common benefits of mankind.

Part of the problem is a tendency for dualism in Western thought, whereby disjunctive pairs are seen as opposite, rather than complementary: reason/emotion, mind/body, human/nature and man/woman. Whatever is historically associated with emotion, body, nature and women is regarded as inferior to that which is associated with reason, mind,

human (i.e. male) and men. Just as the domination of men over women has been accepted over the centuries, human domination over nature continues to be unquestioned. Thus, the solution to these problems would include a dismantling of the man-made rift created between humans and nature. But are there any signs of this happening in the Arctic context?

The importance of values

Although Arctic discourses have traditionally been coloured by some masculine themes, there is great potential for a counter discourse, celebrating feminine values as an important contribution to the achievement of peace, economic justice, and ecological sustainability. Voices coming from this direction have already made their impact. Female leaders from Arctic indigenous communities have been influential in the discourse about the future of the region, introducing new views of the relationship between humans and nature. Sheila Watt-Cloutier, a Canadian Inuit activist is but one example. Watt-Cloutier has worked on a range of social and environmental issues affecting the Inuit, including climate change. She has highlighted the need to bridge Western scientific rationalism and the Aboriginal worldview and suggested that traditional ecological knowledge and other aboriginal knowledge systems should assume a more prominent role in dealing with current issues such as climate change.

The Nordic countries belong to the Arctic Council, and they have been known to pay attention to gender equality and social justice. The five Nordic countries are usually highly ranked in the Gender Gap Index, published annually by the World Economic. These states have shown leadership at the global level in eliminating gender equality and should be more open than many other states to feminine views and to challenging the more dominant, masculine worldview.

Values and beliefs are important to our view of the world, and they can be an influential factor in the shaping and implementation of policy. In this light, exploring the

values underlying discourses on climate change and security in the Arctic is an important step in our efforts to find innovative solutions to new security challenges associated with climate change. Feminist perspectives and values have great potential to enter the Arctic climate change stage as an accepted player, capable of influencing policy. By employing a feminist perspective, policy interventions can be better designed and more effectively targeted to address the real security needs of people at risk. This perspective gives hope for an international community that becomes more cooperative and increasingly capable of prioritizing long-term common benefits over short-term individual gains. And it holds promise for a reshaping of human interactions with nature, away from the form of domination to a form characterized by a spirit of partnership.

Auður H Ingólfssdóttir is Assistant Professor at Bifröst University, Iceland



Read more

In 2009 NIKK focused on climate change and gender equality and distributed an issue of NIKK magasin at the UN climate conference COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark. In the issue you can read articles about transport, food and consumption with a gender perspective. NIKK magasin 2.2009 can be downloaded at www.nikk.no/English.

COLUMN



VIRGINIJA LANGBAKK Director

Virginija Langbakk is Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality, EIGE

Gender aspects make climate change policies more effective

Climate change is a multiplier of environmental changes and has major impacts on the environmental functions and services on which women and men depend and with which they interact. These impacts and consequences are not gender-neutral. Women and girls are affected in a more direct or severe way in their roles, responsibilities and opportunities. The experiences of women and men in coping with and adapting to sudden and gradual environmental stress and climatic changes can be valuable contributions to dealing with these.

Increases in temperatures and more frequent heat waves have occurred in Europe in the last years and they may have affected women and men differently. In 2005, the estimated excess mortality rate for women was more than twice the rate estimated for men in Portugal and a 70% increase in excess total death for women compared to a 40% increase for men in France. Particular sections of the population living in urban areas are detrimental affected by the changes in weather conditions and temperatures, as it has already been observed during the 2002/2003 heat wave which hit Europe hard. The most

affected groups were young children, elderly, sick and poor people. Women are forming the majority of the elderly and poor, and often providing care for children, sick and elder persons, they are affected in multiple ways: in their own health as well as in their caring responsibilities.

Women and men have different needs, priorities and possibilities in mitigating and adapting to climate changes. Therefore climate change policies, mechanisms and actions can be more effective and enhance equality if they take into account gender aspects in their development, planning and implementation, and lead to empowerment of local communities and local women in particular.

The study on gender mainstreaming in environmental policies and programs of the United Nations Environment Programme (2006) puts forward the following obstacles to the environmental sector, even when gender equality laws and policies are in place and applied: (1) lack of financial resources, (2) lack of awareness on the topic of gender and environment, (3) lack of understanding and clarity about the relevance of gender to environmental work, (4) lack of institutional capacity and expertise on the topic, (5) limited gender-related institu-

tional structures, and (6) limited women's participation, lead to the failure of such measures.

Gender mainstreaming in climate change is slowly taking shape in international climate change arenas. It is not only a question of having more women within different backgrounds participating and having a say in climate change negotiations and decisions at national and global levels, there is also a need for climate change policies and practices themselves to be sustainable and just. 'Women do not want to be mainstreamed into a polluted stream: they want the stream to be clean and healthy.' (Bella Abzug, WEDO).

I can only support and agree with the conclusions expressed by the Ministers of the Nordic Countries still valid since 2009: 'We need the talents and resources of everyone. Men and women think in different ways and contribute differently to solutions. In order to ensure this diversity, men and women must have equal opportunities to influence and benefit from the investments that are made to address climate change (adaptation/mitigation). This process will make men and women equal and full-fledged collaborative partners and citizens.'

Denmark will hold the Presidency of the EU Council in January-June 2012.

The Danish Government and EIGE have agreed to focus the analysis and discussions on gender and climate change.

BY IOANA BORZA

A focus for Europe in 2012

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is a regulatory Agency of the European Union which has been given specific objectives related to the contribution and the strengthening of the promotion of gender equality. To achieve this goal, the Institute will collect, analyze and disseminate relevant objective, comparable and reliable information in regards to gender equality at European Union level. When collecting data, the Institute should develop methods of improving objectivity, comparability and reliability by establishing criteria that will improve the consistency of information and take into account gender issues.

“The European Institute for Gender Equality will help the Commission and the Member States to report on the EU-level indicators established under the Beijing Platform for Action in areas of particular concern and to develop further indicators where needed (such as on women and the environment)”, informs the Commissions’ Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2010-2015.

Within its framework of attributions EIGE will also provide technical support to the EU Council Presidency countries in the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and, in particular, review existing indicators previ-

ously adopted by the Council and develop benchmarking information in the area of gender equality. The Member States have agreed on the need to strengthen EIGE’s role and its collaboration with successive Presidencies in the follow-up and development of Beijing indicators. Since 2011 the development of the report for the Presidency country on its selected area of concern lies within EIGE’s responsibility.

Denmark which will hold the Presidency of the EU Council in January – June 2012 has selected an area that is yet to be developed, namely area K: Women and the Environment. Women and the Environment was recognized as a critical area within the Beijing Platform for Action and sets three main strategic objectives: to involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels, to integrate gender concerns and perspectives into policies and programmes for sustainable development and to strengthen or establish mechanisms at national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women. No indicators have been developed at EU level in this area so far. Having taken note of the review “Beijing +15”, the Council provided recommendations to both the Commission and the Member

States to continue with the development of indicators in the areas which still lack them.

Given that this area is considerably broad and unexplored, the Danish Government and EIGE have agreed to focus the analysis and discussions on gender and climate change. The particular emphasis will be placed on women’s involvement in decision making related to climate change and segmentation of education by gender. In its report EIGE will include a proposal of indicators in this area.

The results of the study will be made available to the public at: www.eige.europa.eu/content/activities/beijing-platform-for-action and through upcoming publications.

Ioana Borza is Gender Expert at the European Institute for Gender Equality, EIGE.

Adaptation funding must take into account the requests of vulnerable groups, local communities and ecosystems and the contributions of holders of traditional and indigenous knowledge. Gotelind Alber from the NGO GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice, is involved in the negotiations for the Green Climate Fund.

BY GOTELIND ALBER

Striving to finance climate solutions

While the climate negotiations for future commitments to succeed the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period are advancing alarmingly slowly, and the question is open as to if and when they will come to a satisfactory conclusion, the process to design the Green Climate Fund is underway. A "Transitional Committee" (TC) has been created to design the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This Fund will be designated as the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC and will presumably have to govern large amounts of funding coming from developed countries to support adaptation and mitigation actions in developing countries. Over the course of a number of meetings in 2011, the Transitional Committee, guided by terms of reference adopted at the last COP in Cancun, is to develop a structure for the GCF, to be presented to COP17 in December in Durban, South Africa, for approval.

Observer organisations to the UNFCCC are allowed to attend the TC meetings and submit their ideas and proposals to the TC. Women and Gender observer NGOs, thanks to the status recently granted them as observer constituencies (groupings of observers with certain privileges to allow for better access and interaction with negotiators), have attended the two meetings held so far

and prepared submissions and statements, calling for a gender responsive approach to climate finance. Several governments and development NGOs are supporting these demands, including Iceland and Malawi.

This is a crucial moment of opportunity in the history of climate policy to overcome the gender blindness of existing climate funds and financing instruments by integrating gender equality and gender justice as overarching principles in the GCF. This must go beyond gender parity in the bodies governing the fund, and include compliance with a Human Rights Framework and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective across all funding windows and instruments.

Furthermore, direct access to the Fund should be possible, including for sub-national actors, for instance local governments and community groups, guided by gender-equity considerations and involving women and women's and gender groups as important stakeholders.

Gender justice should also play a role in defining the funding windows, priorities and programmes. From our perspective, taking women's preferences into account means that, for instance, risky technologies must be excluded from funding, and also processes that might harm low-carbon, climate-resilient and gender-equitable development objectives, reinforce stereotypical gender roles,

add an extra burden on women, or violate human rights, including women's human rights, in the recipient countries.

Solutions needed to be financed

Adaptation funding must take into account the needs and requests of vulnerable groups, local communities and ecosystems, as well as the contributions of holders of traditional and indigenous knowledge. It must be gender responsive, in terms of objectives, approaches, processes and actions; start at household and community levels and involve small-scale solutions. However, community-based adaptation alone cannot ensure lasting resilience-building efforts without appropriate institutional facilitation, and large-scale adaptation efforts are often beyond the capacity of local communities. Therefore, increasing efforts for institutional adaptation must be combined with community-based adaptation in order to achieve greater resilience.

Infrastructure and services which benefit women should be prioritised, including improvements in shelters, water supply and sanitation in disaster prone areas, as well as gender sensitive early warning systems. Moreover, adaptation strategies that really build community resilience must address the underlying causes of vulnerability, such as poverty, discrimination, and exclusion. Existing tools, such as gender indicators, social



Designing Green Climate Fund. Executive Secretary of the United Nations on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Christiana Figueres, South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Mexico's Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa, and Denmark's Minister of Climate and Energy Lykke Friis, pose for pictures after a news conference in Mexico City March, 2011. Delegates from 40 nations tasked with designing a "green fund" to help poor countries cope with climate change held their first meeting in late April, 2011. Photo: Reuters

and gender analysis, gender-differentiated data sets, gender-responsive project financing, as well as gender monitoring, auditing and budgeting, must be applied.

Mitigation funding needs to include projects and programmes that support women's access to energy and transport services. For instance, urban planning and design, efficient ways of heating and cooling buildings, investing in, and maintaining infrastructure and services for local public transport systems are all crucial areas for working towards energy efficient buildings and living environments, minimising the demand for transport and offering options for low-carbon

mobility. These solutions, prioritising demand-side approaches, will benefit women more than large-scale supply-side investments.

Policies at the national level are not sufficient to achieve deep cuts of greenhouse gas emissions. Local and regional authorities, as well as private entities and consumers also have to play significant roles. Multi-level approaches and arrangements, providing guidance and incentives to local and regional actors and enabling them to contribute to mitigation in a measurable, reportable and verifiable way are an essential element of effective climate policy. Such approaches will, in addition, open up opportunities to improve the involvement of women in climate policy-making, as women's access to participatory processes and decision-making positions tends to be better at the local level, though it should not be limited to this.

Funding should include capacity-building, focusing on appropriate technologies for mitigation and adaptation, and on skills for programme development, implementation and evaluation under the GCF. Finally, special funding streams should ensure that women's priorities are sufficiently resourced.

Gotelind Alber, GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice
Focal Point of the Women and Gender observer
constituency to the UNFCCC

Strategies that build community resilience must address the underlying causes of vulnerability such as poverty, discrimination, and exclusion.

—GOTELIND ALBER, GENDERCC

Research news

SEND TIP-OFFS TO NIKK@NIKK.UIO.NO

Many opinions on the future EU framework programme

The current EU framework programme for research funding, the seventh framework programme (FP7), will be replaced in 2014 by a common strategic framework for research and innovation. Since the publication of the Commission's Green Paper on the new programme, several standpoints have been expressed.

For example, the Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research has submitted its response to the European Commission's Green Paper on future research and innovation strategies. In the memorandum the Secretariat emphasizes the importance of gender perspectives and the role of research within the humanities and social sciences: "Gender research has much to contribute if there is a genuine desire for innovative work. Even if the focus is on innovation, it seems extremely old-fashioned to believe that this can be achieved purely by massively supporting research within technology and the natural sciences."



SWEDEN

Women receive less funding for educational research

For the last ten years, the Swedish Research Council has been awarding funding for educational research. However, as the proportion of women increases among the main applicants, it seems to be harder for them to get their applications accepted. The difference in success rates between male and female applicants has been at its greatest over the last three years: in 2008, 16 per cent of the male applicants received funding, while 8 per cent of the female applicants did so. In 2009, the proportion of applicants granted funding was 12 per cent of the men and 7 per cent of the women. And last year 15 per cent of the male applicants got funding, compared to 10 per cent of the female applicants. This is revealed by a survey carried out by the journal *Pedagogiska magasinet*.

SWEDEN

Gender research stands firm in the storm

Smaller colleges and the humanities run the risk of being "squeezed out", but gender research continues to stand firm. This was the picture that emerged during a hearing organised in Stockholm by the Swedish Association for Gender Studies in June.

The field of gender studies is so well established, that it can compete successfully with other disciplines, said Mille Millner, Director General of the Swedish Research Council, and the rest of the panel agreed with him.

"I don't think the autonomy reform will have any greater impact on gender research, at least not as long as there are members with competence within gender research in the evaluation groups", he said.

Lisbeth Larsson, Professor at the University of Gothenburg, explained that she is not primarily worried about the consequences of the reform on the position of gender research, but about how it will affect research within the humanities.

"The humanities have no large sources of funding apart from the state", she said and added that as to the position of gender research, there might not have been any gender research at all, if the autonomy reform had been carried out 20 years ago.

"Swedish gender research is internationally strong and theoretically advanced, but it wouldn't have been so strong if we hadn't had state systems supporting it", she pointed out.

The aim of the autonomy reform is to increase the independence of the state universities. The reform came into force on 1 January 2011, and now the universities are free to decide on their strategic programmes and scientific profiles.

Göran Sandberg, previously Rector at Umeå University and executive member of the Wallenberg Foundation, said that increasing competition can hit hard, particularly in the smaller subjects and multi-disciplinary research.

"I think we're going to get more specialised research in future", he said.

However, the autonomy reform will not have similar consequences for all universities. This was pointed out by Agneta Stark, previously Rector at Dalarna University. She noted that the universities currently are very diverse, and expressed her worry that competition will "squeeze out" the smaller ones. Göran Sandberg agreed with her on this:

"I wouldn't be surprised if the small universities have disappeared in five years time", he said.

**CHARLIE OLOFSSON,
THE SWEDISH SECRETARIAT FOR GENDER RESEARCH**

ICELAND

New Icelandic research centre for diversity and gender

A new Icelandic centre for research into diversity and gender, MARK, has been established at the University of Iceland School of Social Sciences. The aim of the new research centre is to support and stimulate research within the areas of human rights, discrimination, gender equality, gender, and diversity in a broad sense. There is great demand for special knowledge within these areas, of which MARK holds specific knowledge on gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and gender quotas; all highly topical issues in Icelandic society.



SOLVEIG BERGMAN

D.Soc.Sc. and Director of NIKK

Anti-feminism as a political device

Norway and the surrounding world struggle to understand what creates a terrorist and mass murderer. Different models of explanation are presented in an effort to understand what cannot be understood. Some commentators point to the psychopathic character and the lack of empathy of the perpetrator. Others refer to the increasingly harsh debate in society and the successful islamophobic rhetoric of right-wing populism.

Anti-feminism is one dimension evident in the world view of the man behind the terror in Norway. He associates feminism with liberal, tolerant and multicultural societies. There seems to be a distinct link between right-wing nationalism, misogyny and certain aggressive young men with a deep hatred of society. The terrorist's so-called manifesto shows that feminism is one of his main hate objects. His aim was not only to "stop the islamisation" of Norway but also to defend men's traditional role in society. Right-wing extremists not only long back to an apparently mono-cultural society. They also want to return to a world of polarised gender roles in which feminism has no power to "oppress" men.

According to Michael Kimmel, a US scholar of men and masculinities, one cannot understand the extreme right without understanding how gender operates as a rhetoric and political device for terrorists such as Anders Behring Breivik. In times of conflicting ideals of masculinity, some men seem to long for something they imagine as a "natural" relationship between the sexes – something that may ensure them status and authority. Breivik accuses femi-



nists of having weakened Europe and having subdued and "feminised" the European male, which according to islamophobic conspiracy theories makes the continent easy prey for "muslim colonisation". He wants to "rescue" European women from "muslim oppression" but simultaneously expresses a deep hatred towards women.

The terror against the heart of the government of Norway and the massacre of Labour Party youth on the island of Utøya is an attack against a society that promotes social inclusion and acknowledges diversity and tolerance. The perpetrator was a homegrown domestic terrorist – a man who detests the multiculturalism of today's Nordic society. The terror in Norway reflects the rise of right-wing extremism across the Nordic region and in Europe. The perpetrator is part of a broader movement that flourishes in the dark corners of the Internet. His rhetoric finds its echoes in opinions expressed by certain established politi-

cians and parties in European parliaments, including the Nordic ones.

The events in Norway should not be viewed simply as the product of an apparently deranged individual. Quite clearly they also involved acts of terror anchored in an explicitly political vision and milieu. Breivik hated the open and tolerant Nordic society that is based on the idea of everybody's equal value – precisely the kind of society that the young people at the Utøya summer camp had gathered to discuss and celebrate. But the tragedy also reminds us that anti-feminist sentiments should not be underestimated and that such sentiments need to be fought against.

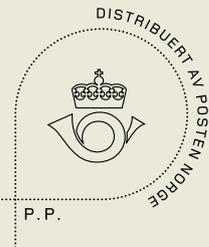
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This issue of the NIKK Magasin is the last one edited by Bosse Parbring. During the last four years he has developed it to a topical and lively magazine that reaches out to broad groups of readers. Thank you for your valuable work, Bosse!

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Calendar 2011

29.09

**North to North - Women as Agents of Change
Conference arranged by The Finnish Committee
for European Security (STETE), The 1325
Network Finland and NYTKIS - The Coalition
of Finnish Women's Associations.
Helsinki, Finland
Information: stete@stete.org**

20-21.10

**Gender Paradoxes of Changing Academic
and Scientific Organisation(s)
A workshop conference arranged by GEXcel.
Örebro, Sweden
www.genderexcel.org**

27.10

**The Silencing of Violence Against Women
Conference with international researchers.
Roskilde, Denmark
www.ruc.dk**

28.11

**Good Practices in Gender Mainstreaming:
Towards Effective Gender Training
The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
is organising an international conference.
Brussels, Belgium
www.eige.europa.eu**

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