Gender and Climate Change:
Women, Research and Action

Invitation to Sponsors
International Conference
15–16 September, 2011
Prato, Tuscany

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Invitation to sponsors

Gender and Climate Change International Conference

We are delighted to provide this information package for the International Gender and Climate Change Conference to be held in Prato, Italy on the 15 and 16 September 2011.

The impacts of climate are particularly severe on women and the time is right to bring together an international contingent of researchers, advocates, champions and policy makers, to form a coherent picture of the differential impacts of climate change on women and highlight links to global poverty, sustainability, policy, and women’s leadership.

This conference promises to be different! The innovative and interactive format means real change can be achieved and all participants have the opportunity to contribute to global policy development and action planning for input into the 2011 United Nations Framework Convention (COP 17) and the Earth Summit 2012.

The Conference Organisers – Gender Leadership and Social Sustainability (GLASS) Research Unit at Monash University, Australia, in collaboration with Worldwide Universities Network, Gender Justice and Global Climate Change (G2C2) invite your organization to play an integral role in this ground breaking event and leverage the many opportunities to connect with other global climate change agencies.

This brochure contains further information on the conference and sponsorship opportunities.

On behalf of the Conference Committee I thank you for your consideration and look forward to joining with you as an ambassador for gender justice and climate change.

Professor Margaret Alston, OAM
Head, Department of Social Work
School of Primary Health Care
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
Monash University
The Centre’s establishment was assisted by the generosity of Rino and Diana Grollo, for whom the Centre’s major conference and performance room is named.

The Centre’s activities are guided by the university’s Prato Advisory Group, which is chaired by Professor Stephanie Fahey, Monash University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International). The Honourable Sir James Gobbo, AC is patron of the Monash University Prato Centre.

Taking its name from the Italian word for meadow, Prato has long been a successful commercial centre and is now the third largest city in Tuscany after Florence and Livorno. It has been a major centre for textiles since the early Middle Ages, and now provides three quarters of all woollen cloth exported by Italy.

Prato’s beautiful historic centre contains medieval and Renaissance buildings of great significance, including the Bascilica di Sant Maria delle Carceri, designed by Giuliano da Sangallo, and the palance built by the famous merchant Francesco Datini. Prato also contains the Luigi Pecci Museum of Contemporary Art which is housed in an ultra modern (1987) complex planned by Italo Ciamverini.

Prato has a rich historical and artistic patrimony, including a mid – 13th century castle built by the Hohenstaufen Emperors, almost perfectly preserved medieval walls which enclose the ancient city centre, a Romanesque cum Gothic cathedral dedicated to Santo Stefano with an external pulpit by Donatello and Michelozzo, the church of Santa Maria delle Carceri by Giuliano da Sangallo, and the well preserved Palazzo Datini, the late 14th century home of the famous ‘Merchant of Prato’, Francesco Datini. The Museo del Tessuto narrates the history of the town’s textile industry with 5000 samples from the 5th century up to the present day.

The conference will be held at the stately 18th Century Palazzo Vaj. This wonderfully restored building with a beautiful open-air terrazzo is surrounded by medieval towers and provides the location for Monash University in Prato. Monash secured this location with support from the Region of Tuscany and the local government of Prato and was officially opened on the 17 September 2001.
Keynote Speakers

Gender and Climate Change: Women, Research and Action builds on the partnership between the Gender, Leadership and Social Sustainability (GLASS) research unit at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia and the World Universities Network Gender Justice and Global Climate Change (G2C2) group based at Penn State University in the United States. We are delighted to bring together a unique and internationally renowned group of speakers to address the vexed issues associated with climate change and its gendered impacts. We look forward to developing and publishing an international perspective on these issues and to ensuring that our deliberations and outcomes feed into ongoing global negotiations such as Earth Summit +20 to ensure that gender is recognised as a critical factor. As we go to print we are waiting for speaker confirmation from one of the world’s outstanding leaders in this area – Dr Wangari Maathi, the founder of the Green Belt Movement and the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Dr Elaine Enarson

Dr Elaine Enarson is an independent scholar based in Lyons, Colorado. She earned her PhD. in sociology from the University of Oregon and authored Woods-Working Women: Sexual Integration in the United States. Forest Service (1984). Before turning to disaster sociology she coordinated the first women's studies program at the University of Nevada-Reno and directed the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence. Personal experience sparked her extensive work on gender, vulnerability and community resilience following Hurricane Andrew in 1992. In addition to research publications, she co-edited The Gendered Terrain of Disaster: Through Women’s Eyes (1998), Women, Gender and Disaster: Global Issues and Initiatives (2009), and The Women of Katrina: How Gender, Race and Class Matter in an American Disaster (in press) and is now finalising a book on women and disaster in the United States. Elaine speaks widely on the topic and has conducted trainings on mitigating gender violence in disasters and related subjects.

Gotelind Alber

Gotelind Alber is an independent researcher and advisor on sustainable energy and climate change policy with a special focus on local strategies to address climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy, multi-level governance, gender issues and climate justice. She is a physicist by education and has 25 years of working experience in research, policy and management, among others as managing director of the Climate Alliance of European Cities. She is co-founder and board member of the global network GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice, and currently acting as focal point of the Women and Gender observer constituency in the UNFCCC process. Recent projects include papers and policy advice on gender, cities and climate change, among others for UN-HABITAT; research and position papers on gender, energy and the gender dimension of climate policy; local 100 per cent renewable energy scenarios; evaluation of national energy research programmes; advice for national institutions and international agencies on renewable energy and local governments’ approaches to climate policy; and strategic advice, capacity building and training for local and regional governments.
Lorena Aguilar Revelo

Born in San José, Costa Rica. Her efforts towards a sustainable and equitable human development include more than two and half decades of practical experience in projects and initiatives involving public policy development and design and the incorporation of social and gender issues into the use and conservation of natural resources. Ms Aguilar has provided technical assistance to international organisations, governments and universities in areas such as water, environmental health, gender and community participation. She presently is the Global Senior Gender Adviser of IUCN – The International Union for the Conservation of Nature. It should be pointed out that this is the first time in the history of the Union, that a Latin American woman has been appointed to such an important global position.

She has written 30 books and other publications on gender and environment, environmental health and public policies involving gender equality. Many of her books have been translated into English, Arab and French and are widely used in many projects around the world. Through her efforts and firm determination regarding the development of technical skills, over the past 10 years more than 10,000 people have been trained using the methodologies developed by her team.

Thanks to her efforts mayor environmental institutions have developed gender plans of actions. Examples of this are UNEP, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention to Combat Desertification.

Ms Aguilar has also supported the development of a framework to harmonise the three Rio Conventions. Over the last few years Ms Aguilar has been conducting a series of efforts to ensure that gender considerations are fully integrated in climate change efforts and policies. Part of her efforts have been the creation and consolidation of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, training to delegates from all around the world to the UNFCCC, building capacity at the governmental and nongovernmental institutions, support the development of the first national gender and climate change strategies and the development of various manuals and articles on the topic.

Professor Lena Dominelli

Professor Lena Dominelli holds a Chair in Applied Social Sciences in the School of Applied Social Sciences and is Associate Director at the Institute of Hazards, Risk and Resilience Research at Durham University where she heads the Programme on Vulnerability and Resilience. She currently has a number of research projects, the two most crucial ones being (as PI) a Major ESRC funded project entitled ‘Internationalising Institutional and Professional Practices’ and (as CI) another significant EPSRC funded project entitled, ‘Climate Change, the Built Infrastructure and Health and Social Care Provisions for Older People’. Alongside the wealth of experience she has had as a university educator and researcher, she has worked in social services, probation and community development. She has published widely in social work, social policy and sociology. Several of these are classics and have been translated into many languages.

She is recognised as a leading figure in social work education globally. Professor Dominelli was elected President of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) from 1996 to 2004, and is currently chairing the IASSW Committees on Disaster Interventions and Climate Change and is representing the social work profession at the United Nations discussions on climate change, including that held in Cancun, Mexico from 29 November –10 December 2010. She has also been the recipient of various honours including a Medal in 2002 for her contribution to social work given by the Social Affairs Committee of the French Senate and an honorary doctorate in 2008 from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa.
Benefits for participating sponsors

The Conference Organisers have structured the opportunities for sponsorship to be flexible and negotiable to suit your company/organisation’s requirements. Should you wish to discuss details of the proposed sponsorships, or suggest an alternative form of sponsorship, please contact:

Ms Kathy Noble, Monash University Department of Social Work
P.O. Box 197, Caulfield East, Victoria 3145, Australia
Email: kathy.noble@monash.edu
Gender and Climate Change: 
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Kathy Noble,
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