

## AN EVENTFUL YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE WARWICK GRP INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This has been a busy year for Warwick's GRP International Development. There were many events – small and big, workshops, films – all organised around the [Annual Theme - Challenging Inequalities, Transforming Gender Relations in the 21st Century](#).

The questions we posed are urgent: Why does gender matter in development? How does gender reproduce social inequalities that affect development? What can we do about the mis-recognition of gender relations that often leads to mal-distribution of resources to support the marginalized? What is needed to transform gender relations in the 21st Century?

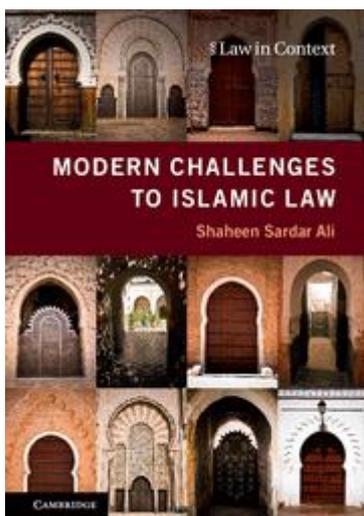
Gender issues have long been part of the development agenda. With the inception of the United Nations in 1945, women's groups and activists helped to push for the recognition of women's needs in the UN charter. The series of development conferences throughout the 1970s, 80s and 90s led to the ratification of CEDAW in 1979, which prohibits all forms of discrimination against women. The Beijing Conference in 1995 put forward the tool of gender mainstreaming such that gender inequalities are considered and challenged in all aspects of development policy-making and implementation. [The Millennium Development Goals](#) promoted gender equality and empowerment of women (MDG 3) and improvement of maternal health (MDG 5) but did not address the issues of systemic gender inequalities. Campaigns for addressing such inequalities has led to an acknowledgement of the importance of gender equality in the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) through Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Among other important targets for achieving this, for the first time the UN has called for 'Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate'. This is an important step forward.

There has been some success in challenging gender inequality. Globally, more women are involved in the paid workforce, are more likely to complete primary education and the number of female heads of government is increasing. Yet progress has been patchy. However, gender inequalities persist and life chances and outcomes still depend on where you are born and whether you are a girl or boy, man or woman. Where does this leave us? And where do we go next?

In order to address these questions we brought together academics, practitioners, students and citizens on various platforms. Visually capturing these series of events was not easy, but we chose a picture of a graffiti from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi which captures the refusal of women to accept violence against their bodies and modes of living. This powerful graffiti captures some of the energy that the students at this university have invested in bringing this important issue to light and the campaigns that they have launched to bring about a more secure environment for political participation by all.

We kicked off the series of programmes with a [NETWORKING EVENT](#) on 19th October, 2016, at which colleagues shared their research plans, publications and discussed collaborative work.

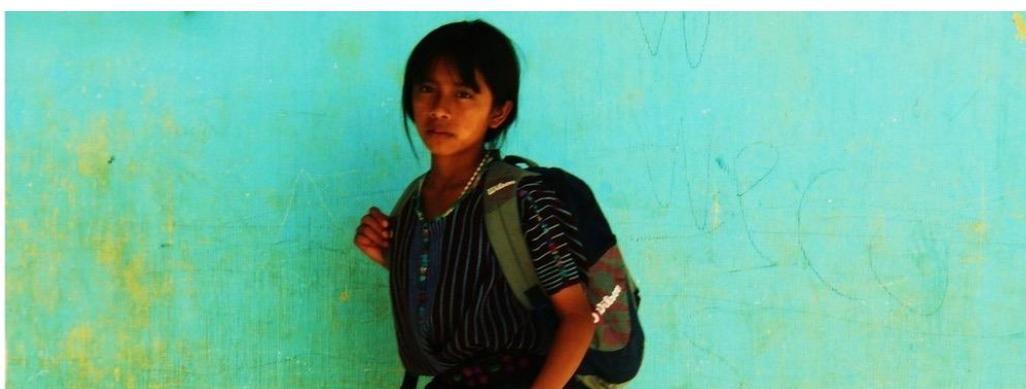




Issues of Islamic law and gender equality have been at the forefront of many debates in recent years. From George Bush’s infamous call justifying the attack upon Afghanistan by suggesting this was to rescue Afghani women to the attacks upon the wearing of hijab in France and the UK to the debate on Universal Civil Code in India, the body of the woman in the body of the law has held a powerful and often disturbing discursive space. Shaheen Sardar Ali’s book *Modern Challenges to Islamic Law* takes up many of this important issues. We organised its launch on 14 November 2016 to a packed audience; the debate that followed the remarks made by the panel was robust, respectful and engaging.

Education has been an important strategy for addressing gender inequalities and yet it does not find a place in the SDG targets.

Warwick’s [Centre for Education Studies](#) in collaboration with the International Development GRP organised a research seminar to address this issue on 12th January 2017. Based on Action Aid’s Stop Violence Against Girls initiative in Kenya, Ghana and Mozambique, Dr Jenny Parkes, UCL Institute of Education, spoke on “Collaborating in Research to Stop Violence Against Girls in Schools”. This multi-partnered project worked over five years (2008-2013), combining advocacy, community intervention and research.



A highlight of the year for us was to invite Prof Diane Elson to Warwick. Elson is a well-known British economist, sociologist and gender and development social scientist. She is noted for her work on issues of development and human rights. A theme in her more recent work is gender inequality and economic and social rights. She is the author of the pathbreaking book *Male Bias in the Development Process*. On 25 January 2017 GRP International Development and



the [International Political Economy Cluster, Department of Politics and International Studies](#) hosted a Lecture by Prof Diane Elson, University of Essex : *Gender Inequality and Economic Inequality*. She concluded her speech by underlining that ‘social reproduction is intrinsically a site of struggle, closely linked to struggle for gender equality’. You can find the slides for her talk [here](#). After her speech she also gave an interview to students of the MA in International Development, which can be found [here](#).

While our students learn a lot in their classrooms, there are relatively few opportunities for them to engage with development practitioners. We addressed this gap by organising a practitioners’ panel on *Gender and development from a practitioner's perspective - why should gender matter to development?* Experienced practitioners, Caroline Sweetman, Oxfam, editor of Gender and Development, Gabriella Pinto, Plan International UK’s Gender Adviser and Sarah Lester from Practical Action spoke to a packed room on 2 February 2017.



The panel addressed the challenges faced by practitioners working in international development on issues of gender. They also addressed the contribution that they and their organisations have made and where their biggest challenges lie. The response from the students and other audience members was terrific – many questions were asked, comments made and the panelists as well as the audience enjoyed the interaction.

Together with Warwick's Connecting Research on Employment and Work ([CREW](#)), the GRP organised a half day workshop on one of the most challenging issues facing international development: the production, consumption and trade of food globally.

## Gendered Work in the Global Food Chain

WARWICK

Half-Day Workshop

Tuesday, 28 February 2017 2.00pm – 6.15pm WBS 1.005 / 1.006



- 2.00 – 2.30 Tea and Registration
- 2.30 – 4.30 Roundtable: **Gender In Food (Re)production**  
*Panelists* **Anouk Patel-Campillo** | Gender Institute, LSE  
**Deepa Joshi** | Gender and Water Governance, Coventry University  
**Moya Kneafsey** | Agroecology, Water & Resilience, Coventry University  
**Emine Erdogan** | Institute of Advance Study, University of Warwick

*Discussant* **Liz Dowler** | Professor Emeritus, Sociology, University of Warwick

- 4.30 – 5.00 Afternoon Tea

### ■ 5.00 – 6.15 PUBLIC LECTURE

#### **Professor Stephanie Barrientos**

School of Environment, Education and Development, University of Manchester  
"Retail Shift: transforming gendered patterns of work in global value chains"

*Discussant* **Ben Richardson** | Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick

- 6.15 – 7.00 **Wine Reception**

*Please register* [https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross\\_fac/ias/fellows/ecf/genderedwork/registrationform/](https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/ias/fellows/ecf/genderedwork/registrationform/)



CONNECTING  
RESEARCH on  
EMPLOYMENT and  
WORK



[https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross\\_fac/ias/fellows/ecf/genderedwork/](https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/ias/fellows/ecf/genderedwork/)

In an interview to students from the MA in International Development, after her Public Lecture after the workshop, Prof Stephanie Barrientos spoke about Capturing the Gains, which was a big research programme that she led with Gary Gereffi, with 40 researchers in 20 countries across a number of sectors, including agri-food, apparel, tourism and mobile phones. She explained: 'It was looking at whether the upgrading of suppliers would automatically lead to improvements for workers. I think that a fairly definitive answer is that when suppliers upgrade and move to higher value activities that can lead to improvements for workers but it does not necessarily do so'. You can read her full interview [here](#).

One of the challenges for the GRP ID has been to engage our colleagues in the Sciences with our work. Although there are many research projects being carried out in the Science faculty focused on issues of international development, getting scientists and social scientists to communicate across disciplinary boundaries is not always easy! In order to make a start in breaking such disciplinary barriers, we organised an event on Women in Science on 1 March 2017; the question we posed was - "What do women scientists bring to global development?" The panellists were Professor Jane Hutton, University of Warwick, winner of the Suffrage Science award, Professor Faith Osier, winner of the Fifth Annual Merle A. Sande Health Leadership Award and a member of the Royal Society, Professor Charlotte Watts, founder of the Gender, Violence and Health Centre and Chief Scientific

Advisor at DfID; it was chaired by Professor Swaran Singh, University of Warwick, WMS - Mental Health and Wellbeing. The panel addressed the challenges and opportunities women face as scientists, and the contribution that they have made in addressing urgent problems. The panellists spoke about their work, the challenges that they had faced as women scientists making their way in the discipline and the satisfaction that they got from overcoming these challenges and establishing

their place in the world of science.



The GRP ID takes its responsibility for supporting students and early career researchers very seriously. This year we organised our first national postgraduate conference. The theme of the conference was obviously gender related: [Changing Landscapes of Gender In/equality : Theories, Policies and Mobilisations](#). Postgraduate students from all over the country, representing many universities including Bath, Edinburgh, Lancaster, Leeds, LSE, Manchester, SOAS, and of course Warwick, participated. Over a period of one day, the conference, packed with excellent and interesting papers, addressed the following questions:

- ☐ What do NGOs, development agencies and institutions do or not do to ensure gender equality in their change work?
- ☐ Do the SDGs offer a framework for change, or do they represent old wine in a new bottle?
- ☐ How can theoretical interventions help us rethink approaches to change?
- ☐ What implementation strategies on the ground can make for gender equal impact?
- ☐ Are there methodologies that are particularly useful in mapping change?
- ☐ What is the role of the academic community in terms of the role of change?

The CONFERENCE PROGRAMME included the following:

9.30am-11.00am: Panel I - *Gender, markets and women's economic empowerment*

11.00am-11.15am: Tea/Coffee

11.15am-12.45pm: *Panel II - Gender, rights and identity*

12.45pm-1.30pm: Lunch

1.30pm - 1.45pm : **Relaunch of LGD Journal**

*The Journal of Law, Social Justice & Global Development*



The Journal of Law, Social Justice and Global Development (LGD) is an innovative online journal dedicated to critical analysis on topics related to the impact of globalisation on social justice with a focus on interdisciplinary approach. The Journal carries double blind peer-reviewed articles and is supported by an International Advisory Board. See more on the journal and its archive [here](#).

1.45pm-3.15pm: Panel III - *Gender and policy from local to global perspectives*

3.15pm-3.30pm: Tea/Coffee + Practical Academic Advice Quick Session

3.30pm-5.00pm: Panel IV - *Gender, security and GBV*

We hope that this conference will be the first of a series that brings together young scholars working in the field of International Development and form a network of collaboration.

The panels were followed by the **GRP International Development Annual Lecture 2016 -2017**. This year, our speaker was Dr Uma Chakravarti – feminist historian, human rights activist and film maker.

The title of the lecture was: **Oppositional Imaginations: Resisting the Violence of Normal Times**: Drawing upon personal engagements, fractures based on caste, and queer critiques of the women’s movement, Prof Chakravarti spoke to a large and engaged audience on the women’s movement in India since the 1980s: its early interventions in resisting violence against women in ever expanding circles from the home outwards to the streets to the fields to the borders where violence was perpetrated. This was framed within the larger backdrop of the international women’s movement but also the South Asian women’s movements from the 1980s to the present. Uma also showed a film – *Lucknow 1949* – which was discussed by Prof Tanika Sarkar and enjoyed by many who turned up to watch it on a very hot day!



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**Lucknow 1949**

Documentary film screening followed by a conversation with Uma Chakravarti and Prof Tanika Sarkar (Historian, retired from Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Screened and directed by Uma Chakravarti, 'Lucknow 1949' is a documentary film set in Prayagraj, India, an institution for rationalist activism founded in the late 19th century. Through her women, Sughra Fatma and her niece Khadija Anwar, the film tells the unknown stories of women and their struggles to find their own ways of being in a time of dramatic changes. One wrote poetry to express her feelings and the other became a star in a radio who went to jail for being a revolutionary.

Tuesday 20th June  
Oculus Room 0.05  
5pm-7pm

As if this programme was not packed enough, after the Annual Lecture, **GRP International Development Annual Photography Competition: Gender and Development winners 2016-2107** were announced! The GRP International Development photography competition is open to any University of Warwick student or staff member. We received over 40 entries this year. They included visual studies and imagery about representations of gender, interactions and inequalities between men and

women, the graduations, fluidity or changes in gender and our understanding of gender, the places and spaces where gender is foregrounded or made problematic, the legality or politics of gender, development organisations that focus on women’s empowerment, or gender respect and understanding. **And the**



## winner was...**Gabriele Stravinskaite**

Nairobi – boys learning sewing. For other winners and commendees see [here](#).

While this day was the final hurrah for the GRP ID events for 2017, we also had some excellent events organised by **Another India**, our research group on Indian politics and society, which can be found [here](#). The last event of this group focused on the crisis in Indian universities.



Another India invites you to

### The Crisis In Indian Universities

A talk by Shehla Rashid (student activist and leader from India)

Shehla Rashid will speak about the growing authoritarianism faced by students in Indian universities in a climate of right-wing intolerance, and about ways in which students are resisting the assault on democracy in India.

Friday, 16th June 2017  
4pm-6pm  
Oculus Oc.005

Free event followed by drinks reception! Everyone welcome, but please register below!

[warwick.ac.uk/research/priorities/internationaldevelopment/research/annualthemes/genderandinternationaldevelopment/shehlarashid/](http://warwick.ac.uk/research/priorities/internationaldevelopment/research/annualthemes/genderandinternationaldevelopment/shehlarashid/)

GLOBAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES  
CONNECTING CULTURES  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This has been an incredibly busy and productive year. We not only hosted events that raised the profile of international development within Warwick, but also generated interest in the work being done at Warwick on international development. Many colleagues came together to apply for the GCRF Centre bid last year; even though we were not successful, the process of application generated wonderful conversations and developed networks that we will continue to consolidate. The interest of students in our events has been amazing, and heartening for us. We hope to build on this next year, when the Annual Theme of the GRP ID will be **Poverty, Inequality and Development**. Watch out for another year of GRP ID events, discussions, films and writing on this important issue!! And visit our website to do so -

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/research/priorities/internationaldevelopment/>

Have a great summer! See you next academic year!

**Co-Lead GRP International Development: Prof Shirin M Rai**

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Shensi Wei

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Benedetta Matilde Giulia Landi

