

nature. Findings here are indicative of the complexities in the field of gender and global change, and signal that a higher engagement with critical social sciences is needed to further advance knowledge in these areas. We finally argue that the gaps and biases of research in the topic might have potential implications in current scientific and political debates on vulnerability and adaptation, and provide recommendations for research and policy-making agendas.

Contributed session oral presentation:

Beyond dichotomies: Gender and intersecting inequalities in climate change studies

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Climate change and related adaptation strategies have gender-differentiated impacts. This paper reviews how gender is framed in 41 papers on climate change adaptation through an intersectionality lens. The main findings show that while intersectional analysis has demonstrated many advantages for a comprehensive study of gender, it has not yet entered the field of climate change and gender. In climate change studies, gender is mostly handled in a men-versus-women dichotomy and little or no attention has been paid to power and social and political relations. These gaps which are echoed in other domains of development and gender research, depict a ‘feminization of vulnerability’ and reinforce a ‘victimization’ discourse within climate change studies. We argue that a critical intersectional assessment would contribute to unveil agency and emancipatory pathways in the adaptation process by providing a better understanding of how the differential impacts of climate change shape, and are shaped by, the complex power dynamics of existing social and political relations.

Contributed session oral presentation:

Building resilience to climate hazards through an understanding of gender and intersectionality

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While the environmental pathways affecting resilience and climate change have long been investigated, the social dimensions of resilience have received relatively less attention. For example, climate change researchers now suggest that climate hazards not only affect environmental characteristics of a place, but also the social and cultural dimensions such as community cohesion and sense of place and identity. More specifically, understanding how gender, culture and other social dimensions intersect to generate highly differentiated and context-specific experiences of, and responses to, climate hazards is only beginning to be explored. Feminist scholars using an intersectional lens suggest that climate hazards can simultaneously expose, intensify, or even challenge existing power differentials and inequalities within households and communities in both ‘developing’ and post-industrial settings. Such power dynamics are evident by examining relevant social-demographic characteristics of rural