



# Final Dissemination Conference

13-14 February 2023

## SEQUAL

### Social-Ecological relations and Gender Equality



# Background of the research project

SEQUAL examines gendered differences and power relations in participation and leadership of natural resource- and climate change-related policies and governance practices.

## Objectives:

- Contribute to better understanding of **how gender is framed and addressed within climate change and natural resource policies at different levels**
- Further our understanding of **gender power relations under changing social and environmental conditions** in case studies of natural resource management at the local level
- Provide **critical analyses of the gaps and linkages** between international and national gender and climate policies, and everyday gendered practices



# Case studies



## Sweden

- Gender equity policies in **forest and rural development sectors**
- Forest owners, forest industry and policy actors, and academia
- Interviews and critical discursive analyses



## Spain

- **Climate change and food security** policies
- Women shepherds and artisans in the **pastoral commons of the Pyrenees**
- Life history approach and participatory methods



## Norway

- Climate change policies at **national and EU levels**
- **Sami reindeer herding communities** in the sub-Arctic region
- Gender and indigenous knowledge in adaptive governance



## Burkina Faso/ Vietnam

- **International development aid** strategies and forest policies
- Development practitioners, national gender experts, committees
- Intersectionality and community



# The team: interdisciplinary research and diverse gender expertise

## Partners:



Stockholm Resilience Centre



Nordland Research Institute



University of Vic-Central University of Catalonia



University of Helsinki (non-funded partner)

## Disciplines:

Climate change policy, Forest policy and governance, Sustainability science, Feminist theories, Political Economy, Resource economics, Agroecology, Human Geography





# Main results from critical policy analyses (WPR)

Findings highlight a **positivist and technocratic focus in policy solutions to climate change and resource governance challenges that ignores the social-political and their contestations.**

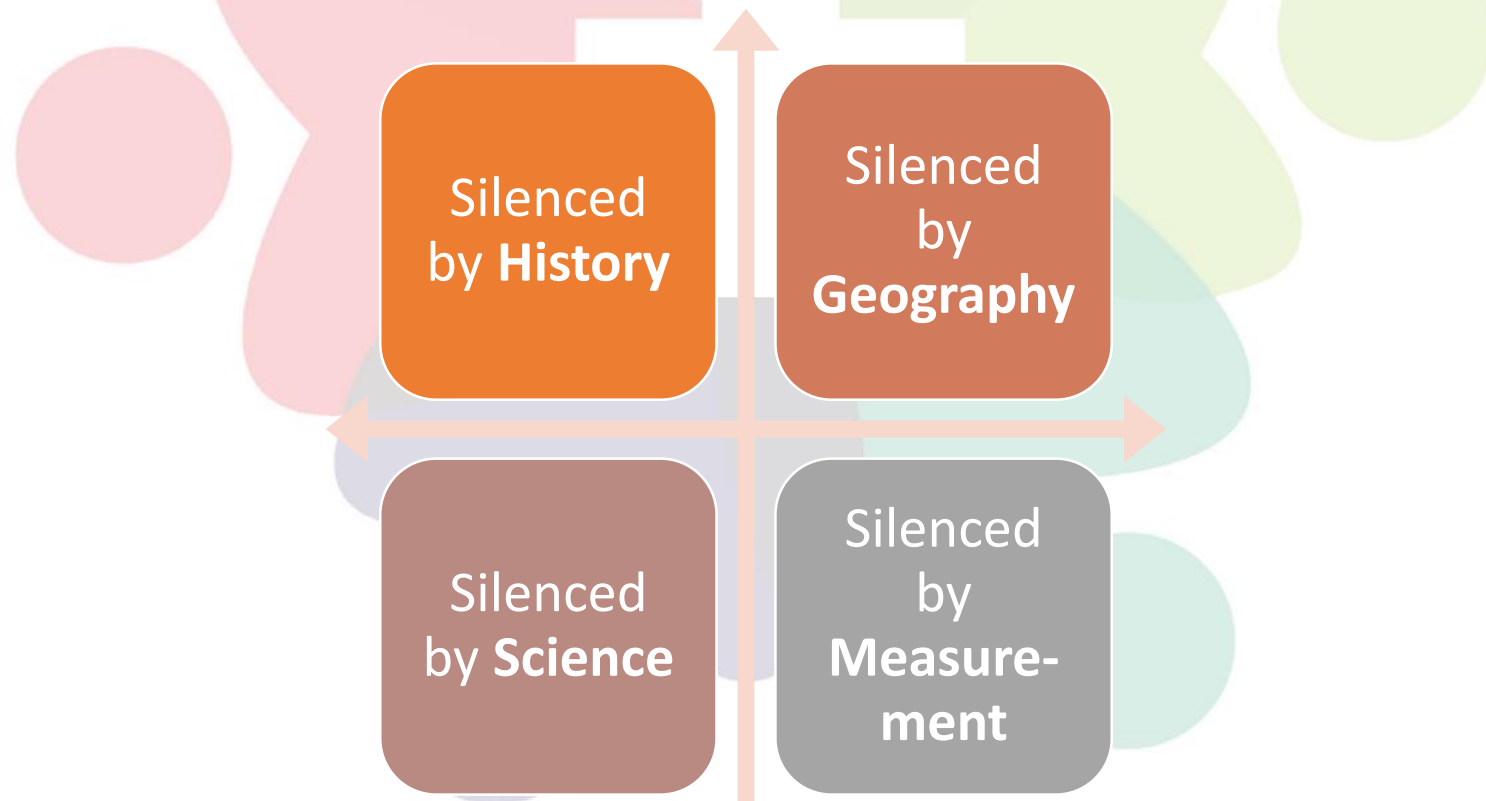
Such focus makes invisible gender and intersectional power relations, and marginalize diverse voices, knowledge systems and alternative solutions.

- **Sweden:** gender inequality policy measures are aimed to increase the number of women within a forest sector that continues to maintain rigid conceptions about ‘traditional’ forestry production values (Ville et al. 2023)
- **Spain:** climate change is seen as a problem of carbon emissions and economic investments which only requires a technical fix and including women in job opportunities to a low-carbon economy (Borras et al., in prep)
- **Norway:** gender and climate policies are rarely linked – and if, it is a problem of culture in the Global South and economic structure in the North, building on stereotypes of North/South and men/women (Eggebo et al. 2022)
- **Burkina Faso:** national and international development strategies tend to ‘blame’ gender inequality on informal structures, i.e. culture, while the formal is promoted as the solution (Karambiri et al., in review)



# Main results from critical policy analyses (WPR)

Policies are influential in not only how they problematize an issue, but also in what they *choose to silence*. Our comparative analysis highlights patterns in what is left unproblematized in gender policies across time, cultures and societal ambitions (Brockhaus et al., in review).



# Findings from the field

**Spain:** the diversity of women pastoralist roles and contributions disrupts common stereotypes. Empowerment is closely linked to financial independence and agency. Industrial farming leads to a masculinization of rural spaces and loss of diversity (Fernandez-Gimenez et al. 2021, 2022)





# Findings from the field

**Norway:** reindeer herd governance is decentralized but remains upwardly accountable, leading to local knowledge being overruled and not considered as valid. Such knowledge and practices are also ignored in static forms of climate adaptive planning such as land use mapping (Risvoll et al. 2022, Sjölander-Lindqvist et al. 2020)





# Findings from the field

**Burkina Faso/Vietnam:** focus of policies on the local has created/ reinforced tensions and contestations relating to forest access and benefits among different groups (ethnicities, age, migrants, men, women). Policies are predicated on a “communal fix” of indigeneity excludes others and disables agency (Karambiri et al. 2019, Wong et al., in review)



# Lessons for sustainable and gender-equality impacts

Bringing **new information and perspectives to brokers** – extension agents, local government actors, development workers – particularly related to gendered inequalities, access and rights (Spain, Burkina Faso).

**Women networks** in forest land ownership and forest industry practitioners (Sweden) and pastoral labor-sharing (Spain) can support alternative models of sustainability and progressive leadership.

Loss of local knowledge systems and diverse practices due to industrial agriculture (Spain) and forestry (Sweden) has **implications for adaptive governance and social-ecological resilience.**

Integration of global norms such as decentralization and participation are important (Norway, Burkina Faso, Vietnam) but hollow if they do not **tackle imbalances in power and authority.**



# Directions for future research to bring voice to policy “silences”

Acknowledge upfront that gender inequalities are structurally **unequal power relations!**

Gender research must also **focus on the men!**

All research should take an **intersectional approach** to include a more explicit focus on the experiences of women and men of different classes, ethnicities, origin, age, and sexual orientations, and understand how these factors interact to shape different realities and decisions.

Continued **investments in participatory feminist research** to support long-term reciprocal research and action relationships with women in resource governance across Global North and South.





# Outputs

**Special issue** in *Environmental Science and Policy* (2023): The contested nature of climate change: feminist and decolonial approaches for transformative adaptation

- Ville et al. (2023) What is the ‘problem’ of gender inequality represented to be in the Swedish forest sector?

## **SEQUAL publications:**

- Risvoll, C. et al. (2022). Maps and stories in the creation of richer accounts of change in pastoral landscapes in Nordland, northern Norway. *Pastoralism*, 12(1), 45.
- Eggebø, H. et al. (2022) Gaps and Silences: Gender and Climate Policies in the Global North, *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*
- Fernández-Giménez, M., et al. (2022). The invisible thread: women as tradition keepers and change agents in Spanish pastoral social-ecological systems. *Ecology and Society*, 27(2).
- Fernández-Giménez, M. et al. (2021) Spanish women pastoralists’ pathways into livestock management: Motivations, challenges and learning. *Journal of Rural Studies* 87:1–11.
- Rivera-Ferre, M. (2021). Climate change is not equal to all: The contribution of feminist studies to climate change research. *Metode Science Studies Journal*.



# Outputs

## Papers in review:

- Karambiri et al. What is the Problem of Gender Inequality Represented to be in Inter-national Development Policy in Burkina Faso? Submitted to *Forum for Development Studies*.
- Wong et al. When policies problematize the local: Environmental justice and forest policies in Burkina Faso and Vietnam, submitted to *Political Geography*.
- Brockhaus et al. *Exploring silences in policy at the intersection of gender, land use and climate change*, submitted to *Critical Policy Studies*.

## Conferences

- Symposium on Critical Policy Studies – Exploring the Premises and Politics of Bacchi’s WPR Approach, Karlstad University in Sweden, 17-18 Aug 2022, 2 SEQUAL papers presented.
- DevRes conference 2021, Umea University, Sweden, 24-26 August. Organised Panel “*Development for whom: Revisiting inequality and social injustice in sustainable development*”, 2 SEQUAL papers presented.
- Political Ecology Network (POLLEN) Biennial Conference 2020, University of Sussex, 22-25 September. Organized panel “*The contested nature of climate change: Convergence of feminist and decolonial approaches*”, 3 SEQUAL papers presented.
- Environmental Justice conference 2019, East Anglia University, UK, 2-4 July, 1 SEQUAL paper presented.



*Thank you!*

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