

WGD
CONF
2021

Women & Gender in Development Conference

OUT OF THE THEORY & INTO THE FIELD A DIALOGUE ON GENDERED APPROACHES TO INCLUSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Virtual Conference: February 23 – February 26, 2021

Conference Sponsors & Partners



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture



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This conference is supported in part by the Women & Minority Artist and Scholars Lecture Series fund



@wgdconf #outofthetheory #intofield



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

“Everything I attended was excellent. The presentations were amazing. I think my favorite part was the blending of international and domestic work being done.”

Faculty Member, University of Florida

On February 23-26, 2021, Virginia Tech hosted the Women and Gender in Development (WGD) Virtual Conference Out of the Theory and into the Field: A Dialogue on Gendered Approaches to Inclusive Rural Development. The conference was sponsored primarily with a Conference Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and co-sponsored by various Virginia Tech departments (please see title page for full details). Given the ongoing impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the conference transitioned to a completely virtual event; utilizing Whova to host the conference’s synchronous and asynchronous content and facilitate formal and informal networking among conference attendees. For 2021, thanks to funding from NIFA, the conference also focused on building a dialogue between researchers, practitioners, and extension professional from the Global North and Global South and share lessons learned and approaches to help build more inclusive and resilient food systems and rural communities.

The conference brought together world-renowned development experts and leading scholars in the field, including Dr. Jemimah Njuki from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Dr. Carolyn Sachs from Pennsylvania State University, Dr. Gary Barker from Promundo, Dr. Mary Peabody from the University of Vermont, Dr. Angie Carter from Michigan Tech, Dr. Gabrielle Roesch-McNally from the American Farmland Trust, and Dr. Tami Navarro from Barnard College. Presentations addressed a diverse range of topics linked to gender equity, empowerment, masculinities, and intersectionality; food systems, natural resource management; and critical perspectives on development activities in the Caribbean and their disproportionate impacts on women.

Recognizing lessons learned from 2019, in 2021 additional opportunities were provided for students, scholars, and practitioners to present their research and/or programmatic activities through the conference’s poster session, 4 Minute Student Flashtalks, and the World Café. The poster session included over 40 posters, with 13 students participating in the student poster competition. The 4 Minute Student Flashtalks, inspired by the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland in Australia, included presentations from 5 graduate students who had the opportunity to prepare a video presentation to share their research findings with a non-expert audience. Student participants worked with faculty members from Virginia Tech’s Center for Communicating Science to develop a story narrative that explains why their research is important to the themselves, their field of study, and the world. The World Café Session included presentations from seven organizations, including TechnoServe, ACDI/VOCA, and the CGIAR’s Gender Platform.

Highlights at a Glance



333
Registered conference attendees



218
Institutions represented



147
Student attendees



28
Attendees - US agricultural extension



50
Attendees from Virginia Tech



22
Countries represented by attendees



320
Active users in Whova



717
Messages sent using Whova



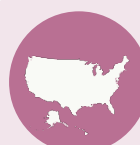
42
Posters presented



100
Conference registration scholarships provided



22
Speakers and panelists



35
States represented by attendees

“How participatory it was! I didn't expect it, and it was very well done. The keynotes were excellent, panels great, big-question discussions were quite insightful. I also really liked the visual facilitator and PDFs summaries of the previous day's activities.” – *Development Practitioner*

“Along with the live sessions, I could access all the recordings as well as poster presentations and resource materials. It made me feel I wasn't missing out on much even though I could not join all the sessions as much I wanted to due to the time difference.” – *Graduate Student*

“My favorite part of the conference was hearing the presentations of how we can come out of theory to the practical.” – *Graduate Student*



**“Women and Gender in Development Virtual Conference 2021 Out of the theory & into the field:
A dialogue on gendered approaches to inclusive rural development”**

February 23 – 26, 2021 – hosted by Virginia Tech

ALL TIMES EASTERN STANDARD TIME (EST)

SYNCHRONOUS SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

- Day 1-2** Tuesday, Feb. 23-24: Welcome and introduction to the conference, and tech support
- Day 2** Wednesday, Feb. 24: Pre-conference workshops
- Day 3-4** Thursday-Friday, Feb. 25-26: Sessions run 9 AM - 1 PM EST
- Day 4** Friday, Feb. 26: Post-conference networking session 1 - 2 PM EST

ASYNCHRONOUS SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

4 Minute Student Flashtalks, Career Corner, Virtual Poster Hall, World Café available at all times in Whova

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021 (pre-conference)

8:45 AM: Zoom plenary open for participants to begin chatting

9:00 - 9:30 AM: Welcome, introductions, and announcements

Dr. Maria Elisa Christie, Director of Women and Gender in International Development at the Center for International Research, Education and Development, Virginia Tech

Erin Nicole Gordon, MBA, Founder, Visual Facilitator & Strategist, The Wayfind

Pre-conference asynchronous materials available including any assigned readings for workshops, Poster Gallery, 4 Minute Student Flashtalks, Career Corner, World Café

- Begin networking
- Check in via chat
- Begin voting on People’s Choice award for 4 Minute Student Flashtalks
- Begin scavenger hunt
- Test Whova App, technical support available

9:30 - 10:30 AM: Technical troubleshooting session #1 for participants

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Technical troubleshooting session # 2 for participants

1:00 - 2:00 PM: Technical troubleshooting session # 3 for participants

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 (pre-conference)

8:45 AM: Zoom plenary open for participants to begin chatting

9:00 - 9:30 AM: Welcome, introductions, and announcements

Dr. Maria Elisa Christie, Director of Women and Gender in International Development at the Center for International Research, Education and Development, Virginia Tech

Erin Nicole Gordon, MBA, Founder, Visual Facilitator & Strategist, The Wayfind

- Check in via chat
- Vote on People's Choice award for 4 Minute Student Flashtalks
- View and interact with Poster Gallery, 4 Minute Student Flashtalks, Career Profiles, World Café

9:30 - 10:15 Icebreaker/networking exercise

10:15 - 10:25 Introduction to pre-conference workshop facilitators

10:25 - 10:30 Transition break

10:30 - 12:30 Pre-conference workshops (4 concurrent)

1. Positive youth development in Senegal: Growing the next generation of more inclusive agriculture

Bineta Guisse, M.Sc., National Director, Feed the Future Senegal Youth in Agriculture

Dr. Thomas Archibald, Associate Professor, Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education, Virginia Tech; Director, Feed the Future Senegal Youth in Agriculture

Fatimata Kane, M.Sc., PhD Student, Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education, Virginia Tech

2. Gender and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning - Data needs for documenting the gendered impacts

Dr. Jennifer Himmelstein, Corporate Analyst, ACDI/VOCA

Daniel Sumner, M.Sc., Assistant Director, Women & Gender in International Development, Center for International Research, Education, and Development, Virginia Tech

3. Bringing theory and the field into the college classroom: Developing gender-forward curricula

Dr. Amanda Crump, Assistant Professor of Teaching in International Agricultural Development, Department of Plant Sciences, University of California Davis

Dr. Leif Jensen, Distinguished Professor of Rural Sociology and Demography, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Pennsylvania State University

4. Silence is not always golden: Reciprocal peer interviews as a method to engage vulnerable populations in discussion on sensitive topics

Dr. Rebecca Williams, Assistant Research Scientist, Human and Institutional Capacity Development, Office for Global Research Engagement & Livestock Systems Innovation Laboratory, University of Florida

7:00 - 8:30 PM: Trivia Night (Game)

Logistics and moderator: **Dr. Karen Bailey**, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, UC Boulder

DAY 3 - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

8:45 AM: Zoom plenary open for participants to begin chatting

9:00 - 9:30 AM: Welcome, opening remarks, introductions, and announcements

Dr. Maria Elisa Christie, Director of Women and Gender in International Development at the Center for International Research, Education, and Development, Virginia Tech

Erin Nicole Gordon, MBA, Founder, Visual Facilitator & Strategist, The Wayfind

9:30 - 10:30 AM: Keynote address #1

Gender Transformative Food Systems: Addressing structural and institutional barriers to gender equality in food systems

Dr. Jemimah Njuki, Africa Director for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and custodian for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021

Moderator: **Dr. Maria Elisa Christie**, Director of Women and Gender in International Development at the Center for International Research, Education and Development, Virginia Tech

10:30 - 10:45: Transition break (and choose panel for next session)

10:45 - 11:45: Panel (choose one of two)

Food systems crisis: Strengthening gender equality and resiliency

Dr. Hazel Malapit, Senior Research Coordinator at the Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Dr. Mary Peabody, Community economic development specialist with University of Vermont Extension, and founding director of Women's Ag Network (WAgN) and the UVM Extension New Farmer project

Moderator: **Cristina Manfre, M.Sc.**, Global Gender Director, TechnoServe

OR

Masculinities and engaging men in conversations on gender equality and women's empowerment

Dr. Gary Barker, President and CEO, Promundo U.S.

Laxman Belbase, M.Sc., Global Co-Director, MenEngage

Moderator: **Daniel Sumner, M.Sc.**, Assistant Director, Women and Gender in International Development at the Center for International Research, Education and Development, Virginia Tech

11:45 - 11:50: Transition break and come back to main meeting room

11:50 - 12:00: 4 Minute Student Flashtalks awards

4 Minute Student Flashtalks Jury Awards presented by Dr. Ralph Hall, Associate Professor, Urban Affairs and Planning (UAP) program at Virginia Tech and Director of the Undergraduate Program in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)

12:00 - 12:10: Transition break (and choose which of two conversations for next session)

12:10 - 1:00 Concurrent facilitated conversations (2) and end of day announcements

Conversation 1: Mentoring/Careers Conversation

Dr. Amanda Crump, Assistant Professor of Teaching in International Agricultural Development, Department of Plant Sciences, University of California Davis

Dr. Halimah DeShong, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) to the United Nations, and Head of the Institute for Gender & Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit, at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus

Beth Holtzman, MPA, Coordinator of the University of Vermont Extension New Farmer Project and Women's Agricultural Network (WAgN)

Dr. Batamaka Somé, anthropologist, farm entrepreneur and research consultant based in Burkina Faso, and West Africa Regional Representative for the McKnight Foundation's Collaborative Crop Research Program

Daniel Sumner, M.Sc., Assistant Director, Women & Gender in International Development, Center for International Research, Education, and Development, Virginia Tech

Laura Zselezcky, MPA, Communications Specialist, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish

Moderator: **Dr. Donna Westfall-Rudd**, Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech

OR

Conversation 2: Big questions

Moderator: **Dr. Deborah Rubin**, Co-Director, Cultural Practice, LLC

DAY 4 - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

8:45 AM: Zoom plenary open for participants to begin chatting

9:00 - 9:15 AM: Welcome, introductions, and announcements

Dr. Maria Elisa Christie, Director of Women and Gender in International Development at the Center for International Research, Education, and Development, Virginia Tech

Erin Nicole Gordon, MBA, Founder, Visual Facilitator & Strategist, The Wayfind

9:15 - 10:15 AM: Keynote address #2

Feminist Food Justice: Overcoming Intersectional Inequities in U.S. and International Food Systems

Dr. Carolyn E. Sachs, Professor Emerita of Rural Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Pennsylvania State University

Moderator: **Dr. Kim Niewolny**, Director, Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation, and Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech

10:15 - 10:30: Transition break

10:30 - 11:30: Panel (choose one of two)

Women, land, and power: How does gender intersect with agricultural decision-making and conservation in the U.S.?

Dr. Angie Carter, Assistant Professor, Environmental/Energy Justice, Michigan Tech

Dr. Gabrielle Roesch-McNally, Women for the Land Initiative Director, American Farmland Trust

Moderator, **Kaitlyn Spangler, M.Sc.**, Presidential Doctoral Research Fellow, Environment and Society Department, Utah State University

OR

The colonial development experiment nexus and its gender, race and class impacts in the Caribbean

Dr. Tami Navarro, Associate Director, Barnard Center for Research on Women, Barnard College

Dr. Halimah Deshong, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) to the United Nations and Head of the Institute for Gender & Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit, at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus

Moderator/conversant: **Dr. Andrea N. Baldwin**, Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Africana Studies in the Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech

11:30 - 11:40 Transition break- return to Plenary

11:40 - 11:55 Awards: Student poster competition, trivia, scavenger hunt, and Twitter

Daniel Sumner, M.Sc., Assistant Director, Women & Gender in International Development, Center for International Research, Education, and Development, Virginia Tech

11:55 - 12:00 Transition break

12:00 - 12:45 Big picture conversation

Moderator, **Dr. Deborah Rubin**, Co-Director, Cultural Practice, LLC

12:45 - 1:00 PM: Feedback, Wrap up

Dr. Maria Elisa Christie, Director of Women and Gender in International Development at the Center for International Research, Education, and Development, Virginia Tech

Daniel Sumner, M.Sc., Assistant Director, Women & Gender in International Development, Center for International Research, Education, and Development, Virginia Tech

1:00 - 2:00 PM: Post-conference networking

Three options/breakouts: 1) careers; 2) inclusion and diversity; 3) no assigned topic