

Sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 64)

Expert Group Meeting

Participant biographies and paper abstracts

Felogene Anumo is a panAfrican feminist activist who is passionate about using her creativity, politics and intellect to strengthen feminist movements to build collective power. She co-leads the Building Feminist Economies Program at the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID). She is also the immediate outgoing Manager for the Young Feminist Activism Program whose focus was strengthening new feminist leaderships globally. Felogene has authored “Feminist Leadership and Development Curriculum for Adolescent Girls” and co-authored of the “Report on the Status of Ratification on the Rights of women in Africa,” Her written contributions have appeared in Open Global Rights, Open Democracy, Girls Globe, Civil Society Futures, Kenya’s Daily Nation, Transnational Institute, Pambazuka News, Business and Human Rights Journal and Development– Society for International Development (SID) flagship journal. She serves on the Board of Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF) and Moving the Goalposts-Kenya. During her free time, Felogene loves to explore the world with and through the lens of her 5-year old daughter.

“Our ancestors wildest dreams? Young feminists uphold the visionary potential of Beijing”

Abstract: From demands for climate justice in the face of the neoliberal economic development models that prioritizes profit over people and the planet; to the abortion movement in Argentina #SeraLey to secure reproductive freedoms; to #FeesMustFall in South Africa which sought to reframe access to education as a fundamental human right; now, more than ever, young feminists are inspiring hope across the world. This paper will reflect on the persisting struggles and new manifestations of patriarchy that directly intersect with other systems of oppression twenty five years since the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) was adopted. Despite the present tumultuous times for women’s rights and gender equality, young feminists are strategizing and mobilizing within and across movements to build strong multigenerational movements.

G. Arunima teaches in the Centre for Women’s Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and has researched and published on both historical and modern contexts in India, focusing particularly on cultural, visual and material texts, and rethinking the politics of the contemporary. Some of her areas of interest have been the study of family and kinship; different aspects of aesthetics and modernities; visual culture and theory; religion and faith practices; and contemporary social and political movements. She’s the author of “There Comes Papa: Colonialism and the Transformation of Matriliney in Kerala, Malabar, ca 18550-1940” (Orient Longman, 2003), and has recently translated Rosy Thomas’s biography of her husband, the iconic playwright CJ Thomas, from Malayalam to English (He, My Beloved CJ, Women Unlimited, 2018).

“Gendering democracy: Necessity and challenges”

Abstract: Indian democracy has always been paradoxical. On the one hand, the country has a set of excellent Constitutional provisions that ensure a wide range of democratic rights and freedoms. On the other, the state machinery has violated directly, or aided the violation of, most of these rights and freedoms, affecting especially the working people, peasantry and indigenous groups, lower castes, and religious minorities. This brief paper will first focus on the Constitutional guarantees of freedom against discrimination, right to equality and the freedom of religion, in order to re-examine the lived realities of these rights and freedoms and their gendered dimension. The second part will address the need for democratic rights and civil liberties movements to reimagine their landscape of resistance by fronting gender based discrimination.

Flávia Biroli is Professor of Political Science at the University of Brasília and Researcher for The National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). She is the author of many articles, chapters and books about gender, feminism and democracy, among which are the books *Autonomia e desigualdades de gênero: contribuições do feminismo para a crítica democrática* (Eduff, 2013), *Feminismo e política* (Boitempo, 2014, com L. Felipe Miguel), *Família: novos conceitos* (Perseu Abramo, 2014) e *Gênero e desigualdades: limites da democracia no Brasil* (Boitempo, 2018). She has been the co-editor of *Revista Brasileira de Ciência Política* (2009-2017) and an associate editor of *Politics & Gender* (2019-20). She has been part of the Civil Society Advisory Group for UN Women in Brazil (2016-17). Her current research is about the gender backlash in Latin America and its connections to the crisis of liberal democracy. She is currently the president of the Brazilian Political Science Association (2018-20).

“A crisis of democracy and backlash against gender equality”

Abstract: The article analyzes the campaigns against gender which have resorted to the notion of “gender ideology”, discussing their connections to the democratic backsliding. The hypothesis is that these campaigns contribute to the normalization of inequalities and to the weakening of constitutional democracies. To examine them, I start by mapping the main arguments in theoretical approaches defining the changes in democracies as processes of “de-democratization”. Next, I discuss the engendered character of the democratic backsliding, suggesting a preliminary theoretical framework to the study of de-democratization and gender. Following that, I briefly present the campaigns against gender, departing from two recent cycles of protests inaugurated in Europe in 2012 and in Latin America in the year 2016.

Yasmine Ergas is the Director of the Specialization on Gender and Public at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and Senior Advisor to the Institute for the Study of Human Rights. She also co-chairs the Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies Council of Columbia University. Her work focuses on gender and women’s rights in international perspective and on human rights and globalization. Her recent research addresses the backlash against women’s rights and the rise of sovereigntist movements, and she has been engaged in developing a network of academic women’s and gender scholars and center focused on global affairs, in part to counter this backlash. She has also worked extensively on the emergence of a global market in reproductive services. Her new book *Reassembling Motherhood: Procreation and Care in a Globalized World*, co-edited with Jane Jenson and Sonya Michel was published by

Columbia University Press. Her essay, “Take Back the Future: the Global Feminisms and the Coming Crisis of the Beijing Settlement,” is currently being published in the Journal of International Affairs (vol. 72-2, 2019). Ergas has been engaged as a scholar, advocate and policy consultant on women’s rights and gender issues and human rights more broadly through her work with international and domestic organizations, including the OECD, the Millennium Villages Project, Human Rights Watch and Women Strong International.

“Sexual and reproductive health and rights: The pushback and its implications”

Abstract: The definition of sexual and reproductive rights and health is expansive: the freedom from coercion, discrimination and violence embedded in the Beijing Platform for Action evokes women’s right to self-determination as embodied human beings and entails their right to be safe in their persons. The backlash against women’s rights, often but not always, centers on access to abortion, especially where rising sovereigntist movements and governments are allied to religious organizations. Threatening to roll back the many gains of the past decades, this opposition directly impacts women’s health and undermines their right to life. But its implications must be framed in terms of the broader issue of women’s right to equality.

Anne Marie Goetz is Clinical Professor at the New York University Center for Global Affairs. She served at the United Nations between 2005 and 2014 as a Policy Director of Governance, Peace and Security, at UNIFEM and UN Women. From 1991 – 2005 she was a Professorial Fellow in Political Science at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. She also served the United Nations Development Programme in Chad and Guinea in the mid-1980s. While at the UN, Dr. Goetz spearheaded initiatives to build women’s participation in representative politics, to promote women’s empowerment in the UN’s peace building work in post-conflict situations, and to support the participation of women leaders and rights organizations in peace talks and post-conflict decision-making. She worked with the UN Security Council to improve responses to sexual violence in conflict, and to build peacekeepers’ capacities to prevent these abuses. Dr. Goetz is the author of seven books on the subjects of gender, politics and policy in developing countries, and on accountability reforms – including the 2009 volume: *Governing Women: Women in Politics and Governance in Developing Countries*, and the UNIFEM flagship report: *Who Answers to Women? Gender and Accountability*.

“Trends and prospects for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda”

Abstract (with Rob Jenkins): This expert paper examines how important shifts in the international system since 1995 – and indeed since the last five-year review in 2015 – have influenced the WPS agenda, and may do so in future. These shifts include changes in the nature and dynamics of conflict; in the distribution of power in the international order; challenges to the liberal peacebuilding model in which so much of the WPS agenda is embedded; and diverse forms of backlash against feminist principles in general. The paper also discusses how countervailing trends manifest themselves, giving examples of women’s engagement in conflict-resolution and peacebuilding.

Anita Gurumurthy is a founding member and executive director of IT for Change (ITfC). At IT for Change, Anita leads research on emerging issues in the digital context, with a focus on themes such as political economy of the platformization, data governance, democracy and gender justice. Anita is the principal investigator of IT for Change's multi-country policy research project on platform governance to develop policies and laws for the digital economy. The project covers 14 countries. With DAWN, a Southern feminist network, Anita coordinates the Digital Justice Project, a feminist knowledge and advocacy initiative for global justice in the emerging digital context. Anita actively engages in national and international advocacy on digital rights, representing southern perspectives, and contributes regularly to academic and media spaces.

“A feminist manifesto for digitality: Issues in the frame.”

Abstract: The terrain of struggles for equality, justice and democracy today bears a strong imprint of datafied sociality. The changing frame of globalisation in the digital technological moment has recast social relations on a global to local scale, with profound implications for development and gender justice. The new networks of connection and community, transaction and trade, voice and resistance, represent a crossroads for women. While digitality presents the promise of empowerment, the digital itself is an instrument of control and oppression. The proposed paper will examine this paradox, looking towards a new manifesto for twenty first century feminisms true to the spirit of the Beijing Declaration.

Rob Jenkins is Professor of Political Science at Hunter College & the Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY). He has conducted both academic research and commissioned studies on peacebuilding, governance reform, gender equality, aid effectiveness, social protection, anti-corruption strategies, and other issues. He has consulted for such organizations as UNDP, the World Bank, UK DFID, Oxfam, Saferworld, Freedom House, and the Economist Intelligence Unit. He was lead author of the 2010 Report of the Secretary-General on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding (S/2010/466), while working as a consultant in the UN Peacebuilding Support Office. He is the author of the monograph, *Peacebuilding: From Concept to Commission* (Routledge 2013), as well as several co-authored articles (with Anne Marie Goetz) on gender and peacebuilding. Jenkins's primary field of research has been Indian politics, where publications include (as co-author) *Politics and the Right to Work* (Oxford University Press 2017) and (as co-editor) *Power, Policy and Protest* (Oxford University press 2014). His research has been supported by, among others, the Ford Foundation, the UK Economic and Social Research Council, and the Carnegie Corporation. He was previously Professor of Political Science at the University of London, and holds degrees from Harvard and Sussex Universities.

“Trends and prospects for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda”

Abstract (with Anne-Marie Goetz): This expert paper examines how important shifts in the international system since 1995 – and indeed since the last five-year review in 2015 – have influenced the WPS agenda, and may do so in future. These shifts include changes in the nature and dynamics of conflict; in the distribution of power in the international order; challenges to the liberal peacebuilding model in which so much of the WPS agenda is embedded; and diverse forms of backlash against feminist principles in general. The paper also discusses how countervailing

trends manifest themselves, giving examples of women's engagement in conflict-resolution and peacebuilding.

Andrea Krizsan is Research Fellow at the Center for Policy Studies, and faculty at the School of Public Policy, Central European University, Budapest. Her current research aims to understand the politics of policy backsliding in times of crisis and forms of resistance to such reversal particularly in countries of the Central and Eastern European region. Her most recent book with C.M. Roggeband analysed domestic violence policy reforms in five Central and Eastern European countries (Routledge, 2018). Her publications include articles in *Politics and Governance*, *European Journal of Politics and Gender*, *Violence against Women*, *Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Social Politics*, and *Journal for Ethnic and Minority Studies* and chapters in several edited volumes. Besides her academic work she also acts as the Chair of the CEU Senate Equal Opportunity Committee. She leads the CEU team of the SUPERA Project - Supporting the Promotion of Equality in Research and Academia. She regularly works as consultant on gender equality and violence against women for the Council of Europe and various European Union bodies.

“Democratic backsliding and backlash against women’s rights: Understanding the current challenges for feminist politics”

Abstract: (with Conny Roggeband) This paper proposes a conceptual framework for discussing backsliding in gender equality policies, feminist responses to backsliding and reconfiguring relations between states and women's movements. We illustrate our framework with empirical observations coming primarily from Central and Eastern European countries, but with openness for applicability to countries from other world regions

Ruth Milkman is a sociologist of labor and labor movements who has written on a variety of topics involving work and organized labor in the United States, past and present. In recent research she has written extensively about low-wage immigrant workers, analyzing their employment conditions as well as the dynamics of immigrant labor organizing. She co-authored a 2013 study of California’s paid family leave program, focusing on its impact on employers and workers. She served as the 2016 President of the American Sociological Association, where her presidential address focused on Millennial-generation social movements. She has also conducted extensive policy-oriented research on such topics as wage theft, unionization trends, paid sick leave, and the aging workforce. After 21 years as a sociology professor at UCLA, where she directed the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment from 2001 to 2008, she returned to New York City in 2010. She is currently Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center and at the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, where she teaches Labor Studies and also serves as Research Director.

“Gender, intersectionality and social movements: A new political generation”

Abstract: In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, a new political generation emerged in the USA, shaped by its members’ experience as digital natives, the growth of labor market precarity, and the shattering of political illusions about racial and gender justice. Women and LGBTQ-

identified individuals have been disproportionately prominent among leaders of the past decade's wave of protest, spearheaded by college-educated Millennials (recently joined by "Generation Z"). Guided by a commitment to social justice and intersectionality, these young women and LGBTQ people have not only been at the forefront of gender-focused movements like that against sexual violence, but also others like Black Lives Matter and the immigrant rights movement. This paper analyzes the social processes that shaped this new political generation of activists, their distinctive worldview, and their leading role in recent social movements.

Judy Wajcman is a Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics, where she has worked since 2009. Professor Wajcman's scholarly interests encompass the sociology of work and employment, science and technology studies, gender theory, and organizational analysis. Her current research engages with theories about the impact of digital technologies on time poverty and the speeding up of everyday life. She was previously Professor of Sociology in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. She has held posts in Cambridge, Edinburgh, Manchester, Sydney, Tokyo, Vienna, Warwick and Zurich. She was formerly a Centennial Professor at the LSE, a Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford, and a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Women in Business at London Business School. She was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oxford Internet Institute in 2018. In 2019, she was appointed as Turing Fellow and Principal Investigator on the Women in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence research project at the Alan Turing Institute.

"The digital revolution: Implications for gender equality and women's rights"

Abstract: The paper gives an overview of the development of digital (data-driven) technologies over the last 25 years, including the development of smartphones, the mobile internet, the internet of things, cloud computing, and machine learning. It argues that technology is a socially constructed, socio-technical assemblage, and uses a (techno)feminist lens to explore how gender and technology are mutually shaped and co-constructed, and 'gendered power relations' are inscribed into technologies.

Maxine Molyneux is Professor of Sociology at University College London, and was the founding Director of the UCL Institute of the Americas, serving in that capacity until 2014. Prior to that she was Director and Professor of the Institute for the Study of the Americas, at the University of London's School of Advanced Study. She has written widely in the fields of gender studies, human rights, poverty and development policy, and has authored books on Latin America, Ethiopia and South Yemen. She has served as senior consultant to UN agencies (UNRISD, ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women) and NGOs (Oxfam, Care International), the Canadian IDRC, and UK's DFID. She recently served as research director of multi-country investigations into social protection including the DFID-funded ODI project Transforming Cash Transfers. She is the Editor of the Palgrave book Series Studies of the Americas.

"The new feminist activism: Intergenerational perspectives"

Abstract: Young women have taken the lead in a new wave of feminist and democratic protests that have erupted across a wide range of countries, North and South. These movements raise a range of political and analytic questions which this research will address: to what extent is it useful to identify the recent wave of activism in terms of a new generation of activists? Is generation salient to the understanding of social movement activism? How different is the 'new' feminism to earlier forms, and what differences and continuities divide and unite the generations?

Sibongile Ndashe is the founder and Executive Director of the Initiative for Strategic Litigation Africa (ISLA). ISLA is a Pan-African and feminist led initiative that uses the rule of law and African domestic and regional courts to advance women's human rights and sexual rights. Sibongile has worked as a public interest lawyer for the past 18 years, including at the South African Constitutional Court, and at the Women's Legal Centre. Sibongile's work focuses on litigating gender and sexuality cases before the African Human Rights System, working with domestic lawyers from a range of African countries to provide technical legal expertise, and designing capacity strengthening programs for lawyers working in public interest litigation. She also teaches, and has published on gender, sexuality, and strategic litigation.

"Human rights activism: Prospects for gender equality"

Abstract: The fall of Constitutions that contained claw-back clauses that legally sanctioned the discrimination of women in personal and customary laws paved the way for the removal of gender discriminatory laws. Some discriminatory laws and practices have proven resistant to law reform; some reforms have benefited some groups and failed to trickle down to other groups of women, particularly marginalised groups. An interrogation of how depoliticisation has stagnated movements, the contradictory role of the law as both a tool for social change and maintaining the status quo, and the limitations of State institutions is giving rise to new forms of organising.

Madeleine Rees has been the Secretary-General of WILPF since 2010. She began her career as a lawyer in 1990, and in 1998 she started working as Head of Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina and as gender expert for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. From September 2006 to April 2010, she served as the Head of the Women's Rights and Gender Unit for the OHCHR. Her work involved describing and outlining how men and women can experience events differently, particularly in post-conflict situations.

Presentation title: "Silos, structures and solutions: Leveraging Beijing plus 25 for systemic change"

Conny Roggeband is associate professor in public policy and governance at the University of Amsterdam. She has written extensively on the politicization of gender-based violence, gender mainstreaming and equality policies, social movements and transnational feminist networking based on research conducted in the Netherlands, Spain and Latin America. She currently works on two research projects. The first research project focuses on the implications of democratic backsliding for gender equality policies in Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America. What patterns of dismantling and resilience of gender policies can be found in these contexts and how

does this affect gendered democracy? The second concentrates on processes of transnational policy diffusion and policy networks in the European Union and Latin American regional organisations (OAS, Mercosur and CELAC).

“Democratic backsliding and backlash against women’s rights: Understanding the current challenges for feminist politics”

Abstract (with Andrea Krizsan): This paper proposes a conceptual framework for discussing backsliding in gender equality policies, feminist responses to backsliding and reconfiguring relations between states and women’s movements. We illustrate our framework with empirical observations coming primarily from Central and Eastern European countries, but with openness for applicability to countries from other world regions.

Joni Seager is a feminist geographer and environmentalist. She has worked in environment and development fields for many years to bring gender perspectives into global environmental policy and assessment. An expert in gender environmental analysis, M&E, feminist methodologies and gender statistics, Dr. Seager has provided leadership for governments and multilateral agencies across a wide range of projects on development and environment, including serving as Lead Coordinating Author for the UN’s first synthetic gender and environment assessment, the 2016 *Global Gender & Environment Outlook*. She is also known for her work on gender, security, and climate change, including developing the national strategic plan on gender, environment and climate change for the Government of Mozambique, and current projects on gender, waste and climate mitigation in Mongolia. Dr. Seager is now the Goldman Distinguished Professor of Arts & Sciences at Bentley University in Boston, USA.

“Prospects for gender equality in the age of environmental crisis”

Abstract: Gender and environment are mutually constitutive. In the last 25 years, activists and scholars have identified, revealed, puzzled over and analysed the multiple dimensions of these relationships. But the uptake of gender-environment knowledge into official analytical and policy frameworks -- including, notably, the SDGs -- has been tentative, light, and often resisted.

Gita Sen has over 35 years of experience working nationally and internationally on gender equality and women’s human rights. Her work has ranged widely spanning poverty, population policies, human development, labour markets, and women’s health. A citizen of India, Sen holds a PhD in Economics from Stanford University. She is the director of the Ramalingaswami Centre on Equity and Social Determinants of Health at the Public Health Foundation of India; and is adjunct professor of global health and population at Harvard University. She is a co-founder, and now General Co-Coordinator of the South-based network, DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era). Dr. Sen is a member of the new *Lancet* Commission on “A Synergistic Approach to Universal Health Coverage, Health Security and Health Promotion” and was a member of the WHO Consultative Group on Equity and Universal Health Coverage, as well as of the High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage set up by the Planning Commission of India in 2010.

“The changing landscape of feminist organizing since Beijing”

Abstract: Feminist mobilizing since the 1970s culminated during the key UN conferences of the 1990s by significantly advancing the normative framework for gender equality and women’s empowerment, and towards realization of girls’ and women’s human rights. Effective organizing by feminist groups has been rightly lauded despite backlash and growingly fierce opposition. Nonetheless, the larger political economy environment has played no small role both before and after Beijing in these advances and threatened retrogressions. This changing and tumultuous landscape and its implications for sustainable advances towards gender equality and human rights for all is the subject of this discussion.

Magdalena Sepúlveda has recently become the Executive Director of Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. She was previously a Senior Research Associate at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). From 2008 to 2014 she was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. From 2013 to 2017 she was a member of the High-Level Panel of Expert on Food Security and Nutrition of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Ms. Sepúlveda’s 20-year career has focused on the intersection of poverty, development and human rights and has bridged research and policy formulation. She has worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, as a staff attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as the Co-Director of the Department of International Law and Human Rights of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica and as a Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy, in Geneva. She has published widely on human rights, poverty, gender and development and has taught university courses in Latin America and the United Kingdom. She writes frequent op ed columns and her pieces have been published in more than 30 countries.

“The use of biometric technology in social protection systems: A gender perspective”

Abstract: In the past decade there has been an increased use of biometric technology in the identification and authentication of beneficiaries of social protection programmes. However, there has been little debate among governments, donors and civil society organizations on the potential implications of this technology in relation to the protection of privacy and personal data and less so regarding the gender impact. With a focus on the potential risks of biometric technology for women and girls, the paper reviews how biometric technology is used in various social protection programmes around the world, and what requirements are necessary to ensure compliance of biometric technology usage with international law standards, including gender equality.

Hanan Tabbara is a women, peace, security and humanitarian action specialist with significant experience in programming, policy, and research within the United Nations system (UNHCR, UN Women, IOM, UNRWA) as well as academic and research institutions. She holds a Masters degree in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge and was the lead author of the UN Women publication ‘Women on the Frontlines of Conflict Resolution: Community Voices from Syria, Iraq and Yemen’.

“What invisibility reveals: Reflections on women’s participation in peace, security and humanitarian action in Western Asia”

Abstract: The paper will examine women’s participation in peace, security and humanitarian action in West Asia, drawing on experiences in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. It will highlight existing challenges, lessons learned, as well as ways forward to strengthen women’s meaningful participation in these areas.

Jacqui True, FASSA, PhD (York, Ca) is Professor of International Relations and founding Director of the Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre. She is also a Global Fellow of the Peace Research Institute Oslo. Her work is focused on understanding the political economy of violence against women globally, examining the gender dimensions of violent extremism, and analysing how to promote women’s equal participation in post-conflict societies. In recognition of this work, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Lund University, Sweden in 2018, and the North American-based International Studies Association selected her as their Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Eminent Scholar for 2020. Jacqui has authored or co-authored 14 books and over 125 articles. She has worked closely with the Government of Victoria, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, United Kingdom DFID, United Nations Women, ActionAid Australia, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, and Oxfam. Jacqui has mentored more than 20 doctoral students from around the world in gender, peace and security contributing to a new generation of thought-leaders.

“The women, peace and security agenda 25 years after Beijing: What difference could a feminist political economy perspective make?”

Abstract: The transformative potential of Women, Peace and Security, as promoted in UNSCR 1325, has yet to be realized. WPS has centered on enhancing protection from sexual and gender-based violence and increasing women’s participation, especially in the security sector and during peace processes. However, WPS has neglected to address the political economy of gender inequality in fragile and conflict-affected societies, which exacerbates conflict and undermines efforts to “build back better.”

Cai Yiping is a member of Executive Committee of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). Her areas of focus include sexual and reproductive health and rights, media and communications, gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming. She was a member of UN Women Asia Pacific Civil Society Advisory Group from 2013 to 2016 and is advisor of the Asia Pacific Regional Engagement Mechanism established in May 2014. She works as consultant and advisor for many other national and international women’s organizations and development agencies. She was the Executive Director of the feminist organization Isis International based in Manila Philippines from 2008 to 2011 and Associate Researcher at the Women’s Studies Institute of China affiliated with All China Women’s Federation from 2006 to 2008. She worked as journalist and editor at China Women’s News from 1995 to 2005. She currently lives in China.

“The rise of the South: Implications for women’s rights”

Abstract: The presentation will focus on the two issues: one is the reflection on the long-standing highly politicized binary hypothesis and debate of rights vs. development; the second is engendering South-South Cooperation. Rise of the Southern women's voices and activism can transform the development narrative and praxis and make the rights-based approach real.