

Review of the 'Gender and Citizenship in the Information Society' (CITIGEN) Research Programme

26th - 28th April 2011, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi

Organised by IT for Change and supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Agenda

DAY 1: 26th April 2011

02:45 pm	Tea/Coffee and Registration
03:15 to 03:30 pm	Welcome, Sharing of Agenda and Introductions
03:30 to 06:30 pm	<p>SESSION I: Stories of Change – What is emerging from the CITIGEN research programme - Presentations by the teams¹</p> <p>The 6 research teams will present their work to share:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is emerging through their respective research on the connections between gender, ICTs and women's citizenship. 2. How the emerging insights talk to their hypotheses and theories-in-the-making. <p>Each team will have 15 minutes to present and 10 minutes for discussions with the larger group.</p> <p><i>Chair – Kalyani Menon Sen, Researcher, writer and feminist activist, India</i></p>
07:00 pm	Leave for dinner at a local restaurant

DAY 2: 27th April 2011

<p>09:00 to 10:40 am</p>	<p>SESSION II: Women's citizenship in the information society – Mapping the contemporary context</p> <p><i>This session will aim to capture the big picture – the democratic transition characterising the information society, and the key elements that shape marginalised women's citizenship in this regard. It will explore the emergent norms and practices of social and political citizenship in the 'network society', exploring their gendered articulations.</i></p> <p>Presentation Emerging insights from the work of the CITIGEN programme <i>Anita Gurumurthy, Executive Director, IT for Change, and Coordinator, CITIGEN programme, India</i></p> <p>Responses and Perspectives <i>Hania Sholkamy, Associate Professor, American University in Cairo, Egypt</i> <i>Mary John, Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, India</i></p> <p>Chair – <i>John Borgogyary, Governance Programme Analyst, UNIFEM South Asia, India</i></p>
<p>10:40 to 11:10 am</p>	<p>Tea/ Coffee break</p>
<p>11:10 am to 12:45 pm</p>	<p>SESSION III: Democracy and women's participation - ICT-mediated processes for making institutions work for women</p> <p><i>This session will aim to explore the promise of institutional reach and transparency through ICTs, and thus of the emerging pathways for accountable governance on the one hand, and of active citizen engagement by women with local governance and political processes, on the other. What kind of trends may be discerned in the shifting practices and discourse of local democracy? What are the tensions that may arise with regard to 'boundary' issues in state-civil society relationships as ICTs shape governance? These are some questions that will be addressed.</i></p> <p>Presentations <i>Bangladesh and Philippines CITIGEN teams – reflections on the topic of the session, building also on the emerging insights from the CITIGEN projects.</i></p> <p>Responses and Perspectives <i>Zohra Chatterji, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women, India</i> <i>Jahnvi Andharia, Senior Programme Officer, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, India</i></p> <p>Chair – <i>Sumona Dasgupta, Senior Research Consultant, PRIA, India</i></p>

12:45 to 01:45 pm	Lunch
01:45 to 03:30 pm	<p>SESSION IV: Feminist spaces in the network society – Engendering resistance</p> <p><i>This session will look at the contestations around gender and citizenship as they emerge in the information society context. It will examine practices at the margins that inform feminist conceptions of citizenship, critiquing mainstream network society ideologies while also capitalising on emerging opportunities.</i></p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <p><i>India and China CITIGEN teams - reflections on the topic of the session, building also on the emerging insights from the CITIGEN projects.</i></p> <p><i>Supinya Klangnarong, Think piece author, CITIGEN, and vice-chair of the Campaign for Popular Media Reform, Thailand</i></p> <p><u>Responses and Perspectives</u></p> <p><i>Kalyani Menon Sen, Researcher, writer and feminist activist, India</i></p> <p><i>Manjima Bhattacharya, Member, Jagori, India</i></p> <p><i>Chair</i> – <i>Maitrayee Chaudhuri, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India</i></p>
03:30 to 04:00 pm	Tea/Coffee Break
04:00 to 05:00 pm	<p>SESSION V: What we seem to be hearing – end of day reflections</p> <p><u>Opening Observations</u></p> <p><i>Andrea Cornwall, Advisor, CITIGEN, and Professor, University of Sussex, UK</i></p> <p><u>Group Work</u></p> <p>Synthesising the discussion threads for the day, bringing back to the individual research projects in the CITIGEN community new layers of inquiry and analysis and also to the global, 'big picture' of CITIGEN, possible conceptual pegs.</p>

DAY 3: 28th April 2011

<p>09:00 to 10:45 am</p>	<p>SESSION VI: Forging community and creating identity – New articulations of citizenship in the information society</p> <p><i>This session will look at how the network society redefines the public sphere, providing a new architecture for building community and defining identity, thus allowing for new gender orders to emerge. How do boundaries of given notions like citizenship get pushed with respect to the new possibilities for associational democracy and assertion of women's collective rights? What may be the specific concerns for a Southern discourse on women's citizenship in relation to new community formations and identities?</i></p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <p><i>Sri Lanka and Thailand/Taiwan CITIGEN teams - reflections on the topic of the session, building also on the emerging insights from the CITIGEN projects.</i></p> <p><u>Responses and Perspectives</u></p> <p><i>Vanita Mukherjee, Programme Officer, Ford Foundation, India</i> <i>Desiree Lewis, Associate Professor, University of the Western Cape, South Africa</i></p> <p><i>Chair – Urvashi Butalia, Director, Zubaan, India</i></p>
<p>10:45 to 11:10 am</p>	<p>Tea/Coffee break</p>
<p>11:10 am to 12:10 pm</p>	<p>SESSION VII: Issues at stake – The nature of participation in virtual reality / real virtuality</p> <p><i>The term 'real virtuality' was coined by Manuel Castells to emphasise how the Internet has completely infiltrated our social fabric. In the network society, reality itself (that is, people's material/symbolic existence) is embedded in the structures of the virtual environment. The nature of this new social environment requires to be unpacked and grasped. How do the material and ideological bases of the virtual environment create specific conditions for participation and freedoms? Who controls freedoms, and who mediates participation, online? These issues of the technological DNA of the emerging social order are critical to theoretical formulations of women's citizenship in the network society.</i></p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <p><i>Evangelia Berdou, Research Fellow, University of Sussex, UK</i> <i>Heike Jensen, Think piece author, CITIGEN, and Independent gender researcher and consultant, Germany</i></p>

	<p>Responses and Perspectives</p> <p><i>Lisa McLaughlin, Advisor, CITIGEN, and Associate Professor, Miami University, USA</i> (will also chair the session)</p>
12:10 to 01:10 pm	<p>SESSION VIII – What can we make of what we have heard for practice and policy - Going back to CITIGEN's research questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Opening comments by Lisa McLaughlin, Advisor, CITIGEN, and Associate Professor, Miami University, USA</i> • <i>Open house / plenary</i> • <i>Closing comments by Parminder Jeet Singh, Executive Director, IT for Change, and Advisor, CITIGEN, India (will also chair the session)</i>
01:10 to 02:00 pm	Lunch
02:00 to 03:00 pm	<p>SESSION IX - Group work – Tying together emerging reflections and insights</p> <p>Teams to sit together with advisors and plan the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the next steps for individual research projects? 2. What can be done for national level policy advocacy? 3. What can CITIGEN do globally to influence the feminist agenda and global policy processes? Are there any opportunities we need to map?
03:00 to 03:30 pm	Presentations by groups
03:30 to 04:00 pm	Tea/ Coffee break
04:00 to 04:45 pm	<p>SESSION X: Next steps, issues and closing remarks</p> <p><i>Andrea Cornwall, Advisor, CITIGEN, and Professor, University of Sussex, UK</i> <i>Anita Gurumurthy, Executive Director, IT for Change, and Coordinator, CITIGEN programme, India</i> <i>Ramata Molo Thioune, Programme Officer, IDRC, Senegal</i></p>

1 CITIGEN PROGRAMME COUNTRY TEAMS AT THE MEETING

Bangladesh:

Ananya Raihan, Executive Director, Development Research Network (D.Net), Bangladesh

Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Research Associate, Development Research Network (D.Net), Bangladesh

China:

Lam Oi Wan, Global Voices Online and Hong Kong In-Media, Hong Kong

Haitao Huang, Research Fellow, Laboratory of Media Anthropology, Sun Yat-sen University, China

India:

Binitha V. Thampi, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Chennai, India

J. Devika, Associate Professor, Centre for Development Studies, India

Aarti Kawlra, Associate Faculty and Project Consultant, Department of Humanities and Social Science, Indian Institute of Technology Chennai, India

Philippines:

Sylvia Estrada-Claudio, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, University of the Philippines, Philippines

Francisco dela Tonga, Youth Coordinator, Likhaan, Philippines

Sri Lanka:

Chandrika Sepali Kottegoda, Director, Women and Media Collective, Sri Lanka

Sachini Perrera, Lawyer, Women and Media Collective, Sri Lanka

Thailand /Taiwan:

Philippa Smales, Researcher, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Thailand

Kate Lappin, Regional Coordinator, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Thailand