Members Update 2024 | Issue 4

Do you have any suggestions on what to share with members? Email us at: info@wide-network.org.

WIDE+ participated in Artificial Intelligence (AI) Fairness Cluster Inaugural Conference, 19 March, 2024, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

WIDE+ participated in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Fairness Cluster Inaugural Conference, held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on 19 March, 2024. It is the first conference for four projects that are currently supported by the EU Horizon programme to address intersectional discrimination in AI. Gea Meijers participated on behalf of WIDE+, since WIDE+ is a consortium partner to FINDHR.

The presentations and discussion during the conference showed how urgent it is for our societies to develop tools and approaches to assess and mitigate bias in algorithms, as they are as fallible as humans, but an algorithmic decision-making system has the potential to be scaled up to impact large groups of people. A recurrent theme was how difficult and complex it is to "catch" bias as it comes up in all steps of a decision-making process in which humans and machines are interacting.

At the same time the practical use of algorithms is increasing by the day and policies to manage risks and ensuring equal treatment are lagging behind. Several speakers explained how the policies, treaties and laws of the EU and Council of Europe aim to protect human rights, but also how complex this. Without ongoing policy and legal development, it might be well that our regulatory
framework remains inadequate.

For women, especially those facing multiple discrimination, and gender marginalized people, it is very important that there are rules to oversee AI, in how it is developed and used. In our gender and trade work, WIDE+ has called for ensuring global governance of AI. In following news, we will report on outcomes, such as from the expert reports that have been carried out.

BIAS
Register in the BIAS National Labs
Be part of the Trustworthy AI Helix Community

AEQUITAS
Survey to investigate AI-driven discrimination

FINDHR
Request for Comments. In FINDHR, partners are working on tools that prevent discrimination through AI in job selection. Please leave a comment on the website

MAMMOTH
Check the project publications

WIDE+ participated in the 2nd FIERCE transnational Lab 8 & 9 February, 2024, Madrid, Spain

WIDE+ participated as one of the representatives of European networks in the second FIERCE transnational lab that took place in Madrid, Spain. The event brought together FIERCE partners and 26 activists from European and national feminist movements and organizations belonging to the eight national labs of the project, located in Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Slovenia,
Spain, and Turkey. Gea Meijers participated on behalf of WIDE+. WIDE+ took part digitally in the 1st transnational lab last year in September.

The focus of the lab was to jointly develop a strategy with key messages for a six week international campaign for the 2024 European Parliament elections. The key thematic areas for this campaign will be:

1. Combating anti-gender movements & Consolidating European feminist networking;
2. Reproductive and sexual rights as a human right in Europe;
3. Foreign policies in war/conflict times;
4. LGBTQIA+ rights;
5. Gender-based violence and the EU Directive on VAW and domestic violence;
6. Racialized women and migrants & Labour rights.

WIDE+ contributed into the area of formulating messages for EU’s foreign policy that came with a call to focus EU diplomatic power towards peace and ceasefire everywhere in the world, and promotion of global economic powers that promote human rights over the rights of companies in trade, tax and debt policies.

FIERCE is an EU funded research project that aims to revitalise the alliances between the feminist movement, civil society and political decision makers. It also just published a series with triumphs of feminism in each FIERCE country with our latest blog post series, "Wins of Feminism": https://fierce-project.eu/blogs/.

Reminder for Online Summer Course Available on addressing Intersectional Gender Discrimination in Online Hiring (June/July 2024)
Algorithmic hiring, powered by AI tools, has revolutionized candidate selection. But it needs to do more to become unbiased. Discover how FINDHR addresses discrimination risks in algorithmic hiring and human recom-mendations. FINDHR is a largescale, interdisciplinary consortium between Universities, recruitment companies and NGOs including WIDE+.

Course Highlights: Theoretical sessions, case studies, Data analysis (Python & Knime). Duration: 30 hours

Funded by Horizon Europe, classes are offered in-person & remotely. Blended learning via Moodle.

For more info: https://findhr.unipi.it/

Members and Partners News

WIDE+ Austria and Südwind: Feminist South perspectives on the climate crisis - recap videos of online talks

Extractivism: Artisanal Gold mining in Sudan

- Miners Environmental Health Conditions:
  I. The harmful impacts of mercury include neurotoxicity, immunosuppression, myocardial infarction, autism and Alzheimer.
  II. Workers consume unsafe water.
  III. Food deficiency diseases, infectious diseases, and malaria are widespread in the mining areas.

Over the past half year, WIDE+ Austria and Südwind organized online talks under the topic of "Feminist South perspectives on the climate crisis". Brief 10-minutes videos based on the talks are now ready and can be watched here:

- Climate Crisis: Feminist Perspectives from Colombia
- Online Talk: Gold mining in Sudan: Women, the climate crisis & extractivism
- Online Talk: Feminist & youth perspectives on the Climate Conference 2023
Gender & Development Network: Global database of feminists working on macroeconomic issues

The Gender & Development Network (GADN) has published a database of feminists working on macroeconomic issues. The initiative is part of GADN’s REFRAME project, which explores how current macroeconomic policies undermine gender equality, identifying potential allies from around the world who are working on feminist macroeconomics.

The database features organisations, staff and consultants working on the following core themes:

- care
- decent work
- raising resources: tax, trade and debt
- government spending: austerity, public services, social protection
- corporate accountability

You can access the database on GADN’s website here.

Gender & Development Network: Feminist responses to COVID-19

GADN is also in the process of collating a list of some helpful resources and reports on feminist responses to COVID-19. Feminists from across the world have namely been examining the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and the need for feminist approaches to be at the heart of all responses. GADN has prioritised from the South at the top of each section.

The list is continuously being updated and can be accessed here.

Opportunities

UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women's Education now open for 2024 nominations

On 8 March, International Women’s Day, UNESCO launched the call for nominations for the 2024 UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education. This esteemed prize recognizes the efforts of individuals and organizations in advancing girls’ and women's education. The two selected laureates will be awarded US$ 50,000 annually.

For more information, click here.

Call for inputs – Gender and Toxics

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights, Marcos Orellana, would like to invite all interested individuals and organizations working on issues related to how toxics harm the health, social, cultural, and/or economic wellbeing of individuals and communities in gendered ways, to provide input for the preparation of a thematic report to the United Nations
General Assembly.

For more information, click [here](#).

**International Monetary Fund and World Bank Spring Meetings (15 - 20 April)**

The [2024 Spring Meetings](#) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) are scheduled to take from 15 to 20 April.

The meetings bring together central bankers, ministers of finance and development, parliamentarians, private sector executives, representatives from civil society organizations and academics to discuss issues of global concern, including the world economic outlook, poverty eradication, economic development, and aid effectiveness.

Registration is now open for civil society organisations looking to attend the Spring Meetings. Participants are strongly encouraged to register as soon as possible to avoid delays.

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**General News**

[Image of book cover: Empowering Female Climate Change Activists in the Global South: The Path Toward Environmental Social Justice]

**Empowering Female Climate Change Activists in the Global South: The Path Toward Environmental Social Justice**

Peg Spitzer, professor at Stony Brook University in New York, published the book "Empowering Female Climate Change Activists in the Global South," telling the inspiring stories of rural women from developing countries who are becoming climate change leaders.

Learn more about the book [here](#).

[Intertwined: Women and Water Towards a policy at the New Development Bank]

Developed by PWESCR, this policy brief sheds light on the link between women’s access to water and sustainable development.

The paper argues that water scarcity disproportionately impacts poor rural women, hindering poverty reduction efforts. It emphasizes the need for the NDB to adopt a policy that ensures equitable water access.

Access the full publication [here](#).
UNDP Human Development Report 2023/2024

On 13 March, the UNDP launched the 2023/2024 Human Development Report titled "Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining cooperation in a polarized world".

"The report presents ways forward that hinges on reimagining cooperation in ways that do not assume away divergent interests or opinions but work with them to deliver global public goods – where we all stand to benefit."

Access the full publication here.