Women Scientists and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Miriam Gay-Antaki
Diana Liverman
Women in science

- Underrepresented at all levels, but especially in more senior positions
- Bias against women in hiring, publication, citations, salaries, mentoring, fieldwork
- Family responsibilities
- Harassment and silencing
- Intersectionality and the particular problems of women of color, developing world...

“As a female physicist I am a 'rare bird' — a member of a tiny minority, scarcer than in any other field of science and engineering. Women's representation in physics at major US research universities hovers at about 13%, for many reasons. In my view, these demographics alone make it hard to find female plenary speakers, conference organizers and journal reviewers”.

Eva Y. Andrei

“A single non-event — for example, failing to cite a relevant report from a female colleague — might seem almost harmless. But the accumulation of such slights over time can have a deep impact”.

Lisa Husu

"I wanted to study climate change in the Arctic, and not many women did that...I had one professor tell me I could come along as a cook.“

Brigham-Grette: Geoscience
SUSTAINABILITY

For Women in Climate Sciences, a Struggle to Find a Voice

Beset by subtle biases, women are struggling to find their place in academia, with consequences for all of us

By Lindsey Konkel, DailyClimate.org on November 6, 2012

Paris climate summit: Why more women need seats at the table

By Maria Ivanova

Updated 12:43 PM ET, Wed November 25, 2015

Must the Anthropocene be a Manthropocene?

Kate Raworth

The Guardian

Science Opinion
Women in climate change

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The contributions of women in climate change have received increasing attention in the early 21st century. Feedback from women and the issues faced by women have been described as "imperative" by the United Nations,[1] and "critical" by the Population Reference Bureau.[2] A report by the World Health Organization concluded that incorporating gender-based analysis would "provide more effective climate change mitigation."[3]
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

• International assessments of the science of climate change conducted by hundreds of scientists
• Established in 1988 by WMO and UNEP, 195 countries
• Underpin climate (UNFCCC) negotiations
• Working Groups on Physical Science basis (WG1), Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (WG2), Mitigation (WG3)
• Reviews of the published literature
• Nobel Prize in 2007
Survey of women who participated in IPCC

- What are their demographics?
- What was their role?
- How do they feel about the experience
- Did they encounter problems?
- What would they recommend to increase representation and voice in the future?
- Report to IPCC AR6 WG chairs
Survey Sample

• Created database of women scientists: IPCC AR1-AR5
• Identified 392 number of women authors; sample of 223 contacted by email
• 98 were fully completed + 12 partial (45% response rate)
• AR5: ~22% women
• AR4: ~10% women
• AR1 ~ 2% women
Countries with 1 or 2 people: Botswana, Brazil/USA, Denmark, France/Italy, Hungary, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico/Argentina, Morocco, Mozambique, Russia, Slovakia, Sudan/Ivory Coast, Trinidad and Tobago, USA/Germany/Fiji, Venezuela, Zimbabwe Chile, China, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Spain
Please tell us about your most recent experience as an IPCC participant, were you...

- Listened to in meetings: 39% Excellent, 36% Good, 19% Average, 4% Not very good, 3% Poor
- Treated with respect by co-authors: 49% Excellent, 38% Good, 10% Average, 1% Not very good, 3% Poor
- Treated with respect by chair of my chapter: 53% Excellent, 29% Good, 7% Average, 5% Not very good, 6% Poor
- Influencing overall report: 9% Excellent, 31% Good, 43% Average, 13% Not very good, 3% Poor
- Influencing my chapter: 34% Excellent, 43% Good, 18% Average, 3% Not very good, 2% Poor
CLAs treated the LAs as hired staff to give input and then they would make final decisions. One in particular would argue for hours if an idea was not his own. When he was too busy to be on time or having a side conversation during a meeting we all had to go back. I felt he was particularly dismissive of me, but listened when a senior male collage made the same case.”
To what extent were the following factors a barrier to full participation in IPCC?

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The most marginalized scientists in the process are...

“Woman/men who don't speak English well! Especially in social sciences. The report writing process is dominated by pale, stale, opinionated males who are rude and don't listen with sensitivity or pay lip service to different social science perspectives/DC perspectives”. 
Female climate researchers are now well represented in the climate community  |  Gender is not a barrier to success in climate research

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How could IPCC improve the participation and voice of women scientists?

• “Coaching of CLAs and WG chairs on inclusive facilitation, conflict resolution and leadership skills. It is no longer sufficient to operate in a scientific ivory tower with the norms of aggressive scientific behaviour that exclude the diverse voices that are most needed at the table to ensure inclusive transparent and thoughtful processes to guide a robust synthesis”.
Preliminary conclusions

• Women are still numerically underrepresented in the IPCC.
• Many women had a positive experience others not so much. Most thought it was more difficult for others.
• Respondents identified gender as a barrier to voice in IPCC, and to participation in climate science in general.
• We will distill a number of recommendations for the IPCC secretariat.