

Intersectionalities of Staying Motivations

Department: Human Geography and Spatial Planning
Research group: International Development Studies
Supervisor: Dr. Bishawjit Mallick, Prof. Dr. Ajay Bailey
Email address: b.mallick@uu.nl

Project description

The project follows up on research conducted under FeStay (Why Women Stay Despite Environmental Risk): [FeStay: Why Women Stay Despite Environmental Risk | Universiteit Utrecht | Homepage \(uu.nl\)](#). The assistantship will focus on continuing earlier research done for FeStay, with the student free to pursue his or her research interests.

Research on the intersection of non-migration and gender stereotypically construes women as staying behind (non-migrants), while men migrate (migrates) (Furlong et al., 2022). However, women's immobility is not merely passively submitting to certain traditional gender ideologies or patriarchal systems. Staying is often a conscious action developed over time through an agency guided by sociocultural factors (ibid.). In addition, the visibility of women in migration studies has inadvertently caused the field to ignore socially constructed categories of difference and the power dynamics within them (Fresnoza-Flot, 2022). Thus, homogenizing women and characterizing them as passive and subjected to traditional gender ideologies would be reductionist and limited. Gendered reductive translation of mobility decisions homogenizes migration possibilities and ignores women's agency (Furlong et al., 2022).

This project scrutinizes the role of women's agency in household mobility decision-making in an environmental risk context. Three questions emerge: i) How do women navigate their position vis-à-vis familial and societal power structures in household mobility decision-making?; ii) How do intergenerational ideologies play a role in determining the extent of women's agency?; and iii) How are women staying/migrating aspiration constructed in a system of [patriarchal power structures]?

The project provides space for the student to gain new knowledge on the topics, learn methods and data analysis, and explore options for communicating research for diverse audiences. The assistant's tasks will, thereby, include (a) building a literature review, including the development of a conceptual framework on the intersection of gender, agency, and (non-)migration; (b) contributing to data analysis, either inductively or based on hypotheses, and (c) co-write a scientific paper.

This research includes a modest literature review, informal interviews, and field observations. To succeed in this research, we are looking for an enthusiastic student who would like to build upon this research and thereby continue to pursue the FeStay research agenda.

Job requirement

- Background in sustainable development, development studies, human geography, anthropology, and other related disciplines.
- Mixed-methods research skills.
- Excellent academic writing skills.

Reference

- Fresnoza-Flot, A. (2022). Gender gaps in migration studies. In *Brill | Nijhoff eBooks* (pp. 110–137). https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004467682_007
- Furlong, B. T., Adams, H., Boas, I., Warner, J., & Van Dijk, J. (2022b). Gendered (im)mobility: emotional decisions of staying in the context of climate risks in Bangladesh. *Regional Environmental Change*, 22(4). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-022-01974-4>

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Mallick, B. & Hunter, L. (2023), [Topical Collection: Environmental Non-Migration: Frameworks, Methods, and Cases | SpringerLink](#), Regional Environmental Change