Gendering the Third Pole
adaptation, gender and security in Nepal

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Overview

• How is gender related to environmental governance—and thus adaptation?
• Look at questions of security.
• Argue that power and politics need to be more central to studies of security and climate change. Gender provides a lens.
Gender and environmental governance

Contestations of citizenship, belonging and distributive justice are established within environmental governance contexts.

A politics that is shaped by and shapes gender.

Adaptation is the outcome of such contestations.
Gender and Climate

What does climate change have to do with gender?
The Body as the Origin of Power

Gender relations are contested and re-produced in adaptation projects.

Projects are shaped by social inequalities from their inception to implementation.
Questions of contentious politics, violence and social relations of power are de-politicised through ‘consultation’, ‘ensuring gender sensitivity’ and techno-engineering fixes for resource distribution.
Adaptation and Conflict

• Adaptation is predicated upon ideas of ‘inclusion’ and ‘equality’—strongly shaped by gender

• Adaptation programmes become embroiled in fragile state politics—shapes the outcomes
Gender and the NAPA

Intersectionality and Resource Governance

- Empowerment and entrenching of inequalities happens in the same moment
- The NAPA is contradictory
Questions of politics, power and the means through which social and political reproduction occurs need to be the ‘priority areas’.
“planning is not enough, one year from now might be too late, we need more action now,”
Institutions, programmes, ideas of good governance and the cultural politics of how people engage with and contest them are the building blocks of post-conflict reconstruction.

Mutual shaping of post conflict reconstruction, gender and the material base of the state.
Alignments of Power

Adaptation efforts align the global community into clear relations of power across scales.
Conclusion

- Security and adaptation emerge from contestations over power.
- Concerns over top-down attitude in many adaptation programmes.
THANK YOU!!

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