



BEYOND CATASTROPHE

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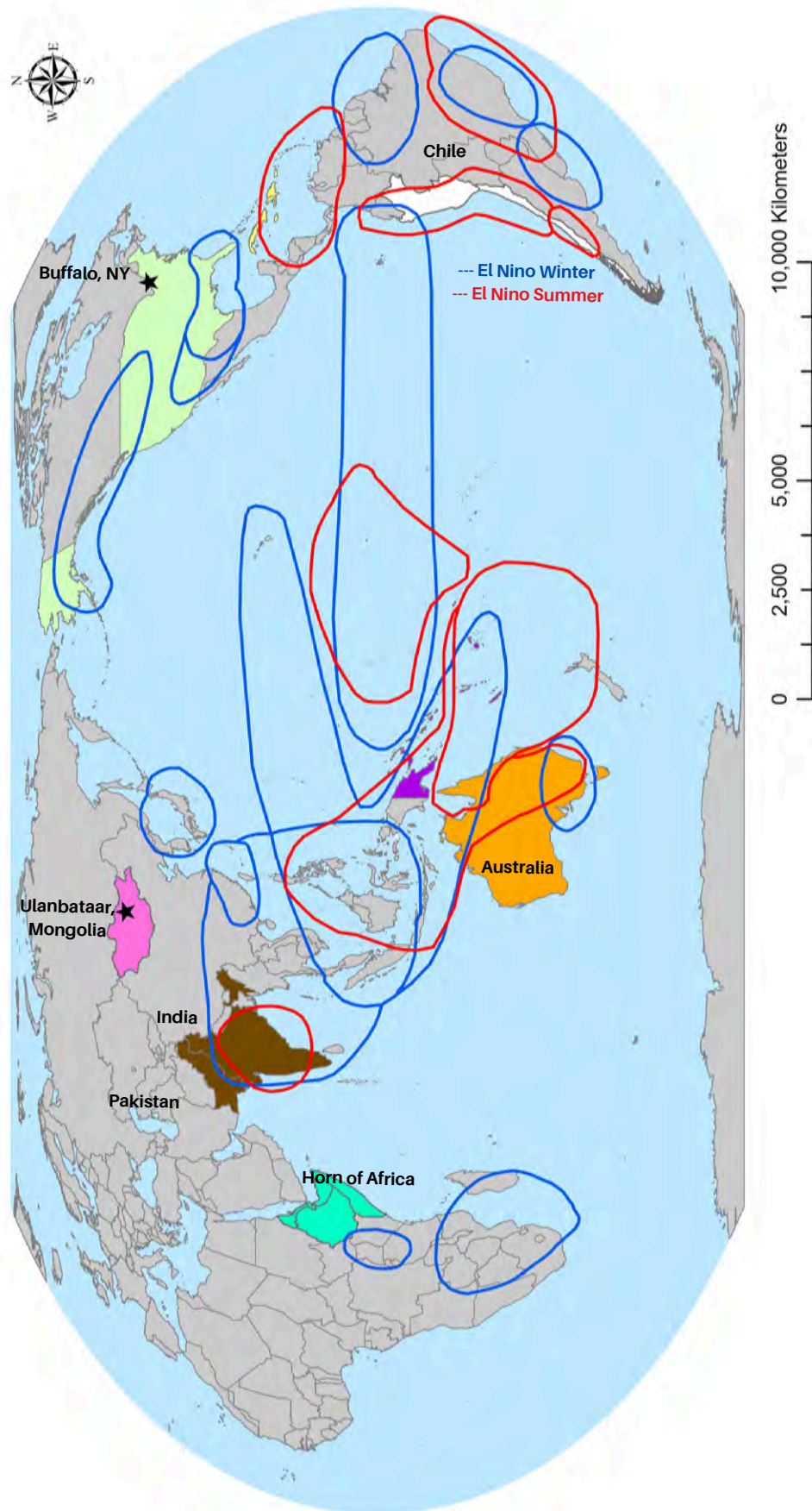
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

GLOBAL FOCUS MAP	3
OUR MESSAGE	4
STATEMENTS OF POSITIONALITY	5
THE 2022 BUFFALO BLIZZARD	6
FISHING INDUSTRY	9
ECOFEMINIST ART - AGNES DENES	12
ANDINE REGIONS OF PERU	14
CROSSWORD	16
HEAT IN AUSTRALIA	17
FEMINIST GUIDE THROUGH MUSIC	20
DROUGHT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA	21
EL NIÑO/ ENSO	24
FEMINIST THEMES IN MOVIES	27
CARBON CREDIT	28
THE IMPACT ON THE UNHOUSED:	
AUSTRALIA	29
HEATWAVES IN CHILE	32
CONNECTIONS	35
DZUDS: FROZEN MONGOLIA	36
GUESS OUR GUESTS	39
2022 SOUTH ASIA HEATWAVE	40
SUSTAINABLE SHOPPING	43
WHO'S THE NBT?	45
DEAR ABBY COLUMN	46
ANSWER KEY	47

Mapping Global Feminism



A MESSAGE FROM THE WRITERS

In this magazine, we are exploring the intersectionality of feminism and the pressing issues shaping our world today. In the following pages, we are going to unravel the intricate connections between the environment, feminist approaches, and the slow violence of climate change. The planet is facing unprecedented environmental challenges and it's crucial to recognize the disproportionate impacts on women across the globe.

Women are often on the frontlines of climate change, while bearing the brunt of natural disasters and simultaneously coping with unpaid care work. Global imminent catastrophes have different effects depending on one's location and identity, and although the situations have similarities in different locations, the approaches vary depending on location. By advocating for understanding these in accordance with feminist frameworks, we can strive to close the gender gap with an emphasis on gender-responsive solutions. Feminist perspectives offer invaluable insights regarding justice, equality, and inclusivity. By centering our projects around the voices of women we can come to understand situated knowledge and embodied experiences such as the adaptation and care work women often perform in response to climate change. By examining multiple locations around the globe we have collectively gathered the international discrepancies in gender inclusivity- finding commonalities and formed communities through lived realities.

Throughout this course, engaging in the process of reading, discussion, and reflection has helped shape our approach to a variety of feminist frameworks. We have read luminary works by authors at the forefront of feminist theory including Audre Lorde, Val Plumwood, bell hooks, etc. Analyzing ideas about the constructs of social vulnerability, the personal as political, and shadow places has allowed us to incorporate these concepts into our articles.

We delve into the multifaceted relationship between gender, the environment, and climate change and highlight the vital role of women in environmental conservation efforts. By centering our project on the voices and experiences of women, we can construct theories on the intricate interplay between intersecting forces. As we navigate this complex terrain our goals align with amplifying the voices of women leading the change for environmental justice.

**CLARKE, GRIWATCH, JORKEY,
MONNET, SUPAN.**

STATEMENTS OF POSITIONALITY

The areas discussed and mentioned in this piece did not accompany information from personal hands-on experiences or research. It is crucial to acknowledge that the facts found throughout this paper are limited in this way.

HOPE JORKEY

I am a first-generation Black Liberian American, born in Atlanta, GA to two immigrant parents. Although my experiences as a Black woman living in the U.S. are unique and nuanced, I don't assume to know the experiences of the indigenous and locals living in Australia. I have my own set of privileges that have influenced the way I experience the world and the goal of my research was to think beyond myself.

OLIVIA CLARKE

As a biracial woman from Salt Lake City, Utah, I have had the ability to approach the world through a privileged lens. My personal experience with the environment, gender, and race have been unobstructed by outside societal pressures, and because of this I have searched for other perspectives of the world. My interdisciplinary education has shaped my participation in this project as it was crafted with the intention of understanding the lived realities of those who come from different places and cultures; however, I understand that my research approach carries my personal biases.

GWENAELLE MONNET

I am a white woman from Columbia, SC. I am a first generation American, because of this growing up I have been surrounded by culture, family, and tradition. I understand that for this magazine, I have been carrying my own personal bias, but I have approached these papers with perspective and a need to learn more about the women who face these disasters.

ALIVIA GRIWATCH

I am a white woman, a child of divorce, middle to lower class family, first-generation college student, and from Cleveland, Ohio. As such, I carry my own personal biases, and experiences in many ways. Through acknowledging my own positionalities, I have approached this paper with a critical yet also open mind to the situated knowledges and embodied experiences of local communities.

SAM SUPAN

I am a white, woman from a well-off family that has lived predominantly in Texas. I acknowledge that much of my perspective is limited and stems from privilege. I am also a native Houstonian who has been affected by several natural disasters. I have experienced how these events can be catastrophic in force, while also fostering a sense of community. As such, I have approached these articles with a desire to learn more and create fully-fleshed pictures of the women and disasters we are reporting on.

Shedding Light on Emergency Preparedness: The 2022 Buffalo Blizzard

Sam Supan 2024

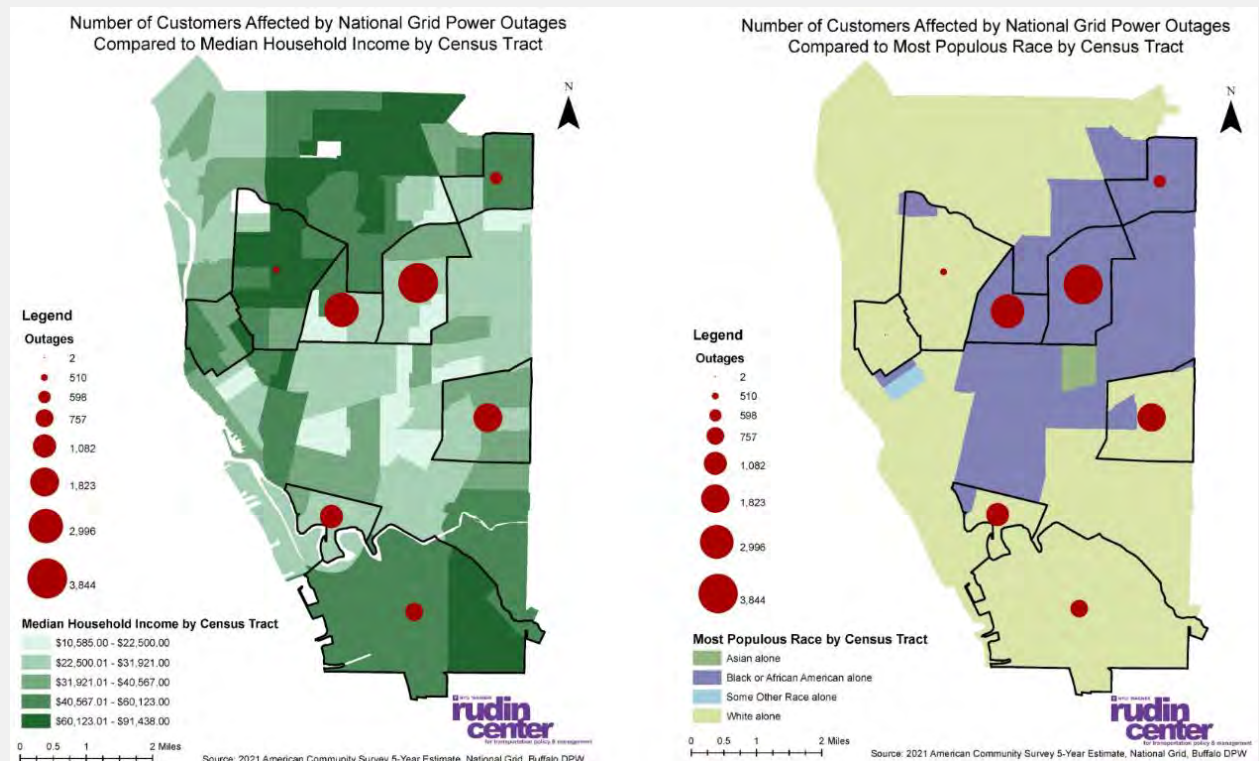
In December 2022, for five days, a “generational storm” wreaked havoc on the city of Buffalo, New York, and its surrounding counties. The city of Buffalo is no stranger to extreme cold weather, yet this storm reached hurricane-force winds of 80 miles an hour, dipped to negative thirty-degree Fahrenheit temperatures, and was the most intense storm not occurring on a mountaintop in continental US history. The storm hit during the holiday season, meaning many were in the middle of their travel plans, celebrating among family members. The duration, force, and timing of the snowstorm all contributed to its challenges. Messaging to the public was inadequate regarding travel bans and stay-at-home warnings due to rampant power outages. Ultimately, the

blizzard claimed the lives of 47 people, 31 of whom lived in the city and 20 of whom were African American.

While feminism may not seem explicitly tied to the Buffalo Blizzard of 2022, natural disasters bring to light important complexities regarding the intersection of race, gender, and vulnerability. The blizzard highlighted how social vulnerability influenced who was most severely affected across the Buffalo-Niagara region. Natural disasters will often disproportionately affect those who have been victims of a system created to exploit them. Therefore, applying feminist frameworks to disaster preparedness, lived experiences, and aftermath strategies can offer key insights into opportunities for



Source: The Office of Governor Kathy Hochul



Source: The NYU Wagner Report

growth and improvement.

The City of Buffalo has been plagued by racial segregation for decades. This history is important to understand when examining how the storm affected different socio-economic areas throughout the region. In 1950, Buffalo was a hub, thriving during the manufacturing age, and reached its population peak. It would lose half of that population within 50 years. Today within Erie County, white people make up 76% of the total population, but only 45% of the city of Buffalo's population. Black people make up 13% of the Erie County population and 37% of the City of Buffalo's population.

In Buffalo-Niagara, over 60% of white people live in an area categorized as above average for opportunities, as compared to 10% of black people. These 'above-average' areas are intrinsically tied to better recovery resources and more media coverage. Due to this history of redlining, blockbusting, and segregation practices, Buffalo is the sixth most segregated city on the white-black index. This entanglement of racial and economic segregation is a large driver of continued inequity which will take time, money, and effort to enact change.

It is important to acknowledge that inequity of race or economy do not exist in a vacuum. Intersectionality refers to the complicated way multiple forms of discrimination overlap for members of marginalized communities. Black women

specifically are vulnerable because of the intersection at play between their gender, race, and their economic status. When the storm hit, these vulnerabilities were exposed as neighborhoods in the predominantly white suburbs were able to recover and receive aid more quickly. One Buffalo resident, David Gradon, remarked, "This area was privileged, they had mobility. Life returned to normal faster in the suburbs". 2 of the 3 power substations that failed were located on the predominantly black side of the city, causing more frequent power outages. For the unhoused population in Buffalo without shelter or mobility, the blizzard was especially harmful. Shelters were overrun and ill equipped to handle the length, severity, and temperature of such a storm. At least four of the victims were believed to be experiencing housing instability.

Due to the whiteout conditions, it was impossible to travel. Those who were not financially able to stock up prior to the disaster had to make tough decisions with little information. They were forced to travel for food and medicine much sooner than those who were privileged enough to be able to prepare.

Along with this, women are often tasked with care-work and placed within the domestic sphere. During crises, providing childcare, maintaining the household, and sourcing food for families often falls to women. Gender-based violence often also increases in the aftermath of a natural disaster. These

tasks can compound the stress from the disaster and result in an increased burden for women. Many neighborhoods along the east and west sides of Buffalo are also considered 'food deserts' meaning there is no accessible grocery store within that area. Many forced to venture into the snow did not return.

Emergency responders were faced with extreme difficulties in reaching residents and answering calls. These services became virtually nonexistent during the crux of the storm in the city of Buffalo due to its severity. The longest 911 response times occurred in neighborhoods with the highest concentration of black residents and the lowest median incomes. 22-year-old Anndel Taylor died in her car five minutes from home as she chose to wait for emergency responders. From Charlotte, NC, Taylor, a student nurse, had moved to the Buffalo area to care for her ailing father. Her family remembers her as incredibly joyful and a very talented dancer. Carolynn Eubanks had a heart condition that required an electric oxygen machine. When the power went out to her residence, her son tried to move her to his own home. She became fatigued and passed away in his arms. Two nearby neighbors sheltered Eubanks's body in their home for 24 hours until it could be recovered by emergency services. These victims became lost in the media coverage of the storm's totality, but each victim was a person with a fully-fledged life and identity.

In the aftermath, there was lots of anger. The Buffalo storm had ripped through community

infrastructure. The most drastic effects from the blizzard were seen in neighborhoods already facing



Source: Brendan McDermid

economic segregation and hardship. Earlier in 2022, a racially-motivated mass shooting had already highlighted the segregation, and this storm only exacerbated the divide. The feeling of place as an identity, while potentially strengthened as a community in the wake, can be shaken during a disaster. While there is the physical aspect of snow coating the ground and winds shaking the buildings, the physical loss of place is not the only factor. Emotional attachment and one's sense of pride for the city can be diminished, especially when the city's government has let the community down. Following the



Source: Adriana Loh

devastating events, to his credit, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown asked for a thorough review of the city's response to be conducted via the NYU Wagner School. This review emphasized the improvements to be made for future management strategies. However, feminist frameworks utilized in the city of Buffalo before this storm would have mitigated many of the issues.

Racialized women often respond to the trauma they receive from the government, legislation, and society with collective activism rooted in community efforts. In the aftermath of the Buffalo Blizzard of 2022, one victim's daughter helped organize a memorial for the storm victims. There had been no public initiatives from the government and thus, the burden fell to these women and families. Justice and recognition for the victims had to be achieved through community activism, a form of labor for the grieving families when their mourning should have been allowed to be conducted privately. The burden should not fall on the community, but on the public government to allow space for mourning.

Overall, more feminist framework should be applied to storm preparedness efforts to address gaps that have been created by predominantly white male-led initiatives. These natural disasters are intricately connected to feminism, and it is important to address them from this lens. By introducing ideas of social vulnerability, connecting the personal to the political, and allowing a "place" to have a complex, nuanced history, feminist frameworks can be interwoven to disaster initiatives. The NYU Wagner Report was a good first step toward examining how pre-existing vulnerabilities contribute to the disproportionate impact a natural disaster can have on different members of a community. However, community members have felt in the time since the storm, that not much has actively changed. Words should be followed by action. Intersectional inequity can be highlighted in the wake of such a severe natural disaster, but these issues need to be addressed in the preliminary stage to enact preemptive, lasting change.



Resilience Amidst the Tides: The Fishing Industry In the Caribbean

Gwenaëlle Monnet 2024

As global temperatures soar to unprecedented heights, many communities and ecosystems have become much more susceptible to the rising temperatures. It's not just the coral reefs, but also the livelihoods of women have to bear the burden of providing for their families by working in the fishing industry. This article dives into the stories of women, living in the Caribbean, who have had to place attention into repairing the inequalities within the fishing industry while trying to preserve the biodiversity in the ocean around them.



This is an Image of coral bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef , 2024

In the past few years, especially this past summer in 2023, global temperatures are the highest they have ever been. Not only has there been a 20 to 30 percent decrease in global winds, but there has also been a decrease in atmospheric pressure causing higher temperatures. As a result of the increase in temperature, coral reefs and the surrounding ecosystem have been severely affected. Over the summer of 2023, a series of heat waves affected the Caribbean Islands and the coast of Florida (NOAA, 2023). In typical Caribbean families, women have the role of nurturing, caring, and supporting their husband and their children (Evans and Davies, 1996).

Women are in charge of making sure the household is taken care of. This idea of care can be seen when further examining their role in society especially with fisheries. According to a study done by EnGenDER, "Women generally have lower incomes, less access to credit and decision making authority, and limited control over resources, which increases their vulnerabilities to many natural hazards and climate change impacts." Women are left in charge of small scale operations such as selling or cleaning the fish collected, but due to inequalities in the fishing industry they are not given the same pay or authority as other men working in the industry.

With coral mortality and bleaching increasing in the Caribbean Islands due to the rising ocean temperatures, there is also a decrease in biodiversity

and a decline in fish abundance and diversity. As such, local fisheries are now seeing a lot less fish in their fishing nets. While women do not have a large income in the fishing industry, they often rely on their income to care for their families. With the decrease in fish in the ocean due to the temperatures, the women that rely on this income are not gaining a stable income and are suffering because of it. Women are also predominantly seen in the tourism sector in the Caribbean. In the Caribbean, the tourism sector employs predominantly women. However, like in the fishing industry, women receive lower pay and hold lower positions of authority compared to men in the same industry. With Covid-19, women were at an increase in vulnerability because there was less tourism to those islands, (Tourism Watch, 2022).

There are many things that women have done in order to repair this equality. For example, after the 2020 pandemic, women were left without jobs due to the decreased rate in tourism to the islands. Therefore, the Future Tourism project has aimed to provide women with better skills in order to protect their jobs in the event of a future disaster. These skills include helping women navigate around the world of digital technology so that they can better prepare for future disasters. Through their research they have found that not as many women who own their own businesses have adopted technology into their business. only about 77% of women have an online presence



This is an image of Ana, who lives in Mexico and works to promote sustainable fishing practices and the role of women in the industry.

compared to the 87% of men who own their own business. Additionally, in politics, there has been an increasing demand for developing social protection instruments for women working in the fisheries as well as collecting standardized sex-disaggregated data and data on gender issues.

Overall, women working in the fishing industry and in the tourism sector are but at an increased risk of vulnerability in the event of a major disaster. Women are not given of position of decision making within the fishing industry, so they are unable to help

with the allocations of food and other resources within the sector. Women are more likely to be able to think about the future and they tend to have a deeper understanding of thinking in the long run, as they have for their children and their families, (environmental defense fund, Ana, 2021). Here we listen to a couple different women living across South America who work in the fishing industry. Ana is a woman who live in Mexico and works to strengthen the role of women working in the fishing industry. She claims that women are typically excluded from certain information about fishing tenure and participation rights because they do not have a leadership position. Although as we have seen earlier, through EnGenDER they are rarely given these leadership positions.

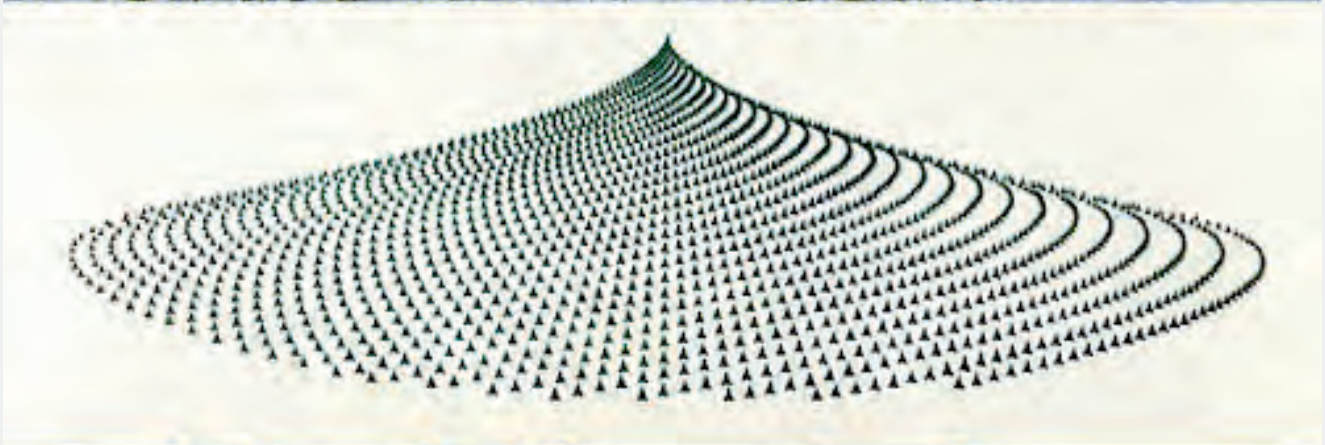
The globe is already seeing the beginning of a disaster with increasing sea temperatures affecting marine ecosystems and as a result having major impact on the fishing industry and tourism. Women, however, have been focusing on putting attention and repairing the inequalities in these industries in order to care for the ocean. They have done so by developing social protection programs that ensure women who are entrepreneurs in the fishing industry are surviving in the economy.



Woman purchasing seafood at a local fish market in Belize City. Photo Credit V. Alamilla/WCS

AGNES DENES

TREE MOUNTAIN - A LIVING TIME CAPSULE - 11,000 TREES, 11,000 PEOPLE, 400 YEARS



1992-96 (420 X 270 X 38 METERS) YOLOJARVI, FINLAND

Between 1992-96 Agnes Denes curated a man-made mountain filled with eleven thousand trees planted by eleven thousand people from all over the world in Finland as part of a massive earthwork and land reclamation project. The project was announced by the Finnish government at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro on Earth Environmental Day, June 5 1992, and was the country's contribution to help alleviate the world's ecological stress. The Tree Mountain is protected land, being sponsored by the United Nations Environment Program and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment, to be maintained for four centuries, eventually creating a virgin forest.

Every person who was involved in the planting of the trees received certificates acknowledging them as custodians of the trees. The certificate is an inheritable document that will remain valid for 20 or more generations. This art is one of the first pieces in the world when an artist has restored environmental damage with ecological art, planned for current and future generations. Because the project was built on the remains of a mine that had destroyed the land through resource extraction, the planting of trees was the start of the process of bioremediation. This family of tree planters are the original green generation, and this project will connect their future generations for 400 years, as it takes that long for an ecosystem to establish itself.

"Tree Mountain is the largest monument on earth that is international in scope, unparalleled in duration, and not dedicated to the human ego, but to benefit future generations with a meaningful legacy."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Agnes Denes emerged in the 1960s and 1970s as a primary figure among concept-based artists. Through her investigation of science, philosophy, linguistics, psychology, poetry, history and music, she is a pioneer of several art movements as she engages with socio-political ideas. She has a dedication to environmental art where she mobilizes her art work with ecological concerns.

She has completed a number of works all over the world, and has focused much of her work on the wide range of subjects in art and the environment.

Born in Hungary in 1931, then raised in Sweden and educated in the United States, Denes has been able to see different environmental implications in different areas of the world. Including her in the conversation of feminist approaches to catastrophes emphasizes the necessity in women having power and autonomy to participate in projects to aid the Earth. Ecofeminist art has provided an arena of accessibility for different perspectives and motivations to be shared and understood globally.

“Tree Mountain, conceived in 1982, affirms humanity’s commitment to the future well being of ecological, social and cultural life on the planet. It is designed to unite the human intellect with the majesty of nature.”



Agnes Denes, 2012, www.agnesdenesstudio.com/index.html.

“The trees are made by nature, the mathematical positioning created by the human intellect to form a true alliance of man and nature.”

Beacons and Bodies of Storytelling: Peruvian Andes River Basins



Alivia Griwatch, 2024

Image of the Mantaro river and river basin; Source: Manfred Schweda

The many river basins of Peru are situated around the central regions of the Andes mountains- the longest mountain range in the world. Although they are in South America, they harbor some of the coldest temperatures during most of the year. However, such temperatures have been exacerbated by global warming and climate change. Oftentimes, river basins of the Andes provide warmer temperatures at lower elevations and a space for agricultural practices. Indigenous communities also occupy this land and have done so for centuries.

However, the creeping catastrophe of radiative frosts have disproportionately affected many communities and especially women. The framing of the catastrophe as solely atmospheric negates lived experiences and highlights how the personal is political. The jobs of local women put them at much

higher risks of being impacted by not just frosts, but also local attitudes and catastrophe framing. Through close evaluation of sources containing information about how gender and race are intertwined in this country, assessing SDGs in the context of Peru, and studies of basins, it is evident that basins are thus beacons of storytelling of the many environmental issues at play in the Andes, but also the ways in which women are being directly impacted in many ways.

Additionally, women are often responsible for food processing and preservation, such as drying, storing, and preparing agricultural products for consumption. In many cases, women in Peru are the main drivers of household food security, utilizing their agricultural skills to provide nutritious meals for their families. Furthermore, women's participation in agricultural cooperatives and community

organizations helps empower them economically and socially within the agricultural sector. When people consider the Andes mountains, they often do not consider the lower, less mountainous regions because they are overshadowed. These places and the people within them are vulnerable to noticeable patterns of climate change. Through an ecofeminist lens, the women of the region are also exploited by societal norms concerning the roles of women and made vulnerable by such events like radiative frosts.

The Mantaro River basin is one of the many river basins which are quite expansive and known for biodiversity and supplies of hydroelectric power. There are many Indigenous tribes who have been situated



Aracari Travel

along these basins for centuries and incorporate connections with the more than human world through practices of relationality and the recognition that nature has rights. These aforementioned frosts cause the largest impact on agriculture in the region between sowing and harvesting time (et al. Transmonte, 2008). Traditionally, the periods of harvest and sowing happens to fall between the months of September and April. However, the consequences of global warming and climate change are directly noticed by the ways in which these periods and frosts have been subject to more variability. In addition, throughout these months and due to seasonal variability, there have also been record number of rainfalls which tends to limit the amount of time spent sowing or harvesting such means to sustain oneself. There are also categories of frost risks that put certain crops at risk. The more critical frost has been seen to be more common and connected to the decrease in crucial vegetation that serve as food sources for Indigenous communities

and ecosystem functionality (Sangüesa-Barreda, 2019).

Situated between basins, women play a significant role in performing care work for the environment through various initiatives and activities. One specific example is the "Mujeres Amazónicas" (Amazonian Women) movement led by indigenous women in the Amazon rainforest region. These women are dedicated to preserving the environment and protecting their communities from deforestation and other environmental threats.

The women of Mujeres Amazónicas engage in reforestation efforts, sustainable farming practices, and community education on environmental conservation. They perform unpaid adaptation labor as well. Such women also advocate for the rights of indigenous people and work to preserve the unique biodiversity of the Amazon rainforest.



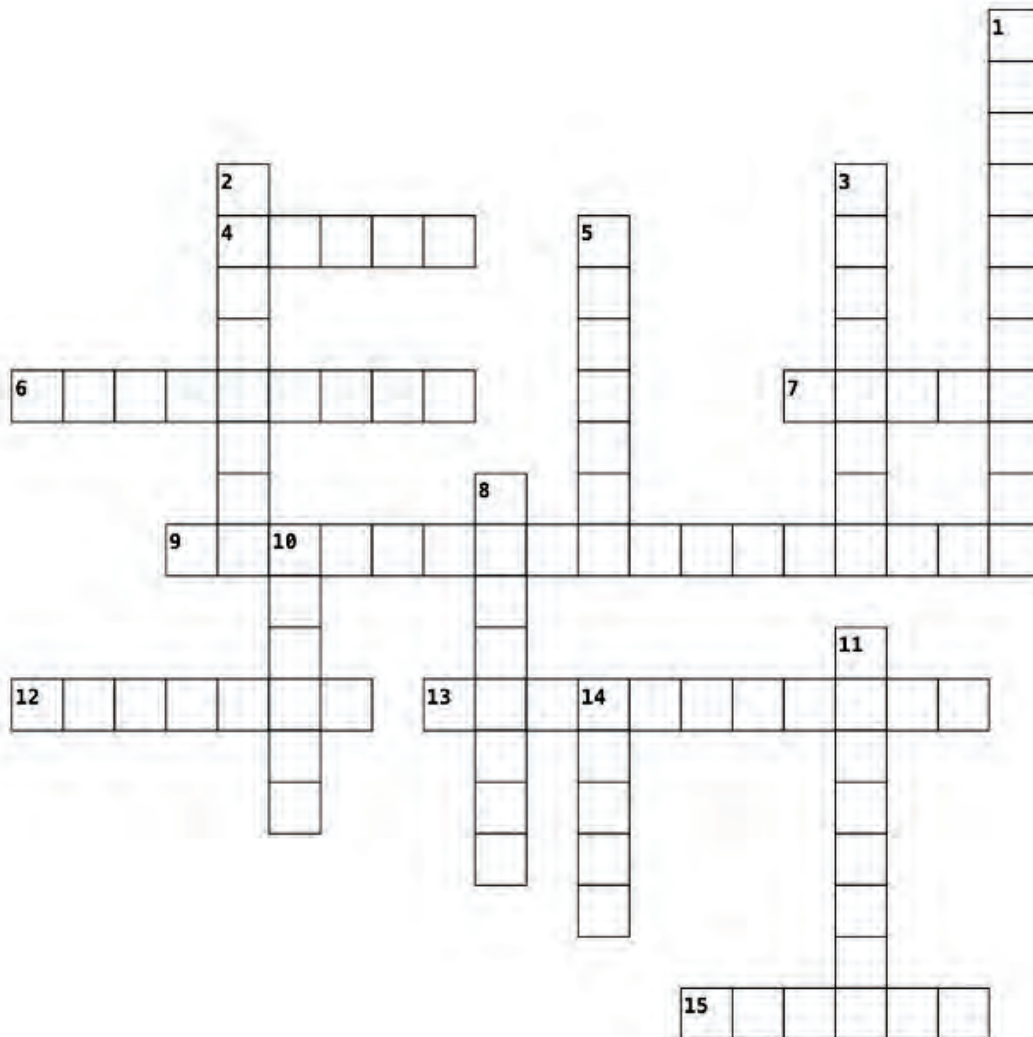
Agencia Ecologists

Through their leadership and grassroots organizing, the women of Mujeres Amazónicas are not only caring for the environment but also fostering sustainable practices that benefit their communities and the planet as a whole. Their work exemplifies the vital role that women play in caring for the environment and promoting eco-friendly initiatives.

Women play crucial roles in agriculture in Peru, contributing significantly to various aspects of farming and food production. In more rural areas and those that are considered river basins, women are actively involved in planting, harvesting, and tending to crops. Their role in agricultural activities is crucial to the functionality of such practices. They also play a key role in livestock care, including feeding animals and managing herds.

CROSSWORD

FILL IN THIS FUN CROSSWORD PUZZLE!



Across

- 4. long body of water
- 6. local and federal government
- 7. calcium substance in the ocean
- 9. mixing of concepts
- 12. a mental reaction
- 13. everything around us
- 15. a bunch of trees

Down

- 1. becoming larger or smaller
- 2. brining into existence
- 3. unique
- 5. lack of water
- 8. equality for women
- 10. a type of hypothesis
- 11. series of hot weather
- 14. country where Bina Agarwal is from

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 48



Deb McDonald a 68-year-old woman sitting outside her home Source: The Guardian taken by Nadir Kinani

Extreme Heat In Australia

Hope Jorkey 2024

When you think about heat, what's the first thing that comes to mind? For many that uncomfortable feeling not only affects their physical stability but has left their lives hanging by a thread. Shockingly, Australia's temperature over the past decades has reached newest highs. With Australia showing documented temperatures reaching scorching numbers, climate change has also impacted the environment and the livelihoods of those settled in certain regions. On January 13th, 2022, Australia experienced its hottest temperature yet, at 50.7 degrees Celsius (123 degrees Fahrenheit). Australia has gradually become hotter over the past decades, with 2023 being the 8th hottest year to date (CNBS.com). The permeating heat has environmental

connections to Feminist Political Ecology, which is closely linked with the Australian devastation that is seen across the country. To Those who are researching this phenomenon this is new information but to those who are native to this land, this is an everyday occurrence. With extreme heatwaves, the effects have left disadvantaged people of the region in ruins. In Josh Nicholas's Guardian article, he highlights the climate change issue in Australia and the steps local council are taking to alleviate these issues. Krista Milne has been diligently advocating with her campaign against "the dangers of extreme heat" (Nicholas). Through all this, Milne and activists alike created a pilot project. A pilot project is used as an experimental trial to show how effective a project

and idea might be before launch. Because of the extreme heat in the city of Greater Geelong, climate safe rooms were created to combat the high temperatures. The city of Greater Geelong is a local government in Barwon South West in Australia (Wikipedia.com). Here is some background information on the area; in 2021, 19.4% of households earned high income and 23.4% earned low income (Profile.id.com) The Greater Geelong project even provided funding to those who didn't have air conditioning. As Nicholas mentions this specifically targeted low-income households. When looking into extreme heat it is said that "This included installing insulation, air conditioning and solar panels to offset the cost" (Nicholas).

The Victorian government, which is the executive branch of Australia provided funding for the project, although, it is not stated how much the pilot project costs. It is said that "Advocates of the project hope to expand this to more than 1,000 homes." (Nicholas). An interview done for another Guardian article discusses how Deb McDonald's home "would get unbearably hot, she relied upon two strategies to keep cool: placing two frozen water bottles in front of a fan and becoming a "blob" (Beazley). Having to go through such extreme measures in order to be warm shouldn't be the norm for anyone, especially someone who is older.

Feminist Political Ecology is a branch of feminism that focuses on how the land that people live on interacts with the environment. This being said, the Indigenous people of Australia are leading the charge to confront the seasonal changes. Dr. Noel Nannup who is an aboriginal Whadjuk Noongar elder, is a storyteller and cultural guide, (Badgebup.org) and he had this to say, "[People] don't understand depth of Aboriginal knowledge of country, and the main motivating factor of why we're on country, which is to care for it," (Logan). Noel noticed the flowers and birds that were once indicators of the start of the seasons had rapidly changed. Extreme heat has resulted in what the indigenous people call the season of the young, "Birak," to show up differently, and with that "in Perth, the number of days over 40 degrees has doubled in the last century" (Logan). There is an outstanding amount of testimonials from people who live in Australia when it comes to the intersectional oppression that they face. Feminist Political Ecology combines race, gender, and class in conversation with how they all interact with the environment. Not only

are the people experiencing the effects of the heat, but the plants are too. Nannup spoke on the plants which couldn't be pollinated because of the caterpillars and other insects being absent. He says, "Usually this would be teeming with all these little creepy crawlies, doing their job of pollinating, but they're not here," (Logan). The emotional turmoil that one may feel when seeing the natural environment around them slowly wither away, is immensely real. An essential part of feminism is connecting one's own emotional connection to events such as environmental changes, to talk about catastrophe. When people raise awareness of the dangers of extreme heat which can result in death, there must be an acknowledgement of that mental burden. In Lorena Allam and Nick Evershed's article, it focuses on the First Nations people and the heat's effect on the many aspects of their lives. In the year 2019, it had become so hot that

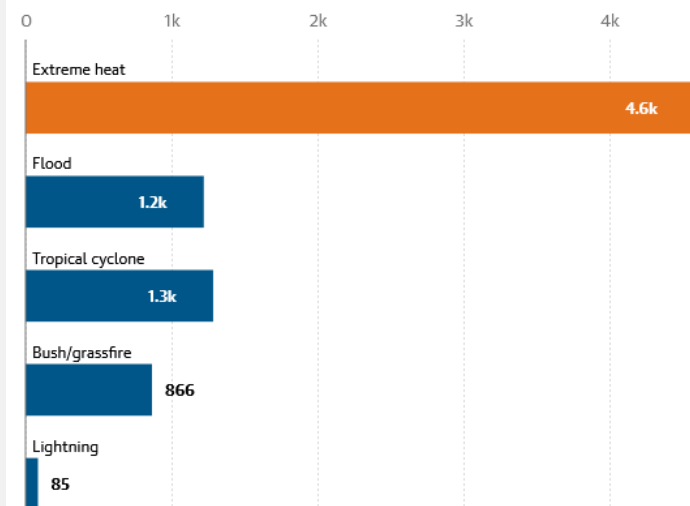


She-Oak flowers Source: Adobe Stock

residents were preparing for a drought to happen (Allam et Evershed). It is said that 12 communities had poor quality drinking water and the aquifers were running low (Allen et Evershed). Joe Martin-Jard who is the Central Land Council chief executive, explained how Alice Springs and Mount Isa, which are located in the Northern Territory, don't have a decent water source, and with this, many communities in the area are suffering from poor water quality. (Allam et Evershed) The houses are so hot that the summer water quality and water supply are also an issue, it is written "At least nine remote communities and outstations are running out of water" (Allam et Evershed). Talks of Aboriginal people leaving country and finding new areas to live have also been circulating. This is the last thing that many aboriginal

Deaths from natural hazards between 1900 and 2011

Showing the numbers of deaths by the type of natural hazard



Source: PerilAUS database

people want to do. Colonialism has left locals like elder Carol Patterson, an Menang-Gnudju aboriginal, having to look and form their own path when it comes to preserving the natural environment. Through watching the weather patterns, they have learned how to adapt to changes, she says "Over thousands of years, we have learnt to adapt, and that is how we have managed to survive, especially colonisation." Adapting isn't something that is new for indigenous people like her, it has become a part of their very existence.

The Australia Council of Social Service in 2023 did a survey that looked at the heat index in Australia and this is what the survey found, "Of those surveyed, 62% said they struggled to keep their homes cool during summer, and 43% said they faced a barrier to leaving their home for a cooler place. Almost 90% said the high temperatures negatively affect their health" (Nicholas). These residents are crying for help and indicating to everyone that need extra support from the government. The image above shows directly that heat as a natural hazard has been the leading cause of death between the year is 1900 and 2011. And according to another set of statistics, "More than 69% of heatwave deaths between 2001 and 2018 were among those over the age of 60, according to research based on coronial reports." (Nicholas). With the chart to the right, we can see that the elderly are more likely to die because of extreme heat compared to any other age group. The older you get the less likely you are predicted to survive heatwaves. Knowing how to interpret and collect data and applying it to research is important and through this We see how data is powerful when collecting information on elderly heat exhaustion.

The class status of those who are elderly also plays a role in their deaths. Not only are they more likely to die because of heat exhaustion but different



Noel Nannup an aboriginal Whadjuk elder and storyteller Source: researchgate.net

comorbidities also play a factor in their deaths. It is written, "It's also a function of socioeconomic status, isolation, and health status. So many older people take medications because they have higher rates of comorbidities (Nicholas). A big part of feminists' work is recognizing the intersectional powers that are at play, with this we begin to see a certain patterns. The older you are the more likely the heat will adversely affect you and, if you are also suffering from other illnesses such as respiratory issues you are more prone to environmental factors affecting you disproportionately. But it's also essential to remember that the numbers aren't the only source of evidence or data that is needed to highlight a story. Images, first accounts, or oral stories are just as valid as data sets. Often, marginalized groups are asked to prove their oppression or prove that harm is occurring. The catastrophic effects of heat can also begin to be seen

with statistics that show how disproportionately, marginalized groups are affected. According to Josh Nicholas's article "More than 60% of heatwave deaths were in the most socio-economically disadvantaged areas" (Nicholas). With this, stories like these deserve to be included in research.

Australia's extreme heat can be understood from a multitude of angles. From the heat's impact on the environment and plants to the heat's impact on the elderly people and indigenous population living there. Although the research and data collected shows the magnitude of this issue, there are projects like The Greater Geelong pilot project that are attempting to create local change to alleviate the extreme heat that is causing deaths. Australian residents live within this extremely real reality of the environment being a constant worry for them.



Warlpiri elder, Henry Cook taken by Central Land Council

AN ECOFEMINIST'S GUIDE: THROUGH MUSIC

FOR WHEN CLIMATE CHANGE SEEMS INSURMOUNTABLE, AND THE WORLD SEEMS TOO BIG. THESE SONGS DISCUSS THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE, THE FRUSTRATIONS AIMED AT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS, AND THE STRENGTH WOMEN FIND IN THIS MOVEMENT.

THE PLAYLIST

THE 1975 (VISUALIZER) - THE 1975

SCREWED - JANELLE MONAE

YOUNG GIRLS - PRINCESS NOKIA

TALKIN' BOUT A REVOLUTION - TRACY CHAPMAN

CRANES IN THE SKY - SOLANGE

CASSANDRA - FLORENCE AND THE MACHINE

ORANGE - PINEGROVE

MERCY MERCY ME (THE ECOLOGY) - MARVIN GAYE

BIG YELLOW TAXI - JONI MITCHELL

WATERFALLS - TLC

BUFFALO REPLACED - MITSKI

BUTCHERED TONGUE - HOZIER

BEFORE THE FEVER - GRIMES

POOLSIDE - THE ANXIETY

GRANDFATHER'S LAND - A'SIA KEYI

MAKING DO - LAKE STREET DIVE

[LINK TO SPOTIFY
PLAYLIST](#)

"WE ARE RIGHT NOW IN THE
BEGINNING OF A CLIMATE
AND ECOLOGICAL CRISIS"

"THEY PAVED PARADISE AND PUT UP A
PARKING LOT"

"YOUNG GIRLS, PATRONS OF THE
EARTH"

"WHERE DID ALL THE BLUE SKIES GO?"

"NOW YOU'RE MAKING DO WITH
WHAT YOU'VE GOTTA"



The Worst Drought In Decades: Crisis in the Horn of Africa

Sam Supan 2024



Source: Zerihun Sewunet

This article aims to spread awareness about the historic drought currently affecting the Horn of Africa. When it comes to environmental disasters, many Americans need only look to their backyards: hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes are present in spades. As a result of this, many global catastrophes make headlines briefly in US media outlets before blending into the background of the public's daily lives. I wanted to focus on a drought that has been violently plaguing the people in the region since October of 2020. This issue will examine this tragedy from a feminist lens as women and girls are often the most vulnerable and heavily affected by environmental catastrophes.

The Horn of Africa region (made up of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia) protrudes from Western Africa in the shape of, you guessed it, a horn. These countries have been riddled with socio-political turmoil for decades, leading to high poverty rates and extremely delicate infrastructure. While droughts are normalized in this region due to La Nina and El Nino

(reoccurring climate patterns which alter temperature and weather patterns), human-caused climate change has led to worsening effects from these natural phenomena. Daud Jiran, the county director in Somalia for the aid group Mercy Corps commented in an interview with NPR, "we can say climate change is the biggest contributor to the situation the Somali people are currently facing."

However, while drought is creating hardship for the people in this region, it is being used to remove culpability and cover the deeper structural problems. With rainfall usually highly variable, farmers, pastoralists and herders have historically planted diverse crops, practiced mobility, and held contingency stores of grain. During the colonial period in this region, many of these strategies were dismantled as regimes enacted taxes which forced farmers to plant cash crops. The Green Revolution in Africa continued this rhetoric, pushing for high, quick yields of agriculture. This devastated local risk

Daud Jiran, the county director in Somalia for the aid group Mercy Corps commented in an interview with NPR, "I mean, the problem in the Horn and, in particular, places like Somalia are forgotten because of the recent ongoing crises in areas like Ukraine and Syria and maybe the earthquakes in Turkey. But yes, definitely, those are also crises that need support. However, I think the situation in Somalia and partly the Horn - Ethiopia and Kenya - I think not need to be forgotten."

management strategies and represented a form of slow violence.

Today, in early 2024, it is estimated that approximately 65 million people need aid as a direct result of this disaster. Food insecurity is increased also as a direct result of rising food prices from the war in Ukraine. More families in the Horn of Africa have been pushed to the precipice of starvation because of this global food crisis. The most recent dry period is the result of five sequential failed rainy seasons and the worst residents have seen in decades. Abdilal Yassen, a local pastoralist, remarks, "This drought is leaving nothing behind. In previous droughts, we used to lose some animals, but we would always have food and water. But this is different. It is 'sweeping away' animals and people". Unfortunately, the drought itself is merely a catalyst.

Many in the region work as farmers or pastoralists to earn their livelihoods. When the crops, livestock, and farmland fail due to lack of rain, in this area have had to leave their homes. It is worth noting

that displacement from one's "home" is not just a relocation. Displacement means abandoning generational ties to land/livelihood, connections to



Source : Actions Against Humanities

local flora and fauna, and spiritual relationships with the Earth. It is difficult to quantify the loss.



Source : Michael Tewelda

The stress of this disaster has led to a compounding burden on women and girls marked by increases in gender-based violence. Social vulnerability constructs are formed by traditional roles, women working in the domestic sphere, limited opportunities for gaining social capital, etc.. When a disaster strikes, these vulnerabilities are exposed. Those with more social capital can put distance between themselves and the effects of a disaster. In researching this article, I found this gratuitous violence toward these women hard to read, and even more difficult to write about. However, it is a disservice to the lived-in-experiences of these women, who were brave enough to share their stories, to not listen.

These are just two women's stories that emphasize the difficulties women must face as a result of this drought. 16-year-old Aisha Hussein is one of many women within the region who has lost a child due to drought-related health issues. After a four-hour journey to a hospital for her first hospital visit of her pregnancy, she was greeted by a host of gaunt women. "My malnourished body had an impact on the baby in the womb", her malnourishment caused intrauterine growth restriction and her baby passed shortly thereafter. Somalia has one of the deadliest global maternal mortality rates and the drought has limited previously thin resources. When Nasteha Hassan Abdi was 12, her grandmother sold her to a man in their village. The family's goats had all died in

describes the man she was sold to as old enough to be a father and discusses how he used to beat her and sleep with her. After escaping to a refugee camp, she discovered she was pregnant. Although taken in by a family friend, her peers call her a slut and ostracize her. The displacement from homes into refugee camps creates issues of safety. Screenings for



gender-based violence have indicated that new refugee camp arrivals often have had to rely on untrustworthy sources to obtain their basic needs. Scarcity of clean water has forced women to travel further in pursuit of the resource, increasing their exposure to sexual violence and exploitation. Mass food insecurity prevails against the need for menstrual products or contraception devices. Child marriages, sex work, and school withdrawals have all increased because they provide a potential path away from



Source: National Geographic

a drought, resulting in this drastic measure. Nasteha

starvation. Healthcare access has been largely

interrupted, putting pregnant women at extreme risk as prenatal care becomes extremely limited. Ultimately, the drought has illuminated how environmental disasters can disproportionately affect women and girls.

What is there to do? These droughts are not a new, novel concept. Only their intensity is. As such, it must be expected that due to climate change, their severity will only worsen. An interviewing study of stakeholders and agency representatives from multiple affected nations emphasized the need for a system that established resilience and sustainability

of societies. Actions to be taken include improving access to food, water, and strengthening healthcare systems. Rather than addressing the after-effects of a crisis, putting money and effort toward protecting current livelihoods and providing opportunities to combat displacement from homes would be beneficial. Further research and continues conversation with those affected and displaced, specifically women and girls, could be a first step toward long-term effective solutions.

Women's Strength and Resilience across the Globe in the Face of an El Nino and La Nina

Gwenaelle Monnet 2024

As the world struggles with the destructive forces of an El Nino and La Nina, one group of people suffer silently beneath the surface. A group of women and girls who are disproportionately affected by the results of climate change and the chaos that ensues. This article dives into the stories of women in Madagascar, Somalia, Haiti, the Caribbean, and more. We will see how the people in development say what is needed.

WHAT IS AN EL NINO AND AN EL NINA?

The El Nino Southern Oscillation Cooling (ENSO) is a shift in atmospheric pressure between the Eastern and Western countries of the Pacific Ocean. It is a "large scale climatic phenomenon involving fluctuating ocean temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific, coupled with changes in the overlying atmosphere" (World Health Organization, 2023.) The ENSO event comes in two phases. First it begins with an El Nino. The El Nino mostly occurs

every five to six years and it is unusual winds that cause warm surface water to move from the East Coast of Australia to the West coast of South America. This means that the coast of Australia will be drier than in a typical year, while the coast of South America will be warmer and there will be an increase of precipitation. On the other hand, an El Nina occurs every two to seven years and typically occurs a year after an El Nino year, (National Ocean Service, 2023.) A La Nina is quite the opposite. During the year, the winds will shift and push cold water from the Eastern of South America to the Western Coast of Australia. Not only do both of these major events cause abnormal floods, drought, dry, and warm temperatures across the southern part of the equator, they also affect the rest of the globe. This article will discuss how both of these events have increased the risk of trafficking and gender-based violence across the globe.

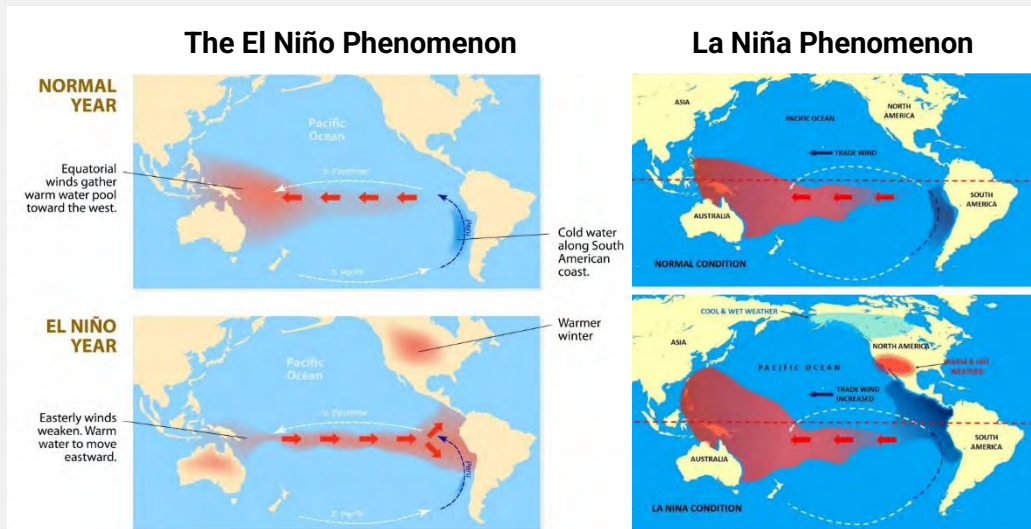


Figure 1 These are images that explains how an El Nino and a La Nina phenomenon occur during normal and unusual year. The image shows the warm and cold water moving across the Pacific Ocean.

HOW DOES AN EL NINO AND LA NINA AFFECT GIRLS AROUND THE WORLD?

In times of stress, women are often disproportionately impacted. Particularly, during an El Nino year, with the increased rain fall or dry season women especially younger girls are at a higher risk of not being able to attend school because of the need to support their families. In an article written by Catherine Rolfe she says, “We’re already seeing droughts hurt girls in places like Haiti and Somalia, because girls are often responsible for collecting their families’ water.” (Plan International, 2023.) She explains how for women living in low-income regions, it is often a challenge to collect water from streams that are far away. Especially, during an El Nino year where dry seasons are amplified, there is an even lower access to clean and fresh water. Additionally, due to the lack of water and income, families are forced to move and on numerous occasion parents are forced to marry off their 13- to 16-year-old children. In her article, Catherine Rolfe was able to interview certain women about how they have been impacted by the effects of an El Nino. One of the women, Quadan (a mother from Somalia) said, “we are not happy with what we did,” “We wanted the girls to go to school, but we couldn’t afford it and thought marriage would be beneficial for them.” (Plan International, 2023.) Here the women in development are claiming that due to the El Nino, they don’t have enough money to be able to provide for their families, so women are forced to sell their daughters into marriage.

In other ways, a La Nina weather effect can also

affect women’s health. After the 2016, La Nina more that 60 million people were affected particularly in eastern and southern Africa, the Horn of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Asia-Pacific region. (World Health Organization, 2016.) Not only did an El Nino occur that year, but a La Nina also quickly came after the event and further devastated the low-income areas. During the La Nina “rising temperatures and more variable rainfall

patterns can often reduce crop yields, compromising food security. The El Nino and La Nina conditions also caused a wide range of health problems and disease outbreaks to impact the communities affect. For example, with the increased floods, vector-borne diseases, and water-borne diseases such as malaria, cholera, dengue, and flesh-eating bacteria became more of a risk. In low-income regions, women are many times responsible for care and repair within the household. This can include caring for the children, providing food, and securing clean water. Because of this, women are at an increase of getting sick from these diseases but also suffering from the lack of health care.

HAVE THERE BEEN ANY PLANS TO PREPARE FOR THE IMPACT?

Many efforts have been formed in order to support and help the women and families who are being affected by the current 2023 El Nino year. Plan, a program that supports girls and women across the



Figure 2 The UN Climate Crisis Coordinator Reena Ghelani (left) interacts with a mother and child in the south of Madagascar. (United Nations, 2024.)

globe in efforts to ensure they have equal rights and equal opportunity to express those rights, are planning on “working with girls and their communities to plan for possible disasters and minimize the damage. If something does happen, we’re ready with immediate support designed to meet girls’ unique needs.” (Plan International, 2023.)

The UN has also created a plan to “help women around the world as agents of change, teaching them how to integrate climate-smart solutions in the work they do. These community-driven approaches not only benefit the environment, but also empower women to help improve the quality of life for their families and communities, while advancing sustainable development,” (United Nations).

Efforts to mitigate the effects of extreme temperatures from an El Nino and a La Nina have also been seen in Madagascar. Reena Ghelani is the UN’s Climate Crisis Coordinator for the El Nino response in Madagascar. While there she is working to help the population less vulnerable to the effects of major weather events. After a long-lasting drought, the country was subject to a series of cyclones and hurricanes that were detrimental to their food security. Consequently, they have begun preparing for the upcoming El Nino event. Reena Ghelani said, “Many southern African countries now have systems in place that provide warnings to communities [of imminent extreme weather events]. And so, we need to prepare now. And the cost of doing that research is seven

times cheaper than waiting for the disaster happens,” (United Nations, 2024.) Having the government help the communities most affected by the extreme weather has helped alleviate some of the damage done by the heavy rainfall and droughts. This kind of project helps reduce the vulnerability and stress placed on women. Because of climate changes these events have become more frequent so it is better to prevent the burden that will be placed rather than fighting the outcome of the weather events.

Here many women are offering their help, but it is the women living in these situations that are expressing their need for a system to avoid the effects from the disasters. While these programs like Plan and the UN Climate Crisis are there to help women, primarily it is the women in development that are taking action.

FEMINIST APPROACH: BEYOND CATASTROPHE

Overall, there is an unequal burden of care-work placed on women during El Nino and La Nina year. This can add to the stress of recovery in the wake of a disaster. Prior to El Nino and El Nina events women are already in a socially vulnerable position. In low-income regions women are already responsible for care in the household. Most of the time, women bear the brunt of economic, environmental, and social disasters. This is amplified during an El Nino and La Nina year when the changes in the winds and ocean currents affects each country and in turn affecting women and young girls.



Figure 3 El Nino affects more than 60 million people worldwide, (WHO/Y Shimizu)

3 Queer Movies With Feminist Themes That I Love

Now I know what you're thinking, queer feminist movies? Ugh? If you're one of those people, please, I invite you to stop reading right now and see yourself out the door. For those who are here for a fun time....Welcome! Although these movies aren't necessarily coined as "feminism," I've interpreted certain storylines as such from my own experience.



Source: themovieb.org

An oldie but a goodie, the comedy "But I'm a cheerleader" follows Megan a cheerleader and her journey and acceptance while coming to terms with her sexuality while at a conversion camp. Usually when we hear about people or teens being sent to conversion camps, it's from a perspective of that person is already being aware of their sexuality but in this case, Megan doesn't confront her attraction to girls until her parents and everyone around her notices. Because, after all... she's a cheerleader! She can't be GAY!? In the film she is sent to "True Directions" filled with teens like her who are "experiencing homosexual desire." Megan, after she finally admits her homosexuality as step 1 in the process, begins to develop feelings for the camp's bad girl, Graham. Megan falls in love with Graham. and they use the knowledge about their experiences to fight for their love and run away with one another at the end of the movie. Pushing forward together besides the horrors that they have faced. What's more feminist than that?



Source: Kaleidescape.com

"Pariah," out of the 2 movies on this list, this one has more of a gloomy story. I first watched "Pariah" early on in my teenage years. "Pariah" follows Alike a Black Teenage Lesbian as she navigates not only her sexuality but her gender expression, while also being raised in a religious household. When she hangs out with her best friend, she dresses in baggy clothing and is butch presenting, but when she goes home she puts on the façade of femininity. Her mother picks up pretty quickly that her daughter isn't following the image of a girl that she wants her to be. This movie definitely is bittersweet in certain areas, but I related so much to Alike's experience and her journey in discovering herself. I won't say too much about this film, because I feel like everyone should watch this movie at least once.



Source: Tvguide.com

The story follows Amy Bradshaw who is a D.E.B.S. D.E.B.S. stands for Discipline, Energy, Beauty, Strength. Amy falls in love with the evil villain Lucy Diamond. D.E.B.S. are a part of an elite school of all girls who fight crime and serve the people. It's a classic enemy to lovers' storyline and the all-girl squad in the movie are fierce and take no nonsense from anyone. Lucy Diamond and Amy Bradshaw must keep their love secret from Amy's agency. But that proves more difficult than either of them can imagine. Their stories feature more themes of self-actualization with Amy's discovering herself and her need to break away from the D.E.B.S. organization and pursue her career in the arts. I felt like this movie was just peak girl power all around.

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WHAT IS A CARBON CREDIT?

The concept of carbon credits emerged in 1992 . Since then, the purchasing of carbon credits and ideas of carbon offset have become popularized amongst major corporate companies such as Exxon, BP, and Shell. These companies sell carbon credits to “reduce emissions”, while contributing to 35% of all cumulative greenhouse gas emissions globally (Ghosh, 2019). These allow purchasers to pay to offset carbon emissions by funding projects that reduce them in other, often developing, countries.

Such projects often take place in Indigenous communities, contribute to displacement of peoples, and create false impressions of environmental responsibility without addressing the root of the problem.



EXXON

Australia: The Profound Impact On The Unhoused

Hope Jorkey



Robert Butler on the North Head Campground keeping warm by a fire/ABC News: Ella Archibald-Binge)

Imagine that you are trying to achieve a day that is filled with no worry, joy, and protection, but in the back of your mind, there seems to be a constant overwhelming cloud over your head. This not only affects you, but it affects the people that you love and care for too. Australia from a Western perspective is left astray when it comes to discussions about their stories. By incorporating inclusive case studies from a diverse set of indigenous people and residents of Australia, each of their stories will elaborate on their recollections on how being unhoused has affected their lives. Through this, not only will the perspective of those of the region become acknowledged but it'll amplify the voices of those often forgotten. In Australia, temperatures can vary depending on your location in proximity to the coast. The drop in temperature has affected the overall well-being of local families living in Australia and low temperatures in Australia have resulted in devastatingly new ways in which residents have had to be creative with where they take up residence.

The New South Wales south coast on the North Head Campground, tells a story about a campsite



Terry Leahy outside her tent in her backyard/ ABC News: Ella Archibald-Binge)

where the residents are experiencing homelessness (Olumee). A series of interviews were done by Fatima Olumee with the people on the campground. One of her interviews was done with Robert Butler, Robert Butler, whose picture is on the front page of the article, speaks on how he and his family have spent about six months living on the campground. He said, "It was one degree just last night, but yeah, woke up, and it was all ice around everywhere outside the camps." Not only does Robert have to look after himself, but he must also look after the wellbeing of his wife and two small children (Olumee).

Butler describes himself as an Indigenous man and recognizes how his ethnicity makes it harder for him to rent an affordable place for him and his family, he adds, "Private rentals are hard to get if you're Indigenous as well, so it makes it a lot harder going through real estate" (Olumee). The intersections of class, race, and ethnicity bring about new understandings of the climate's effect on indigenous people. Another story based on the North Head Campground features Perry, who at the time in 2022, had been living on the campground since 2015

(Olumee et Clifford). He says, "I live week to week, and I could not survive without the pension, If it wasn't for this place there'd be a lot of sorry souls, a lot of sadness, and there would be deaths for sure." Shadow places like these, are areas that aren't likely to be brought up as topics of significance to the public. With this, The North Head Campground is a shadow place that encompasses groups of people who are experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, in an article titled Indigenous Housing Rights and Colonial Sovereignty, the authors Thalia Anthony and Jessi Hohmann's discuss the inhumane policies placed on the aboriginal people living in Australia, and the national policies that are reflected in inadequate housing today. It is documented that "Aboriginal people were made to live in 'humpies' – an improvised dwelling made out of scraps of materials," and in addition, the Aboriginal Ordinance of 1953, painted them as wards of the state.

They were forced onto missions and settlements (Anthony et Hohmann) which prevented them from



The City of Greater Geelong Source: realestate.com building their own housing stability. Through historical practices we see how past legislation directly affects the ownership of private property.

When people are on the brink of homelessness, not only do they question, where am I going to live? But they also question, how do I take care of my health?" Science Daily describes how Australia's humid summers are what are leaving, a large amount of health problems across the country. It is said that "Cold weather had a much smaller impact (-0.4% nationwide) except in the coldest climate zone, where 3.6% of deaths could be linked to cold temperatures" (Davidson, Peter, et al) But it is also important to add

that the cold is not as extraordinary on Australians than the heat is. Without stable homes, Australian residents are vulnerable and their vulnerable identities are being hit in every which way. Australia also has 3.3 million of its residents living under the poverty line, which is 13.4% of its population. Cold climate zones then have to be tolerated by residents who don't have the privilege to reside in the warmer climate areas.

The story of Terri Leahy and her 8-year-old son Maxx, chronicles the flooding of their home, which left them unhoused. In the aftermath of the flood, they've had to live in a tent in the backyard of their home (Archibald-Binge). They weren't the only ones left with no home, over 3000 people were placed on a social housing waitlist due to the catastrophe (Archibald-Binge). The article mentions how "Maxx sits inches from a portable heater warming his bare hands and



Terri Leahy and her son Maxx's tent in their backyard Source: ABC News

feet while Terri grabs Milk for his cereal" (Archibald-Binge). When thinking about Terri Leahy's story, the framework of care-work is brought up. Care work is described as invisible labor mostly done by women that is not economically compensated. In the wake of a natural disaster people like Terri have had to operate with these burdens, to keep her and Maxx safe. She's had to juggle taking care of him and herself all while living through one of the most difficult chapters of her life. By approaching these stories from a feminist lens, we can begin to understand the political implications of these stories. The personal is political is a phrase used by feminist researchers, to spotlight and bridge connections between one's experiences and one's politics. Marginalized identities intertwine at many margins, and are important when discussing cultural norms and societal structures. The personal is political when a parent is unable to provide housing that is stable for their children. The personal is

Average home loan size over time

Use the menu buttons below to show data for each state/territory.



political when your indigenous identity makes it difficult for you to own a home.

Furthermore, landlords are a barrier when it comes to Australians voicing their concerns about their homes. Amity and Mickey were afraid to speak to their landlord about the heating system because they were frightened by the possibility of eviction. Some people living on the campground have faced evictions for reasons out of their control. In Shane Wright and Rachel Clun's article Stop digging: Australia's housing policies are in a deepening hole, They chronicle the rise in

interest rates on Australian homes, which has resulted in fear from residents. Housing Minister Collins, talked about establishing a \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund, but of course the bill has yet to be passed and is left sitting in legislation (Wright et Clun). As the article says Australia's housing policies, "this country has come to have one of the most expensive property markets in the world, supported by some of the most indebted households in the world and propped up by a banking system dependent on the churn of mortgages" (Wright et Clun). Owning property is expensive and getting approved for loan is also hard to do, and amongst the indigenous population, the history of discriminatory housing policies is all the familiar.

The lack of housing and the cold climate in Australia has left many people without adequate housing. These people can't easily snap their fingers and wish away the difficulty of environmental and structural institutions. Most of these articles were written in 2022, meaning this is still a pressing issue. Some wonder how they can create change in places where they don't live, and the answer to that is, first, we must recognize and highlight stories such as these. The first step in creating change starts with bringing awareness to that cause and with this, maybe then, we can collectively look beyond the catastrophe.



Perry, a resident of the North Head Campground Source: ABC South East: Fatima Olumee

Puelche, Patterns, and People: Heatwaves in Chile

Alivia Griwatch, 2024



People in Santiago, Chile after recent heatwave breaks century-old records; Source: MercoPress

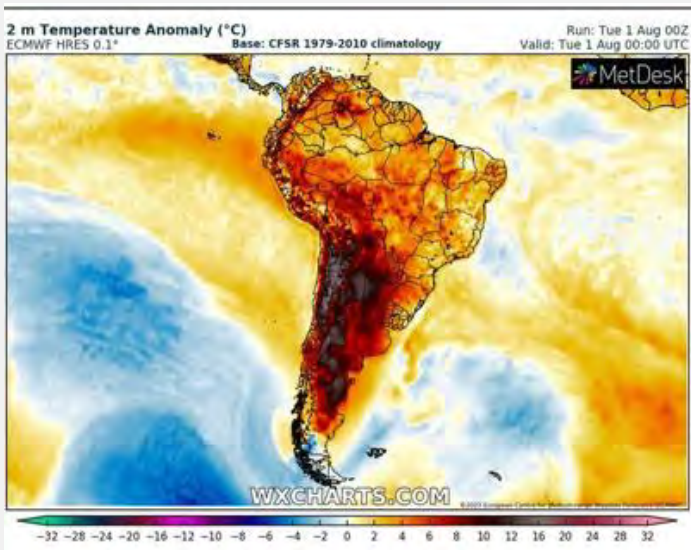
Right now, amidst the usual coldest months of Chile, extreme heatwaves and strong winds have begun to categorize and disrupt both weather patterns and people. A winter heatwave has become a disturbing reality.

Chile is situated on the coast of South America, with a large percentage of the country composed of the Andes mountains. These regions are referred to as Chilean Andine areas and contain direct evidence of the role climate change is directly impacting many people. The typical winter months are from June to August with annual temps ranging from about 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit). Many people are reliant on these colder temperatures for things such as outdoor labor, tourism, and colder winds from the Andes called Puelche.

However, recently these months have reached temperatures of around 28 degrees C or 82 degrees. The abnormal shifts in temperatures are a direct result

of climate change impacting climate variability and weather patterns for the region (González-Reyes, 2023). In addition, the Chilean Andine regions and the people who live there (especially the city of Santiago) are now facing on average 1-4 more heatwaves per year, with increasing difficulties at predicting temperatures, winds, occurrence date, and length.

The most recent heatwave that took many aback occurred for four days during the month of January in 2023. This heatwave included extremely high temperatures, low but hot winds, fires, and the third highest temperature recorded in 112 years. However, in the same year, a Chilean weather analyst reported that the temperatures during the month of August



Source: WXCHARTS

have been the highest it has been in 30 years (Chow, 2023). It is evident that these record-breaking temperatures are not just brushing over these areas but linger and harm both the area and people. The rising temperatures must not only be recognized at a surface level, but in fact understood as the personal is political. The data are not merely numbers but contribute to lived realities and experiences. In this way, such data is limited. However, it is evident that such temperatures during the expected winter months disrupt and harm local peoples, with women at the forefront. How exactly are women being impacted by these heatwaves, you may ask. In Chile, many women rely on “informal” work practices with much labor performed outdoors. Women constitute roughly 35% of the recognized labor practices with work concentrated in urban centers. This is primarily because the position of women in the labor market has been constrained by their necessary double-duties (worker and a mother) and have such been denied access to skilled and more permanent jobs in Chile (Milanich, 2011). Therefore, as a means to support themselves and their families, women typically sell goods in squares outside of the home while also performing unpaid labor and care work within the home. However, heatwaves hinder their productivity to a significant extent in most cases, especially with the lack of tourism. The lack of permanent jobs for women is also seen when considering the lack of research on homeless women in Chile.

Many women in the Chilean Andine region are forced to maintain informal housing or do not have access to proper housing due to wealth distribution and the gendering of such. With women in informal



Source: Omar Gonzalez

settings such as these, during times of heatwaves they are at the forefront. In addition, without the proper infrastructure to secure themselves they are also at a heightened risk to abuse, domestic violence, and sexual attacks compared to men in informal housing situations (Araya, 2020). Despite the lack of body of research regarding these women, there is evidence of the ways in which heatwaves force women to work less and in turn make less money, rendering them at a loss for equal access to housing structures on average. With climate instability comes an increasingly large number of and more economic and housing inequalities.

“Dear Mama” or Elena Donaire spends her Wednesday nights preparing foods, clothing, and water for the homeless and poor women and children in Santiago, Chile. Elena lives in a small home in the city and serves as a street vendor, selling clothes in a street market and at the forefront of those experiencing heatwaves. Despite this, Elena tolerates intolerable weather patterns every Wednesday with supplies to aid her community and those most in need. She therefore performs unpaid care work and labor for people she does not often even know but has been inspired by her faith and love for people (Catholic News Agency, 2018).

Climate instability and periods of extended heatwaves also impact many aspects of women’s health. With more women seeking jobs outside of the

**"It doesn't matter if it's raining,
or cold, there are no excuses
for not going out on
Wednesdays."**

**"I know I am going home to a house,
I'm going to get a good night's sleep,
and I see that these people aren't
going to"**

traditional economy outside, they are at the forefront of heat exhaustion, dehydration, and other heat-related illnesses. Extreme and extended heat during times of heatwaves can also impact the mental health of women. In the Chilean Andine regions specifically, heat has been seen to impact things such as suicide rates, impaired judgement, depression, and anxiety disorders. (Milanich, 2011). In addition to the pressures that women face with puelche, irregular weather patterns, and systems that make them vulnerable, they also face battles in mental health very often. There is not only an economic burden, but also the emotional labor and physical health threats that women are frequently forced to face, and what is seen as a climate catastrophe demands a beyond catastrophe approach. Despite the many ways that women have been forced to bear the burden of climate variability, social systems, and norms, women have begun performing adaptation labor to call into attention environmental, societal, and economic challenges and reshaping their lives. It is often women in these spaces who are performing labors and for the environment who are also experiencing the

consequences of climate change. In this way, the labors of women are labors for everyone and seek to address the challenges, catastrophes, power dynamics.

From grassroots organizations to more direct policy advocacy, women have begun facilitating dialogue in Chile regarding these temperatures for a long time. Women in Chile are mobilizing for gender-inclusive climate policies and gender-responsive adaptation strategies. They are advocating for increased representation of women in decision-making processes related to climate change, ensuring that their needs and perspectives are integrated into policy discussions (Milanich, 2011). Such activists are also advocating for greater access to climate finance and resources for women-led climate projects. Sustentabilidad Sin Frontera is one of the organizations that works hard to address climate injustice and social inequality in Chile. By doing so, they recognize and demand the needs for women to be recognized in their important role in sustainable development. Leading by example in the fight against climate change, demonstrating their commitment to building a more resilient and sustainable future for themselves, their communities, and future generations. Their efforts highlight the critical role of women as agents of change in tackling the complex challenges posed by heatwaves amidst winter seasons.



Figure 4: Utopia Urbana

NYT CONNECTIONS

Just like the trending online game, match the following boxes into four categories! The twist here is that each category is environmentally related.

HURRICANE

FEMINISM

OCEAN

SHARKS

CONSERVATION

ELEPHANTS

TORNADO

TOURISM

LIONS

BLIZZARD

JUSTICE

FLOOD

GLACIER

COAST

WHALES

FOREST

Need a hint?

Think of what the climate most heavily affects!
Answers can be found on Page 48

Frozen in Mongolia: the reoccurring phenomena that keeps the country frozen

Olivia Clark 2024



Helen Wright/BBC



Bradley E. Clift/National Geographic

Imagine being a farmer and walking outside on a wintery day only to find that all of your livestock has been killed by the outside conditions. This was Oyutan Gonchig's reality in the year 2000. Gonchig's reality relates to the changing climate, and poses the question: has climate change been more fatal to our livestock than we realize?

Existing in between two world powers, China and Russia, Mongolia is often overshadowed by those dominant, highly populated countries, but it shares a similar climatology to them. Mongolia is known to have continental climate, meaning that since it is located so central to Eurasia it has low humidity, low rainfall and large diurnal variations in temperature. Mongolia has long cold winters, and short but hot summers, and homing in on the winters, the country frequently experiences dzuds.

Dzuds are an extreme weather phenomena that are unique to Mongolia, characterized by freezing temperatures, heavy snowfall, and frozen grounds preventing animals from reaching pasture. These winter events commonly follow dry summers of drought, preventing an adequate amount of greenery to grow enabling livestock to build up the stores of fat that they need for winter, leaving them vulnerable. According to the UN Economic and Social

Commission for Asia and the Pacific, dzuds have become more frequent and intense since 2015 due to the worsening impacts of climate change and poor environmental governance. The combination of heavy snowfall and extreme cold leads to widespread livestock deaths due to starvation and exposure, posing a significant threat to the traditional nomadic way of life in the country. Dzuds have greater effects on rural communities, causing economic hardship and food insecurity, however, the efforts to mitigate the impact of these environmental catastrophes often involves government assistance, international aid, and community-based resilience strategies (Cullen 2024).

Mongolia was controlled by a Communist government from 1921 to 1990, and the governmental provisions for the proposed growing economy came at the cost of environmental degradation. There was a devastating influence on the land, air, and water from the unregulated development of the economy, which

continued after the post-Communist period, maintaining coal-burning power plants and initiating open-pit mining with the main objective of rapid industrialization. After the collapse of Communism in 1990, and the dismantling of the USSR which was Mongolia's principal supplier of foreign aid and technical assistance, Mongolia turned for aid and trade to the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the US Agency for international development which favored privatization. This transition to a market economy shocked the nation. Some groups gained disproportionate shares of herds, accelerating income equality, such that many people were forced to abandon herding and move to the country's capital to find work. The new post-Communist government did not have the resources to provide assistance to herders. The changing government and economy only multiplies the effects felt from the changing climate, and with these migrations have led to making the city one of the world's highest polluted locations (Rossabi 2021).



Nomadic Herders, Darhad Valley Gordon Wiltsie/Nat. Geo.

Emily Kwong, a NPR reporter, has created a podcast series to articulate her venture to Mongolia during the winter documenting the harsh conditions and the lived realities of Mongolian's during these seasons, and specifically highlights the personal story of Gonchig. Following the year 2000, Gonchig and his family uprooted to the country's capital, Ulaanbaatar, after losing their livestock from the 2000 dzud. It was not an immediate loss, but a slow one that progressed through the winter, day by day worsening. In the country about 40% of the population lives off of pastoralism, and those professions are extremely vulnerable to climate change and ecological challenges. Dzuds have seen a significant rise as climate change gradually exacerbates its impact on the planet each passing year. From 2000 to 2010 there



Emily Kwong is the founding reporter and now co-host for Short Wave, NPR's science podcast. In recent years she spent a winter in Mongolia and recorded a series on her podcast called "A Decade of Dzud: Lessons from Mongolia's Deadly Winters" that was published in 2020.

Farrah Skeiky/NPR

were four dzuds in the country, when in the past they only occurred about once every ten years. The compounding effects of dzuds have shifted migration patterns of rural citizens into their urban capitals.

Dzuds are more than just winter storms. They are devastating to families and livestock over time, and do more damage than just a financial loss, as they also suffer social, emotional, and spiritual losses. This impact is palpable through historical data; for instance in the year 2000, the dzud claimed the life of 3.5 million livestock, amounting to 11% of the national herd. The subsequent decade witnessed a staggering toll, with the cumulative effect of four dzuds resulting in the death of 21 million livestock. Such losses not only overwhelm communities but also strain governmental resources and destabilize the economy. As time has gone by, herding has decreased in popularity as a profession reflecting the growing recognition of the unpromised land that was so heavily relied upon. Climate change has worsened the amount of success one can achieve in pastoral traditions and further diminishes the prospects of land-based livelihoods.

However, with the smaller quantity of herders around, those who have managed to either rebuild their herds or simply have the means to prepare better for the storms have the possibility to get national recognition for their herds; the country awards the best herders. In Kwong's podcast we get to hear from one of the recent prizewinners about his herding techniques, and he claims that only better preparation for the dzuds has let him maintain the health and wellness of his herd. Mitigation and adaptation are common concepts discussed around the topic of climate change, and this prize winner is a clear example of adaptation, but not everyone in the country has the means to do so. Going back to Gonchig's experience with the dzud, he and his family had to move to the urban part of the country to get an income to support their family. After their move his wife was still on the job hunt, and the only way she could support the family was by moving to Japan to work in



UNFPA Mongolia/ Bayartsogt Shagdarsurem

an ice cream factory. In Kwong's podcast the wife remained unnamed for privacy, but the essence of her reminds us of the gendered disparities that are propelled by these natural disasters.

Kwong's depiction of Gonchig's wife in the podcast is short, but encapsulates the realities of women as they too are affected by these disasters. Being separated from her family for months on end while adapting to urban life is difficult for all parties involved, but it may engage thoughts on how women separately feel the impacts of dzuds. Women in herding families accompany their male companions in the animal husbandry work in addition to their domestic duties, making their role even more crucial as there are more moving parts (Gobi 2023). As women are taking on more chores than their male counterparts, they are also passing down generational knowledge about herding, but this all has the risk of being lost. The dzuds are creating generational change. The nation has grown to become highly educated, highly skilled and is wealthy with natural resources, which has enabled greater levels of education for the young citizens, but as the slow migration of rural families is shifting, that may change those patterns for the future. The traditional ways of existing in this place is changing from the lasting impact on climate change, so what needs to change?

When zooming in specifically on women and girls who are facing the changes in the country, they are in greater positions of vulnerability. As these storms are taking control over the land, women and girls are left with limited access to sexual and reproductive health supplies affecting their personal hygiene, and alongside that, there is an increased vulnerability to gender-based violence. As families are trying to cope with the impacts on their pastoralist livelihoods, women's needs are on the back end of priorities. With disrupted transportation routes, communities are

isolated and are unable to receive their deliveries of essential healthcare services. The prolonged confinement caused by dzuds can escalate instances of gender-based violence and women may find themselves confined with their abuses without access to external support systems. Addressing these intertwined issues requires holistic interventions that prioritize women's healthcare needs and provide comprehensive support to mitigate the impact of dzuds on their well-being and safety.

As dzuds are becoming more regular there have been more aid packages provided to the country. The United States government has been financially supporting the country and providing hay, veterinary supplies, and cash assistance to 2,700 herder households (USAID 2024). As for women and girls, there has been a provision of Dignity Kits by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The kits are assembled to provide basic sanitation and hygiene supplies to women and girls who would otherwise not have access to such supplies during the time of disaster.



Clair Harbage /NPR

With these developments of aid for the recurring natural disasters, it is clear that there has been increased attention to the problem, and with women and girls getting additional aid for their personalized needs points towards better gender recognition and equality. While there is not one fix to the changing climate, nor is there a concrete way to stop natural disasters and catastrophes, the increased awareness about those generates change. Diving into the dzuds, specific to Mongolia, through a feminist lens has enabled positive thinking about different approaches. Throughout this research I learned something new, and hope to continue to learn more about the changing world and the lasting changes of climate change.

Guess Some Guests!

MATCH THE DESCRIPTION OF AFEMINIST ORGANIZATION TO ITS LOGO AND
LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM!

(ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 48!)

Descriptions

"A global network focused on empowering the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy to secure their livelihoods..."

"...on a mission to protect our environment, end the climate crisis, and ensure a just, thriving world by empowering women's leadership and identify grassroots women leaders working on the frontlines to reverse climate change and protect their communities' natural resources, livelihoods, and health."

" an educational and advocacy project initiated by women and men interested in gender relations in disaster contexts. One goal is to document and analyze people's experiences before, during, and after disasters, situating gender relations in broad political, economic, historical, and cultural contexts."

" a women's NGO working to engender the peace process in Africa. Since its inception in 1996, (this org) has worked to foster, strengthen and promote the leading role of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on the African continent"

Logos



[HTTPS://WOMENSEARTHALLIANCE.ORG/](https://womensearthalliance.org/)



[HTTPS://WWW.WIEGO.ORG/](https://www.wiego.org/)



[HTTPS://NEW.FASNGO.ORG/](https://new.fasngo.org/)



[HTTPS://GDNONLINE.ORG/](https://gdnonline.org/)

Surviving the Unsurvivable: Heatwaves in South Asia

Ritesh Shukla/Reuters

Olivia Clarke 2024



122° Fahrenheit is when the human body stops optimal functioning. Experiencing heat waves for months on end reaching this temperature should be a human's worst nightmare. Maybe the worst nightmare of any living thing. Heat stress, defined by the CDC, can result in occupational illness, injuries, heat stroke, and heat exhaustion. The CDC says that heat stress is mainly a concern for people who work in hot environments, like firefighters, farmers, construction workers, and miners, but in that list does it seem like someone is missing? In high stress situations and times of crisis and concern, women and children are often left out of the discussion.

In the early months of 2022 Pakistan and India faced one of the worst heatwaves that the subcontinent has experienced since 1901 (Kolirin 2022). While the area is notorious for its heat and dryness in the summer months, what was strange about this heat wave was the earliness and dryness of it. The early onset of this heatwave has been perpetuated by climate change; it fueled wildfires in India, glacial flooding in Pakistan, and combined with drought, deprived millions of power (Rosane 2022). The agricultural essence and livelihoods of those living in this subcontinent greatly felt the impact of this extreme weathering. According to the World Weather

Attribution, climate change made [the early heat wave] 30 times more likely.

The heatwaves in Pakistan and India are a clear example of being what researchers term "shadow places." Shadow places are typically understood to exist in the southern hemisphere, and face the less appealing side of the world's material and ecological transformations (Plumwood 2008). Pakistan and India are the physical sites that bear the burden of global climate change, especially what is a result of Western (and Northern) expansion and industrialization. These sites are nearly invisible in the discussion of global climate change because they contribute so little to environmental change, but these spaces are where they are drastically feeling the shifting climate. Acknowledgement of shadow places is only the first stepping stone of approaching the changing climate in these low profile places, falling into the web of environmental justice. The interconnectedness of environmental issues and social justice emphasize the marginalized communities that exist within these regions, and giving them a global stage to present their realities could begin a globalized understanding of the necessity of fighting against climate change.

The highest reported temperature from the

heatwave was 122° Fahrenheit, which is the temperature that the human body reaches the point of heat stress (Bendix 2023). In these conditions, all people feel the effects, and no one can maintain their regular day to day activities. With the impending changes that the human population is expected to face with climate change, it is imperative for adaptation to these higher temperatures, but there are limits. Regionally, citizens of India and Pakistan contribute very little to global warming, but face the brunt of the rising temperatures, and without immediate change the problem will continue to grow. Within these populations though, there are some more vulnerable than others. According to researchers at Columbia University who did a study on how hot is too hot for the human body, people with pre-existing heart and lung issues are most vulnerable to extreme heat, along with older adults, pregnant people and newborns (Bendix 2023). Specifically focusing on pregnant people - women - and newborns, there is a gap in the data surrounding their experiences with the unnatural heat.

A recent study was conducted regarding stillbirth risk in extreme heat. In 2017 the Facility of Public Health acquired 800 pregnant women in a southern India state, with about half of the participants regularly being exposed to heat through their work, while the others worked in more temperate conditions although occasionally being exposed to the same high levels of heat - but less frequently. The results show that working in extreme high temperatures in India can

almost double pregnancy risks. The rate of miscarriages for women regularly exposed to the heat was at 5%, while those who were not in the heat only had a miscarriage rate of 2%. Stillbirth rates almost paralleled those of miscarriage, with those in heat sitting at a 6.1% rate of stillbirth, and those not in extreme heat at 2.6%. Going back to the idea of heat stress, having women, specifically pregnant women, absent from the list of people who are affected by extreme heat reiterates the gap in information regarding women's experiences with extreme heat (Mazumdar 2024). The pregnant women in the study were afterwards regarded as being at the forefront of experiencing climate change, and are the people facing some of the "gravest consequences" of the changes our planet is doomed to experience. According to the article, there is no official international advising for working pregnant women in the making, and the only heat advising that exists is based on studies from the 1960s when the US military had a large man train in extreme heat. The inexistence of studies based on heat, and women, widen the gap in gender disparities. Without information regarding how different people are affected by the same problems, many are disserved.

While all bodies were being continuously exposed to the overwhelming heat, women and children have been put on the backburner of who seemingly faces the brunt of the issue because they are not doing the same degree of outdoor work as men. Globally, and in India and Pakistan, working outdoors in the



Delhi and Jacobabad/Reuters

excruciating temperatures is a shared experience by both men and women, which is commonly overlooked. Women are in roles of street vendors, waste pickers, or brick-kiln workers, but also in roles at home as home-based workers isolated in pressure cooker environments that trap the heat - making the conditions just as bad, or worse, than outdoor conditions (Shetty 2022). In conditions such as these, where there is such a large gap in data pertaining to different groups in relation to heatwaves, there needs to be an assertion of data justice. Moving forward in analyzing how heatwaves change the day-to-day lives of individuals, data needs to be collected through methods that are inclusive and representative of women's experiences and perspectives. Actively seeking out and including women will enable the consideration of concerns for different groups and marginalized communities. Using representative data will promote gender equality and advance women's rights and empowerment.

Zooming in on the 2022 heatwave in Pakistan and India we see that there is a gender imbalance, and this becomes even more apparent when evaluating the working status of people within the area. The Asia-Pacific region is home to 65% of the world's homebased workers, and in South Asia 24% of all female employment is home-based, meaning that their work consists of carpet weaving, basket making and embroidery, or can be in new-age industries, assembling micro-electronics or medical equipment. Home-based workers contribute significantly to their families, communities and national economies but their work seems to occupy an invisible sector of the economy. When it comes to their economic participation and involvement when these heat waves strike their nations, these workers are put into uncomfortable and undesirable positions. When evaluating the data behind the home-based workers, one might wonder why there are so many Asia-Pacific region, and why those roles typically fall upon women, and it is because of their familiar responsibilities. At

"When work takes place in one's own living room, kitchen, or home, the line between labor and household responsibilities become blurred. There is also no clear distinction between working and non-working hours for women."

Neethi P., researcher at Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS)



Razia, 25, and her six-month-old daughter sit in front of a fan to cool off. Akhtar Soomro/Reuters

least 17 million women in India are engaged in homebased work, with about 12 million of them engaged specifically in non-agricultural work. Women in these areas are physically constricted by cultural norms, further restricting them from skill development. However, those who are involved in home-base work are able to contribute to their household financially while maintaining the home, but that creates an additional workload. The main objective behind taking up home-based work is because of the extra income for the household, but comes at the price of women taking on more work (Behal 2023).

The unbearable heat leads to a decline in productivity among home-based women workers, leading to cash loss in incomes. The female homebased workers are granted the tasks of domestic unpaid labor and caring for children and older relatives while simultaneously working, and the heat multiplies the workload for them. The time spent caring for others and maintaining the wellbeing of the family takes priority for women, putting their health and personal work productivity at the bottom of the tier list. As the primary caregivers in these households, they are expected to provide for those in their homes as though the conditions are normal. Their emotional and physical well-being end up paying the price.

Comprehending the lengths to which climate change is altering the day to day lives of women and children who have negligible contributions to the warming planet affirms the need for their voices to be amplified. In denying visibility to those who play such large roles in their homes and communities, we are doing them a huge disservice

Resilient Retail: Sustainable Shopping

With the ever-changing planet it is easy to feel like as an individual you can't make a positive impact when so many things are outside of your control, but that is not true. The individual changes that we all can make can affect the economy and even the functionality of many 'normalized' practices. We have highlighted 5 eco-friendly products to help you live more sustainably, and enjoy doing so!

Patagonia: This brand has been working within their company to change their environmental footprint. The apparel industry is responsible for up to 10% of the global greenhouse gasses emitted in the world and releases between two and three billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year. The company is working towards 100% renewable energy for their global owned and operated stores, offices, and distribution centers. The main challenge they face is from retrieving their materials responsibly. They take responsibility for it all and are determined to work with their partners and vendors to conserve water, remove toxins and reduce emissions. The company has initiated changes in their workplaces for people across the globe and are planning to eliminate virgin petroleum material from their products, use 100% reusable, home compostable, renewable or easily recyclable packaging, and be carbon net zero by 2024.



Founded in 1973 by Yvon Chouinard as a company to sell handmade climbing equipment, the program has maintained its environmental values.

"We're in business to save our home planet"

"Environmental Responsibility Programs." Patagonia, 2023, www.patagonia.com/our-responsibility-programs.html.



Levi's: As a company that has focused on the longevity of their product, Levi's has tunnel vision on the future. They have always been advocated for sustainability, and have partnerships and plans focused on climate, consumption, and community. They are well aware of the clothing industry's impact on the planet and are making progress towards sustainability behind the scenes. Specifically important with jeans is addressing the water use in creating these products. The Water<Less program has been in action since 2011 to maximize water efficiency. As of 2020 they have saved almost 13 billion liters of water, as water conservation strategies are at the forefront of their priorities. In 2021 the company launched their Buy Better, Wear Longer campaign to encourage more conscious purchasing decisions, showcasing their understanding with consumers.

"Better Clothes. Better Choices. Better Planet"

"Levi's® Values & Social Responsibility Initiatives: Levi's® US." Levi's Warehouse Sale, www.levi.com/US/en_US/features/our-values.

Baggu: Over the past decade there has been a change in the approach to plastic bags, and reusable bags and totes have been offered as an alternative, but not all bags live up to the same standard.



Baggu, founded in 2007, was created with the idea of a plastic grocery bag, but made out of nylon and sustainable practices. Over the past 17 years the company has grown with a commitment to using sustainable resources. Using a minimal waste design, their reusable bags are assembled from one continuous piece of recycled nylon material. The bags are sustainable in their longevity and curation, making them the perfect alternative for a plastic bag.

“We want every bag we make to live a long, productive life so we prioritize quality, ensuring our materials and construction hold up over time and age with character.”

“Sustainability.” Baggu, www.baggu.com/sustainability.

Working with 5 Gyres Institute Bee’s Wraps is committed to reducing plastic in homes, landfills, and oceans.

“From Nature, For Nature”

“Our Story.” Bee’s Wrap, 2024, www.beeswrap.com/pages/about.

Bee’s Wrap: This idea started with a simple idea: make it easy to cut down on plastic and store food sustainably. Founder Sarah Kaack turned to bees, nature’s more proactive and productive foodies for inspiration. Infusing organic cotton with a blend of beeswax, plant oil and tree resin, she created a durable yet pliable beeswax food wrap that could be used again and again - helping people be like bees and do their part for the greater good of the planet. From storing in the kitchen to packing sandwiches and snacks on the go, Bee’s Wrap is a small sustainable swap that adds up to make a big impact.



CLEAN PEOPLE: As opposed to using standard laundry detergent or laundry detergent pods, detergent strips are better for the planet. Clean People detergent strips have all the good stuff in your favorite laundry detergent without the bad stuff (parabens, phosphates, dyes, chlorine). The CLEAN PEOPLE detergent uses none of the water or plastic that is used for regular detergent, or its packaging, and every pack of strips that are sold, a tree is planted. By choosing CLEAN PEOPLE, instead of creating landfills of orange and blue plastic jugs, you can plant a tree.

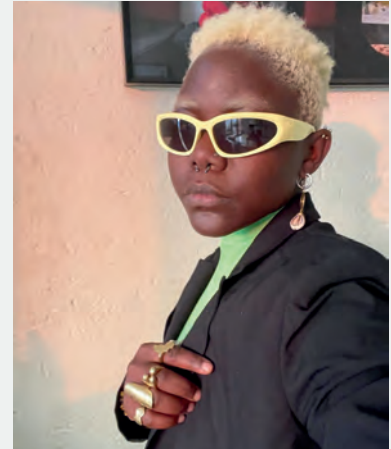
“CLEAN PEOPLE Laundry Detergent is Better for You and Better for the Environment”

“CLEAN PEOPLE.” Clean People, www.getcleanpeople.com/faqs/.

3 Youth Activist You Should Know About



Jordan Occasionally (They/he) - They're an artist activist based in the Memphis area, and I was first introduced to them at music gathering at Rhodes College back in October. They are actively speaking on and promoting aid for the those effected by the war on Palestine. They've hosted open mics for "Black and Palestinian Liberation" just this year in February, while also hosting a postcard event for Palestine! Jordan also makes amazing music, so go and check them out!



Papa De (They/them/theirs) is a Nonbinary Queer photographer and is an activist for queer Ugandans who are facing persecution by an anti-homosexuality law that was upheld in 2023. They started the movement "Hashtag What Next" in response to this. Their platform overall is not only based in activism but in celebration of the Black queer Ugandan identity!



Solana (she/her) is a Black queer British activist who is also actively fighting for Palestine using her social media platform as an advocacy method. She has done and continues to do firsthand interviews of protesters advocating for a ceasefire. She also has videos where she talks about their experience as a neurodivergent person!

The war on Palestine has also impacted Palestinian water sources and prevented fresh water from getting to those who are in Gaza. Water is hard to come by especially since waste management facilities have been damaged, and through this, the water has become polluted

Source: EuroNews.com

Follow them all on Instagram...
@Jordanoccasionally
@aconstantbecoming
@littlemissolana

Dear Writers...

These are questions that spark discussion amongst scholars, students, and people wanting to learn more about the intersectionality of gender, race, and the environment. Some readers have asked these questions to the writers of this magazine.

Dear Hope:

I am worried about women living in vulnerable communities being affected by climate change. What are some ways that I am able to help or take action against the inequalities?

Dear Gwenaelle:

I have noticed that El Nino and El Nina events have deeply affected women living in poverty. Have there been any organizations or non-profits that have helped?

Dear Sam:

I am frustrated by the lack of representation of indigenous women in publications and policy. What are some ways to incorporate indigenous knowledge into policymaking specifically when it is environmentally focused?

Dear Olivia:

I have noticed that women often bear the brunt of environmental degradation specifically in vulnerable communities such as Mongolia. Has there been an increase in attention to the problems presented? How can we examine these vulnerabilities through a feminist lens?



Dear Alivia:

I am curious to know if there have been any feminist organizations that have made it their mission to protect women and the environment in the face of climate change?



Read through some of the articles presented above to find the answers to your questions!

Answer Key!

We've got your back

 **Crossword** 

Feminism	equality for women
Environment	everything around us
Creation	brining into existence
Personal	unique
political	local and federal government
theory	a type of hypothesis
scalability	becoming larger or smaller
heatwave	series of hot weather
forest	a bunch of trees
river	long body of water
india	country where Bina Agarwal is from
coral	calcium substance in the ocean
drought	lack of water
Intersectionality	mixing of concepts
emotion	a mental reaction



 **NYT Connections** 

Disasters: hurricane, blizzard, flood, tornado

Animals at high risk of climate change:
sharks, lions, whales, elephants

Movements with the word "environmental"
in front of them justice, feminism, tourism,
conservation

Places at high risk of climate change: ocean,
coast, forest, glacier

 **Guess Some Guests** 

WEA- Description 2
WIEGO- Description 1
FAS- Description 4
GDN- Description 3

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Cover image credit: Vecteezy.com

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RHODES COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & SCIENCES

SOCIAL SCIENCES | HUMANITIES | NATURAL SCIENCES | FINE ARTS

This magazine was created as part of the Spring 2024 ENVS-250: Beyond Catastrophe: Feminist Approaches to Environmental Transformation class taught by Dr. Kate Shields.

The Environmental Studies and Sciences (ENVS) program at Rhodes College is a dynamic and interdisciplinary field that equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to address complex environmental challenges. Rooted in a liberal arts tradition, the program offers a holistic approach to understanding the environment, integrating perspectives from social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, and fine arts. Students engage in hands-on learning experiences, from fieldwork to research projects to local internships, fostering a deep understanding of environmental issues and solutions. With dedicated faculty guidance and a commitment to sustainability, Rhodes College prepares students to become thoughtful leaders and stewards of our planet, shaping a brighter future for generations to come.

We offer a major and minor in both Environmental Studies and Environmental Sciences. Environmental Studies classes focus on social factors relating to the environment, including elective classes in economics, history, religious studies, art and more. Environmental Science classes focus more on the natural science relating to the environment with elective classes in biology, chemistry, geology, math, and geography. While students in both majors/minors take classes in both environmental studies and environmental sciences, the chosen area of study focuses on the respective area. Classes required for both majors include ENVS-150: Environment and society, ENVS-225: Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and ENVS-486: Senior Seminar. This way, periodically throughout the curriculum, students are able to share their different backgrounds of study in the class setting.

Students with ENVS majors go on to a range of different careers, with some examples including graduate and professional schools in biology, business, city and regional planning, earth systems science, ecology and evolution, environmental education, environmental science, geography, law, and public health. Alumni are currently teaching (locally and internationally), working for non-profit organizations, working as GIS analysts, working for businesses, and much more!