The Gender and Development Initiative
A research and policy agenda that started in the 1970s as “women in development” (WID)

Influence of feminist theorizing led to focus on gender relations in the development process (GAD)

International organizations (e.g. World Bank, IMF, World Economic Forum) in the 21st century emphasize women’s contributions to economic growth

MDGs and SDGs: data collection and policy dialogues

Feminist academic scholarship notes contribution of women’s political and economic empowerment to social development and democratization

Proposed Gender and Development Institute at Northeastern would be the first of its kind
Objectives, foci, participants

- To create an institute at NEU for teaching and research on gender and development, including exploration of causes of gender inequality and pathways to women’s empowerment, with a focus on the Global South; linking women’s health and economic/political empowerment to (human) security and sustainable societies; contributing to building core competencies in economic development/development studies at Northeastern.

- To create research and consulting partnerships with GAD specialists in international organizations and academia; to explore experiential learning possibilities for students.

- Thematic areas: women’s health and education, labor markets/FLFP, political participation, domestic violence.

- Research: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches; cross-disciplinary conceptualizations (economics, political science, sociology, anthropology) of relationships between women’s empowerment and political economy, institutions, cultural norms, and state policy.

- Teaching: courses in ECON, IAF, Global Studies.

- Policy dialogues and advocacy for change.

- Participants thus far: Val Moghadam, Bill Dickens, Bilge Erten, Catalina Herrera-Almanza, Prisca Castanyer, Robin Chandler, Richard Wamai, Anjuli Fahlberg (graduate assistant).

- Identify collaborators in the College of Health, D’Amore-Kim School of Business, College of Law.
Activities 2015-16

- GAD Workshop, February 2015
- Participation at annual conference of International Association for Feminist Economics (Berlin, July 2015)
- New courses: “Gender and Development” (Herrera-Almanza); “Applied Economic Development: Theory and Policy” (Erten); “Political Economy: Interdisciplinary Perspectives” (Moghadam)
- Conference: Women’s Empowerment and International Organizations: Opportunities, Achievements, Constraints, April 2016 (speakers from UN Women, USAID, UNFPA, ICRW, World Bank)
- Lecture series:
  - Agnes Quisumbing, Oct. 2015
  - Bina Agarwal, Fall 2016
  - Diane Elson, March 2017
- 1-credit course cross-listed in ECON and IAF
- NU Panel Discussion: The Politics and Economics of Women’s Empowerment: Fall 2016
- Current research: women’s declining labor force participation in Turkey and implications for growth (Erten); patterns of women’s political participation and leadership in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia, and their relationship to the quality of ongoing democratic transitions (Moghadam); effects of family planning policies on fertility control and women’s education and economic outcomes as well as their children’s health in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on Madagascar (Herrera Almanza).
Funding Sources

- Internal: FY 2016 Tier I Seed Grant and Humanities center grant
  - Co-PI’s: Val Moghadam, Bilge Erten (ECON/IAF), Catalina Herrera-Almanza (ECON/IAF)

External (pending):
- NSF Law and Social Sciences Grant;
- Ford Foundation, with the Levy Institute and the Centre for Development Alternatives;
- Hewlett Foundation-Population Reference Bureau Research Grant;(Herrera, awarded)
- Grand Challenges Grant (Consortium with USAID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Grand Challenges Canada
- Turkish Science Foundation and IDRC.