

« GENDER AND GEOPOLITICS » OBSERVATORY

Women and girls' access to rights and resources is still threatened all around the world. For instance, according to UN Women estimations, three quarters of the people living under the extreme poverty line are women. The issues linked with women's rights, sexual and sexist violence, the body, sexuality, social relation to sex, femininity stereotypes, affect and concern a growing number of decision-makers and international actors. **Reflection tools** are thus necessary to understand these phenomena and build concrete actions to fight the inequalities and discrimination endured by women and girls in theocratic, authoritarian, but also democratic regimes.

No continent can reach durable development if women are still limited to second-class roles. Major obstacles are still hindering their access to responsibilities. **Women are however not only victims**; in several regions of the world, they have a **capacity of resilience, of resistance and of political action**, which they use to help their community or their country, during peace as well as during conflicts. The growing number of political revolts and of economic and social reforms lead by women in the world shows not only that the fight against gender inequalities and for empowerment is used by mobilisation entrepreneurs, but also that **these claims go beyond women's rights** since they also include **fighting for democracy, against socio-economic inequalities, against racism, for the protection of climate and biodiversity, for the access to education**, etc. This is why, since the first World Conference on Women in 1975 in Mexico, international organisations such as the United Nations are increasingly pleading for women's role in the development, peace, and political transition processes to be acknowledged.

Addressing geopolitics through gender allows for **an innovative approach of "classic" topics of the international agenda, such as health, development, culture, employment, environment, sports**, etc.

Considering the **2030 agenda** and the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** set by the UN, it is essential to adopt a **transversal approach of the great worldwide challenges** faced by the nations and the people, which will require a greater collaboration between the States, institutions, experts, field actors, NGOs, within the framework of a flexible and widened governance. **The gender approach lays the foundations of a paradigm change** for public and private policies favouring gender equality for an **inclusive growth**, because equality, as it is now acknowledged by all major international organisations (UN, OECD, IMF, World Bank, etc.) is a driving force of sustainable social change.

BENEFITS

Created in April 2019, supervised by Marie-Cécile Naves, fellow researcher at IRIS, **the Gender and Geopolitics Observatory** aims at **promoting inter- and multidisciplinary research** on the ways gender can be used to understand geopolitics, act more efficiently against inequalities and violence, and promote the empowerment of women. Using gender studies to understand reality is not only beneficiary to **human and social sciences**, it can also help **medicine, biology, or digital sciences**, because of the diverse implications of inequalities and empowerment issues. The Observatory aims both at giving **advocacy arguments** to decision-makers and being a **negotiation and decision-making helping tool**, for the public and private sectors, on a wide range of international issues.

The Gender and Geopolitics Observatory, which is **at the crossroads of research, decision-making and public debate**, is a place of expertise and prospective, where different people interested in gender issues meet and commit themselves **to fight gender inequalities and promote women's role all around the world**, on different topics of the agenda. The goal is to dedicate collective thinking to a reflection both theoretical and concrete, and to the action for the common good and sustainable development.

SUPPORT

- An **interdisciplinary expertise** relying on current research
- Collection and analysis of good **international practices**
- Creation and support of a **network of field actors**
- Field actions **evaluation**
- **International advocacy**

TOOLS AND DELIVERABLES

- **Publication** or series of publications
- **Reports and analytical notes**, may contain recommendations
- **Articles**, press papers
- Videos of testimonies and **good local practices**
- **MOOC** for gender equality actors
- **Scientific field studies**
- **National and international** colloquia, conferences, workshops



CONTACTS

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IRIS

IRIS, a public-interest association created in 1991, is a French think tank on **geopolitical and strategic issues**. The Institute covers a wide range of topics dealing with geostrategic issues, working for public institutions (ministry, European institutions, Parliament, international organisations) and private companies who order studies, notes and training. IRIS researchers take part in several conferences in France and around the world.

Simultaneously, its media activity, its dynamism online and on **social media**, as well as the many events it organises, allow IRIS to take fully part in **international and strategic debates**, while answering the **general public's** need for analysis.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Marie-Cécile Naves holds a PhD in political science from University Paris-Dauphine, she is an expert in gender and equality issues. She co-wrote and co-directed several reports for the government or the French President, including “Lutter contre les stéréotypes filles-garçons : un enjeu d'égalité et de mixité dès l'enfance” (“Fighting boy-girl stereotypes: an issue of equality and diversity that begins during childhood”) (France Stratégie, 2014), “Reconnaître, valoriser, encourager l'engagement des jeunes” (“Seeing, valuing, encouraging youth commitment”) (France Stratégie, 2015), or “Un plan pour co-construire une société apprenante” (Strategy to co-build a learning society”) (Conference of University and Interdisciplinary Research Centres, 2018). Former counsellor of the Minister of National Education, Higher Education and Research Najat Vallaud-Belkacem (2015-2017), she is now a **Fellow Researcher at IRIS and Studies Director** of the European think tank **Sport et Citoyenneté** (Sports and Citizenship).

Latest publications: “Le sport, outil d'émancipation des filles et des femmes à travers le monde. Onze bonnes pratiques internationales” (bilingual work in French and English), Sport et Citoyenneté/Fondation CHANEL, afterword by Anne Hidalgo, 2019), “Géopolitique des États-Unis” (Eyrolles, 2018), “Trump, la revanche de l'homme blanc” (Textuel, 2018).

Marie-Cécile Naves has also conceived and designed the MOOC “Vers une planète apprenante” (“Towards a learning planet”) (made up of four documentaries) by the Interdisciplinary Research Centre, in association with François Taddei.