



**The UN Sustainable Development Goals & Women:
New Questions for Social Change and Research
Walden University National Faculty Meeting, Summer 2017**

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Our thematic review of SDG#5 found that achieving gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda presents a large opportunity to achieve more than just gender equality; it contributes to ending poverty and hunger, combatting inequalities within and among countries through education and health, building peace, and supporting just and inclusive societies through economic and work opportunities. As our research continues, we are investigating more nuanced applications of gender throughout all 17 SDGs, and associated policy and implementation processes.

We bring an interdisciplinary perspective to our collaborative work, meshing our respective interests in environmental science and policy with social science and education. We build on our shared interests in gender and leadership, ethics and social responsibility. From environmental science and public policy perspective, we want to understand the governmental implications of gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and we ask: how gender can act as an enabler and accelerator for all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? From a social science and education perspective, we want to understand social and cultural contexts, and we ask: what will help improve women’s and girls’ lives in families, communities, and societies, and allow them to help achieve the SDG’s?

In September 2017, we will co-facilitate an independent online class, [Create Your Publication Strategy for Social Impact](#). Previous work together includes a variety of presentations and publications. In spring 2016, we offered a webinar about women and the SDG's, which catalyzed our research. Lynn contributed a chapter (Wilson, 2012) to *Cases in Online Interview Research*, edited by Janet (Salmons, 2012). Note that *Cases in Online Interview Research* is available in the Walden Library. We developed the Collaborative Integration Paradigm, which we discussed in our writings, webinars and presentations. We co-wrote *Environmental Issues, Policy and Management Collaboration Toolbox* (Wilson & Salmons, 2011), and co-edited the [A Handbook of Research on Electronic Collaboration and Organizational Synergy](#) (Salmons & Wilson, 2009).

Women, Girls, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Gender equality is the central theme for goal number 5 and related targets. However, gender is central to the targets for almost every one of the Sustainable Development Goals. The goals and targets that relate to our research interests include the following:



GOAL 1 focuses on eradication of poverty in all forms. Of particular interest for the well-being of women and girls is GOAL 1.4 and related point in 5.B: access to ... and control over appropriate new technology, and use of technology to promote women's empowerment. [Learn more about progress being moved to achieve this goal.](#)



GOAL 2 focuses on ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. We highlighted the importance of GOAL 2.3 for women and girls: access to ... productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. [Learn more about progress being moved to achieve this goal.](#)



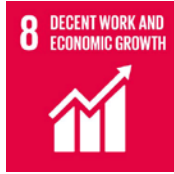
GOAL 3 focuses on links between health and sustainable development. One relevant point for women and girls is stated in GOAL 3.7: access to ...family planning, information and education. [Learn more about progress being moved to achieve this goal.](#)



GOAL 4 points to the need for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities. Under this important goal, we focused on two important targets: GOAL 4.3 Equal access to technical and vocational skills and tertiary education. GOAL 4.4 Equal access to relevant technical and vocational skills for employment and entrepreneurship. [Learn more about progress being moved to achieve this goal.](#)



GOAL 5 signifies the importance of achieving gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls. All of the targets for this goal are relevant to the interests of the study. [Learn more about progress being moved to achieve this goal.](#)



GOAL 8 relates work to economic growth and points to the need for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. GOAL 8.4 is significant to the study since it points to the need for full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men. [Learn more about progress being moved to achieve this goal.](#)

A comprehensive approach to SDG 5 that leverages synergies between SDG 5 and other Goals and promotes systematic mainstreaming of gender perspectives in implementing the 2030 Agenda will contribute both to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as to ensure progress across all Goals and targets.

Reference List for Poster and Handout

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Update: (July, 2017)

Since the original research was conducted for the poster, continuing events and publications have further refined the original themes for needed research into specific areas that complement the UNFCCC process to assist countries with achieving the outcomes of the Paris Agreement. Some of these are general, such as newly adopted statements at the July 2017 Economic and Social Council High-Level Political Forum on furthering the role of gender in Agenda 2030 implementation processes. Others are more specific. For example, the UN Secretary General's Second SDG Progress Report issued in May, 2017 identifies the role that global legal frameworks play in perpetuating gender-based discrimination. Drs. Wilson and Salmons continue to investigate gender issues and their evolving application across all SDGs.

Two specific actions applicable to the joint ongoing gender research are being undertaken by the researchers and their affiliated organizations. SeaTrust Institute is launching the first portion of the sustainable development measurement and evaluation system **Lighthouse Standard** to help countries construct their national level SDG and NAP indicators; and the researchers are co-presenting through Vision2Lead the independent online class that will further support SDG and gender research, [Create Your Publication Strategy for Social Impact](#).