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Abstract

Gender and Transition in Climate Governance

This article demonstrates how gender is implicated in climate governance through insights derived from gender and transition studies in combination, applied and illustrated through a study of climate governance in Sweden. The approach is constructive and uses central analytical concepts: transition arenas, niches, regimes and landscapes together with insights from gender research. The article proposes that the two fields converge in three arguments on what is necessary to make a transition: to strengthen representation, to deal with oppressive power relations and to challenge institutionalized norms. The article shows: For one that a gender perspective on climate governance must look beyond representation in transition arenas and niches to consider how gender is articulated in policies for climate transitions. Second, that gender regimes dictate planning, measures and implementation and governance should consider how regimes could be circumvented. Finally, it illustrates how male norms seem to permeate the landscape of climate transitions.

Keywords: climate governance; gender regime; male/masculine norms; equal representation; gender parity; transition theories.

Highlights

- The article demonstrates how gender is implicated in climate transitions.
- The approach is constructive and based on central concepts of transition theory—transition arenas, regimes and landscapes— combined with knowledge in gender research.
- The article is structured around three arguments that focus on what is necessary to make a transition: to strengthen representation, to deal with oppressive power relations and to challenge institutionalized norms.
- The arguments are applied and illustrated through an original case study of climate governance in Sweden.
- An important finding is that gender equality/parity in governance bodies does not imply that gender aspects are taken into account in policies.
- The analysis shows that a gender perspective on climate governance must look beyond representation in transition arenas and niches to consider how gender is articulated in policies that set the agenda for climate transitions and address how gender regimes dictate scenarios, planning, the choice of measures and implementation as well as consider how gender regimes can be circumvented.

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