

Critical Knowledges Across Borders

Workshop 4

Widening Participation



Sharing our Knowledge

The effects of widening participation in political decision-making has been viewed as both positive in terms of its enrichment of democracy and negative because, it is claimed, too many active citizens do not have the capacities required to make good and non-biased decisions. Advocates for gender equality argue women's participation in public debate and decision-making is essential if imbalances in gender power are to be challenged. This workshop implements a 'dig where you stand' approach to enable women to consider participation in debates about political change.

Expanding our knowledge

Citizen's assemblies have become a popular tool for facilitating the participation of diverse voices and identities in constitutional change. This session looks at the gender dynamics within citizen's assemblies – do men speak more than women? It also examines the gender outcomes of citizen's assemblies on constitutional issues and futures. Moreover, it examines participation in the public sphere to promote gender equality.

Envisaging our futures

Hilary Clinton noted: 'When women participate in politics, the effects ripple out across society... Women are the world's most underused resource'. How can we deepen participatory opportunities for women and all the social groups they belong to in current constitutional debates? What barriers will different groups face? What needs to be done? What are the opportunities for developing cross-border spaces for women to engage with constitutional issues.