

Abstract

The dissertation examines the gender dimensions of climate change adaptation policies, focusing on the Chinese and EU contexts. Using a multidisciplinary approach including economics, public administration and gender studies, the thesis examines the extent of gender mainstreaming in climate adaptation policy. Drawing on feminist institutionalism, it examines the barriers and facilitators to gender mainstreaming in climate policy formulation and implementation. It shows that there is a clear lack of gender mainstreaming in China's climate policy. Climate change continues to be viewed primarily as a scientific and gender-neutral issue. In contrast, the EU's climate adaptation policies show a more nuanced, but still insufficient, gender mainstreaming. While recognising gender differences, EU policies tend to position women as vulnerable subjects rather than active participants in adaptation efforts. Using qualitative methods, including semi-structured interviews, this study identifies key barriers to effective gender mainstreaming in climate policy. These include limited awareness, communication gaps and resistance to systemic change. It highlights the importance of addressing informal system dynamics. It advocates a multifaceted approach to gender integration in climate adaptation strategies, and stresses the need for greater recognition of gender dynamics in climate policy at all levels. It calls for increased efforts to empower women and address systemic biases in climate change governance. By providing insights into the complexities of gender mainstreaming in climate policy, this paper contributes to theoretical advances and offers practical recommendations for developing more inclusive and effective climate adaptation strategies.

Keywords: Gender mainstreaming, Climate Change Policy, China, European Union, Feminist Institutionalism, Policy Analysis.