

Conceptualizing Gender and Adaptive Governance in Canadian Forest-dependent Communities

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Gender issues in natural resource management

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Forestry had been generally regarded as an area mainly for men's work, business, and governance. Within organizations, from households to companies to authorities, a gendered organizational logic is at work which not only reproduces a structure of gender divisions but also, paradoxically, at the same time, makes gender invisible (Report of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Gender and Forestry 2006:1)

“Adaptive capacity” + “Good environmental governance”

“**governance**”: “the formal and informal institutional arrangements for decision making that include and extend beyond government to involve the private sector, Aboriginal communities, and civil society organizations, as well as the rule systems under which these different actor groups operate” (after Francis 2003)

Where “governance” emerges from a long literature in public participation and “adaptive” emerges from work in adaptive management and adaptive capacity.

Little research grapples with gender, adaptation, and environmental governance as a whole.





Adaptive governance defined...

“the ability of governing institutions to respond to current environmental and social disturbances as well as to define and achieve sustainable policies and management practices through coordination of users, knowledge systems, authorities, interests, and social groups.”

Legitimacy is about inclusion...

	Female		Male		Total
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>
Alberta	24	18.8	104	81.3	128
British Columbia	24	31.6	52	68.4	76
Manitoba	5	12.2	36	87.8	41
New Brunswick	11	10.0	99	90.0	110
Newfoundland	4	28.6	10	71.4	14
Nova Scotia	2	16.7	10	83.3	12
Ontario	34	13.7	214	86.3	248
Quebec	73	18.7	318	81.3	391
Saskatchewan	3	8.1	34	91.9	37
Total	180	17.0	877	83.0	1057

Principles and characteristics of adaptive governance

- Strategic Vision
- Legitimacy
- Accountability
- Fairness
- Performance-orientation
- Adaptive



Some principles defined

Legitimacy: recognizes and includes a wide range of interests and values; engenders a high degree of trust; integrates different ways of learning, knowing, and using the environment.

Fairness: supportive judicial environment, effective rule enforcement, equal opportunities to participate; provides mechanisms for accessibility for groups with different resources; builds capacity of individuals and groups; provides “fair” outcomes across different stakeholders.

Performance-orientation: addresses conflict and builds consensus; effective in making decisions and taking actions; efficient; responsive; and coordinated.

Adaptive: seeks novel ideas to monitor and adjust to change; allows for learning to take place through structured experimentation; considers alternative learning styles and outcomes; builds mechanisms for monitoring and feedback; provides flexibility in decisions to allow for changes when new information is acquired; systematically accounts for risks.

Selected attributes of adaptive capacity

Assets & endowments

Financial

Technical

Institutional

Social

Political

Adaptive capacity

Capabilities created and maintained through time and space

Socio-institutional relationships of exchange

Relationships of **power** with implications for rule creation, enforcement, distribution of benefits, costs

Control, ownership, valuation & use of **knowledge** in decision making context

Stability, consistency and/or evolution of **cultural** norms, values, worldviews

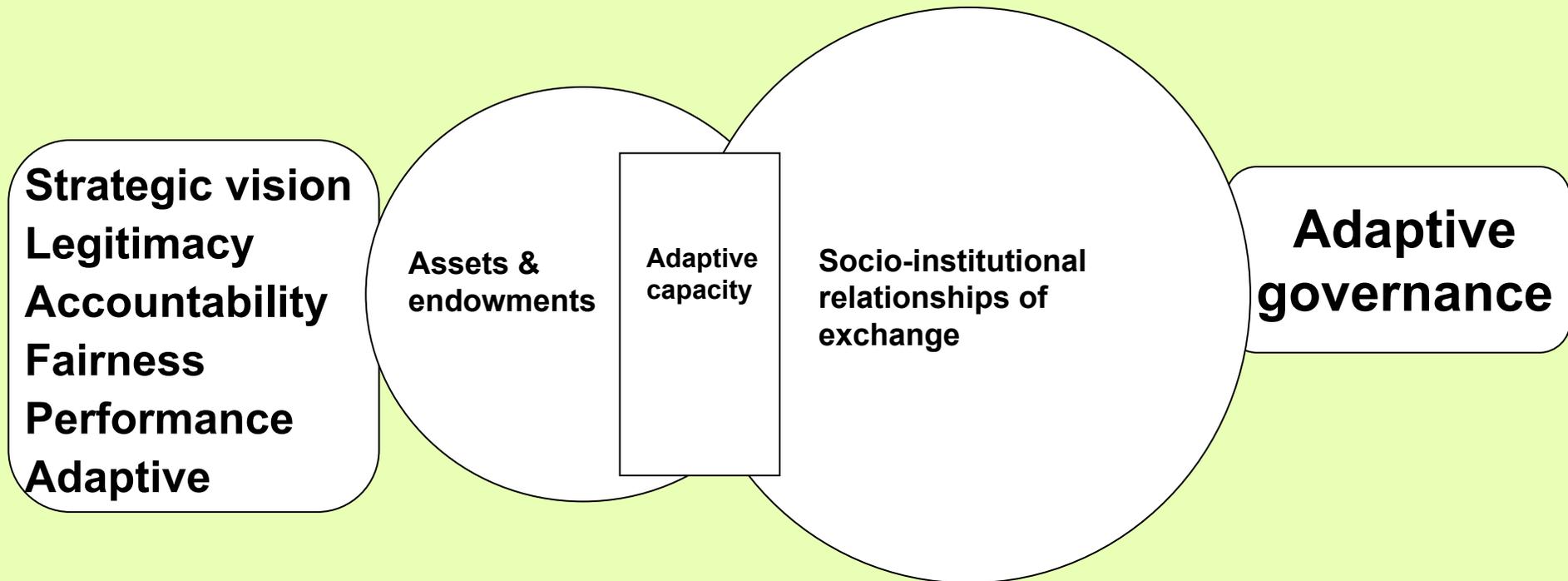
Ethnic, religious, class differences within **communities**, community heterogeneity

Change and pressure on **livelihood** systems (commodification)

Source: Armitage 2007, p. 70

NB: Emphasis in original

The filters between our principles and governing arrangements



Assets and socio-institutional relationships act as a “filter”, affecting the extent to which the principles are met.

Gender and adaptive governance in Canada's forest-dependent communities

A cross-Canada survey of 102 forest sector advisory committees examined

- Forest values
- Influences on committees
- Methods of learning
- Sponsorship
- Opinions on group process

Gender affects both objective meeting of the principles as well as their subjective interpretation



Legitimacy: Agreement on Forest Values

Intrinsic

	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>N</u>
Humans should have more respect and admiration for the forests**	4.54	4.40	1042
Forests rejuvenate the human spirit**	4.52	4.35	1035
Forests should have the right to exist for their own sake, regardless of human concerns and uses**	3.72	3.47	1027
Forests are sacred places*	3.65	3.13	1036
Forests should be left to grow, develop, and succumb to natural forces without being managed by humans*	2.51	2.01	1037

Scale: 1 (totally disagree) to 5 (totally agree)

*Sig. at $p < 1\%$

**Sig. at $p < 5\%$

Legitimacy: Agreement on Forest Values

Utilitarian

	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>N</u>
Forests can be improved through management by humans*	3.81	4.20	1035
The primary function of forests should be for products and services that are useful to humans*	2.40	2.85	1038
Forests should exist mainly to serve human needs*	2.43	2.75	1031
Forests that are not used for the benefit of humans are a waste of our natural resources*	1.99	2.45	1040

Scale: 1 (totally disagree) to 5 (totally agree)

*Sig. at $p < 1\%$

**Sig. at $p < 5\%$

Legitimacy:

Feels that Committee Represents All Values**

“In your opinion, does this committee represent the values of all interested and affected groups, even if they are not on the committee?”

	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	
	#	%	#	%
Yes	123	68.7	638	77.0
No	56	31.3	191	23.0
Total	179	100.0	829	100.0

*Sig. at $p < 1\%$ **Sig. at $p < 5\%$

Legitimacy: Affiliations with other groups

	Women		Men		N
	#	%	#	%	
Belongs to natural history or bird-watching club***	21	12.3	65	7.8	1002
Belongs to hunting or fishing organisation*	37	21.5	319	37.9	1014
Belongs to environmental organisation***	48	27.6	175	21.2	1001
Belongs to community or social service organization	75	43.5	328	39.3	1007
Natural resource as livelihood in household	101	57.1	450	52.1	1045

*p<1%, **p<5%, ***p<10% (Pearson's Chi Square)

Fairness through access: Why participating?

“Why did you agree to participate on the committee?”

	<u>Women</u>		<u>Men</u>		<u>N</u>
	#	%	#	%	
Required to attend as part of my job*	88	48.9	317	36.1	405
Want to contribute to planning since the forest is a public resource**	141	78.3	747	85.2	888
Ensure that recreational opportunities are not diminished **	109	60.5	629	71.7	738
Concerned about the impact of the forest industry on environment	157	87.2	762	86.9	919
Want to learn more about forest management in the area	137	76.1	623	71.0	760
Concerned about forest industry jobs in area	131	72.8	659	75.1	790

*Sig. at $p < 1\%$ **Sig. at $p < 5\%$



Fairness: Women in forestry jobs and forestry communities lack role models

“because we don’t have a lot of women in the industry we don’t naturally gravitate towards thinking about or suggesting women to be on the committee (Richardson 2008)”



Fairness: Most Influential in setting meeting's agenda

“In your view, who has been the most influential in setting the agenda for the meetings?”

	Female		Male	
	#	%	#	%
Industry officials	48	28.4	205	24.6
The participants themselves**	45	26.6	288	34.5
The facilitator	26	15.4	134	16.1
Provincial government officials	24	14.2	134	16.1
More than one view	17	10.1	37	4.4
Other	9	5.3	36	4.3
Total	169	100.0	834	100.0

*Sig. at $p < 1\%$ **Sig. at $p < 5\%$

Fairness:

Women of influence conform to normative expectations

...women on the committee were “*exceptionally strong, outspoken women that have the confidence to step into these roles*”



The emotional approach I have trouble dealing with and I think most guys do when it gets too emotional and it's an emotional argument, as opposed to a rational, science-based as I call it, argument, because it tends to lose credibility in the business. It's a man's business and we don't really want to hear that stuff.

Both quotes from Richardson 2008



Performance: Rate your satisfaction with...

	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>
The representativeness of the committee	3.94 (0.972)	4.01 (0.895)
The decision-making process in the committee**	3.60 (1.117)	3.78 (1.026)
The overall process in which you are involved	3.75 (1.017)	3.86 (0.993)

Scale: 1 (totally disagree) to 5 (totally agree)

*Sig. at $p < 1\%$

**Sig. at $p < 5\%$

Women had ideas about performance

“Shorter, more concise agendas”

“Set priorities and stick to them”

“I am no longer on the committee because I didn't feel it served an important purpose..., we didn't work on forest management but on public education” (survey respondent)



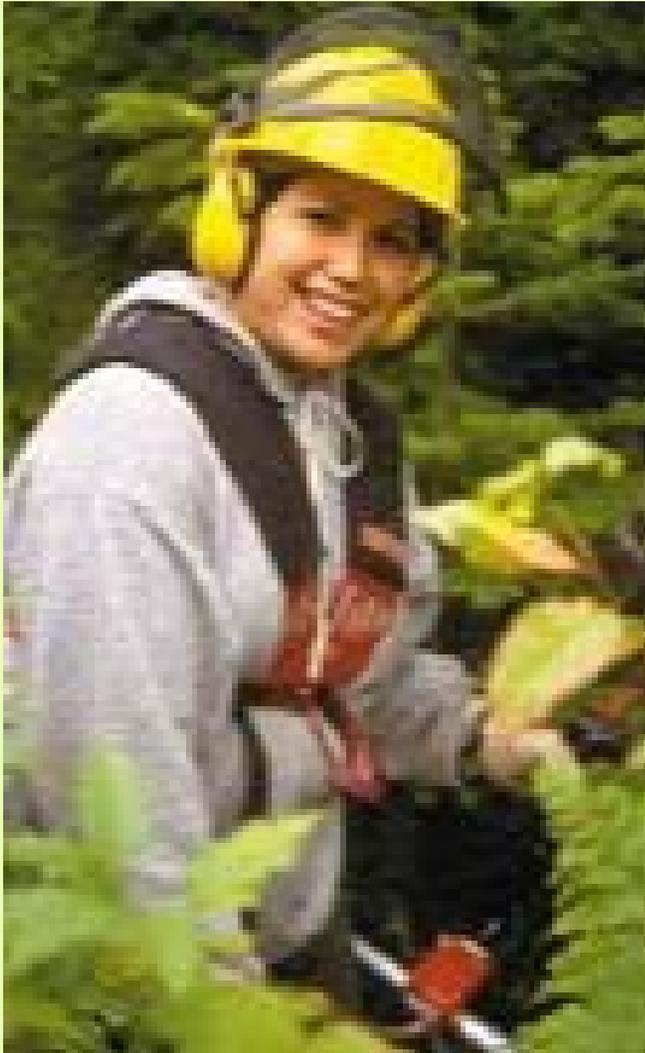
Adaptive: Most Accurate Information

“From all the items listed, which single source do you consider the most accurate?”

	Female		Male	
	#	%	#	%
Research scientists**	61	38.1	225	27.7
Government agencies	33	20.6	171	21.0
First-hand visits to the forest	27	16.9	127	15.6
Forest industry*	24	15.0	207	25.5
Environmental/conservation agencies	11	6.9	49	6.0
Media	2	1.3	15	1.8
Other	2	1.3	10	1.2
Friends or relatives	0	0.0	9	1.1
Total	160	100.0	813	100.0

*Sig. at $p < 1\%$ **Sig. at $p < 5\%$

Limited learning outcomes



- Female respondents experienced communicative learning outcomes.
- Male respondents experienced instrumental learning outcomes.
- Neither women nor men reported seeking novel ideas or building mechanisms for monitoring & feedback.

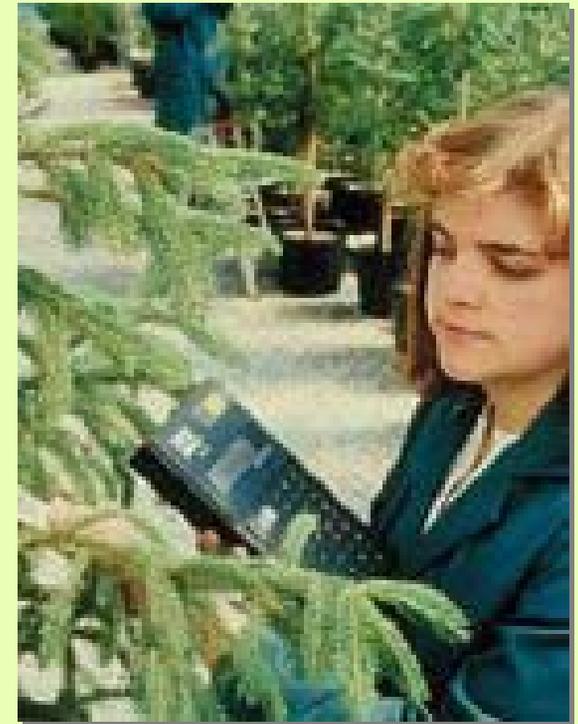
Conclusions: 5 observations

- Forestry advisory committees are highly gendered forest management units.
- Informal institutional arrangements - norms, values, gender identities and expectations - favour masculine ways of knowing and doing.
- There is merit in understanding the role of social capital.
- Principles and characteristics of adaptive governance will be differently interpreted by women and men.
- Indicators and outcomes of learning will also be shaped by gender.



Feminist geographer Suzanne MacKenzie

“Feminist research ... is not ‘just’ about women... feminist research is not ‘just’ an empirical study. Rewriting [human-environmental studies] ‘with the gender relations in it’ ... is as much a process of methodological and conceptual rectification as it is of addressing new empirical questions.” (MacKenzie 1984, p. 3).



A dense forest scene with sunlight filtering through the trees. The image shows a thick canopy of green leaves and dark tree trunks. Sunlight creates bright, dappled patterns on the foliage. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

Thank you!