

# Next steps

Having set out these initial directions for the future, IDS' Gender and Sexuality cluster is embarking on a series of steps to communicate these directions and the connections between them, as well as updating and strengthening our partnerships and internal capacity, while exploring strategies for resourcing the work.

## Communicating the directions and interactions

Complementing this report and its accompanying four-page briefing, we have rebuilt the website 'Interactions for Gender Justice' (<http://interactions.ids.ac.uk/>) in a way that highlights the linkages between the different

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 “Highlighting the linkages between different streams of work has contributed to our thinking on these new directions.”  
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streams of work (plus some linkages to other work), which has contributed to our thinking on these new directions and vice versa.

We will also be communicating this agenda and priority linkages identified through a range of policy forums and

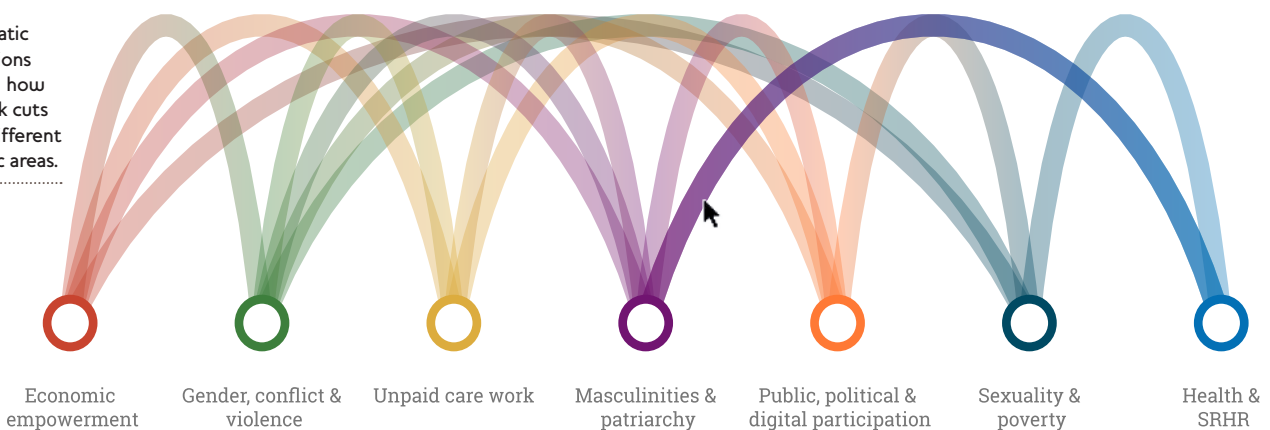
communications strategies. For example, we will aim to convene opportunities for policymakers to engage with researchers and activists to share perspectives on

these issues and questions to influence specific policy development directions for policy and research. In addition to engaging with UK-based stakeholders, for example at UK Gender and Development Network (GADN) meetings, we aim to present and share the outlines of these new directions for IDS at meetings of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), also distributing the summary four-page briefing. Complementing in-person presentations, dialogues and exchanges, there will be a range of communications activities such as:

- conducting horizon-scanning and environment mapping to refresh our knowledge of the key existing stakeholders;
- harnessing IDS central communications social media channels for promotion and engagement globally;
- monitoring online fora (e.g. *The Guardian* global development professionals network) and stimulating discussion with messages drawing on questions and priorities raised here.

As part of the 'Interactions' relaunch, we will also showcase these directions, and produce blog posts for each area, highlighting the linkages between the areas of work and between related SDGs, and why they are crucial areas of exploration and resourcing.

► Thematic connections showing how our work cuts across different thematic areas.



## Updating partnerships and strengthening capacities

As an immediate priority, the Gender and Sexuality cluster at IDS will be reaching out to existing and new potential partners, based on the streams we have presented here for future bids, both to collaborate in proposal development and to enrich existing work. We aim to bring the identified questions and linkages into related work with partners, as well as with colleagues across IDS in a range of ways. These might include: attending meetings of other IDS clusters to present summaries of these new directions and invite discussion about potential collaboration; approaching colleagues at the University of Sussex to include this agenda within their seminars and other informal gatherings; and using intelligence gathered in these activities to identify and map out 'linkages' between these research agendas and other projects at IDS and the University of Sussex.

In 2017, IDS is starting the recruitment of an additional and experienced Research Fellow in Gender and Sexuality, who will have significant expertise within at least two of the thematic areas we cover. We are also undertaking analysis of our current partnership landscape, identifying gaps and actively recruiting prospective replacements. In this effort, we aim to consolidate a range of advisory groups from past and existing programmes and projects into a more cross-cutting group that will mirror our identified priority cross-theme linkages, and complement internal capacity.

## Resourcing the research

In the later stages of this process, and going forward in early 2017, we have started a range of consultation meetings with different development cooperation agencies and other funders to present our new directions, and to gauge their own priorities and interest. We have so far met with staff from DFID, Sida, Norad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

Nations (FAO), and others, while visits are continuing in Europe and will also take place in the US in connection with the CSW 2017. Through these meetings, and engagement with policymakers at various fora described above, we will also explore new modalities for resourcing this work through partnerships and collaboration. Likely strategies

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include attending meetings of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) in Paris to share agendas with representatives from bilateral agencies, approaching consultancies with shared interests (e.g.

Social Development Direct (SDD), Itad and Oxford Policy Management (OPM)), or approaching consortia managers, to highlight IDS knowledge and research services that could meet their needs in the areas identified, as well as utilising IDS Alumni databases and drawing on former staff to identify individuals for guidance on how to get these directions profiled in the most relevant places.

Finally, we will be using our understanding of the gender and sexuality landscape and challenges presented here as a background when designing new projects. For new funding bids on specific projects, we will endeavour to include some efforts to draw in one or more of these directions in the design.

So, after 50 years at the forefront of international development and some 40 years of contributing to key debates and the generation of knowledge on gender and sexuality, IDS invites like-minded partners, allies and supporters in all forms to join us in refreshing our approaches for addressing the complex challenges of this historical moment, and for creating new opportunities for co-constructing transformative knowledge on gender and sexuality in an increasingly unequal and volatile world.

“Join and support us in addressing the complex challenges to gender justice in our increasingly unequal, volatile world.”