

Tuesday, 7 January / Martes 7 de enero

16:00-17:30: Salón Rubí

**Special Session / Sesión Especial**

**Women Geographers and Women in Geography in the Americas  
/  
Geógrafas y las Mujeres en la Geografía en las Américas**

*Chair: Patricia Solís*

***A Partial Landscape of Women Geographers and Women in  
Geography in the Americas***

Patricia Solís

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By way of introduction to the panel topic, general overview information about women geographers in the Americas will be shared. A close collaboration between the Association of American Geographers (AAG), the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH/IPGH) and the International Geographical Union (IGU) in 2011 led to expanded information about geography education, organizations related to geographic studies and research as well as general information about geographers across the American continent. Some of this data, particularly those about individual researchers, includes results broken out by gender of the respondents. To set the stage for the panelists and discussion following, some broad findings will be given and a few insights will be offered.

*Keywords:* Geography, women, research, education, collaboration

***Female Geographers Building International Academic Relationships***

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The impact that female geographers who have worked in the Department of Geography at the University of Panama have had is multifaceted. Particularly, this impact has been felt in the advance of international academic relationships. These themes will be discussed in the context of the panel topics.

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### ***Role of Women in Field Work***

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Dimensions of international fieldwork and the notion of roles women play imply a complex set of relationships and perspectives, not to mention particular skills, abilities, and attitudes. For women, these roles may also be multifaceted and negotiated within particular shifting contexts of place and time. Discussion will be raised regarding the roles of women in fieldwork in Latin America, drawing upon personal experiences and insights.

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### ***Feminist Geography and Reciprocity***

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Feminist geographers have long been concerned with the ethics of fieldwork, particularly issues of power, representation, knowledge production and reciprocity between the researcher and the “study subject.” The notion of reciprocity in “the field” merits revisiting in light of the proliferation of feminist methodologies, reflections on positionality, participatory methods, activist/action research, community engagement and collaboration, service learning and discussions of ethics and responsibility. There is a growing sense of the need to “do something” with and for the individuals/communities with whom we work in exchange for the benefits we derive as researchers. Examples from research experiences illustrate the complicated and context specific nature of attempts at reciprocity and raise questions regarding praxis, challenges, rewards, ethics and responsibility surrounding reciprocity.

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### ***Institutional Strengthening by and for Women***

Isis Tejada  
*National Institute of Geography in Panama “Tommy Guardia”*

Women play a unique role in strengthening institutions where they work. Understanding this dynamic also requires an intergenerational retrospective, as the role of women in geography has varied greatly according to the context of different decades. For the 60s, 70s, and 80s, major contributions were directed to various aspects of education, but during the 90s there began a series of updates focused on the environment that led to new research on the effects of population, to the interplay of resources and human impacts. For the coming years, the related subject on climate change will be emphasized. Our institutional strength has been and will be reflected only in tandem with the success of women, and this happens when women can develop

within a competitive context. Technical training and access to educational resources remain strategic and translate into greater female participation in the geographical sciences.

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