

Atlantic Centre
of Excellence for
Women's Health

www.acewh.dal.ca
acewh@dal.ca

CONFERENCE SESSION:

**FROM THEORY TO
ACTION:
INTEGRATING
GENDER IN
GOVERNMENT,
ACADEMIA,
COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATIONS,
& INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATIONS**

For more information and a free electronic copy of *Rising to the Challenge: Sex- and Gender-based Analysis for Health Planning, Policy, and Research in Canada*, visit our website acewh.dal.ca



World Café on Integrating Gender Analysis Women's Worlds 2011

By Jennifer Bernier (jennifer.bernier@dal.ca)

Where Did We Go?

ACEWH participated in the Women's Worlds 2011 Congress, July 3-7, in Ottawa-Gatineau. Women's Worlds is an international and interdisciplinary gathering of and about women. The 2011 Congress provided feminists and allies from around the world an opportunity to discuss globalization as it relates to women, strengthen connections, and collaborate to advance women's rights, their empowerment, and gender equality. It attracted nearly 2000 participants from 92 countries – making it the largest feminist gathering in the history of Canada. More information about Women's Worlds 2011 can be found at womensworlds.ca

What Did We Do?

We co-hosted a World Café on integrating gender in government, academia, community organizations, and international development organizations. World Cafés are becoming a popular format for creative conversations. The idea is to create an inviting atmosphere with a Café ambiance – right down to tablecloths, music and food – that allows people the opportunity to engage in informal discussions and capitalize on the experiences and knowledge of others about topics that matter to them. To learn more about World Cafés, visit theworldcafe.com

With Whom?

We co-hosted the event with the Regroupement féministe du Nouveau-Brunswick (RFNB) and l'Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI). RFNB (rfnb.ca) is a non-profit organization based in Moncton that aims to advance the rights and interests of Francophone women. AQOCI (aqoci.qc.ca) is located in Montreal. They work with international development organizations to promote gender equality. We also had the opportunity to engage with 28 women who participated in the World Café. Participants represented government, academics, community organizations, and international development organizations from six countries.

What Did We Discuss?

To set the tone, ACEWH introduced the basic concepts of gender analysis, including sex, gender, diversity and equity, which we describe in detail in the book *Rising to the Challenge*.¹ Each host organization then offered examples of how we work with government, academia, community and/or international development organizations to increase uptake of gender analysis. Participants then had the opportunity to share how they integrate gender with others at their table and the larger group afterwards. Partici-

pants brought with them a wealth of gender experience, including the development of resources, program implementation, and research. Next, the conversation focused on how we can work together to promote gender analysis locally, nationally, and internationally. According to participants, partnerships and networking were essential. Knowledge exchange, including the sharing of expertise, tools, handbooks, and sex disaggregated data was also seen as important. A need to work together to carry out public education and awareness activities to help others understand the benefits of including gender analysis in their work was also highlighted. Collaborating to create policies that address the diverse experiences and needs of women and men was also seen as a key way to promote gender analysis.

What Was The Feedback?

There was an overwhelming positive response to the World Café on integrating gender. Participants found it interactive and practical, as well as a welcomed opportunity to engage with other conference participants. They also said that the session gave them a better understanding of gender analysis and provided them with an opportunity to consider how gender analysis could be further applied in their own work.