

Rihab Khalid, Fellow - 'The intersections of energy, gender and space'

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals represent the long-term, comprehensive strategy to tackle the world's greatest challenges related to universal energy access, sustainable urban development and growth while ensuring equality for all. This necessitates an integrated approach between the SDGs to bring about change at the scale required to combat climate change. Yet, significant gaps persist in knowledge and action on how energy access (SDG7), gender equality (SDG5) and sustainable cities (SDG11) intersect. Energy access initiatives are, for instance, only starting to consider how gendered conventions determine 'necessary' energy use, while most urban and planning policies remain 'gender-neutral'. Progress on one SDG can therefore lead to unintended consequences for the other.

My research, therefore, takes an interdisciplinary approach to explore the intersections between energy, gender and space-use and the implications for housing and energy policy and practice. Drawing on previous studies, as well as my own case-study research on housing and energy in Pakistan, my talk focuses on drawing out the links between these three SDGs and signifies the need for an integrated approach for sustainable transitions.