



Clearing a Path to the Future: Gender Research as Transformative Leadership

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*Ineke Buskens
Research For the Future
Gender Research in Africa into ICTs for Empowerment*




We are living in the Environmental Age

- **Environment: our main focus so that we may survive**
- **As within so without: we need to**
 - **Clear our minds first**
 - **Visualise a new global, human ordering that sustains our environment**



Research: Following the Leader Within

- **Research as the Quest for the Unknown**
- **Researcher's mind = Independent mind, prepared to:**
 - Ask new questions
 - Challenge assumptions
 - Design new methods and techniques
 - Explore power as freedom and responsibility
 - Create new neural pathways
 - Pull the Future Forward



The Human Gender Drama: One Of Our self created Bottlenecks

- **Women are still discriminated all over the world. Whilst women are thwarted in reaching their highest potential, they are sovereign beings with dreams of their own they need to fulfill: mayhem will be inevitable.**
- **As a planetary system we are out of balance: correlation or causation between woman-man imbalance and environmental imbalance?**
- **The Human Gender Drama has captured our focus and takes up crucial mental and emotional resources.**



Methodological considerations: what do we know about women?

**What else do we know about women that is
relevant for:**

- - **our focus on sustainable development**
- - **our thinking on research with women**



Women?

- Leaders of survival and of life
- Agents in their own discrimination:
 - their own worst enemy;
 - each others' worst nightmares;
 - the mothers of their oppressors
- Can change and stand up to fight in a twinkling of an eye



Women in Research

- **No Baseline: Women are the Great Unknown**
- **Challenging Research Respondents**
- **Women researching women:
a research attitude of normative openness or
unexamined judgment?**



Implications for Research with Women

- Letting go of the male standard
- Looking across disciplinary boundaries
- Re-thinking the concepts of self, gender, equity and equality
- Prepared to look into the mirror of self:
 - Critical self directed awareness
 - Courage
 - Confidence
 - Thorough methodological training



Research Leadership that Transforms:

- **Ourselves as Researchers**
- **Our research respondents**
- **Our research discourses**
- **Perceptions of women in the world**



Research Leadership that Transforms:

- **Participation of women in the world**
- **Our world**
- **Our environment?**
- **Our Future?**



Clearing a Path to the Future:

Gender Research as Transformative Leadership

A work of hope and of life