

Maheen Sultan

Senior Fellow of Practice and Head of Gender and Social Transformation Cluster

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)

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FIELDS OF INTEREST

Social development

Poverty

Civil society

Community participation

Gender justice and equality

EDUCATION

License in Sociology

University of Geneva, 1984

EMPLOYMENT

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)

- Senior Fellow of Practice, Head of Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, 2012-Present

BRAC Development Institute

- Coordinator, Pathways of Women's empowerment Research Programme, 2006-2011

Swiss Development Cooperation, Bangladesh

- Programme Officer, Human and Institutional Development, 1998-2002

UNICEF Bangladesh

- Consultant, Rights Cluster, 1994-1997

Grameen Bank

- Senior Principal Officer, 1990-1994

UNDP Bangladesh

- Programme Officer, 1986-1989

University of Geneva

- Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, 1984-1986

POLICY EVALUATION/ ANALYSIS EXPERIENCES

- South Asia Hub coordinator for Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme (DFID RPC) coordinating and managing programmes in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan 2006-12
- "Gender Norms, Labour Supply and Poverty Reduction in Comparative Context" in collaboration with University of Manchester

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Article

- Sultan, M., Seager, J., Rashid, S.F., Ashraful Haque, M. and Khondaker, S. (2021) 'Do Poor People's Dreams Ever Come True?' Educational Aspirations and Lived Realities in Urban Slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh. *The European Journal of Development Research* (<https://doi.org/10.1057/s41287-021-00439-4>)
- Jones, N., Sanchez Tapia, I., Baird, S., Guglielmi, S., Oakley, E., Yadete, W.A., Sultan, M. and Pincock, K. (2021) 'Intersecting barriers to adolescents' educational access during COVID-19: Exploring the role of gender, disability and poverty' *International Journal of Educational Development* 85: 102428 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2021.102428>)
- Sultan, M. (2017). Women's Representation and Participation in Local Government in Bangladesh: New Openings and Remaining Barriers. *Women in Governing Institutions in South Asia: Parliament, Civil Service and Local Government*. London: Palgrave.
- Sultan, M. & Jahan, F. (2016). Opening and resistance: Women in the Bangladesh Civil Service. *Public Policy and Governance in Bangladesh: Forty years of experience*. London: Routledge.
- Sultan, M. & Nazneen, S. (2014). Well chosen Compromises. Feminists Legitimizing Voice in Bangladesh. *Voicing Demands. Feminist Activism in Transitional Contexts*. London: Zed Books.
- Sultan, M. & Nazneen, S. (2013). Positionality and transformative knowledge in conducting 'feminist' research on empowerment in Bangladesh. *Special Issue of Women's Studies International Forum (WSIF), Researching Women's Empowerment*. Reflections in Methodology, (45).
- Sultan, M. & Nazneen, S. (2012). Contemporary Feminist Politics in Bangladesh: Taking the Bull by the Horns, in New South Asian Feminisms. *Paradoxes and Possibilities*. London: Zed Books.
- Sultan, M., Hussain, N., & Nazneen, S. (2010). National Discourses on Women's Empowerment: Enabling or Constraining Women's Choices, *Development*, 53(2).

Book/ Book Chapter

- Rahim, S, A., Khondaker, S., Sultan, M. (2021) 'Digital Story Telling and Researching Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh' in Burns, D. Howard, J., Ospina S. J. (ed.s) *SAGE Handbook of Participatory Research and Enquiry*, SAGE reference.
- Baird, S., Jones, N., Abu Hamad, B., Sultan, M. and Yadete, W. (2021) 'Capturing the Complexities of Adolescent Transitions Through a Mixed Methods Longitudinal Research Design' in Banati, P. (ed.) *Sustainable Human Development Across the Life Course. Evidence from Longitudinal Research*. Bristol: Bristol University Press
- Seager, S., Baird, S., Hamory Hicks, J., Faiz Rashid, S., Sultan, M., Yadete, W. and Jones, N. (2021) 'Finding the Hard to Reach: A Mixed Methods Approach to Including Adolescents with Disabilities in Survey Research' in Chatterjee, S., Minujin, A. and Hodgkinson, K. (eds.) *Leaving No Child and No Adolescent Behind. A Global Perspective on Addressing Inclusion through the SDGs*. CROP International Poverty Studies Series Columbia University. Stuttgart: ibidem-Verlag
- Sultan, M. Ara, I. (2021) 'The impact of COVID-19 on the readymade garments sector' in Hasan, M., Hossain, N. (ed.s) *State of Governance Report 2020/21 Governing COVID-19 in Bangladesh*, BIGD Report
- Sultan, M. & Nazneen, S. (2014). *Voicing Demands. Feminist Activism in Transitional Contexts*. Zed Books, London.
- Sultan, M., Darkwa, A., & Nazneen, S., (2013). Women's Studies International Forum (WSIF), *Researching Women's Empowerment. Reflections in Methodology*, (45).
- Sultan, M., & Azim, F., (2010). *Mapping Women's Empowerment: experiences from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan*. Dhaka: UPL.

Case Study

- Sultan, M. & Hasan, B. (2014). *Masculinity, Economic Opportunity and Migration. Case Study Bangladesh*. The World Bank, Washington.

Working Paper/Report

- Huq, L., Khondaker, S., Mahpara, P., Sultan, M., Khondoker, Z.A. and Syed, S. (2021) *New Forms of Adolescent Voice and Agency in Bangladesh Through the Use of Mobile Phones and ICT*. Report. Dhaka: BRAC Institute of Governance & Development
- Guglielmi, S., Seager, J., Sultan, M., Alam, F., Baird, S., Jones, N., Asaduzzaman, T.M., Ramachandran, D. and Sabarwal, S. (2021) *Adolescent experiences in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, Bangladesh. Baseline report*. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence
- Alam, F., Rashid, S. F., Camfield, L., Sultan, M. and Muz, J. (2019) *Adolescent health, nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health in Dhaka, Bangladesh*. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence.
- Sultan, M. and Nazneen (2018) *Policy and legal analysis notes: Bangladesh: a review of the National Strategy for Adolescent Health*. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence.

- Jones, N., Camfield, L., Coast, E., Samuels, F., Hamad, B. A., Yadete, W., Amayreh, W., Odeh, K. B., Sajdi, J., Rashid, S., Sultan, M., Malachoswka, A. and Presler-Marshall, E. (2018) *GAGE baseline qualitative research tools*. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence
- Camfield, L., Rashid, S., & Sultan, M. (2017). *Exploring Bangladeshi adolescents' gendered experiences and perspectives*. Research Brief, Gender and Adolescents, Global Evidence, ODI London.
- Sultan, M., Khondaker, S., Hasan, B. (2015) *Exploring Unpaid Care Work of Women: Barriers, Implications and Opportunities*
- Mahmud, S., Sultan, M., & Huq, L. (2012). *Assessing the Performance of GQAL in Changing Gender Norms and Behaviour*. BDI Research (Report No. 1). BDI: Dhaka.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Co-Investigator, Sustaining Power for Women's Rights in collaboration with IDS Sussex supported by ESRC 2020 to 2026
- Co-Investigator, Countering Backlash Against Women's Rights in collaboration with IDS Sussex, Supported by SIDA 2020 to 2026
- Co-Investigator, The gendered price of precarity. Young women navigating workplace sexual harassment. In collaboration with IDS Sussex, supported by the British Academy 2020 to 2022
- Principal Investigator, Access to Justice for Survivors of Domestic Violence in the time of COVID 19, supported by RoL, GIZ 2020 - 2021
- Principal Investigator, Adolescent Transition in the time of COVID 19, in collaboration with RoL, GIZ 2021.
- Co-Principal Investigator. Qualitative Research on adolescents in collaboration with JPGSPH for ODI, 2017-ongoing
- Co-Principal Investigator. Bangladesh lead Policy and Legal Analysis for Gender and Adolescents, Global Evidence programme in Bangladesh, 2017- ongoing
- Review of Gender Quality Action Learning programme of BRAC through a survey and interviews to understand the changes in gender norms brought about by the programme, 2011