



A nighttime photograph of a city skyline reflected in a body of water. The lights from the buildings and streetlights create a shimmering effect on the water's surface. The sky is dark blue, and the overall scene is illuminated by warm yellow and white lights from the city.

Intersections of gender and marital status in accessing climate change adaptation: evidence from rural Tanzania

(see *World Development*, 2016, 79, 40-50)

Katrien Van Aelst & Nathalie Holvoet



IOB

Institute of Development Policy and Management
University of Antwerp

Overview

1. INTRODUCTION
2. SETTING
3. METHODOLOGY
4. SELECTED FINDINGS
5. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

1. Introduction (1)

■ Aim

- improve understanding of how intersections of gender & marital status influence access of Tanzanian farmers to different adaptive strategies

■ Background

- importance of gender increasingly recognised in climate change & adaptation literature
 - ❖ adaptation= strategies to reduce and manage risks associated with climate change
- men & women as homogeneous categories, female versus male-headed households
 - ❖ women in female headed households: limited asset base, women in male headed households: less access and control over resources in the household

1. Introduction (2)

- Tanzanian climate change policy(NAPA): neglect of differentiated vulnerability & adaptive capacity
 - simplified diagnosis & related policies: increasing rather than addressing existing inequalities

↔ intersectionality approach

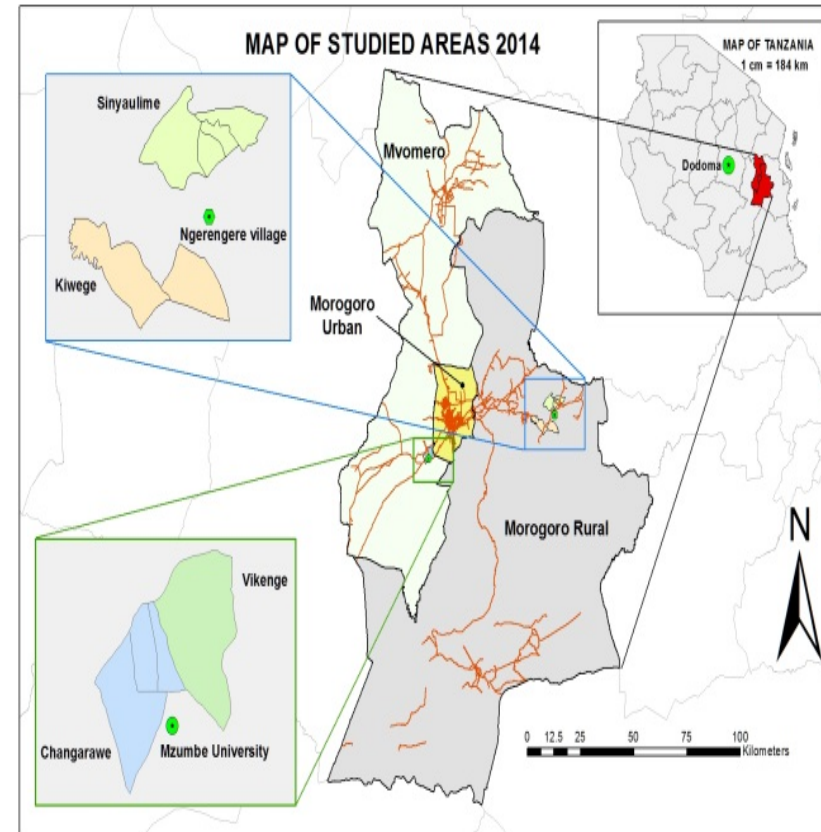
taking into account influence of relationships between the multiple dimensions of social identities and subject formations (Crenshaw, 1989; Mc Call, 2005)

■ our focus : gender & marital status

- how do statuses of being married, divorced, widowed or single affect men's and women's adoption of adaptive strategies in fields of agricultural water management & livelihood diversification ?

2. Setting (1)

- 4 villages in rural Morogoro region of Tanzania
 - two rural and two semi-rural
- impacts of climate change
 - uncertain; longer dry season, worsening periods of droughts, diminished flow of river water, less predictability of already highly variable rainfalls
 - local farmers most affected
- local adaptive strategies
 - migration, coping strategies, livelihood diversification, agricultural intensification



2. Setting (2)

- gender & marital status
 - Tanzanian law discriminates against widows (divorcee gets up to 50% of matrimonial assets, widow: only inheritance if no male children or male relatives)
 - easier to buy land in own right for unmarried, divorced and widowed women, married women's access depends on marital relationship (marital harmony > individual land rights)
 - difference between de-facto and de-jure female-headed households
 - increasing level of intra-household specialisation as income diversification strategy → ↑ female dependence on men in male-headed households

3. Methodology (1)

- Mixed-methods
- Secondary & primary data collection (Katrien)
 - exploratory field research (September & November 2013)
 - ❖ interviews with key informants & experts
 - ❖ construct validity & input for the survey design
 - 41 focus group discussions (March-May 2014)
 - ❖ women-only (25) or men-only (16), diversified marital statuses, 3-7 participants, local language
 - ❖ participatory approaches (drawing, venn-diagram ranking)
 - ❖ insights into livelihood challenges, identification of strategies
 - survey (July-August 2014)
 - ❖ 845 respondents, randomly selection from 4 villages, men and women interviewed separately
 - ❖ 686 married (343 couples), 159 (114 female & 45 males) single
 - ❖ adaptive decision-making

3. Methodology (2)

- data analysis
 - qualitative: coded, analysed using Nvivo software
 - quantitative: cross-tabulation, t-tests & logistic regression (SPSS software)

4. Selected findings (1)

- marital status important for women not for men
- widows and female divorcees disadvantaged in field of **agricultural water management**
 - 71% and 66% less likely than married women to access **valley land**
→ less flexibility in choosing where to plant crops
 - no difference between married women and male categories in accessing **valley land**
 - in particular divorced and married women are less likely to **irrigate** (65% and 47%) than married men
 - no difference in **irrigation** between different female groups, but likely that differences are underestimated (more likely that plots of married women (household plots) are irrigated by husbands, cf. focus group discussions)

4. Selected findings (2)

- men (except widowers) more engaged in **non-farm activities** compared to married women
 - male divorcees, unmarried men and married men 5,9, 9 and 6,6 times more likely compared to married women
- widowers & male divorcees more likely to be engaged in **off-farm casual labour** compared to married women
- divorced women more engaged in **non-farm income-earning activities** as compared to other categories of women, no differences in **off-farm casual labour**
 - divorcees 1,8 times more likely to engage in non-farm activities as compared to married women
 - no significant differences among other categories of women
- livelihood diversification at household level through specialisation by individual household members

5. Summary & discussion (1)

- highlights how gender & marital status constrain or facilitate access to each of the two adaptation strategies
- men's strong position (except for widowers)
- vulnerable position of widows
- differential position of divorced women compared to married and single women

Figure 1: typology of access to adaptive strategies by marital status

	LOW agricultural water management	HIGH agricultural water management
LOW livelihood diversification	Widows	Widowers
HIGH livelihood diversification	Divorced women	Divorced men Married men Unmarried men
		Married women Unmarried women

5. Summary & discussion (2)

- agricultural water management
 - most challenges for female divorcees & widows
 - ❖ less access to valley land, no access through husbands
 - unmarried women were often valley farmers
 - position married women: more ambiguous, access to land and irrigation but no control
- livelihood diversification
 - for most of women challenging to find time for non and off-farm activities
 - widows are particularly disadvantaged
 - ❖ old age, lower educational attainment
 - ❖ depend to large extent on support (coping)

5. Summary & discussion (3)

- livelihood diversification

- female divorcees more successful than other categories of women in this adaptive strategy
- but generally less profitable than male activities (less capital to invest) ↔ married women who rely on husband's financial support
 - trade-off between advantages of financial support in marriage and decision-making autonomy outside marriage (often leading to independent business activities)
- married couples: diversification at household level and specialisation at individual level
 - ❖ men diversify into non-farm activities
 - ❖ women remain/become the main farmers

5. Summary & discussion (4)

■ Policy implications

- farmers have differentiated needs and capacities in terms of adaptive strategies
- take care with simple gender mainstreaming in climate change policies → ineffective policies & further marginalisation of specific groups
- need for a differentiated gender approach that studies interplay between gender and other categories
 - ❖ typology is useful to broaden understanding & help targeting
 - ❖ feed into transitional forms of adaptation



Thank you
Katrien & Nathalie
nathalie.holvoet@uantwerpen.be



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