



## Issue No. 1 / May 2017



Photo: Alejandra Vargas Garcia

## Introducing the GrOW Research Series!

*We are pleased to announce the launch of the GrOW Research Series!*

The GrOW Research Series brings together scholarly research on women's economic empowerment and economic growth in low-income countries, and provides a conceptual and empirical basis for sound policy-making. It is also the official research platform for the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) program, a multi-funder partnership between the UK's Department for International Development, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). With 14 projects in 50 countries, GrOW works with researchers to improve economic outcomes and opportunities for poor women on the themes of employment, the care economy, and women's economic agency.

This series is housed at the Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID) at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. As part of a broader initiative by ISID and IDRC, this series will disseminate GrOW research, including the GrOW working paper series and policy brief series, on an open access online platform.

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### Introducing the GrOW Research Series

page 1

#### Meet Our Team

page 2

#### Feature Paper

page 3

#### Submit To Our Series

page 4

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## OUR TEAM

Our series is overseen by a single editorial board consisting of three co-editors and one managing editor. Meet our fabulous team!



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Research Associate, Institute for the  
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## FEATURE PAPER

### **"Women's Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Growth: Labour Markets and Enterprise Development"**

We are delighted to launch the GrOW Working Paper Series with a concept paper authored by Dr. Naila Kabeer!

This paper was originally commissioned by DFID and IDRC in 2012, when the GrOW Program was in its inception. It was intended as a contribution to framing a research agenda on women's empowerment and economic growth. The paper is focused on labour markets as the key institution mediating the relationship between economic growth and individual men, women and families. It finds that there is strong evidence that gender equality can promote economic growth. Not only does women's access to employment and education opportunities reduce the likelihood of household poverty but resources in women's hands have a range of positive outcomes for human capital and capabilities within the household. However, it also finds that evidence on the converse relationship - that economic growth promotes gender equality - is less strong. Indeed, some of the fastest growing developing countries show the least signs of progress on basic gender equality outcomes. It is concluded that formal regular waged work has the greatest transformative potential for women, but this potential has remained limited because of the lack of creation of decent jobs, and because of segmentation of labour markets.

This re-publication includes a new foreword from Dr. Kabeer, reflecting on the paper five years on to consider the important analytical contributions that remain relevant to the study of gender and the economy in 2017.



**Author Bio:** Dr. Naila Kabeer is a social economist and Professor of Gender and Development at the Gender Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science. Prior to this she worked as a Professor of Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University, and a Professorial Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex. She has also worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the UK's Department for International Development, and as a Senior Sabaticant with Canada's International Development Research Center.

Dr. Kabeer's research explores various aspects of inequality and how they play out within households, labour markets and the wider economy. She is also interested in forms of collective action by poor and marginalized groups that seek a more just distribution of power, resources and political voice, and in what this tells us about the relationship between individual empowerment and social justice. She has authored, coauthored, and edited 14 books, including: *Organizing women workers in the informal economy: beyond the weapons of weak* (2013) and *Gender and Social Protection Strategies in the Informal Economy* (2010) and *Mainstreaming Gender and Social Protection in the Informal Economy* (2008).



## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH TO OUR WORKING PAPER SERIES!

We are now accepting manuscript submissions for the GrOW Working Paper Series! Please note that for the current round of submissions, only papers associated with GrOW projects will be accepted to the series.

Submitting your paper to the series does not preclude you from eventually submitting your work for consideration in a scholarly journal, as you will retain full copyrights to your manuscript. There are many benefits of submitting a paper. Authors will receive:

- Support for copy-editing, including: proofreading, formatting and bibliographic checking
- Assistance with paper presentation and data visualization (i.e. standardizing tables, enhancing graphic resolution)
- The opportunity to showcase your project and research results in an online, open-access platform and get visibility before the paper appears in a scholarly journal

For authors who would like more substantive feedback on your working paper, we will send it out for double blind peer-review. Take advantage of our peer-review process to improve your future chances of success publishing in a scholarly journal.

For more information on submitting your work visit:  
<http://grow.research.mcgill.ca>

### WHAT ARE WORKING PAPERS?

GrOW working papers are original “works-in-progress,” aimed at stimulating public discussion of ongoing scholarly research and advancing scientific knowledge on women’s economic empowerment and economic growth. We have three separate categories of papers:

- **Research contribution papers** are addressed to experts and intended to generate maximum policy uptake.
- **Research reports** are written as more broadly accessible, and may be more technical or descriptive in nature.
- **Linked papers** are existing papers that may already be published elsewhere and that authors would like featured on our website.

Authors are asked to indicate the category to which they are submitting a paper for consideration in the series.

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*Authored by Kate Grantham. Produced with support from McGill University and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The observations and views expressed in this paper are the sole responsibility of the author(s).*

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