

# Between the Universal Woman and Individuals - Using Ideal Types -

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# Why use Ideal Types?

## **When “women” is not specific**

When the category “women” is generalised, superficial or erroneous inferences may result. How far do we go in breaking down the category to create groups that are useful in policy and practice?

## **What are the options?**

Develop typologies that go beyond classification schemes. Examples include labour categories, life stages, framing practical groups for action, broad intersectional groups and Ideal Types.

## **Using Ideal Types in a global political economy analysis**

Ideal types can help enable comparisons and theories to test. For a forthcoming analysis, eight Ideal Types of women have been constructed to give substance to investigations into labour, capital accumulation, technology and governance.

# When “women” is not specific

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- The category “women” or “gender” can be too general
  - Veils action needed for specific groups of women
  - Caution needed extrapolating from specific cases to all women
- Example: tuna fisheries in Western and Central Pacific (Barclay et al., 2022)
  - Noting 5 prominent women leaders in key positions, WCPFC Scientific Committee proclaimed “*great progress on gender issues*”
  - The reality
    - little change for most women in tuna (processing factory workers, small scale trading and fishing)
    - well educated women have risen through the ranks in fisheries science and management



# When “women” is not specific

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- The “women+” classifications
  - women and girls
    - e.g., UNFCCC COP22,2019, Enhanced Lima work programme on gender
  - women and youth
    - e.g., CBD COP 15 Gender Plan of Action
  - women and indigenous peoples, local communities, youth and other relevant stakeholders
    - e.g., CBD COP 15 Gender Plan of Action
- Resist diluting attention to women by pairing them with other groups outside the mainstream agents



# When “women” is not specific

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- How do we break down “women” into categories or groups that are useful in policy, practice and research?
  - The typology and the categories will depend on how we will use them in our work



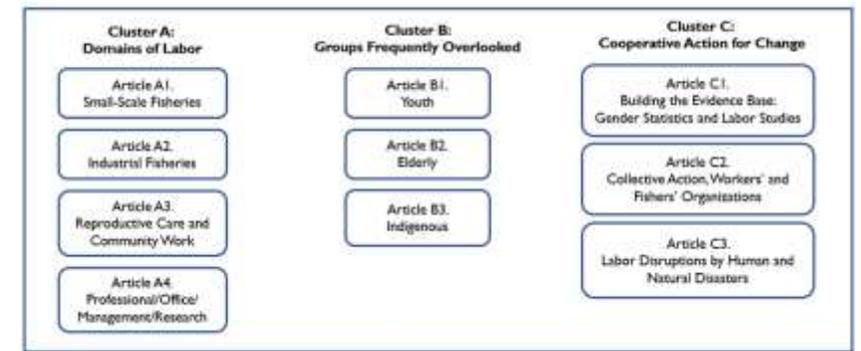
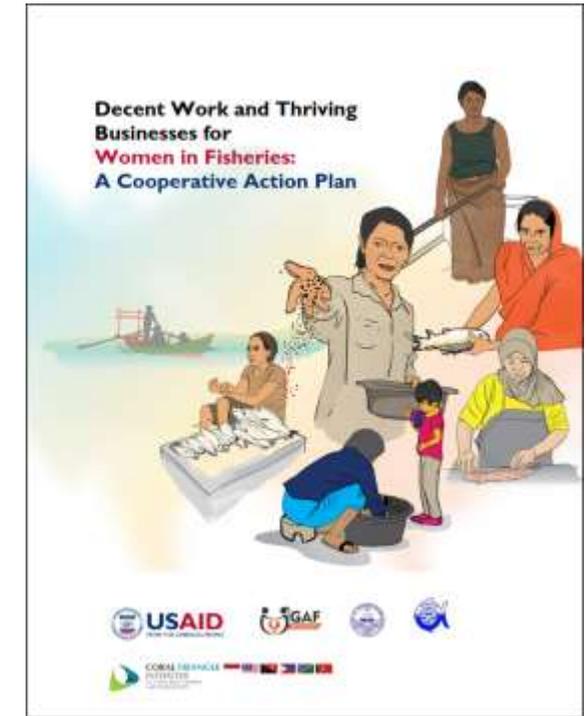
# What are some options?

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Develop typologies that go beyond classification schemes

# Labour domains & life stages

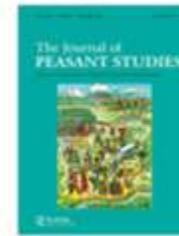
- labour domains and life stages
  - e.g., Satapornvanit et al. (2022)
- Critical frame analysis
- broad intersectional groups
- Ideal Types



# Critical framing

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- labour domains and life stages
  - e.g., Satapornvanit et al. (2022)
- critical frame analysis + governmental role of gender expertise
  - e.g., Prügl & Joshi (2021), Verloo (2000)
- broad intersectional groups
- Ideal Types



The Journal of Peasant Studies



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Productive farmers and vulnerable food securers:  
contradictions of gender expertise in international  
food security discourse

Elisabeth Prügl & Saba Joshi

# Intersectional groups

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- labour domains and life stages
  - e.g., Satapornvanit et al. (2022)
- critical frame analysis + governmental role of gender expertise
  - e.g., Prügl & Joshi (2021), Verloo (2000)
- broad intersectional groups
  - e.g., Ferguson (2021)
- Ideal Types



# Ideal Types

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- Science - selection & abstraction
  - how far and where to generalize and to particularise
- Ideal Type conceived by Max Weber
  - a construction based on accenting some consistent and typical aspects of a reality
  - schemas that help conceptual clarity, enable comparisons and lead to theories to test
    - Some refs: Coser, 1977; Kuckartz, 1991; Doty & Glick, 1994; Thornton et al., 2012; Swedberg, 2018)



Poster, China 1960s: “Women hold up half the sky”

# Using Ideal Types

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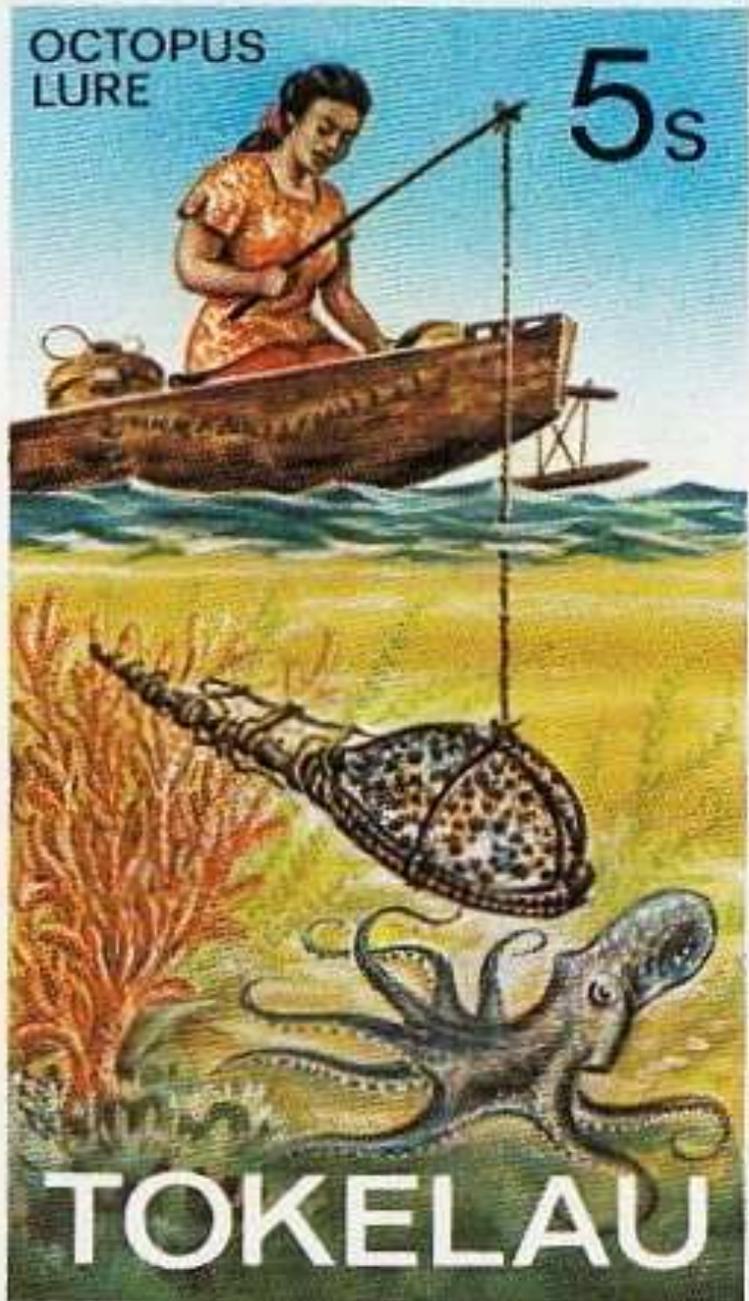
In a global political economy analysis



Mega sardine cannery, Philippines

## Ideal Types in a global analysis

- In “Women in aquaculture and fisheries” (Williams & Syddall in prep)
  - 8 Ideal Types of women used in investigating
    - labour
    - capital accumulation
    - technology
    - governance
  - from 3 political economy perspectives
    - Market Economy
    - Managerial
    - Intersectional & Feminist



## 8 Ideal Types – women in the fish sectors

- Invisible fisher/fish farmer
- Traditional fish processor
- Self-employed trader, marketer
- Reliable industrial fishworker
- Successful entrepreneur/businesswoman
- Sex worker
- Professional woman
- Social reproduction worker

# Type characteristics

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Ideal Type	Overall	Identity	Legitimacy & authority	Strategies for success
<b>1. Invisible fisher/fish farmer</b>	Primary production node actor (any scale) under the managerial purview of aquaculture and fisheries agencies	Identifies as fisher or fish farmer or may consider such work as part of household responsibilities	May or may not be registered; small-scale or subsistence worker is less likely to be counted; variations across countries	Access to occupation, fish resources; efficiency by access to productive assets (labour, technology, financing)

# Labour example

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gender researchers

Ideal Types

LABOUR POWER	FISH ECONOMY STRUCTURE		ORGANISING INSTITUTIONS	REPRODUCTIVE & CARE WORK
	Small-scale fisheries & aquaculture value chains	Large scale fisheries & aquaculture value chains		
1. Invisible fisher/farmer				
2. Traditional fish processor				
3. Self-employed trader, marketer				
4. Reliable industrial fishworker				
5. Successful entrepreneur/businesswoman				
6. Sex worker				
7. Professional woman			*	
8. Social reproduction worker				

# Labour example

UN System of National Accounts (UNSNA),  
Satellite Accounts (SA)

- Using Ideal Types to map whose labour gets counted, and where the labour fits into the economy

**Ideal Types**  
Included in UN System of National Accounts or Satellite Accounts

LABOUR POWER	FISH ECONOMY STRUCTURE		ORGANISING INSTITUTIONS	REPRODUCTIVE & CARE WORK
	Small-scale fisheries & aquaculture value chains	Large scale fisheries & aquaculture value chains		
1. Invisible fisher/farmer	UNSNA (if registered)	UNSNA (if registered)		SA – if collected
2. Traditional fish processor	UNSNA (if registered)			SA – if collected
3. Self-employed trader, marketer	UNSNA (if registered)	UNSNA (if registered)		SA – if collected
4. Reliable industrial fishworker		UNSNA		SA – if collected
5. Successful entrepreneur/businesswoman	UNSNA (if registered)	UNSNA		SA – if collected
6. Sex worker				SA – if collected
7. Professional woman	UNSNA	UNSNA	UNSNA	SA – if collected
8. Social reproduction worker	SA – if collected	SA – if collected	SA – if collected	SA – if collected

# Conclusions

## Categories

- get beyond the universal “women”
- resist the “women +” categories

## Our global Ideal Types schema

- permits mapping & analysis of women’s places in the fish sectors
  - Including ours!

## Labour example

- clarifies how women fit into the economy
- reveals where they are un- and undercounted
- enables mixed methods analysis

## Use Ideal Types also

- at all scales , not just global
- for exploring beyond the political economy

Fish landing in the morning at beach of Soumbédioune fish market, Dakar, Senegal. Source: M.J. Williams

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