Description de l'atelier / Panel description

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Abstract (in French and English)

Population dynamics in Asia have become the center of attention across the globe. The
result has been an urgency to examine the trajectory of population policies in Asia which are
characterized by a shift from earlier coercive policies to a rights-based approach flag-shipped
by the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994. The aim of the
panel is to critically assess population dynamics in selected Asian countries from a demo-
graphic and gender perspective. To what degree have policies shaped the demographics of
their countries; to which extent do the policies promote gender justice? The panel brings
together researchers from across countries and disciplines with a focus on declining sex ratio
and gender-biased sex selection.

The organization of the panel will be scalar, from the macro level of historical context to the
micro level of local implementation. It will start with a theoretical and historic mapping of
population policies, followed by an analysis of the recent demographic trends and masculin-
ization of sex ratios. The panel will then critically assess particular policies and programs to
counter sex selection from China to Vietnam, highlighting the significance and positioning
of gender in them. An important aspect will be learning from the Korean "miracle", the
only country that was able to balance skewed sex ratio at birth. Furthermore, discourses
around gender-biased sex selection in India will be analyzed in order to capture dissonances,
especially emerging from policy makers. The panel finally examines population policies from
a feminist perspective - both in a local and global context.

The panel unifies diverse methodological tools (normative, historical, quantitative and quali-
tative in nature) from various disciplines (demography, anthropology, law, sociology, political
science) across different cultures and countries (China, India, South Korea, Vietnam). By
doing so, we provide a multifaceted, scalar assessment of population policies, which will be
able to unravel the nuances of the issue in a more holistic fashion than individual disciplines
can. It will stimulate greater debate, inform policy choices and revitalize the policy terrain
on how to effectively counter gender discrimination.

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