

# PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSION		DESCRIPTION
 #INFLUENCE	Using research for policy impact	What are the essentials of using evidence-based research to influence policy and practice. How do we translate research results into changes in policy and practice? How can we enhance our collaborations to improve our advocacy and impact. Pairs of academics and practitioners explore their experience in agriculture and food security, women, peace and security, and human rights.
	Feminist approach 101: What you and your organization need to know	Canada is adopting a feminist international assistance policy [FIAP]. As Global Affairs Canada states, “A feminist approach is much more than focusing exclusively on women and girls; rather, it is the most effective way to address the root causes of poverty.” What does it really mean, though, to go beyond focusing women and girls? What does a feminist approach to international cooperation and global advocacy look like in practice? In this interactive workshop, we will talk about feminist principles as viewed by long-time feminist practitioners, and about how civil society organizations can put them in action. During a short panel, we will also hear experiences from international guests about what a feminist approach looks like for their organization.
	Let’s build the case together: The ODA sector campaign	The research is done, polling results are in, your supporters have been surveyed... We are now ready for this important campaign to go live and mobilize Canadians across the country for enhanced Canadian engagement on development cooperation, including increasing the international assistance budget. Join this interactive discussion to learn about the next steps for the CCIC campaign, and why and how your organization should engage. Come discuss how, by working together, we can create the conditions for Canada to get back on track towards reaching 0.7!
	Making sense of pluralism	In an era of heightening global fragilities and fault lines, there is a strong need to promote peaceful pluralism through international development programming. What is pluralism and how can you integrate it into your work to improve the quality of life of individuals and communities around the world? This interactive workshop will give participants concrete tools and next steps that can be applied to their own contexts and projects.

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 #INSPIRE	Canadian CSO-academic collaborations: Looking back and moving forward	Different timelines, different ideas of what constitutes research, and different research and policy interests present challenges and opportunities for building strong collaborations between the academic community and civil society organizations in Canada. This workshop will explore best practices from a recent pan Canadian survey, and compare them to a similar consultation from five years ago. The workshop will also draw on the audience’s own experience around cross-sector collaboration.
	Multi-stakeholder partnerships: a policy, research, and practice dialogue	This roundtable aims to create a dialogue among those studying ‘multi-stakeholder partnerships’, those implementing partnerships, and those creating guidelines and policies around them. This workshop explores the theory and practice behind establishing different types of multi-stakeholder partnerships. How can research on the new ‘politics’ of partnerships be more relevant to CSOs, policy-makers, and private foundations? Which areas or issues require more attention? This will be an opportunity for participants to discuss research priorities, and policy and practice around multi-stakeholder partnerships.
	Back on the rights track: An HRBA refresher	With Global Affairs Canada’s adoption of a human rights based approach as part of its international assistance policy, it is important for the civil society sector to refresh our understanding of HRBA and consider the implications for our work. This session will examine how to better integrate human rights principles and practices into our development and humanitarian work, and will discuss lessons learned from past practice on what works and what doesn’t work
	Championing gender equality in challenging social contexts	The Feminist International Assistance Policy’s focus on empowering women and girls is a bold example of Canada’s ambition to be a global leader in gender equality. Its reframing of international policy priorities creates new opportunities, but also raises questions about how to advance a feminist agenda while engaging with existing social norms. Using case examples, this session will consider how to address social norms in challenging contexts and pave the way for greater, and sustained, gender equality.

PARALLEL SESSION		DESCRIPTION
 #INNOVATE	Innovative models of CSO-academic collaboration	Our Next Generation program is supporting, piloting, and documenting innovative models of collaboration. This workshop will showcase some exciting examples that already exist of how academics and CSO practitioners are innovating to bring research and practice closer together. The workshop will discuss different models of collaboration: from communities of practice and bridging platforms, to participatory and collaborative Monitoring and Evaluation, to publishing platforms.
	Creating an enabling environment for innovation	Innovation is a key priority for the Canadian government, including for its international assistance programming. In this workshop, we will build on and benefit from the experiences of CSOs working in innovation spaces in different contexts and explore the kind of space we need as a sector to support and engage with the innovation agenda, given the SDGs and the International Assistance Policy. Leaders on innovation in the Canadian domestic civil society space, internationally and with global civil society will animate a lively discussion with participants on opportunities and challenges for engaging in the innovation agenda.
	New technologies for transformative data collection	It is widely agreed that evidence should be used to inform decision-making, but do our systems meet on-the-ground needs and realities? Collecting actionable and timely data that allow organizations and users to ask the deeper questions needed to improve program design and facilitate learning can be a challenge. This session will explore innovative possibilities for more participatory, meaningful, and transformative data collection processes.
	Is development newsworthy ?	Media – newspapers, television, radio, blogs, and social networks – play an undeniable role in framing the way Canadians think about international development. But with shrinking newsroom budgets, a 24 hour news cycle, and trending #FakeNews, the media landscape is in constant flux. In this environment, are stories about development still making it to Canadians? What stories are being told and whose voices are being heard? This session will disseminate findings from a content analysis of Canadian media coverage of the developing world, and discuss what role the media can play in building understanding of development.