The Peacebuilding Fund and Post-War Economic Reform: Understanding the Relationship Between Gender, Land Rights, and Extractive Economies in Liberia

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Although scholarship on the implementation of Women, Peace and Security agenda in post-conflict contexts has been prolific, there has been almost no focus on how the implementation of the agenda affects and is affected by post-war economies and international developmental policies. This is all the more surprising since economic inequalities and access to natural resources are one of the main causes of conflict, and peace agreements often include provisions on the need to reform formal and customary land tenure. Furthermore, according to the Global Study on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, national reconciliation and transitional justice projects that focus on socio-economic injustices can have important implications in the transformation of gender relations in post-conflict societies. This presentation will look at how projects on national reconciliation and land rights in Liberia funded by the Peacebuilding Fund understand the role of women as both participants in negotiation of concession deals and land exploitation, and as victims of structural inequalities and unfavorable customary law.

Dr. María Martín de Almagro is an Assistant Professor in Gender and Politics at the Université de Montréal. She previously was a Marie Curie Fellow at POLIS and a College Research Associate at Emmanuel. She has also worked as a postdoctoral researcher for the Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation. Dr. Martín de Almagro’s research focuses on the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Women, Peace and Security agenda in post-conflict states, with a particular focus on the Great Lakes region in Africa. Her work has been published in the European Journal of International Relations, Review of International Studies, Global Society, Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding, among others.