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Gender ARC and Global Women's Studies at NUI Galway are pleased to invite you to a research seminar:

Woman of the Farm: Property Ownership and Gender on Family Farms in Ireland

Tanya Watson, PhD Candidate, Political Science and Sociology, NUI Galway

Date: Wednesday 15 April

Time: 1.00-2.00pm

Venue: Room 1001, First Floor, Hardiman Research Building, NUI Galway

Abstract: A wide body of literature presents farm women's positions within family farming as circumscribed by patriarchal agrarian social structures, which often limit direct property ownership by women (O'Hara 1997; Shortall 1992; Viney 1968). While the gender gap in property ownership between men and women holds an adverse effect for women's economic security comparative to men, owning property has a broader significance and has implications for all areas of social, political and economic life. The structural constraints of Irish agriculture on the one hand, and the internal dynamics of family farming on the other, leaves a dichotomy of systemic and structural influences on the gender order that impacts on women's ownership of property. Ownership of property is not effective on its own and requires women to be in a position to make key decisions about what is done with property, in terms of production, and distribution and disposal of assets. Gender inequalities in the ownership and control of farm assets have consequences for women's capacity to change their roles and position on the farm and off the farm in the broader rural economy.

Drawing on qualitative research comprised of biographical narrative data of women farm property owners in Ireland, women's personal experiences of property ownership is explored. Analysis of empirical data explores the dynamics of power of individual agency within structural conditions of the patriarchal system of agriculture, and the potential for change. Key similarities and differences among ownership categories are explored in relation to pathways into ownership, the type of farming engaged in and familial relationships. Marking a journey from marginalisation to empowerment, this presentation looks at the factors that both constrain and enable women's equal ownership and control of property on farms in Ireland today, and the implications of women's transition to ownership as the woman of the farm.

Tanya Watson is a PhD candidate at the National University of Ireland, Galway in the School of Political Science and Sociology. Her PhD research, entitled *Farm Women in Ireland: Family, Gender and Ownership* explores the extent to which women's agency in the rural economy and society is leveraged by property ownership. The study employs a Biographical Narrative Interpretation Method (BNIM) to explore the narratives of personal experiences of farm women property owners. She was awarded a Teagasc Walsh Fellowship and is a member of Gender ARC. Her research is supervised by Dr. Anne Byrne (Head of School of Political Science and Sociology, NUIG); Dr. Áine Macken Walsh (Research Officer) Teagasc Rural Economy Research Centre; and Dr. Nata Duvvury (Lecturer, Co-Director) Global Women's Studies Programme, NUI Galway.

For questions, please contact Gender ARC Seminar and Public Lecture Series coordinator: Emma Brännlund, e.brannlund1@nuigalway.ie