Applying the Information Society Lens to Gender and Development
- Some emerging *CONCEPTS*

IT for Change

Gender and Social Change

- Culture as an instrument of oppression and subordination

- Institutional analysis – the role of the state

- Market and globalisation – neo-liberal ideologies

- The IT phenomenon subsumed into the globalisation response
  - Seen as a subtext of neoliberal globalisation

The IS lens and gender

- Change as technological paradigm
  - Internet as constitutive of the new reality
  - New building blocks of civilization

FLUX!!!!

- Anomy and opportunity structure
  - Retreat from social controls
  - Political shifts

- "The meta and the meso rather than the macro and micro
  - Anecdotes or changes to the meso?
  - Shifting relationships

IS and Social Change

- The feminist logical trap
  - Techno-determinism – innate capabilities of technology
  - social construction
  - or a fallacy of essentialism?

- Points of influence
  - Reactive

- Appropriation as Emancipatory potential

IS and Social Change

- What is the essential character of digital technologies?
  - Social systems elaborated by technologies

- Both production and information technologies

Feminist Meanings
- what is in it for gender?

- **The *New* Public Sphere**
  - Changing identity – individual and collective
  - Symbolic resources
  - Notions of Citizenship – new interpretations
  - A New Information Culture - dislocations

- **Conditions Apply**
  - Non-linearity

Social and public accountability

Informal Pressures

-Ideology
-and Culture
- Power Relations

SOCIAL and INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Formal Changes

-Leadership
-Gender
-Equality as Agenda
-New gov
-structures

EMPOWERMENT

Symbolic resources, politics of solidarity, reinterpreted citizenship

Feminist Strategies

- **A new site of engagement -** The interface between the technical and the social, reconfiguring the community

- New techno-social paradigms – open access, open content, open software

- The meta question...
  - From the feminisation of access to governance in the IS
  - IPR, Connectivity, Public-private

Making the technologically feasible also politically feasible