

Cosy conversation with Mariama Williams

Elisabeth Hofmann, Copernicus Alliance and UBM/LAM, France

- **The person, I would like to have a conversation with**

I would like to have a conversation with Mariama Williams. Mariama, Ph. D., who is a feminist economist with over 20 years' experience working on economic development, macroeconomics, trade, external debt and finance issues, with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment, social equity, sustainable finance and development and climate change issues. She is also a director of the Institute of Law and Economics (ILE) in Jamaica, a member of the Caribbean Feminist Action Network, the Gender and Trade Coalition and of UN Women's Expert Advisory Group on the SDG Monitoring Report, as well as a principal consultant for the Integrated Policy Research Institute (IPRI), etc. etc. – the list is too long to be reproduced here.

Mariama Williams has published widely. Her books include *Gender and Climate Finance: Coming out of the margins* (Routledge 2015), *Gender Issues in the Multilateral Trading System* (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2003), *Trading Stories: Experiences with Gender and Trade* (co-edited with Marilyn Carr), *Commonwealth Secretariat*, 2010) and co-author of *Gender and Trade Action Guide: A Training Resource* (Commonwealth Secretariat, London, 2007.).

- **Why this person inspires me**

I had the chance to meet Mariama more than ten years ago at an international Forum of AWID (Association of Women in Development), where I had helped to organize a round table on gender and economics with her. She is brilliant, convincing and truly inspiring, even about such complex and at first glance seemingly uninspiring issues like gender and trade (amongst others...).

A complementary source of inspiration is her involvement with DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era), where she is (or was) a Senior Associate for the Political Ecology and Sustainability Programme. DAWN is a stunning international network of "Feminists from the South working for gender, economic and ecological justice, and sustainable and democratic development", or "Feminists Transforming a Fierce World" (<https://dawnnet.org>).

- **What question(s) I would like to ask**

Please tell us about yourself: how did you become a feminist economist involved in the SDGs?

Most of us come here from HE backgrounds and we are very concerned about what to teach to prepare our students (that are future decision makers) to embrace the future. What are your thoughts and ideas about (economics) curricula and learning *for* and *as* sustainability?

What is the most essential element of comprehension about gender that students need to grasp concerning economics and sustainability?

Transformative learning is a buzz word here at the HES... can you share a striking transformative learning experience with us (where you were a student, a teacher, an outsider...)?

Many students (and teachers) are very pessimistic and anxious concerning the future... what do you tell them?

- **How will try to involve the audience in the conversation?**

The audience will be involved with rapid online surveys or polls, creating word clouds, etc., the results feeding into the conversation. At least a third of the conversation hour will be open to their spontaneous questions.

If we are a small group, we can simple sit in a circle and chat, after a first round of presentations.