

Interview with Nicole Hellesey by Louise Lap - Gender CC



Nicole Hellesey is a PhD candidate who says that her decision to start researching climate science was not a conscientious choice. She wanted to fix what she could and do her part, and so naturally she followed a career in the climate sciences. The oceans and marine biology was her passion and as she continued her studies she naturally progressed to studying and researching climate change impacts on the oceans and marine biology. Nicole is now researching Antarctic krill and the impacts that climate change and fishing will have on their long term populations, to help ensure a healthy Antarctic ecosystem for years to come.

LL: Why should more women and girls work in climate science?

NH: Women and children will be disproportionately affected by climate change. They will be the first and the hardest hit. So it seems logical to me that women should be involved in the effort to help combat the effects of climate change. This is especially true for women in third world countries who are already inventing new ways to assist their communities confront localised climate change impacts. These indigenous innovations are often more cost effective and efficient at solving their local community problem than large scale roll outs and products.

LL: What would you say to encourage more women and girls to work in climate science?

NH: We desperately need more women on panels, boards and committees that write and oversee the implementation of climate change policies at all levels as well as women working on the science that goes into these policies. There are a number of women empowerment strategies that can be employed to boost women's problem-solving and innovative capacities such as learning and raising awareness, better access to resources and appropriate technologies, training and other support services. Women-led adaptation to climate change should not be seen in isolation, it is as much a developmental issue as an environmental one.