

# *GenCen Fall 2018 Colloquia Series*

*New Research on Women and Gender,  
Global and Local Perspectives*

Friday, November 2 1:30-3:00PM  
International Center Room 303

*Dr. Stephanie White*

Dept. of Community Sustainability

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Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering

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Dept. of Art, Art History, and Design



## *Prioritizing Process: Navigating diverse interests and politically charged relationships to develop collaborative market improvement strategies in Lilongwe*

In this colloquium presentation, the researchers will discuss their experiences facilitating a three-day collaborative strategy development workshop in Lilongwe, Malawi last summer. The workshop provided a forum for diverse food system actors to create a five-year research and engagement strategy that improves the capacity of Lilongwe's small-scale urban food sector to: 1) provide safe, nutritious, affordable, and accessible food to city residents; 2) provide improved and new income-earning opportunities to those engaged in food-based livelihoods; 3) provide safe, pleasant, and secure working environments in city and district retail 'wet' markets; and 4) prepare for anticipated demographic and environmental change by enhancing resiliency of the food system.

The workshop was the latest activity in a longer community engagement process that has focused on building a body of empirical data and trusting relationships between diverse affinity groups. The presentation will include: 1) an introduction to the importance of and challenges facing the small-scale food sector in Lilongwe; 2) significant outcomes from the workshop, and reflections on the necessity of interdisciplinary and gendered approaches to engaging the sector; and 3) comments from the various researchers about how they see their work contributing to supporting the sector from both a disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspective.



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