Assessing Canada’s Women’s Empowerment Programs in Africa
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Abstract: The project explores the impact a Canadian liberal government may have had on women’s rights, feminist ideology and gender-based economic empowerment in Ghana after decades of conservative rule. It closely examines the Feminist Foreign Assistance Policy (FIAP) in relation to Global Affairs’ Innovation for Women’s Economic Empowerment in Ghana (IWEEG) and if its $30 million funding has materially benefitted women on the ground in a bid to provide recommendations to Global Affairs and other stakeholders.

Research Question: To what extent did the Canadian Feminist Foreign Assistance Policy contribute to positive economic impacts in the lives of Ghanaian women?

Methodology
Virtual correspondence (Emails etc)
Case Studies
Literature Reviews

Systemic Barriers to Research
-Emphasised the divide between Global North and Global South because of remote research
-Less communal—>More individualistic
-Unable to communicate with subjects in their comfort zone/ Reduced ability to alleviate distrust of Global North scholars

Historical Literature

Key Players in the Global North and South
ALINEA (formerly Agriteam)
PLAN
OXFAM
WUSC

-Racial Hierarchy present. Non-white folk usually concentrated at the bottom
Black Women in Global South lagging in an unstarted race→Racialised feminisation of poverty

Findings
Systemic Discrimination
Canadian political interests are antithetical to FIAP
-Resource extraction practices that have the most disastrous effects on women and girls
-Women less likely to engage in economic empowerment if day to day activities are affected

Recommendations
*Approach from an African Feminist lens
-Re-examine Canadian political interests to reduce environmental damage
-Hire more African women in the corporate hierarchy in the Global North as well