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Abstract: Change: Engendering Equality at the Intersections of Culture and Commerce

In 1990, Development Economist and Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen warned the world that 100 million women had simply gone 'missing' from the world. Citing the skewed sex ratios in India and China, Sen determined that women, were they fortunate enough to enter the world alive, suffered significantly reduced survival rates in some regions for a variety of reasons—chief among them gender discrimination. This presentation deconstructs the position of gender in global economic integration by considering how conventional gender roles have served to advance the process of globalization and how globalization is serving to alter the paradigm of conventional gender roles. Globalization has its critics and its champions. In large part, disputes over globalization's relative merits are due to the lack of uniformity in globalization's transformative effects across difference. Globalization is experienced differently across countries and among different groups within countries based on race, class and gender. Accordingly, globalization has mixed and multiple meanings for gender justice; some aspects of globalization are problematic, while other aspects are positive, perhaps sometimes simultaneously. To the extent the global economy can be characterized by its increasing integration, interconnection and independence among countries and communities; it is increasingly imperative that the indivisible, interdependent and interrelated nature of women's social, economic, cultural, civil and political rights be given greater emphasis and the responsibility of non-state commercial actors to align their conduct with respect for women's human rights explored further.