Lingnan University 2025/2026 SDG Report
SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY



476
Research Outputs

105
Undergraduate Courses

10.43
Field Weighted Citation Impact

60%
Female Academic Staff

Lingnan University advances **SDG 5: Gender Equality** through inclusive education, interdisciplinary research and community partnerships. By examining gender disparities in housing, health and well-being, Lingnan scholars contribute evidence to inform policy and practice. Through collaboration with NGOs and public engagement, the University supports women's empowerment and helps address barriers to a more equitable and gender-inclusive society.

Historical Agricultural Systems, Gender Equality and Strong Institutions

Led by Professor Plamen Akaliyski, Assistant Professor (Presidential Early Career Scholar) in Lingnan University's Department of Sociology and Social Policy, the study "The Main Global Cultural Differences Today Evolved from Environment-Related Historical Agricultural Patterns," published in *World Development*, examines how historical forms of agriculture have contributed to enduring differences in contemporary societies. The research shows that agricultural systems prevalent more than a century ago are strongly associated with present-day individualism–collectivism, including important societal outcomes directly relevant to SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The study's objective measure explicitly incorporates gender inequality and rule of law alongside other societal indicators, providing insights into gender equity, institutional quality and the protection of rights.

For SDG 5, the research highlights how different agricultural systems historically created different economic and social roles for women. In dairy-farming societies such as those in Northern Europe and parts of North America, Australia and New Zealand, women often played economically valuable roles in milk processing and trade, providing opportunities for greater economic independence and social status. The paper connects these historical patterns to comparatively greater gender equality at present, offering insights into the historical conditions associated with women's economic empowerment and equal economic opportunities. By contrast, some pastoral and shifting-cultivation systems were associated with practices and institutions that restricted women's rights and economic opportunities, highlighting historical barriers to gender equality and non-discrimination.

For SDG 16, the study demonstrates how modes of subsistence were linked to the historical development of political institutions. Agricultural systems differed in their capacity to create and sustain centralized states, effective law enforcement, property rights, and protection from violence. The research therefore contributes to understanding why rule of law and inclusive institutions developed differently across societies and why these differences remain visible today. These findings are relevant to effective institutions, rights protection and violence prevention.

By identifying deep historical roots of contemporary gender equality and institutional quality, the study provides a comparative perspective on the long-term conditions that support more equal, inclusive, and rights-protecting societies. It strengthens the evidence base for understanding women's empowerment, the rule of law and inclusive institutional development, connecting historical research with contemporary sustainable development priorities.