---‘The hydro-electric power potential is a major natural resource, the development of which, both in the coming Plan and over the long-term, will form a key task for the economy.’
(Tanzania, Second Five-Year Plan, 1969, p.121)

‘There is no doubt that a reliable and affordable supply of electricity is an important factor for promotion of industrial development. There is also no doubt that access to electricity in homes can relieve women from many time-consuming chores, increase possibilities for studies and handicraft and generally make life more pleasant.’(Kjellström et al., 1992, p.109)

In my Ph D thesis work am dealing with the large part of Swedish development aid which has been attributed to the energy sector. The aim of my thesis project is to study the history of Swedish energy assistance with a special focus on one country, Tanzania. At the conference I will present an article which deals with the decision making process behind the first Swedish financed hydro power plant in Tanzania, Kidatu. Focus is on the period of 1964-1970. In the article I am attempting to use a feminist and postcolonial perspective both as a methodological tool (in dealing with sources and when interviewing informants) as well as a tool for analysis and in how I write the text itself. Feminists dealing with hydro power issues have so far mainly concentrated
on the negative impacts of large dams. I focus on the planners of the hydro power projects. Who they are, what are their perceptions of technoscience, nature, economy and human beings living in the area which will benefit or suffer from the project? I also aim at dealing with the ideological level of hydro power and electricity, as this is an important part in understanding why large scale hydro power plants have been built and still are being built with much support from, amongst other, Swedish development assistance.

The paper is currently available in Swedish. It will be sent to you on request, please contact the author at email as above.

References
