

Gender focus at climate action. Youth for Climate Argentina

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Abstract

We present the case of JOCA (Jóvenes por el Clima Argentina/Youth for Climate Argentina) as an Argentine social movement on climate action and part of the climate youth movement expanded in the last years at a global scale. JOCA is considered a case of SDGs (13th climate action) growing initiative at the country that shares the youth climate action arena with other environmentalist groups (linked with NGOs, political parties, and grassroots organizations). It has had intense links with the local scientific community and participated in various instances of political dialogues and incidence. One particular note is the early inclusion of the concept of intersectionality at its institutional narratives, in order to bring together the protection of the planet and the construction of resilience from climate change action with the gender approach and socio-economic and cultural inequalities. This feature is clearly relevant for more effective and sustainable social interventions.

Objectives

- To introduce and contextualize an experience of a climate youth movement in a peripheral country
- To identify historical and institutional process of creation of JOCA, its political ideas that build its ideological frame of action
- To analyze their links with climate scientists and policy makers.
- To identify gender focus on JOCA activism.
- To produce some reflections on gender and climate action and science

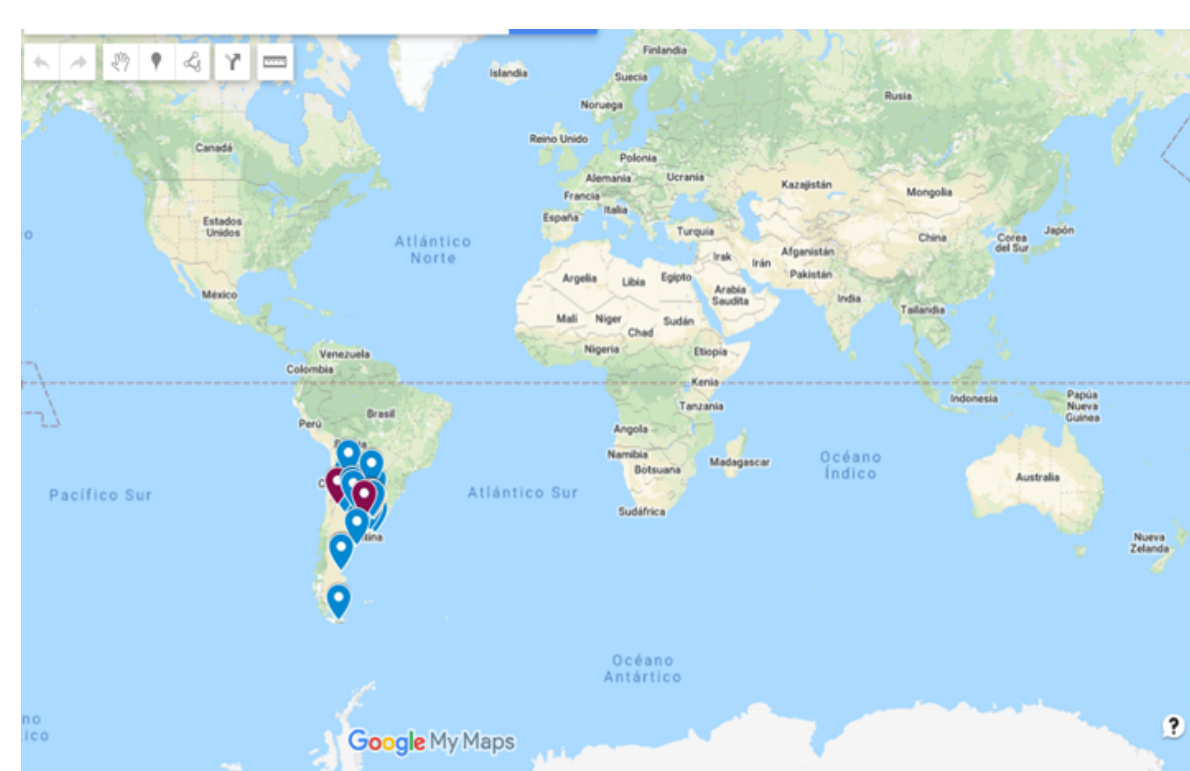
Relevance

The inclusion of gender focus on environmental action is an outgoing feature of the new youth climate movements. But even so, the way in which this convergence is expressed and its results, may vary according to cultural, political and economic contexts, in the different countries and regions where they occur. A better understanding of the kind of actions in high social inequality contexts, can help strengthen the innovative citizen initiatives that aim to influence gender agendas.

Methods

This case is worked from a double perspective: first, a descriptive retrospective approach based on a one-case study (as a part of an ongoing social investigation about science, citizen movements and public interest problems). Second, a participatory approach with the addition of JOCA members as a part of the process of co-construction of the analysis.

Where we come from : Argentina



Hab. 44 494 502
GDP USD 445 469
Inflation 45%
HDI 0,830 en baja
HDI + I 0.714 en baja
GDI 0.358
Argentina at HD Index
Population under
Poverty 40 %

Pandemic context: quarantine since 1/2 of march 2020 - 240.000 infected people - 4500 deads - Estimaciones del impacto económico: caída del producto interno bruto -5,6% Una pérdida 558 mil empleos

What is JOCA?

JOCA emerged early 2019 as a movement to be Fridays for Future FFF Movement in Argentina. At international level, most well known FFF action were rallies and students strikes. At Argentina rallies has been the most frequent way to protest. During 2019 JOCA takes part of the organization of the following rallies:

- February 21st
- March 15
- September 27 (the most important, also at LAC region) 10-15.000 people in Capital City



INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

JOCA has no legal status and does not have yet formal governing bodies. It was originally created with youth groups from the AMBA Region (Federal Capital and several cities around it: 51 members/32 of them women) Several groups around the country have been formed in at least 18 cities although not all equally active. There are not a certain information about global figures of militants. Ages: between 15-25
Groups share common and specific work agendas according to the environmental issues of each city/province. They have common communications spaces (WhatsApp Networks) and other specific spaces typical of each group on Twitter and Instagram. They have a FM Radio “Que Mundo Nos Dejaron”

JOCA has links with other NGOs around issues of socio-economic inclusion:
Popular Economy Workers' Union
Urban Recoverees' (Cartoneros)
Excluded Workers Movement
Union of Earth Social Workers.

JOCA has an internal commission dedicated to address gender issues and to develop intersectional feminist line in socio-environmental militancy (bodies hegemonies, patriarchy, sexual education as some issues discussed) . At Pandemic context, it functions virtually.

Cities with JOCA's presence:

- CABA
- Conurbano (cities in Great Bs Aires)
- Chivilcoy
- Punta Alta
- Mar del Plata
- La Plata
- Bragado
- Tandil
- Rosario
- Concordia
- Ushuaia
- Comodoro Rivadavia

- San Fernando del Valle
- Tucumán
- Salta
- San Juan
- San Luis
- Corrientes
- Córdoba
- Río Tercero
- Junín
- Rada Tilly
- Río Negro



City / State	Specific environmental agenda	Region of the country
Rosario (Santa Fe)	Bushfires in wetlands	Litoral
Mendoza (Mendoza)	Mega-mining	Andina central
Salta (Salta)	Deforestation	Andina Norte
Chivilcoy (Bs As)	Agrochemicals	Pampeana
Com. Rivadavia (Chubut)	Mega-mining	Patagonia
Catamarca/Catamarca	Foreign lithium mining	Andina Central
CABA y Municipios GBA	Urban green areas - Open-sky dumps	Metropolitan Area of Bs. As.
Mar del Plata	Contaminación en playas y Plataformas petroleras off shore	Costa Atlántica pampeana

Actions and Ideas

CLIMATE POLITICAL INCIDENCE

Participation in the following parliamentary activities:

- Drafting the National Declaration of climate and ecological emergency by the Senate on July 17
- Debate about Mitigation and Adaptation in Climate Change Law
- Debate about youth and climate change
- Debate about waste incineration

GENDER ACTIONS

- JOCA's adherence to public protests claiming gender equity (women's day and legal abortion strikes).
- Organizers of workshops with the Environment and Sustainable Development Ministry (Themes: indigenous and rural communities, gender, science)

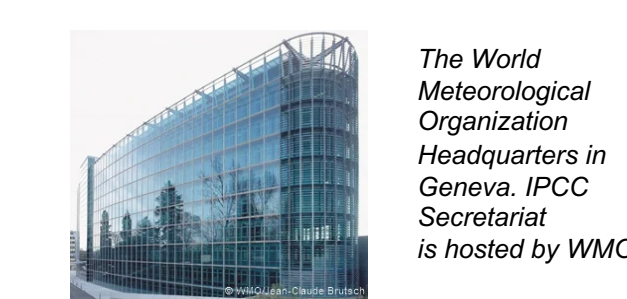
IDEOLOGICAL FRAME – “MANIFIESTO”

“...We understand the socio-environmental crisis as an intersectional problem. Our fight is against colonialism, racism, discrimination, misery and outrage. We raise the flags of native peoples, from a gender perspective. We denounce the environmental violence suffered by people, understanding that the subaltern classes are the sectors most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change..”. **Source:** Jóvenes por el Clima Manifiesto.

“JOCA is part of an international youth movement demanding international political commitment for climate change. We attempt to give an inclusive speech, popular e intersectional, in addition of promoting consistent projects related to social as part of climate struggle, from a Latinamerican perspective. We understand that oppressions drifted of climate crises deepen previous inequalities, such as gender inequalities. Gender is a transversal axis, widely associated to disparities and their links to climate and ecological crisis. This intersectionality among systemic oppressions implies three things: internal transformation of the social movement; political-institutional claims to development agendas; a strong understanding about climate justice as a matter of social justice and human rights” (**Magdalena 15 years old, Mercedes 20 years old form JOCA**)

SDG's and Climate Change

The SDGs update the Millennium Goals towards the 2030 horizon, proposing new goals and sectoral policies. The SDGs are an articulated set of aims that are consistent with each other and with international agreements. Among them, Goal N°13 on climate change has a relevant relationship with gender, energy, biodiversity, among others, and seeks compliance with the Paris agreements and the UNFCCC in general. Although the SDGs are integrated at the discursive level into the foundations of public policies in Argentina - and this is particularly visible in the case of gender - clearly, they are not included in the goals or in the concrete measures of climate policy.



SCIENCE – CLIMATE – JOCA

Since its creation (1990) the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC- autonomous body of scientists working for the UNFCCC Framework Convention for Climate Change) has supplied analysis and options for climate policy. The radicalization of climate policy public debate has shown a growing consensus in the scientific community around the scenarios of rapid decarbonization and the policies and measures needed for a fair transition supported by the scientific work of the IPCC. Like other members of the climate movements, JOCA builds upon IPCC public expressions asking for government compliance with the Paris Agreement. National scientists working for IPCC have been invited to JOCA public meetings: Carolina Vera (Vice Chair IPCC Group 1 and high position at National S&TMinistry - Ines Camilloni (lead author Working Group 2)- Roque Pedace (review editor of IPCC working group 3)



“...we have a great ally: science. Science must be present in our edification, in our discourses, and in the causes we defend... it is essential to face the socio-environmental struggle from a scientific perspective, relying on knowledge to reach the solutions we so desperately need....” **Source: part of Youth for the Manifest Climate.**

Gender /Youth /Scientist and Climate Action

Some concluding remarks

1. “Intersectionality” is a key concept emerging from Third Wave Feminisms (Crenshaw 1989). It introduces a strong concern about diversity on what is consider a subject of gender action. At JOCA narratives this concept is present and associated to the idea of closing the gap among gender, social inclusion and indigenous people .
- 2.. There is strong international evidence that gender focus improves climate action. Even though women and men contribute to climate action in similar terms, climate change have different impacts by gender, producing social inequalities that affect specially to women (labor, health, income, productive resources control and knowledge access).(UNWOMEN 2017; Gelmarec et al 2016). Vulnerabilities are related to territories, environments, social classes, ethnicity, education and gender (CEPAL 2018). More over , “The degree to which people contribute to climate change, how they experience its impacts, and are able to cope with and adapt to these impacts is determined largely by variables such as gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability. These variables establish people's access to and control over resources, power, and knowledge. In particular, socially constructed differences between men and women that determine responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, and decision-making opportunities contribute to the different ways in which men and women experience and respond to climate change, which can exacerbate gender inequality” (IDRC 2018)
3. Looking in JOCA activities, especially relevant is the presence of a strong dialogue with climate scientists. They also introduces at their manifesto the aim of utilization of scientific evidences to base their arguments in climate action. And moreover, they take part in several education activities organized by scientists.
4. Girls and young women climate activism, as part of an emerging global, phenomena, is a feature of JOCA and should be considered at policy level the best actions to strength their participation and preserve their rights.
5. To better understand these knowledge flows between climate scientist and JOVA activist , it is important to note some features of Argentina as country from “the South” :
 - A positive factor is a strong S&T system with relatively good gender balance
 - A negative feature is that quality education are not equal accessible to all young people as educational institutions have high disparities around the country. Scholar capital shows a bad social distribution

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