The role of women in building a new culture of giving in Argentina

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Abstract

Since the restoration of political democracy in Argentina almost thirty years ago, civil society organizations (CSOs) have grown increasingly weak due to the absence of efforts by women to re-shape a new democratic and participative philanthropic culture. In exploring this hypothesis, the Florencia Roitstein seeks to challenge the conventional wisdom in Argentinean society (and in so many others countries in the global South) that: a) philanthropy is only a matter of the rich giving to the poor; b) philanthropy is elitist; c) philanthropy is almost exclusively about money; d) philanthropy is a foreign concept; e) philanthropy is paternalistic and irrelevant for social transformation; and f) the role of women in philanthropy is about using their husband's money for charity work.

Based on the assumptions mentioned above, Florencia reviews the innovative contributions of women globally to social development as philanthropists, particularly in women's giving circles. In addition Florencia explores the viability and applicability of such innovations in the different and complex contexts of Latin America—Argentina in particular—so as to strengthen the participation of women in philanthropy in terms of more inclusiveness of generations and social sectors.

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