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要旨：

Whither pastoralism? Will the ancient livelihood survive and thrive in the face of global challenges? Climate change, economics, land degradation and settlement threaten the viability of the world's 500 million herders and agro-pastoralists. Though critical, women's roles in pastoral systems remain unexamined¹. Mongolia, a progressive herding nation, presents an intriguing case study to examine female herders today. Drawing on fieldwork in 2023, this talk presents a women's perspective on responsibilities, rituals and transitions in Mongolian pastoralism. It recognises the importance of gender in herding's contribution to food security, livelihoods and socio-ecological systems. Research strives to understand female herder's actions, strategies and objectives by placing women at the centre of the pastoral world.

Framed by the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal #5 – Gender Equality and #15 – Life on Land, the research aligns with 2026's International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists (IYRP). The programme seeks to 'amplify the voices of pastoralist women'² in our time of transition. In Mongolia this recognises women's desire for education, ability to move and to choose a career. This leads to the frequent herder lament 'when girls go to school they disappear'³. For continued viability valuing the vital role of women may determine pastoralism's future. This talk moves beyond a male-oriented view to stress the centrality of women to pastoral well-being today – and tomorrow.

¹ Fernandez-Gimenez, M. E., Oteros-Rozas, E., & Ravera, F. (2021). Spanish women pastoralists' pathways into livestock management: Motivations, challenges and learning. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 87, 1-11.

² IYRP Working Group: Pastoralism & Gender Towards IYRP 2026 Concept Note iyrp.info/file/1644 accessed 14 January 2024.

³ Sandagdorj, D. 2023. Fewer Women Say 'I Do' to Herding Life. globalpressjournal.com/asia/mongolia/fewer-women-say-herding-life/