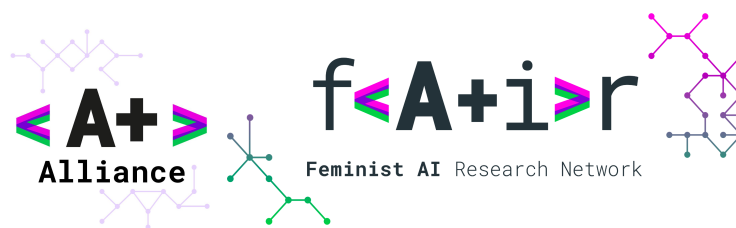


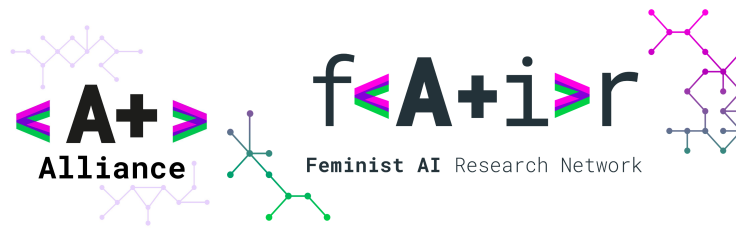
# Incubating Feminist AI: Call for Proposals Application Booklet





## Table of Contents

<b>Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
Papers, Models, Prototypes, Pilots	4
Submission Deadlines Round One	5
Grants	5
<b>Indicative Research Directions</b>	<b>6</b>
Economic / Social Allocation	6
Feminist Data Collection & Deployment	6
Accountable Local, National or Regional AI Policy or Governance Models	6
<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>7</b>
Deadline	7
Duration	7
About the Feminist AI Network	7
Scope	8
Eligibility	8
Paper Deliverables & Output	9
Evaluation	10
<b>Proposal Application</b>	<b>10</b>
Checklist:	10
Full Proposal Application	11
Team Information	12



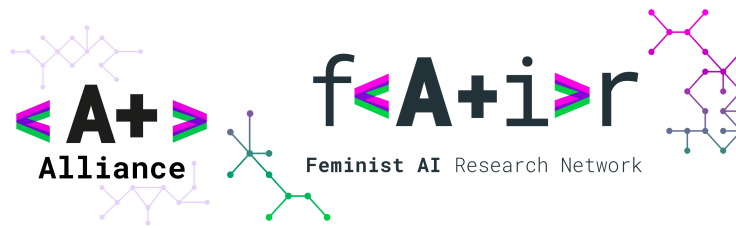
## Overview

This decade there is a unique opportunity to not only mitigate, but correct for historic inequities buried in the data, put in the algorithm, implicit in the model, embedded in machine learning, then wired intricately in neural networks. The opportunity, as new systems proliferate and are being designed, is to revisit old assumptions and conceive of social services with ideas of efficacy and equity at the core--to go beyond only digitizing old programs for 'efficiency', which enable a more effective Patriarchy 4.0. Feminist AI's goal is AI harnessed to deliver equality outcomes; designed with inclusion at the core; creating new opportunities & proactive, innovative correction of inequities. The f<a+i>r network focuses on bringing social programs in line with 21st research and values, dedicated to finding ways to make AI technology more effective, inclusive and transformational, not only more 'efficient'.

<A+> Alliance seeks to collaborate with communities, practitioners, researchers, scholars and innovators working to springboard from the established 'what' of describing harm and 'why' harms exist socially or technically, to research focused on 'how' course-correcting future harms can happen, and most urgently 'how' new data, algorithms, models, policies + systems could be created, then prototyped, and piloted.

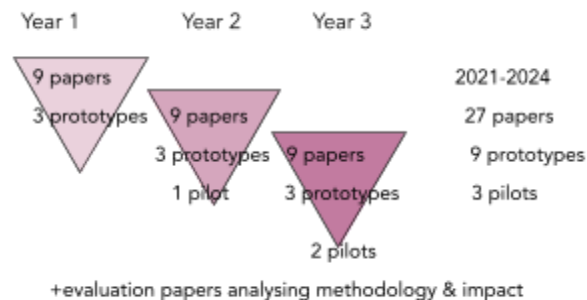
The 2021 call for proposals from multi-disciplinary, global south teams of feminist thinkers is intended to create opportunities for new research engagement. Novel approaches and new models, with a focus on practical application in prototype and pilot phases will be prioritized.

Papers will focus on multi-disciplinary work researching, creating, or iterating new AI framework models and designs for new or current social policy allocations in order to re-engineer system thinking and algorithmic solving for proxy problems and old assumptions buried in the data and now active in the new technology. This may include research on the efficacy of including or hiding protected characteristics, or finding social and economic models of allocation/distribution now made more possible and equitable through the creation or innovative use of new or big data in Algorithmic Decision-Making (ADM).



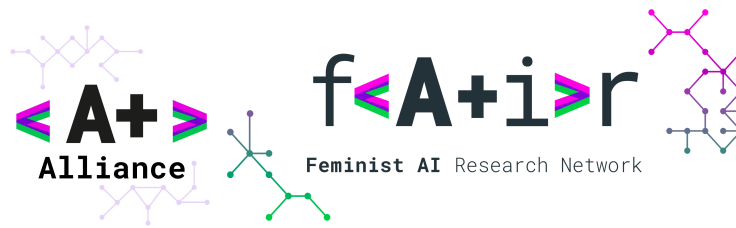
Some indicative areas: Social Policy & Protection Design (p.ex., Social insurance, social assistance and safety nets: from Subsidy, Digital ID, Land Tenure/Use, Pensions, Conditional Cash Transfer, Lotteries), Health, Housing and Education services, Labour activation policies, Social Welfare, Justice, new algorithmic applications of Indigenous, Decolonial, Traditional models, etc, Geospatial Mapping, and Climate Change.

### Papers, Models, Prototypes, Pilots



- 9 proposals will be selected to be developed into papers each year of the three-year project, with 9 papers focused on the regions of eligible low-and middle-income countries in South and Southeast Asia, Central and South America, and the Middle East and North Africa.
- Out of the 9 papers delivered each year, 3 will be selected to go to Prototype.
- One of those 3 prototypes will go to an official pilot. The process will be repeated each year through 2024.

F<a+i>r is dedicated to helping untraditional academic teams or community groups find partners and will support teams with capacity-building where appropriate. Principal Investigators from each selected paper team will be required to attend bi-weekly meetings to discuss their approaches, insights and research progress throughout the duration of the project (including prototyping and pilot phases if selected). In addition to this South-South network knowledge sharing, teams (and selected applicants) will be invited to attend f<a+i>r regional and/or global meetings happening bi-monthly.



Link to [Criteria](#)

Link to [Research Directions](#)

### Submission Deadlines Round One

- Opens: 15 September 2021
- Closes: 31 October 2021 (Anywhere on Earth)
- Determination: 15 November 2021
- Bi-Weekly Meetings throughout the process
- Delivery: 15 May 2022

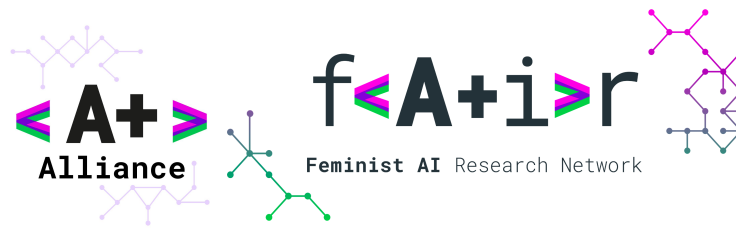
Successful papers chosen for Round One Prototypes: 30 May 2022

Prototyping Workshops: week of 6 June 2022

Prototype delivery: 6 January 2023

### Grants

- CAD 8,000 per paper to the team with 2 Principal Investigators from 2 different disciplines, both based in the Global South.
- Prototype if selected: CAD 75,000 per prototype plus partner funding.
- Pilot if selected: CAD 50,000 to seed each partnered pilot.



## Indicative Research Directions

Incubating Feminist AI aims to catalyze the creation of Feminist AI by redefining algorithmic allocation and justifications, or re-engineering system thinking and algorithmic solving for proxy problems buried in the data and emerging in the tech in current social policy. We seek to focus on multi-disciplinary work that creates, or iterates new framework models and designs for:

### Economic / Social Allocation

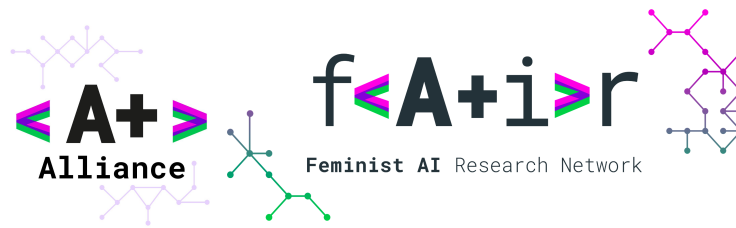
- Articulating models of allocation/distribution that are made more possible or more equitable through the creation and/or innovative use of new or big data in ADMs.
- Some indicative areas: Social Policy & Protection Design (p.ex., social insurance, social assistance and safety nets: from subsidy, digital ID, land tenure/use, pensions, conditional cash transfer, lotteries), Health, Housing and Education services, Labour activation policies, Justice, new algorithmic applications of Indigenous, Decolonial, Traditional models, etc, Geospatial Mapping, and Climate Change.

### Feminist Data Collection & Deployment

- Methodology for inclusive data collection for broader representation, that adheres to Feminist Principle.
- Community-driven data stewardship models.
- Protocol documenting AI-relevant characteristics of datasets.

### Accountable Local, National or Regional AI Policy or Governance Models

- Methodology for how small a dataset could be and still be effectively used in machine learning.
- Intersectional fairness for multiple sensitive attributes (e.g. more than 2, race and gender and class/disability/indigenous/ethnicity etc) mathematical models.
- Design of a Feminist Digital ID



## Evaluation Criteria

This call for proposals is open to research teams based in eligible low-and middle-income countries in South and Southeast Asia, Central and South America, and the Middle East and North Africa.

The call seeks applicants to develop new AI models and/or papers exploring how to implement a program of activities that promote the use of AI in a feminist way. Successful applicants will then be eligible to apply for additional funds to prototype and scale their model in coordination with an appropriate partner.

### Deadline

The call is open from 15 September 2021 to 31 October 2021.

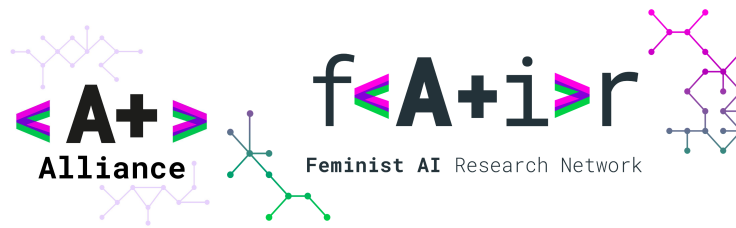
### Duration

6 months

*These grants are funded through an investment from Canada's International Development Research Centre.*

### About the Feminist AI Network

The three-year Feminist AI network initiative (2021-2024) aims to take advantage of the opportunity to not only address bias, but rethink how we prototype and pilot applied AI research and solutions to ensure that the technology meets the needs of women and girls in vulnerable communities. This project will be one of the first of its kind to support research that seeks to address holistic policy, practice, and innovation, and we invite innovators, like-minded governments and others to join our emerging coalition as the work commences – particularly those in low and middle-income countries who want to explore the positive potential of artificial intelligence in advancing gender equality. We believe that now is the time to connect the work feminist researchers envision for an inclusive and thriving future.



## Scope

We are looking for social science and algorithmic models that intersect with core public policy agendas in the Global South. Economic / Social Allocation: in areas such as Health, Education, Justice, Social Protection/Benefits (including Subsidy, Digital ID, Land Tenure/Use, Pensions, Conditional Cash Transfer, Housing Lotteries), new algorithmic applications for Indigenous, Decolonial, Traditional models, Geospatial Mapping, Climate Change, Feminist Data collection or community-driven data stewardship models including Accountable Local, National, or Regional AI Policy or Governance are welcomed.

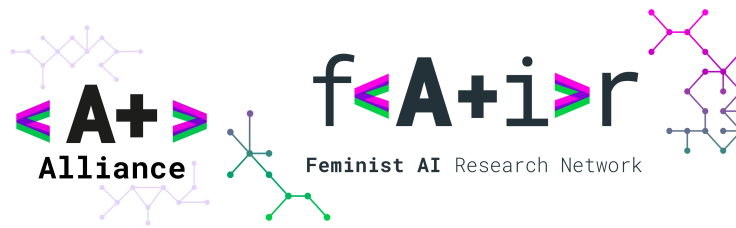
Creation of methodology or models to concretely transform or invent delivery of systems (economic, social, legal, technical) that employ technologies or policies for Feminist AI or Algorithmic Decision-Making.

- **Creative:** Proposals offer new and innovative contributions for models that can transform ethical and social dimensions of AI from a feminist framework.
- **Impactful:** Inspires action across the global south.
- **Interdisciplinary:** at least two disciplines are represented as Principal Investigators.
- **Community-centred:** Addresses a social issue within a local, national or regional community.
- **Actionable:** Proposes a model that is actionable and tangible but also innovative.
- **Feasible:** Timeline and goals are realistic for developing a project to prototype from the paper, and later eligible to apply for external funding by the end of the pilot grant funding.

## Eligibility

- Team of interdisciplinary academics, researchers or activists organizations. (independently or in teams)





- Each paper must be Interdisciplinary: i.e., have at least two disciplines represented as primary investigators.
- All primary authors must be domiciled in Global South.
  - At least one partner domiciled in LAC, MENA, SEAsia.
- Allied partners can be in outside regions.
- If you and your team already have an idea or project, you are still encouraged to apply.

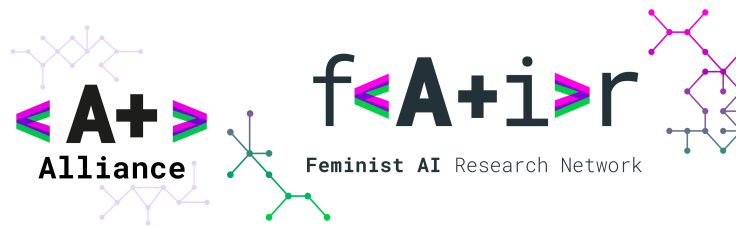
“Eligible research teams must ensure that the primary research investigator and an appropriate portion of their team are based in a low or middle-income country in the regions of Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia. Countries listed in the [OECD DAC](#) and an eligible region are eligible to apply, however, some countries may require additional approvals due to country approval procedures and other considerations which could delay grants.

Teams based in or planning to do research in the following countries may face delays or require a secondary level of approval due to a number of administrative considerations, that may cause delays in starting or even project cancellations, including Afghanistan, Egypt, Haiti, India, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Tunisia, Venezuela, West Bank / Gaza.

Teams based in or planning to conduct research in Russia, North Korea, Belarus, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen are not eligible to apply.”

### Paper Deliverables & Output

- All team members from selected papers will be required to attend bi-monthly meetings throughout the duration of the project. This will be an opportunity to discuss your research/Paper and encourage South-South Knowledge sharing.
- In addition, your team will be required to attend the fA+i>r bi-monthly regional meeting relevant to your research. Dates TBD.
- For each paper, the authors will be required to produce at least one media piece for broader democratisation and dissemination of the new models they explore.



- Full research paper between 7,000 to 12,000 words.
- New Model - i.e. the paper should provide a clear answer, in addition to the research, as to how one should implement a program of activities that promote the use of AI in a positive way. It should propose a new model for thinking and taking action.
- Literature Review
- Applied Research Plan
- Section on Potential Prototyping:
  - optimal regional community partners + sites for prototype

### Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated and shortlisted by a Scientific Advisory Committee representing 3 focus regions South and Southeast Asia, Central and South America, and the Middle East and North Africa, plus representatives from AI4D/Africa, <A+> Alliance, IDRC.

## Proposal Application

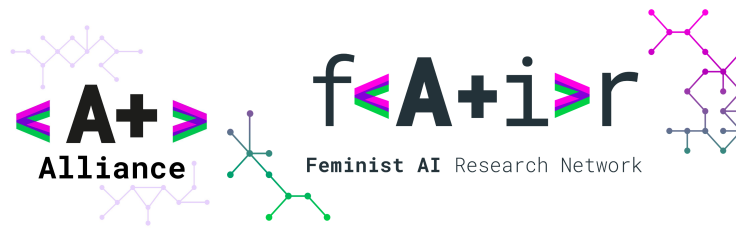
### Checklist:

Before you submit your proposal, make sure you have attached the following documents to the [Google Form](#).<sup>1</sup> Applications cannot be edited after submission.

- 2 Co-Principal Investigators
- Full Proposal Application
- Relevant attachments (> 5 attachments )
- Team Information

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<sup>1</sup> <https://forms.gle/3AY5QE1GjgvRjsjY8>



Should you have any questions, please watch the briefings about the call for proposals at [Feminist AI](#)<sup>2</sup>, [A+ Alliance](#)<sup>3</sup> or contact: [admin@womenatthetable.net](mailto:admin@womenatthetable.net)

## Full Proposal Application

Please upload your proposal as a PDF to the [Google Form](#), following the requirements below and answering all the sections below. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Limit: 4000 - 5000 words

Chicago Style; readable font; 12 points; double spaced

Additional Relevant documents to be attached in a separate PDF.

### 1. Project Overview:

- a. Research Title:
- b. Title:
- c. Abstract (200 - 300):
- d. Five Keywords Relevant to Project:
- e. Overview:
  - i. Research statement: What is the problem? How is it significant? What are your research questions? What are your research objectives?
  - ii. How does your proposal advance the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs)? To which SDG other than SDG 5, *Gender Equality*, is your project aligned?

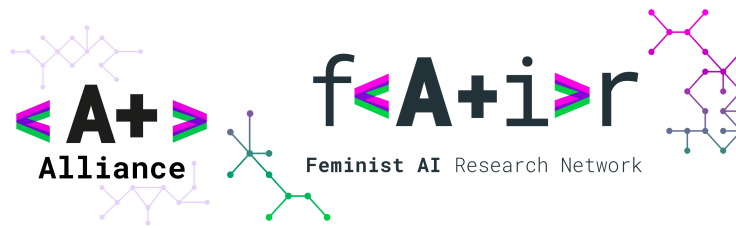
### 2. Literature review and theoretical framework:

- a. Short literature review and efforts that have been made in this field, main categories or theoretical approaches. Add references. Is there any

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<sup>2</sup> <https://feministai.pubpub.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://Aplusalliance.org>



practical project, community practice or initiative inspiring your application? Add references and links, if applicable.

3. Research methods:

- a. How are you combining disciplines to make a new approach or model for AI? How are you designing your interdisciplinary approach to generate new insights? Which disciplines and what impact do you expect from the collaboration? (See [research direction](#) for more information)

4. Applied Research:

- a. How will your research seed technological and social innovations and develop local capacities?
- b. How could the impact be scaled in the region and in the Global South? Explain.
- c. List the key entities, groups, communities, or persons that will make your project successful.
- d. List the key entities, groups, communities, or persons that will benefit from the project.
- e. Is there any social, political or technical obstacle or risk for the viability of your proposal in the near future? How would you mitigate it?

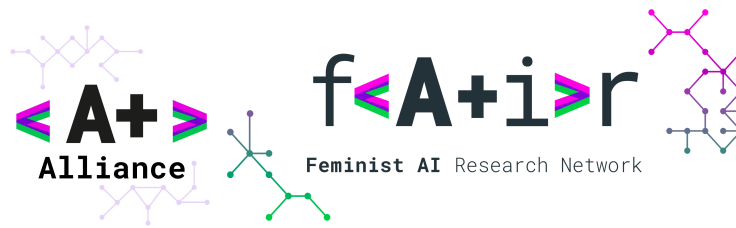
5. Work Cited Page ([Chicago Style](#))

## Team Information

Please attach a single PDF including all the information below

1. Team Overview

- a. Team or Project Name:
- b. Team or main contact Email Address:



- c. Team description: (>250 words description) What makes your team unique? Where are your team members located? Have you worked together before?
  - d. Which disciplines are included in the team?: ( at least two disciplines are represented as authors)
  - e. Academic and/or organisational affiliations and endorsements. For example, if you are already working with communities, NGOs or collectives and they support your idea, you can add a formal letter of support from them. If faculty members or research centres are supporting your research project, you can also add a formal letter of support from them. When doing so, please make sure that you add their contact information.
2. Team Member (for each member of your team.)
- a. Full Name:
  - b. Email:
  - c. Organization/s: (option to list multiple organizations):
  - d. Discipline/s:
  - e. Current Domicile:
  - f. Gender:
  - g. Full CV.
  - h. Links:(related to the proposal to help us imagine your work and ideas. P.ex, GitHub, paper repositories, profiles on social media, blog posts, opinion pieces, unpublished papers, links to projects relevant but perhaps not included in the CV.)

