

# **Gender and The Environment**

Spring 2011

Bruss Seminar 33

Amrita Basu

Office hours: Wed. 4-6 pm

Martha Saxton

Office hours: Tue: 2-4

## **Course Materials**

Books for Purchase, available from *Food for Thought Bookstore*:

Linda Pulido, *Environmentalism and Economic Justice*

Sandra Steingraber, *Living Downstream*

Maureen G. Reed, *Taking Stands, Gender and the Sustainability of Rural Communities*

All the other readings will be placed on E-Reserve. If you would like to purchase a printed copy of the readings, you can order it on line from the CMS course web site and collect it at the WAGS office in Grosvenor House

We are streaming a number of films which we will expect you to see before the classes when we will discuss them. The only film which will not be streamed, *Harvest of Grief*, will be shown on the date and times listed below.

## **Course Requirements**

We expect you to attend class regularly and inform us by email if you miss a class.

You will be responsible for weekly postings on the CMS course web site, two of which should be expanded into short (3-4- page) papers. Comments on the CMS site should be posted by 6 pm on Tuesday evening.

Each student will be expected to do a 20-page research paper and a class presentation on one of two questions. One alternative is to study community activism; the other is to develop a policy paper on mainstreaming gender and environmental concerns within institutions. We will expect you to submit proposals and bibliographies for your papers and meet with one of us to discuss your research. The papers will provide the basis for class presentations during the last two classes; the papers are due on the first day of finals.

Your grade will be determined on the following basis

Short papers: 25%

Posts and class participation: 25%

Final paper: 50%.

## Course Schedule

### 1. Jan 26<sup>th</sup> The Local and the Global

Stacy Malkan, “What Price Beauty?”

Patricia Allen and Carolyn Sachs, “Women and Food Chains: the Gendered Politics of Food”

Amherst College sustainability initiatives

[https://www.amherst.edu/campuslife/greenamherst/sustainability\\_press](https://www.amherst.edu/campuslife/greenamherst/sustainability_press)

“Amherst College Interns Learn Life Lessons...”

#### Guest Speakers:

Amy Calandrella, **Nuestras Raices**

Sarah Barr, **Director of Academic Programs, Center for Community Engagement**

### 2. Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Theoretical Debates: Eco Feminism and Its Critics

Greta Gaard and Lori Gruen, “*EcoFeminism: Toward Global Justice and Planetary Health*”

Sherry Ortner, “Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?” in *Making Gender, The Politics and Erotics of Culture*

Vandana Shiva, “Colonialism,” in *Gender and Politics in India*

Bina Agarwal, “The Gender and Environment Debate” in *Gender and Politics in India*

Regina Cochrane, “Rural poverty and Impoverished Theory: Cultural populism, Ecofeminism, and Global Justice” *Journal of Peasant Studies*

Linda Pulido, *Environmentalism and Economic Justice*, chapters 1 and 2

### 3. Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> Food: the US

**Film:** *The Future of Food*

Michael Pollan, Part I, *Omnivore's Dilemma*

Food Hardship USA 2010

FOOD NEWS, pesticides on fruit

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, 1-37

Sandra Steingraber, *Living Downstream*, 1-15; 116-122, 143-169

Linda Pulido, *Environmentalism and Economic Justice*, 57- 124

Sachs, Carolyn. "Rural Women's Connection to the Land," in *Gendered Fields: Rural Women, Agriculture and, Environment*, 45-52; 55-65, 1996.

Trauger, A. "Our Market is our community: women farmers and civic agriculture in Pennsylvania, USA." *Agriculture and Human Values*

#### **4. Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> Food: India**

**Film:** *Harvest of Grief* (will be shown in Fayerweather 117 on Tuesday Feb 15<sup>th</sup> at 4.30 and 7.30 pm.)

Vandana Shiva, "Special Report: Golden Rice and Neem: Biopatents and the Appropriation of Women's Environmental Knowledge." *Women's Studies Quarterly* (2001): 12-23

Nitya Rao, "Kinship Matters: Women's Land Claims in The Santal Parganas, Jharkhand" *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 11, no. 4 (2005): 725-746

Gouthami & Meena Rajgor, "Women's Perceptions of Land Ownership: a Case Study from Kutch District, Gujarat, India," *Gender and Development* 16, no. 1 (2008): 41-55

Nira Ramachandran, "Women and Food Security in South Asia: Current Issues and Emerging Concerns." *UNU-Wider* (2006): 1-19

Bina Agarwal, "Gender and Land Rights Revisited: Exploring New Prospects via the State, Family and Market," *Journal of Agrarian Change* 3, no. 1 & 2(2003): 184-224

#### **5. Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> Water**

**Film:** *The Water Front*

Sandra Steingraber, *Living Downstream*, 187-211

Giovanna Di Chiro, "Steps to an Ecology of Justice: Women's Environmental Networks across the Santa Cruz Watershed" in *Seeing Nature through Gender*, edited by V. Scharff, 282-319., 2003

K. Lydersen and C. Woelfle-Erskine. "Drying Up: the Water Privatization Pandemic." In *Dam Nation*, edited by C. Woelfle-Erskine, 69-75., 2007

Jael Silliman, "Gender Silences in the Narmada Valley" In *Eye to Eye: Women Practicing Development across Cultures*, edited by S. Perry and C. Schenck, 71-88., 2001

Pooja Parmar, "Revisiting the Human Right To Water." *The Australian Feminist Law Journal* 28 (2008): 77

Priya Kurian, "Generating power: gender, ethnicity and empowerment in India's Narmada Valley." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 23, no. 5 (2000): 842-856

#### **6. March 2<sup>nd</sup> Forests: The US**

Linda Pulido, *Environmentalism and Economic Justice*, 125-190

Maureen G. Reed. *Taking Stands, Gender and the Sustainability of Rural Communities*. (2003): 79-226

## **7. March 9<sup>th</sup> Forests: India**

**Film: *Sudesh***

S. Arora-Jonsson. "Discordant Connections: Discourses on Gender and Grassroots Activism in Two Forest Communities in India and Sweden: Winner of the 2009 Catharine Stimpson Prize." *Signs* 35, no. 1 (2009): 213-240

James Scott. "Nature and Space." In *Seeing Like a State*, 11-52., 1998

Shobhita Jain. Women and People's Ecological Movement: A Case Study of Women's Role in the Chipko Movement in Uttar Pradesh." *Economic and Political Weekly* 19, no. 41 (1984): 1788-1794

Meera Nanda. Eco-Spirituality, Neo-Paganism and the Hindu Right: The Dangers of Religious Environmentalism." *Women and Environments International Magazine* 64/65 (2004): 19-22

## **8. March 23<sup>st</sup> Toxicity: the U.S.**

**Film: *Silkwood***

Steingraber, *Living Downstream* 213-237

Elizabeth Blum, *Love Canal Revisited*, 18-150.

Celene Krauss, "Challenging Power." in *Community Activism and Feminist Politics*, edited by N. Naples, 129-150., 1998

## **9. March 30<sup>th</sup> Toxicity: India**

**Film: *Bhopali***

Sheila Jasanoff. "Bhopal's Trial of Knowledge and Ignorance." *Isis* 98, no. 2 (2007): 344-350

Kim Fortun, "Prologue, Introduction, Chapters 8, 9, and 10." In *Advocacy After Bhopal*. xiii-xxi, 1-23, 217-313., 2001

Maureen E. Butter, "Are Women More Vulnerable to Environmental Pollution?" *Journal of Human Ecology* 20, no. 3 (2006): 221-226

Siddhartha Sarkar, "Indoor Air Pollution and Women Health in the Informal Sector." Post Doctoral Project Report. (2006)

## **10. April 6<sup>th</sup> Climate: Climate Change**

Johnsson-Latham, Gerd. "A study on gender equality as a prerequisite for sustainable development," Report to the Environment Advisory Council, Sweden 2007:2

Ulrike Rohr, M. Hemmati and Y. Lambrou. "Toward Gender Equality in Climate Change Policy: Challenges and Perspectives for the Future" in *Women Gender and Disaster: Global Issues and Initiatives*, edited by E. Enarson and P.G. Chakrabarti, 289-303

Sam Wong, "Climate change and sustainable technology: re-linking poverty, gender and governance." *Gender and Development* 17, no. 1 (2009): 95-108

### **11. April 13<sup>th</sup> "Natural" Disasters: US**

Beth Willinger, "Katrina and the Women of New Orleans", *Newcombe College Center for Research on Women*, 2008

Lori Peek and Alice Fothergill, "Parenting in the Wake of Disaster: Mothers and Fathers Respond to Hurricane Katrina." American Sociological Association, 2008

Duke Austin, "Hyper masculinity and Disaster: Gender Role Construction in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina"

### **12. April 20<sup>th</sup> "Natural" Disasters: South Asia**

Payal K Shah, "Assisting And Empowering Women Facing Natural Disasters: Drawing From Security Council Resolution 1325," *Columbia Journal of Gender and the Law* 15, no. 3 (2006) 711

Suzanne Hanchett, "Women's empowerment and the development research agenda: a personal Account." *Feminist Issues* 15, no. 1 & 2 (1997): 42-71

Neloufer de Mel, "Between the War and the Sea: Critical Events, Contiguities and Feminist Work in Sri Lanka." *Interventions* 9, no. 2 (2007): 238-254

Chaman Pincha et al. "Understanding Gender Differential Impacts of Tsunami & Gender Mainstreaming Strategies in Tsunami Response in Tamilnadu, India." Oxfam America, 2007

### **13. April 27<sup>th</sup> Activism and Community Organizing**

*Film: The Forest for the Trees*

Student presentations

### **14. May 4<sup>th</sup> Mainstreaming Gender and Environment within Institutions**

Student Presentations

Background Reading:

UNEP "Gender Mainstreaming Among Environment Ministries – Government Survey 2007"

UNEP (2007) "Progress Report on the Implementation of Governing Council 23/11 on Gender Equality in the Field of the Environment"