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Call for contributions for book chapters in:

Astrid Skjerven and Maureen Fordham (eds.) - Gender and Sustainability in a Cultural Perspective

To be published in the Routledge/ISDRS Series in Sustainable Development Research

Gender and sustainability have been prominent on the development agenda since the 1980s. Since then, the perspectives and methods of research have undergone a development from political critiques of the male domination of women and nature to the sophisticated intersectional and inclusive analyses of the present day.¹ However, there has been little systematic study of the interrelation between these two themes.² Little attention has been paid to the different roles that men and women play in everyday life and in decision-making and implementation processes. In particular, the role of women has been neglected, in spite of the fact that they play a major role in matters relating to the household, nutrition, child-raising, health and sanitation, both in the home and the neighbourhood. Women are seldom consulted on how to develop more efficient and cost-effective ways of improving living conditions and thereby contribute to sustainable development. Consequently, their competences and skills tend not to be taken into consideration by the predominantly male decision-makers. There is, however, a growing awareness of this situation. One of the most evident examples is to be found in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, where Goal 5, Gender equality, states that: “Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world”.³

The issue of gender and sustainability has two sides: the differential contributions of men and women to sustainability, and the differential impacts of sustainability on men and women.⁴ This publication will focus on both decision-making and implementation, with a certain emphasis on their interaction. The exercise of power, suppression and empowerment constitute important general themes.

The mainstream way to discuss and implement sustainable development is in terms of ecological, social and economic ‘pillars’. Recently, the cultural dimension has come into

¹ Macgregor, Sherilyn: *Routledge Handbook of Gender & Environment*. London: Routledge, 2017.

² Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Chiara Kovarik, and Agnes R. Quisumbing: “Gender and Sustainability.” *Annual Review of Environmental Resources* 2014 vol. 39, 29-55.

³ www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/

⁴ Op. cit.

consideration as the fourth, or even the main, ‘pillar’ on which the other three are dependent.⁵ Many, if not all, of the planet’s environmental problems and certainly all of its social and economic problems are rooted in cultural activity and decisions, comprising people and human actions. Solutions are therefore culture-based, and the existing sustainable development models forged from economic or environmental concerns are unlikely to be successful without cultural considerations. The significance of aesthetic matters has also recently come to the forefront.⁶ This publication will therefore focus on the cultural aspects of sustainability. In particular, we would welcome contributions that explore the interrelation and interdependence of the different sexes in relation to different cultures. Further, a multi- and transdisciplinary approach is necessary. This will encompass anthropology, social and human sciences, art, architecture and design, in addition to subject fields that are not traditionally associated with culture, such as economics, law, medicine, technology etc.

The aim of the book is:

To improve competence in, and understanding of, the significance of gender for sustainable development;

To present the current forefront of theories, methods, indicators and strategies used to assess and measure the relation between gender and sustainable development;

To investigate and compare the different gender roles, including trans- and non-gender, and how they might be utilised or changed to fulfil the goals and targets of the UN SDGs;

To make recommendations for basic and professional gender responsive education in the field;

To facilitate dissemination and implementation of these competences.

Themes:

Driving forces, transformation and empowerment processes

Resilience and well-being, risk reduction and improved physical and mental surroundings

Theoretical reflections and presentations of results from empirical studies

Historical analyses

Methods for analysis and monitoring

Methods for implementation

Methods of education

⁵ *Culture in, for and as Sustainable Development. Conclusions from the COST Action IS1007 Investigating Cultural Sustainability*. Jyväskylä: University of Jyväskylä, 2015

⁶ Skjerven, Astrid and Reitan, Janne Beate, eds. *Design for a Sustainable Culture: Perspectives, Practices and Education*. London: Routledge, 2017. Kagan, Sacha: *Art and Sustainability: Connecting Patterns for a Culture of Complexity*. 2nd ed. Bielefeld: Transcript, 2013.

Abstracts of a maximum of 500 words can be sent to: askjerve@oslomet.no
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The Routledge/ISDRS Series in Sustainable Development Research is the publishing platform of the wide community of 2,500+ researchers engaged in multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary research on the need for and experiences with the transformation to a sustainable society. The International Sustainable Development Research Society aims to disseminate knowledge on sustainable development practices in all spheres of society, which enables the acceleration of sustainability initiatives: cities, communities, production, innovation, consumption, biodiversity and ecosystem services, agriculture, climate, renewable energy. This series welcomes submissions for high-level, cutting-edge research books that push thinking about sustainability in new directions by challenging current conceptualizations and developing new ones. The series offers theoretical, methodological, and empirical advances that can be used by professionals and as supplementary reading in courses in sustainability science, environment and sustainability, development studies, planning, and a wide range of academic disciplines.