WORKSHOP

ECOLOGICAL DEMOCRACY: always greener on the other side?

20 – 21 February, 2017
University of Sydney, Australia
Ecological Democracy: always greener on the other side?

The role of democracy in the face of global environmental threats has been subject to intense scholarly debate over the past four decades. At times, ecological democracy has had a bright future ahead of it. Yet the ideal of ecological democracy continually faces challenges both to its conceptual foundations and to its practical realisation on national and global scales. This workshop will seek to focus on new considerations and directions for ecological democracy, while looking back to examine the impact and viability of its founding texts as well as empirical studies of the relationship between democracy and sustainability. The aim of the workshop is to critically explore the tensions and synergies between democracy and sustainability on local, national and global levels. The workshop will contribute to the work of the Task Force on the Conceptual Foundations of Earth System Governance, coordinated by the Earth System Governance Project.

Workshop conveners

- David Schlosberg (Co-Director, Sydney Environment Institute and Professor of Environmental Politics, Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney)
- Karin Bäckstrand (Professor in Environmental Social Science, Department of Political Science, Stockholm University)
- Jonathan Pickering (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, University of Canberra)

Workshop sponsors

Endorsed by
ECOLOGICAL DEMOCRACY Workshop

Monday 20 February 2017
Holme Building | University of Sydney
9.00 – 4.30PM

9.00 – 9.30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

9.30 – 11.00 | Session 1: Foundations of Ecological Democracy
Chair: John Dryzek, University of Canberra

Manuel Arias-Maldonado, University of Malaga
‘An Impossible Object? Ecological Democracy After The Anthropocene’

Jonathan Pickering, University of Canberra
Åsa Persson, Stockholm Environment Institute
‘Democratising Planetary Boundaries’

David Schlosberg, University of Sydney
‘Ecological Justice And Ecological Democracy’

11.00 – 11.30 Morning tea

11.30 – 1.00 | Session 2: Rights, Institutions, and Deliberation
Chair: Rosemary Lyster, University of Sydney

Robert Bartlett, University of Vermont
‘A Rights Foundation For Ecological Democracy?’

Okka Lou Mathis, German Development Institute
‘Beyond “Green”: Pivotal Democratic Institutions For Sustainable Development’

Laurence Delina, University of Massachusetts
‘Deliberative Exercises For Scaling Micro-Level Climate Actions’

1.00 – 2.00 Lunch

2.00 – 3.00 | Session 3: Democracy and the Nonhuman
Chair: Karin Bäckstrand, Stockholm University

Annica Kronsell, Lund University
‘(Re)Thinking Human–Nonhuman Relations Through Empathic Rationality’

David Takacs, University of California
‘Biodiversity Offsetting And Rewilding: Can Laws That Promote Biodiversity And Ecological Democracy Coexist?’

3.00 – 3.30 Afternoon tea

3.30 – 4.30 | Session 4: Capitalism and Ecology
Chair: Christopher Wright, University of Sydney

Matthew Lepori, National University of Singapore
‘Democracy And The Ecology Of Capitalism’

Damian White, The Rhode Island School of Design
‘Design Ecologies, Labor Ecologies And Eco-Design Futuring: Exploring Embodied, Creative And Hybrid Visions Of An Ecological Democracy To Come’
Efforts to reconcile theories and practices of democracy with environmental sustainability have long been central to environmental political thought. Innovative work in the 1980s and 1990s addressed issues of the representation of the nonhuman, the relationship between democracy and ecological ‘limits’, and the design of ‘green’ states. Since this first wave of scholarship on ecological democracy, there have been numerous crucial developments that pose a range of challenges. On the environmental side, we have seen the acceleration of climate change, arguments for setting planetary boundaries around humanity’s environmental impacts, and widespread acknowledgement that the Earth has entered a new epoch: the Anthropocene. On the political side, we have had the growth of environmental and climate justice movements, the proliferation of institutions for global environmental governance, and the anti-environmental and post-truth era.

This panel of distinguished contributors to the ecological democracy debate will examine what theories of ecological democracy have offered, and, looking forward, how (or if) they might respond to the current set of ecological, and democratic, challenges.

Speakers:

- Robyn Eckersley, University of Melbourne
  ‘Democracy And Ecology: Looking Back, Looking Forward’
- Karin Bäckstrand, Stockholm University
  ‘Ecological Democracy In The Anthropocene’
- James Meadowcroft, Carleton University
  ‘Democracy And Ecology: Confronting The Limits’
- John Dryzek, University of Canberra
  ‘Ecology And The Crisis Of Democracy: Trees Versus Trump’
ECOLOGICAL DEMOCRACY Workshop

Tuesday 21 February 2017
Holme Building | University of Sydney
9.00 – 4.30PM

9.15 – 9.30 WELCOME

9.30 – 10.30 | SESSION 1: Diversity, Culture and Democracy
Chair: Kyle Whyte, Michigan State University

Teena Gabrielson, University of Wyoming
‘Flesh, Race And Agency: Theorizing A More Inclusive Ecological Democracy’

Sharon Adetutu Omotoso, University of Ibadan
‘When The Rains Are (Un)Stopped: African Feminism And The Green Democracy’

10.30 – 11.00 Morning tea

11.00 – 12.00 | SESSION 2: Ecological Democracy and Indigenous Peoples
Chair: Robert Bartlett, University of Vermont

Kyle Whyte, Michigan State University
‘Indigenous Peoples, Ecological Democracy And Climate Change’

Amy Lovecraft, University of Alaska
‘Co-Producing Anticipatory Governance: Scenarios As Social Learning In Arctic Alaska’

12.00 – 1.00 Lunch

1.00 – 2.00 | SESSION 3: Resources, Democracy and the Local
Chair: Mine Islar, Lund University

Delia Paul, Monash University
‘Water Management In Johor State, Malaysia’

Emerson M Sanchez, University of Canberra
‘Oscillating Social Order, Amorphous Roles: Democratising Philippine Mineral Resource Governance’

2.00 – 2.30 Afternoon tea

2.30 – 3.30 | SESSION 4: Culture & Ecological Citizenship
Chair: David Schlosberg, University of Sydney

Mine Islar, Lund University
‘The Figure Of The Ecological Citizen? : Citizen Municipalism In The Aftermath Of Right To The City Movements In Barcelona’

Marit Hammond, Keele University
‘The Centrality Of Culture In Ecological Democracy’

3.30 – 4.30 | SESSION 5: Next Steps

4.30 – 6.00 | Networking Drinks