

## **Degrowth meets Feminist Political Ecology: Towards a care-full and pluridiverse intersectional degrowth transformation (Part II)**

In this two-part session, affiliates of the Feminism and Degrowth Alliance (FaDA) put Degrowth and Feminist Political Ecology (FPE) into dialogue. We aim to explore what a degrowth transformation might entail from intersectional, pluridiverse and placed/situated perspectives (Haraway, 1988; Kothari et al., 2019). The sessions will be centred around the guiding question “what would it mean to make degrowth truly care-full and to put social reproduction at the heart of socio-ecological transformations?”

In the first part, we dive into **Commoning stories of the reproductive caring economy from various geographies**. In the second part, we explore the **Co-weaving of theories and praxis for an intersectional degrowth transformation**.

We propose the following questions to steer the explorative sessions' discussion:

- What can we learn from the ‘caring commoning’ citizens’ movement, and movements from the South who are prefiguring, feminising and decolonising the path to change within, against and beyond the confines of the growth-oriented system (Motta, 2021)?
- What kinds of insurgencies of care, ecologies of intimacy and socio-ecological transformations might we need to re-member and co-weave (Simpson, 2017)?
- To what extent is this also a cosmopolitical and epistemological pluridiverse task and praxis (Lugones, 2010)?
- How are emancipatory and critical lineages of pedagogical practices central to the how of these processes?
- To what extent do the categories of social reproduction capture this politics of ecology and how would we develop categories of critique and being-knowing through engagement with Indigenous and communities of colour and extend beyond human and non-human kin?

**Format: Paper session**

**Keywords for the sessions:** intersectional feminism, care economy, decoloniality, degrowth, commoning practises, pluriversity

### **II: Co-weaving theories and praxis for intersectional degrowth transformations**

- 1) Intersectionality’s Contribution to Collective Projects for Just and Care-full Socio-Ecological Transformations by Simona Getova

- 2) Ecologies of Intimacy and/as post-capitalist social economies by Sara C Motta
- 3) Understanding the Relationship Between Sustainability and Ecofeminism in an Indian Context by Dr. Lavanya Suresh

4.

#### **Intersectionality's Contribution to Collective Projects for Just and Care-full Socio-Ecological Transformations**

Simona Getova, Predoctoral Researcher, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

##### **Abstract:**

Intersectionality is a multifaceted field of inquiry stemming from Black feminist thought that calls out power structures and dynamics from which the interlinked climate, ecological, economic, and political crises stem. In this paper I argue that intersectionality can inspire and strengthen the literature and efforts around radical socio-ecological transformations (SETs) towards just, anti-colonial, and degrowth futures. To do this, I explore the elements of the scholarship and praxis of two SET endeavors: the decolonization of the social imaginary and the construction of grassroots Green New Deals (GNDs). I investigate their concrete proposals for radical transformations towards the desired futures and suggest the ways in which intersectionality – as a critical social theory, an analytical approach, and an organizing strategy – strengthens and advances the efforts around decolonising the social and cultural imaginary and around building and implementing bottom-up visions for GNDs. The benefits of this interface present how intersectionality enhances these SET endeavors by centering justice, solidarity and care, by capturing the plurality in praxis and visions toward transformation, by embracing complexity in understanding differentiated impacts and in building desired futures, and by studying the experiences of transformations of diverse groups of people.

**Keywords:** socio-ecological transformations; intersectionality; decolonization of the social imaginary; degrowth; Green New Deal

**Short biography:** Simona Getova is an ecofeminist climate justice organiser, facilitator and educator. Simona's work and research interests lie in the intersections of feminist political education, direct governance and community-led models of social and environmental justice for post-growth liberatory futures. She is the co-founder of **Kolektiv Z** and **The Climate Herald** and is currently pursuing her PhD in Political and Social Sciences at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, in the area of feminist political ecology. Simona's research focuses on the role of intersectionality in socio-ecological transformations.

5.

### **Ecologies of Intimacy and/as post-capitalist social economies**

**Sara C Motta**, Newcastle University, Mulumbinda-Newcastle, unceded Worimi and Awakabal lands, Australia

**Abstract:** Sharing the cosmopolitics of experiences of the feminisation and decolonisation of re-existencias and the cultivation of ecologies of intimacy co-weaved by raced and feminised communities and kin in the South- Colombia, Brazil and Australia, this contribution reflects on the deeply epistemological and pedagogical nature of post-capitalist social economies. It explores the double sided nature of social reproduction as both a site of exploitation and alienation and the possibility of social commoning but also suggests a is third category of being-knowing-becoming; that of black feminised flesh; or those racialized and feminised subjects and life worlds who have been systematically excluded, violated and negated by the logics and (ir)rationalities of hetro-patriarchal racial capitalism and what beginning from this experience brings to our praxis of building pluridiverse pathways beyond the current anti-life system.

**Keywords:** feminist decoloniality; ecologies of intimacy; Black flesh

**Bio:** **Sara C Motta** is a proud Mestiza-salvaje of Colombia Chibcha/Muisca, Eastern European Jewish and Celtic lineages currently living, loving, re-existiendo on the unceded lands of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples, NSW, so called Australia, She is a mother, survivor of state and intimate violence, poet, bare breasted philosopher, popular educator and Associate Professor at the University of Newcastle, NSW. Sara has worked for over two decades with raced and feminised communities in projects against and beyond heteroenormative capitalist-coloniality in Europe, Latin American and Australia and co-created numerous decolonising projects of radical healing and bien-estar. She has published widely in academic and activist-community outlets. Her latest book is *Liminal Subjects: Weaving (Our) Liberation* (Rowman and Littlefield) winner of the 2020 best Gender Theory and Feminist Book, International Studies Association (ISA).

6.

### **Understanding the Relationship Between Sustainability and Ecofeminism in an Indian**

**Context**, Lavanya Suresh, Dept of HSS, BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad, India

**Abstract**

This article looks closely at the relationship between gender and environment in the context of sustainability. It has been seen that without the inclusion of feminist concerns for gender equality, most environment public policy approaches will be incomplete and may even threaten to intensify women's subordination. This is illustrated in this article through a case study from Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu, India, wherein local organizations that operate successfully for environmental sustainability and women's financial inclusion do not achieve gender equality due to the chokehold of patriarchy. The article is theoretically situated in Bina Agarwal's idea that differences in attitudes to conservation between genders can stem primarily from the gendered division of economic resources, and the gendered division of labour. The article concludes that the relationship between women and nature in the Global South is a political issue that is fraught with power relations that operate at different scales and through different modalities.

**Keywords:** Ecofeminism, Intersectionality, Global South

**Short Bio:** Lavanya Suresh is an Assistant Professor at BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad campus. After her PhD in Political Science (from ISEC Bangalore), she was an Assistant Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Hyderabad. Her work focuses on the political ecology of land-based resources in South India, with a broader interest in decentralisation and public administration. Besides publications in leading social science journals, she has co-authored a book (with Prof. M.V. Nadkarni and N. Sivanna) on "Decentralised Democracy: Gandhi's Vision and Indian Reality."