

ICTA SEMINAR

Ecofeminism and Masculinity: thinking through the relationships between economy, ecology and the meta-industrial subject

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12:30 pm, Monday 30th January
Sala de Graus, ETSE, UAB

Presentation outline

In spite of the fact that human gender is, at the very least, a triad - comprised of the categories male, female and somewhere in between - it has long been, and in large part continues to be treated as a topic for and about women. Myriad historical reasons and modern justifications for why this is the case can easily be discovered and some of these will be presented at the start of the lecture, to provide a context for our discussion. However, the focus of this lecture will be on interpreting, elaborating and imagining forward what the late Val Plumwood (1992) has called the Third Wave of Feminism: where the nature / culture dualism that lies at the heart of modernity, manifest in the equating of feminine with nature and masculine with culture, first queered by the American and European suffragettes at the turn of the 20th century, then rejected in the 1960s and 70s by the women's liberation movement, is ultimately replaced by a complex understanding of the human subject as gendered and universal, natural and social, sometimes thinking, sometimes feeling animal. With the help of Ariel Salleh's (2009) concept of a meta-industrial subject, who lives in spite of, rather than thanks to, modern industrialisation (whether off heaps of garbage, in mangrove swamps, mountain forests and barren lands, or the squats and sitting rooms of Barcelona) we will explore both historical and present day links between the human propensity to create and use technology and the ways in which this shapes relationship among humans, including relationships between males, females and gender ambiguous individuals and relationships between technologies and peoples of different cultures and, no least, between these myriad modalities of human being and the other flora and fauna of the planet.

Speaker's biography

Katharine N. Farrell holds an honours bachelor degree in Political Science, two masters degrees, one in Urban Policy Analysis and Management and one in Environmental Engineering and completed her PhD in Ecological Political Economic with the text "Making Good Decisions Well: a theory of Collective Ecological Management." Her work focuses on the political economy of knowledge in environmental governance and the role of time and tradition in processes and principles of ecological economic production.