



## Inaugural Lecture Wendy Harcourt: 'Feminism and Sustainable Development: Take Two'



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How does gender and diversity relate to sustainable development? to changing ecologies? to increasing inequalities, self and 'the other', to our histories, as well as to our fears and emotions about our futures? Wendy Harcourt in her inaugural speech explains why in answering such questions, feminist political ecology is vital.

### **Gendered knowledge of the every day**

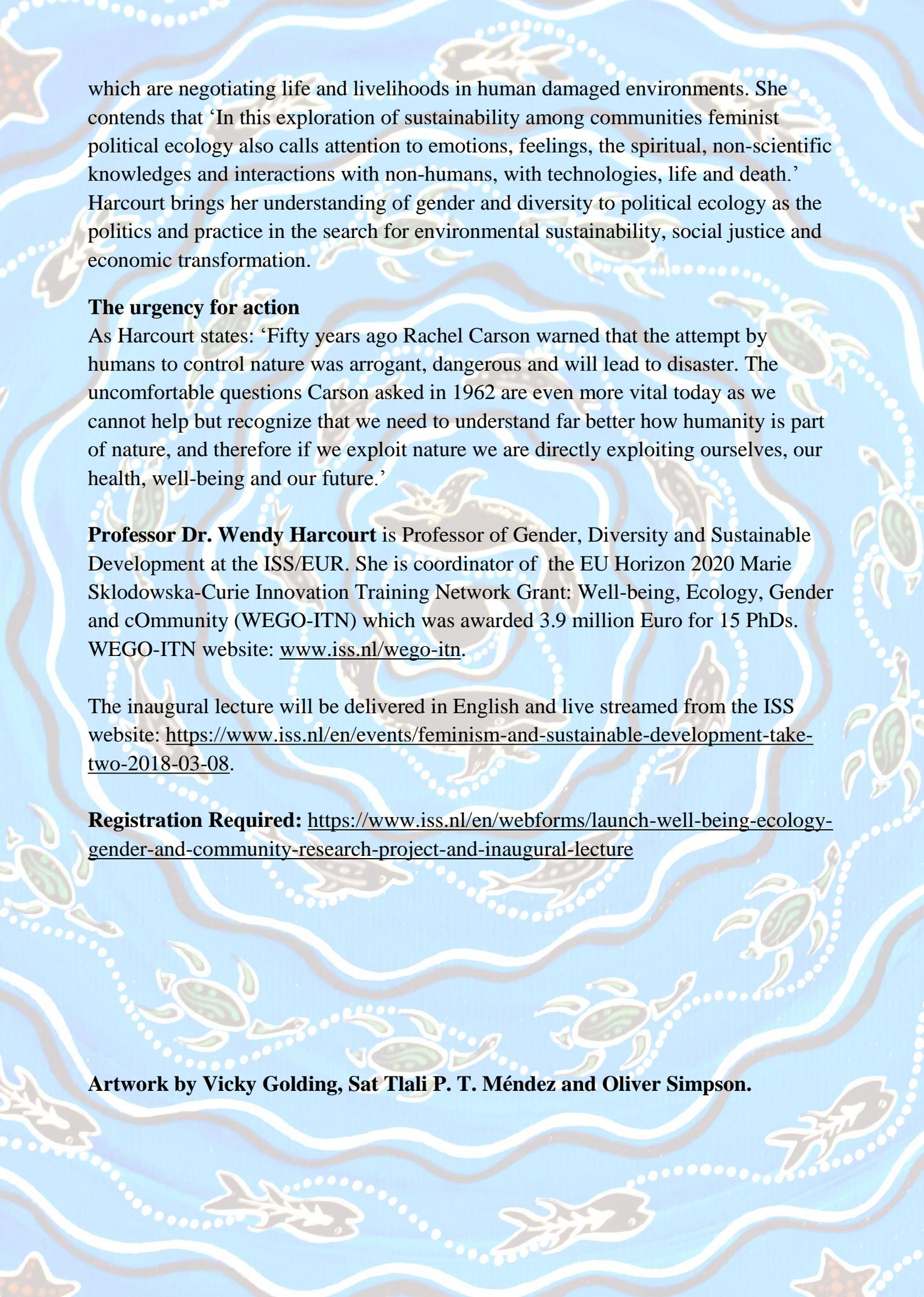
Harcourt argues that as we face climatic conditions never before experienced on this planet we need a gendered knowledge of every day experiences combined with a political and ecologically aware approach to global economic dynamics.

### **Negotiating life and livelihoods**

Harcourt states 'Looking at practices in place and among communities, feminist political ecology is redefining sustainability as rooted in cultural identities and local ecological and economic processes scaling up to the global larger picture'. She warns that 'our messy globalized world demands a complex reading of interconnections among our every day, our expectation of policy and our sense of the other, our imagination and our future'.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

Harcourt's work as a researcher and coordinator of the newly funded EU Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovation Training Network Grant: Well-being, Ecology, Gender and cOmmunity (WEGO-ITN) engages in the agenda set by the UN Sustainable Development Goals by exploring what is happening in specific places



which are negotiating life and livelihoods in human damaged environments. She contends that ‘In this exploration of sustainability among communities feminist political ecology also calls attention to emotions, feelings, the spiritual, non-scientific knowledges and interactions with non-humans, with technologies, life and death.’ Harcourt brings her understanding of gender and diversity to political ecology as the politics and practice in the search for environmental sustainability, social justice and economic transformation.

### **The urgency for action**

As Harcourt states: ‘Fifty years ago Rachel Carson warned that the attempt by humans to control nature was arrogant, dangerous and will lead to disaster. The uncomfortable questions Carson asked in 1962 are even more vital today as we cannot help but recognize that we need to understand far better how humanity is part of nature, and therefore if we exploit nature we are directly exploiting ourselves, our health, well-being and our future.’

**Professor Dr. Wendy Harcourt** is Professor of Gender, Diversity and Sustainable Development at the ISS/EUR. She is coordinator of the EU Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovation Training Network Grant: Well-being, Ecology, Gender and cOmmunity (WEGO-ITN) which was awarded 3.9 million Euro for 15 PhDs. WEGO-ITN website: [www.iss.nl/wego-itn](http://www.iss.nl/wego-itn).

The inaugural lecture will be delivered in English and live streamed from the ISS website: <https://www.iss.nl/en/events/feminism-and-sustainable-development-take-two-2018-03-08>.

**Registration Required:** <https://www.iss.nl/en/webforms/launch-well-being-ecology-gender-and-community-research-project-and-inaugural-lecture>

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