



CALL FOR PAPERS

Culture, Consciousness and Nature — A Context for Climate Change

OCTOBER 16 – 18, 2008 VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

HOSTED BY GRADUATE LIBERAL STUDIES, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

The organizers of the 2008 AGLSP Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia invite paper or performance proposals related to the conference theme, *Culture, Consciousness and Nature— A Context for Climate Change*. The theme is meant to be interpreted broadly, implying that the issue of Climate Change is not limited to technical, scientific and policy discourse, but is in fact inclusive as well of philosophic, aesthetic, spiritual and cultural perspectives.

The questions posed on our conference description give an indication of the breadth of proposals we look forward to receiving:

- What is the relationship between *nature* and *culture*?
- Is human culture a mere artifact of nature, akin to a beehive, a spider's web or beaver's dam, or is it a unique construction stemming from an equally unique reflective consciousness — a "human nature"?
- Do humans act *on* nature or *within* nature? To what degree can such distinctions be sustained?
- Are current human attempts to dominate nature through cultural constructions (e.g. technologies) a *natural* development or an *aberration* in the evolution of Homo sapiens?
- Is it the case that we once lived in a more harmonious relationship with nature, and that some

human cultures still do? How can an historical perspective aid in addressing current concerns?

- How might the way we *think* about nature affect the way we *act* upon nature?
- How do cultural traditions of patriarchy and hierarchy affect human relations with the other-than-human?
- What role should science have in shaping public policy on environmental issues?
- How might science, religion, philosophy, literature and other realms of knowledge better contribute to the creation of a global citizenry informed about and engaged with environmental issues?

GUIDELINES

All proposals for presentation at the conference must be a maximum of 300 words and should include a detailed description of the presentation and its structure, the presenter's name, institution, email address and phone number.

The papers will be delivered during the conference and individual presentations should be a maximum of 25 minutes long.

The conference organizers are working to make this conference environmentally responsible and request that all submissions be submitted electronically as an email attachment.

PLEASE SEND PROPOSALS BY APRIL 1, 2008

to Stephen Duguid, Conference Chair, Graduate Liberal Studies, Simon Fraser University. duguid@sfu.ca

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

RODERICK NASH

Professor of History and the Environmental Studies Program, University of California, Santa Barbara

Roderick Nash is considered America's foremost wilderness historian. He is regarded as a national leader in the field of environmental history and management and environmental education. Among his numerous books and over 150 essays, he is best known for *Wilderness and the American Mind*, which has received many reprintings, revised editions, and foreign translations. A past Lindbergh Fellow, Nash has served on the board of directors of the Yosemite Institute and as a member of the advisory committee to the U.S. National Park Service.

www.es.ucsb.edu/faculty/nash

ANDREW DOBSON

Professor of Politics, Keele University, United Kingdom

Andrew Dobson's research interests are in the field of environmental political theory, with particular reference to the relationship between 'ecologism' and other modern political ideologies, and to the tensions between environmental sustainability as a social objective, and other objectives such as deepening democracy and increasing social justice.

www.andrewdobson.com

CAROLYN MERCHANT

Professor of Environmental History, Philosophy, and Ethics, University of California, Berkeley

Carolyn Merchant's research focuses on American environmental and cultural history in the overall context of Western history, philosophy, and the history of science. Interested in the role of consciousness and symbols about nature, the interaction between productive and reproductive forces in human and nonhuman history, and the place of ecological change in understanding development over time. Her current research investigates the environmental history of the United States and California, exploring the development of natural resources — agriculture, forestry, ranching, minerals, and water — and the history of the environmental sciences and conservation.

<http://ecnr.berkeley.edu/facPage/disFP.php?l=617>

CONFERENCE VENUE

The Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs 2008 Annual Conference will take place in Vancouver at the Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites located in the West End and within walking distance to English Bay and Stanley Park as well as specialty restaurants and shops.

1763 Comox Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6G 1P6
www.coasthotels.com/hotels/canada/bc/vancouver/coast_plaza/overview

Registration materials will be available on the AGLSP website . For more information regarding the conference please contact Joanna Koczwarski koczwars@sfu.ca or 778-782-5152