

Widening the Circle



Thinking about both genders other cultures, other species, and other generations



‘Economics for people and the planet’

- Many perspectives are never considered by a system of economics that privileges white, wealthy, western men
- An extension of a colonial system whereby the resources and people of most of the planet are harnessed to improve the living standards of the minority of people who live in the privileged West.
- Maria Mies has extended the notion of colonialism to include all those whose labour is exploited, including homeworkers, peasants, women, and the planet itself

Half the sky – the largest ‘minority’

- ‘it is inherent in the methodology of economics to ignore man’s dependence on the natural world’. E. F. Schumacher
- Women form 70 per cent of the world’s poor and own only 1% of the world’s assets (Amnesty International).
- Women earn only 50% of what men earn UNFPA (2005)



Women's lives at risk

- Addis Ababa: High Level Meeting on Maternal Health
- Millennium Development Goal 5
- 5.A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
 - Maternal mortality ratio
 - Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel



- Since 1990 10 million women have died from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth
- Niger has the highest lifetime risk of maternal mortality of any country in the world, 1 in 7.
- The comparable risk in the developed world is 1 in 8,000
- Two thirds of all maternal deaths occur in just 10 countries
- India and Nigeria together account for one third of maternal deaths worldwide.

UNICEF, *State of the World's Children* 2009

Winners of the Swedish Bank Prize

- **2009** - [Elinor Ostrom, Oliver E. Williamson](#); **2008** - [Paul Krugman](#); **2007** - [Leonid Hurwicz, Eric S. Maskin, Roger B. Myerson](#); **2006** - [Edmund S. Phelps](#); **2005** - [Robert J. Aumann, Thomas C. Schelling](#); **2004** - [Finn E. Kydland, Edward C. Prescott](#); **2003** - [Robert F. Engle III, Clive W.J. Granger](#); **2002** - [Daniel Kahneman, Vernon L. Smith](#); **2001** - [George A. Akerlof, A. Michael Spence, Joseph E. Stiglitz](#); **2000** - [James J. Heckman, Daniel L. McFadden](#); **1999** - [Robert A. Mundell](#); **1998** - [Amartya Sen](#); **1997** - [Robert C. Merton, Myron S. Scholes](#); **1996** - [James A. Mirrlees, William Vickrey](#); **1995** - [Robert E. Lucas Jr.](#); **1994** - [John C. Harsanyi, John F. Nash Jr., Reinhard Selten](#); **1993** - [Robert W. Fogel, Douglass C. North](#); **1992** - [Gary S. Becker](#); **1991** - [Ronald H. Coase](#); **1990** - [Harry M. Markowitz, Merton H. Miller, William F. Sharpe](#); **1989** - [Trygve Haavelmo](#); **1988** - [Maurice Allais](#); **1987** - [Robert M. Solow](#); **1986** - [James M. Buchanan Jr.](#); **1985** - [Franco Modigliani](#); **1984** - [Richard Stone](#); **1983** - [Gerard Debreu](#); **1982** - [George J. Stigler](#); **1981** - [James Tobin](#); **1980** - [Lawrence R. Klein](#); **1979** - [Theodore W. Schultz, Sir Arthur Lewis](#); **1978** - [Herbert A. Simon](#); **1977** - [Bertil Ohlin, James E. Meade](#); **1976** - [Milton Friedman](#); **1975** - [Leonid Vitaliyevich Kantorovich, Tjalling C. Koopmans](#); **1974** - [Gunnar Myrdal, Friedrich August von Hayek](#); **1973** - [Wassily Leontief](#); **1972** - [John R. Hicks, Kenneth J. Arrow](#); **1971** - [Simon Kuznets](#); **1970** - [Paul A. Samuelson](#); **1969** - [Ragnar Frisch, Jan Tinbergen](#)

The World's Largest Companies

- 12 of the CEOs of the companies in the Global Fortune 500 list were women in 2007
- None of these companies was based in Africa
 - 153 were based in the USA
 - 34 in the UK
 - 29 in China
 - None in the Czech Republic

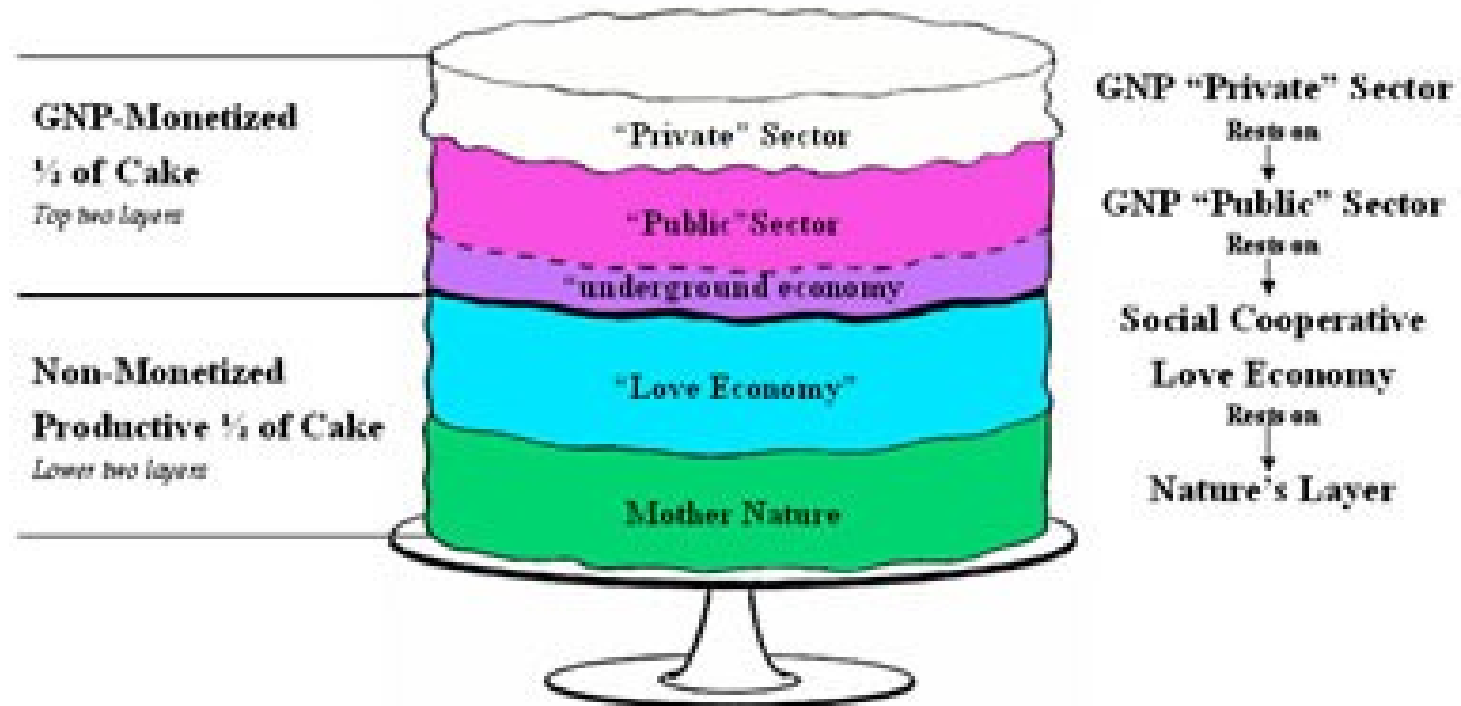


Mary Mellor, 'Challenging Economic Boundaries: Ecofeminist Political Economy', 2006.

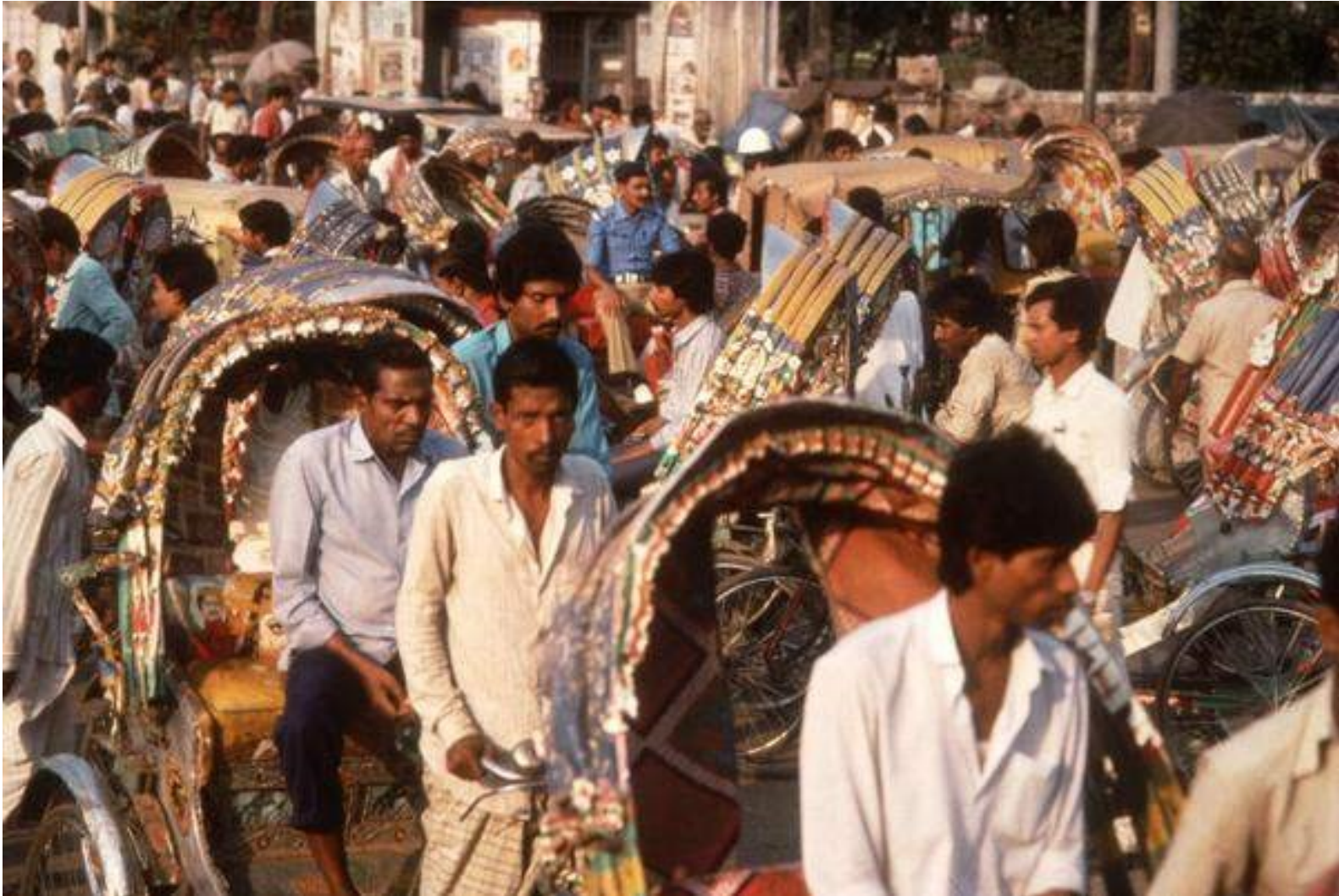
- Economic man is fit, mobile, able-bodied, unencumbered by domestic or other responsibilities. The goods he consumes appear to him as finished products or services and disappear from his view on disposal or dismissal. He has no responsibility for the life-cycle of those goods or services any more than he questions the source of the air he breathes or the disposal of his excreta . . . Like Oscar Wilde's Dorian Gray, economic man appears to exist in a smoothly functioning world, while the portrait in the attic represents his real social, biological and ecological condition.

The icing on the cake?

Total Productive System of an Industrial Society (Layer Cake With Icing)



The majority world



Who is causing the crisis?

	<i>USA</i>	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Asia</i>	<i>Africa</i>	<i>World</i>
Energy	8520	3546	892	580	1640
CO ₂ emissions	20.3	8–12	<1	<1	3.85
Daily water	430	159	172	47	173

CELEBRATE THE TRIUMPH OF THE
**GLOBAL CAPITALIST
ECONOMY**

WITH THESE FINELY CRAFTED
'INCOME DISTRIBUTION™'
SOUVENIR CHAMPAGNE GLASSES

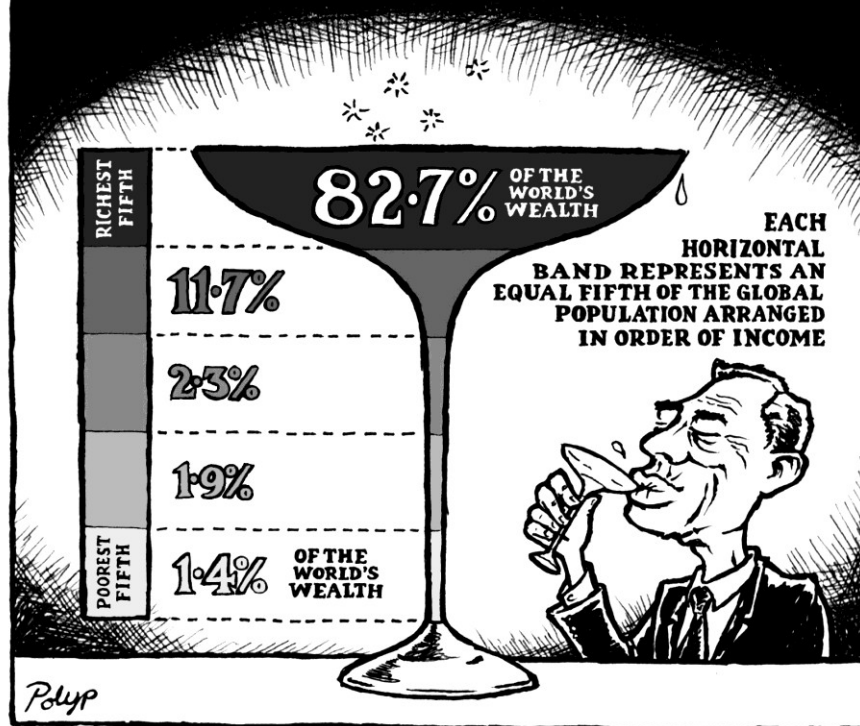
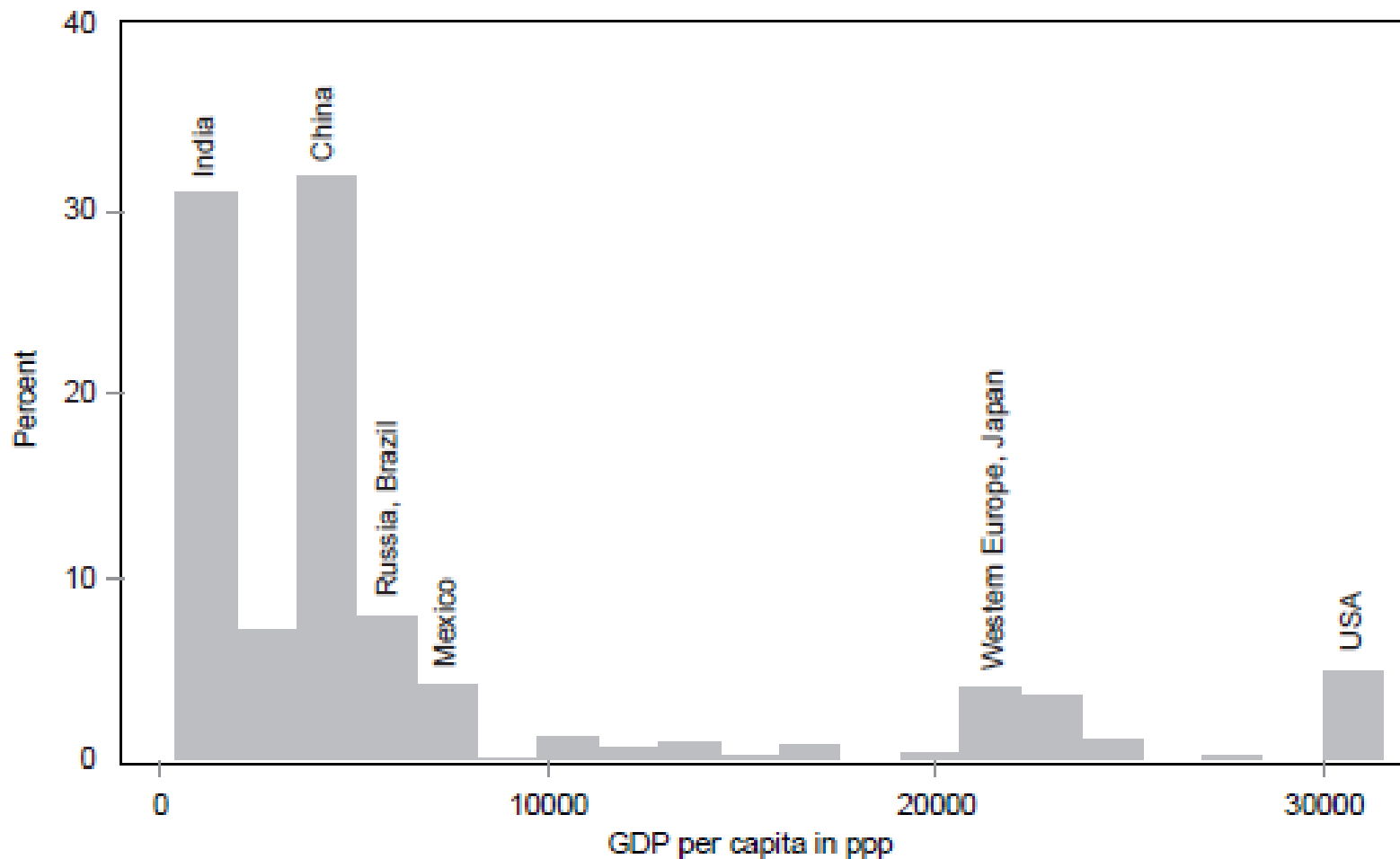


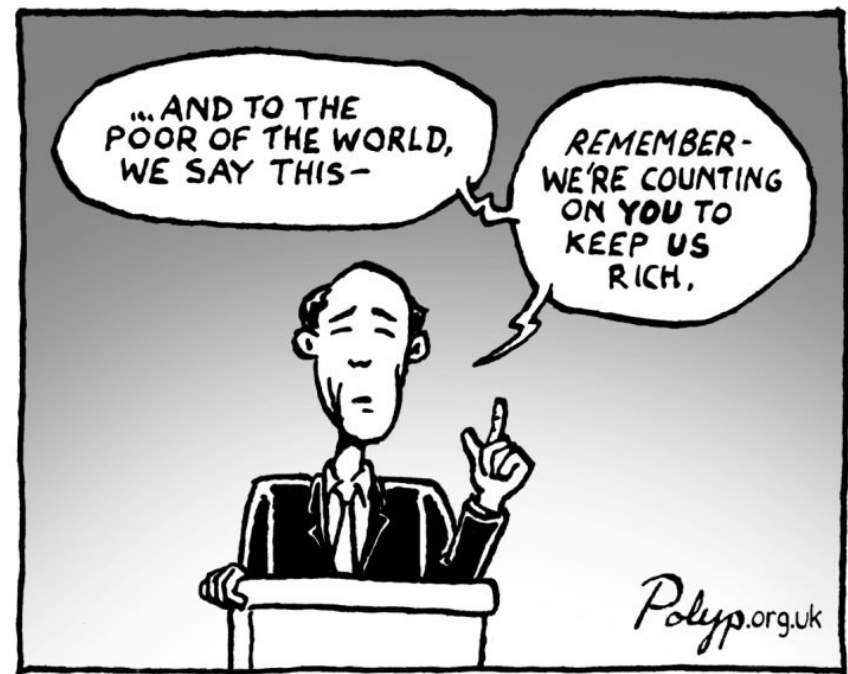
Figure 2:
Distribution of people according to GDI
per capita of the country where they live, 2000



World Distribution of Household Wealth

- Study by the United Nations University's World Institute for Development Economic Research (UNU-WIDER) in 2006
- (Household wealth is the sum of real property and financial assets, minus debt):
 - Average wealth per adult was \$20,500.
 - Average wealth in the United States stood at \$144,000,
 - Japan had the highest figure at \$181,000
 - India had \$1,100 in per capita assets

- One-third of total adult wealth was owned in North America; one-third in Europe; 24 per cent in the rich Asian, and 1 per cent in African countries
- The richest 10 per cent of adults accounted for 85 per cent of global household wealth



'MUTUAL AID'

Any Questions?



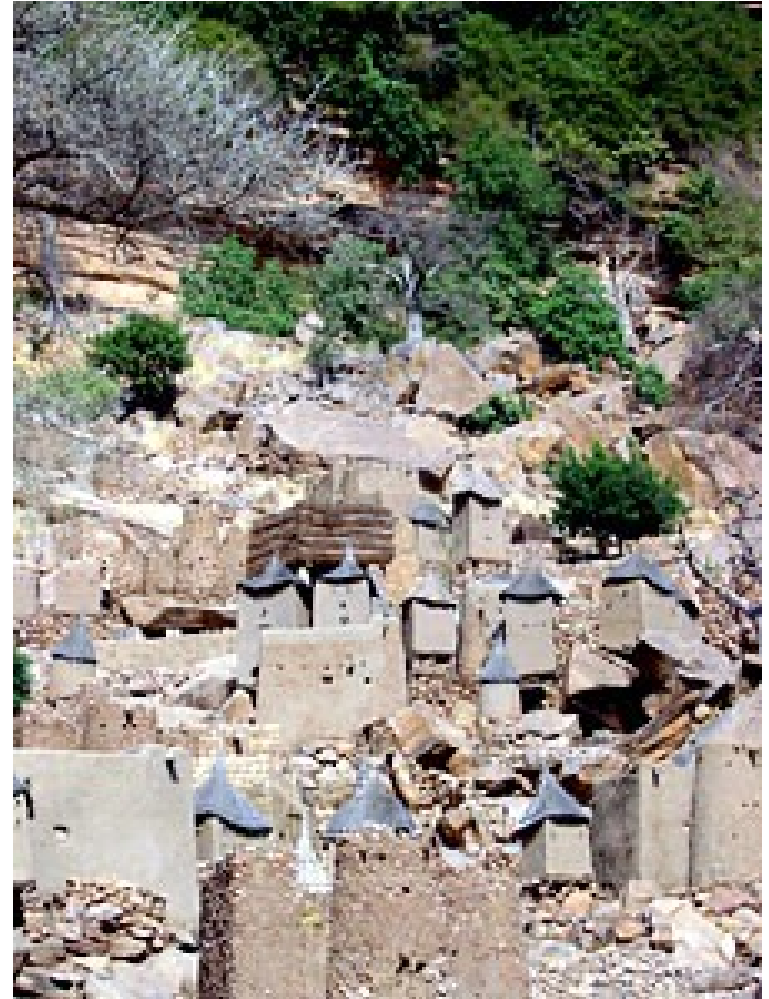
Indigenous perspective

All land is sacred. It is their bible. Indigenous people do not see the land as a commodity which can be sold or bought. They do not see themselves as possessors but as guardians of the land. A fundamental difference between the indigenous concept of land and the western idea is that indigenous peoples belong to the land rather than the land belonging to them.

Zapata and Schielman, 1999: 236

Learning from the South

‘the land and its bounty plays an important part in the religious views of the Dogon. The Lebe cult is primarily concerned with agricultural renewal, and altars devoted to it have bits of earth incorporated into them to encourage the continued fertility of the land.’



Learning from the Ancestors

- ‘That we may work in righteousness, and lay the Foundation of Making the Earth a Common Treasury for All, both Rich and Poor, That every one that is born in the Land, may be fed by the Earth his Mother that brought him forth, according to the Reason that rules in the Creation.’
- Gerard Winstanley, St. George’s Hill, London,
April Fool’s Day 1649

Guerrilla gardening?

- Time of religious and political turmoil
- England's Civil War or England's Revolution?
- Questions of land ownership we will come back to?
- Who cares for land better?

"England is not a free people, till the poor that have no land, have a free allowance to dig and labour the commons..."
Gerrard Winstanley, 1649



Other species

‘people are not orthodox individualists. . . they feel that they live within a vast whole—nature—which is in some sense the source of all value, and whose workings are quite generally entitled to respect. They do not see this whole as an extra item, or a set of items which they must appraise and evaluate one by one to make sure whether they need them. They see it as the original context which gives sense to their lives . . . From this angle, the burden of proof is not on someone who wants to preserve mahogany trees from extinction. It is on the person who proposes to destroy them.’

Midgley, 1996

Buddhist economics



- ‘May All Beings Be Well and Happy’
- ‘Right Livelihood’ should not sacrifice the well-being of other species
- Shamanistic need to ask permission to consume other creatures

Future generations

Importance of intergenerational equity inherent in the Brundtland declaration that is the basis of 'sustainable development':

Meeting the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Discounting the future

- Consequences of many environmental losses and impacts will be felt many years into the future
- Climate change—2050 to 2100
- Nuclear pollution—hundred of thousands of years
- How to set prices into the future?
- Neoclassical economists use a method known as ‘discounting’.

Techniques of discounting

- This translates the environmental impact from the future into a present value which is expressed as:
-
- $PV(B) = B_T / (1-r)^T$
-
- where r is the discount rate, B is the benefit or cost (C) accruing in T years' time.
- Such a formula has the effect of diminishing the impact of environmental destruction caused in this present time-period and making our current actions appear less costly to future generations.

Consequences for future generations?

- ‘Pure time preference’ and ‘wealth’ components
- The higher the discount rate, the lower the future costs of current actions
- ‘Descriptive’ discounting assumes that the discount rate should just be equivalent to the prevailing interest rate
- Interest rates of 5-10% massively diminish the present value of the distant future

What is in it for 'us'; who are 'we'?

