

# SOCIAL POLICY/ SOCIAL WORK, IDENTITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**SOCIAL SPACE – PRIVATE SPACE – PUBLIC SPACE AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC**

**THE QUESTION OF IDENTITY**

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# The spiritual and philosophical dimension

- Katherine Augusta Westcott Tingley (1847 – 1929) USA, Sweden and internationally
- Theosophical Society
- Social Worker in New York
- Active in peace movement
- Eastern and western traditions of thought
  
- Famous statements « Music becomes a part of life itself, and one of those subtle forces of nature which, rightly applied, call into the divine powers of the soul»; «True drama points away from unrealities to the real life of the soul»
- The Center at Visingsö in lake Vättern in Sweden
- Another Centre in California
- The intuitive flame burns in every child
- Raja –Yoga (Indian mysticism)

# Katherine Augusta Westcott Tingley (1847 – 1929)



Visningsö - an isolated island in the middle of southern Sweden – historically important and a world apart



planted in order to have old oak to build warships  
to the Swedish navy – for the Theosophical Society  
a connection to the spiritual and even pre-  
Christian Celtic



# Social Reform

- Octavia Hill (1838 – 1912)
- The Welfare of Working people
- The Settlement Movement (Mixed living with people of different economy and background)
- National Trust Preserving of places of historic interest and natural beauty for the public
- Member of the Royal Commission of Poor Laws in 1905
- Founder of the Charity Organization
- Housing for the poor
- Museums for the public
- Open spaces (parks –green places for the public)

# Octavia Hill (1838 – 1912)



# Marlybone Slum Nineteenth Century





# Wicken Fenn National Trust 1899



# Hampstead Heath National Trust





# London Borough of Southwark (1887 -1890)



# The Aesthetics – the beauty of nature and humans in nature

- John Singer Sargent (1856 – 1925) American portrait painter who lived most of his life in Europe
- Active in Social Reform in co-operation with Octavia Hill (1838 – 1912)
- The preservance and influence of beauty
- The emphasize upon nature as part of a shared heritage regardless of economy, class and social standing
- The emphasize upon aesthetics as of crucial importance for social development

John Singer Sargent (1856 – 1925) – self  
portrait Florence Uffizi Art Gallery





# Morning Walk 1888 (Private Collection)

## John Singer Sargent



Out-of – Doors Study (1889) The painter Paul  
César Helleu (1859 -1929) sketching with his wife  
Brooklyn Art Museum



# The construction of nature

Charles Eliot (1859 – 1897) landscape architect  
(USA)





# White Park Pond, Concord Massachusetts



# Belle Isle Nature Zoo Michigan Fallow Deer (white variety)



# The revolutionary approach

- Alexandra Kollontai (1872 – 1952) (Russian)
- Communist Revolutionary
- Soviet Ambassador to Norway and later Sweden
- Advocacy of free love (Human instincts as natural as thirst and hunger)
- Humans as nature –
- The biological human

# Alexandra Kolontai (1872 – 1952)



To dear comrade  
Louise Bryant  
from her friend  
Alexandra Kolontai  
Petrograd 1/9/18.

# The survival and care of nature is the survival of mankind

- Rachel Carson (1907 – 1964) American biologist and author
- The Sea Around Us (1954) (Book)
- Silent Spring (1962) (Book)
- Ban of certain pesticides
- US Environmental Agency

# Rachel Carson

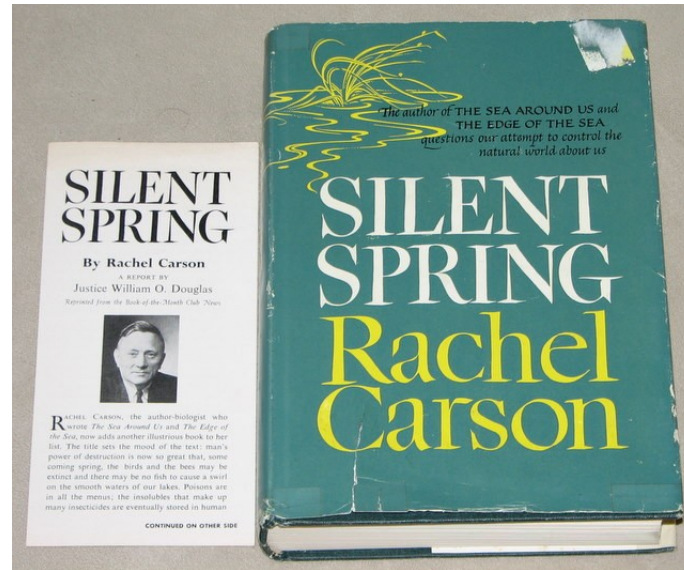


# Rachel Carson marinbiological work





Silent Spring – one of the most influential environmental books of last century First Print round 150000 copies - since then never out of print





# Tidal Salt Marsh Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, Maine USA





# Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, Maine USA



# Reform and change

- John Steinbeck (1902 – 1968) american author
- Nobel prize in literature (1962)
- National Book Award
- Pulitzer Prize
- Grapes of Wrath (1939)
- Cannery Row (1945)
- East of Eden (1952)
- Themes of Injustice
- Themes of humans living from agriculture, fishing and nature
- Living from nature and sharing with friends
- Ecological philosophy (The Biologist Ed Ricketts – textbook on ecology)

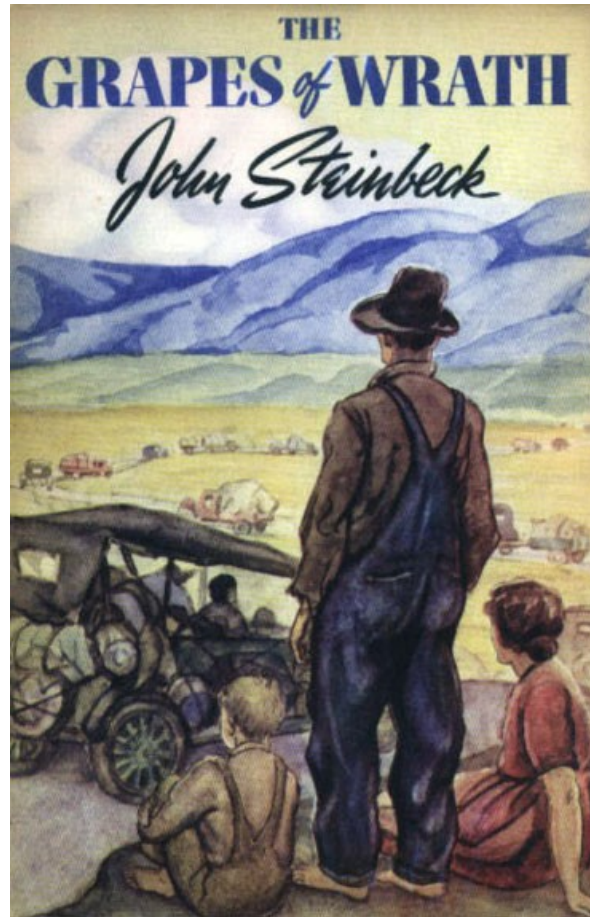
# John Steinbeck (1902 – 1968)



# Monterey Canning – work- environment







# The biological approach – ecology in practice

- Edward Flanders Robb Ricketts (1897 – 1948) American ecologist, marine biologist, author and close friend of John Steinbeck
- The Log from the Sea of Cortez (1951)
- Between Pacific Tides (1939) – a pioneer study of ecology
- Boundless curiosity of nature
- Unsuccessful relationships living in his lab
- The social meaning of ecology
- No social boundaries in curiosity – the curiosity as the basis of acknowledgment and change

# Edward Flanders Robb Ricketts (1897 – 1948)





# Sea Slug



# Blenny



# Flatworm





# Venus- Fly – Trap Sea Anemone



# Saint Francis of Assisi (1181/1182 – 1226)

- Italian friar and preacher
- Patron saint of Italy
- Founder of Order of Friars Minor, the womens Order of Saint Clare and the Third Order of saint Francis
- Support and solidarity with the poor
- Men should protect and be custodians of nature
- The Patron Saint of Ecology
- Franciscan friars

# Legend of the birds



# Fransiscian friar



# Mendicant Orders

- Lifestyle of poverty
- Preaching, evangelization and ministry to the poor
- Travelling the world to preach
- Franciscans
- Dominicans
- Carmelites
- Social change and care
- Social responsibility



# Tradition of social work and the tradition of environmental work

- Traditions of complexity
- We acknowledge some traditions and ignore other traditions
- Environmental concerns was expressed by many politicians and thinkers we hardly want to associate with. The vegetarian and teetotaler Adolf Hitler was one of them.
- Humans should be acknowledged as part of the environment
- We need to acknowledge that both social work and concern of the environment includes a multitude of sometimes conflicting traditions
- Regardless concern of the environment is closely connected to social policy and questions of welfare

# Use of the environment in social policy and in therapy

- The environment as the foundation for human life
- Use of parks, nature and animals as an connection to self and stimulate pro-social behavior
- Horticulture therapy/nature therapy
- Use of the environment as a healing process and for specific therapeutic purposes
- Teaching/pedagogy – the environment crucial for the development of the cognitive and curiosity

Ferret Orhan Pamuk( 1952 - ) The cross- cultural  
dimension – the urban environment and nature  
Turkish Noble Laurate (2006)  
Snow (2002) Istanbul (2003)



carp – *Cyprinus carpio* – the wisdom, adaptation, interaction, invasive, problem and source of food and pride – connection to the spiritual as well as the worldly. The farmfish of Europe as well as the Ottoman Empire.



# The urban identity – the co-existing differences in interaction and conflicts

- The shared pain
- Guilt and responsibility
- The socially rejected
- Those included
- The acceptable truth
- The unacceptable truth
- The shared identity and the identity rejected
- The past and the present
- Always the land and the sea. The air and the water. The plants and other living beings