

Panel: *Sexuate sustainable practices and ecologies*

Convenors: Dr Peg Rawes (UCL), Professor Gail Schwab (Hofstra University, NY)

To construct only in order to construct nevertheless does not suffice for dwelling. A cultivation of the living must accompany a building of that which does not grow by itself...For a human, the two do not seem separable. To cultivate human life in its engendering and its growth requires the elaboration of material and spiritual frameworks and constructions. These should not be opposed to the becoming of life, as they have too often been, but provide it with the help indispensable for its blossoming.

Luce Irigaray, *The Way of Love* (New York: Continuum, 2002), 144.

Ecological thinking is not simply thinking about ecology or about the environment: it generates revised modes of engagement with knowledge, subjectivity, politics, ethics, science, citizenship, and agency, which pervade and reconfigure theory and practice alike. First and foremost a thoughtful practice, thinking ecologically carries with it a large measure of responsibility. . . . [As to] how it could translate into wider issues of citizenship and politics, . . . the answer, at once simple and profound, is that ecological thinking is about imagining, crafting, articulating, endeavoring to enact principles of ideal cohabitation.

Lorraine Code, *Ecological Thinking* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), 24.

Luce Irigaray's 'sustainable' thinking and Lorraine Code's ecological thought highlight the importance of developing sexuate futures through sustainable modes of social, poetic and political practice and theory. Taking the terms 'sustainability' and 'ecology' to encompass the complex social, political and cultural formation of our environments, societies and futures, as well as the physical consequences of human interaction with biological, animal and environmental realms, this panel will explore how sexual difference can aid our responsibility for nurturing the sustainable ecologies of our local and global communities, environments and interactions; our health and well-being; the impact and expressions of social justice and citizenship; and our public and private poetic lives. It will examine the 'eco-subjects' (Conley, 1997) which sexed ecological and sustainable thinking and practice bring to these debates, for example: What new eco-subjects and political imaginations does sexuate thinking enable? What new sexed models of ecology can enable sustainable modes of living that nurture and generate our poetic, political and ethical lives? How do sexed approaches to sustainability transform it from its association with the damaging globalisation of technological and economic monocultures into new productive ethical models of ecological thinking? How can positive and cautionary sexuate eco-imaginings, narratives and poetics enable processes of social justice and political change for environmental and human sustainability?

Responses to these questions are invited from across the humanities, visual arts and design disciplines, the social sciences and the biomedical and physical sciences, as well as from individuals, collectives and organisations that research and practice in these issues. Disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and practices that demonstrate how poetic and political sexed thinking can inform new modes of sustainable ecologies are particularly welcomed.

Approaches may include:

- ecocriticism and ecofeminism
- social justice and ecological activism
- sustainable psycho-physical ecologies and approaches to mental health well-being
- sexuate approaches to biomedical research and practice, including, synthetic biology, epigenetics, family planning, women's and child health
- micro-economics
- sexuate technologies

Submission requirements: By **23rd April 2010** please email m.rawes@ucl.ac.uk with a 300-500 word abstract in a proposal document (word/PDF), and a second name/affiliation/30 word biographical document (word/PDF) for blind review. Please also note: Notification of acceptance sent out Friday 28th May. Final submission of papers/presentation content, Friday 17th September.