

Editorial: Plurality e Sustainability

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Sustainability in Debate (SeD), a journal published by the Center for Sustainability Debate of the Universidade de Brasília (Brazil), is reaching its 10th issue.

The journal is open to the contributions of the entire national and international academic community. Since its launching, in 2010, it has strived to become a reference and a forum for debates concerning sustainability, stimulating plurality.

The plurality of approaches is once again reflected in a dossier – entitled “**Women and Sustainability**” –, which includes articles, essays, interviews, debate, profiles, a photographic essay (gallery) and book reviews. The texts in these several genres express the many voices involved in the discussions about sustainable development, sustainability and gender.

Disciplinary plurality is expressed by the theoretical approaches of the several texts – from cultural anthropology to engineering. Female and male authors with different backgrounds illustrate the richness of the topic of gender and sustainability.

The dossier reflects also a plurality of observers – the several texts are enriched by the views of scholars, government officers, businessmen, activists, non-governmental leaders and leaders of social inclusion projects.

The plurality of topics includes the reality of urban settlements – such as using art as a tool for social change in the struggle against gender violence – and rural areas – the invisibility of female labor in family farming settings, for example. Also present are policies directed specifically towards women, agroecology, feminism, and food and nutritional security.

Present also is a plurality of concepts of the qualities of the female gender, which may be found in both biological sexes. There is also respect to the men and women participating in this dossier – authors, reviewers, objects of investigation, and authors/subjects of book reviews. The women may belong to traditional peoples and communities or to large cities. They are Black, White and Indigenous, Americans, Africans or Europeans, among so many other identities that must be considered in the studies and points of view included in the following pages.

Committed to this principle of plurality, the dossier includes **five scientific articles** written by authors from three continents, a **Debate** involving five Brazilian women with remarkable participation in the field of sustainability, an exclusive **Interview** with former Minister of the Environment and current presidential candidate Marina Silva, and a **Gallery** or photographic essay about a community garden that became a project of social inclusion in the town of Itapoã, located in the outskirts of the national capital, Brasília.

In this issue **SeD** launches a new section: **Sustainable Profile**. Its goal is to provide exposure to people in several walks of life who work for the consolidation of the dream of sustainability. There have been and are many women involved in this field, at the international, national and local levels, but we chose to focus on some of those who are recognized as pioneers: Rachel Carson, Donella Meadows, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Hazel Henderson, Vandana Shiva, Wangari Muta Maathai, Elinor Ostrom, Anne Ehrlich, Marina Silva, Maria Tereza Jorge Padua e Cilúlia Maria Maury.

Two **Book Reviews** that focus on texts that help understand sustainability from a gender perspective complement the dossier. The first revisits one of the early and most influential productions of Vandana Shiva (***Monocultures of the Mind***), assessing the influence that the author and the text have achieved since the book's publication, in the early 1990s. The second review examines a recently published biographical and analytical text on Rachel Carson (***Rachel Carson and her sisters***), written by Robert K. Musil. The text covers the career, the scientific findings and the political and academic connections that allowed ***Silent Spring*** to achieve the status of founding text of the contemporary concern with the global environment.

In the **Varia** section, **SeD 10** presents four additional scientific articles. The article ***Towards a Theoretical Re-Interpretation of the Socioeconomic Challenges of Contemporary Climate Policies*** ("Para uma reinterpretação teórica dos desafios socioeconômicos da política climática contemporânea"), Eduardo Sá Barreto focuses on the dominant trends of the policies that seek energy efficiency in the countries responsible for most emissions of greenhouse gases. The author proposes a new understanding – based on the Marxian theory of value – of the relation between efficiency gains and energy consumption. This provides a new framework to the economic, social and technological challenges imposed by climate change.

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is the backdrop for the text authored by Nathalia Simão, Gilberto Martins and Arilson Favareto, in intitulado ***Implicit Economic Theories in the Kyoto Protocol*** ("As Teorias Econômicas implícitas no Protocolo de Kyoto"). The text examines the implicit influences found in the foundations of the Kyoto Protocol, using three economic approaches – neoclassical environmental economics, ecological economics and institutional economics. The authors interpret and discuss the logic that framed the drafting of the protocol and its instruments.

Andreza Soares Cardoso, Peter Mann de Toledo and Ima Célia Guimarães Vieira, in ***The Institutional Dimension of Sustainability and Environmental Management in the Moju District of Pará (Brazil): An Application of the Sustainability Barometer*** ("Dimensão Institucional da Sustentabilidade e Gestão Ambiental no município de

Moju, Pará: uma aplicação do Barômetro da Sustentabilidade”), examine the institutional dimension of sustainability in the municipality of Moju, taking into account the local conditions of environmental management. They used the “Barometer of Sustainability”, besides interviews with local managers and businessmen. Results show that Moju is prepared to engage in full environmental management, but also that its operational apparatus is still deficient, a condition that will certainly bring about problems.

In ***Analyzing Institutional Models for Water Resources Management in Minas Gerais, Brazil*** (“Análise de modelos institucionais de recursos hídricos, com foco em Minas Gerais, Brasil”), Hidelano Delanusse Theodoro and Danilo Marques propose a critical analysis of the major institutional models for water resource management in Brazil, including the historical and environmental circumstances under which those models were created. The text includes a methodological analysis and a case study of the Rio das Velhas Basin Committee, in Minas Gerais, Brazil, supported by theoretical elements taken from public policy theory and from institutional reflexive sociology.

We understand that the debate proposed by **SeD** presupposes a plurality of reflections and exchanges. Our site (<http://periodicos.unb.br/index.php/sust>) carries information about the journal and its future calls for articles. In order to allow the possibility of feedback to its authors and readers, **SeD** created a **page in Facebook**, available at **Facebook.com/revistaSeD**.

Our next issue, number 11, will be the third for the year 2014. It is scheduled for publication in December 2014. The issue will include a dossier with the provisional title of “Innovation for the valorization of products generated by family farmers and agroextractors in the Cerrado biome”.

Since it was launched, four years ago, **SeD** has sought to stimulate the debate about life styles that are truly sustainable and non-discriminatory, contributing to the current process of building a more just society for all.

Enjoy!

The Editors

