



ESD@Bradford Seminar Programme 2008 – 09

SEMINAR 1

15 September 2008, 12:30pm – 2:00pm, D1 Conference Room.

Julie Matthews, Associate Professor Social Sciences and Steve Garlick, Professor Regional Engagement, The University of the Sunshine Coast

Abstract from 'All Our Futures' Conference, Plymouth 9-11 September 2008.

Disregard of animal existence is a deeply structured element of Western philosophy and science. We think with a hegemonic/tacit acceptance of the transcendent boundary animal/human, and the superiority the 'civilized/non-animalistic'.

Education provides us with few resources through which to interrogate the peculiar, particular, historically and culturally specific set of conceptual and theoretical premises that constitutes our understanding of ourselves and animals. Western modernity, metaphysics, ethics and humanism work with unanimity to differentiate the monstrous and bestial, from the cultured and civilised. Yet, the outcomes of culture and civilisation have proven spectacularly barbarous and destructive. As David Orr argues, education does not guarantee wisdom, welfare or indeed survival. It is not therefore education that will save us, but education of a certain kind.

The work of Derrida is explored in this paper as a means of highlighting forms of education required to think relationally about the human/animal binary, beyond that of animal rights reversals which exalt some species over others, and management discourse which paste over conflict to enable business as usual. As a case in point we consider matters of pedagogy, policy and partnership at the University of the Sunshine (USC), Queensland Australia.

The university is currently working towards becoming a wildlife sanctuary, and to reorient expertise and teaching in this direction. A wildlife management plan has been adopted to secure the ongoing welfare of kangaroos and other wildlife, and enhance wildlife habitat through a whole-of-institution approach to knowledge and community engagement to ensure that surrounding development is informed and sensitive to the needs of local wildlife.

By Julie Matthews.

Biography

Julie Matthews

Associate Professor Julie Matthews is a sociologist and education researcher. Over the past decade she has written 30 refereed articles, book chapters and conference papers and delivered over 40 conference presentations, seminars and public lectures at universities in Australia, USA, Canada, UK, Singapore, Hong Kong and South Africa.

Her research brings postcolonial questions of cultural representation, appropriation, marginalisation and identity into education and conversely educational issues to do with knowledge and pedagogy into sociology. Associate Professor Matthews is also interested in visual pedagogies and visual research methods in education.

Current research projects focus on internationalisation and international education, sustainability, education and excluded knowledge. Prior to her entry into the university sector Associate Professor Matthews was a high school teacher of sociology, integrated humanities, English as a second language, and world studies.

Professor Steve Garlick

Professor Steve Garlick is the Professor of Regional Engagement at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia. He has formally been Professor of Regional Development at Swinburne University of Technology and Professor of Regional Development at Southern Cross University.

He is currently the Vice-President of the Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance (AUCEA), a coalition of 35 Australian universities.

Steve is involved in IMHE/ OECD projects on evaluating higher education and regional development and has led projects in Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands and Canada.

He has undertaken international projects on higher education and regional and community engagement for the OECD and the European Commission and has seminal works on the role of higher education in regional development and community engagement and is a regular international and national speaker on these subjects.

Steve's research interest is in regional development theory and policy, applied ethics, the human nature divide, higher education management, institutional performance assessment and university engagement with regions and communities.

In recent years he has predominantly written about the role of human capital, ethics and the human nature divide and community and regional engagement.