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Facing Global Environmental Change

Environmental, Human, Energy, Food,
Health and Water Security Concepts

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Water and Gender Security in a Globalized World Threatened by Environmental Change

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1. Securitization of Global Change
2. HUGE: Widening and Deepening Security
3. Obstacles: Social Vulnerability
4. Water Security
5. Gender Security
6. Conclusions

1. Securitization of Global Change

- **Not necessary to define here what is security.**
- **Securitization**: as an **inter-subjective** understanding is constructed through discursive & political processes to transform something into an existential threat that enables the use of exceptional measures to deal with the threat.
- **Asking: Which security** (determination); security of whom (reference object); security of what (values at risk); security from what of from whom (sources of threats)
- **'Referent object':** that is **threatened** such as the state, survival, environment
- **Values at risk: free-market values, identity, biodiversity**
- **Sources of threats:** globalization, state, GEC, patriarchy
- **'Securitizing actor': who** pointed to the **existential threat** (speech act) able to legitimize extraordinary measures
- **'Audience':** permitting **extraordinary measures**
- **What is the shift** from a normal political issue to a 'a matter of security'?
- Source: **Copenhagen School, Brauch et al. 2008, 2009**

Human, Gender, Environmental Security

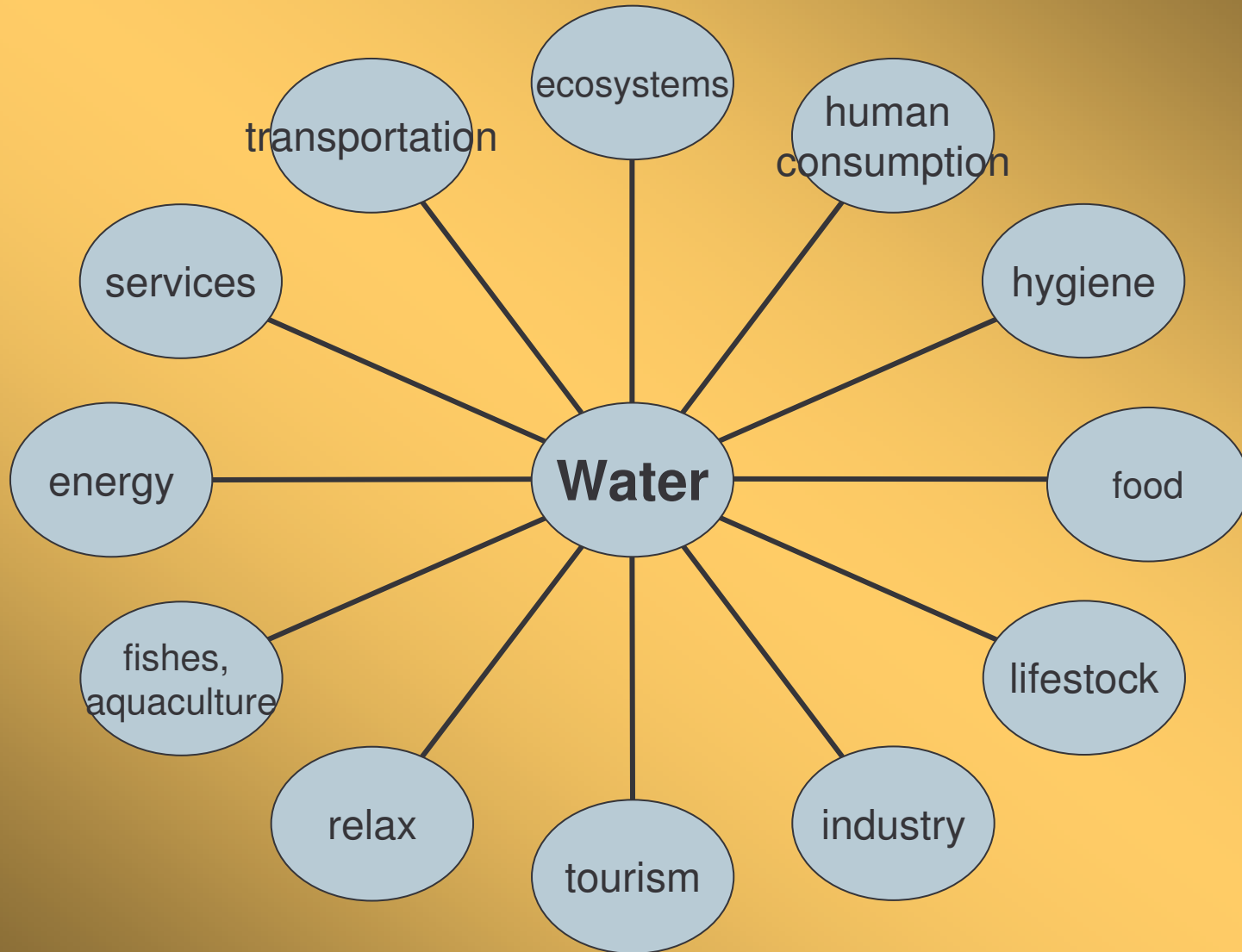| Determination Which security?	Reference object: Security of whom?	Value at risk: Security of what?	Source(s) of threat: Security from whom or what?
National security	The State	Territorial integrity	State, substate actors
Human security	Individual, humankind	Survival of humankind people	Nature, state, globalization
Environmental security	Ecosystems, rural and urban systems, water and food	Sustainability	Humankind, Nature
Gender security	Gender relations, indigenous people, minorities	Equity, identity, social relations, solidarity, tolerance	Patriarchy, totalitarian institutions (élites, governments, religious fundamentalism, dominant cultures), intolerance

3. Obstacles: Social Vulnerability

- Social vulnerability is a **historical** and accumulative result of poverty and **unequal access** to material & cultural consumption and powe

- **Increase susceptibility** of a community or person confronted with hazard impacts & crises

- Poor women, heads of single households are at greater risks: **poverty has women's face**

- Hazard impacts **can empower** affected people and prepare them to cope with disasters and new risks

4. Water Security

- Water is vital for the life and health of people and ecosystems
- **One common goal:** *to provide water security in the 21st Century:* This means ensuring that freshwater, coastal and related ecosystems are protected and improved; that sustainable development and political stability are promoted, that every person has access to enough safe water at an affordable cost to lead a healthy and productive life and that the vulnerable are protected from the risks of water-related hazards
- Water resources are under **threat** from pollution, land-use changes, unsustainable use, climate change and other forces.
- The link between these threats and poverty is clear, for it is the poor who are hit first and hardest.
- One simple conclusion: **business as usual is not an option.**

Uses of Water

ecosystems
transportation
human consumption
services
hygiene
energy
Water
food
fishes, aquaculture
lifestock
relax
tourism
industry

Water Related Security

- Water as an issue of *economic security* creates development opportunities.

- Water as a key problem of *social* or *societal security* permits livelihood, recreation and joy of life.

- Water creates *environmental security* to maintain eco-system services and to protect the biological and hydrological cycles and the ecosphere.

- Water is a precondition for *food security* that requires permanent, sufficient, accessible, safe and nutritional food that is also culturally accepted.

- Water is essential for *health and livelihood security* to protect people from thirst, water-born illnesses, vector diseases, but also from floods, drought and plagues.

5. What is Gender Security?

- Refers to the process of socialization to **"become" a gendered** human being; a men or a women, depending on the position of the social structure.

- Gender security is **socially constructed.** The relations are linked to gender status–ethnicity/race, class, age and minority status- in relation to the model of reference.

- **Equity and identity** are values at risk. The source of threat comes in first instance from the patriarchal hierarchical and violent order, characterized by exclusive, dominant and authoritarian institutions such as non-democratic governments, churches and élites.

- The symbolic distribution of space and time assigns the male the **public sphere**: production, *res publica*, *homo sapiens;* and the **women the private**: reproduction, home, *homo domesticus.* The distribution of power acquires also generic forms.

Main Attributes of Social Identity

- **Thousands of years of experience have created a society in a specific socio-historic environment where symbolic elements have developed (class, ethnicity, age, religion, race, nationality). They are in permanent change, but its main attributes –gender, sex and race- and the socioeconomic conditions –rich, poor- are stable. Each process of classification implies relations of identity; inclusion or rejection and exclusion, what constitutes the basis of any power exercise, discrimination and violence.**

Social Representations

- **"Systems of values, ideas and practices"** create a **system of order that is** able to offer a person the possibility to get familiar with the social and material world.

- Communication within a community offers a **code of common social interchange**, where several aspects of life, personal and collective history are **classified without ambiguity** (Moscovici, 1976: xiii).

- Social representations originate in **daily life**, where society is the **thinking and acting system**.

- The theory of social identity establishes a continuum between personal and social identity with a *processual,* relational, multidimensional, contextual and essentialist character.

Obstacles to Human, Gender and Environmental Security: HUGE

- **Top-down policies:** unequal development processes, environmental destruction, injustice, concentration of wealth, and weak health, school and public security.
- **Bottom-up:** weak internal organization, unemployment, gender violence, analphabetism, missing solidarity and training, hunger and violent conflicts.
- **Violent conflict resolution:** intolerance; imposition of authoritarian solutions, undemocratic decision.
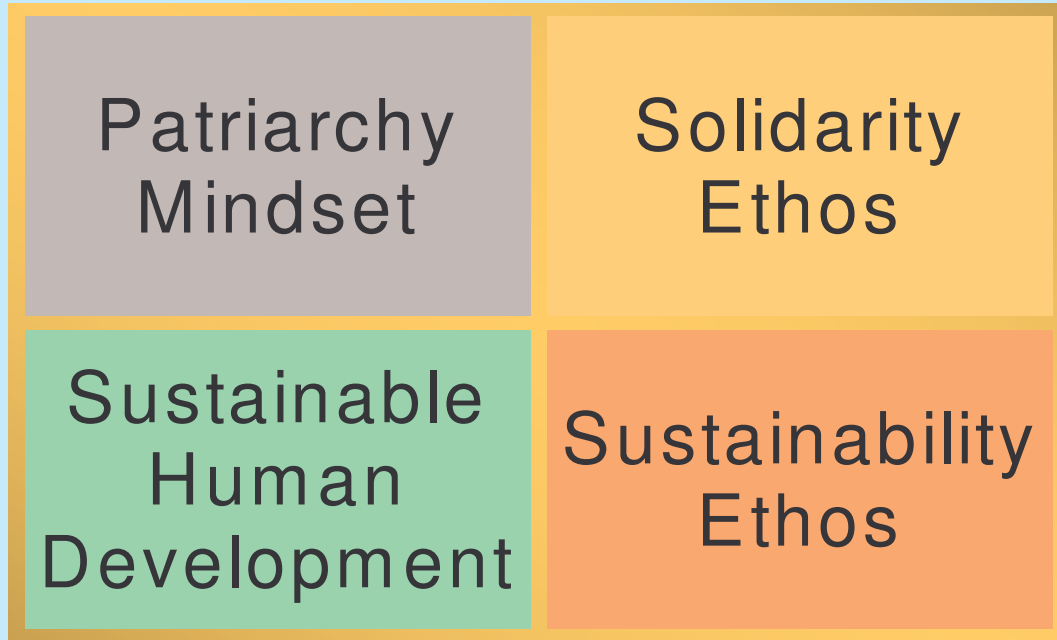
Alternative: A 'huge' solidarity process of sustainable and intra- and inter-generational equality and development, reinforced by international and local collaboration, solidarity and nonviolent conflict management and preventive risk reduction.

CC: Holistic Sustainable Development

1. Non traditional threats to stability and for fulfilling MDG
2. Anticipation, early warning, prevention and preparation
3. Legal and financial disaster and risk management (top-down)
4. Empowerment and resilience-building (bottom up)
5. Environmentally-friendly and ethical businesses
6. Science and technology: green-house gases must be globally reduced 50% by 2050: small environmental businesses boost the local and national economy and create new jobs, industries and services
7. Decentralized systems of energy, often at small scale, are supplied with renewable energy sources (wind, solar-thermal, solar photovoltaic, sea and waves, biogas, biomass from waste, geothermal, hydro energy)
8. Guarantee of basic livelihood or the most vulnerable including health care, food sovereignty, education and training, democratic access to and sustainable use of natural resources, participative planning
9. **Women are able to contribute to sustainable livelihood, water and food security.**

**Patriarchal Hegemony has a
Negative Influence on Solidarity**
(i.e., as patriarchy increases, solidarity decreases)
? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? (-)

**Sustainable
Human
Development
has a
Negative
Influence on
Patriarchy**
(i.e., as human
integral
development
increases,
patriarchy
decreases)

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Patriarchy
Mindset

Solidarity
Ethos

Sustainable
Human
Development

Sustainability
Ethos

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(+)

**Solidarity
has a
Positive
Influence on
Sustainability**
(i.e., as solidarity
increases,
sustainability
increases)

(+)? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
**Sustainability has a
Positive Influence on Human Development**
(i.e., as sustainability increases, human development increases)

Source: Luis T.
Gutierrez, 2008

6. Conclusion

1. Global security challenges posed by GEC are urgent and women play a key role in adaptation, mitigation and resilience-building.

2. An integrated policy perspective (strengthen governments, relief agencies, socio-environmental organizations, peace activities and conflict resolution groups, technology and businesses can **overcome the gaps what women are doing and what is happening at the policy level.**

3. Coordinated stakeholders and transdisciplinary approaches are able to mitigate negative outcomes and social failures.

4. No simple solution exists: biofuel from grains could create future famine; from waste it avoids food insecurity.

5. Forests are habitat of wild fauna, flora and; restoring them mitigate the GHG and reduce health risks.

6. Corral reefs, mangroves, swamps and wetlands mitigate disasters and host great biodiversity.

7. The complexity of GEC requires adaptation, social agreements and a new ethic for production and consumption.

8. The future is becoming more complex and highly uncertain. Technology itself is becoming a factor for risk (Beck). Everyone will have to learn to live with new risks, uncertainty and complex threats, where diversity, openness and solidarity will be the most important parameter for survival of humanity and the Earth.

Thank you for your attention
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