Úrsula Oswald Spring
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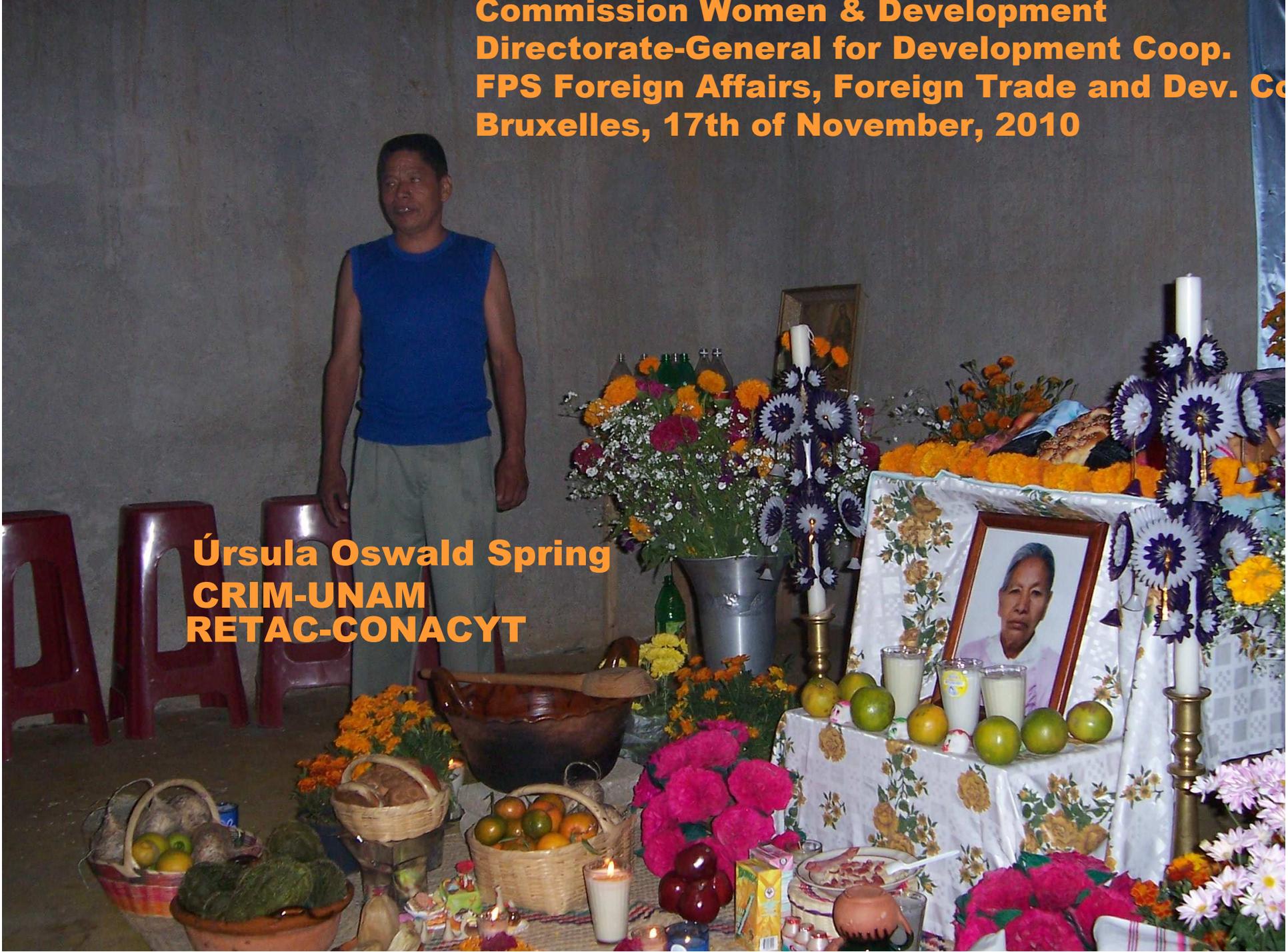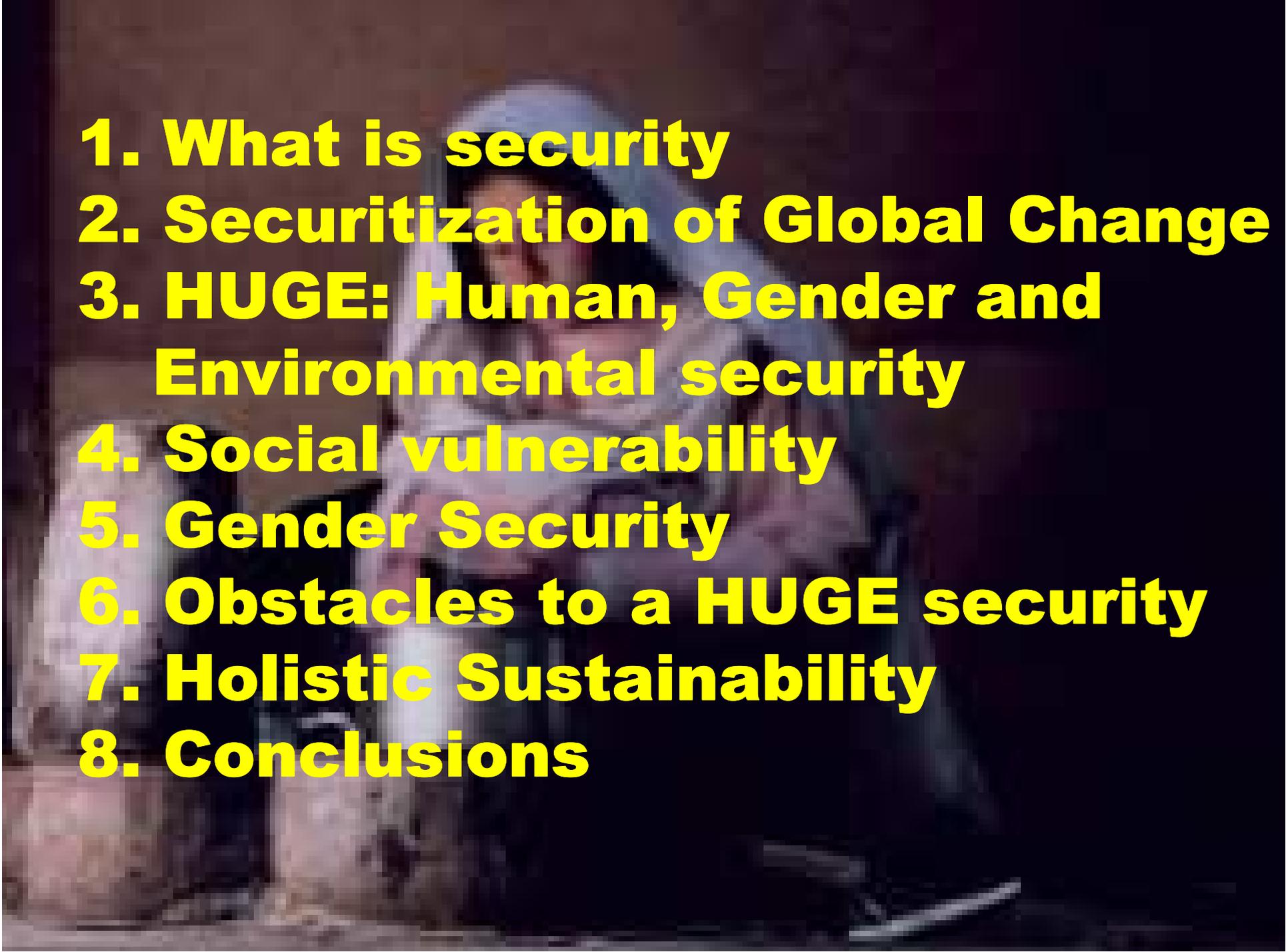
1. What is security
2. Securitization of Global Change
3. HUGE: Human, Gender and Environmental security
4. Social vulnerability
5. Gender Security
6. Obstacles to a HUGE security
7. Holistic Sustainability
8. Conclusions

# 1. What is security? Objective, Subjective, Intersubjective Security

- Wolfers (1962) pointed to two sides of the security concept: "Security, in an *objective* sense, measures the absence of threats to acquired values, in a *subjective* sense, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked".

- From a constructivist approach in international relations 'security' is the outcome of a process of social & political interaction where social values & norms, collective identities & cultural traditions are essential. Security is *intersubjective* or "what actors make of it".

- Copenhagen school: security as a "speech act", "where a securitizing actor designates a threat to a specified reference object and declares an existential threat implying a right to use extraordinary means to fend it off".

- Such a process of "securitization" is successful when the construction of an "existential threat" by a policy maker is socially accepted and where "survival'" against existential threats is crucial (Brauch, 2008).

# 2. Securitization of Global Change

- **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, the survival of humans and the environment
- **Values at risk: free-market values, identity, biodiversity, climate system**
- **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 matter of security'?

Source: **Copenhagen School, Brauch et al. 2008, 2009**

# Human, Gender, Environmental Security

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

# 3. HUGE

- Human, Gender and Environmental Security (HUGE) combines a **wide gender concept** (vulnerable: including children, elders, indigenous and other vulnerable groups) **with a human-centered focus on environmental security and peace challenges**.

- HUGE analyzes the patriarchal, violent and exclusive structures within the family and society questioning the existing process of social representation-building and traditional role assignation between genders. HUGE asks for the obstacles to overcome the consolidated discrimination of women and poor, but also narrow feminist approaches of male-female opposition.

- HUGE's '**human security**' includes equity, development and conflict resolution through social organization, specific governmental policies, private ethical investments and legal reinforcements by stimulating socio-political participation of women, young, elders and marginal.

- At the **international level** HUGE analyses the potential of free and equal access to world and regional markets and the limits due to existing trade distortions.

- HUGE revises the obstacles for world solidarity to support poor countries with financial aid, technology and debt relief.

- As a holist concept, the '**environmental security**' component of HUGE studies concerns of a healthy environment, integral management of natural resources, prevention and remediation practices that can reduce vulnerability from hazard impacts.

- As nonviolent conflict resolution is a central part of personal and social identity in a world where processes of unification and diversification are occurring quicker than ever in the past history, human beings have a basic necessity to **simplify and to put order into complex realities through social comparison**. The upcoming systems of values, ideas and practices creates simultaneously processes of living together offering persons and groups the possibility to get familiarized with the social and material world, on behalf contradictory messages and behaviours.

- HUGE analyses thus the consolidation of **participatory democracy and governance** with conflict prevention and peace-building; in summary the concept studies a 'huge' solidarity process of sustainable, equal and peaceful development.

# 4. Social Vulnerability

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

- **Increase susceptibility** of a community or people confronted with extreme events; women headed households are at greater risk of hazard impacts & crises

- Poor women are at highest risk: **poverty has women's face** (79%; UNEP 2009)

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

# 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-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, aggressive 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 and creates special risks and threats for women.

# 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 its 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 & change 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.

# Feminist Empiricisms

- Experiences provides the sole and gives justification of knowledge. They cannot be separated in disciplines, methods, assumptions and canons

- For Quine (1963) a) observation is thoroughly theory-laden; b) another project within science where our own practices of inquiry are empirically researched; c) division between facts and values; d) individualist inquiry reduces bases for naturalized behavioral and neuro-psychology; but feminism is concerned on inquiry of social practices relating to gender, race, class and other bases of inequality

- Feminists exposed androcentric and sexist biases of scientific research, related to social and political factors and through construction of knowledge oppression in maintained.

- Analyses for underlying bias, displacing evidence; pragmatic approach stresses plurality of aims: *paradoxes* shows social interests helping deconstruction of social representations; *procedural* approach controls bad biases by appropriate social organization of inquiry; *moral realist* approach argues that social and political value judgments have truth-values within feminist approach.

# Empistemic Advantages

(Elizabeth Anderson, 2006)

- Women have generated new questions, theories and methods

- Gender has played a causal role in scientific transformation

- Defense of these changes as cognitive, unjust socially, exclusive, hierarchal and violent

# Situated knowers

- Embodiment: knowledge located in space and time, inside view, different position and knowledge
- First person vs third person knowledge, interpretation of external symptoms (I am here and now)
- Emotions, attitudes, interests and values: source of security and transparency
- Personal knowledge of others (difference Erkenntnis and Wissenschaft): others interpret differently their behavior, with different skills
- Cognitive style: background beliefs, worldviews, mind sets
- Epistemic relations to other inquirers (informants, students, interlocutors)
- Situated knowledge relates formal with informal forms; affect attitudes (doubts, certainty, confidence); justify deepness; questioning authorities, create confidence, empower other as subject

# Standpoint Theories

(Hardsock, 1987; Rose, 1987; Smith, 1974; Mac Kinnon, 1999; Collins, 1990, Harding, 1991; Longiono,1990)

- Represent world from a articulated socially situated perspective giving epistemic privilege or authority

1. Social location: privileged perspective

2. Scope of privilege: what question or subject?

3. Aspect of social location: social role, subj. identity

4. Ground of privilege: what justifies it?

5. Type of epistemic superiority: greater accuracy, ability, sensitivity

6. Relative perspectives of others

7. Modes of access to perspective (location, within, training)

# Feminist Postmodernisms (Butler, 1993)

- Poststructuralist and postmodernist theories attempts against universality, necessity, objectivity, rationality, essence, unity, totality, foundations and ultimate truth and unique reality. Particular situatedness and contestability of claims or systems of thought serves to critical and libratory functions.

- "Discursive fields: signs get their relative meaning from their relations to other signs in a system of discourse. Not fixed in meaning neither time (critic of Kant). No whole truth exist, no definite set of terms. Actions and practices are linguistic signs going beyond themselves as metaphors and metonymy. Meanings are constantly subverted by other actions and postmodernisms celebrate ironic, parodic and campy renditions of conventional behavior as politically liberating (Butler, 1993).

- FPM view the self as constituted by signs, but with social twist, occupying multiple social identities (women, mother, worker, black, poor, heterosexual…) and tensions among conflicting identities open space for disrupting discourse systems, individually constructed.

# Gender as mode of social situation

- Role: man and women different social roles (military, childrearing)

- Norms: Men assertive, logic, strong; women deferential, modest, weak: a society expect to conform to those roles

- Performance and behavior: not fixed trails, but increasingly more flexible and variable

- Identity "All the ways on might understand oneself to be a man or a women…with any subset of gender norms, roles and traits ascribed (Anderson: 2006:4)" and understood, while repudiated others (stereotypes, racism)

- Symbolism: gendered representations through conventional association, imaginative projection and methaphoric thinking: male space (garage) women (kitchen)

# Gift Economy, Civil Society and Democracy

- Southern spirituality, gift economy and ethical behavior based on deep human values are mechanisms to overcome the present regressive globalization.

- During the last 25 years four times more democratic governments were elected by civil society worldwide, compared with the former 25 years.

# 6. 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, illness and violent conflicts.
- **Violent conflict resolution:** intolerance; imposition of authoritarian solutions, undemocratic decision, apathy.

**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.

# 7. 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) and create local jobs and development
8. Guarantee of basic livelihood for 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)
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**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

# 8. Conclusions

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 has created more hunger; from waste biofuel avoids food and energy 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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