



THEME COMMONS

SUB-THEME:

Degrowth: roots and grafts

TITLE OF WORKSHOP

**The sexual economy of growth: degrowth meets
gender difference**



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MEN-WOMEN RELATIONSHIP ECOLOGY. GENDER IDENTITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CULTURE

Cinzia Mion

Paper Abstract

La rivoluzione cultural delle pari opportunità che sollecita una nuova progettualità di vita nella co-responsabilità dei generi — insieme al bisogno di realizzare l'etica pubblica, invitano tutti a saper rinunciare a qualcosa per costruire un bene comune e realizzare una relazione interpersonale più autentica.

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FAMILY RELATIONSHIP: A WAY TO EQUITY, ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Isabella Landi

Paper Abstract

The premise of my contribution is the pedagogical attention to the educative and care work, a constant of my public and private life. For more than twenty years I've professionally taken care of minors and their families, starting from the kinder garden and continuing with adolescents and young adults, in particular those with the risk of delinquency and subject to penal proceedings. For about twelve years I've lived this experience in my family, as a wife and a mother of two, and as the only daughter of my old parents. More recently I started to expand the horizon of my reflection to the social dimension, because of the possibility I was given to collaborate at an Help Desk for Women, resulted in the participation at the feminist associationism that brought me to discover the importance and the actuality of the Gender topics. From these areas I deduced the essential connection between private and political dimension and their mutual influence. The increasing diffusion of a critical position regarding the contemporary economical structure, the necessity to change course regarding the demands of Degrowth and Transition perfectly coexist with the questions that every adult, invested with educational tasks, has concerning the human beings that he has the responsibility to bring up "What kind of world will we pass on to the today children?", "How to contribute at the preparation of the tomorrow adults?".

My response to these questions chooses to consider the following issues:

transforming the relationship systems

the specifics of the family molecule

gender roles and child care

reconciliation of the productive and reproductive work

a new education paradigm



FEMINISM AND DEGROWTH: PARALLELISMS AND INTERSECTIONS

Paola Melchiori

Paper Abstract

The contribution of feminism to the economy of degrowth.

The questions I will propose here are the following:

Has feminism still something to contribute, in the actual historical conjuncture, to a movement like the degrowth movement?

Will the same characteristics of this movement guarantee that the main contents of feminism are already incorporated ?

The reason for these questions is that this issue is almost invisible in the main literature of degrowth.

To answer these questions :

I will remember here some essential characteristics of the transnational feminist movement of the seventies;

I will contextualize them in the actual scenery that I define “neopatriarchal”;

I will reconsider some of the key words of de-growth and re-read them through a feminist lens (focus?scope?);

I will identify some possible intersections between feminism and degrowth that could show us a research path.



TACKLED ISSUES:

It is not possible to reflect on ecology, economy and degrowth without considering gender questions. How can feminism contribute to degrowth?

D.M. has enclosed feminist values without quoting the sources, risking to reproduce particular patterns when it does not turn them into viable and demystify them.

It is necessary to give public space to values (up to now delegated to women and, for this reason, removed from the collective conscience) by going beyond classic oppositions.

Family has a great value in the gender and generations relationships change, as well as in the making of new relation patterns.

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We need to work on the identity concept, connecting equalities and differences, underlining responsibilities and destroying stereotypes.

GIVEN ANSWERS:

1. Feminism spreads its seeds envisioning change, but it's a long way because patriarchal culture is unconscious and unaware.
2. A first step towards change is recognizing patriarchal models.
3. Italian and French feminism have brought to a women self representation out of the old motherhood concept, to a tradeoff between personal fulfillment and motherhood.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS, MESSAGES & COMMENTS:

1. Work of immigrant women
2. Why is it always so difficult to find female speakers?
3. Homosexuality
4. Why does speaking about gender always mean speaking about women?
5. Relationship between gender and economic issues