

The Atlas Of Ideas: The Cosmopolitan Scientist

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Which Cosmopolitanism?

- Heaven:
 - German mechanics
 - British policemen
 - French cooks
 - Italian lovers
- Hell:
 - French mechanics
 - Italian policemen
 - British cooks
 - German lovers

Cosmopolitan Innovation - Cosmopolitan Hell?

- Ends-means hell
 - Priorities set by techno-economically advanced society; implementation using means of less advanced society
- Social-technical hell
 - Rapid technological advance; lack of development of social institutions
- Innovation-inequality hell
 - Rapid innovation, increased inequality; stagnant innovation, entrenched inequality

A Failed Cosmopolitanism

- Bhopal: an ends-means failure
- Green Revolution input needs
- Government of India decision to manufacture American pesticide in India
- Import of Union Carbide technology
- Disaster of December 1984
- Asymmetry of innovation: Indian legal doctrines never accepted back in USA

Innovation-Inequality Matrix

Low Innovation-High Inequality



High Innovation-High Inequality



Low Innovation-Low Inequality



High Innovation -Low Inequality



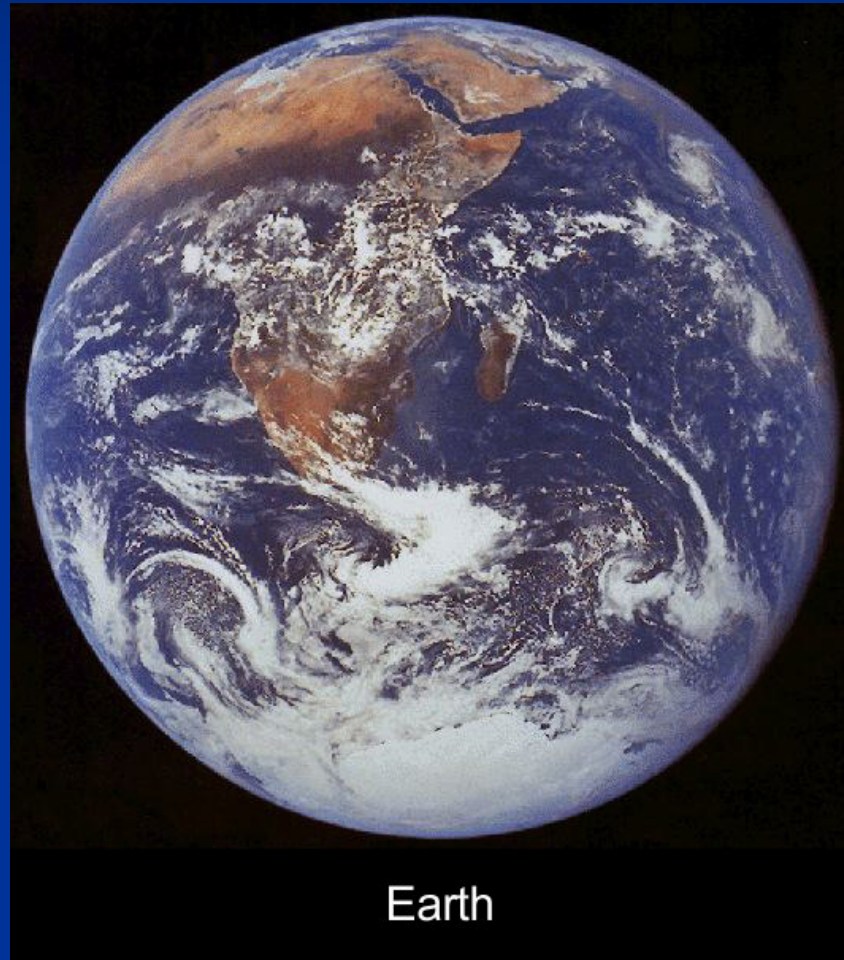
What is *Sustainability*?

- Defining *sustainability* (WCED, 1987):
 - “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Ambiguities

- At what level of social and political aggregation is sustainability defined?
 - Local
 - National
 - Regional
 - Global
- Whose definition of “needs” obtains?
- What counts as “compromising”?

The Lonely Planet



Earth

Knowing the Planet: Erasing Politics, Erasing Humans

- We are too small and our statecraft too feeble to be seen by a spacecraft between the Earth and the Moon. From this vantage point, our obsession with nationalism is nowhere in evidence. The Apollo pictures of the whole Earth conveyed to multitudes something well known to astronomers: On the scale of worlds...humans are inconsequential
(C. Sagan 1994, 5-6).

Globalism and Localisms (in conflict)



Figure 11.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES look different to people and governments in the rich and in the poor nations. (Cartoon by Scott Willis of the *San Jose Mercury News*.)

Other Ecologies



The Rootedness of the Poor

- India's "ecosystem people"
 - must scratch the earth and hope for rains in order to grow their own food, must gather wood or dung to cook it, must build their own huts with bamboo or sticks of sorghum dabbled with mud and must try to keep out mosquitoes by engulfing them with smoke from the cooking hearth. Such people depend on the natural environments of their own locality to meet most of their material needs

Gadgil and Guha 1995, 3.

Sustainability and Cosmopolitan Science

- Whose knowledge travels?
 - Natural science model of innovation
 - Embeddedness vs. circulation (the “brain”)
 - Reduction
 - Modeling
 - Calculation
 - Indigenous knowledge vs. intellectual property
 - Rewards are for knowledge that can be attributed, described, made mobile, reused

Putting People Back In

- You talk very little about life, you talk too much about survival. It is very important to remember that when the possibilities for life are over, the possibilities for survival start. And there are peoples here in Brazil, especially in the Amazon region, who still *live*, and these people that still live don't want to reach down to the level of survival (WCED 1987, 40).

Cosmopolitan Social Knowledge?

- To the periphery, the periphery looks like the core
- Beyond “Big Brother”
- Citation index for social innovation?
 - Non-violence
 - Micro-credit
 - Human rights
- Composite indicators: cf. GDP weighted science citations

On “An Inconvenient Truth”

- “You may recall that in the Q&A session after your tour de force, I asked you about the connection between climate change and global justice, and in particular: are there any grounds for some kind of compensatory mechanism to provide redress for people who have been badly hit by climate change even though they are the least responsible for carbon emissions. The question seemed to catch you by surprise....”

■ Camilla Toulmin, July 27, 2006

Cosmopolitan Justice?

- In a sustainable world, can we have cosmopolitan innovation without cosmopolitan politics and cosmopolitan justice?
- How good are our institutions of *social* cosmopolitanism?
- Is science unfairly advantaged in the global politics of sustainability?
- A wider role for knowledge?