

Title: The Risks to Mental Health Arising from Environmental Degradation: Solastalgia and the Other Psycho-terratic Diseases.

Host: Professor Don Fredericksen, Performing and Media Arts Department and Psychotherapist

Date: 26 March, 2013

Abstract: Today's guest was Glenn Albrecht Ph.D., Professor of Sustainability, Director of the Institute for Social Sustainability, Murdoch University, Perth Australia.

Among the issues not at present sufficiently addressed, understood, and prepared for are the effects on mental health brought about by environmental degradation and climate change. Professor Albrecht is distinguished by the fact that he has begun to generate a typological lexicon for what he calls "psycho-terratic dis-eases", i.e., dis-eases of the mind brought on by dysfunctional relations between humans and places. (In distinction to psycho-somatic diseases.)

Among the psycho-terratic dis-eases he succinctly described are: biphobia, ecophobia, global dread, nature deficit disorder, ecoparalysis, ecoanxiety, and, most centrally, solastalgia. The latter is defined as the condition in which one loses the solace provided by one's home, *while remaining in the home* which is under a process of environmental degradation, and against which one is essentially powerless. This work began when he encountered mental dis-ease among farmers in a region of Australia which is now being degraded by the economically-driven and governmentally-sanctioned massive strip mining of coal. Possible antidotes to psycho-terratic dis-eases were also discussed, including the one he calls soliphia, i.e., a communal love of place by persons willing to fight against the causes of psycho-terratic dis-eases.

Professor Albrecht's lunch seminar for the Atkinson Center was complemented by his guest appearance at a public session of Professor Fredericksen's new course on "film and the environment" in the Department of Performing and Media Arts. The documentary film *Gaslands* was screened and discussed with a large audience. In addition, he and Professor Fredericksen discussed the manner in which the notion of psycho-terratic dis-eases can provide a set of terms useful for the practice of eco-criticism of the arts. One result of the discussion is the notion of a solastalgic cinema. The notion of solastalgia has been taken up by musicians, visual artists, and performance artists internationally, in response to changing environmental conditions.

Professor Albrecht's TED talk on psycho-terratic dis-eases is available on line. See also Fredericksen's "Solastalgia: When Home is No Longer Home", *Spring 88: A Journal of Archetype and Culture, Special Issue on Environmental Disasters and Collective Trauma* (Winter, 2012). The collaboration is on-going.

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

Last Name	First Name	NetID or email	Dept (if known)	College (If known)
Fredericksen	Don	dlf10	Performing & Media Arts	
Albrecht	Glenn			

Participant RSVP (attending):

Last Name	First Name	NetID or email	Dept (if known)	College (If known)
Boke	Charis	charis.boke@gmail.com		
Chambliss	Lauren	elc55	ACSF	
Dickinson	Janis	jld84	DNR	
Dieterich	David	dd355	ACSF	
DiSalvo	Frank	fsd3	ACSF	
Kay	David	dlk2	CaRDI/DEVSOC	
Law	Jane Marie	jml16	Asian Studies	
Roy	Devparna	dr53	DEVSOC	
Sachs	Aaron	as475	HISTORY	

Regrets:

Last Name	First Name	NetID or email	Dept (if known)	College (If known)
Jin	Jing	jj356	Asian Studies	
Warhaft	Zellman	zw16	MAE	