



The Netherlands Association
for Gender Studies and
Feminist Anthropology

CALL FOR PAPERS LOVA WORKSHOP 2018

GENDER AND NATURE

Friday afternoon **15 June 2018**, Radboud University, Nijmegen

The aim of this workshop is to study the relationship between Gender and Nature in ethnography and to explore the central theoretical position this relationship could occupy in current debates in Anthropology from which it is currently remarkably absent. **Professor Veronica Strang**, Durham University, UK, specialist on human-environmental relations and people's engagements with land, and in particular, water, will give the keynote lecture. **Professor René ten Bos**, Radboud University, National Thinker (*Denker des Vaderlands*) and author of the book "Wandering in the Anthropocene" (*Dwalen in het Antropoceen*, 2017) will contribute and act as discussant.

The critical discussion of the nature-culture divide, nowadays so prominent in theoretical debates on human-nature relationships (e.g., Descola 2014; Hastrup 2014; Ingold 2000, 2011), the Anthropocene (e.g., Tsing *et al.* 2017), and the Ontological Turn (e.g., Holbraad and Pedersen 2017), traces back to the mid-20th century efforts feminist anthropologists made to transcend the sex-gender divide (e.g., Ortner 1974; MacCormack and Strathern 1980). Feminist scholars challenged the association of women with nature as well as the universal exploitation of women *and* nature all together, and put issues of power and social inequality central stage. This engagement with gender and inequity is remarkably absent in current nature-culture debates. While Gender Studies returns to ecofeminism and Development Studies amply reports on women in environmental issues and global policy (e.g., MacGregor 2017, Vakoch and Mickey 2018), Anthropology strikingly stays behind. In line with critical voices in Gender Studies (e.g., Di Chiro 2017) warning us not to naively engage in studying the *Manthropocene* or *human-nature* relationships, we aim to re-introduce gender as a central and critical concept in studying our entanglements with nature, and by so doing, to revalue the classical feminist scholarship in our disciplinary debate.

In the workshop on Gender and Nature we seek to explore how both nature and our interactions with nature are gendered; and how these gendered entanglements with nature relate to cultural diversity, social inequality and prevailing power structures. The starting point then is that nature is always implicit in the making of social life (Hastrup 2014; Strang 2004, 2014).

We welcome papers on topics like gendered interactions with rivers, forests, or mountains; gendered practices of dwelling in or travelling through landscapes (e.g. tourism, pilgrimage, migration); gender in religious rituals of place making; gendered practices of kinship with nature; gendered involvements in practices of nature conservation or degradation; or the gender implications of climate change, (water, air, soil) pollution, waste dumping and processing. We especially welcome papers that highlight the bodily and sensory aspects of the above mentioned interactions with nature.

Deadline for paper proposals, including a title and an abstract of 250 words: **31 March 2018**, to be sent to the convenors: dr. Catrien Notermans (c.notermans@maw.ru.nl) and dr. Anke Tonnaer (a.tonnaer@maw.ru.nl), Dept. of Anthropology and Development Studies, Radboud University.