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Naar een leefbare aarde, Verduurzamen vanuit veranderkundig perspectief, Gerard Donkers, In samenwerking met de Kring Andragologie van de Universiteit van Amsterdam

Towards a habitable earth, Furthering sustainability from a scientific perspective of change, Gerard Donkers, In cooperation with the Andragology Circle of the University of Amsterdam

***Towards a habitable earth. Increasing sustainability from a scientific perspective of change***

*What needs to be done to keep the earth habitable now and in the future and what is the best approach?*

This query aimed at intervention is central to the book, written by Dr. Gerard Donkers in cooperation with the Andragology Circle of the University of Amsterdam.

By reading this scientific essay students in higher education, managers, policymakers, social professionals, politicians and involved citizens get to know an integral search and overall analysis of the big problems facing society, that at first sight seem disconnected. Furthering sustainability (“sustaining”) is looked at from an ecological, economic, political and socio-cultural perspective. These perspectives are intertwined. A three world approach to sustaining is presented. Also methodological building blocks are given, aimed at a bottom up approach to as many different stakeholders as possible. The author makes a case for a democratic way of improving sustainability with the characteristics of a boundary defining dialogue. In this approach that connects the micro-, meso- and macrolevel of change not only the technical-material conditions are at stake (for instance solar panels) but also learning to reflect on one’s own actions in tune with the complex socio-ecological context. The book offers many examples of practical situations, questions for reflection, a glossary, and research projects. The reflections and recommendations about content and methods support and inspire individual and collective contributions to make the earth (again) habitable.

*What do we mean by ‘sustainability’*

The word sustainable nowadays is rightly or wrongly, added to natural phenomena , products, people, relationships, ideas and organizations. But how do we find the limits of the notion of sustainability, so as to know what we are really talking about?

*The spotlight on interconnectedness*

The author pleads for a broad and coherent view of this problem. Sustaining not only involves a change in the way we deal with nature. We also need other ways of producing and consuming, of political life and of the ways in which we deal with ourselves and with each other. Such a coherent approach is necessary to restore the balance between the three worlds of nature, man and society and to preserve the earth from exhaustion of her elementary sources of energy. *This book is one grand search for the natural connection between our actions in every daylife and the world at large and how this connection can be restored*, as we read in the Introduction to this book.

*A bottom up approach of shared values*

In this book the writer asks for attention to the process on the way to sustainability: sustaining. He advocates for starting from the inner perspective of the stakeholders who participate in processes of change. On the basis of a connecting strategy of shared values they search for solutions to

problems. The author explains that this is not a naive strategy but an effective and necessary way of sustaining in a broad sense.

### *Room for differences in acting*

In his argumentation and his style of writing the author chooses a nuanced, open and modest position. He makes a case for diversity within the necessary solidarity. He argues that his proposed approach is not a ready-made recipe for success. But that a free and at the same time boundary defining dialogue between individuals, groups and nations on the basis of one world that we share with each other is a necessary condition for creating a sustainable future. Starting from the question: *What is a wise course of action?* he makes his way of thinking clear in a processlike approach of sustaining with three interlinking perspectives on changing.

*We would very much appreciate if you would pay attention to this book in your network, in social media or in your newspaper or journal in the form of an announcement or a review.*

Copies may be ordered via [www.zelfregie.com](http://www.zelfregie.com) under the heading 'publicaties' or via bol.com. The price is Euro 25, without handling and shipping. Euro 31,45 with handling and shipping. You can contact the president of the Androgology Circle, Dhian Sioe Li (tel.....), philosopher, and the boardmember Gerrit Kappert (tel. 0031 (0) 6 25356763) for an interview.

## **Table of contents**

### **Preface**

### **Introduction**

Sustaining – Search for restoring equilibrium – An essay on social changing – Sustaining as a problem – Thinking about intervention – The aim of the book – Targetgroup – Construction of the book

## **1. Broad reconnoitring and analysis of sustainability**

### **Introduction**

#### **1.1. Ecological perspective**

Climate change

Loss of biodiversity

Pollution of the environment and exhaustion of limited sources of energy

Worldwide action is necessary

Influence of man

Necessity of reorientation on nature as an energetic concept

Selfregulation as a coherent ecological and social concept

#### **1.2 Economic perspective**

Ecological economy

Sustaining the agricultural economy

Ecological economy as a source of fight

Circular economy

Economical selfregulation

Necessity of reorientation on economy

### **1.3.Political perspective**

Ecological politics

Societal equality

Equality in diversity

Reorientation on democracy

Strengthening of the selfregulation of citizens rather than expropriating

Opportunities and threats of information- and communication technology

### **1.4.Socio-cultural perspective**

Attention for the social dimension

Strengthening of a dynamic and flexible competence for acting

Care for maintenance of elementary sources of energy of man

Contribute to a culture for a durable future

Social sustaining

### **1.5. A three world approach on sustaining**

A coherent approach asks for integral concepts

Towards a broad definition of sustainability

Three paradigms in social science

The tripartition of nature, man and society

Towards a renewed 'three worlds thinking'

### **Closing remarks**

## **2.Search for shared values**

### **Introduction**

#### **2.1 The start: inner perspective of different stakeholders**

Looking for shared values

Search for referencevalues of behaviour

Sustainability as referencevalue of organizations

Sustainability as referencevalue of citizens

Basic human values

Research into connection between opinion and context

## **2.2. Critical dialogue about values**

Bringing values in tune with socio-ecological context

Confronting theoretical ideals with reality

A process of assigning interpretation together

The dialogue as a meaningful process

A boundary defining dialogue

Acting morally without becoming moralistic

## **2.3. Towards a new moral order**

The Earth Charter

Respecting autonomy in cooperation

A flexible order which is tough and resilient as well

A social legal system

A ready made recipe for successful sustaining?

## **Closing remarks**

## **3. Integral sustaining**

### **Introduction**

#### **3.1 A process approach with three perspectives on changing**

Perspective 1 A cognitive process of change

Perspective 2 An intrapersonal process of change

Perspective 3 A societal process of change

Process of separating and connecting

An open frame for reflection with three central values

Reflection on the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations

#### **3.2 Combine improvement of living conditions with development of competencies**

Attention for an open and broad vision on changing

Connect knowledge about acting with systemic knowledge

Connect changes in surroundings with changing the self

Contribute to integral development of theory

#### **3.3. The art of nudging by professionals**

Nudging as a monolithic concept

Nudging for self-management

Nudging as boundary defining dialogue

### **3.4 Learning activities and research for integral sustaining**

Learning avenues aimed at integral sustaining

Practice oriented learning on the basis of casuistry

Proposal for action research

Symposia and Conferences

### **Closing remarks**

#### **Summary**

Annex 1. Point of view of the board of the Kring Andragologie University of Amsterdam 2017

Annex 2: Thoughts about the science of social changing, Dhian Sioe Lie 2019

Annex 3: Proposals for further research and reflection

Annex 4: Main concepts and their meaning

#### **Literature**