Rethinking Ecosystem Services as Care relations: a Feminist Ecological Economics approach
ES: risk or chance?
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- Economistic Language:
  - Merely instrumental consideration
  - Road to monetization & commodification (PES)
  - Functionalization to human well-being
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Relational framework:
- Beyond intrinsic/instrumental value dichotomy
- Divesting ‘nature’ from its mystical aura as ‘the other’ - separated from society
- Shifting attention from entities to processes and their conditions of reproduction
Re-appropriating ES: G-R
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Services for Georgescu-Roegen:

- peculiar type of flows ≠ any utility flow
- flows used without jeopardizing the qualitative regeneration of the ‘funds’ from which they stem
- Funds: transformative agents of production ≠ stocks (piles to decumulate, i.e. use up)
  - cannot be consumed → maintained in their specific efficiency
- can be used only under their specific conditions of regeneration
- qualitative specificity of the funds ≠ abstract, ‘arithmomorphic’ quantification
Re-appropriating ES: FE
Care is “a species of activity that includes everything we do to **maintain, contain, and repair** our 'world' so that we can live in it as well as possible. That world includes our bodies, ourselves, and our environment” \(\text{(Fisher & Tronto)}\)
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Services from a Care Perspective:
- care services: support the reproduction of society materially, socially, and institutionally
- neglected —> valorized, but not valued in mainstream economics, ‘non productive factors’?
- carried out by underprivileged societal groups
Re-appropriating ES: FE
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(Re)productivity
Re-appropriating ES: FE

(Re)productivity

Regeneration of humans & social processes
Re-appropriating ES: FE

(Re)productivity

Regeneration of humans & social processes

Regeneration of natural & living process
“The term (re)productivity refers without exception to the complex interplay, and interdependence, of productive processes in social and ecological space, and it is thus a category of mediation, of bridging between the reproductive and productive, between nature and society. One of the key concepts of (re)production theory is natural productivity.” (Biesecker & Hofmeister: (Re)productivity: Sustainable relations both between society and nature and between the genders, EE 69, 2010)
in nature productive processes are inseparable from reproductive and regenerative processes
Re-appropriating ES: FE
Re-appropriating ES: FE

Services from a (Re)productivity perspective:

- Services are (re)productive processes...
  - ...that mediate between nature and society
- active, transformative, creative, &...
- essential to sustain life and the good life
- Foster awareness of dependency = being in need of care => caring
  - radically question the assumption of an independent subject (homo oeconomicus) with merely instrumental relations to objects
- Interdependence, reciprocity, responsibility
Re-appropriating ES: FE
Re-appropriating ES: FE

Services from a (Re)productivity perspective:

- regeneration => essential feature of creative, productive activities
- reciprocity in human-nature as in human-human relations
  - regenerating & in need of regeneration/ caring & in need of care
  - relational framework: Land and its inhabitants as a net of relations of reciprocal care
- political & socio-ecological valuation ≠ monetization:
  - institutional frames, participatory processes, time politics, economic democracy, commons, solidarity, autonomy, …