

The challenges of ethics in the sustainability discourse and in the social-ecological transformation of society during the 21st century

Ethics for sustainable development and for the social-ecological transformation of society during the 21st century require integration of values, ideas and knowledge in which economic, social and ecological perspectives and principles are connected. Challenges for this kind of ethics, transcending the specialised professional and business-related ethics that are discussed in the discourse of economics, include: how to construct and integrate sustainability ethics (epistemological and methodological issues), and how to adapt ethics to the problems of global social and ecological change to be solved (scope and application of ethics). Both challenges are discussed by way of a review and secondary analysis of the discourse in environmental ethics, asking how this can be connected with economic and social discourses about fair distribution of natural resources and access to resources.