

## **Future Phase of the South American Environmental Philosophy Section**

We thank the International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE) and Mark Woods (editor of the ISEE Newsletter) for opening a space for this series of essays that (more than the articles *per se*) aimed to stimulate a fertile exchange among environmental philosophers from South America and the rest of the world. With the essay by Enrique Leff, which provides a synthesis of his Latin American perspective and experience, we conclude this series that now opens its work to a new phase.

Enrique Leff has made essential contributions to the development of Latin American environmental philosophy. On one hand, as editor of the *Series on Environmental Thought* published by the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) Leff has helped to articulate the work done by researchers of multifaceted disciplines that integrate political, social, economic, epistemological, ethical and ecological dimensions of environmental thought in Latin America. On the other hand, as a thinker, Leff has emphasized that the environmental crisis of contemporary civilization has its roots in modern epistemologies which have become increasingly one-dimensional; today, global society is trapped within an anthropocentric, instrumental, and economicist rationality. To overcome this trap, Leff proposes that we open ourselves to a dialogue of diverse forms of knowledge and to an environmental rationality based on complex thinking (Eschenhagen 2008).

Regarding the future steps, this series has helped to design the V<sup>th</sup> Conference on Latin American Environmental Thought which will be held in the sub-Antarctic ecoregion of Magallanes, Chile, in March 2012. This V<sup>th</sup> Conference will not only be Latin American but also Inter-American to enhance a south-north, biocultural and multilingual dialogue. The Latin- and Inter-American scenario introduces in its landscapes two main sources of environmental philosophy. A first one that we can call “Roots of Latin American Environmental Philosophy” is grounded in ecological knowledges and practices cultivated by ancient Amerindian, as well as by more recent Afro-American, peasant, and other rural communities. No genuinely Latin American environmental philosophy can be conceived without incorporating Amerindian cultures (Rozzi 2001, 2010). The second source, which we can call “Incorporation of Interdisciplinary Environmental Thinking into Academia,” has been stimulated by the United Nations

Environmental Program, and by collaborative inter-American work as explained by Enrique Leff in his essay.

We invite ISEE members to participate in the V<sup>th</sup> Conference on Latin-/Inter-American Environmental Thought that will take place at the University of Magallanes in Puerto Natales and Puerto Williams, Chile, on March 16 -19, 2012. This conference is organized by the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program ([www.chile.unt.edu](http://www.chile.unt.edu)) coordinated by the University of Magallanes and the University of North Texas in association with the Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity (IEB-Chile), the Omora Ethnobotanical Park, the Center for Environmental Philosophy and OSARA, in collaboration with the "Universidad Nacional de Colombia" and the "Network of Environmental Thinking (Colombian, Latin American and European Nodes)."

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