



Clark University: Cultures of Peace

**Human Rights, Human, Gender
and Environmental Security**

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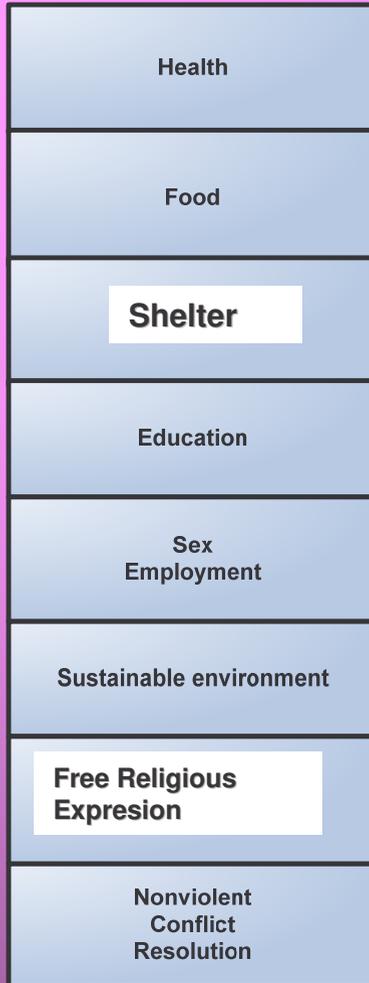
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1. Human Rights for Life

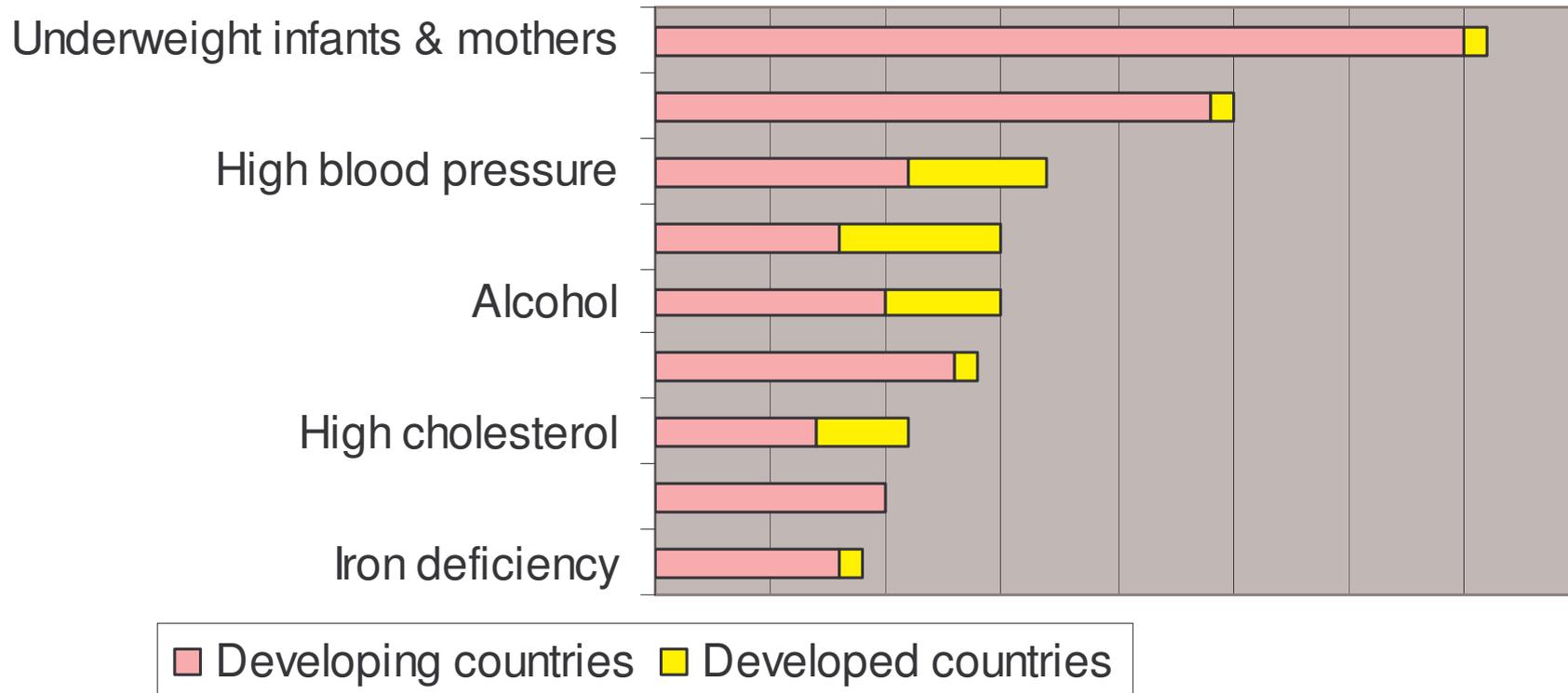
**Basic Human
Rights: **Life****



**Human
Ethics**



**Leading global risk factors and contributions to burden of disease
(% of disability-adjusted life years lost)**

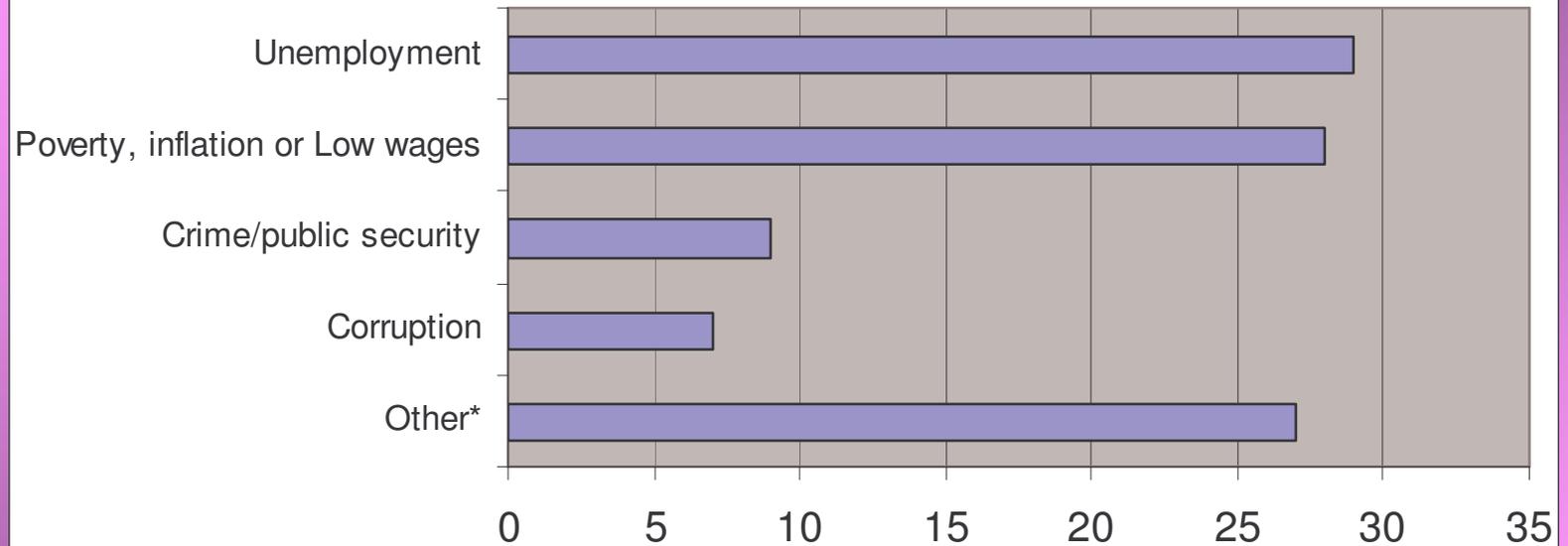


Source: United System Standing Committee on Nutrition/ The Lancet, 2004

MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS IN LA

What do you consider to be the country's most important problem?

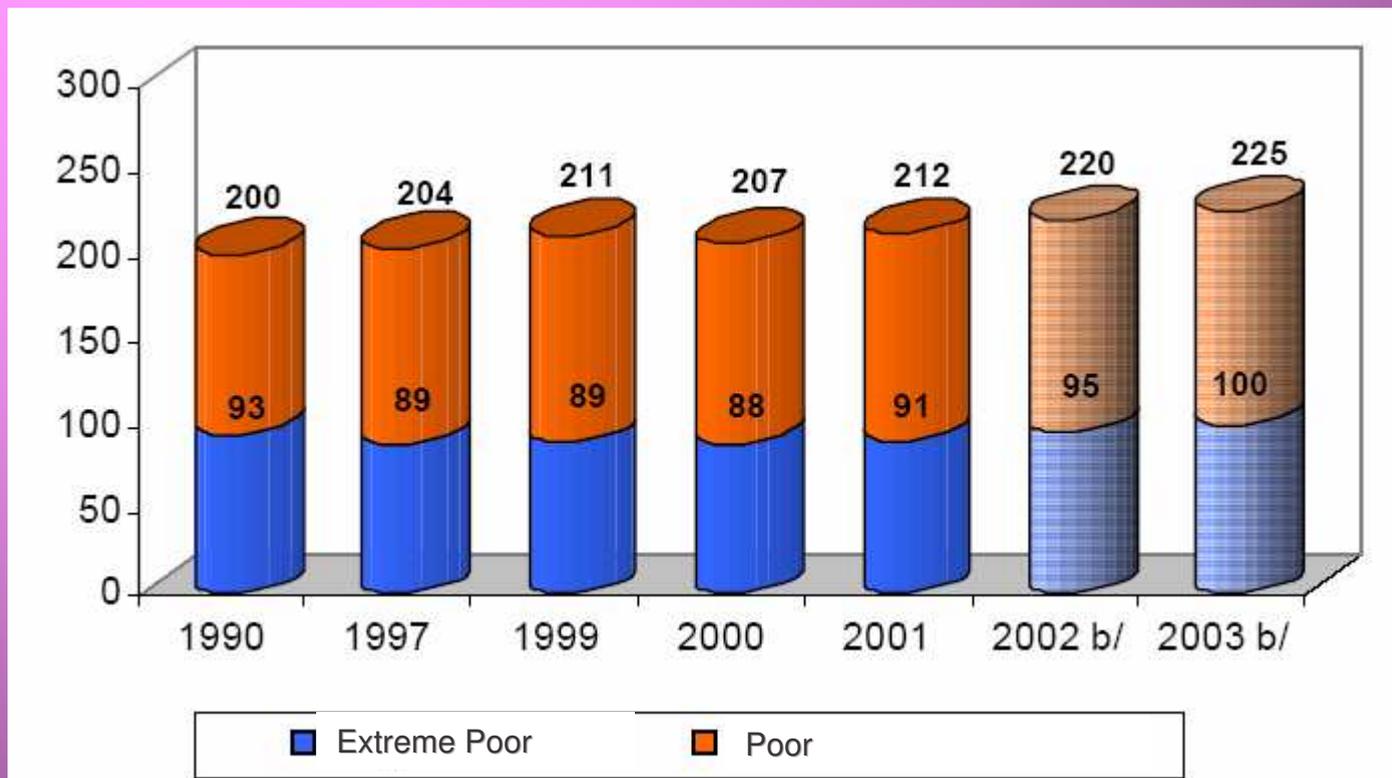
% of respondents 2004, (unweighted average of all countries)



Source: Latinobarómetro, 2004

*Includes political problems, terrorism, education, health and others

EVOLUTION OF POVERTY IN LA (MILLION OF PERSONS)



Source: CEPAL, 2004,
b) Data for 2002 and 2003 are projections

2. What do we mean with „Security“?

- Security (Lat.: 'securus', 'securitas', 'se cura')
- philosophical and psychological **state of mind**,
- subjective feeling of **freedom from sorrow**.
- Political concept of 'Pax Romana': **stability** in era of Augustus.
- Western thinking 'security' synonymous: 'certitudo' ('**certainty**')
- Since Augustus, and Middle Ages, 'securitas' was **linked with 'pax' & 'libertas' that was associated with 'quietness'**.
- 19th century, '**state**' is key security institution governed by law.
- 20th century, security associated with preventing internal & external dangers; police & courts (**internal: justice & home affairs**) & political, economic, military measures (**external: security/defense**).
- a general 'societal idea of value', a universally employed '**normative concept**', different meanings in affirmative manner.
- **political value**, is related to individual or societal value systems
- (Brauch, 2006)

Objective, Subjective, Intersubjective Security

- **Wolfers (1962)** pointed to two sides of the security concept: "Security, in an **objective sense**, measures the **absence of threats to acquired values**, in a **subjective sense**, the **absence of fear that such values will be attacked**".
- From a constructivist approach in international relations 'security' is the outcome of a process of social & political interaction where social values & norms, collective identities & cultural traditions are essential. Security: **intersubjective** or "what actors make of it".
- Copenhagen school: security as a "**speech act**", "where a securitizing actor designates a threat to a specified reference object and declares an existential threat implying a right to use extraordinary means to fend it off".
- Such a process of "**securitization**" is successful when the construction of an "existential threat" by a policy maker is socially accepted and where "survival" against existential threats is crucial (Brauch, 2006).

New Concepts of Security

| Level of expansion | Determination Which security? | Mode of expansion Reference object Security of whom? | Value at risk Security of what? | Source(s) of threat Security from whom or what? |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Without expansion | National security (political, military dimension) | The State | Sovereignty, territorial integrity | Other States, terrorism, sub-state actors, guerrilla |
| Increased | Societal security | Nations, social groups | National Unity, national identity | (States), Nations, Migrants, Alien cultures |
| Radical | Human security | Individuals (Humankind) | Survival, quality of life, cultural integrity | The State, globalization, nature, GEC, poverty, fundamentalism |
| Ultra-radical | Environmental Security | Ecosystem, urban and agricultural system | Sustainability | Nature Humankind |
| Trans-radical | Gender security | Gender relations, indigenous, minorities | Equity, identity, social relations | Patriarchy, totalitarian institutions (élites, governments, religions, culture), intolerance |

Source: Bjørn Møller, 2003:279 and Úrsula Oswald, 2001, 2004

A photograph of a natural rock arch made of reddish-brown sandstone, spanning over a body of water. The arch is supported by two large rock pillars. The sky is clear and blue, and the water is dark. The foreground is a flat, sandy or rocky surface.

3. Human Security

5. Four Human Security Concepts

(Brauch, 2006)

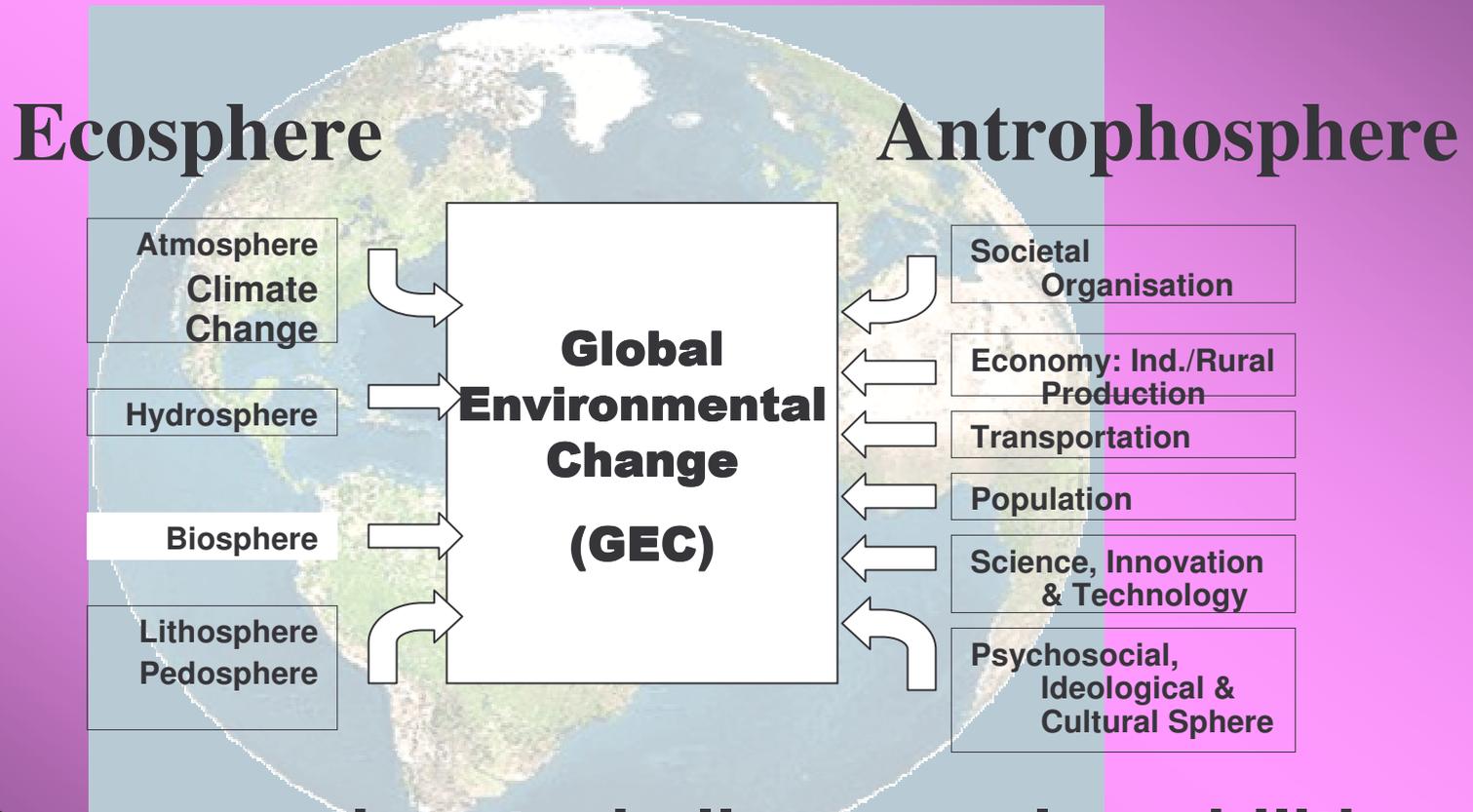
- **“Freedom from want”** by reducing societal vulnerability through poverty eradication programs (UNDP 1994; CHS 2003; Ogata/Sen: Human Security Now, **Japanese**);
- **“Freedom from fear”** by reducing the probability that hazards may pose a survival dilemma for most affected people of extreme weather events and weapons (landmine ban; UNESCO, HSN), **Canadian approach: Human Security Report (2005)**
- **“Freedom to live in dignity”**: Kofi Annan: **In Larger Freedom (2005)**
- **“Freedom from hazard impact”** by reducing vulnerability & enhancing coping capabilities of societies confronted with natural & human-induced hazards (**UNU-EHS 2004**; Bogardi/Brauch 2005; Brauch 2005a, 2005b).



4. Environmental Security

Wider Security Focus: Non-military Challenges

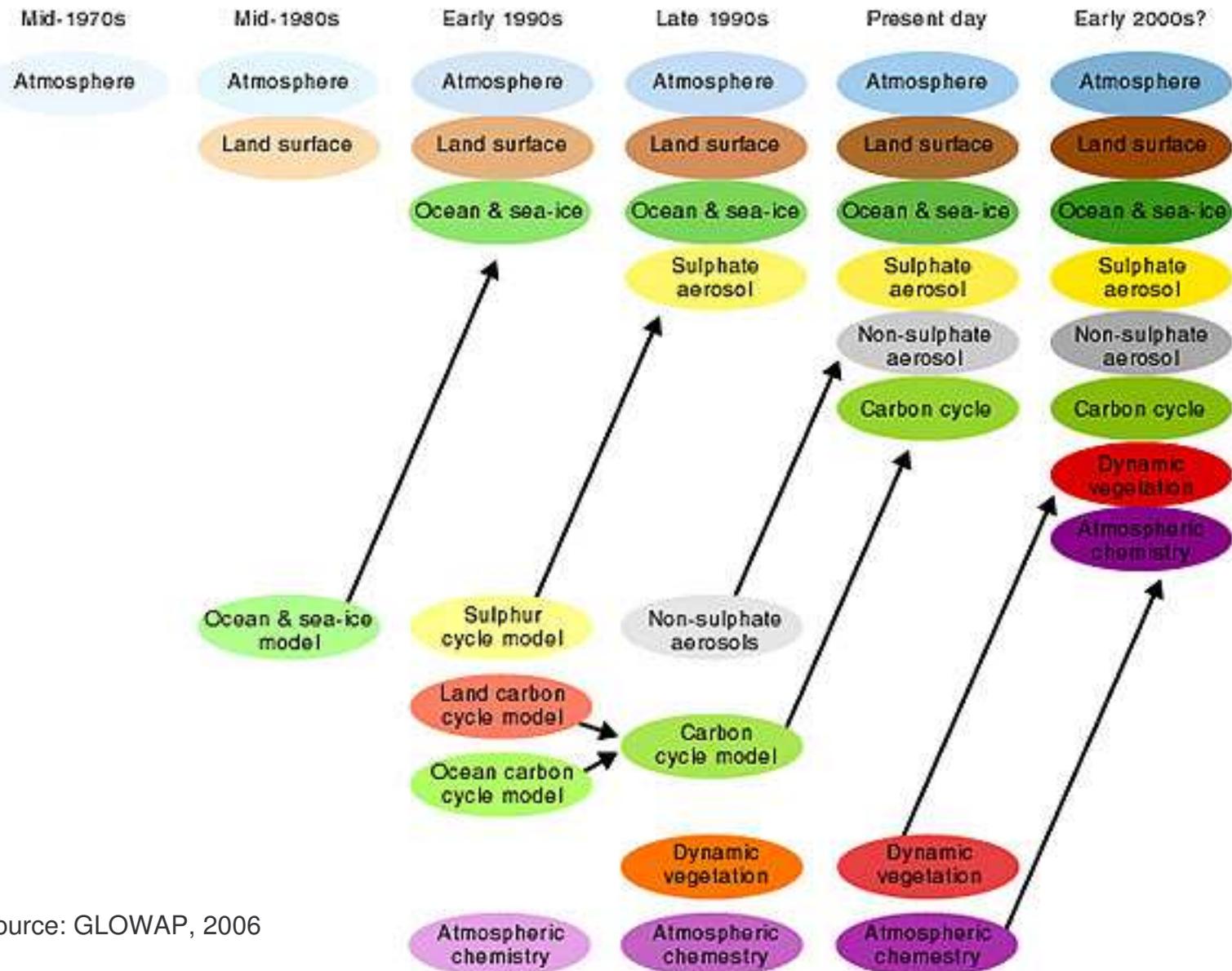
Global and Environmental Change (GEC): Environment & Security Linkages



GEC poses a threat, challenge, vulnerabilities and risks for human security and survival

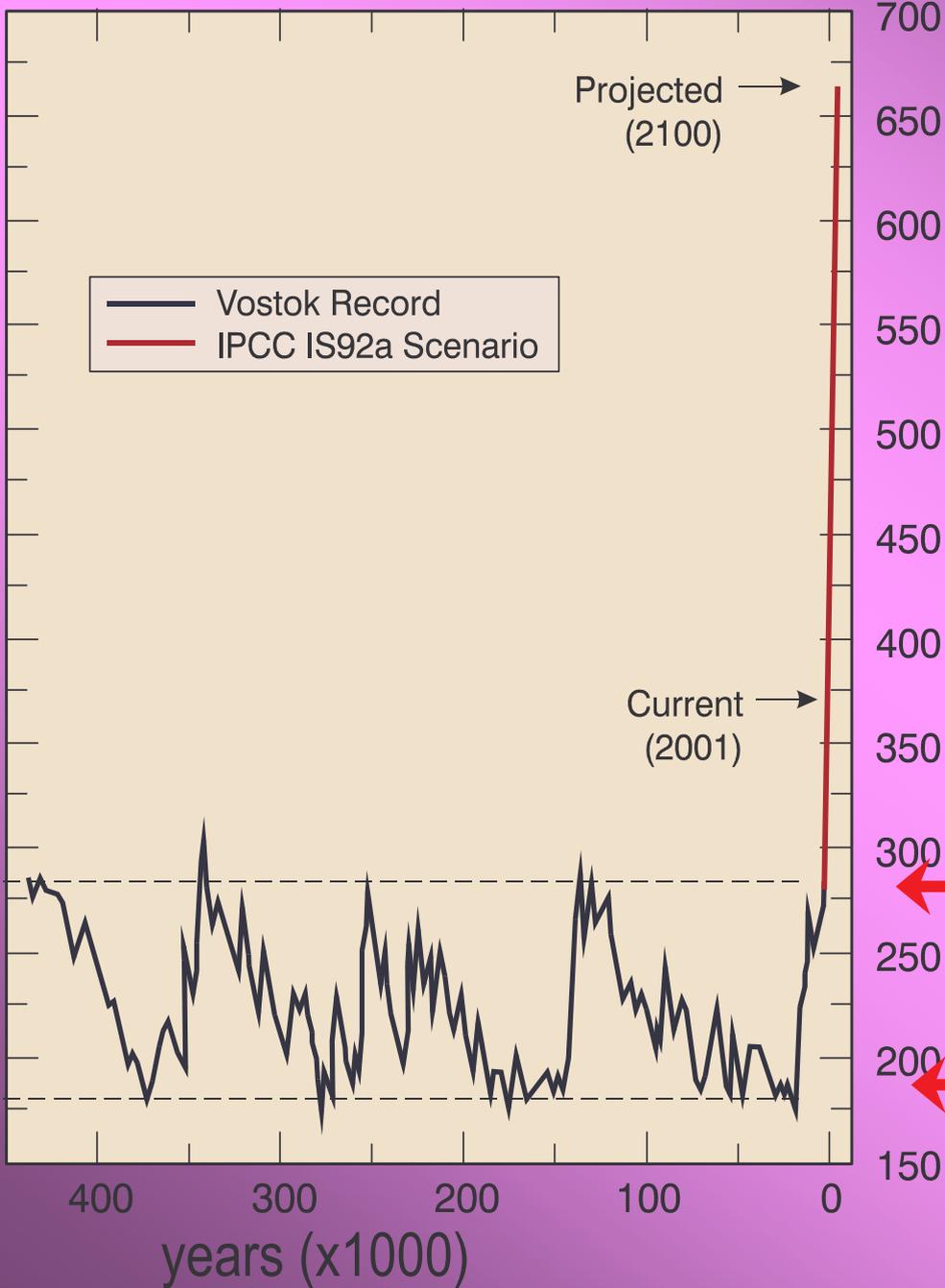
(Brauch/Oswald, 2006)

The Development of Climate models, Past, Present and Future

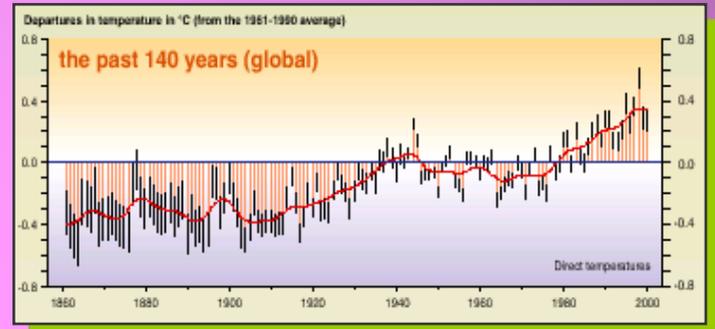


Source: GLOWAP, 2006

Past and future climate changes



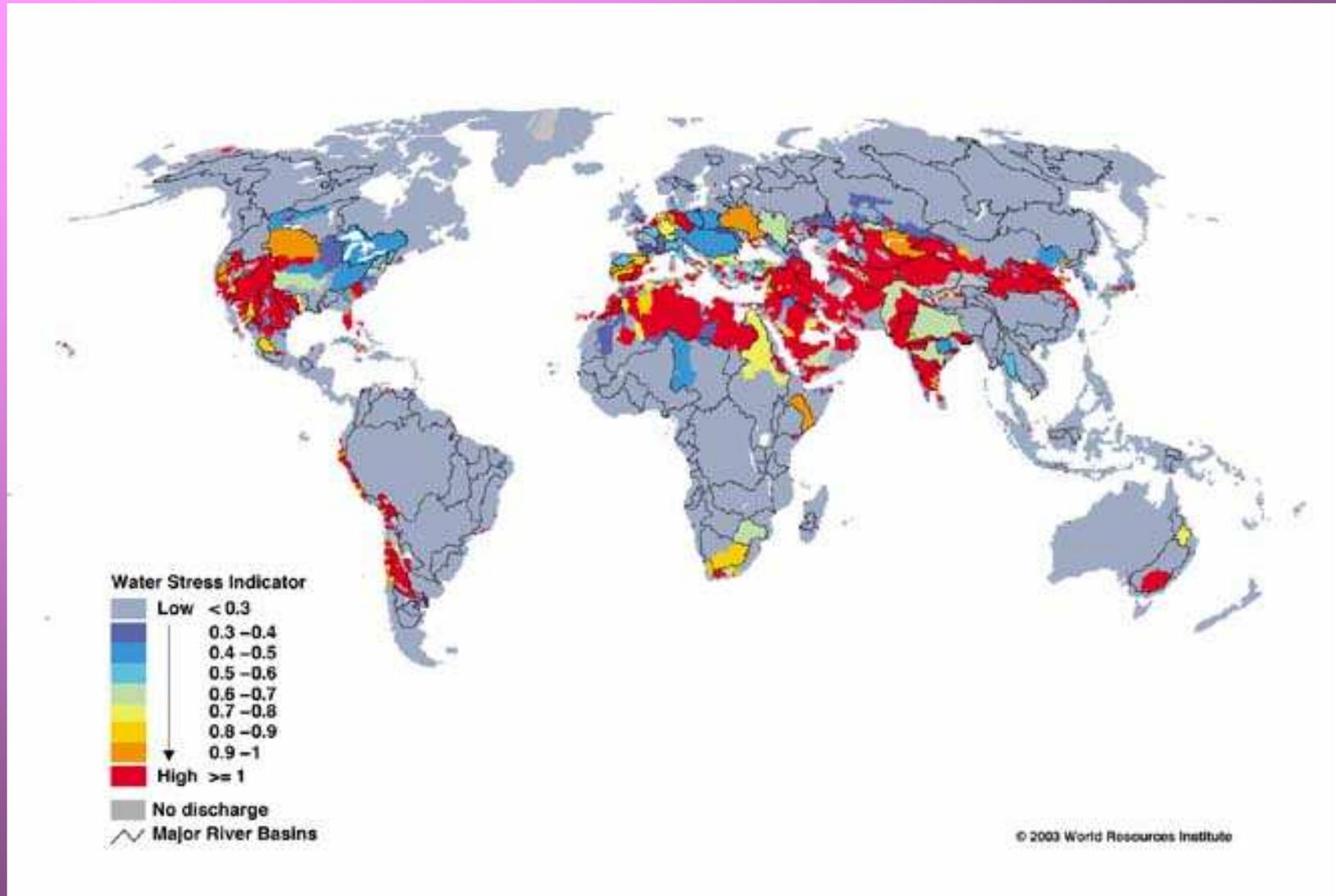
CO₂ concentration (ppmv)



280 ppm

180 ppm

Zones with Highest Water Stress



Four Phases of Environmental Security

1. Phase: Concept Environmental Security

- ❖ Inclusion of environmental factors in US national security agenda
- ❖ Ullmann (1983), Myers (1989), Mathews (1989)
- ❖ Brundtland-Commission (1987), Gorbachev (1987), NATO (1996-99)

2. Phase: Empirical Phase: Case studies: Scarcity - Conflict

- Toronto: Th. Homer-Dixon: since 1991: 3 Projects (Case: Gaza, conflict)
- Zürich/Bern: Günther Bächler, K.Spillmann (Jordan River, Conflict resolut.)

3. Phase: Manifold Research without Integration (1995 - pres.)

- Resource scarcity or abundance as a cause of conflict: wide and multidisciplinary field research approach

4. Phase: Human & Environment. Security & Peace (HESP: Brauch, 2006) & Human, Gender and Environmental Security (HUGE, Oswald, 2006)



5. Gender Security

Gender Security & Identity

- Refers to the process of socialization to “become” a gendered human being; a man or a woman, depending on the position of the social structure.
- Gender security is socially constructed and systemic within the present patriarchal society, and it is normally taken for granted. The relations are linked to gender status –ethnicity/race, class, age and minority status- in relation to the model of reference. Equity and identity are values at risk. The source of threat comes in first instance from the patriarchal hierarchical and violent order, characterized by exclusive, dominant and authoritarian institutions such as non-democratic governments, churches and élites; but exists also within the family.
- The symbolic distribution of space and time assigns the male the public sphere: production, *res publica*, *homo sapiens*; and the woman the private: reproduction, home, *homo domesticus*. The distribution of power acquires also generic forms. Men exercise a hierarchical and vertical power of domination and superiority.

Main attributes of social identity

- Thousand of years of experiences have created a society within a specific socio-historic environment, where symbolic elements have developed –class, ethnicity, age, religion, race, nationality, professional adscription, political ideology, education etc. However they are in permanent change, but the main attributes –gender, sex and race- and the socioeconomic condition –rich, poor- are stable. Each process of classification implies relations of identity, inclusion or rejection and exclusion, which constitutes the base of any power exercise.

Social Representations

- “***Systems of values, ideas and practices***” simultaneously creating a **system of order**, are able to offer a person the possibility to get familiar with the social and material world. The communication within a community offers a **code of common social interchange**, where several aspects of life, personal and collective history are **classified without ambiguity** (Moscovici, 1976: xiii).
- Therefore, social representations are originated in **daily life**, where society is the **thinking and acting system**.
- The theory of social identity establishes a continuum between personal and social identity with a **processual, relational, multidimensional, contextual and essentialist** character.

Three Phases of Gender Security

First Phase: Post-modern Feminism and Gift Economy

- Genevieve Vaughan (1997) included women's free labour in the home as a gift economy related to maternal thinking or mothering. The gift of goods through 'communication' challenges in depth the patriarchal economy of exchanges, profits and interests. By this intentionality of giving, the caretaking is more important than the objectivity, transforming *homo sapiens* into *homo donans*.

Second Phase: **Environmental Degradation and Ecofeminism**

- In diverse geographical conditions people and nature were subjugated to the same violent patriarchal and globalization process. The neoliberal model of Margaret Thatcher's 'TINA', was challenged by "there is an alternative" (Mies 1998) and subsequently that "there are many alternatives: 'TAMA'"

Third phase: **Social Movements**

- Refers to the processes of confluence of diverse social movements: feminists, pacifists, indigenous, environmentalists, antiglobalization to build an other world and mindset.

Gender, Threats and Violence

Women contribute subjective and objective values

Subjective values (social identity):

- **Caring** about their families, children, neighbors and those in need
- Positive **self-esteem** in crisis situations
- Emotionally **stabilizing** families before, during and after conflicts
- Guardians of **traditions and values**
- **Locally** attached

Objective values (social representation):

- **Flexible, adaptable and able** to shift activities immediately by diversifying (refugee camps, survival activities, collection, reconstruction, services, agriculture, reforestation, ecotourism)
- Open to **collaborate in rescue** activities
- Generate **survival strategies** in crises & reduce survival dilemma
- Contribute **to the national economy** and subsistence
- Create **local employments**, incomes and stabilize emigration
- Generate political stability and **conciliate conflicts**

A group of people, including a woman in a red shirt, are gathered around a large white container. The image is slightly blurred, suggesting a candid moment. The text '6. HUGE: Human, Gender and Environmental Security' is overlaid in green on the left side of the image.

6. HUGE: Human, Gender and Environmental Security

2.2. Human, Gender and Environmental Security (HUGE)

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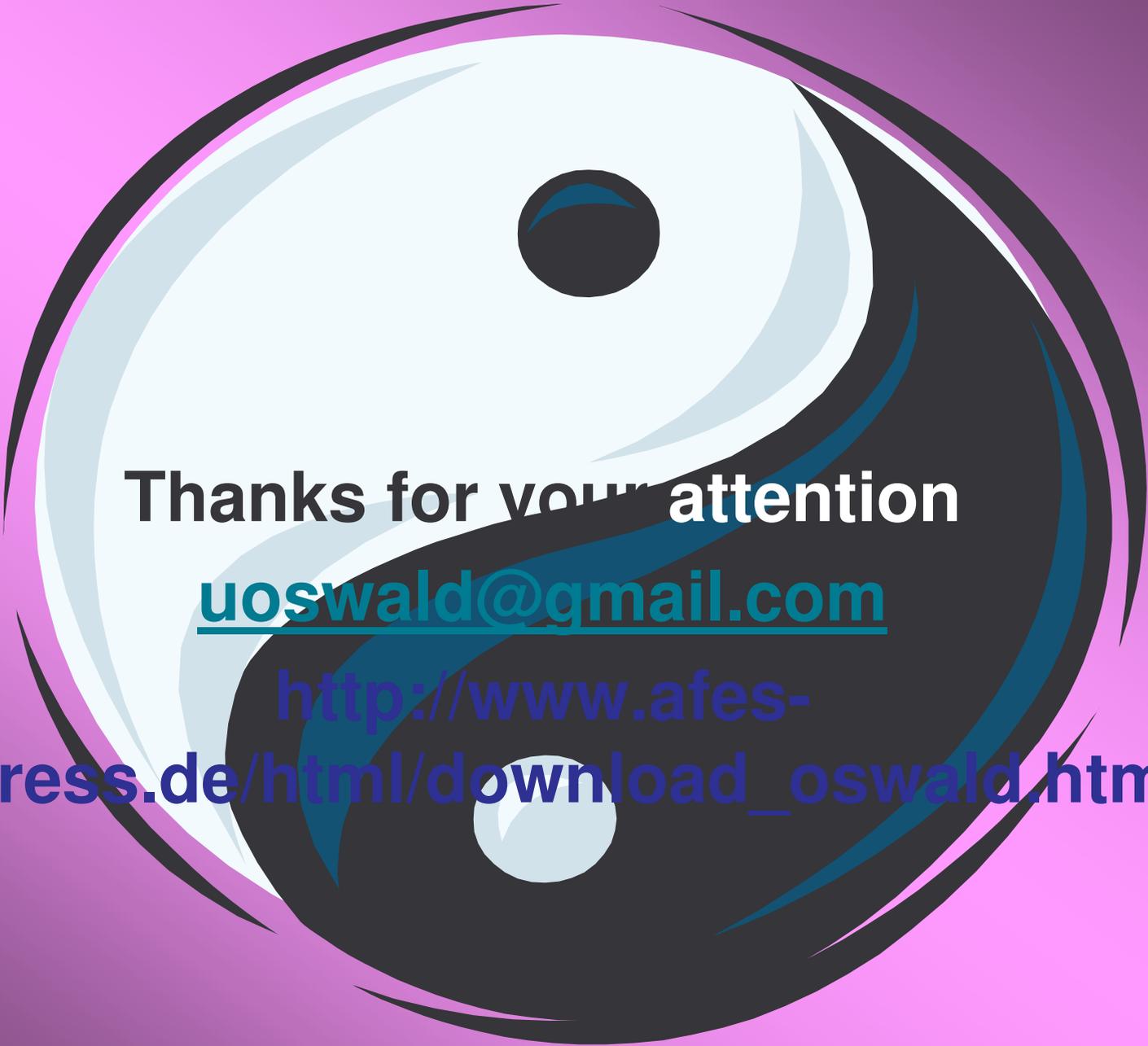
HUGE

- Oswald (2001) suggest a **widened concept** of Human, Gender and Environmental Security (HUGE) that combines a ample gender concept of vulnerable groups with a **human-centered** focus on environmental security and peace challenges.
- HUGE concept analyzes the **patriarchal**, violent and exclusive structures within the family and society questioning the existing **process of social representation-building** and **traditional role** assignation between genders consolidating women discrimination and powerlessness.
- Reorients 'human security' to **greater equity** and **development** through social organization, specific governmental policies (quotas), private ethical investments and legal reinforcements by stimulating sociopolitical participation of women, young, unemployed, indigenous, elders and other minorities.
- At international level HUGE improves **free and equal access** to world and regional markets without trade distortions. It stimulates further **world solidarity** to support the poorest countries with financial aid, technological support and debt relief.

- HUGE includes a **healthy environment**, integral management of natural resources, prevention and remediation practices to reduce vulnerability and to stimulate resilience-building through bottom-up organization combined with top-down policies and institution-building.
- **Nonviolent conflict resolution** is central for personal and social identity in a world where processes of unification and diversification are occurring quicker than ever.
- HUGE includes the **consolidation of participatory democracy and governance**, promoting conflict prevention, nonviolent conflict resolution and peace-building: a **'huge' solidarity** process of sustainable, inclusive, just and equal development.

7. Conclusion: Human Rights Social Rights

- 1. Complex social networks sustain humans in normal times. Human vulnerabilities during change, hazard, disaster or conflict are usually a matter of disruption or failure of these networks.**
- 2. Gender and HUGE analysis will lend a more nuanced understanding of women as social beings aligning in networks of family and community.**
- 3. More accurate understanding and training will facilitate to support networks that underlie a resilient society, where women educate, care and reproduce the historical memory and the cultural background, but increasingly generate also the material family sustain.**
- 4. Active female participation and those of marginal opens the possibility to reduce gender related social vulnerability, improve security on human and environmental terms, and increase the survival of the whole communities frequently affected by physical, social and cultural violence and insecurity.**
- 5. Traditional land tenure, collective work, communitarian solidarity reinforced these social networks, giving security to highly vulnerable.**
- 6. Human Rights and its phases of development do not guarantee minimal life conditions, but reinforce the individualization process increasing social vulnerability. On the contrary, Social Rights reinforce networks and create within diverse cultural contexts and cosmovisions options for resilience-building, reduction of social vulnerability, self-reliance, peaceful conflict resolution; in synthesis HUGE.**



Thanks for your attention

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