

# The Stockholm Seminars: Frontiers in Sustainability Science and Policy

This lecture is a part of a seminar series that cover a broad range of perspectives on sustainability issues, particularly focusing on the need for a sound scientific basis for sustainable development policy.

The lecture is free of charge and open for all interested. For more information: contact Albaeco 08-674 74 00 or [www.albaeco.com/sthsem](http://www.albaeco.com/sthsem). To receive email notifications of upcoming seminars register at [www.albaeco.com/subscribe](http://www.albaeco.com/subscribe)

## Environment, Knowledge and Politics

### Prof. Susan Owens

King Carl XVI Gustaf Professor in Environmental Studies,  
Stockholm Resilience Centre

**Thursday, December 11, 2008, 11.00–12.00**

Linné Hall, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences,  
Lilla Frescativägen 4, Stockholm

What we know about natural environments, and about human interactions with them, has changed a great deal over the past four decades. So too have the ways in which knowledge is produced. Environmental policy, institutions and politics have also changed beyond recognition, and now have global reach.

This seminar will reflect on these changes and their implications. It will then take a critical look at some of the prevailing conventional wisdoms in environmental research - for example, the drive towards interdisciplinarity and the insistence on 'user engagement'. Finally, it will ask whether what we know affects what we do, and will offer three possible models of the relationship between environmental research and policy.

**Susan Owens** is Professor of Environment and Policy and Fellow of Newnham College at the University of Cambridge, UK. This year she holds the King Carl XVI Gustaf Professor in Environmental Studies, shared between the Stockholm Resilience Centre and the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH). Owens has researched and published widely on environmental issues and policy processes, and on interpretations of sustainable development in theory and practice, particularly in the context of land use and environmental planning. She has been a member of the standing Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, UK, since 1998. She was awarded an OBE for services to sustainable development in 1998 and in 2000 received the Royal Geographical Society's 'Back' Award for contributions to research and policy formulation in this field.



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