

DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR LECTURE SERIES AND ATLAS SEMINAR

WANDERING IN A TIMELESS WILDERNESS:

A Feminist Scientist's Journey Through the Anthropocene

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

A Feminist Geoscientist's Research in the Anthropocene

In this lecture, Professor Schneiderman will report on the preliminary results of her studies of landward transport and deposition of microplastic materials in Cape Cod dune sands, as well as her motivation in undertaking these studies. Human beings produce more than 300 million tons of plastics yearly and roughly one third of that is discarded shortly after it is used. Some of that waste is buried in landfills where it will probably remain, but vast amounts wind up in the oceans. From the oceans, some plastic is washed up on beaches or is consumed by wildlife. A substantial amount remains in the sea where it breaks down into small fragments. But what is the ultimate fate of this material? As Professor Schneiderman will argue, the question is more than an academic one for the fate of plastic potentially impacts the health of all creatures. In an age when questions of justice rightly permeate environmental considerations, the impacts of human transgressions in the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere that make up the Earth system affect all beings and not only human ones.

JILL SCHNEIDERMAN

Distinguished Visitor from Vassar College

Jill Schneiderman is Professor of Earth Science at Vassar College. Previously a Fulbright scholar at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, and advisor to the former Senate minority leader (Tom Daschle--South Dakota) she works at the intersection of social justice studies and science. In 1997, funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation, she taught a first-in-the-nation interdisciplinary course on earth science and environmental justice. Dr. Schneiderman has edited or co-edited three books, *The Earth Around Us: Maintaining a Livable Planet*, *Liberation Science: Putting Science to Work for Social and Environmental Justice*, and *For the Rock Record: Geologists on Intelligent Design*. Her current research takes up feminist approaches to critical science studies to engage in debates about the proposed designation of a new geological epoch called the Anthropocene.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 12:00 - 13:00

3-36 TORY BUILDING

BEHIND THE SCENES Q&A WITH DR. SCHNEIDERMAN FROM 11-12 IN ESB 3-01



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