



Anthropological Perspectives on Sustainable Development

RONALD LUKENS-BULL, PHD

PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

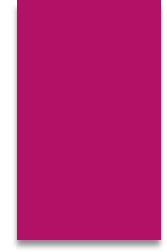
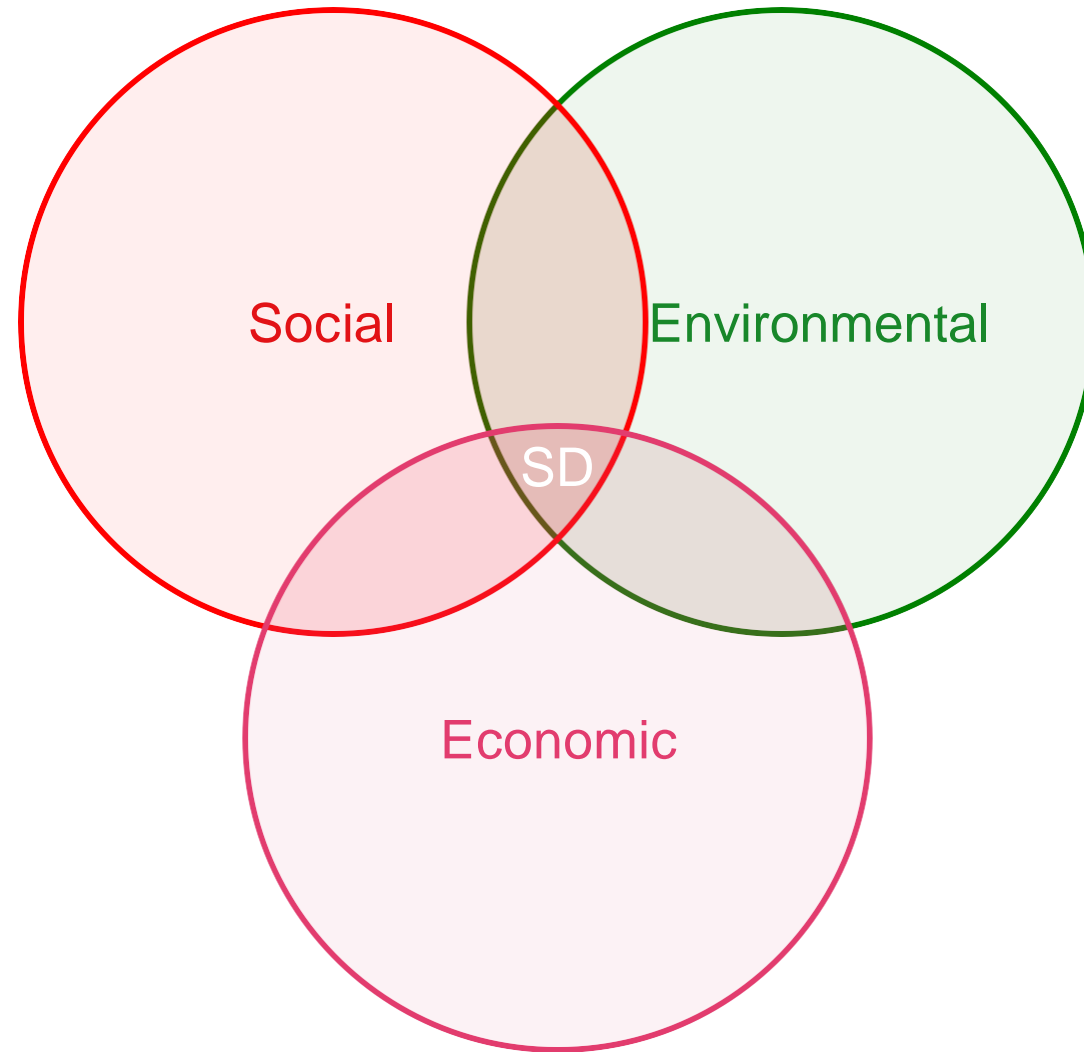
FULBRIGHT RESEARCHER, UIN SUNAN KALIJAGA

Foci

- ▶ Grass-roots
- ▶ Local communities

Critique of Sustainable Development

- ▶ Technocratic (Smythe)
 - ▶ Based in Western/Global North scientific framework
 - ▶ Emphasizes environmental protection over communities
- ▶ Example – Indonesian dam project in Timor (dams in best location, ie. Least impact on environment, near roads – but far from people and so remained underused (Hobart))



Sustainable Development Themes

- Meeting human needs
- Equity
- Environmental constraints /limits
- Futurity
- Democracy
- Local to global

But, defined by whom?



Processes of Change

- ▶ From within
 - ▶ Invention
 - ▶ Diffusion
- ▶ From outside (often proselytizing or imperial)
 - ▶ Assimilation
 - ▶ Acculturation
 - ▶ Deculturation

Holistic Nature of Culture and Culture Change

- ▶ Holism – Interconnectedness
 - ▶ Conservative, resistant to change
- ▶ Culture Change
 - ▶ Even when from outside, it needs to be made local or there will be no buy-in

Bibliography

- ▶ Hobart, Mark, 'Introduction: the growth of ignorance?' in Mark Hobart (ed), *An Anthropological Critique of Development* (Routledge, 1993) 1
- ▶ Smyth, Luke 2011 "Anthropological Critiques of Sustainable Development". *Cross-Sections Vol. VII*