

# Curriculum Vitae - Annick de Witt, Ph.D.

## CONTACT INFO

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Worldviews and sustainable development, Institute for Environmental Studies, VU University Amsterdam, 2013. Dissertation: 'Worldviews and the transformation to sustainable societies: An exploration of the cultural and psychological dimensions of our global environmental challenges.'
- Yoga Alliance Certified teacher training "Radiant Body Yoga", a holistic approach to yoga with its roots in the ancient Kundalini and Tantric traditions (2015).
- Guest researcher at several international centres, including the Energy Biosciences Institute, UC Berkeley, USA (Winter 2012-2013); Department of Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness, California Institute of Integral Studies, USA (Fall 2009); The Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria, Canada (2002/2003).
- Module 'development of teaching and active learning' of the University Teaching Qualification' (UTQ) programme, at Delft University of Technology (2013).
- M.A. Social Environmental Sciences, Radboud University Nijmegen (2004). Speciality: Environment and Social Change. *Cum Laude*. Master's thesis: 'Our spiritual nature: An exploration of the spiritual dimension of nature experience and its relationship to environmental responsibility.'
- B.A. Psychology, Radboud University, Nijmegen (2000).

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

- *Post-doctoral research fellow* at the section Biotechnology and Society, Delft University of Technology. Research exploring the societal debate concerning the emerging

'bio-economy,' with the aim of generating insight in the underlying worldviews, and formulating policy-advice. February 2012 – present.

- Both *teaching* and *redesigning* the full course 'Biotechnology and Society' for Bachelor students in Life Science and Technology, at Delft University of Technology. This course aimed to generate understanding into the societal and ethical aspects of biotechnological developments, and includes, among others, introductory classes in sustainable development, worldviews and values, and philosophy of science. Next to that also supervision of multiple Bachelor and Master-students.
- *Researcher* at the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), VU University Amsterdam. Ph.D. research exploring the relationship between worldviews and sustainable development, commissioned by the *Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency*. Includes also project-based research commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture, and Innovation. January 2008 – July 2012.
- *Presentations at international conferences*, including: American Academy of Religion (San Diego, 2014); Transformation in a changing climate (Oslo, 2013); Culture, Politics, and Climate Change, 2012 (Boulder, USA); Planet Under Pressure, 2012 (London, UK); Integral Theory Conference 2010 and 2013 (Pleasant Hill, USA); 15th International Sustainable Development Research Conference 2009 (Utrecht, the Netherlands); Conference for the International society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, 2009 (Amsterdam, the Netherlands); Ethics, Spirituality and Religions: Transforming Globalisation for the Common Good, 2004 (Dubai, United Arab Emirates) and 2003 (St. Petersburg, Russia).
- *Associate researcher* at the Integral Research Center, Metaintegral Foundation. July 2012 – present.
- *Reviewer* at multiple journals, including Ecological Economics; Journal of Integrative Environmental Sciences; Journal of Integral Theory and Practice; Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy; Agricultural and Environmental Ethics.
- *Board functions* at national foundations, including Princess Irene's NatureCollege ([www.natuurcollege.nl](http://www.natuurcollege.nl)), the Consumer platform of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality, and IUCN ([www.iucn.nl](http://www.iucn.nl)). 2006 – present.
- *Columnist* at the magazine IS, Internationale Samenwerking (International Cooperation). A monthly column in which I discussed sustainability-themes in a personal way. As part of this column I had a public letter-exchange with Herman Wijffels, a nationally prominent politician and professional. September 2008 – November 2011.

- *Development, organization, and conduction of workshops* ‘consciousness for sustainability’ for several large companies in the Netherlands, including KLM and ABN-AMRO. January – July 2009.
- Several *popular publications*, including in leading national newspapers (see under) and prominent public lectures (e.g., the prestigious Westhoff-lezing 2005; Symposium ‘Humans and Nature’ of Natuurmonumenten, the Netherlands’ foremost conservation organization, 2006).
- *Project leader* at Stichting wAarde (Earth Value Foundation), the Netherlands. Position included project-management and -development; informal research; organization of symposia; development of educational material; project-reporting; writing of articles and press releases; advice; vision- and strategy development; coordination of interns. 2005 – 2008.
- *Researcher* at the Centre for Environmental Sciences and Sustainable Development, Radboud University, Nijmegen. Research exploring the involvement of youngsters with the environment, commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality. April – Nov 2004.
- Several forms of *voluntary work*, including campaigns for the local branch of Friends of the Earth in Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

## ACADEMIC WRITING

### **Academic journals and books**

- De Witt, A., De Boer, J., Hedlund, N.H., Osseweijer, P., (2016, forthcoming). A new tool to measure how different worldviews in the Netherlands and the USA relate to climate change. (Submitted to *Journal of Environmental Science and Policy*).
- De Boer, J., De Witt, A., Aiking, H., (2016). Help the climate, change your diet: A study on how to involve consumers in a transition to a low- carbon society. (*Appetite*).
- De Witt, A., & Hedlund, N.H., (2016, in press). Reflexive communicative action for climate solutions: Towards an integral ecology of worldviews. In S. Mickey, A. Robbert & S. Kelly (Eds.), *Integral ecologies: Culture, nature, knowledge, and our planetary future*. New York: SUNY Press.

- De Witt, A., (2015). Climate change and the clash of worldviews. An exploration of how to move forward in a highly polarized debate. *Zygon: Journal on religion and science*, 50(4), 906-921.
- De Witt, A., Osseweijer, P., Pierce, R. (2015). Understanding public perceptions of biotechnology through the 'Integrative Worldview Framework'. *Public Understanding of Science*.
- Hedlund-de Witt, A. (2014). Rethinking sustainable development: Considering how different worldviews envision "development" and "quality of life". *Sustainability* 6, 11, 8310-8328.
- Hedlund-de Witt, A., De Boer, J., & Boersema, J. J. (2014). Exploring inner and outer worlds: A quantitative study of worldviews, environmental attitudes, and sustainable lifestyles. *The Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 37, 40-54.
- Hedlund-de Witt, A. (2014). The integrative worldview and its potential for sustainable societies: A qualitative exploration of the views and values of environmental leaders. *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture and Ecology*, 18, 191-229.
- Hedlund-de Witt, A. (2013). Worldviews and their significance for the global sustainable development debate: A philosophical exploration of the evolution of a concept. *Environmental Ethics*, 35(2), 133-162.
- Hedlund-de Witt, A. (2013). Pathways to environmental responsibility: A qualitative exploration of the spiritual dimension of nature experience. *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*, 7(2), 154-186.
- Hedlund-de Witt, A. (2012). Exploring worldviews and their relationship to sustainable lifestyles: Towards a new conceptual and methodological approach. *Ecological Economics*, 84, 74-83.
- Schösler, H., & Hedlund-de Witt, A. (2012). *Sustainable protein consumption and cultural innovation. What businesses, organizations, and governments can learn from sustainable food trends in Europe and the United States*. Amsterdam: Reprografie. (Research report commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture, and Innovation.)
- Hedlund-de Witt, A. (2011). The rising culture and worldview of contemporary spirituality: A sociological study of potentials and pitfalls for sustainable development. *Ecological Economics*, 70, 1057-1065. Republished in: P. Heelas (Ed.),

*Spirituality in the Modern World. Within Religious Tradition and Beyond* (pp. 139-163), London: Routledge.

### **Professional publications and reports**

- *Nieuwe Nederlanders Natuurlijk. Een groene visie op integratie; een multiculturele kijk op milieu* [*New Naturally Dutch. A green perspective on immigration; a multicultural perspective on the environment*]. Beek-Ubbergen: Uitgeverij wAarde, 2006.
- *Van vervreemding naar verantwoordelijkheid. Over jongeren en natuur* [*From alienation to responsibility. About youth and nature*]. Den Haag: Ministerie van LNV [The Hague: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality], 2005.
- Levenslust als drijvende kracht: natuurbescherming vanuit jongerenperspectief [Lust for life as driving force: nature protection from the perspective of youth]. In: *Natuurbescherming in de 21e eeuw. Westhoff-lezing door Herman Wijffels*. Nijmegen: Radboud University, 2005.
- Love for Life. NME voor jongeren. [Love for Life. Nature and environmental education for youngsters]. *Podium, vakblad voor educatie en communicatie over natuur en leefomgeving* [Journal for education and communication about nature and the environment], Vol. 34, No. 2.

### **POPULAR WRITING**

#### **Books**

- Froukje Jansen & Annick de Witt, 2015. Duurzaamheid van binnenuit. Hoe een nieuw, bruisend bewustzijn de wereld verandert [freely translated as 'Sustainability from the inside out. How a new, sparkling consciousness is changing the world']. *Prometheus*.

#### **Op-eds in national (Dutch) newspapers and magazines**

- Kabinet: luister naar de jongere generatie. Ook wij willen een toekomst. Investeer dus in duurzaamheid [Cabinet: listen to the younger generation. We also want a future: invest in sustainability]. *NRC Handelsblad*, 14 maart 2009.
- We moeten ons wereldbeeld kantelen. Het is tijd voor een innerlijke klimaatverandering [We need to change our worldview. It is time for an inner climate change]. *NRC Handelsblad*, 7 juli 2007.
- Hangplek en natuur horen ook bij elkaar [Hang-out spots need nature]. *Trouw*, 12 mei 2005.

- Many columns in the magazine 'Internal Cooperation' (2009-2011).

### MOTIVATION, INTERESTS, QUALITIES

My involvement with society and sustainable development primarily flows forth from a deep love for life, a trust in human nature, and enthusiasm about the possibilities of this time. I'm inclined to a fairly fundamental, somewhat philosophical way of thinking and I tend to synthesize different disciplines and perspectives (notably environmental philosophy, psychology, and sociology). I love bridge my academic work to the world of practice, translating insight from research to policy, advocacy, and action, and in that way contributing to address the most pressing, planetary issues of our time.

My primary qualities are:

- Enthusiastic, inspired, optimistic
- Integral thinking, capacity for abstraction, see bigger picture
- Solid (methodological) research and writing capacities
- Ambitious and idealistic, yet grounded and professional
- Vision-development, independent and creative thinking
- Translation of ideas to the larger public and press
- Communication- and presentation capacities
- Organization and leadership qualities
- Facilitation skills, public speaking

In my free time I love: spending time with my loved ones and friends; yoga; meditation; hiking and backpacking; dancing; nature; documentaries; music; solitude and silence; journaling. I am fascinated with everything that has the potential to contribute to my personal development and inner growth, including psychologically oriented inner work. I aspire to live a conscious, healthy, happy, and green lifestyle and feel thrilled and deeply called to contribute to addressing our current planetary challenges.