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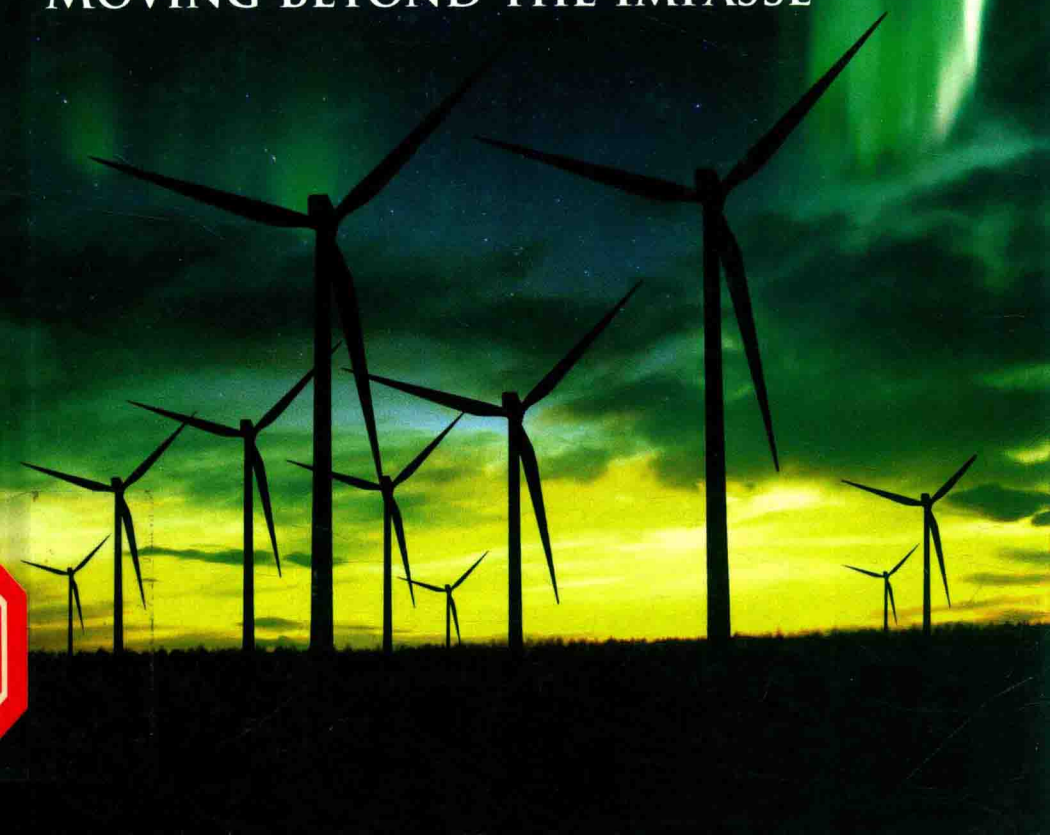
JAMES MEADOWCROFT

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GOVERNANCE, DEMOCRACY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MOVING BEYOND THE IMPASSE



Governance, Democracy and Sustainable Development

Moving Beyond the Impasse

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Preface

This collection of essays has its origins in the 'Oslo Symposium on Democracy, Research Engagement and Sustainable Development', which was held at the Voksenåsen Conference Centre in 2009. The meeting was convened to honour William M. Lafferty, on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the Programme for Research and Documentation for a Sustainable Society (ProSus), a 15-year strategic research initiative supported by the Research Council of Norway. The Symposium generated a lively intellectual exchange around a set of critical issues facing modern societies, and it provided an opportunity for colleagues and collaborators to mark the significance of Lafferty's contributions to research, particularly in the area of the environment and sustainable development.

Lafferty's distinguished academic career spans more than four decades. He held a series of positions, including: Director of Research at the Institute for Social Research, Oslo; Director of Doctoral Studies for the Research Council of Norway at the Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Oslo; Professor of Political Science at the University of Oslo; and Professor of Strategic Research for Sustainable Development in Europe, Centre for Clean Technology and Environmental Policy (CSTM), University of Twente, in the Netherlands.

Over the years Lafferty has made important contributions to research, education and international collaboration. His research activity can be divided into two basic phases. During the earlier period his work focused on the labour movement, social democracy and the Nordic welfare state (see for example: Lafferty 1971; Lafferty 1975; Lafferty 1981; Lafferty and Hagtvet 1984; Lafferty and Knutsen 1984). During the later period his chief interest shifted to the environment and sustainable development. But a number of threads tie these phases together, including an abiding concern with issues of democracy, equity and citizen influence over centres of economic and political power.

Over the past two decades Lafferty has generated an impressive body of published work relating to the challenge of sustainable development. This includes conceptual analysis of sustainable development (Lafferty 1996; Lafferty and Langhelle 1999), research on national implementation of sustainable development in advanced industrialized countries (Lafferty

and Meadowcroft 2000), on local engagement with sustainable development (Lafferty and Eckerberg 1998; Lafferty 2001), on the governance challenges associated with sustainable development (Lafferty 2004), and on renewable energy (Lafferty and Ruud 2008). He was one of the first scholars to insist on the importance of examining exactly what national and local governments were *actually doing* in the name of sustainable development after the idea had been officially endorsed as an international norm at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 (Lafferty 1996). His work points to the particularities of the governance challenge associated with sustainable development, while also making connections to longer-running issues about democratic self-government (Lafferty and Meadowcroft 1996; Lafferty 2000). His work on 'environmental policy integration' argues that sometimes environmental concerns must trump those of development interests (Lafferty and Hovden 2004). And his invocation of the famous maxim that 'form follows function' in relation to governance for sustainable development is intended to emphasize that significant changes to established governance structures and practices are required if a shift in the current inequitable and environmentally destructive development trajectory is ever to materialize (Lafferty 2004).

With respect to education and training Lafferty devoted substantial effort to raising a young generation of graduate students and to mentoring academics at the early phases of their careers. In the earlier period this work was primarily centred around doctoral training at the Institute for Social Research and University of Oslo, but after he became Director of ProSus this also included a more practically focused orientation.

Lafferty's international contributions include extensive service to international political science associations. He was a founding member of the International Society for Political Psychology (ISPP), and joint Programme Chair of the 10th Anniversary World Congress in San Francisco in 1984. He served four consecutive terms as Norway's representative to the Governing Council of the International Political Science Association (IPSA); was a member of the IPSA Executive Committee between 1995 and 2000; and served as Programme Chair of the 18th World Congress of Political Science in Quebec in 2000. But Lafferty's international contribution was above all realized through his commitment to collaborative comparative research – working with colleagues, especially from European nations, on a series of innovative projects.

On a personal note, the editors would like to acknowledge the support and encouragement which William Lafferty provided to their own work over the years. Meadowcroft and Lafferty met in 1993 as they were scouring the publishers' tables at the Annual General Meeting of the American Political Science Association, searching for new titles on the environment

and sustainability. Although that search proved rather fruitless (revealing just a handful of new titles from the 30-odd assembled publishers – which just shows how times have changed), the chance encounter paved the way for a series of subsequent collaborations. Langhelle first encountered Lafferty as a student at the University of Oslo in courses on democracy in 1989. He then had Lafferty as his supervisor both for his master's and PhD theses. Langhelle got his first real job as a research assistant for Lafferty in 1993 and they worked closely together for six years. Ruud first met Lafferty while he was completing his PhD dissertation at the University of Oslo, and from 2000 he worked as senior researcher with ProSus. Ruud has since taken over the leadership of the reconstituted ProSus research unit within SINTEF Energy Research AS in Trondheim and Oslo.

In fact, all the authors included in this volume have worked directly with Lafferty at some point, and view their contributions as a way of honouring his continuing legacy to the environment and sustainable development research enterprise.

In this context, we would like particularly to highlight three important characteristics of William Lafferty's work. First, his deep commitment to intellectual rigour, and to a tradition of political science that acknowledges debts to the classic works of the discipline, and which remains open to insights provided by different methodological approaches and theoretical traditions. Second, he has always advocated an engaged social science, a perspective that is neither obsessed with abstract theory-building nor mired in empiricism, that is not afraid to engage with the big questions confronting modern societies, and believes that intellectuals have a duty of service to the communities in which they live. And, finally, we would like to acknowledge Lafferty's great generosity of spirit and his willingness to offer continuous support and encouragement to his students and collaborators.

James Meadowcroft
Oluf Langhelle
Audun Ruud

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AR4	Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC
AWM	adaptive water management
BP	British Petroleum
C	Celsius
CA	county administration
CAFOD	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
CAN Europe	Climate Action Network
CAN-E	Climate Action Network Europe
CCA	climate change adaptation
CCM	climate change mitigation
CD	competitive democracy
CDBs	county development boards
CEIs	chief environmental inspectors
Comhar SDC	Sustainable Development Council
CoP	Conference of Parties
CSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
DOE	Department of the Environment
DOECLG	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Ireland)
DSB	Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (Norway)
EC	European Commission
ECEN	European Christian Environmental Network
EEA	European Environmental Agency
EEAC	European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils
EENGO	Environmental Ecological NGO
EEB	European Environment Bureau
EEN	Evangelical Environmental Network
ENOVA	Norwegian Agency on Energy Saving
EPI	environmental policy integration
EPIGOV	Coordinated Action on Environmental Policy Integration and Multi-level Governance

ETS	emission trading scheme
EU	European Union
FDI	foreign direct investment
FoE Europe	Friends of the Earth Europe
FoE	Friends of the Earth US
GHG	greenhouse gases
ha	hectare
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
IEA	International Energy Agency
IEEP	Institute of European Environmental Policy
IEN	Irish Environmental Network
IFN	International Friends of Nature
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWM	integrated water management
IWRM	integrated water resources management
km	kilometre
KS	Association of Local and Regional Authorities (Norway)
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LCCA	local climate change adaptation
LIP	Local Investment Programme for Ecologically Sustainable Development
LONA	Swedish Local Nature Conservation Programme
KLIMP	state grants to local climate investment programmes (Sweden)
MENA	Middle East and North African
MIK	Environment in the Municipalities (Norway)
NAE	National Association of Evangelicals
NCPP	National Centre for Partnership and Performance
NEQOs	(Swedish) National Environmental Quality Objectives
NESC	National Economic and Social Council
NESDO	National Economic and Social Development Office
NESF	National Economic and Social Forum
NGOs	non-government organizations
NORADAPT	Community Adaptation and Vulnerability in Norway
NORKLIMA	Norwegian research programme 'Climate Change and Impacts of Norway'
NRDC	Natural Resources Defense Council
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy

OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ProSus	Programme for Research and Documentation for a Sustainable Society
rNSDS	revised National Sustainable Development Strategy
SCB	Statistics Sweden
SD	sustainable development
SEA	strategic environmental assessment
SEA	Swedish Election Authority
SEPA	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
SFS	Swedish Code of Statutes
SKL	Swedish Association of Local and Regional Authorities
SNF	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
SNG	synthetic natural gas
SRES	Special Report on Emission Scenarios
TAED	TransAtlantic Environmental Dialogue
T&E	European Federation of Transport and Environment
UK	United Kingdom
UKCIP	UK Climate Impacts Programme
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UN	United Nations
USCAN	US Climate Action Network
US	United States
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WCI	World Coal Institute
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WNRI	Western Norway Research Institute
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WWF-EPO	World Wildlife Fund (European Policy Office)

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