



Obituary on Betty Reardon (1929-2023)

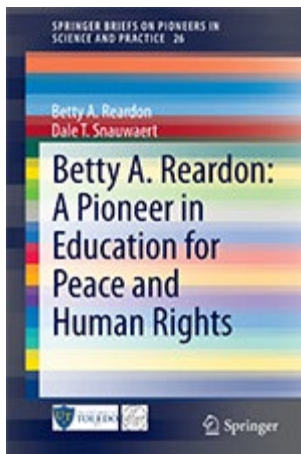
*12 June 1929

†3 November 2023

Prof. Dr. Betty Reardon has passed away on 3 November 2023 at the age of 94.

Hans Günter Brauch's Obituary on Betty Reardon

I listened for the first time to a keynote lecture by Prof. Betty Reardon in April 1985 during the IPRA Conference in Brighton in Sussex (UK). As an editor of English language books I published two books about her work as a coeditor with Dale Snauwaert and one book edited by Dale Snauwaert on the occasion of her 90th birthday and two forewords:



Betty A. Reardon (Author); Dale Snauwaert (Editor): *Betty A. Reardon: A Pioneer in Education for Peace and Human Rights*. Springer Briefs on Pioneers in Science and Practice No. 26 – presented by Dale Snauwaert (Cham – Heidelberg – New York – Dordrecht – London: Springer-Verlag, 2015).

ISBN (Print): 78-3-319-08966-9

ISBN (Online/eBook): 978-3-319-08967-6

DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-08967-6



Betty A. Reardon (Author); Dale Snauwaert (Editor): *Betty A. Reardon: Key Texts in Gender and Peace*. Springer Briefs on Pioneers in Science and Practice No. 27 – Texts and Protocols No. 13 (Cham – Heidelberg – New York – Dordrecht – London: Springer-Verlag, 2015).

ISBN (Print): 978-3-319-11808-6

ISBN (Online/eBook): 978-3-319-11809-3

DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-11809-3



Dale T. Snauwaert (Ed.): *Exploring Betty A. Reardon's Perspective on Peace Education Looking Back, Looking Forward*. *Pioneers in Arts, Humanities, Science, Engineering, Practice (PAHSEP)*, No. 20 (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2019).

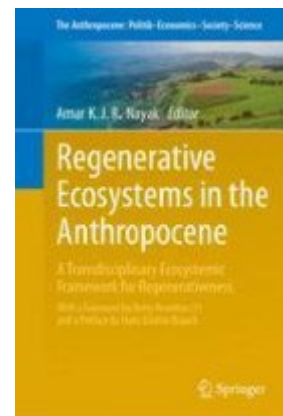
Betty Reardon contributed Forewords to the following two books:

APESS Vol 30 Úrsula Oswald Spring, Hans Günter Brauch (Eds.): *Decolonising Conflicts, Security, Peace, Gender, Environment and Development in the Anthropocene* (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2021).

ISBN: 978-3-030-62315-9 (Softcover)
ISBN: 978-3-030-62316-6 (EBook)
Doi: 10.1007/978-3-030-62316-6_ (add chapter no.)



APESS Vol 38 Amar KJR Nayak: *Regenerative Ecosystems in the Anthropocene: A Transdisciplinary Ecosystemic Framework for Regenerativeness* (Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2024).



In her last foreword Betty Reardon contributed for the book by Prof. Amar from India she reflected in March 2023 on “Toward a New Cosmology” that is included below.

Toward a New Cosmology

As a peace educator, I welcome the theme and purpose of this Symposium on Regenerative Ecosystems as a hopeful response to the convergent existential crises that threaten all life

on Planet Earth. The Symposium demonstrates that the human species can develop new ways of knowing, thinking and relating that recognize Humanity's integral relationship to Planet Earth, enabling us to conceptualize a transformed cosmology, a new world view. The various contributions set forth in this volume offer multiple insights, approaches and learnings, leading us toward a cosmology centered on sustaining and regenerating life, replacing the present extractive, exploitative world view; a new cosmology of planetary resilience.

Convergent Crises

The concept of three convergent crises through which I view threats to human and Earth survival, derives from a holistic view of the integral relationships that bind each crisis to the other two, stressing, not only the multiplicity of crises connoted by the term, *polycrisis*, but also the interrelationships among them and their common origins in our ways of thinking, knowing and relating. The convergent crises affecting all other global problems are, as I perceive them inequality and poverty, authoritarianism and militarism, climate catastrophe and abuse of Earth, compound concepts of two essential elements, the fundamental problem and the human behaviors through which we experience them.

Poverty derives from human inequality, and the assumption that some humans are more valuable than others, an ethical and existential crisis, as are the other two, posing normative as well as systemic challenges.

The militarism that upholds authoritarianism derives from the impulse to control, a fundamental characteristic of the global patriarchy that is the basic framework for human inequality. Militarism is authoritarianism's attempt to maintain control over all elements of human society.

Climate catastrophe is the cumulative consequence of systematic abuse of Earth, exacerbating inequality and authoritarianism, as many cling to the belief it is within our capacity to control the systems that comprise the Living Earth. This belief is a denial of the fundamental existential truth of life on Earth. Human beings are not separate from Earth, not in charge of the planet. We are an essential biological component of the living Earth. Humans are part of the system and the system is replicated within each human. We are one with Earth. A new cosmology would affirm this fundamental truth. Peace Education must challenge the belief in human control with pedagogies that reveal the human responsibility for producing the crises, a responsibility also to be invoked in a major effort to save Earth by facilitating the learning needed to conceptualize a transformed cosmology.

Pedagogy

This learning challenge can be initiated with the concept of *regenerative ecosystems* as a fundamental pedagogical tool for a new cosmology. Since it comprises the idea of a system for the regeneration and affirmation of life, focusing on the interrelationships within that systems that sustain life, it embodies the main conceptual tools for this pedagogy and the holistic living systems thinking an extension of what I formerly defined as *ecological thinking* that I refer to here as *regenerative ecology*. It is a field of study and form of reflective thinking that explores the systemic relationships that function so as to achieve its particular purpose, inquiring into how that purpose might contribute to sustaining and renewing life continuously. Constant renewal sustains life. As planned action to save Earth, it is, as well, the product of reflective thinking within the general frame of regenerative ecology. A pedagogy for this inquiry lies within the queries that explore the nature and functions of relationships among system components, so as to change them be more fully regenerative and sustaining. Thus, this pedagogy also entails a process perspective, like holistic systems

thinking another fundamental of peace education pedagogy. The process of regeneration itself is a learning process. This volume is a fine foundation from which to begin the process.

Betty A. Reardon

March 2023

I had the pleasure to work closely with Betty Reardon and Dale Snauwaert during the last ten years of her life when she faced difficult health problems at the age of 85 which she gradually overcame and continued writing on peace education and many other themes. She stays in my memory as a very gentle person with clear goals she addressed in her many publications and lectures during here active life as a professor of peace education at Columbia University, New York, USA:

Memorials about Betty can be found here.

[< https://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/in-memoriam-betty-reardon-1929-2023/>](https://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/in-memoriam-betty-reardon-1929-2023/)

An Obituarry in Spanish by Ursula Oswald Spring can be found here:

[< https://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/bettyreardon/obituario-betty-reardon/>](https://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/bettyreardon/obituario-betty-reardon/).