

Announcing a public lecture:

Philosophizing for Catastrophe: Resilience and the Limits of Sustainability

Dr. Kelly Parker
Professor, Department of Philosophy
Director, Environmental Studies Program
Grand Valley State University

Environmental philosophers have recently begun to consider "resilience"--alongside or even instead of "sustainability"--as a central normative concept. This seems to reflect a recognition of indeterminate catastrophe as a certainty that people will face, as well as a change in our general expectations about how to manage the effects of catastrophe. Part 1 of this presentation provides an overview of several varieties of resilience, their relation to aspects of sustainability, and raises cautions about this shift in attention. Part 2 explores the role of philosophy in preparing for catastrophe. On the more abstract side, philosophy may provide some appropriate perspective on catastrophes; on the practical side, developing education and development strategies to build capacity for resilience in communities is a needed philosophical project. The presentation concludes with examples of such local, community engaged, collaborative, and transdisciplinary philosophical projects for developing community resilience.

3:00 PM | Friday, February 16, 2018 530 S. Kedzie Hall

Light refreshments served just before 3pm; discussion to follow at 4pm.