



THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA
THURSDAY 25TH MARCH 2021

“PARADIGM SHIFT: AN OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL AND LOCAL ECOSOCIAL CHALLENGES”
By Prof. Asoka Bandarage

The 132nd Session of the Monthly Lecture Series of the National Trust will be delivered online on Thursday 25th March 2021 at 6.30 pm. by Prof. Asoka Bandarage.

Book launch of the new National Trust publication *Sri Lanka: Island of Islands* - edited by Somasiri Devendra, Stefan D'Silva and Sarala Fernando and Sponsored by Sail Lanka Charter (Pvt) Ltd., will take place online on Thursday 25th March 2021 at 6.15 pm before the monthly lecture is delivered at 6.30 pm.

Link to lecture <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85297873959>.

While humanity has achieved incredible technological and material growth, ecosystems and human communities are collapsing due largely to that very advancement. The challenge before us is not the acceleration of competitive, economic and technological growth and the creation of a ‘post-nature’, ‘post-human’ world but a fundamental transformation to a balanced path of social and psychological development. This presentation will explore the worldview of domination underlying the contemporary market and technological paradigm and the worldview of partnership that would underlie an alternative ecological paradigm. Drawing upon the presenter’s book, *Sustainability and Well-Being: The Middle Path to Environment, Society and the Economy* (Palgrave MacMillan), this presentation will seek to provide an integrated ecosocial approach defining sustainability as simultaneously constituting the well-being of the human species and that of the natural world. Drawing from a wide range of information and academic disciplines, the presentation will provide an overview of the fundamental shift in consciousness, public policy and social action needed for ecological and social protection at both the global and the local Sri Lankan levels



Asoka Bandarage was educated at the University of Sri Lanka, Bryn Maw College and at Yale University where she received a Ph.D. in Sociology. Ms. Bandarage has served on the faculties of Brandeis University, Georgetown University and Mount Holyoke College where she received tenure. She is currently Distinguished Adjunct Professor at the California Institute for Integral Studies where she teaches ‘Ecological Consciousness and Climate Justice’.

Prof. Bandarage’s interdisciplinary teaching and writing span across many fields including political economy, conflict analysis, women’s studies, population, ecology, philosophy and public policy. Dr. Bandarage is the author of the books: *Colonialism in Sri Lanka: The Political Economy of the Kandyan Highlands, 1833–1886* (Mouton, 1983); *Women, Population and Global Crisis: A Politico-Economic Analysis* (Zed Books, 1997); *The Separatist Conflict in Sri Lanka: Terrorism, Ethnicity and Political Economy* (Routledge, 2009); *Sustainability and Well-Being: The Middle Path to Environment, Society and the Economy* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2013) and other publications in academic journals, anthologies and encyclopedias.

Dr. Bandarage has given numerous academic presentations, media interviews, and workshops and written columns in the *Huffington Post* and *Asia Times*. She currently serves on the boards of *Critical Asian Studies* and *Interfaith Moral Action on Climate*.

The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures on the last Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the public. The HNB Sustainability Foundation is the principal sponsor of the events of the National Trust – Sri Lanka.

Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel 2682730