

Science Café in Merlin: Public lecture of Kate Soper
Professor of Philosophy, Institute for the Study of European Transformations,
London Metropolitan University
„Towards Postconsumerism: Nature, Culture and the Politics of Consumption”
Thursday, January 25, 2007
17:00-19:00
Merlin Theater

Science Café

Science Café in Budapest is a place where famous British thinkers and researchers come to lecture and create sparkling debates over a cup of coffee or a glass of wine.

25 January 2007, 17.00 | Merlin Theater

Towards Postconsumerism: Nature, Culture and the Politics of Consumption

Speaker: **Kate Soper** (Professor of Philosophy, Institute for the Study of European Transformations, London Metropolitan University)

Biographical Note: Kate Soper is a Professor of Philosophy in the Institute for the Study of European Transformations at London Metropolitan University. She has written extensively on the conceptualisation of nature and environmental issues. Her recent writings include: *What is Nature? Culture, Politics and the Non-Human*, London, Blackwell, 1995; *To Relish the Sublime? Culture and Self-Realisation in Postmodern Times*, London, Verso, 2002 (with Martin Ryle). She is currently in receipt of an AHRC/ESRC award in the ‘Cultures of Consumption’ Programme, and researching a book on ‘alternative hedonism’. (See www.consume.bbk.ac.uk under ‘Research’).

Abstract: *In response to ecological crisis, there is much anxiety today about the destruction and ‘loss’ of nature. But there are also doubts about what we mean by the term ‘nature’ and what still counts as ‘natural’ in a world so technically controlled and made over by human beings. The lecture will reflect on these concerns, the ways they compare and contrast with earlier ideas about humanity-nature relations, and their implications for a ‘greener’ politics. It will argue that the problem today is not so much about ‘getting back to nature’ but about how to develop ways of living that are both ecologically benign and respectful of our distinctively human needs, pleasures and capacities. The focus will be on the importance of new thinking about human flourishing and the ‘good life’ to the development of a more sustainable form of consumption.*

Host: British Council (www.britishcouncil.hu)

Organisation: Environmental Social Science Research group (www.essrg.org)

Venue: Merlin Theater, 1052 Budapest, Gerlóczy u.4. (www.merlinszinhaz.hu)