

**Title:** *No Us Without Them: Preserving Difference through Solidarity*

**Facilitator:** Marianne Patinelli-Dubay

**Date:** Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Time:** 10am – 4pm or 9:15am – 4pm, for those who would like to come early for a morning “sit”

**Location:** SUNY-ESF’s Newcomb Campus at the Adirondack Interpretive Center

**Registration:** Space is limited to 10 and advance registration is required by Friday, June 19

**Contact:** Daphne Taylor at [aechwf@esf.edu](mailto:aechwf@esf.edu)

**Cost:** \$30/person includes morning coffee and baked goods, catered lunch along with a comprehensive Seminar Reader that includes a statement on the Seminar Method, the primary readings and recommended (further) readings

**Website:** <http://www.esf.edu/nfi/>

**Description:** In the wake of broad recognition that a universal striving for “equal rights” fails to take implicit cultural biases into account, an era of “identity politics” came to the fore. In this turn away from universality towards an emphasis on plurality and difference, individuals seeking solidarity relied on racial, social, sexual and political categories for belonging and recognition. Participants in this seminar discussion will enter into an *of the moment* struggle against the limits of the same categories that provided safe haven and strength in numbers. We will open the question of whether “we” can overcome the rigid limits of identity politics towards an embrace of otherness that avoids problematic *us vs. them* distinctions. We will spend the day reading, writing and in seminar-style discussion. Participants are invited to come at 9:15am for an optional guided meditation or morning “sit” to clear the mind and reconnect the thinking with the feeling self.

**Schedule:**

9:15 – 10am: Morning “sit,” outside weather permitting

10am – noon: Introduction to the Seminar Method and seminar discussion of the pre-reading

Noon – 1pm: Lunch

1 – 2pm: Reading, followed by writing in response to the text

2 – 4pm: Seminar discussion

**Biographical Information:**

**Facilitator:** Marianne Patinelli-Dubay, Ph.D.

Environmental Philosophy Program Coordinator

SUNY-ESF’s Northern Forest Institute

**Statement:** My work lies at the philosophical intersections of nature, culture, science and ethics in the Adirondack Park, NY. In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I am currently working on a proposal for a book-length manuscript that renders historic field notes from the Huntington Wildlife Forest (1937 – 1943) as field poems. I continue to work on a writing project that considers the ways poetic language is suited to illustrate the sway that landscapes and their rhythms hold over individuals. Following the poet Sappho, I draw an erotic (*erôs*) contour between self and world. I propose that an ecstatic join between poetry and philosophy presents an opportunity to inhabit and to hold open the valley between desire and attainment, where the individual comes to know herself in a coextensive sensual and intellectual geography.