



Ecofeminism HSG3M

What is Ecofeminism?

Long form of the phrase, “ecological feminism”

“Branch of feminism that examines the connections between women and nature”

“It is a re-evaluation of non-patriarchal or nonlinear structures, and a view of the world that respects organic processes, holistic connections, and the merits of intuition and collaboration”

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/ecofeminism>

What is ecofeminism?

“Involves a commitment to the environment and an awareness of the associations made between women and nature.”

It analyzes “The ways both nature and women are treated by patriarchal society.”

“Ecofeminists examine the effect of gender categories in order to demonstrate the ways in which social norms exert unjust dominance over women and nature.”

These social norms provide “An incomplete view of the world”

Ecofeminism “embraces all life as valuable”

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How did ecofeminism originate?

The term was created by Francois d'Eaubonne in 1974

In the 1970s and 80s, feminists held conferences to discuss the linkage between feminism and environmentalism. During these conferences, women established that “the association of women with nature had led to the oppression of both.”

- E.g. “Women and nature [are] often depicted as chaotic, irrational, and in need of control, while men [are] frequently characterized as rational, ordered, and thus capable of directing the use and development of women and nature.”

How did ecofeminism originate?

- “This arrangement results in a hierarchical structure that grants power to men and allows for the exploitation of women and nature, particularly insofar as the two are associated with one another.”

Early ecofeminists began documenting the historical connections made between women and nature

Rosemary Ruether, insisted that all women must acknowledge and work to end the domination of nature if they were to work toward their own liberation.” She encouraged others to challenge other notions, even those within feminism that did not take into account the relationship between women and nature.

Radical Ecofeminism

In the 1980s, ecofeminism was branched into two main categories

| Radical Ecofeminism | Cultural Ecofeminism |
|---|---|
| The patriarchy associates women with nature in order to degrade both | Want women to be associated with nature |
| Women have been associated with negative attributes in comparison to men | Women have a closer relationship to the environment because of their gender roles and biology. |
| These negative attributes cause further subordination which encourages people to take advantage of women for “cheap labour and resources” | These connections allow women to be more sensitive to damage to the environment. Nature worship connected to women |

Problems with Ecofeminism

- It might reinforce gender stereotypes
- Disputes about Western religion versus nature-based religion
- Romanticization of nature, roles, and practices (and should instead focus more on organic farming, for instance)
- Doesn't consider women in developing countries
- Majority are privileged white women
- Concern about heterosexual bias. To combat this problem, more individuals from the queer community are becoming considered and involved.

The Future of Ecofeminism

“Contemporary ecofeminism must be developed to acknowledge the very real effects of race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality on a women's social position.”

Your Task: Oral Assessment HSG3M

1. Take 15 minutes to write down some bullet point notes for each question below.
2. Conference with your teacher and discuss the answers to each question.

Your oral assessment will be evaluated using the rubric on the next slide.

| Categories | Level 1 (50-59%) | Level 2 (60-69%) | Level 3 (Level 70-79%) | Level 4 (Level 80-100%) |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| K/U Of the concept <i>Ecofeminism</i> | Demonstrates limited K/U of content | Demonstrates some K/U of content | Demonstrates considerable K/U of content | Demonstrates thorough K/U of content |
| Thinking Critical and creative thinking of answers | Demonstrates a limited level of critical/creative thinking | Demonstrates some critical/creative thinking | Demonstrates considerable critical/creative thinking | Demonstrates a high level of critical/creative thinking |
| Communication Oral communication skills | Communicates with a limited degree of effectiveness | Communicates with some effectiveness | Communicates with considerable effectiveness | Communicates with a high degree of effectiveness |
| Application Connections to personal life | Transfers knowledge to new contexts with a limited degree of effectiveness | Transfers knowledge to new contexts with some effectiveness | Transfers knowledge to new contexts with considerable effectiveness | Transfers knowledge to new contexts with a high degree of effectiveness |