

ECOPOLITICS PODCAST: Additional Pedagogical Resources (Episode 9)

Episode 9: Ecofeminism and Queer Ecology

Overview: Dr. Catriona Sandilands and Dr. Sherilyn McGregor share with us the ways in which ecofeminism, and queer ecology, serve to diversify and deepen how we look at the policies and day-to-day practices of environmental politics.

Key Takeaways

- The patriarchal system allows for exploitation of the environment with specific consequences for various actors. Understanding these consequences requires engaging with intersectional ideas of gender.
- Our understanding is shaped by our individual experiences, knowledge, and position; we do not “understand or act in relationship to environmental issues from some kind of position of sameness” (Dr. Sandilands, 7:07-7:42).
- EcoFeminism and Queer Ecology look to understand how gender shapes the way we interpret “nature” (and the “unnatural”), how we treat other beings, and the role of socio-economic and political institutions in reproducing power.
- EcoPolitics should seek to bring a plurality of viewpoints to the table and hold others accountable. This includes identifying and challenging the eco-worldview that informs popular policy proposals, including the Green New Deal.

Discussion Questions

1. How have your own individual experiences (whether of race, gender, sexual identity, or other axes of difference) influenced your approach to ecopolitics?
2. How do you think the conversation around care work and care labour fit into the conversation of ecopolitics and eco-justice?
3. Where do you see the “deeply political moments” of eco-justice and ecopolitics occurring in your own day-to-day life?
4. How have you performed acts of environmental politics within public spaces (including public parks, rivers, and other environmental spaces) available to you?

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Learn more about our Guests

Dr. Catriona Sandilands

- <http://www.catesandilands.ca>
- <https://essandi.blog.yorku.ca>

Select articles and videos

- Mortimer-**Sandilands, Catriona**, and Bruce Erickson. *Queer Ecologies Sex, Nature, Politics, Desire*. Bloomington, Ind: Indiana University Press, 2010.
- **Sandilands, Catriona**. "The Importance of Reading Queerly Jewett's Deephaven as Feminist Ecology." *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*. 11, no. 2 (2004): 57–77.
- HuxleyCollege. "2020-30-05 Huxley Speaker Series - **Catriona Sandilands**" Youtube. March 20 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCWmqhZ0FKM>

Dr. Sherilyn MacGregor

- <https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/sherilyn.macgregor.html>

Select articles and videos

- **MacGregor, Sherilyn**. "Making Matter Great Again? Ecofeminism, New Materialism and the Everyday Turn in Environmental Politics." *Environmental Politics* 30, no. 1-2 (2021): 41–60.
- **MacGregor, Sherilyn**. *Beyond Mothering Earth: Ecological Citizenship and the Politics of Care*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2006.
- planetSHINE. "SHINEfest 2020: **Sherilyn MacGregor**, Reader of Environmental Politics." Youtube. May 21 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ni2YSPFYWrk>

Explore resources mentioned in this episode

- CBC News. "From the archives: The Lesbian National Parks and Services welcomes you!" January 18 2018. Web. www.cbc.ca/arts/from-the-archives-the-lesbian-national-parks-and-services-welcomes-you-1.4493650
- **MacGregor, Sherilyn** and Maeve Cohen. "It's time to talk about a feminist green new deal." *Open Democracy*. Web. 2020. www.opendemocracy.net/en/oureconomy/its-time-to-talk-about-a-feminist-green-new-deal/

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Explore resources recommended by Sherilyn MacGregor

How ecofeminist thinkers explain fundamental connections between intersectional injustices and role of enlightenment thought:

Classics:

- Carolyn Merchant. 1989. *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution*. Harper and Row.
- Val Plumwood. 1993. *Feminism and the Mastery of Nature*. Routledge. New York.

More Recent:

- Greta Gaard. 2019. *Critical Ecofeminism*. Lexington Books.

To see diversity and the richness of gender and environment field:

- **MacGregor, Sherilyn (ed)**. *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Environment*. New York: Routledge. 2017.

Key organizations that illustrate ecofeminism in practice:

- Feminism and De-Growth Alliance (FADA) - <https://www.degrowth.info/en/feminisms-and-degrowth-alliance-fada/>
- Feminist Agenda for a Green New Deal <http://feministgreennewdeal.com/>
- Cohen, M. and S. MacGregor. Towards a Feminist Green New Deal for the UK. Women's Budget Group. <https://wbg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Feminist-Green-New-Deal.pdf>
- Womin: African Women United Against Destructive Resource Extraction (South Africa) <https://womin.africa/>
- Women's and Gender Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change <https://womengenderclimate.org/>

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Explore resources recommended by Catriona Sandiland:

- NiCHE series on Queer Ecologies
<http://niche-canada.org/2020/06/02/succession-queering-the-environment-an-introduction/>
- Undercurrents issue, From Queer/Nature to Queer Ecologies
<https://currents.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/currents/issue/view/2202>
- My entry for Keywords (which you referenced already but it's still not a bad overview and has a good works cited list)
<https://keywords.nyupress.org/environmental-studies/essay/queer-ecology/>
- An older, open access article that covers a lot of the same terrain as the intro to Queer Ecologies https://www.rochester.edu/in_visible_culture/Issue_9/sandilands.html
- A good article from Orion that talks about the heteronormativity of ecological science
<https://orionmagazine.org/article/how-to-queer-ecology-once-goose-at-a-time/>
- The institute of Queer Ecology (arts-based initiative)
<https://www.artforum.com/print/201907/institute-of-queer-ecology-80519>
- The Queer Ecology Hanky Project (another arts-based initiative)
<https://ecotonemagazine.org/art/infinite-affinities-work-from-the-queer-ecology-hanky-project/>
- Nicole Seymour's excellent book
<https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/74zrr4wr9780252037627.html>
- The Queer Ecologies Volume <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt16gzhnz>
- Two exemplary books by Larissa Lai <https://www.larissalai.com/fiction/salt-fish-girl/> and <https://www.larissalai.com/fiction/the-tiger-flu/>