

PHIL 224
Environmental Ethics, Week 7
 Paul Thagard

- Use of laptops (tablets, etc.) is discouraged, and limited to the last two rows.

Decadal land-surface average temperature

1

Feminism

- Christine Overall:
 - Women have been discriminated against because of their sex.
 - This discrimination is wrong.
 - Actions are needed to prevent discrimination.
- Feminist ethics: Care, empathy.

2

What is Environmentalism?

Anthropocentric view: Human needs require the preservation and restoration of the natural environment.

Radical view: biocentrism, ecological egalitarianism, deep ecology, Ecomysticism?

Deep ecology: Relational total-field image of nature. Ecological egalitarianism. Diversity & symbiosis. Anti-class. Fight against pollution and resource depletion. Local autonomy and decentralization.

3

Moderate ecofeminism:

Environmental discrimination against women:

- Toxic waste leading to women's illness, e.g. breast cancer.
- Women not given access to natural resources.

4

Radical Ecofeminism

- Women have different ways of seeing and relating.
- Female insights have been ignored and devalued.
- The domination of women and the natural world are intimately connected.
- Re-valuing female ways of seeing and relating can lead to more positive ways of interacting with the natural world.

5

Patriarchy

- The view that men, and male experiences and activities, are superior.
- Ecological consequences: hierarchy of human over animals.
- Alternatives: biospheric egalitarianism, holism, witches, spirituality, goddesses, Gaia.
- Question: is science patriarchal?

6

Farm Women

Vulnerability of farm women:

- Gender stereotypes
- Knowledge not acknowledged
- Overwork
- Organizations are male dominated

Problems of intensive agriculture (high technology, fertilizers, pesticides):

Health issues. Farmers' poverty. Economic degradation. Loss of family farms

7

Discussion Question

- Can feminism contribute to preservation of the natural environment?
- Please close laptops.

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