

TYPES OF ECOFEMINISMS

1) Liberal feminism

- a) Roots
 - o equality for women, end exclusion from men's realms
 - o believe science, conservation, and legal system can solve environmental problems
- b) EF Critique: "Man and the Environment" or "Man and Nature" leaves out women
- c) EF Project: equal participation in environmental work, equal impact as women citizens, activists, professionals
- d) Problems
 - o participates with men in elements of dominating nature, esp. in science and technology (has the effect of enlarging the dominating class)
 - o fails to challenge the dominant model of what is human
 - o ignores moral dimensions of domination

2) Radical feminism

- a) Roots: biologically based domination of women by men as root cause of oppression
- b) EF Critique:
 - o rejects masculine ideals, esp. of aggression against nature and other humans, saying not only women and nature, but western culture itself has been deformed by masculinization.
 - o western culture defines humanity in terms of the dominator identity of the master thus supporting destructive relations with women and nature.
 - o rejects objectification of women and nature
 - o male environmentalism retains hierarchies
- c) EF Project:
 - o subversion, resistance, replacement of dominant society;

- o rejects the master model to allow men and women to be part of both nature and culture
- d) Problems
 - o does not collaborate or cooperate with existing system
 - o tends to value reason over body ways of knowing

3) Cultural (or essentialist) feminism

- a) Roots
 - o biologically based domination of women by men as root cause of oppression
 - o spirituality as source for personal and social change
 - o celebration of women's bodies and biology as motivation for activism
 - o values of intuition, caring, interconnectedness
 - o woman-identified movements
- b) EF Critique:
 - o the naturalizing of domination -- male and female constructed to be polar exclusive opposites; dominant male taken as primary, female defined in relation to male; Female constructed as the "other", as exception, as subsumed so domination appears to be "natural"
 - o not enough attention to env. impacts on women's reproduction
- c) EF Project: lift up positive feminine virtues in relationship to nature as means to liberation from oppressive male social domination
- d) Problems:
 - o perpetuates dualistic views by reversal i.e. valuing women bodies/ideas/ways over men's
 - o tends to be ahistoric, leaves out historical context
 - o tends to be centered in subjective experience, may overlook diversity or real people
 - o essentialist, based on what is essential women's "nature"
 - o can be separatist or seen as separatist

4) Socialist Ecofeminism

- a) Roots
 - o historical and economic analysis of role of women in society
 - o values women's roles in production and reproduction
- b) EF Critique: source of domination is capitalist patriarchy, accumulation of good and profits, patterns of colonization and oppression of subordinate peoples
- c) EF Project:
 - o free women from trap of "barefoot and pregnant"
 - o use structural analysis in applied situations to reveal impacts of capitalism on women and nature
 - o deconstruct views of nature and human nature that have been socially and historically constructed
 - o reproductive choice for women
- d) Problems
 - o doesn't include dynamic, dialectical relationship between human and nonhuman
 - o doesn't see women as product of natural world, just of human social forces

5) Third wave of ecofeminism = integrates insights from earlier waves; challenge is to develop a genuinely antidualistic framework

- a) From liberal feminism -- impulse to integrate women fully into human culture
- b) From radical feminism -- recognition that integration is only possible with profoundly different culture and concept of what is human
- c) From cultural feminism -- love and appreciation for women's experience of body, place, and the nonhuman; politics of heart and community
- d) From socialist, anticolonialist, and black feminisms -- critical perspective in understanding of processes and structures of power and domination

Projects:

- o collaboration with women of color
- o reconstruction of science
- o ecologizing of women's health movement
- o demilitarization
- o promote diverse ways of knowing -- intuitive and scientific, mystical and rational