

Lecture Series *Gender*

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4 February 2009, 17.30
Kolpingstr. 7, Room 1/214

Marti Kheel (Berkeley)

Women, Nature, and Animals: Ecofeminist Reflections

Ecofeminism is based on the recognition that a connection exists between the domination of women and that of nature. Most strands of ecofeminism – in philosophy, third world studies, spirituality, animal advocacy, moral theory, and activism - agree that a series of interlocking dualisms underlies the oppression of women and nature: spirit/matter, reason/emotion, good/evil, culture/nature, active/passive, and male/female and that these intersect with other forms of oppression, such as racism, heterosexism and speciesism.

In this presentation Dr. Kheel will elucidate some of the major ideas of ecofeminism, pointing to the ways in which the domination of women and nature operates in the external world as well as within our own internal “natures.” She will focus particularly on how social constructions of masculine identity influence the treatment of other-than-human animals. Dispelling some of the common misconceptions about ecofeminism, she will argue that ecofeminism provides vital contributions to both the feminist and environmental movements.

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