Skeptical Environmentalism

The Limits of Philosophy and Science

Robert Kirkman

Skeptical Environmentalism The Limits Of Philosophy And Science

F Rizvi

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Skeptical Environmentalism Robert Joseph Kirkman, 2002-02-01 In Skeptical Environmentalism Robert Kirkman raises doubts about the speculative tendencies elaborated in environmental ethics deep ecology social ecology postmodern ecology ecofeminism and environmental pragmatism Drawing on skeptical principles introduced by David Hume Kirkman takes issue with key tenets of speculative environmentalism namely that the natural world is fundamentally relational that humans have a moral obligation to protect the order of nature and that understanding the relationship between nature and humankind holds the key to solving the environmental crisis Engaging the work of Kant Hegel Descartes Rousseau and Heidegger among others Kirkman reveals the relational worldview as an unreliable basis for knowledge and truth claims and more dangerously as harmful to the intellectual sources from which it takes inspiration Exploring such themes as the way knowledge about nature is formulated what characterizes an ecological worldview how environmental worldviews become established and how we find our place in nature Skeptical Environmentalism advocates a shift away from the philosopher's privileged position as truth seeker toward a more practical thinking that balances conflicts between values and worldviews **Science** Wenceslao J. Gonzalez, 2016-10-05 The problem of the limits of science is twofold First there is the problem of demarcation i e the boundaries or barriers between what is science and what is not science Second there is the problem of the ceiling of scientific activity which leads to the confines of this human enterprise These two faces of the problem of the limits the barriers and the confines of science require a new analysis which is the task of this book The authors take into account the Kantian roots but they are focused on the current stage of the philosophical and methodological analyses of science This vision looks to supersede the Kantian approach in order to reach a richer conception of science The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Environmental Policy Sheldon Kamieniecki, Michael Kraft, 2013 Prior to the Nixon administration environmental policy in the United States was rudimentary at best Since then it has evolved into one of the primary concerns of governmental policy from the federal to the local level As scientific expertise on the environment rapidly developed Americans became more aware of the growing environmental crisis that surrounded them Practical solutions for mitigating various aspects of the crisis air pollution water pollution chemical waste dumping strip mining and later global warming became politically popular and the government responded by gradually erecting a vast regulatory apparatus to address the issue Today politicians regard environmental policy as one of the most pressing issues they face The Obama administration has identified the renewable energy sector as a key driver of economic growth and Congress is in the process of passing a bill to reduce global warming that will be one of the most important environmental policy acts in decades The Oxford Handbook of U S Environmental Policy will be a state of the art work on all aspects of environmental policy in America Over the past half century America has been the world's leading emitter of global warming gases However environmental policy is not simply a national issue It is a global issue and the explosive growth of Asian countries like China and India mean that policy

will have to be coordinated at the international level The book will therefore focus not only on the U S but on the increasing importance of global policies and issues on American regulatory efforts This is a topic that will only grow in importance in the coming years and this will serve as an authoritative guide to any scholar interested in the issue **The Philosophical**Roots of the Ecological Crisis Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam, 2018-06-11 The Philosophical Roots of the Ecological Crisis Descartes and the Modern Worldview traces the conceptual sources of the present environmental degradation within the worldview of Modernity and particularly within the thought of Ren Descartes universally acclaimed as the father of modern philosophy The book demonstrates how the triple foundations of the Modern worldview in terms of an exaggerated anthropocentrism a mechanistic conception of the natural world and the metaphysical dualism between humanity and the rest of the physical world can all be largely traced back to Cartesian thought with direct ecological consequences

Culture + the State: Landscape and Ecology ,2003 **Ecologies of Grace** Willis Jenkins, 2013-02-12 Christianity struggles to show how living on earth matters for living with God While people of faith increasingly seek practical ways to respond to the environmental crisis theology has had difficulty contextualizing the crisis and interpreting the responses In Ecologies of Grace Willis Jenkins presents a field shaping introduction to Christian environmental ethics that offers resources for renewing theology Observing how religious environmental practices often draw on concepts of grace Jenkins maps the way Christian environmental strategies draw from traditions of salvation as they engage the problems of environmental ethics He then uses this new map to explore afresh the ecological dimensions of Christian theology Jenkins first shows how Christian ethics uniquely frames environmental issues and then how those approaches both challenge and reinhabit theological traditions He identifies three major strategies for making environmental problems intelligible to Christian moral experience Each one draws on a distinct pattern of grace as it adapts a secular approach to environmental ethics The strategies of ecojustice stewardship and ecological spirituality make environments matter for Christian experience by drawing on patterns of sanctification redemption and deification He then confronts the problems of each of these strategies through critical reappraisals of Thomas Aquinas Karl Barth and Sergei Bulgakov Each represents a soteriological tradition which Jenkins explores as an ecology of grace letting environmental questions guide investigation into how nature becomes significant for Christian experience By being particularly sensitive to the ways in which environmental problems are made intelligible to Christian moral experience Jenkins guides his readers toward a fuller understanding of Christianity and ecology He not only makes sense of the variety of Christian environmental ethics but by showing how environmental issues come to the heart of Christian experience prepares fertile ground for theological renewal *Nature, Space and the Sacred S.* Bergmann, H. Bedford-Strohm, 2016-12-05 Nature Space and the Sacred offers the first investigative mapping of a new and highly significant agenda the spatial interactions between religion nature and culture In this ground breaking work different concepts of religion theology space and place and their internal relations are discussed in an impressive range of approaches

Weaving together a diversity of perspectives this book presents an innovative and truly transdisciplinary environmental science Its broad range offers a rich exchange of insights methods and theoretical engagements *Ecological Politics and Democratic Theory* Mathew Humphrey,2007-09-12 This volume examines the reasons why some despair at the prospects for an ecological form of democracy and challenges the recent deliberative turn in environmental political thought Deliberative democracy has become popular for those seeking a reconciliation of these two forms of politics Demand for equal access to a public forum in which the best argument will prevail appears to offer a way of incorporating environmental interests into the democratic process This book argues that deliberative theory far from being friendly to the environmental movement shackles the ability those seeking radical change to make their voices heard in the most effective manner Mathew Humphrey challenges beliefs about the relationship between ecological politics and democracy at a time when those who take direct action are being swept up in the War on Terror By calling for a more open and contested form of democracy in which the boundaries of what constitutes acceptable behaviour are not decided in advance of actual debate Ecological Politics and Democratic Theory is an original contribution to the literature on environmental politics ecological thought and democracy

The Natural City Stephen B. Scharper, Ingrid Leman-Stefanovic, 2012-01-01 Urban and natural environments are often viewed as entirely separate entities human settlements as the domain of architects and planners and natural areas as untouched wilderness This dichotomy continues to drive decision making in subtle ways but with the mounting pressures of global climate change and declining biodiversity it is no longer viable New technologies are promising to provide renewable energy sources and greener designs but real change will require a deeper shift in values attitudes and perceptions A timely and important collection The Natural City explores how to integrate the natural environment into healthy urban centres from philosophical religious socio political and planning perspectives Recognizing the need to better link the humanities with public policy The Natural City offers unique insights for the development of an alternative vision of urban life

Rethinking Nature Bruce V. Foltz, Robert Frodeman, 2004-11-02 Rethinking Nature brings the voices of leading Continental philosophers into discussion about what is emerging as one of our most pressing and timely concerns the environmental crisis facing our planet The essays featured in this volume embrace environmental philosophy in its broadest sense and include topics such as environmental ethics environmental aesthetics ontology theology gender and the environment and the role of science and technology in forming knowledge about our world Here philosophy goes out into the field and comes back with rich insights and new approaches to environmental problems This far reaching and lively volume affords firm ground for thinking about the multiple ways that humans engage nature Contributors are David Abram Edward S Casey Daniel Cerezuelle Ron Cooper Bruce V Foltz Robert Frodeman Trish Glazebrook James Hatley Robert Kirkman Irene J Klaver Alphonso Lingis Kenneth Maly Diane Michelfelder Elaine P Miller Robert Mugerauer Stephen David Ross John Sallis Ingrid Leman Stefanovic Bruce Wilshire David Wood and Michael E Zimmerman The Ethics of Metropolitan Growth

Robert Kirkman,2010-04-29 Issues related to metropolitan growth and environmental change are at the heart of public debate today this book explores the ethical implications behind this hugely topical contemporary debate **Environmental Ethics** ,2006 Rethinking Wilderness Mark Woods,2017-07-13 The concept and values of wilderness along with the practice of wilderness preservation have been under attack for the past several decades In Rethinking Wilderness Mark Woods responds to seven prominent anti wilderness arguments Woods offers a rethinking of the received concept of wilderness developing a positive account of wilderness as a significant location for the other than human value adding properties of naturalness wildness and freedom Interdisciplinary in approach the book combines environmental philosophy environmental history environmental social sciences the science of ecology and the science of conservation biology

Merleau-Ponty and Environmental Philosophy Suzanne L. Cataldi, William S. Hamrick, 2007-04-24 This richly diverse collection looks at the contemporary relevance of the philosophy of Maurice Merleau Ponty to environmental issues and builds a coherent philosophical ecology based on his thought The contributors describe and analyze relations within the natural world by focusing on the centrality of relations in Merleau Ponty's work his concept of the bond between humanity and nature and his novel philosophies of perception embodiment and wild Being Eco phenomenologies of living places such as Central Park in New York City Midwestern farmlands and communal household dwellings of Pacific Northwest Coast people are closely examined The contributors also explore Merleau Ponty's philosophy for environmental ethics and develop notions such as vital values somatic empathy and interspecies sociality N' Everything Bifford Debs, 2003-04-15 Bifford and Lily continue their love and adventure that were begun in The Writer A Story By Bifford Debs M D and The Reader Responses to The Writer This story begins at a Writers Conference an idyllic setting at the beach in North Carolina It continues in geographical places in several states and into provinces in China Much of the venture however occurs in terrains of science and the humanities Societies through the world and later into other universities are entered and examined The term fusional fiction is justified by the inclusion of much factual information While Readers responses are addressed it is the wisdom of Professor Wiseman that sets this book apart and sets the stage for those to come Essays in Migratory Aesthetics, 2015-06-29 This volume addresses the impact of human movement on the aesthetic practices that make up the fabric of culture The essays explore the ways in which cultural activities ranging from the habitual gestures of the body to the production of specific artworks register the impact of migration from the forced transportation of slaves to the New World and of Jews to the death camps to the economic migration of peoples between the West and its erstwhile colonies from the internal and external exile of Palestinians to the free movement of cosmopolitan intellectuals Rather than focusing exclusively on art produced by those identified as migrant subjects this collection opens up the question of how aesthetics itself migrates transforming not only its own practices and traditions but also the very nature of our being in the world as subjects producing as well as produced by the cultures in which we live The transformative potential of cultures on the move

is both affirmed and critiqued throughout the collection as part of an exploration of the ways in which globalisation implicates us ever more tightly in the unequal relations of production that characterise late modernity This collection brings academic scholars from a variety of disciplines into conversation with practising visual and verbal artists indeed many of the essays break down the distinction between artist and academic suggesting a dynamic interchange between critical reflection Conversations With Landscape Karl Benediktsson, Katrín Anna Lund, 2016-05-13 Conversations With Landscape moves beyond the conventional dualisms associated with landscape exploring notions of landscape and its relation with humans through the metaphor of conversation Such an approach conceives of landscape as an actor in the ongoing communication that is inherent in any perception recognising the often ignored mutuality of encounters between human and non human actors With contributions drawn from a variety of disciplines including anthropology geography archaeology philosophy literature and the visual arts this book explores the affects and emotions engendered in the conversations between landscape and humans Offering scope for an original and coherent approach to the study of landscape this book will appeal to scholars and researchers across a range of social sciences and humanities **American Environmental History** Carolyn Merchant, 2007-10-31 By studying the many ways diverse peoples have changed shaped and conserved the natural world over time environmental historians provide insight into humanity s unique relationship with nature and more importantly are better able to understand the origins of our current environmental crisis Beginning with the precolonial land use practice of Native Americans and concluding with our twenty first century concerns over our global ecological crisis American Environmental History addresses contentious issues such as the preservation of the wilderness the expulsion of native peoples from national parks and population growth and considers the formative forces of gender race and class Entries address a range of topics from the impact of rice cultivation slavery and the growth of the automobile suburb to the effects of the Russian sea otter trade Columbia River salmon fisheries the environmental justice movement and globalization This illustrated reference is an essential companion for students interested in the ongoing transformation of the American landscape and the conflicts over its resources and conservation It makes rich use of the tools and resources climatic and geological data court records archaeological digs and the writings of naturalists that environmental historians rely on to conduct their research The volume also includes a compendium of significant people concepts events agencies and legislation and an extensive bibliography of critical films books and Web sites Environmental Ethics: Divergence and Convergence Susan J Armstrong, Richard G Botzler, 2003-08-28 Caribbean Literature and the Environment Elizabeth M. DeLoughrey, Renée K. Gosson, George B. Handley, 2005 Examines the literatures of the Caribbean from an ecocritical perspective in all language areas of the region This book explores the ways in which the history of transplantation and settlement has provided unique challenges and opportunities for establishing a sense of place and an environmental ethic in the Caribbean

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