Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Values (journal)

"Beyond Human Racism"

Eckersley, Robyn

Eckersley, Robyn. "Beyond Human Racism." *Environmental Values* 7, no. 2 (1998): 165–82. doi:10.3197/096327198129341528 .

In "Non-Anthropocentrism? A Killing Objection," Tony Lynch and David Wells argue that any attempt to develop a non-anthropocentric morality must invariably slide back to either anthropocentrism (either weak or strong) or a highly repugnant misanthropy in cases of direct conflict between the survival needs of humans and nonhuman species. This reply argues that their attempt to expose the flaws in non-anthropocentrism deflects attention away from the crux of the ecocentric critique, which can best be understood if we replace the confusing terms anthropocentrism/non-anthropocentrism with "human racism"/ecocentrism (understood as a more inclusive moral perspective which encompasses nonracist humanism). Human racism manifests when a reconciliation of human and nonhuman needs is possible but is nonetheless concealed and/or denied. That is, the best test for discerning prejudice against nonhuman nature is not when individual or social choice are severely circumscribed but rather when such choices are relatively unconstrained. Moreover, their concluding argument that human concern for nonhuman nature should be understood in terms of aesthetic values rather than moral values does not provide reliable grounds for the systematic protection of nonhuman nature.
— Text from The White Horse Press website

All rights reserved. © 1998 The White Horse Press

Download:
PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev_7no.2_eckersley_robyn_0.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV709.html
- The White Horse Press
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/

Websites linked in this text:

- http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327198129341528
- http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV709.html

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Beyond Human Racism"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5745
Print date: 10 November 2026 13:06:43