

FIL 4390 Miljøfilosofi (Environmental philosophy)

Fall 2022

Teacher: Arne Johan Vetlesen

Presentation:

The course addresses key issues in contemporary environmental philosophy, taking as its point of departure the long-standing debate over intrinsic (or inherent) value in non-human entities (animals, plants, ecosystems). Authors critical of the anthropocentric legacy in Western philosophy tend to endorse this form of value – but what does it take to make the case in a compelling manner? And what would viable alternatives to the mechanistic world-view inaugurated by Descartes look like? Can we envisage a cosmology, or a culture, that would be more in tune with humans' dependence on our other various “others” than the presently dominant one which seems so bent on destruction?

Curriculum/required reading:

J. Baird Callicott: *In Defense of the Land Ethic*. SUNY Press, 1989 (kap. 4-11).

Hans Jonas: *The Phenomenon of Life*. Northwestern U.P., 2002 (til s.188).

Kohn, Eduardo: *How Forests Think*. University of California Press, 2013.

Freya Mathews: *The Ecological Self*. Routledge, 2021.

Holmes Rolston: *A New Environmental Ethics*. Second Edition. Routledge, 2020.

Arne Johan Vetlesen: *The Denial of Nature*. Routledge, 2015.

Arne Johan Vetlesen: *Cosmologies of the Anthropocene*. Routledge, 2019.