



Environmental Ethics: Responsibilities and Critical Perspectives

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KEYWORDS Anthropocentrism. Gaia. Utilitarianism

ABSTRACT The natural environment is the context in which a great variety of living beings, including those of our own species, have their home. Consequently, it is relevant to consider how our attitudes and actions affect the physical and biological 'envelope' in which life takes place. For this reason the study of ethics in the life sciences must include consideration of environmental ethics. I begin by situating the meaning of ethics and environmental ethics in relation to real-life moral practice. Next, I discuss the various ways in which personal responsibility for one's impact on the natural environment may come about. After this, I provide an overview of three sorts of critical perspectives regarding our behaviour regarding the natural environment. Ultimately I claim that taking personal responsibility for the integrity of the natural environment has an important role for our self-identity, as well as for the flourishing of nature.

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Human Ecology Special Issue No. 12: 123-130 (2004)

Societal Responsibilities in Life Sciences
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