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## A Brief Survey of the Field of Ecofeminism

Ecofeminism remains one of the most contested areas of feminism, and the basis for some of the most interesting branches of contemporary critical theory, such as queer ecologies. In order to understand the attacks that ecofeminists have faced through the years, it is of fundamental importance to track the various origins of the field, in theory, activism, and literature. The misconceptions about ecofeminism all stem from ill-informed misinterpretation and ignorance. In general, the field's detractors accuse ecofeminism of essentialism and sentimentality, both in reality very far from the truth. Ecofeminism deeply analyzes the interconnectedness of all forms of oppression (sex, class, race, gender identity, sexual orientation identity) and how it informs speciesism. Speciesism is the (almost universal) belief that human animals are superior to non-human animals and therefore entitled to exploit their bodies for profit or entertainment as they see fit. It also refers to the human value system that holds some non-human animals in higher esteem than some other non-human animals (such as protecting the rights of dogs and cats while still eating baby pigs and cows). Veganism then becomes one of the basic issues in ecofeminist discussions, but it is only one of the aspects that we address. Ecofeminism's deepest roots lie in the committed activism of environmental justice movements and animal liberation fronts, and extend into a deep critical stance that seeks to unravel the interconnections between the oppression of environmental racism, to name just one example, and the undeniable relationship between misogynist violence and the farm factory system of brutality of the meat-eating industry / culture. Ecofeminism offers complex readings of phenomena that appears distanced but are based, founded upon, capitalist

patriarchal strategies of domination like the “ownership” and decision power over the “passive” bodies of the earth, women, racial / sexual minorities, and non-human animals. Ecofeminists talk government policy, corporation tax-breaks, breast cancer as a direct consequence of environmental sexism, the fight for food sovereignty, the connections between meat-eating and domestic violence, the relationship between massive fishing and human trafficking... overall, the struggle against death, the death of the earth. This body of theory / ideology / activism has paved the way for many contemporary theories that study how the capitalist patriarchally-imposed way of living of the last 100 years has worked to destroy all natural resources, but also the ways in which it has permeated basic socially-constructed concepts, such as human identity, heteronormativity, racism, and yes, even the writing of theory and literature.

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### Biografía:

Adriana Jiménez labora como docente en la Universidad de Costa Rica desde hace catorce años. Sus áreas de especialidad son el ecofeminismo vegano, las ecologías queer, estudios sobre la sexualidad de las mujeres, pornografía / erotismo feminista y la literatura de mujeres, entre otras. Le interesa sobre todo la vinculación inter y multi-disciplinaria y el posicionamiento de las interconexiones de opresión como base de una política personal, académica y artística radical y transgresiva.