

Queen's University of Belfast
School of Politics

Environmental Politics: Part II

210POL346

Second Semester 2002-2003

Seminar Topics

Nine	March 24 th	Anti-Environmentalism and the Green Backlash
Ten	March 31 st	The Politics and Ethics of Biotechnology
	April 4 th – April 25 th	EASTER BREAK – NO SEMINARS
Eleven	Apr. 28 th	Direct Action Environmental Politics
Twelve	May 5 th (to be rearranged)	Module summary and review

Seminar 9 – 24th March

Anti-Environmentalism and the Green Backlash

Learning Outcomes: by the end of the tutorial, students should:

Understand the main claims, arguments and strategies and tactics used by the ‘anti-environmental’ movement

Be able to come to their own assessment as to the plausibility of the anti-environmental claims made by these groups

Be able to explain the rise of these movements and understand their interests

SEMINAR PREPARATION

A. READING

Every one please read the following 2 articles:

Ayn Rand Institute, ‘Environmentalism: The Anti-Industrial Revolution’, HYPERLINK "http://environmentalism.aynrand.org/" <http://environmentalism.aynrand.org/>

Elkington, J, 'Anti-Environmentalism' HYPERLINK "<http://resurgence.gn.apc.org/articles/elkington.htm>" <http://resurgence.gn.apc.org/articles/elkington.htm>

In addition please read at least THREE OTHER readings for this seminar

B. QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

Does the discourse of 'eco-terrorism' refer to a real or imagined phenomenon?

What are the main ways and strategies used to discredit environmentalist arguments and claims?

Do you find any of the anti-environmentalist arguments/positions convincing? Why? Why not?

Who or what are the main groups/interests behind the anti-environmentalist backlash?

Why are these groups threatened by environmentalism?

READING

Beder, S, 'Neoliberal Think-Tanks and Free market environmentalism', *Environmental Politics*, 10:2

Blühdorn, I, *Post-ecologist politics :social theory and the abdication of the ecologist paradigm*

Paterson, M (1999), 'Understanding the Green Backlash', *Environmental Politics*, 8:2.
Rowell, A, *Green Backlash: Global Subversion of the Environmental Movement* [GE195/ROWE]

Barry, J, 'From Environmental Politics to the Politics of the Environment: The Pacification and Normalisation of Environmentalism?', in Levy, Y & Wissenburg, M (eds), *The End of Environmentalism?* [forthcoming] available on QOL

Brown, P, 'NFU chief suggests eco-terrorist link to outbreak' <http://www.organicconsumers.org/madcow/foot51501.cfm>

'McINNIS CHALLENGES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS TO DISAVOW ECO-TERRORISM' <http://www.house.gov/mcinnis/pr011102.htm>

Centre for the Defense of Free Enterprise, 'EcoTerror', <http://www.cdfc.org/ecoterror.htm>

‘107th Congress Tackles Domestic Terrorism’

http://www.the-aps.org/pub_affairs/leg_act_cntr/news/terrorism.htm

EnviroTruth. Organisation, ‘Eco-terrorism’, <http://www.envirotruth.org/ecoterrorism.cfm>

Lomborg, Bjørn, *The skeptical environmentalist : measuring the real state of the world*

Ayn Rand Institute, ‘Environmentalism: The Anti-Industrial Revolution’, <http://environmentalism.aynrand.org/>

Burke, W, ‘The Wise Use Movement: Right-Wing Anti-Environmentalism’, <http://www.publiceye.org/magazine/wiseuse.html>

Wright , R, ‘Tearing Down the Green: Environmental Backlash in the Evangelical Sub-Culture’ HYPERLINK "<http://www.asa3.org/asa/pscf6-95wright.html>" <http://www.asa3.org/asa/pscf6-95wright.html>

Mooney, P, ‘Anti-Environmentalism: A Justification’, HYPERLINK "<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Olympus/5599/environment/anti-environmentalism.html>" <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Olympus/5599/environment/anti-environmentalism.html>

Boston, T, ‘Exploring Anti-Environmentalism in the Context of Sustainability’ <http://egj.lib.uidaho.edu/egj11/boston1.html>

Elkington, J, ‘Anti-Environmentalism’ <http://resurgence.gn.apc.org/articles/elkington.htm>

Borowski, J, ‘Chemicals 101: Selling Anti-Environmentalism to Kids’ http://www.vegsource.com/articles/corporate_edu.htm

Jacobson, J, "Wise Use" Means Waging War on Environmentalists’, <http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/envronmt/helvarg2.htm>

Norton, J, ‘Anti-environmental myths’, HYPERLINK "<http://members.aol.com/jimn469897/myths.htm>" <http://members.aol.com/jimn469897/myths.htm>

Seminar Ten – March 31st

The Politics and Ethics of Biotechnology

Learning Outcomes: by the end of the tutorial, students should:

Under stand the ethical, economic and political issues and discourses around biotechnology

Be able to separate out the ‘biotechnology debate’ into issues around the food, medical and other applications of genetic information

Understand the ethical and political arguments of those critical of biotechnology and genetic engineering

Be able to come to their own judgement as to the ethical status of biotechnology

SEMINAR PREPARATION

A. READING

Please read my unpublished paper Barry, J, ‘GM Food, Biotechnology, Risk and Democracy in the UK: A Sceptical Green Perspective’, on QOL ‘ECPR Paper’.

Also please read ONE reading from the THREE sections.

B. QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

Is biotechnology something to be feared? What are the reasons for peoples’ fears around biotechnological developments?

How much of the controversy around biotechnology has to do with the non-democratic, secret manner in which this technology develops?

What are the ethical issues that one must consider in assessing biotechnology?

What the political issues?

What are the economic issues?

General Reading

Barry, J, ‘GM Food, Biotechnology, Risk and Democracy in the UK: A Sceptical Green Perspective’, on QOL.

Various entries in Barry, & Frankland, E.G (eds), *International Encyclopedia of Environmental Politics*, ‘biotechnology’; ‘genetic engineering, animals’; ‘genetic engineering, crops’; genetic engineering, humans’

Connolly, J, ‘Who will save the World?’, *Environmental Politics*, 11:1

Shelley, M, *Frankenstein: Or the Modern Prometheus*

Turney, J, *Frankenstein's footsteps : science, genetics and popular culture*

O'Mahony, P (ed), *Nature, risk and responsibility : discourses of biotechnology*

Spelman, C, *Non-food uses of agricultural raw materials : economics, biotechnology*

and politics

Russo, E & Cove, D, *Genetic engineering : dreams and nightmares*

Bioethics

Bioethics – journal looking at the ethical implications medicine, including genetic engineering.

O’Neill, O, *Autonomy and trust in bioethics*

Kuhse, H & Singer, P (eds), *A Companion to bioethics*

Tong, R, *Feminist approaches to bioethics : theoretical reflections and practical applications*

Childress, J, *Practical reasoning in bioethics* [Law]

Hare, R, *Essays on bioethics*

Nuffield Council on Bioethics, *Genetic screening: ethical issues*

Harris, J, *Clones, genes, and immortality : ethics and the genetic revolution*

Harris, J, *Wonderwoman and superman : the ethics of human biotechnology*

Tangwa, G, ‘Globalisation or Westernisation? Ethical Concerns in the Whole Bio-business’ *Bioethics*, 13:4/4 – available electronically

Biotechnology and Food

Wales, C & Mythen, G, ‘Risky Discourses: The Politics of GM Foods’, *Environmental Politics*, 11:2.

Toke, D, ‘Ecological modernisation and GM Food’, *Environmental Politics*, 11:3

Thompson, P, *Food biotechnology in ethical perspective*

Lappé, M, *Against the grain : the genetic transformation of global agriculture*

Kloppenburger, J, *First the seed : the political economy of plant biotechnology, 1492-2000*

Toke, D, ‘GM Crops: Science, Policy and Environmentalists’, *Environmental Politics*, 10:4

ESRC, Global Environmental Change Programme (1999), *The Politics of GM Food: Risk, Science and Public Trust, Special Briefing Number 5*, University of Sussex

Food Ethics Council (1999), *Novel Foods: Beyond Nuffield*, Nottingham: The Food Ethics Council.

Mephram, T, Tucker, G & Wiseman, J (eds) *Issues in agricultural bioethics* [Agr]

Johnson-Green, P, *Introduction to food biotechnology* [Agr]

Biotechnology and Humans

Klein, R, *Ultimate colonisation : reproductive and genetic engineering*

Habermas, J, *The future of human nature*

New York Academy of Sciences, *Great issues for medicine in the twenty-first century: ethical and social issues arising out of advances in the biomedical sciences* [Science]

Appleyard, B, *Brave new worlds : genetics and the human experience*

Catholic Church, Bishops' Joint Committee on Bio-Ethical Issues, *Genetic intervention on human subjects* [Med]

Symposium of the Council of Europe on Bioethics, *Ethics and human genetics: proceedings, 2nd Symposium of the Council of Europe on Bioethics, Strasbourg, 30 November-2 December 1993*

OECD, *Xenotransplantation : international policy issues : OECD proceedings*
[Medical Library]

Seminar Eleven – April 28th

Direct Action Environmental Politics

Learning Outcomes: by the end of the seminar, students should:

Understand the main actors, dynamics of direct action environmental politics
Be able to identify the reasons and tactics used by environmentalists involved in direct action
Be able to relate direct action environmentalism to more ‘conventional’ and party political forms of environmental politics
Be able to understand direct action environmentalism in relation to green political ideology

SEMINAR PREPARATION

A. READING

Everyone to read:

Seel, B et al (eds), *Direct Action in British Environmentalism*

There are four copies of this in the Main Library so please arrange amongst yourselves to share them!

Also, please read at least TWO readings from the two sections

B. QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What are the advantages and disadvantages of direct action environmental protest?
What are the strategies and tactics used in direct action environmental protest?
Does direct action protest undermine or help ‘normal’ or ‘conventional’ environmental politics?
What are the characteristics of the groups and individuals involved in direct action environmentalism?
Is direct environmental action a threat to democracy?

Reading

Doherty, B, *Ideas and actions in the green movement*

Seel, B et al (eds), *Direct Action in British Environmentalism*

Campbell, J, 'Proposal - An Environmental Movement Strategy'
<http://www.cqs.com/proposal.htm>

Non-Violence and Civil Disobedience

Malden, S (ed), *Nonviolent social movements : a geographical perspective*
Peace Pledge Union, *Northern Ireland: nonviolent perspectives* [Spec. collections]
Commission on Non-Violent Action, *Non-violent action - a Christian appraisal : a report commissioned for the United Reformed Church*
Sharp, G, *Nonviolent struggle* [offprint]
Epstein, B, *Political protest and cultural revolution : nonviolent direct action in the 1970s and 1980s*
Wall, D, *Earth First! and the anti-roads movement : radical environmentalism and comparative social movements*
Dworkin, R, 'Civil disobedience and nuclear protest' [Offprint K9.5/DWOR] [Law]
Smith, G, 'Radical Activism', *Environmental Politics*, 9:4
Bryner, Gary C., *Gaia's wager : environmental movements and the challenge of sustainability*
Jordan, G & Maloney, W, *The protest business? : mobilizing campaign groups*
Rawcliffe, P, *Environmental pressure groups in transition*
Foreman, D (ed), 'Eco Defense', <http://www.off-road.com/vw/enviro/exc.html>

Anti-Globalisation/Anti-Capitalist Movements

Gollain, F 'Anti-Globalisation Movements: Making and Reversing History',
Environmental Politics 11:3.
Atkinson, I, 'May Day 2001 in the UK: The news Media and Public Order',
Environmental Politics, 10:3
Wall, D, 'Green Anti-Capitalism', *Environmental Politics* 10:3
Hoad, D, 'The WTO: The Events and Impact of Seattle 1999', *Environmental Politics*,
9:4
Mittelman, J & Howard, J, 'Globalisation and Environmental Resistance Politics'
[Offprint /40432]
Gills, B (ed), *Globalization and the Politics of Resistance* [HF1418.5/GILL]
O'Riordan, T (ed), *Globalism, Localism and Identity* [HC79.E5/ORIO]
Bennholdt-Thomsen, V et al (eds), *There is an Alternative: Subsistence and Worldwide Resistance to Corporate Globalization* [HD2755.5/BENN]

Seminar Twelve – May 5th

Module Summary, Review and Student Evaluation

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