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Title: ECOCRITICISM AND INDIGENOUS MODERNITIES

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Abstract: ?Ecocriticism and Indigenous Modernities? argues that ethical, phenomenological and sensorial interactions constitute crucial aspects of human relations with forms of nature. Further, when examined from an aesthetic lens that considers questions of form, genre, and narrative strategy, realist narrations of place inadequately capture the epistemological and temporal experiences of indigenous communities, who often view humans as members, and not masters, of nature, and whose modes of communication vary widely from speech and writing ? modes of communication valorized by contemporary modernization processes. This dissertation argues for an ecocritical examination of narratives that pays attention to undervalued modes of communication between intra-human and human and non-human groups, including singing, dreaming, visions and laughter. These modes, I contend, are creative gestures towards alternative conceptions of ethical living, revealing forms of indigenous modernities that privilege a vision of the planet as an interconnected and interdependent ecosystem, with multiple non-human actors and participants.

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