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ECOCRITICISM IN THE MODERNIST IMAGINATION

Although modernism has traditionally been considered an art of cities, *Ecocriticism in the Modernist Imagination* claims a significant role for modernist texts in shaping environmental consciousness. Analyzing both canonical and lesser-known works of three key figures – E.M. Forster, Virginia Woolf, and W.H. Auden – Sultzbach suggests how the signal techniques of modernism encourage readers to become more responsive to the animate world and nonhuman minds. Understanding the way these writers represent nature's agency becomes central to interpreting the power dynamics of empire and gender, as well as experiments with language and creativity. The book engages with the longer pastoral tradition in literature, but also introduces readers to the newly expanding field of ecocriticism, including philosophies of embodiment and matter, queer ecocriticism, and animal studies. What emerges is a picture of green modernism that reifies our burgeoning awareness of what it means to be human within a larger living community.

KELLY SULTZBACH is a professor at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. Her research explores modernist representations of the relationship between humans and the environment. Published and forthcoming work can be found in *A Cambridge Global History of Literature and the Environment*, *Understanding Merleau-Ponty*, *Understanding Modernism*, and ASLE UK's *Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism*.

ECOCRITICISM IN THE MODERNIST IMAGINATION

Forster, Woolf, and Auden

KELLY SULTZBACH



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Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page vi
Introduction	I
Green modernism: Canonical themes and environmental questions	9
Nature’s dialogue in three modernist voices	14
Modern ecology and the view from above	16
E.M. Forster, Virginia Woolf, and W.H. Auden	19
1 Passage from pastoral: E.M. Forster	25
The lure of the pastoral in “The Story of a Panic” and “The Other Kingdom”	29
Anti-pastoral and the fantasy of the green retreat in “The Machine Stops,” <i>Howards End</i> , “Arthur Snatchfold,” and <i>Maurice</i>	39
Beyond the pastoral: <i>A Passage to India</i>	62
2 The phenomenological whole: Virginia Woolf	82
Woolf as a green reader	89
Humans and nonhumans in “Kew Gardens,” <i>Flush</i> , and “Thunder at Wembley”	93
The meaning of a more-than-human life in <i>To the Lighthouse</i>	119
3 Brute being and animal language: W.H. Auden	146
Subversive natural science and the human subject	161
Talking animal	171
Words in the flesh of the world	187
<i>Epilogue</i>	193
<i>Notes</i>	199
<i>Bibliography</i>	228
<i>Index</i>	239

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vii

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