

The Value of Ecocriticism

The Value of Ecocriticism offers a brief, incisive overview of the fast-changing field of environmental literary criticism in a bewildering age of global environmental threat. The intellectual, moral and political complexity of environmental issues, especially at the global scale (the so-called Anthropocene), forms a new challenge of inventiveness for both literature and criticism. Ecocriticism has been going through a period of radical change and has become a diverse and huge field on the exciting but unstable boundary between the humanities and the sciences, with a mix of cultural, political, scientific, and activist strands. Its mantra is that the environmental crisis demands a reconsideration of society's basic values, constitution and purposes, and that art and literature can be vital in that work. As a leading figure in this field, Timothy Clark surveys recent developments in ecocriticism lucidly, but also sometimes critically. This book examines ecopoetics, material ecocriticism, and the ideas of world literature as well as contentious claims that we are living in a new geological epoch.

Timothy Clark is a specialist in the environmental humanities and deconstruction. Clark has been a leading figure in the development of new modes of literary criticism engaged with the intellectual revolution inseparable from thinking of global environmental degradation. His previous books include *Ecocriticism on the Edge: The Anthropocene as a Threshold Concept* (2015); *The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and the Environment* (2011); and *Derrida, Heidegger, Blanchot: Sources of Derrida's Notion and Practice of Literature* (1992).

The Value of Ecocriticism

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For my father, John Arnold Clark

and for WAW, Corky and Dr D.

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