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建设性

Constructive Postmodernism and Ecoaesthetics

后现代思想
与生态美学

主编 曾繁仁 [美]大卫·格里芬

Editors-in-chief Zeng Fanren David Ray Griffin

山东大学出版社

建设性后现代思想与生态美学

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(上卷)

主 编 曾繁仁 [美]大卫·格里芬

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序 言

曾繁仁

2012年6月13日至6月15日,由山东大学文艺美学研究中心、山东大学生态美学与生态文学研究中心与以格里芬教授、王治和教授为代表的美国中美后现代发展研究院联合在济南召开了“建设性后现代思想与生态美学国际学术研讨会”,共有中、美、德、法、日、韩、芬兰与中国台湾地区在内的70多位学者参加了会议。会议从建设性后现代的崭新视角,从美学、中西文化、城市建筑美学与文学媒介等多个角度探讨了当代生态美学的发展及其中西之间的比较。共有50多位各国学者在大会上作了精彩发言,会议最后由美国过程研究中心主任格里芬教授、山东大学曾繁仁教授同与会代表就生态美学当代发展的若干问题进行了广泛而富有成效的对话。

本次会议根据办会宗旨,其关键词是建设性的后现代思想、生态、对话与建设。首先是“建设性的后现代思想”,这是会议的题旨。后现代是对现代性的反思与超越,但建设性的后现代更加立足于建设。其次是“生态”,因为建设性的后现代本身就必然包含着生态的内容,所谓后现代在一定程度上就是人类文明形态从工业文明到生态文明的转变,没有生态文明建设就不会有建设性的后现代。再次是“对话”,对话是针对传统的某种话语中心而言的,也符合生态哲学多样性的理论指导。最后是“建设”,达到共建人类生态文化的目的。

本次会议的特点是:第一,参加的国别与学者的代表性有了扩大,会议代表中,外籍代表有20多人,占三分之一强,而且德、法、日、韩、芬兰等国长期从事美学与生态美学的学者参与会议,作了高质量的发言;第二,会议主题明确,以建设性后现代为指导,紧密结合现实与学术发展,从建设的角度审视生态美学的发展的紧迫性与态势,具有重要的学术价值与现实意义;第三,研究的视野有了拓展,在城市建筑美学、生态语言学、生态媒介学、生态美学与身体美学等方面均有新的学术贡献;第四,青年学者参与程度较高,

一批具有外语学术背景的青年学者积极与会,作了高质量的发言;第五,会议是一种中西之间与各国代表之间的比较深入的对话;第六,会议对于生态美学当代发展如何与传统文化,特别是中国古代传统文化衔接问题作了比较深入的探讨,使得西方学者进一步了解了中国生态美学学者的研究工作。当然,生态美学作为一种新兴的美学形态,其进一步完善还需继续努力,中西之间的交流了解也许进一步加强。本次会议只是一个良好的开端。

会议认为,生态问题从1972年斯德哥尔摩环境会议以来,已经成为世界各国共同关心的重大的现实与学术问题。它关系到人类的未来与我们子孙后代的福祉,因此,继续关注与发展生态美学与环境美学是国际美学界与中国美学界义不容辞的责任。山东大学文艺美学研究中心从2001年就开始将生态美学与生态文化研究作为我们的科研重点之一,成立了专门研究机构“山东大学生态美学与生态文学研究中心”,迄今已经召开了包括本次会议在内的三次重要的国际学术研讨会,承担了多项国家和部级科研项目,出版成果多种,开出多种有关课程,有10余名博士生还以此为博士论文课题,并取得了重要成绩。我们认为,本次会议一定会为我们山东大学文艺美学研究中心的生态美学与生态文学研究起到更大的推动作用。这本会议文集具有学术的价值与文献的意义。我们再次感谢所有会议的参与者以及为本次会议作了各种贡献的朋友、老师与同学。

2013年2月26日

Preface

Zeng Fanren

During June 13th and June 15th, 2012, the International Conference on Constructive Postmodernism and Ecoaesthetics, cosponsored by Shandong University Research Center for Literary Theory and Aesthetics, Shandong University Research Centre for Ecoaesthetics and Ecoliterature and the Institute for Postmodern Development of China, USA, with Professor David Ray Griffin and Professor Wang Zhihe as the leading figures, was held in Jinan, China, with more than 70 scholars from Germany, the United States, France, Finland, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan District as well present. Taking "Constructive Postmodernism" as a new perspective, the theme of the Conference covers the development of contemporary ecoaesthetics, urban aesthetics, as well as ecological literary media studies, and comparative studies of Chinese and Western aesthetics and culture. More than 50 scholars delivered their excellent oral presentations at the conference, at the end of which were extensive and effective dialogues on some core issues concerning the development of contemporary ecoaesthetics between Prof. Zeng Fanren, Director of the Research Center for Literary Theory and Aesthetics, Shandong University, Prof. David Ray Griffin, Director of The Institute for Postmodern Development of China, USA, and other representatives at the meeting.

Conforming to the theme, the key words of the Conference are Constructive Postmodernism, Ecology, Conversation and Construction. On top of them is "Constructive Postmodernism", the essence of the Conference as well. Postmodernism is the result of the reflection on modernity and the exceeding of it as well, though it is based more on constructive concerns.

Following it is "Ecology", because "Constructive Postmodernism" has in itself the ecological content. The so-called "Constructive Postmodernism" is, to some extent, the turn of human civilization from industrial civilization to eco-civilization. Without the construction of eco-civilization, there would never be "Constructive Postmodernism". Furthermore, "Construction" is set against certain traditional utterance centre which goes with theoretical guidance of eco-philosophical variety. To bring an end to this is "Construction", through which the destiny of a human eco-culture is constructed.

The Conference was noted for 6 points. Firstly, it was really a international conference. There were about 20 international scholars, taking up about 1/3 of the whole, while the others were all Chinese aesthetic or ecoaesthetic researchers with rich academic experiences and had all delivered their speeches. Secondly, the Conference had a clear and definite theme. Under the direction of constructive postmodernism, with realistic as well as academic concerns about the urgencies of developing ecoaesthetics, it looked closely at the present and future of ecoaesthetics, achieving a lot with both academic and realistic significance. Thirdly, its topics covered very wide areas, making new contributions to urban aesthetics, ecoaesthetics, ecological media studies, as well as other academic fields. Fourthly, a lot of scholars attending the Conference are rather young, many of which have English education background and were able to deliver their speeches in English. Fifth, the conference was also an extensive dialogue between Chinese scholars and foreign researchers. Sixth, a special topic on the Conference concerned how the contemporary development of ecoaesthetics can be informed by and related to traditional Chinese culture, especially ancient Chinese cultural tradition, which helped the western scholars to understand further the research of Chinese ecoaesthetic researchers. Of course, as a new branch of aesthetics, ecoaesthetics still needs more effort from us to develop fully, and scholars from China and abroad should also further their mutual understanding and academic exchanges. This Conference only marked a good start.

The Conference believes that eco-problems have become the global concern both in reality and in academic research since the Stockholm International Conference on Environmental Protection. They are closely related to the future and the well-being of our offsprings. Shandong

University Research Center for Literary Theory and Aesthetics has regarded Ecoaesthetics and Ecoliterature as their research focus since 2001. We have especially established Shandong University Research Centre for Ecoaesthetics and Ecoliterature in 2011 for this purpose. Three important international symposiums (including this one) have been successfully held up till now. Within a decade, we have undertaken many national and provincial projects, with many books, papers published and many courses opened. More than 10 doctoral students took theme as their dissertation topics, with promising results and constructive findings. Therefore, I'm sure the Conference, with every scholar's contribution, will generate fresh momentum for better development of our Centre. This collection of essays has both academic and documentary significance. I want to express my sincere appreciation again to all the scholars and our friends, who had attended the Conference and made their contributions.

February 26, 2013

(Translated by Chen Houliang)

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**第一辑 建设性后现代主义、
生态意识与中外哲学**

**Section 1 Constructive Postmodernism,
Ecological Consciousness, Chi-
nese and Foreign Philosophies**

The Ecological Crisis: Can Constructive Postmodernism Help?

David Ray Griffin

(Institute for Postmodern Development of China, USA)

Abstract: “Problem(the global warming)is real. It threatens the survival of our civilization.” But speaking of the world’s response to the ecological crisis thus far, George Monbiot has called this “the greatest political failure the world has ever seen.” I’ll think from a certain perspective of social fact, and Nihilism, Supernaturalism, Whiteheadian constructive postmodernism, discussing whether China could help save civilization with ideas from Marxism and constructive postmodernism.

Key words: the ecological crisis; global warming; nihilism; supernaturalism; postmodernism.

Introduction: The Ecological Crisis and Education

People have long spoken of “the ecological crisis.” But people often do not understand just how serious this crisis is. It is so serious that human civilization could be brought to an end in the foreseeable future. Lest this seem extreme, let me quote a few recent statements:

In 2010, climate scientist Lonnie Thompson, winner of the National Medal of Science, wrote, “Why... are climatologists speaking out about the dangers of global warming? The answer is that virtually all of us are now convinced that global

warming poses a clear and present danger to civilization.”^①

That same year, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ross Gelbspan wrote, (The Global Warming) “problem is real. It threatens the survival of our civilization.”^②

In 2012, the 20 previous winners of the Blue Planet Prize issued a statement saying, “In the face of an absolutely unprecedented emergency, society has no choice but to take dramatic action to avert a collapse of civilization.”^③

In the 1980s, there was much discussion about the possibility that a nuclear war would result in a “nuclear winter,” according to which sunlight would be blocked from the Earth for so long that civilization—and, indeed, most higher forms of life—would be extinguished.^④

Although this possibility of nuclear holocaust is extremely serious, the ecological crisis is even more so. Why? Because a nuclear winter would result only if people do something—if they start a nuclear war. But the ecological crisis could bring civilization to an end without anyone needing to do anything. We could do civilization in by simply continuing “business as usual.” Fitting are the final lines of T. S. Eliot’s poem “The Hollow Men”:

This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper.

The world—the world of human civilization—will end with a whimper, unless our societies, rather than continuing with business as usual, take action before it is too late.

① Lonnie G. Thompson, “Climate Change: The Evidence and Our Options,” *Behavior Analyst*, 33/2 (Fall 2010), pp. 153-170.

② Ross Gelbspan, “U. S. Press Coverage of the Climate Crisis: A Damning Betrayal of Public Trust,” May 5, 2010 (<http://www.heatisonline.org/contentserver/objecthandlers/index.cfm?id=7743&method=full>).

③ The Blue Planet Laureates, “Environment and Development Challenges: The Imperative to Act,” February 20, 2012 (http://www.af-info.or.jp/en/bpplaureates/doc/2012jp_fp_en.pdf).

④ R. P. Turco, O. B. Toon, T. P. Ackerman, J. B. Pollack, and C. Sagan, “Nuclear Winter: Global Consequences of Multiple Nuclear Explosions,” *Science*, 222/4630 (December 23, 1983), pp. 1283-1292. This discussion has continued in the present century; see Owen B. Toon, Richard P. Turco, Alan Robock, Charles Bardeen, Luke Oman, and Georgiy L. Stenchikov, “Atmospheric Effects and Societal Consequences of Regional Scale Nuclear Conflicts and Acts of Individual Nuclear Terrorism,” *Atm. Chem. Phys.* 7/8 (2007), pp. 1973-2002.

Given the overriding importance of this issue, it should be made central in education. “Educational reform” can refer to teaching methods or to the content being taught. I am suggesting that, in our time, primary emphasis should be put on content; the ecological crisis. But it is not sufficient for students to be given a number of facts, as if education could consist in, as Alfred North Whitehead put it, having a mind stocked full of true but “inert ideas”—ideas that one does nothing with. Education about the ecological crisis must include information as to what can be done, and even motivation to do it.

Many powerful forces today, to be sure, want us to believe that there is no civilization-threatening ecological crisis, in response to which we need to reform education or anything else, so we can just continue with “business as usual.” But in 2009, Lester Brown published a new version of his book *Plan B: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*, in which he quoted a recent statement from *Newsweek* magazine: “Business as usual has started to read like the end of the world.”^①

In discussing the ecological crisis, I will not discuss all of its dimensions. I will deal only the increase of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) in the atmosphere, insofar as it is threatening the very survival of human civilization. Dealing with the two main effects of the increase of CO₂—global warming and ocean acidification—I will begin with the former.

CO₂ and Global Warming

In recent times, global warming has been due to human activities that produce greenhouse gases, which trap heat from sunlight, preventing its escape from the atmosphere. Thus far, CO₂ has by far been the most important, being responsible for 70 percent of the enhanced greenhouse effect (whereas methane is responsible for 23 percent). Our present global warming has been due to types of human activity that started in industrial revolution, as shown by the fact that the continual increases in global warming match closely with the historical increases of the percentage of CO₂ in our atmosphere.

In the middle of the 18th century, prior to the industrial revolution, the atmosphere’s CO₂ constituted 275 ppm (parts per million). Climate scientists,

① Lester Brown: *Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*, Substantially Revised edition, Preface, W. W. Norton & Company, 2009.

led by NASA scientist James Hansen, have recently determined that the highest safe level would be 350 ppm. Unfortunately, the last year our atmosphere was below that level was 1987. By the beginning of the 21st century, the ppm had gone above 370. It is now 396 ppm.^①

Two of the most visible effects of global warming are ice-melting and sea-level rise.

Ice-Melting

Melting in the Arctic: A dramatic sign of global warming is the melting of ice in the Arctic. Although scientists had previously predicted that the Arctic would not become ice free until the end of this century, recent studies show that the Arctic ice cap has been disappearing more quickly than expected. Scientists now think the Arctic may be ice-free by 2040.^②

Melting of Antarctica: The Antarctic ice sheet, which covers about 98% of the Antarctic continent, is the largest mass of ice on Earth. But huge ice shelves have been breaking off. The Larsen Ice Shelf consisted of three shelves, named A, B, and C. In 1995, Larsen A, the smallest one, disintegrated.^③ In 2002, scientists “watched in amazement as almost the entire Larsen B Ice Shelf,” an area of 1,250 square miles (3,250 square kilometers)—“collapsed in just over one month.”^④ This, the Economist reported, was “the eighth ice-shelf collapse on the peninsula in 30 years.”^⑤ In 2009, scientists learned, “One Antarctic ice shelf has completely disappeared and another has lost a chunk three times the

① “Trends in Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide,” Earth System Research Laboratory, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/#mlo_growth).

② “Massive Arctic Ice Cap Is Shrinking, Study Shows, Rate Accelerating Since 1985,” *Science Daily*, April 12, 2010 (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/04/100412121014.htm>); “NASA Finds Thickest Parts of Arctic Ice Cap Melting Faster,” February 29, 2012 (<http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/thick-melt.html>); Emily Finn, “On Thin Ice,” *MIT News*, August 10, 2011 (<http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2011/arctic-ice-melt-0810.html>); “Ice Shelves in Arctic Disappearing Faster than Expected,” *CTV News*, September 28, 2011 (<http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/TopStories/20110928/arctic-ice-shelves-110928/>); “Thickest Parts of Arctic Ice Cap Melting Faster,” *Science Daily*, February 29, 2012 (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/02/120229190000.htm>).

③ “Satellite Observes Rapid Ice Shelf Disintegration in Antarctic,” *Science Daily*, April 5, 2012 (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/04/120405075121.htm>).

④ R. Lindsey, “Collapse of the Larsen-B Ice Shelf,” *NASA Earth Observatory* (<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/WorldOfChange/larsenb.php>).

⑤ “The Curse of Carbon,” *The Economist*, December 30, 2008 (<http://www.economist.com/node/12798428>).

size of Rhode Island.”^① Scientists say that the Antarctic ice sheet could largely disappear within this century.^②

Melting of Greenland: The Greenland ice sheet, which covers roughly 80% of Greenland, is the world's second largest body of ice. But in the 1990s, it started losing about 48 cubic miles a year.^③ In the present century, the rate of the loss has speeded up, with a recent news report being headed, “Greenland Melting in 2011 Well Above Average with Near-Record Mass Loss.”^④

Melting of Mountain Glaciers: In addition to the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets, many other glaciers have been visibly melting. For example, the 18,000 year-old Chacaltaya Glacier in Bolivia had provided the highest ski run in the world. But by 2009, it had completely melted, leaving nothing but rocks and mud. This is a tragedy, because Chacaltaya and other shrinking glaciers in the Andes have been providing water for nearly 100 million people.^⑤

At one time, Glacier National Park in Montana had 150 glaciers, but now has only 25.^⑥ Now they may all be gone by 2020.^⑦ Also expected to disappear

① “Antarctic Ice Shelf Disappears, Arctic Melting Rapidly,” *Environment News Service*, April 3, 2009 (<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/apr2009/2009-04-03-01.asp>).

② Lauren Morello and Climate Wire, “Polar Ice Sheets Melting Faster Than Predicted,” *Scientific American*, March 9, 2011 (<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=polar-ice-sheets-melting-faster-than-predicted>); Stephanie Pappas, “Antarctic Ice Sheet at Risk, Say Scientists,” *Christian Science Monitor*, May 10, 2012 (<http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2012/0510/Antarctic-ice-sheet-at-risk-say-scientists>).

③ Amy Hubbard, “Loss of Greenland Ice Could Become Irreversible, Scientists Say,” *Los Angeles Times*, March 12, 2012 (http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/03/greenland-ice-sheet-global-warming.html); “Arctic Thaw, Measuring Change,” Blogs from the Earth Institute, State of the Planet (<http://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/tag/greenland-ice-sheet/>).

④ “Extreme Melting on Greenland Ice Sheet, Reports CCNY Team,” City College of New York, October 13, 2011 (<http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/advancement/news/Extreme-Melting-on-Greenland-Ice-Sheet.cfm>); “Greenland Melting in 2011 Well Above Average with Near-Record Mass Loss,” *Climate Citizen*, October 25, 2011 (<http://takvera.blogspot.com/2011/10/greenland-melting-in-2011-well-above.html>).

⑤ Joseph Romm, “Bolivia’s 18,000 Year-old Chacaltaya Glacier Is? Gone,” *Grist*, May 8, 2009 (<http://grist.org/article/another-one-bites-the-dust-literally-bolivias-18000-year-old-chacaltaya-gla/>); Elisabeth Rosenthal, “In Bolivia, Water and Ice Tell of Climate Change,” *New York Times*, December 13, 2009 (http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/14/science/earth/14bolivia.html?_r=2&-partner=rss&-emc=rss).

⑥ Eric Newhouse, “Climate Change Affecting Mountains Most,” *Great Falls Tribune*, February 9, 2009 (http://www.cce-mt.org/Links/past%20articles/files/Climate_Change_Effects.htm).

⑦ Anne Minard, “No More Glaciers in Glacier National Park by 2020?” *National Geographic News*, March 2, 2009 (<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/03/090302-glaciers-melting.html>).