

The Human Relationship to Nature

Dr Vesa Arponen

Tuesdays, 10:15-12:00 – Leibnizstr. 3, Room 123

This course aims to provide a multi-faceted human scientific view and analysis of key issues emerging in contemporary interdisciplinary literature regarding the human relationship to nature both in past societies as well as in the contemporary world, including how humans collectively cause environmental problems. We will look at the ideological side of the human relationship to nature in materialist consumer values as well as in the various religious, scientific and philosophical ideas about nature as identified in environmental history and environmentalism. We will also look at a range of socio-economic perspectives on the role of social structures in which humans engage in ecologically burdensome activities as mediating the human relationship to nature. Intertwined with these topics we will discuss the philosophical underpinnings of the foregoing ideas making explicit the views of human action and thought they imply.

Max. 20 participants

Seminar sessions:

1. 29.10.2013
2. 5.11.
3. 12.11.
4. 19.11.
5. 26.11.
6. 3.12.
7. 10.12.
8. 17.12.
9. 7.1.2014
10. 14.1.
11. 21.1.
12. 28.1.
13. 4.2.
14. 11.2.