

Thesis statement
 Environmentalism in the United States erases and excludes trans women from by portraying trans women as ecological others, unnatural, or “bad for nature.” This is done through both a politics of corporeal disgust, and by portraying gender as either naturalized or entirely a cultural artifact.



Activist Communities:
Deep Green Resistance

- Deep Green Resistance (DGR) is a radical environmental group with an anti-industrial society and back-to-nature ethic. They explicitly exclude trans women from their women-only spaces and meetings and have recently made their trans-exclusive radical feminist politics the official policies of the organization. Some chapters have defected due to the new policies, and DGR has been banned from most radical environmental events and gatherings in the U.S.
- They attempt to justify the exclusion by using a gender artifactalist definition of gender, meaning that they view gender as nothing more than social artifact. “Gender is not natural,” asserts one key member, Rachel Ivy, in a video for DGR. The construct a strawman argument against “liberal feminism and queer theory” in which liberal feminism is portrayed as believing gender is “natural” and queer theory is portrayed as believing one can “escape gender” by being trans. However, while DGR does not believe gender is essential or natural, they believe that gender assignment is the only legitimate experience of gender, which actually locates gender in the body, a cissexist belief.
- By portraying gender as solely a system of domination and product of civilization, DGR’s rejection of technology, industry, and civilization creates an environmentalism that makes no room for trans people, in particular, trans women.



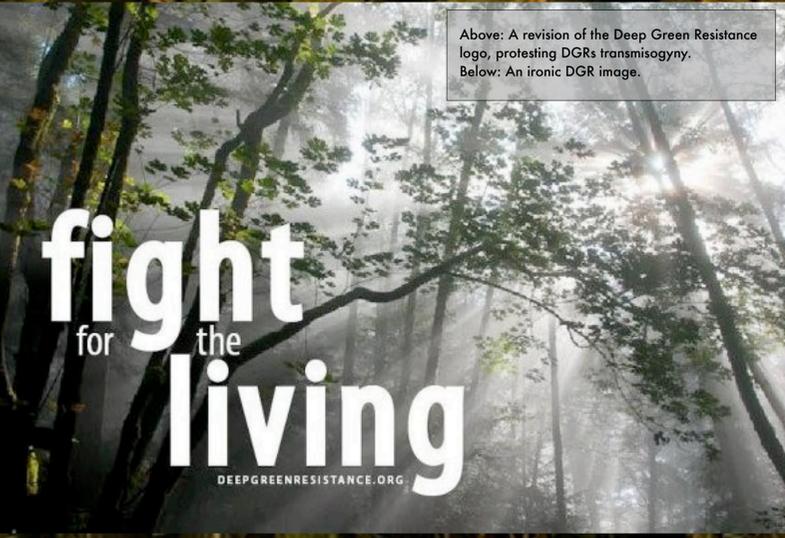
Rhetorical Framing of Environmental Issues: Intersex Fish

- Smallmouth bass from the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers in Virginia were discovered to have testicular oocytes (female germ cells in their testes), a type of intersex condition.
- These fish with the intersex condition were only discovered as part of a research effort surrounding recent fish kills reported in the area. The fish were discovered with skin lesions that made them susceptible to disease. In the report, pollution is considered to be the main cause of the lesions. The presence of TO in the fish was considered to not be harmful to individual smallmouth bass.
- Popular science articles, news articles, and essays featured in academic journals frame these intersex fish in a way that draws on transmisogynistic stereotypes, binarist assumptions about sex and gender, and insecurities about purity and the supposed discreteness of the body to sensationalize the fish.
- This sensationalization, in turn, further portrays trans women and gender non-conforming people as unnatural, “bad for nature,” or dangerous.

Conclusions:
 Through this thesis I have shown how transmisogyny manifests within environmentalism, specifically focusing on activism and the framing of environmental issues. By excluding trans women, we miss out on many important conversations around gender and misogyny, the possible future of corporeality, and the nexus of the human body and technology. These are questions that the environmental movement is, and should continue to be, concerned with. Trans women’s voices are necessary to add perspective and nuance for understanding the ways in which nature is constructed and used, and how our own understandings of Nature have and will change.

Methodology
 The methodology for this thesis is discursive analysis, drawing heavily on the fields of ecocriticism, feminism (specifically transfeminism), disability studies, queer theory, environmental justice, post-environmentalism, and history. I analyzed books, journal articles, theory, as well as pop science articles, youtube videos, blog posts, and even the comment sections under online articles. This thesis was geographically situated within the United States, and theoretically situated at the borderlands of many discourses.

DEEP GREEN TRANSPHOBIA



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