

Contents

List of Figures	xi
Preface	xiii
Acknowledgments	xv
Introduction	1
Cybernetic Imaginations Old and New: Communication and Control in Living Systems	8
Toward a New Demonology: The Confluence of Mind and Nature	14
Infodynamics: The Creative Fusion of Mind and Matter	19
Toward a Recursive Vision of Postmodern Diversity	21
Ecological Feminism: A New Dialogue between Man and Woman, Nature and Culture or How to Stop Fighting and Start Playing	24
Chapter 1: Postmodern Ecology and the Crisis of Modernity	31
The Languages of “Nature” and “Culture”: Ecological and Postmodern Discourses	32
The Convergence of Postmodernity and Ecology	33
The Project of Modernity: A Historical Fable about the Domination of Nature	37
The Foundations of Modern Science	37
The “Human” Empire: Science, Technology, and Capitalism	38

The Mastery of “Mother” Nature	40
Classical and Medieval Antecedents: The Great Chain	42
Splitting the Ecosystem: The Ecological Crisis Implicit in Modernism	47
From Ancient <i>Mythos</i> to Modern <i>Logos</i> to Postmodern <i>Ecologos</i>	49
The Humanists Strike Back	51
Ecology and Postmodernity: Toward a New Critique of Modernism	53
I: Writing the Story of Natural History	53
II: Toward a Neostructuralist Ecology	58
III: A New Look at an Old Myth: From Genesis to the Joyous Science	71
The Moral of the Story	73
Chapter 2: Ecology and Lifeworld	77
Spirit in Flames: Toward a Postmodern-Ecological Phenomenology	79
The Poetry of Evolution: Steps to an Ecology of Mind	88
Radical Cybernetics: Life as Communication	95
The Charm and Terror of Digitation	102
Two Evolutionary Models	106
Stepping Backward: From Learning to Evolution	110
Toward New Evolutionary Personae	117
Seeds of Ecometaphorical Identity: From Arizona to the Amazon to Walden Pond	127
Chapter 3: Ecosociality: From the Universal <i>Logos</i> of Communicative Rationality to the Situated <i>Mythos</i> of Ecofeminism	133
Communicative Action and the Serious Ascent toward a Rational Society	136
Communication and the Ecometaphorical Differentiation of Society	148
The Play of Nature and Culture	158
Steps toward a Multicultural Mind or <i>La Pensée Sauvage</i> Talks Back	164
Who Is that Masked Woman? or Superbarrio Meets Ecofemina	170
A Stitch in Time: The Quilt of Ecosociality	180

Chapter 4: Ecopoetics: Literary Ecology and Postmodernity	183
Ecological Poetics	185
Literary Ecology and Postmodernity in Thomas Sanchez's <i>Mile Zero</i> and Thomas Pynchon's <i>Vineland</i>	191
What Is Literary Ecology?	192
The Origins of Literary Ecology	198
Literary Ecology in <i>Mile Zero</i> and <i>Vineland</i>	201
Chapter 5: From the Ecological Wasteland to the Cybernetic City: Communication, Evolution, War, and Play	219
The Play of Communication	221
Toward a Living Demonology	231
Cybercity, Here We Come: Play in Virtual Reality versus the Manichaeian Struggle for the Electropolis	234
Notes	241
Works Cited	245
Index	255