

Eco-Emancipation

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Abstract

Although modern democracy establishes constraints intended to protect people from domination as the arbitrary exercise of power, it offers few such protections for non-human parts of nature. The result is that, as human beings, we inevitably find ourselves both complicit in and entrapped by a system that makes sustainable living all but impossible, and that confines and exploits not only nature but people too, including both poor people and prosperous ones, albeit in different ways. In *Eco-Emancipation*, Sharon Krause argues that we can find our way to a better, freer life by constraining the use of human power in relation to nature and promoting nature's well-being alongside our own, there by releasing the Earth from human domination and freeing us from a way of life that is both exploitative and exploited, complicit and entrapped. Eco-emancipation calls for new, more-than-human political communities that incorporate non-human parts of nature through institutions of representation and regimes of rights, combining these new institutional arrangements with political activism, a public ethos of respect for nature, and a culture of eco-responsibility.

Biography

Sharon R. Krause is the William R. Kenan, Jr. University Professor of Political Science at Brown University. She is the author of *Eco-Emancipation: An Earthly Politics of Freedom* (Princeton University Press, 2023); *Freedom Beyond Sovereignty* (University of Chicago Press, 2015); *Civil Passions: Moral Sentiment and Democratic Deliberation* (Princeton University Press, 2008); and *Liberalism with Honor* (Harvard University Press, 2002); as well as co-editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Montesquieu* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). She has published numerous articles on topics in classical and contemporary liberalism and democratic theory, drawing on figures ranging from Hume and Montesquieu to Simone de Beauvoir, Hannah Arendt, and Frederick Douglass, among others, with emphasis on the politics of justice, freedom, and social inequality. She received her B.A. from Wellesley College, an M.T.S. from Harvard Divinity School, and a Ph.D. in political theory from Harvard University.