

# *Re-Thinking Environment*

Literature, Ethics and Praxis



**Editor: Dr Shruti Das**

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Spatialising the Black Body:  
An Ecofeminist Reading of Toni  
Morrison's *Beloved* and *Home*

Jiban Jyoti Kakoti

Both ecocritics and space theorists basically deal with space in order to foreground the problems associated with the subject-space relationship. Ecocriticism, predominantly the second wave, brings into focus the ethical as well as the political dimension of the subject's relationship with space. Foregrounding the issues relating to race, gender, class, and sexuality, and focusing primarily on spatial dimension of these issues, second wave ecocriticism sets the stage for a comprehensive interface between "ecofeminism" and "environmental justice". "Affinity ecofeminism" establishes a link between the debasement of environment and exploitation of women in a patriarchal society. But this issue gets complicated with women's diverse response to "natural space" in accordance with their difference in terms of race, class and occupation. Consequently, "affinity ecofeminism" comes under attack for upholding the essentialist argument that nature and women are inseparably connected, which, according to anti-essentialist feminist critics, restricts women to the realm of the home and irrationality. It has also been accused of neglecting women's claim for liberty to work outside the home. Stacy