

NAVIGATING ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND GEOGRAPHY IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS ERA

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DOI: 10.7906/indecs.22.1.7
Preliminary report

Received: 9 June 2023.
Accepted: 19 January 2024.

ABSTRACT

This study explores the moral dimensions of the planet's challenges by examining the intersection of environmental ethics, metaphorical expressions, and geography in the context of the escalating climate crisis. The study employs the jellyfish metaphor and geographical ethics to link theoretical ethical issues with real-world societal behaviours. The study emphasizes the need to contextualize metaphors like climate change and jellyfish resilience to make them more relevant in real-world situations. This approach represents a shift in societal attitudes toward sustainable coexistence, emphasizing the use of metaphors to promote environmental consciousness and ethical action. The study aims to strongly promote ethical behaviour and environmental awareness.

KEY WORDS

climate action, jellyfish, geography, humanity, interdisciplinary, social sciences

CLASSIFICATION

JEL: D91, I21, Z13

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INTRODUCTION

The escalating climate crisis, which is rooted in human activities, poses an unparalleled threat to the delicate balance of our planet. As societies urgently seek sustainable solutions, the ethical dimensions of environmental challenges require careful exploration. This study explores environmental ethics using metaphorical expressions and a geographical perspective. In doing so, we navigate the current environmental discourse to understand the problem and surpass existing limitations in our approach [1].

Climate change, pollution, and environmental degradation pose an existential threat, challenging the interconnected fabric of our world. The issue is not just scientific; it is also deeply ethical, involving human behaviours, choices, and their impact on the environment. Existing solutions address specific aspects but do not comprehensively connect ethical implications with tangible geographical spaces, places, and human mobility [2].

Current solutions mainly focus on policy measures, technological innovations, and behavioural change campaigns. While these efforts are important, they often fail to promote a deep understanding of the moral imperatives behind sustainable practices. The limitations are in the abstract nature of ethical considerations and the gap between global environmental issues and their local impacts [3]. Our approach argues that the most effective solution is to translate abstract ethical concepts into tangible narratives that resonate with individuals and communities. Metaphors bridge complex environmental ethics with people's lived experiences. Introducing a geographical dimension ground these metaphors in specific contexts, emphasizing the diverse ethical responsibilities dictated by spaces, places, and human mobility [4].

This study aims to redefine environmental ethics by using metaphors to communicate moral imperatives and geographical considerations. It aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice, fostering a deeper understanding of ethical responsibilities toward the planet. The synthesis aims to inspire a shift toward sustainable coexistence with the environment.

This essay is based on fundamental metaphor theories. Our approach is in line with the evolving field of geographical ethics, recognizing the spatial dimensions of environmental responsibilities. As we explore the following sections, the interconnected themes of morality, geography, and metaphor will intertwine, providing a new perspective on environmental ethics and fostering a deeper connection between humanity and our planet.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

This theoretical background explores the relationship between metaphorical expressions and moral dimensions in the context of environmental challenges. It focuses on societal behaviours, environmentally friendly business practices, climate justice, and religious teachings. Drawing on influential works and theories, the goal is to establish a theoretical foundation for understanding the intricate relationship between humanity and the environment.

Metaphor studies, a field within cognitive science and linguistics, has significantly contributed to understanding societal behaviours and environmental issues. George Lakoff and Mark Johnson's book "Metaphors We Live By" suggests that metaphors shape our perceptions and influence our actions [5]. This approach examines metaphors associated with consumerism, ecological responsibility, and human impact on the planet, uncovering ethical aspects in everyday language. Aldo Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac & Other Writings on Conservation and Ecology" introduces the concept of a land ethic, emphasizing the interconnectedness of ecosystem components [6]. This perspective contributes to understanding businesses' moral responsibilities toward the environment, reflecting themes of stewardship and sustainable practices, and contributes to the theoretical foundation for eco-friendly business practices.

Climate justice, based on political philosophers like John Rawls, emphasizes fairness and equality in addressing the ethical aspects of climate change [7]. Mary Robinson's book "Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future" promotes fair and inclusive decision-making to address the unequal impacts of climate change, emphasizing the moral imperative of rectifying climate consequences for different communities [8].

Religious teachings have a significant impact on environmental stewardship. In his essay, "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis," Lynn White Jr. examines Christianity's historical influence on the environment and advocates for a reassessment of religious viewpoints [9]. The concept of believers as earth stewards in Islam and Buddhism's emphasis on sustainable living align with eco-theological perspectives, enriching the understanding of moral dimensions in these religious teachings [10].

Rachel Carson's "The Sea Around Us" provides a theoretical framework for comprehending the significant influence of human activities on ocean ecosystems, emphasizing the symbolic representation of the ocean in connection to environmental issues such as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch [11, 12]. The metaphor of jellyfish as the ocean's next ruler provides a unique perspective on resilience and adaptability in the midst of environmental disruptions. Drawing on ecological theories and biodiversity literature, this metaphor explores the dynamic nature of marine ecosystems. It contributes to discussions on adaptation, survival, and the consequences of human actions.

CASE STUDY: JELLYFISH RESILIENCE AS A METAPHOR

INTERCONNECTED THREADS OF SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT

As human activities intensify the climate crisis, our planet faces unprecedented challenges. This case study uses the jellyfish metaphor to explore environmental issues and emphasize the ethical dimensions within human societies. By integrating perspectives from environmental philosophy, religious teachings, and various academic disciplines, the study sheds light on the complex nature of the climate challenge. This exploration goes beyond immediate environmental concerns to examine societal behaviours and the changing moral fabric that influences our collective response.

Examining ethical implications through various philosophical perspectives highlights the need for a change in human values. Deep ecology emphasizes the intrinsic value of non-human life and is reflected in global trends favouring biodiversity conservation. Environmental ethics focuses on our moral responsibilities, seen in eco-friendly business practices and ethical policymaking [13]. Ecofeminism, which intertwines gender and environmental concerns, is reflected in movements for gender equality and environmental justice. Climate justice principles emphasize global awareness, as seen in youth-led climate strikes [14, 15].

Major world religions are committed to environmental stewardship. Islam views believers as earth stewards and promotes sustainable practices and eco-friendly initiatives. Christianity's "creation care" philosophy is reflected in Green Church initiatives and Pope Francis's environmental encyclical [16]. Buddhism aligns with sustainable living trends, and Hinduism's reverence for nature is reflected in initiatives such as the Hindu Declaration on Climate Change [17].

Human activities lead to pollution, air quality problems, soil degradation, and water scarcity. Events such as Mexico City's health crises due to air pollution and global struggles to combat air quality problems highlight the urgent need for comprehensive measures. [18] The connection between soil degradation, hydroponics, and the sinking of villages in the Sahara underscores the complex relationship among climate change, soil degradation, and water

scarcity. Water scarcity in regions like the Sahara emphasizes the need for responsible water management practices [19].

The jellyfish metaphor represents resilience in the face of declining larger ocean species. Trends such as overfishing, and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch highlight ecological imbalance [20]. The metaphor reflects climate change-induced events, leading to global climate strikes and a push for renewable energy sources. Examples such as the circular economy demonstrate an increasing dedication to environmentally responsible practices [21].

Seemingly unrelated issues such as consumerism, health crises, and the societal impacts of lust and pornography are interconnected. Black Friday and global health crises exemplify the environmental impact of consumerism. Lifestyle choices affecting health crises are similar to the acidification of oceans [22]. Understanding these interconnected threads is essential for comprehensive environmental stewardship.

ALIGNING WITH GEOGRAPHIES

Geographical analysis shows how environmental challenges affect different regions. The implementation of religious teachings varies geographically and requires culturally sensitive approaches. Human actions display specific spatial patterns, highlighting the necessity for location-based policies. The geographical analysis of jellyfish resilience offers insights into ecosystems undergoing transformation. Interconnected societal threads, when understood geographically, enable targeted interventions that recognize diverse landscapes. The global impact of human mobility highlights the necessity for coordinated international efforts from a geographic perspective [23, 24].

Considering geography is crucial in analysing trends and morality. Space, place, and human mobility are crucial factors that shape the ethical dimensions of environmental challenges [25]. Crafting sustainable solutions requires a nuanced understanding of geographic contexts to create tailored interventions that resonate with diverse landscapes and communities worldwide.

DISCUSSION

The aforementioned case study examines the jellyfish metaphor, emphasizing the moral importance of understanding and addressing the intricate relationship between humanity and the environment. The theoretical framework and case study highlight the significance of geography, including space, place, environment, and mobility, in addressing climate and environmental issues. This interconnected concept emphasizes the moral obligation to address this complex relationship.

As we shifted to the jellyfish metaphor in the case study, this perspective was refined to capture the core of environmental resilience and adaptability. The metaphor acts as a bridge between theoretical concepts and real-world environmental challenges, subtly transforming abstract ideas into relatable narratives. The oceanic metaphors and the symbolism of jellyfish as the next rulers of the ocean align with the theoretical framework, emphasizing the need for a moral awakening in response to environmental disruptions [26].

Geography plays a crucial role in this discourse. Theoretical perspectives, such as those based on deep ecology, climate justice, and environmental ethics, have a unique spatial dimension. The unequal impacts of climate change are not random; they disproportionately affect specific regions in a spatially patterned manner. Religious perspectives gain geographic relevance as the implementation of earth stewardship and creation care varies across diverse landscapes.

Moreover, human actions have distinct spatial patterns, leading to consequences such as pollution hotspots and water scarcity. The metaphor of jellyfish resilience reflects geographical nuances, thriving in areas where larger species struggle. By anchoring the discussion in

geography, the case study enhances our understanding of the spatial aspects of moral responsibilities concerning the environment [27].

The case study transforms the metaphor of jellyfish resilience into a conceptual framework for understanding environmental challenges. Through a metaphorical lens, the interconnected threads of societal choices and their contribution to environmental degradation become clear and relatable. This shift from metaphor to concept enables a more predictable and practical structure. Metaphors are used to convey complex ideas in a way that is understandable and meaningful to diverse audiences. The theoretical foundation introduces the power of metaphorical expressions, emphasizing their potential to go beyond linguistic devices and become catalysts for deeper understanding and meaningful action.

The study explores the relationship between metaphorical expressions and the jellyfish metaphor to change societal understanding and promote environmental stewardship. It emphasizes the importance of contextualizing environmental challenges within specific spaces to foster a deeper understanding. The study uses theory and a case study on the jellyfish metaphor to provide a framework for understanding environmental ethical aspects. It aims to prompt a moral awakening by promoting practical steps towards sustainable and morally responsible coexistence with the planet.

CONCLUSION

This examination of environmental ethics, viewed through metaphorical expressions and enhanced by a geographical perspective, represents a significant advancement in the discourse on morality concerning climate and the environment. The combination of theoretical foundation and the insightful case study using the jellyfish metaphor advances our understanding beyond the current state of knowledge.

The case study examined how metaphors can help understand complex environmental issues. The text integrated metaphorical expressions with geographical considerations to provide a nuanced perspective on societal behaviors, eco-friendly practices, climate justice, and religious stewardship. This work aimed to address the intersection of morality, metaphors, and geography, highlighting the real-world impact of human actions.

The findings of this study have implications for a wide range of stakeholders. Academically, this contributes to environmental philosophy, ethics, and geography by showing how metaphorical expressions can be used to shape moral narratives. Practically, it provides a tool for policymakers, educators, and environmental advocates to communicate complex concepts in accessible ways. The metaphorical approach helps a wider audience understand the moral imperatives of environmental stewardship.

Future research should explore metaphorical expressions that resonate with diverse cultures, expand moral narrative applicability, and investigate the effectiveness of metaphorical communication in driving behavioural change and fostering environmental consciousness. It should also explore the role of geography in shaping environmental perceptions and responsibilities through interdisciplinary collaborations.

This study highlights the global moral obligation humans have toward the environment, transcending geographical boundaries. It calls for a global approach to environmental challenges, while recognizing the necessity of context-specific strategies to tackle the ethical aspects of these issues.

This study contributes to the understanding of morality in climate and environmental contexts, laying the groundwork for future research in metaphor theory and geography. It connects abstract ethical concepts with tangible geographical spaces, aiming to inspire meaningful action and contribute to a sustainable, morally conscious coexistence with our planet.

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