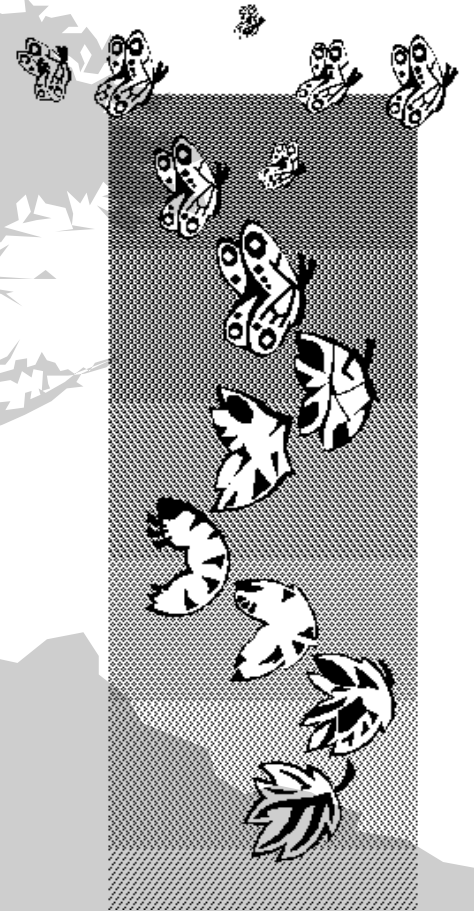


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Ecofeminism

Jackie A. Giuliano, Ph.D.



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Critical Thinking

☯ Teaching Strategies Today Must Emphasize

- ☞ reasoning skills
- ☞ thinking skills
- ☞ teach students that there is something to figure out
- ☞ teach them to figure it out

☯ Students need to be taught to

- ☞ listen critically
- ☞ read critically
- ☞ write critically



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☯ Our Teaching Needs to Awaken the Senses

- ☞ we need to teach LESS so that students learn MORE
- ☞ we need to teach about CONNECTIONS to
 - ☯ the natural world
 - ☯ to each other
 - ☯ to ourselves

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Ecofeminism

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Ecofeminism

☯ Modern beginnings

- ☞ In the 1970s, efforts to recognise women's contributions to the environmental movement began
- ☞ Feminisms in the West were transforming

☯ Recognition of

- ☞ the devaluing of natural processes and anything labelled as "other"
 - ☞ a product of the patriarchal culture
 - ☞ denigration and manipulation of nature, women, lesser developed cultures

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- ☯ This denigration takes many forms
 - ⌘ and women are often the first to notice the effects
 - ⌘ in the West
 - ☉ spraying of toxic chemicals on our food
 - ☉ improper disposal of toxic wastes
 - ☉ connections to women are less apparent although there are many examples of women leading the fights
 - ⌘ in the lesser developed countries
 - ☉ where women gather food, water, fuel, fodder
 - ☉ they see the effects of technological devastation first

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- 
- ☯ Women have traditionally been closer to the Earth
 - ∞ healers with knowledge of medicinal plants and cycles of the Earth
 - ∞ midwives, food gatherers, child bearers
 - ☯ Women's bodies are "sites for environmental stress"
 - ∞ on planetary, regional, and local levels
 - ∞ birth defects, caretaking, nutrition, community stress, stress-induced miscarriages

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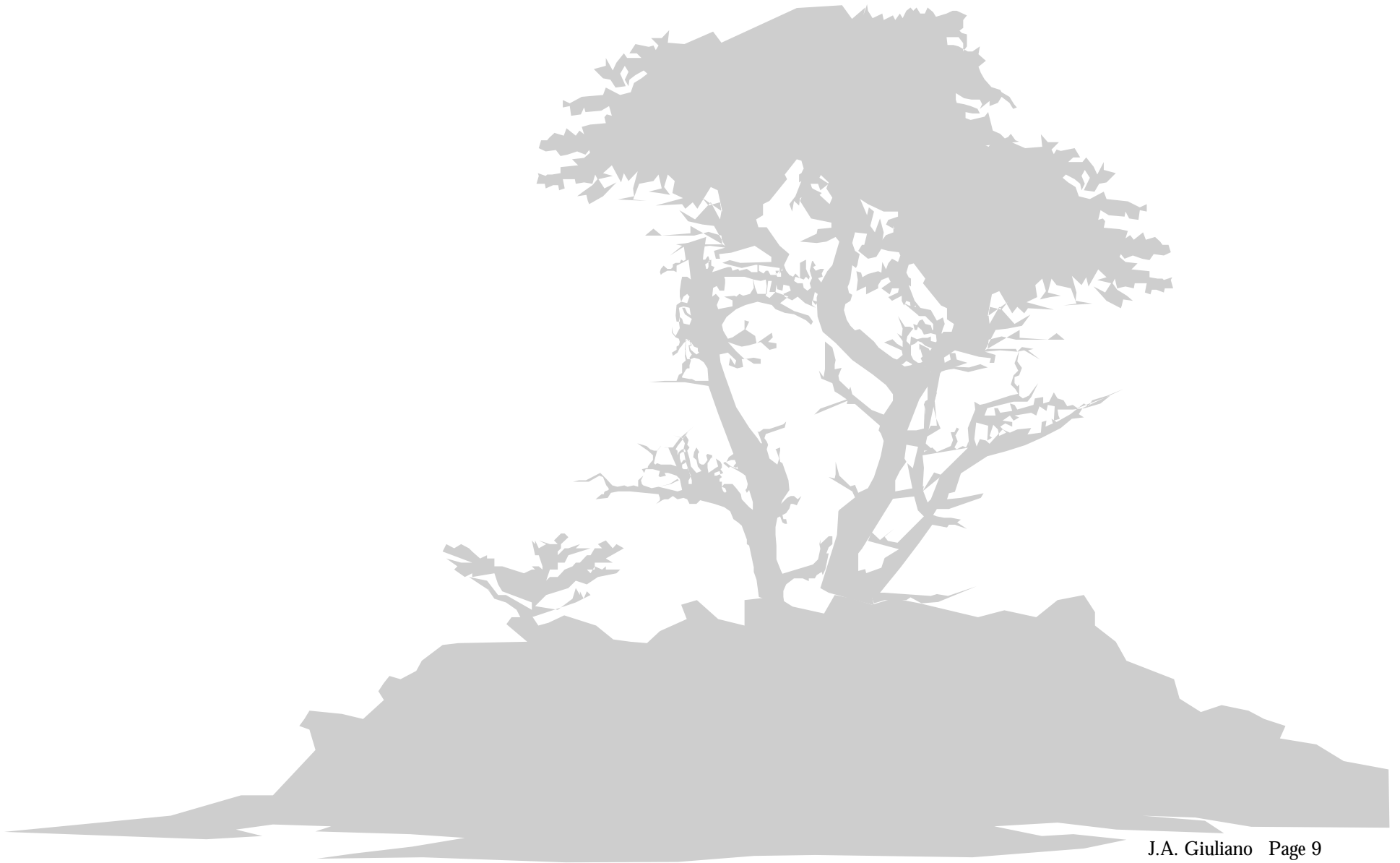
☯ Issues of Patriarchy's Treatment of Nature

⌘ Language of Objectification and Domination

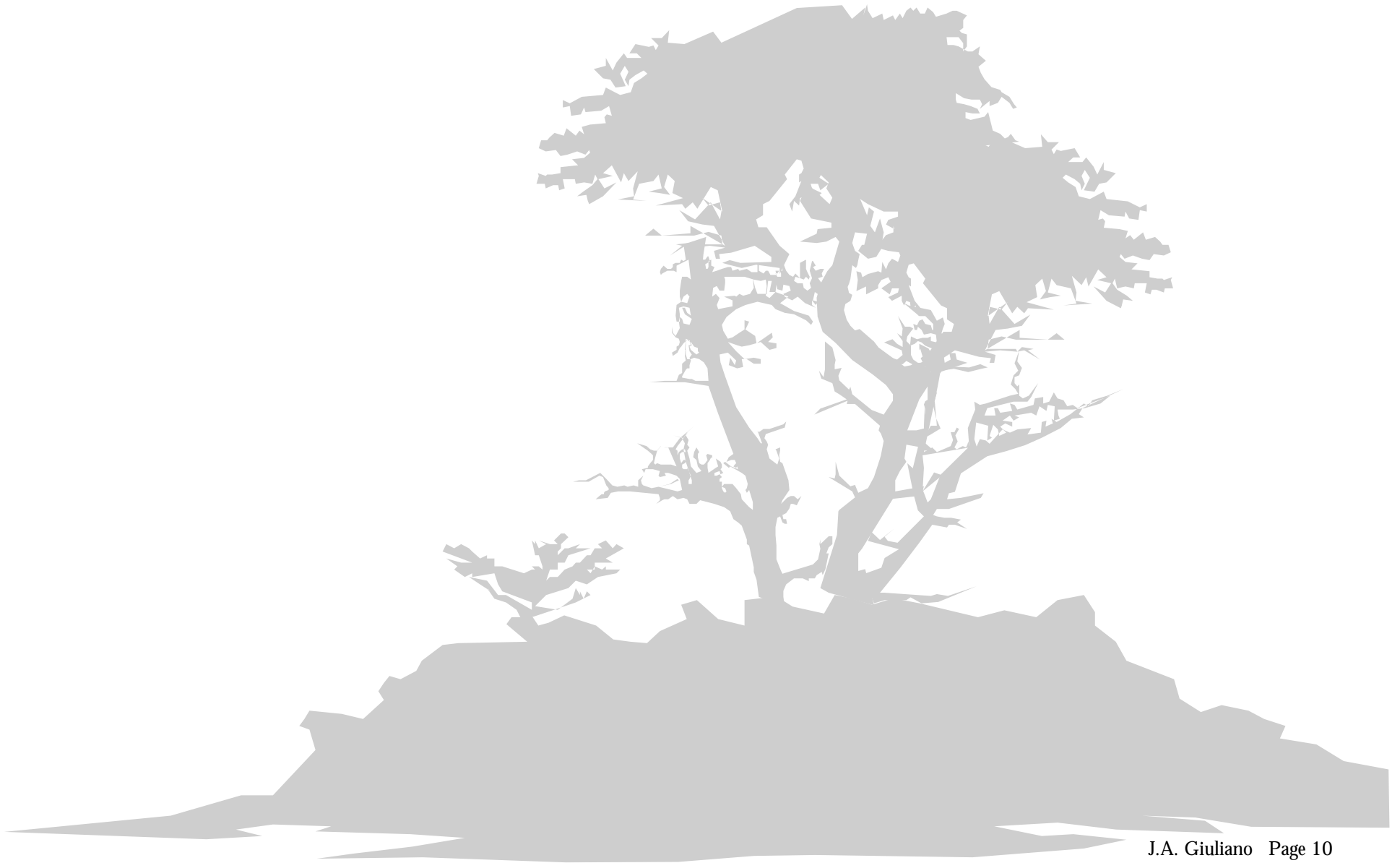
- ☯ “enter virgin territory”
- ☯ “rape the land”
- ☯ said Francis Bacon
 - ☯ nature had to be:
 - ☯ “hounded in her wanderings”
 - ☯ “bound into service” and made a “slave”
 - ☯ she was to be “put in constraint”
 - ☯ the job of the scientist was to “torture nature’s secrets from her”¹

¹Capra, Fritjof, *The Turning Point: Science, Society, and the Rising Culture*, Bantam Books:N.Y., 1982.

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☯ Ecofeminist Principles

- ☞ reject “woman-nature/man-culture” idea
- ☞ create new cultures that embrace and honor caretaking and nurturing
- ☞ not “nature over culture”
- ☞ acknowledge the interconnectedness and embeddedness in the multiple webs and cycles of life
- ☞ live *with* the Earth

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☯ Ecofeminism embraces

- ☞ women of all cultures
- ☞ men of all cultures
- ☞ plants
- ☞ animals
- ☞ ecological interconnectedness

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Ecofeminist Politics

☯ Inspirations for Action

- ☯ myths and symbols of the ancient Goddess traditions
- ☯ Native American traditions toward future generations
- ☯ tree planting
- ☯ alternative healing communities
- ☯ food co-ops
- ☯ performance art
- ☯ witchcraft
- ☯ poetry
- ☯ ritual
- ☯ social activism

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☯ Concept of Power

- ☞ not monolithic
- ☞ not homogeneous
- ☞ not anthropocentric

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☯ Recognition that there is no single solution
to our problems

- ☞ population
- ☞ “doomsday”
- ☞ new methods
 - ☯ life affirming
 - ☯ consensual
 - ☯ non-violent
- ☞ create new cultures that honor the Earth
- ☞ create new images for living with the Earth

☯ What is our place in nature?