

# Call for Papers

## *Radical Environmentalism: Respectable Activism or Dangerous Fringe?*

An Interdisciplinary Conference  
to be held at  
University of Mary Washington  
Fredericksburg, VA  
April 16-17, 2010

**Keynote Speaker: Rik Scarce**, Skidmore College; author of  
*Eco-Warriors: Understanding the Radical Environmental Movement*

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Radical environmentalism refers to groups or individuals engaged in tactics considered more aggressive than those of “mainstream” environmental groups such as the Sierra Club or Nature Conservancy. Earth First!, with its name and exclamation point, its symbol of a clenched fist, and its “no compromise” motto is emblematic of this style of activism. Recently, Paul Watson’s Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has been garnering public attention with the Animal Planet series, “Whale Wars,” while Earth Liberation Front continues to claim credit for torched research facilities and new housing developments. These groups vary considerably in rhetoric, membership, organizational structure, purported goals, and accepted tactics, which range from civil disobedience and protest to arson. We invite philosophers, political theorists, sociologists, and others to help identify, disentangle, and engage the many moral, legal, political, and social questions raised by radical environmental activism.

Papers from any discipline are welcome; interdisciplinary work is encouraged.

Topics might include:

- Moral, political, or legal evaluations of tactics
- The relation between ecological beliefs and activism
- Aggressive vs. violent political action
- Feminism and radical environmentalism
- Particular individuals/groups, such as Earth First!, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, & ELF.
- Civil disobedience
- Radical vs. mainstream ecological activism
- Regional differences between groups
- Organizational structure of groups
- Animal Planet’s series, “Whale Wars”
- Practical impact of radical environmentalism

Abstracts due December 31, 2009; papers should not exceed 20 minutes reading time. Please email abstracts of not more than 300 words to Jason Matzke at [jmatzke@umw.edu](mailto:jmatzke@umw.edu) with “Rad Env Abstract” in the subject line.