

[Extended Abstract]  
**Michel Foucault: From the Technology of the Self towards Other  
as Environment**

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**Abstract:** This paper focuses the relevance of Foucault's concept of technology of the self to environment. Foucault argues that human beings turn themselves into subjects through the technology of the self for it re-conceptualizes the self as active agent. This paper aims to elaborate Foucault's concept of care of the self aptly applied to environment. Hence, it inquires the relevance of the Greek idea of mastery of the self and discipline. I shall argue that in order to rehabilitate the environment, the world of nature, we must first rehabilitate the "self" as moral agent, the care the self is ontologically prior. We must first rehabilitate human values in order to rehabilitate nature. In the book *History of Sexuality Volume 3: The Care of the Self*, Foucault argues that the ethics of the care of the self is ethical in itself and it implies complex relationships with others insofar as this ethos of freedom is also a way of caring for others. It is also the art of governing. Ethos also implies a relationship with others, insofar as the care of the self enables one to occupy his rightful position in the city, the community, or inter-personal relationships, whether as a magistrate or a friend. And the care of the self also implies a relationship with the other insofar as proper care of the self requires listening to the lessons of the master. One needs a guide, a counsellor, a friend, someone who will be fruitful with you. A city in which everybody took proper care of himself would be a city that functioned well and found in this the ethical principle of its permanence.

**Key Words:** Michel Foucault, Care of the Self, Mastery, Moderation, Environment, Bio-power

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This paper will evaluate how Foucault's technology of the self extends the moral community beyond humans. Foucault promotes attitudes that are apparently more ecologically sensitive. He argues that part of our responsibility is to guard against nature becoming the medium of injustice to other humans. He stresses proper relationship between humans and the natural resources through what he calls technology of the self, the care of the self. Foucault seeks harmony with nature. The care of the self, for Foucault, does not mean that we are concerned only with our own interests and indifferent to the interests of others (Foucault 1986).

Foucault spouses in setting up the world to set forth the earth, the world of human action and habituation. He reiterates that the world is needed to be cultivated and carved. Foucault calls everyone to gather together to re-build the earth because it is our responsibility to manage the earth, to take care the earth.

## 2. MAIN CLAIM/S

This paper aims, in some way, in educating people as to how their small actions when combined together can play a big role in in protecting the natural environment. The care of our common home is a responsibility of everyone. Foucault is suggesting that environmental issues are ethical issues (Foucault 1975). We need to go back to the more basic that is care of the self as moral agent. This implies our relationship with the others which includes the environment. He says that respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation. We cannot interfere in one area of the ecosystem without paying

due attention both to the consequences of such interference in other areas and to the well-being of future generations.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

This is a study of text, that is, a close reading particularly of the primary texts. The researcher will take a closer look at Foucault's principal works as well as secondary sources. In addition, some related literature will also be used as supplementary materials.

### 4. FINDINGS

Environmental crises are caused generally by human activities. "Climate Change is a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere" (United Nations Forum Convention on Climate Change).

### 5. ANALYSIS

Environment destruction caused by humans is a global problem, and this is a problem that is on-going every day. Whether humans are responsible for the bulk of environmental destruction is going to be left to the scientists, but it is all our responsibility to leave this planet in better shape for the future generations than we found it.

### 6. CONCLUSION

Environmental problems are results of human activities. In order to rehabilitate the environment, we have to re-educate the self as moral agent, by taking good care of the self, by rehabilitating human values, we can then take good care the environment, our common home. The use of cleaner production technologies and change of lifestyle are desired to impact a change in environment.

Foucault's concept of care of the self will help us develop our humanness and maturity. Thus, it has a pragmatic effect. Not only has it opened a "window" to sentiments. It takes the world into action and speech and to take good care the earth. It calls and binds people, it gathers people. Thus, it inspires and pushes people to build a community.

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