

Η φύση τόσο μακριά, τόσο κοντά

Μια οικοκριτική μελέτη για τη νεοελληνική πεζογραφία

ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑ ΝΑΤΣΙΝΑ



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Abstract

This study examines some emblematic, but also some lesser-known modern Greek prose works of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, to discuss the functions and representations of nature in these works from an ecological perspective. This perspective places the project within the framework of ecocriticism. After a presentation of the history and issues of this branch of environmental humanities, the individual chapters examine the works in their socio-cultural contexts, in the order of their chronological succession. Topics discussed are the political, ideological and economic presuppositions of interwar bourgeois love of nature; the distant idealization of nature in the intellectual nationalism of the 1930s generation; its ideological abuse in the service of eugenics in the same period; the identification of women with character

in a movement that initially idealizes and eventually repels both in male writers and, in the opposite direction, the acceptance of the materiality and diversity of nature in women writers from the interwar to the early postwar years; the threat of nature's return as an oppressed but liberating Other in the aggressive urbanization of the 1960s; the end of the world as a consequence of rampant growth, individualism and competition and the possibility of salvation in the opening up, acceptance of fluidity and the connection of the human being to the whole of the natural realm. In this study, the hierarchical dichotomy of human/nature recurs consistently in many of the texts. In contrast, others highlight the dead ends to which this oppressive and devaluing division leads, as it becomes clear that humans are nature.

