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Discursive Dissection

**This thesis questions the links between
animal use in the West, genetic engineering
and the patenting of living organisms**

**A thesis presented in partial fulfilment
of the requirements
for the Master of Philosophy
in Development Studies at
Massey University**

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helped me carry out this work.**

**I dedicate this thesis to all the
millions of laboratory animals that suffer in the
cruel deception that is vivisection.**

**DISCURSIVE DISSECTION :
THIS THESIS QUESTIONS THE LINKS BETWEEN ANIMAL USE IN THE WEST,
GENETIC ENGINEERING AND THE PATENTING OF LIVING ORGANISMS**

Contents

Introduction

Chapter 1. Theoretical Overview of Human Relationships to the Natural World

- 1.1 Discourse Analysis and Framework
 - 1.2.1 Maori Worldview
 - 1.2.2 Indigenous Worldviews
 - 1.2.3 Christian Worldview
 - 1.2.4 Muslim Worldview
 - 1.2.5 Hindu Worldview
 - 1.2.6 Buddhist Worldview
 - 1.2.7 Eco-Feminist Worldview
 - 1.2.8 Western Reductionist Scientific Worldview
 - 1.2.9 Neo-Liberal Economic Worldview
 - 1.2.10 Modernist Development Worldview

Chapter 2. Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Systems (TRIPS) & Free Trade

- 2.1 Overview of TRIPS Agreement and Free Trade
- 2.2 Domestic Law
 - 2.2.1. Te Tiriti o Waitangi Implications
- 2.3 International Situation report
- 2.4 Indigenous Peoples Work
- 2.5 Links to Uses of Animals in the West
- 2.6 Sites of resistance to TRIPS
- 2.7 Links to Aid and Development

Chapter 3. Genetic Engineering

- 3.1 Overview of Genetic Engineering
- 3.2 Science for Public Good or Private Gain?
- 3.3 The Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) into Genetically Modified Organisms
- 3.4 Links to TRIPS and Free Trade
- 3.5 Links to Uses of Animals in the West
- 3.6 Sites of resistance to Genetic Engineering
- 3.7 Links to Aid and Development

Chapter 4. Uses of Animals in the West

- 4.1 Overview of Animal Research, Testing and Farming
- 4.2 Sites of resistance to Animal Research, Testing and Farming
- 4.3 Links to Genetic Engineering
- 4.4 Links to TRIP's and Free Trade
- 4.5 Links to Aid and Development

Chapter 5. Discussion

Chapter 6. Conclusions

Chapter 7. Bibliography

Abstract

Is another paradigm possible? A 21st Century praxis where values are not based primarily on economics, but on the wider spiritual values that sustain and nurture all creatures and the natural world. Can we stop the commodification of everything, even the essence of life itself, the DNA, the cell-lines, stem cells, our genes and the genetic makeup of all life-forms? I wish to bring an eco-feminist analysis to these discussions which will provide the standpoint from which to critique patriarchy's oppression and perceptions of women, non-human animals and the environment. The patriarchal construction of knowledge is examined as it is situated in the colonial and post-colonial periods in Aotearoa New Zealand. Included also, is a critique of capitalism as the pervading global neo-liberal economic system, incorporating historic events such as colonisation, the Industrial Revolution and the rise of western reductionist science. This is positioned against the historical epistemological backdrop of the main prevailing attitudes to the natural world (the environment) and our relationships with other non-human animal species on earth. Included are the relevant aspects of the worldviews of indigenous peoples including Maori, the religious standpoints of Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist. The ideological discourses of neo-liberal capitalism, western reductionist science, modernist development and spiritual eco-feminism are also examined.