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Panel 4.5: Enhancing Cooperation

Salim and Women: A Korean Ecofeminist Talk of Empowerment

Confronting the ecological crisis as an intergenerational as well as global vulnerability, this study is an ecofeminist talk of Korean women's empowerment. The Korean term salim is deeply related in women in Korea because salim in its narrow meaning refers to household tasks which traditionally have been recognized exclusively women's duty. Despite of the genderized degradation of both women and salim, activities of salim make things alive and enliven nature narrowly in a family and broadly in this planet. The meaning of salim should be understood as enlivening and empowering beyond genderized roles. As a constructive practice of recycling, this paper introduces Korean women's salim movements (ah-na-ba-da) which includes saving (ah), sharing (na), exchanging (ba), and reusing (da). Korean women's recycling movements are from their planetary spirituality. Salim is Korean women's empowerment for living together with nature beyond individual survival. Indeed, it is the power of Life. Salim creates and recreates life abundantly and sustainably in terms of quality, and finally heals and overcomes the brokenness of natural harmony.