

The Ecology of Finnegans Wake (Florida James Joyce)

By Alison Lacivita



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"A remarkable work in three areas: the field of ecocriticism, to which it contributes a huge amount of historical and bibliographic information; the practice of genetic criticism in Joyce studies; and the exploration of ecological interests, themes, allusions, arguments, and manifestations in *Finnegans Wake*."—Margot Norris, editor of the Norton Critical Edition of Joyce's *Dubliners*

"A terrifically useful study. Makes the text shimmer with new possibilities by alerting the reader to Joyce's interest in hydro-engineering, green belts, meteorology, polar exploration, and much more."—Cheryl Temple Herr, author of *Critical Regionalism and Cultural Studies*

"Demonstrates the promise of an 'urban ecological criticism' that integrates the largely pastoral emphases of ecocritical inquiry into modernist studies."—Thomas Jackson Rice, author of *Cannibal Joyce*

In this book—one of the first ecocritical explorations of both Irish literature and modernism—Alison Lacivita defies the popular view of James Joyce as a thoroughly urban writer by bringing to light his consistent engagement with nature. Using genetic criticism to investigate Joyce's source texts, notebooks, and proofs, Lacivita shows how Joyce developed ecological themes in *Finnegans Wake* over successive drafts.

Making apparent a love of growing things and a lively connection with the natural world across his texts, Lacivita's approach reveals Joyce's keen attention to the Irish landscape, meteorology, urban planning, Dublin's ecology, the exploitation of nature, and fertility and reproduction. Lacivita unearths a vital quality of Joyce's work that has largely gone undetected, decisively aligning ecocriticism with both modernism and Irish studies.

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Editorial Review

Review

"The range of topics addressed in *The Ecology of Finnegans Wake* is expansive: polar exploration, meteorology, climatology, urban and suburban planning, water management, conservation biology. Lacivita takes great care to locate these discourses within the cultural and intellectual history of the time—among the many advantages of her genetic approach is its insistence on rigorous historicism—but it is no accident that so many of these topics are of crucial relevance today....It is not only among the strongest monographs of Joyce scholarship in recent memory, but it is also one of the most innovative works of contemporary ecocriticism."—*ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*

About the Author

Alison Lacivita is lecturer in English at University of Colorado Denver.

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