**Gender Nature Culture week04**

**Darwin and Feminism**

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**1. On what grounds have feminists critiqued Darwin’s theory of evolution? What kind of an approach to critique does Grosz suggest instead?**

According to Sue V. Rosser, “Darwin’s work is biased.” Darwin should discard the view of males as an active evolutionary or sexual agent. She suggested putting more attention to females’ active position. In Descent of Man, the theory stated that the winning males will own more charming females and more offspring with these females. Through more and more generations, these characters which help the males defeat others will remain. The whole theory, namely, is about “winners and losers.” It justified the “phallocentric and racist domination” which contributed to “Eurocentric patriarchal cultural” till now. It also justified the dominating relation within races, sexes (men to women), and for the human to nature.

**2. Describe the interrelated workings of the three principles of evolution that Grosz explicates from Darwin. What is the role of sexual or artificial selection in relation to, and as part of, natural selection? Does sexual selection mean that ‘culture’ is already part of nature?**

The three principles of evolution are: 1) Individual variation; 2) Heritability; 3) Natural selection. The individual variation provides the diversities of different characters. These are important materials for further natural selection. At first, the group of individuals might keep growing. The excessive numbers of individuals will be challenged due to the scarcity of resources and the environment with low capability. The individuals would start to compete with each other. The remaining individuals are mostly stronger and wiser.

Sexual selection, which belongs to natural selection, here could be linked to racial variation. An Individual’s sexual attractiveness might lead to racial variations. This effect is more obvious in males. It’s about aesthetic and individual motivation.

Artificial selection is also a mechanism to filter the individuals but via human criteria. The essences of artificial selection and natural selection are close to each other.

To answer the question “Does sexual selection mean that ‘culture’ is already part of nature,” we must remember that sexual selection also happens besides human beings. We can observe sexual selection in other animals. It’s hard to define “culture” out of human beings’ world.

**5. What does it mean that feminist theory should put itself at risk and how might we understand as its own “evolutionary” modes of self-overcoming, where it is confronted with its own limits?**

The work of Darwin could help feminism become more “politicized, radical, and far-reaching” regarding natural science and biology. The focus on organic becoming provides feminism a different perspective. However, we must remember that Darwin’s work itself is not feminism. It cannot be applied to feminism directly.