

## ECOFEMINIST TRAUMA NARRATIVES IN MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE EXPLORE GENDERED LANDSCAPES, SPECTRAL ECOLOGIES, AND THE AESTHETICS OF RESISTANCE

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### ABSTRACT

*In an era of escalating ecological collapse and patriarchal resurgence, the Gothic genre has emerged as a potent aesthetic terrain for articulating the intertwined violence inflicted upon women and the environment. Yet, the critical discourse has yet to fully interrogate how Gothic literature stages ecofeminist trauma—where bodily, ecological, and spectral violence converge in narrative form. This paper addresses a critical lacuna in Gothic literary studies by examining the genre through the integrated lens of ecofeminist trauma theory. While recent scholarship in ecocriticism, feminist trauma, and Gothic studies has proliferated, there remains a marked absence of sustained inquiry into how bodily, ecological, and spectral violence converge within Gothic narrative structures. Existing approaches tend to isolate environmental degradation from gendered oppression or treat trauma as a solely psychological phenomenon, thereby overlooking the entangled violence that shapes contemporary eco-gothic literature. In response, this study poses the question: how do contemporary Gothic novels represent ecofeminist trauma through gendered landscapes, and how do they construct narratives of ecological resistance within the Gothic mode? To answer this, the article develops an original methodological framework—the Ecofeminist Gothic Trauma Matrix (EGTM)—which synthesizes eco-trauma theory, feminist spatial analysis, and the aesthetics of the Gothic sublime. This triangulated approach enables critical decoding of environmental violence as it is inscribed across female bodies, haunted terrains, and fragmented narrative forms. The corpus comprises three transnational Gothic texts—Mexican Gothic (Moreno-Garcia), Annihilation (VanderMeer), and Ghost Wall (Moss)—selected for their radical engagements with ecological collapse, patriarchal violence, and narrative resistance. Through close textual analysis, the article demonstrates how these novels construct landscapes as sites of corporeal inscription, memory, and resistance. By introducing EGTM as a generative and scalable critical tool, the study offers the first comprehensive framework for theorizing the intersection of ecofeminism, trauma, and Gothic narrative—marking a significant advance in the field and opening new directions for literary, ecological, and feminist critique.*

**KEYWORDS:** Ecofeminist Gothic Trauma, Gendered Landscapes, Posthuman Ecology, Spectral Resistance, Narrative Abjection

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