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Introduction

- Ecology is about the interrelationship of organisms and their environment.
- Various academic disciplines have over time covered ecological aspects.
- So far, ability studies, the study of the generation and impact of ability expectations and ableism, are rarely employed as a lens in ecology research.

Ability expectations and Ableism

- The field of disability studies and disabled people activists were the first to look at the cultural dynamics of ability preferences, coining the term ableism [1] as a cultural concept in the process. The term ableism allowed for highlighting the negative treatment [2] disabled people experience because their body linked abilities do not fit the cultural preference for species-typical normative ability functioning [3-5].

However, ableism is a much broader phenomenon.

- Every individual, household, community, group, sector, region, and country cherishes and promotes numerous abilities and often these ability expectations (want stage) morph into forms of ableism where one not only desires or expects certain abilities but one perceives a given ability as essential (need stage)[6] [7].
- What abilities one favours and what ableisms one exhibits impacts how one perceives oneself, how one is perceived by others, how one relates to others of ones species and other species, and it also impacts human-nature relationships[8].

Eco-ableism

- As to the human-environment relationship we introduce here the concept of Eco-ableism as a conceptual framework to analyse environment enabling and disabling human ability desires (Fig. 1).
- Different cultural understanding of the relationship between humans and nature (e.g. anthropocentric versus bio or eco-centric) (Fig. 2) comes with different ability expectations and the exhibition of different forms of ableism[8].
- Ability expectations and ableism is a useful addition to analyze ecological dynamics. It allows us to anticipate whether various ecological movements are at odds or synergetic with each other (indeed different ecological movements have different ability expectations). Ecological discourses within different cultures or societies vary due to difference in ability expectations within these cultures or societies. Employing the ability expectation lens allows one to ascertain whether different parties in a dispute can come to an ecological agreement

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Figure 1

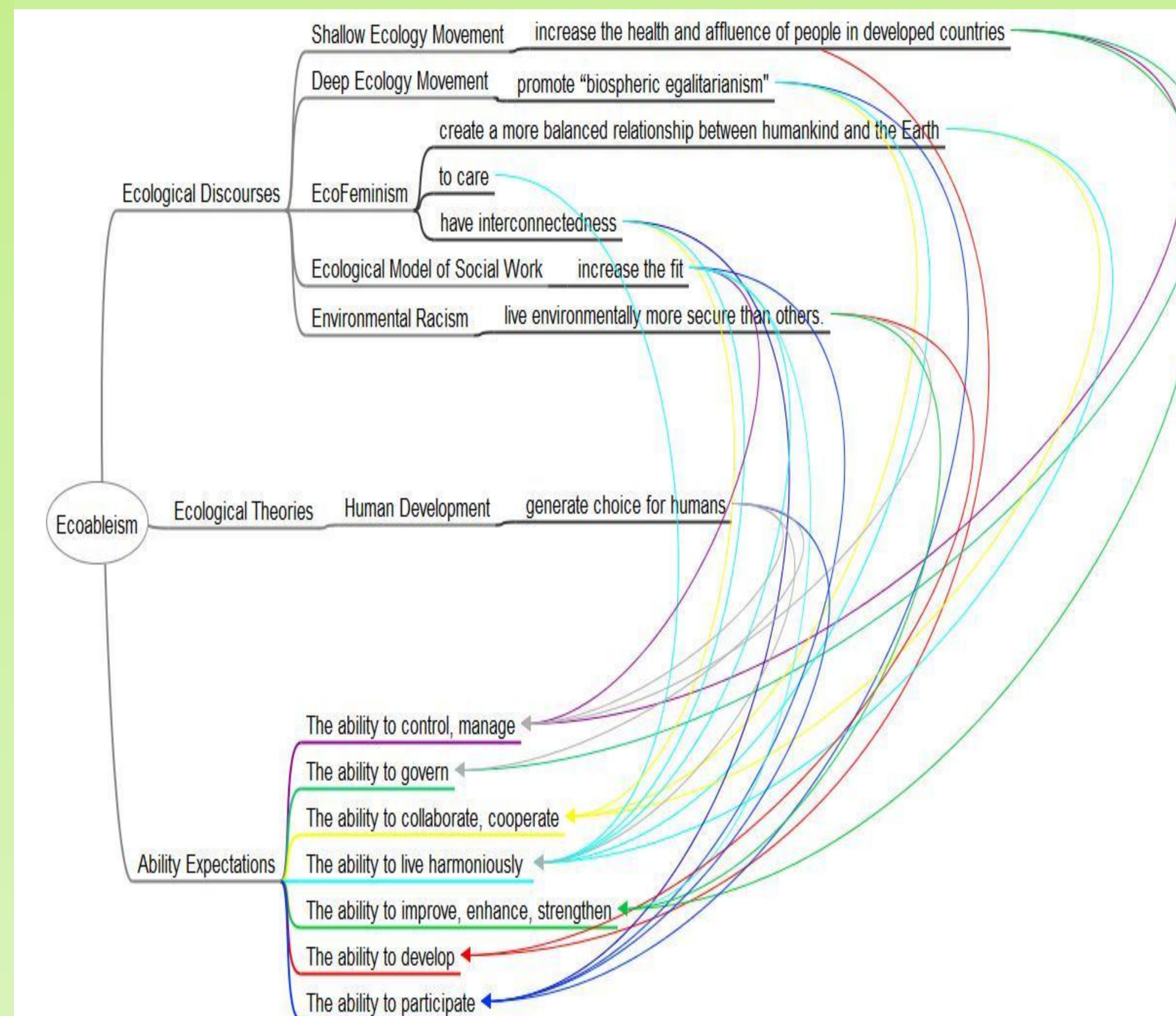
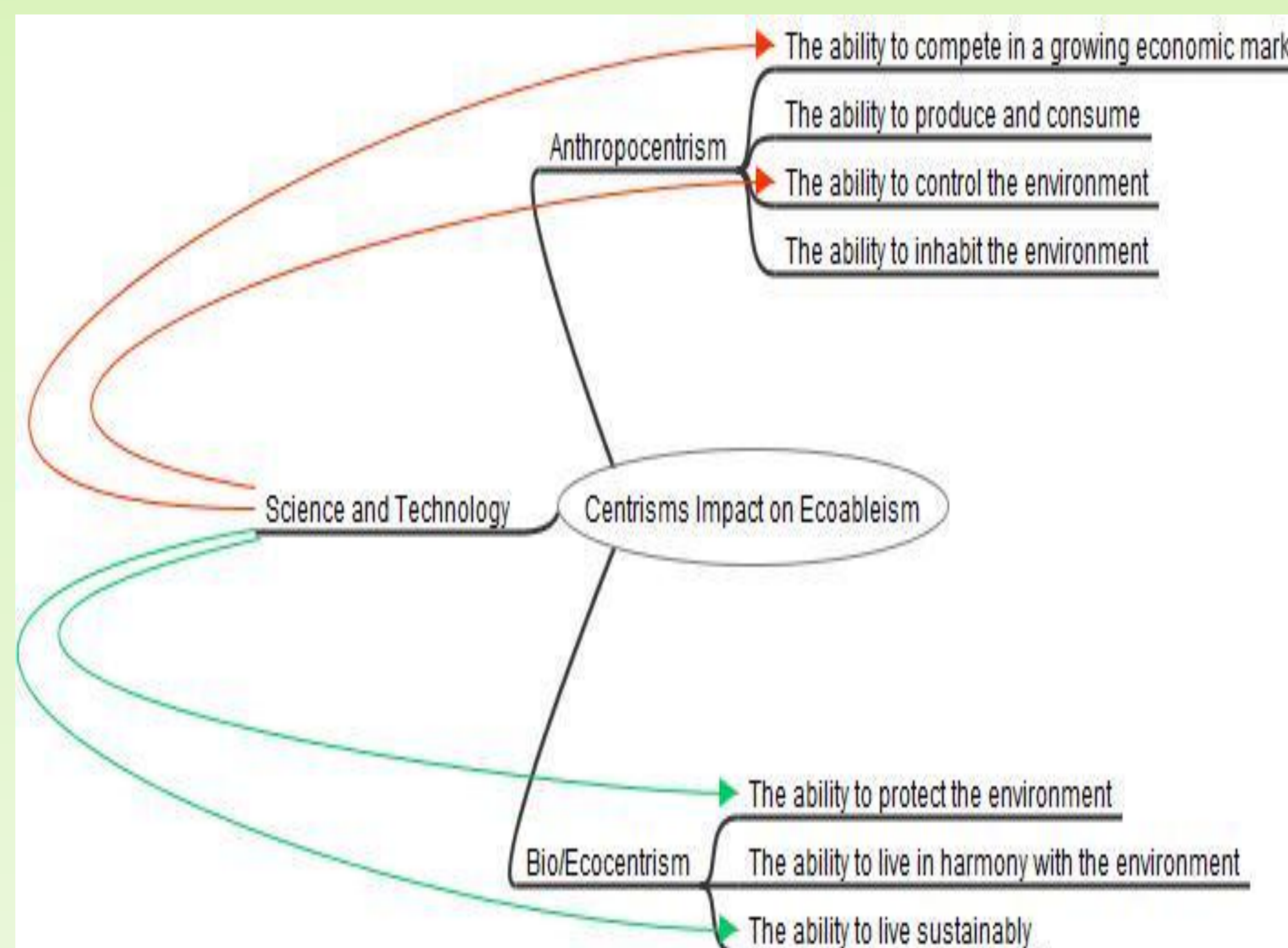


Figure 2



Ability expectations of two ecological discourses:

- Shallow ecology movement = increase ability to increase the health and affluence of people in developed countries [9].
- Deep ecology movement = ability to promote "biospheric egalitarianism, the view that all living things are alike in having value in their own right, independent of their usefulness to others"[9].

Eco-ableism and technoscience

- Ability expectations are linked forever to the advancement of technoscience and its products. expectations.
- In 2012 the journal of *Ethics, Policy, and Environment* solicited opened peer commentaries for a target article titled "Human Engineering and Climate Change"[10]. In the article the authors proposed human engineering with the end goal of changing body abilities as a tool to fight climate change. They proposed human engineering as a save alternative to geo-engineering because they believe change in ability expectations of humans (for example consumerism) through education is not really working.

Conclusion

- Ability expectations and ableism
- useful as an analytical lens in an inter-, trans- and intra- disciplinarily way to generate policies and advance the relationship between humans and their environment.
- is one essential aspect for analysing existing and future cultural dynamics of various ecologies;
- can become a seed for new discourses, perspectives and paradigms.
- We suggest field of Ability studies, which is described as the investigation of ability expectation and ableim and its dynamic. [11]