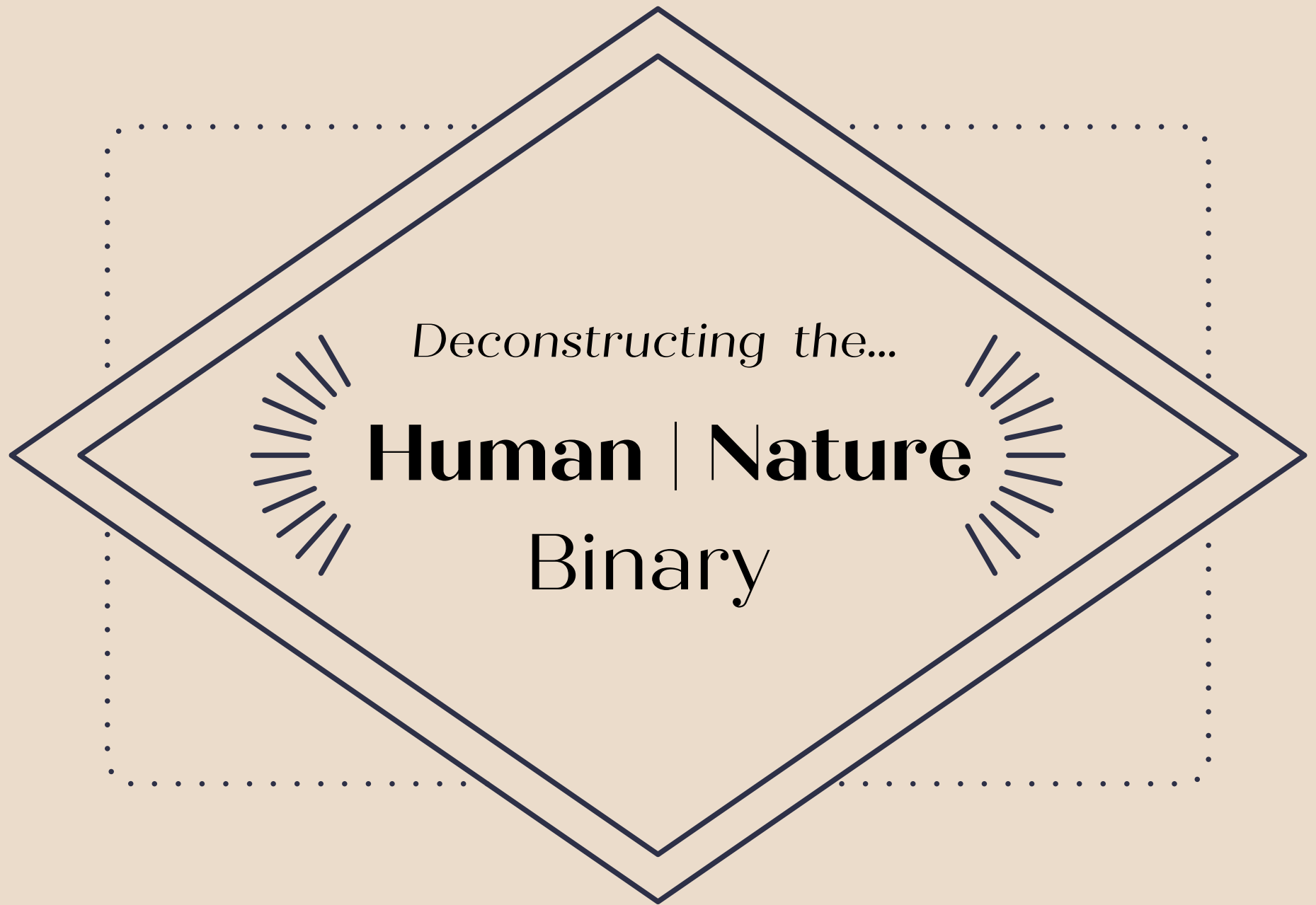


a queer sex ed community curriculum zine



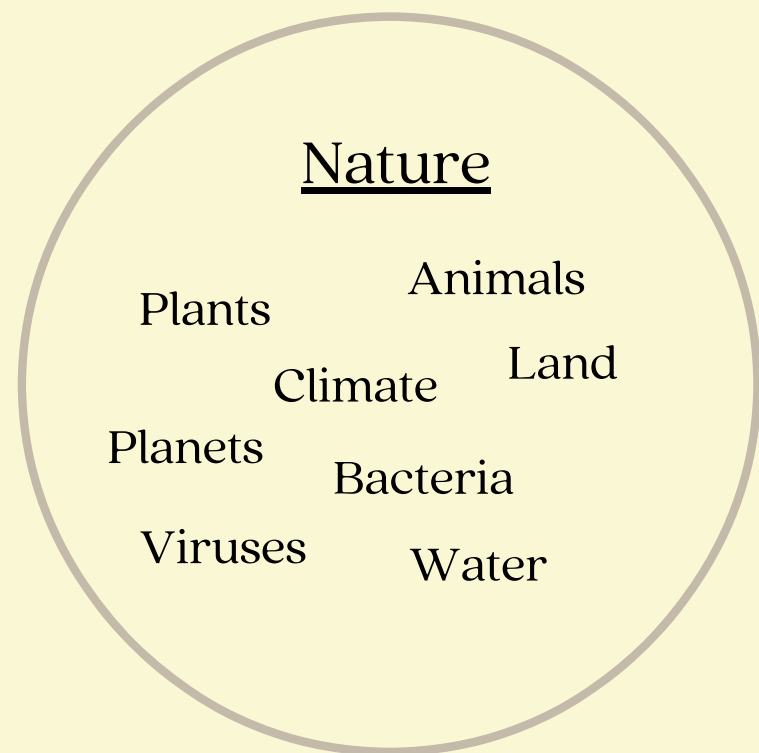
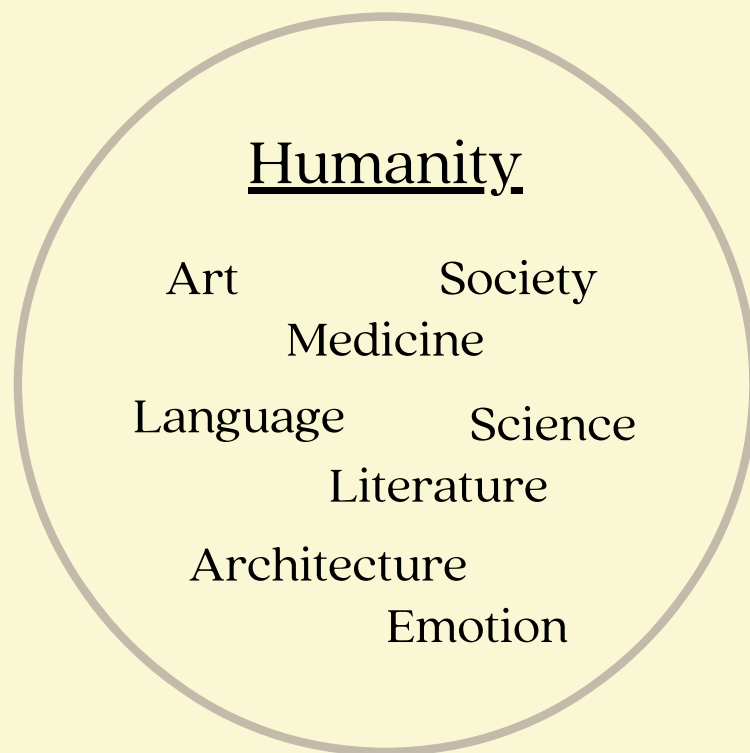
A zine exploring the racist history of the binary between humanity and nature and its role in upholding **white supremacy, colonization, and environmental injustices** today.

CW: discussions of enslavement, eugenics, Indigenous genocide, and land-theft.

What is the **human** | **nature** binary?

Our society, culture, and materials tend to be labeled as "**man-made.**"

Everything else, like *plants, animals, the land,* and the *climate,* tends to be labeled as "**natural.**"



But this binary is constructed, and it's meaning has changed through time. In our current society, this binary is used as a tool to gain **wealth and social power.**

Colonialism relies on this binary.

(Capitalism does too.)

All social binaries create an imbalance of power.



The human | nature binary affects who is allocated **human rights** and how those rights are **protected**.

This binary is also used to rationalize **racist policies** and **ideologies** by justifying the **inequitable** distribution of claims to **power** and **privilege** as a “natural” hierarchy.

When did this binary arise?



Pre-1800's

For centuries, the Bible and pre-enlightenment philosophers dictated who was human and who was not. **Humans were believed to be distinctly separate from animals because they had souls.**

1800's

Darwinian evolution claims that **humans and animals evolved from the same organisms**, and therefore are **not biologically separate.**

Post-1800's

Evolutionary theory threatens white supremacy. The field of eugenics is created to separate white people from people of color. Eugenicists exploit the theory, claiming that white people are "more evolved," thus **reinforcing the binary between humans and nature.**

Eugenics and the **human** | **nature binary**:



Evolutionary theory **delegitimized** the *divide between white people and people of color.*

The idea that **all humans evolved from a common ancestor** countered the idea that white people and Black people were not the same biological species. *This was an idea that was fundamental to enslavement and segregation in the U.S.*

Faced with this new information, white eugenicists (who were often enslavers themselves) developed a new ideology that misused evolutionary theory to **reinforce white supremacy.**

The human | nature binary is used to uphold white supremacy.

The human | nature binary became a tool for **rationalizing** and **defending** enslavement while maintaining the **oppression** and **exploitation** of Black people in the U.S.

By claiming that white people were more evolved than Black people, eugenicists and racist policymakers defined "humanity" through whiteness, weaponizing evolutionary theory in order to push Black people away from the "human" side of the binary.

Denying the humanity of Black people and other people of color reinforced the **economies, cultures, and institutions** of systemic racism.



The human | nature binary is used to **validate the land-theft and genocide of Indigenous people.**



Similar to how the binary was imposed and used to dehumanize Black people, the binary was used to validate the **genocide and land-theft of Indigenous people** in the U.S.

- *Indigenous people were classified as "less civilized," which was used as a rationale in the cultural genocide that took place during early U.S. colonial expansion.*
- *Land-theft was rationalized through eugenics as expanding the "civilized man's" land.*



Deconstructing the human | nature binary:



All humans are a part of nature. Our **culture, inventions, languages,** and **behaviors** are also a part of nature.

The biological hierarchy of races is a racist, colonial myth used to reinforce white supremacy and defend the inhumane and violent treatment of BIPOC in the U.S.

Maintaining this binary not only **upholds white supremacy,** but it rationalizes a history of **violence, enslavement,** and **colonization** while justifying the many on-going **environmental injustices** that occur every day.



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