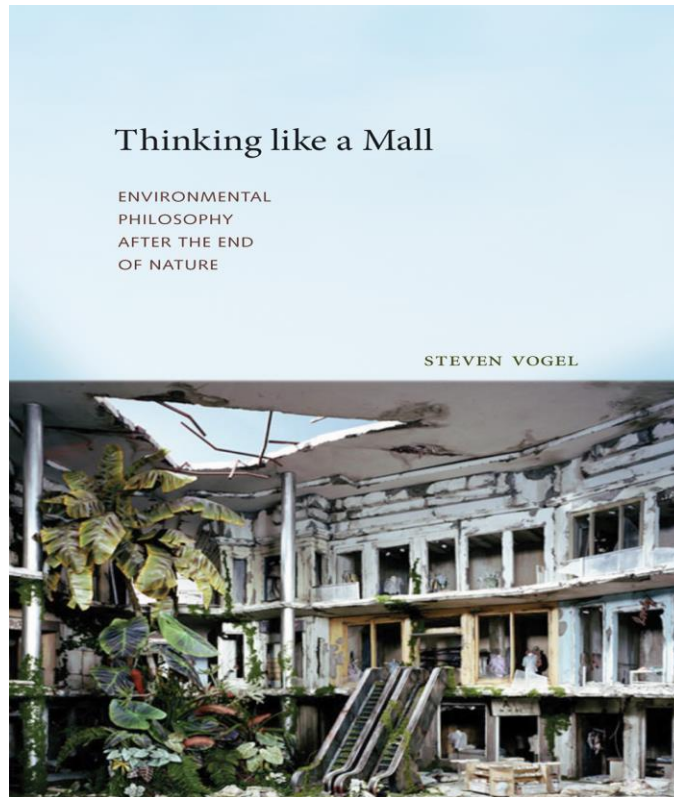


# Steven Vogel, “Thinking Like a Mall”

5:15pm, Tuesday October 27, 2015

Comparative Studies Seminar Room, 451 Hagerty



Aldo Leopold said we should learn to “think like a mountain,” recognizing a complexity and independence in natural entities that ground an obligation to protect them from destruction by humans. But why do only natural entities deserve protection? I trace the history of Columbus’s own City Center Mall, which was built in the 1980s and flourished for some years before declining into bankruptcy and eventually being demolished. Malls too, I argue, possess complexity and independence, and yet unlike mountains they seem (like Rodney Dangerfield) to get no respect: nobody seems to find *their* destruction morally objectionable. My paper proposes that mountains and malls actually have more in common than one might imagine –a conclusion with important implications for environmental thinking.

Steven Vogel’s book *Thinking like a Mall: Environmental Philosophy after the End of Nature* was recently published by MIT Press. He is Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department at Denison University, and author as well of *Against Nature: The Concept of Nature in Critical Theory* (SUNY Press).