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Review: The SAGE Handbook of Nature
Edited by Terry Marsden

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Marsden, Terry, Ed. *The SAGE Handbook of Nature*, 3 volumes. London: SAGE, 2018. LXVIII+1564 pp. ISBN-13: 978-1446298572, hardcover, US\$615.00.

The British publisher SAGE has a long tradition in reference books related to environmental studies, after George Philander's edited *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change* and Paul Robbins's edited *Sage Encyclopedia of Environment and Society*. *The SAGE Handbook of Nature* is an unequalled, multivolume sum of 74 commissioned chapters (divided into 14 thematic sections) bringing multiple viewpoints. Totalling almost 70 pages, the general introductory chapter situates this handbook's approach which aims to conceive "Nature, the environment and natural processes at the heart of interdisciplinary social sciences" (p. LX). Moreover, editor Terry Marsden adds that "this Handbook is explicitly multidisciplinary in scope and contents; and it attempts to problematize the quest and agenda for interdisciplinary environmental social science..." (p. LX).

Inevitably, the focus on the Anthropocene or "the humanisation of the natural" characterizes many chapters, especially in the first two volumes (p. LXI). The richness of this cutting-edge handbook lies in its inspiring conceptualization of the current environmental issues through various concepts like social representations, the attachment to places, agency, empowerment, or the noble idea of "curating the future" (Alex Franklin, p. 278). Further on, Franklin formulates the possibility of "co-creatively developing place-sensitive forms of transdisciplinary inquiry, academic, policy and practitioner participants alike can all be encouraged" (Alex Franklin, p. 279). Indeed, the transdisciplinary approach makes this rigorous handbook relevant for many traditional disciplines (such as geography or political science) and as well for hybrid domains of research such as environmental studies, food studies, or cultural studies.

Beginning at p. 439, Volume 2 pursues the previous quest to apprehend nature within the social sciences' frameworks. Reflecting on the obvious relationship between risk and environmental studies, Ortwin Renn's chapter on "Social theories of risk and the environment" articulates risk studies according to various theoretical approaches (including structuralism, constructivism, rational choice, plus integrative approaches), reminding us that "Risk perceptions differ considerably among social and cultural groups" (p. 458). Interestingly, this Chapter 24 concludes with the "social amplification metaphor" (p. 480).

Many contributors and teams of researchers (like in Chapter 33 on "Supermarkets, the 'Consumer' and Responsibilities for Sustainable food") discuss some fundamental issues such as "The Responsibilization of the 'Consumer'" (p. 641) and "Food Waste Reduction" (p. 645). But at some point, one potential reader might ask: do we find here some essays related solely to Nature in its ecological sense? That is: purely conceived nature without any social sciences' interpretation? Like in the traditional natural sciences and biology? Yes, indeed. For example, the illustrated Chapter 45 concentrates on the "Modes of Naturing: Or Stories of Salmon" and explains how to distinguish wild and domesticated salmon in Norway (p. 868); then, we have comparisons between the salmon in Norway and the Pacific Salmon (p. 875).

Pursuing from p. 935, Volume 3 refocuses again on social sciences. Among the most interesting contributions, Shonil Bhagwat's Chapter 51 about "Non-Native Invasive Species: Nature, Society and the Management of Novel Nature in the Anthropocene" provides more than just a description of many cases of "species that humans have moved from one continent to another, either purposefully or accidentally" (p. 986), which sometimes become invasive or hazardous since this essay "critically examines policies, practices and ideologies of invasive species management" (p. 987). Here, the author provides some very accurate comparisons between two distinct moments: before and after the Anthropocene (see Table 51.2, p. 996).

Reviewing and validating such an impressive sum requires consideration of various dimensions; in the case of this SAGE Handbook of Nature, it is not only a matter of reuniting the foremost scholars in the field and covering countless facets and subthemes, but the editor also must make sure ongoing problems and emerging issues are being commented. For example, we find here an interesting discussion by Fabrizio Frascaroli about "the sanctification of landscapes and natural features" (p. 1013). Readers are gifted by many conceptual and methodological discussions, for example about the distinctions between multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary,

drawing from a definition by Roderick J. Lawrence (see Box 54.1, p. 1069). Most of the final chapters focus on emerging trends in Urban Studies.

Because of its cutting-edge dimension and given its retail price, this SAGE Handbook of Nature could certainly be considered as an important resource for libraries in English-speaking universities; but maybe not for the "Reference" section, because graduate students might want to borrow these three volumes separately, one at the time.

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