

Human ecology – the study and practice of relationships between the natural and the social environment – has gained prominence as scholars seek more effectively to engage with pressing global concerns. In the past 70 years most human ecology has skirted the fringes of geography, sociology and biology. This volume pioneers radical new directions. In particular, it explores the power of indigenous and traditional peoples' epistemologies both to critique and to complement insights from modernity and postmodernity.

Aimed at an international readership, its contributors show that an inter-cultural and transdisciplinary approach is required. The demands of our era require a scholarship of ontological depth: an approach that can not just debate issues, but also address questions of practice and meaning.

Organized into three sections – Head, Heart and Hand – this volume covers the following key research areas:

Theories of Human Ecology
Indigenous and Wisdom Traditions
Eco-spiritual Epistemologies and Ontology
Research practice in Human Ecology
The researcher-researched relationship
Research priorities for a holistic world

With the study of human ecology becoming increasingly imperative, this comprehensive volume will be a valuable addition for classroom use.

Below the clamor of a bustling world, this volume imparts the seeds of a radical alternative for human ecology. They lie beneath the surface: amid the whispered voices at the margin, in the praxis of traditional spirituality, along the dusty road of post-modernism, and from the ivy halls of science. This is not the human ecology of a prehistoric fireside or an academic symposium. It is an unconventional and timely pedagogy of hope.

From the Foreword by Richard J. Borden, Rachel Carson Chair in Human Ecology, College of the Atlantic and Past-President/Executive Director, Society for Human Ecology

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