

Environmental Social Sciences: Methods and Research Design

From Vaccaro Ismael Smith Eric Alden Aswani Shankar

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The relationship between human communities and the environment is extremely complex. In order to resolve the issues involved with this relationship, interdisciplinary research combining natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities is necessary. Here, specialists summarise methods and research strategies for various aspects of social research devoted to environmental issues. Each chapter is illustrated with ethnographic and environmental examples, ranging from Australia to Amazonia, from Madagascar to the United States, and from prehistoric and historic cases to contemporary rural and urban ones. It deals with climate change, deforestation, environmental knowledge, natural reserves, politics and ownership of natural resources, and the effect of differing spatial and temporal scales. Contributing to the intellectual project of interdisciplinary environmental social science, this book shows the possibilities social science can provide to environmental studies and to larger global problems and thus will be of equal interest to social and natural scientists and policy makers.

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"... very sophisticated multidisciplinary collection of 14 essays... Highly recommended."
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About the Author
Ismael Vaccaro teaches anthropology and environmental studies at McGill University and is the director of the Neotropical Program managed in collaboration with the Smithsonian Tropical Institute.

Eric Alden Smith co-founded and directed the Environmental Anthropology Graduate Program at the University of Washington and served as President of the Evolutionary Anthropology Society. He has published extensively on systems of production and reproduction in various small-scale societies, and currently codirects an NSF IGERT program.

Shankar Aswani is a recipient of the prestigious Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation (2005), the first time in its 15-year history that the world's premier award in marine conservation has been given to an anthropologist. He has collaborated in the development of a network of locally managed Marine Protected Areas and small-scale rural development projects in the Solomon Islands.

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