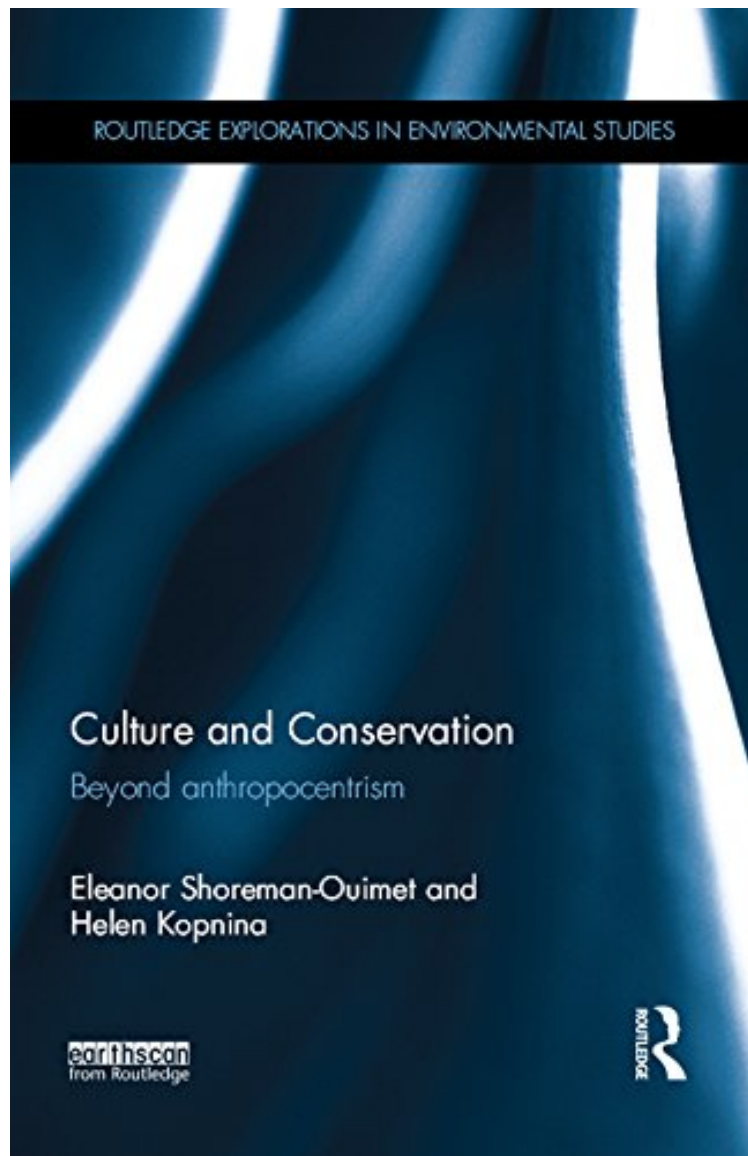


[PDF] Culture and Conservation: Beyond Anthropocentrism (Routledge Explorations in Environmental Studies)

## Culture and Conservation: Beyond Anthropocentrism (Routledge Explorations in Environmental Studies)

*Eleanor Shoreman-Ouimet, Helen Kopnina*  
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**Eleanor Shoreman-Ouimet, Helen Kopnina : Culture and Conservation: Beyond Anthropocentrism (Routledge Explorations in Environmental Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Culture and Conservation: Beyond Anthropocentrism (Routledge Explorations in Environmental Studies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. While I would like to have seen this sentiment directly applied to the ...By nathan poirier Culture and Conservation: Beyond Anthropocentrism provides a theoretical broadening of their two recent previous compilations ( Environmental Anthropology Today Environmental Anthropology: Future Directions). Culture and Conservation ranges widely in topics which introduce and encourage the adoption of the idea of non-anthropocentric conservation by anthropologists. Considering the niche occupied by anthropologists—;at the nexus of where culture and conservation collide—;each chapter tackles a different aspect of conservation and how anthropologists can play a pivotal role. A few overarching themes dominate. These are: human overpopulation, taking a pragmatic, practical and balanced stance on opposing conservation views, and extending conservation to include the more-than-human world. Overall, the authors embrace an intersectional viewpoint condemning all oppression and championing equal and fair treatment for all in the name of conservation, and hopefully, within anthropology. What is in wide agreement among anthropologists is that letting individual people and/or cultures die out is completely unacceptable. Yet the analogous viewpoint towards the disappearance of nonhumans is precisely that held by many of those in anthropology and is often considered perfectly acceptable as long as those disappearing are not human (see Chapter 2). An early question the authors pose resonates vibrantly throughout the book: "the thorny question as to whether anyone, advantaged or disadvantaged, has the right to prioritize their own interests to the extent that other lives are deemed expendable" (p. 33). While I would like to have seen this sentiment directly applied to the study of food, Shoreman-Ouimet and Kopnina have written a thorough, compassionate and forward-thinking volume addressing some of the ways humanity has gone astray and suggest some ways in which anthropology can play a key role in helping us get things back on track.

Today, there is growing interest in conservation and anthropologists have an important role to play in helping conservation succeed for the sake of humanity and for the sake of other species. Equally important, however, is the fact that we, as the species that causes extinctions, have a moral responsibility to those whose evolutionary unfolding and very future we threaten. This volume is an examination of the relationship between conservation and the social sciences, particularly anthropology. It calls for increased collaboration between anthropologists, conservationists and environmental scientists, and advocates for a shift towards an environmentally focused perspective that embraces not only cultural values and human rights, but also the intrinsic value and rights to life of nonhuman species. This book demonstrates that cultural and biological diversity are intimately interlinked, and equally threatened by the industrialism that endangers the planet's life-giving processes. The consideration of ecological data, as well as an expansion of ethics that embraces more than one species, is essential to a well-rounded understanding of the connections between human behavior and environmental wellbeing. This book gives students and researchers in anthropology, conservation, environmental ethics and across the social sciences an invaluable insight into how innovative and intensive new interdisciplinary approaches, questions, ethics and subject pools can close the gap between culture and conservation.

"The authors' stands are moderate and reasonable, and above all well-considered, and as such make very important contributions to the literature—especially within anthropology, where emotion and reaction have substituted for thought in most of the controversial and critical literature. The world needs this book."—Eugene N. Anderson, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of California Riverside, USA "This courageous and thoughtful volume encourages all of us to relocate humankind within a shared multispecies world, recognizing the interdependence of all living beings and the ethical and practical problems raised by anthropocentricity. Challenging long-held assumptions about conservation, it leads the reader persuasively towards a more equal valorization of cultural and biological diversity."—Veronica Strang, Durham University, UK "Biologists are troubled by the "social construction of nature" argument because the nature they study is so obviously concrete, interesting, and valuable for its own sake. Finally, with this book, we have social scientists vigorously critiquing narrow anthropocentrism and bemoaning its inevitable consequence, biotic impoverishment. It is a delight to read anthropologists who cherish the intrinsic value of nonhuman life."—Reed F. Noss, University of Central Florida, USA About the Author Eleanor Shoreman-Ouimet is an environmental anthropologist and currently teaches in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut, USA. Her research focuses on human-environment interactions, cross-cultural conservation practices, community response to natural hazards and the effects of climate change. Helen Kopnina is currently lecturer in anthropology and development and environmental anthropology at the Leiden University, the Netherlands. She is also a coordinator and lecturer of Sustainable Business program and researcher in the fields of environmental education and environmental social sciences at The Hague University of Applied Science, the Netherlands.