

BOOK REVIEWS

COASTS for PEOPLE: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Coastal and Marine Resource Management

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Coasts for People: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Coastal and Marine Resource Management, written by Fikret Berkes, is one of the Routledge series of books designed for students, researchers, management professionals, and policy makers. This book represents a great contribution to the literature on coastal management and brings international research experience and knowledge about coasts and people.

This book provides information regarding the diversity and importance of coastal problems and contains theoretical analysis with best-practice coastal management approaches. The focus is explicitly on coastal resources and their users, respectively on the new form of resource management, with a community-based approach and looks not just at the ecological issues, but also from societal and human perspectives.

The book is organized clearly into 12 chapters, the first of which refers to coastal and marine resources and elements of paradigm change. This chapter provides a descriptive overview of coastal ecosystems and their social, ecological, and economic objectives. In author's view, one way to deal with uncertainty and complexity of a system is to build local institutions that can learn from crises, respond to change, nurture ecological memory, monitor the environment, self-organize and manage conflicts. Moreover, Berkes's approach is to build working partnership between managers and resource users.

Chapter 2 examines the context of resource management science, redefining the concepts of resource and management. There is also a discussion of the different management practices which require a readjustment of concepts. The historical "baggage" is also considered as a conventional idea of resource and management.

Chapter 3 explores the social-ecological systems, integrated complex systems that include social (human) and ecological (biophysical) subsystems. This chapter discusses drivers and globalization and uses the development of aquaculture to illustrate the interdependent nature of social and ecological subsystems. The social-ecological systems are used to explore the multiple linkages among dependent social and ecological components of marine and coastal systems.

Chapter 4 describes the history, content, and application of resilience theory. It starts by covering some of the basic concepts of resilience, which have already appeared in the preceding chapters in the context of changing paradigms, redefining management, and social-ecological systems. From author's perspective, resilience is one of the cornerstones of the arguments in this book. The Holling's notion started as an ecological concept, characterizing the capacity of a system to maintain itself in the face of disturbance (Holling, 1973). Resilience thinking deals with interacting systems of people and nature can best be managed in the face of disturbances, surprises and uncertainty (Berkes *et al.*, 2003; Walker and Salt, 2006).

Therefore, three topics of application are explored: how resilience deals with social-ecological systems; the ability to analyze the changes; and the exploration of policy options for uncertainty and change. Conventional resource maximization approaches tend to reduce natural variability, impairing the renewal capacity of ecosystems and the ability to absorb shocks and stresses.

Chapter 5 shows that many of the marine and coastal resources issues we face are problems, which can be managed by various governance approaches. This chapter contains details about commons theory, community-based management institutions, and participatory management. The reader is informed that most coastal resources are fugitive – “the fish you don’t catch today may be caught by someone else tomorrow, hence the need for collective action”.

Chapter 6 is closely related to the previous one, as co-management is one of the applications of commons theory. In author’s view, managing resources requires sharing management power and building linkages from local level to a higher one. The chapter starts with a broad description of the origins of co-management, explaining its role in four areas: practical problem solving, indigenous rights, and collaborative research and decentralization reforms. The next parts contain some mechanisms that make co-management work (relationships and networks, use of different kinds of knowledge, bringing organizations, leadership, capacity building and social learning), and, in the end, the emergence and models (communication action, instrumental action, and strategic action and self-organization) in building adaptive co-management are described.

Chapter 7 starts with an analysis of the complexity of the coast, which, according to McCay (2008), is forever changing and luminal – an intermediate state that is neither water nor land. Then the perceptions of coastal resources, their governance, and coastal ecosystems restoration are discussed in order to manage these environments.

Chapter 8 outlines the importance of protected areas and coastal conservation and their

relationships to development. Protected areas have been the primary means by which biodiversity was conserved. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is in charge to coordinate and categorize marine and terrestrial protected areas. Long-term biodiversity conservation and effectiveness of management can be achieved through reconnecting social and ecological systems and in partnership with the people making a living in that area.

Chapter 9 argues that livelihoods are a key element in the multifunctional nature of coastal resources and an important management objective. It is outlined that resource managers and policymakers need to address the needs of the coastal fishery sector. Examples in this chapter show that many small-scale fisheries have social enterprise characteristics.

Chapter 10 expands local and traditional knowledge and how such knowledge can be bridged with science to increase the range of information to bear to solve practical problems. The chapter discusses indigenous knowledge as process and the belief component in order to explore its nature and significance. Finally, using illustrations, the chapter describes practical contribution and outlined the ways in which indigenous knowledge and science can be bridged.

Chapter 11 describes ecosystem-based management. The reader is informed that ecosystem-based approaches involve adopting a holistic view of managing resources in the context of their environment. The new “marine spatial planning” concept can help address the problem of fragmented governance. The author mentions that implementing ecosystem-based management in the coastal and marine environment requires a new interdisciplinary science. In the first part of this chapter, there are some examples about ecosystem - based management in the coastal and marine environment. Furthermore, some discussions about marine and coastal environments as complex social-ecological systems and some ways to deal with complexity and uncertainty are explored (Charles, 2001; Norberg and Cumming, 2008).

- Chapter 12 represents a recap of the earlier chapters, exploring the key concepts, theories, and frameworks. Ecosystem - based management is presented as a revolutionary, and not evolutionary. Two divergent strategies about how to move into the future are explored: the neoliberal vision, with increased economic interests in decision-making, and, the second one, related to community - based vision, with social - ecological considerations in order to promote coasts which are managed for people.
- Concluding, this book offers an excellent synthesis and cutting edge knowledge, bringing together many approaches: social-ecological systems thinking, resilience, commons, co - management, community knowledge, sustainable livelihoods, and ecosystem - based management.
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Socio-Economic Geography in Russia
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This book represents the analytical overview of human-geographical research in Russia. It was prepared for the Regional Conference of the International Geographical Union held in August 2015 in Moscow. The book was published under the aegis of the Russian Geographical Society in order to present Russian human-geographical research topics and achievements to a non-Russian speaker.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part presents main issues specific to theoretical and methodological approaches in Russian human-geographical research. During Soviet times human (and, especially, economic) geography was being subject to high ideological pressure. In the post-Soviet times lack of the dominant ideology has led to the "erosion" of theoretical base of geographical science. As the authors mention, since the beginning of the 1990s, human geography in Russia has been suffering from crisis in theory and in education. Nonetheless, Russian geographers have been trying to overcome this crisis and adapt themselves to world leading trends in geographical research. In the authors' opinion, the Russian human geography is "better adapted to the universal context of Human Geography than it was 25 years ago".

Human-geographical research in Russia is grouped in 11 main scientific branches and 5 inter-disciplinary directions. The following branches enjoy a short description in the book: geography of population, urban geography, geography of natural resources, geography of industry, geography of agriculture, geography of transportation, geography of tertiary sector (services), cultural geography, political geography and geopolitics, recreational geography and geography of tourism, as well

as social-economic geography of foreign countries and world geography. Regionalization, regional development, regional policy, environmental management and problems represent inter-disciplinary topics frequently met in human-geographical papers.

The second part of the book deals with the development of human-geographical research in the main institutions of the two capitals, Moscow, the administrative capital, and Saint Petersburg, the cultural capital. Thus, in Moscow geographical research gravitates to two poles: Lomonosov Moscow State University and the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences. From each institution there are presented departments and divisions, whose main objective is human-geographical research (or education). Each presentation starts with the short history of the division, more attention is being paid to the research carried out in the last 25 years. Main contributors are mentioned. Presentations of other research and educational institutions all across the book stick to the same structure.

In Saint Petersburg human-geographical research is concentrated in three universities: Saint Petersburg State University, Herzen Pedagogical University and Saint Petersburg State University of Economics.

As results from the presentation of the capital institutions, their research is mainly focused on elaboration on theoretical aspects of human-geographical research, on synthetic research made at the national level, as well as on studies of other countries or global processes (especially, in the Moscow's leading geographical institutions). In addition, these institutions have the chief role in preparation of

highly qualified specialists for regional universities.

The last part of the book deals with territorial organization of geographical research in Russia. The network of universities and institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences, presented in the book, covers 43 centers of geographical research and education. Some of the presentations in this part focus on a single institution (e.g., Immanuel Kant Baltic State University); others attempt to cover many institutions and teams (e.g., 11 universities in the Russian Southern region).

Geographical research in regional institutions focuses, mainly, on the issues important for the regions they are located in. However, in the past, some new concepts originated from these institutions, which significantly influenced Russian human geography in its both Soviet and post-Soviet periods (e.g., the concept of territorial production complexes developed at Novosibirsk).

We can conclude that this book has the advantage of presenting, synthetically, main actors, both people and institutions, of Russian human geography, as well as research topics undertaken in each institution in the post-soviet times.

Among the flaws of the book one should mention the way to present the achievements and outcomes, which weakly connects them to main debates in the world leading human-geographical journals. The theoretical part of the book mentions some connections as well as difficulties to adapt national human geographical tradition to current cutting-edge topics in human geography. At the same time, the regional part of the book almost lacks such information. It is due, in part, to the legacy of Soviet school of economic geography, which was completely broken away from other schools. However, thanks to very structured presentation of information an interested academic would be able to overcome this drawback to certain extent.

The book will be extremely useful for those interested in learning more about the trends in the human geography in Russia, in finding the key academics at either level (national or regional), and in the topics of the research carried out in the chief geographical institutions. Besides the printed copy, the book is also available on-line at the site of Russian Geographical Society, which makes it accessible on the Internet from all over the world: http://lib.rgo.ru/reader/flipping/Resource_4249/socio-economic_geography_in_russia%20-%200001/index.html

