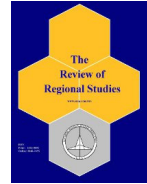




## The Review of Regional Studies

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### BOOK REVIEWS

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**Michael L. Ross. 2013. *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations*. Princeton University Press: Princeton, NJ, USA. ISBN: 9781400841929, 312 pp., \$22.95 (paperback).**

Reviewed by *Anne Walker*, University of Colorado - Denver

The resource-curse literature attempts to explain the paradoxical observation that many countries around the world whose economies depend heavily on natural resources are poorer or have slower economic growth. The term “resource curse” was first used in print by Richard Auty in 1993, but was popularized in studies by Jeffrey Sachs and Andrew Warner in 1995 and 1997. All else equal, the presence of a natural resource, particularly oil, should be a boon for an economy. As stated by Ross (p. 198), “oil windfalls are a kind of capital.” In addition, standard economic theory says that places with more capital should grow faster, due to investments in people and infrastructure for example. However, a vast literature has concluded that not only have resource-rich countries not grown as fast as nonresource-rich countries, but they also tend to have more corruption, weaker governments and institutions, and have more conflict.

Ross’ book is a comprehensive and balanced look at the issue of the resource curse from perspectives of both economics and political science. He summarizes much of the past literature and also provides new data and econometric analysis to support his main hypotheses. Ross uses data for 170 countries from 1960 to 2010 to analyze the most pressing questions in the literature and to reexamine past claims. Although some of his findings contradict past claims, even some of his own, he provides ample evidence that oil abundance is at least partially responsible for a number of political and economic ailments including authoritarianism, patriarchy, wars—both interstate and civil, and underdevelopment. Most chapters have an appendix that describes the data analyses that support the chapter’s claims in detail; in this way, the main text is very accessible to those not well-versed in econometrics.

Ross begins (p. 1) by claiming that the resource curse is “overwhelmingly an oil curse,” but he includes natural gas as well. The resource-curse literature already narrows down the types of resources that cause the curse to minerals, as opposed to nonpoint resources like forests, fisheries, and agriculture. Ross’ analysis ignores other minerals, but this seems appropriate given the relative size of the oil industry; it accounts for over 90 percent of the world’s minerals trade and is one of the world’s largest industries.

Ross's main arguments are that oil dependence disables democracy, hinders development for women, and causes more conflict. He also notes that international gaps in these factors primarily developed after about 1980. He expounds on each of these arguments in Chapters 3, 4, and 5, respectively. In Chapter 6, he reevaluates past claims in the literature related to the economic effects of oil dependence. But first, he attempts to explain the causes of the oil curse in Chapters 1 and 2, pinning much of the blame on the widespread nationalization of oil companies that occurred during the 1960s and 1970s. Given that the majority of oil in the world has been owned by national governments instead of private companies since that time, oil states now receive a much larger fraction of oil profits. How well oil states manage the enormous revenue from oil production has far-reaching effects on the country's political and economic well-being. Ross outlines four distinct qualities of oil revenues that make them potentially problematic for oil-producing nations: their enormous scale, their source being unrelated to taxation, their excessive volatility, and the secrecy surrounding revenues. He then explains why nationalization caused each of these qualities or at least induced them to worsen. Throughout the book, he refers to these them in elaborated explanations of the causes and effects of the oil curse.

Much of the book focuses on the Middle East, beginning with the chapter about the relationship between oil and democracy. Ross' main claim in this chapter is that petroleum production in authoritarian countries decreases the likelihood of a transition to democracy. Part of the explanation for this arises from how oil production allows autocratic governments to avoid some of the scrutiny that accompanies collecting tax revenue from the public. If citizens do scrutinize government spending and revenue, oil producers with nationalized oil companies do tend to use oil revenues to satisfy public demands for benefits, for example, with widespread subsidies. But autocratic regimes are able to keep their revenues and spending secret. Ross emphasizes that Latin America is an important exception to this antidemocratic effect of oil; there, countries with oil have been *more likely* to democratize, but this is likely due awareness, due to previous experiences with democracy and inequality—conditions specific to Latin American countries. Case studies related to the Soviet Union and Russia in the chapter are also particularly enlightening.

The following chapter, which elaborates on how oil perpetuates patriarchy, is one of the book's most valuable contributions. It discusses an under-researched area within the resource-curse literature. Ross contends that increased reliance on the oil sector decreases women's opportunities to join the workforce, which is the primary pathway through which women gain political influence and gender equality according to past literature. The effect occurs through two mechanisms. First, the types of jobs that women are most likely to obtain in developing nations are export-oriented manufacturing jobs and the so-called Dutch Disease makes these types of firms relatively unprofitable, reducing the amount of available jobs for women. Second, large oil revenues enable oil producers to transfer some of that revenue to households, reducing the supply of women seeking jobs. Both effects result in fewer women in the workforce, and therefore less political influence by women. Ross uses the number of women holding seats in parliament as a measure of women's political influence and, once again, uses an appendix to explain supporting regression analyses and results.

Another of Ross' major contributions in this book is reframing the resource-curse debate in a more focused and accurate manner. For example, beginning with Sachs and Warner (1995), many studies claim that greater dependence on oil (or other natural resources) results in slower economic growth. Most of these studies, however, focus on the 1970-1990 period, when nearly all

oil-producing countries struggled economically. Producers were especially hurt by the large fall in the real price of oil in the 1980s. Ross provides data in Chapter 6 showing that economic growth in oil states, when measured over the longer time frame of 1960 to 2006, has not been faster or slower than growth in non-oil states. He therefore asserts (p. 189) that “the real mystery is why the oil states have had normal growth when they should have had faster than normal economic growth, given their enormous natural wealth.” Ross goes on to analyze possible reasons why the oil producers have not performed better economically and concludes that the lack of female participation in the labor force is a major factor. Females tend to have more children when they do not work, which increases the population. In addition, when women are prevented from filling demand for labor when demand exceeds the supply of domestic male labor, immigration instead occurs. Higher fertility and immigration reduce per capita economic growth due to faster population growth.

Another major contribution of Ross’ book is its challenge to the conventional wisdom in the resource-curse literature that oil degrades institutional quality. He admits that “institutions” are difficult to define and measure, but presents data on government quality—greater effectiveness and control of corruption—to argue against the claim that oil revenues hurt government quality. Although regression analysis results are unfortunately not presented for this chapter, Ross provides some reasonable explanations for why this finding is so widespread in the literature. One reason is that researchers compare “newly enriched oil countries, to a peer group of middle- and high-income states, whose institutions have developed over many years. This makes the nouveau riche oil states look institutionally stunted” (p. 213). Oil can increase income without simultaneously increasing or decreasing the quality of government. Another explanation, referred to as the fallacy of unobserved burdens, is that managing volatile resource revenues is extraordinarily difficult. Effectively managing resource revenues requires countercyclical fiscal policy, and even nations that have much smoother revenue from taxation still struggle to effectively maintain countercyclical policies. Although this entire chapter is devoted to economic growth and the effect of oil on institutions is groundbreaking and enlightening, it would benefit from regression results supporting its main hypothesis, as Ross did in other chapters.

The final chapter is appropriately devoted to advice for avoiding the oil curse. All of the strategies are discussed in the context of the four problematic qualities of oil revenues, and he outlines potential issues implementing each strategy, especially for developing countries. In summary, *The Oil Curse* is a must read for anyone interested in the resource curse: It is extremely insightful for those interested in the Middle East as well. The book provides a coherent and logical summary of the current research on the oil curse and adds valuable contributions. Ross’ presentation and analysis of data make his key arguments convincing, and the inclusion of case studies makes for an interesting and enjoyable read. In addition, Ross’ explanations of his regression analyses are especially beneficial for students studying econometrics, yet these explanations are separated in an appendix so that the book remains accessible to nonacademic readers.

## References

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**Marc Gronwald and Beat Hintermann, eds. 2015. *Emissions Trading as a Policy Instrument: Evaluation and Prospects*. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA, USA. ISBN: 9780262029285, 304 pp., \$35.00 (hardcover).**

Reviewed by *Xueting Zhao*, West Virginia University, Regional Research Institute

The problem of climate change is the most salient environmental problem confronting humankind today. Emission trading schemes, also known as cap-and-trade markets, are conspicuously used as policy instruments to tackle this problem. The European Union Emission Trading System (EU ETS), which was created in 2005, is the largest emissions market to date. Although EU ETS has been implemented for many years, several issues may arise in the real world. What are the features of the current EU ETS market? What is the political economy context of the trading scheme? What are the implications of the coexistence of different instruments for climate policy? Moreover, how have firms actually responded to various features of the EU ETS? These are the main questions dealt with in this book edited by *Marc Gronwald* and *Beat Hintermann*. The authors, joined by multiple co-authors in various chapters, provide a rich account of recent findings, which could help to improve the design of future emissions trading schemes and identify the relevant questions for future research.

This book is structured into four main parts. Part I briefly describes the current state of knowledge on EU ETS. Part II includes two chapters that focus on the political economy context of the EU ETS. Part III contains two chapters that examine the implications of the coexistence of different policy instruments for climate change. The book ends with Part IV, which includes a series of applied chapters concerned with how firms actually responded to various features of the EU ETS.

The first part starts with a general chapter on the overview of the EU ETS. In this chapter, *Marc Gronwald* and *Beat Hintermann* review the design and scope of the permit market. The allowance surplus and allowance prices are also discussed. The next chapter, by *A. Denny Ellerman*, examines the appropriateness of ETSs as a climate instrument. The EU ETS provides the most prominent example of using the cap-and-trade system in response to greenhouse gas emissions. However, there are still some things that are not yet well understood, which need to gain more attention in the future. In the last chapter of this part, *Andreas Lange* discusses the dynamic features of the current EU ETS as well as the regulatory uncertainty arising from the rule changes over time.

The second section of the book concentrates on the political economy of the EU ETS. One chapter by *Oliver Sartor*, *Stephen Lecourt* and *Clement Pallière* investigates the welfare and efficiency properties of the allowance allocation in the EU ETS. The chapter analyzes the harmonization of allocation across the EU and the effect of the rule change for free allocation by industry and country. Another chapter, by *Philipp Hieronymi* and *David Schüller*, explores the role of political economy in irreversible abatement decisions. The chapter discusses how lobbying activity would affect investment decisions under permit price uncertainty and concludes that lobbying could be viewed as another element in the tradeoff between flexibility and rigidity of policy.

The third part includes two chapters focused on the overlapping policy instruments. One chapter, by *Peter Heindl*, *Peter J. Wood* and *Frank Jotzo*, examines the linkages of price and quantity instruments for reductions in emissions. This chapter analyzes the joint cap-and-trade market of two countries with fixed joint quantity targets that is supplemented with a national

carbon tax in one country. They conclude that the cost of producing abatement increases in the country with the carbon tax policy and decreases in the other country, and the overall costs of reducing emissions increase. Another chapter by *A. J. Mulder* explores the interaction between EU instruments and member-state instruments. This chapter finds that the EU ETS remains unaffected if the aggregate abatement impact of parallel instruments is fewer than 20 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, and it becomes redundant if the impact is greater than 20 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

The final section of this book concentrates on the behaviors of firms when they are faced with various features of the EU ETS. In the first chapter, *Stefan Trück, Wolfgang Härdle, and Rafal Weron* provide a thorough analysis of the relationship between spot and future prices in the EU ETS. They find that the price behavior in the allowance market is quite different from those of other commodity markets. The second chapter, by *Ralf Martin, Mirabelle Muûls, and Ulrich J. Wagner*, investigates the trading behavior of industrial firms on the EU carbon market by using data from interviews. The findings of this article show that the pattern of free allocation in the permit market affects the resulting abatement decisions. The last two chapters, one co-authored by *Nathan Braun, Timothy Fitzgerald, and Jason Percy* and the other authored by *Timothy Fitzgerald*, focus on the tradeable permit markets with the offset spread options in the EU ETS. They find that transaction cost is significant in causing the price gap between permits and offsets, and offsets are generally limited to use in the first years.

The great achievement of this book is the combination of theoretical overview and rich empirical analyses. It gives, on the one hand, a good introduction to the main features of the permit markets in general and of the EU ETS in particular. On the other hand, it summarizes the research of the political economy context, the coexistence of different climate policy instruments, as well as firm behaviors. Although the empirical examples cover a range of subjects, there are some overarching contributions that can be drawn from them. First, the permit markets have been proven to work in some sense. Second, governments are warned to be careful about instituting additional policies to combat climate change. Finally, some market participants do appear to engage in unexpected “non-economic” behaviors, which could be a question for future research.

The book is well-written and structured, and it clearly demonstrates various aspects of EU ETS. Still, I have two critical comments. Firstly, while the emissions trading scheme is interdisciplinary system, this book only analyzes the system from an economic perspective. It would be helpful to review an exchange among researchers from various fields; for example, sociology, law, and natural sciences. Secondly, even though the analyses in the book consider the EU ETS as it currently exists in the context of neoclassical economic theories, the real world is more complex. Assessing the effectiveness of the emission trading system should be analyzed according to the different situations in different regions, so that policy suggestions corresponding to the different cases could be elucidated.

Nevertheless, this book is highly recommended to readers who wish to learn more about the emissions trading system. It is relevant for students, academics, and managers as well as policy-makers.

**James J. Heckman. 2013. *Giving Kids a Fair Chance (A Strategy that Works)*. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA, USA. ISBN: 97802622019132, 152 pp., \$23.00 (paperback).**

Reviewed by *Joshua C. Hall*, West Virginia University

This short book, listed as if authored by Nobel Laureate *James Heckman*, is actually a symposium on a short essay by Heckman that summarizes his research on early childhood interventions. The first 40 or so pages are Heckman making the case for “giving kids a fair chance,” which is based on his research showing the importance of early life for cognitive development and thus future well-being. The book then becomes “The Forum,” where ten individuals from different academic disciplines and professions, whose work focuses on children or cognitive development, critique or expand upon Heckman’s essay. The book then concludes with Heckman responding to each of the response essays.

This is a difficult book to review in detail given its brevity. While the details matter, this is ultimately a “big picture” book. Unlike Heckman’s scholarly work, which would be difficult for most undergraduates to digest, the arguments and evidence in this book are written for the educated layperson. This means that most of the empirical work is left behind in the original articles. What is added, however, is a strong argument by Heckman about what should be done in light of his scholarship. His argument is too extensive and nuanced to be summarized in a review, but it involves targeting for intensive early-childhood intervention children who do not receive a large amount of parental investment in their formative years.

In making his argument for early-childhood intervention, Heckman is vague on details. In most cases this is a result of Heckman being realistic about the limits of our knowledge, the limits of interventions in a free society, and the limits of social scientists in prescribing solutions that ultimately must be enacted through some form of collective decision making process. While Heckman knows a lot about the interventions he has studied, it is an entirely different creature to design large-scale programs for early-childhood intervention that respects the autonomy of individuals and is politically feasible.

For example, Heckman argues that students who do not receive adequate parental involvement in their early years should be targeted for intervention. What is the threshold for adequate involvement? How should they be identified? What if parents opt out? Would it be better if the programs were universal so that there was no stigma attached to the program? These important questions of implementation are either beyond the realm of current knowledge or will ultimately be decided by voters, not economists like Heckman. Ultimately, this pragmatism and careful social science by Heckman opens the door for both his supporters and critics to make their case while critiquing Heckman’s.

The ten individuals chosen for response essays were extremely well-chosen for intellectual diversity. There are responses by education faculty (*Mike Rose, David Deming*), law (*Robin West*), philosophy (*Harry Brighouse*), sociology (*Annette Lareau*), politics (*Adam Swift*), psychology (*Carol Dweck*), think tankers (*Neil McCluskey, Charles Murray*), and individuals directly involved in K-12 education (*Lelac Almagor, Geoffrey Canada*). Reading through the responses and Heckman’s rejoinder not only highlights how there are no easy questions in the social sciences and political economy, but also illustrates how one’s discipline can both illuminate and obscure different aspects of the same problem. Individuals teaching in a first-year seminar, in which students need to be exposed to a variety of fields, could find few better books to illuminate the differences across disciplines.

There is a lot to like about this little book. While researchers in the areas of poverty, regional economic development, childhood development, human capital, sociology of education, etc., will find very little new in the volume, they will find an accessible and intellectually diverse book that would be ideal for classroom use. The MIT Press needs to be commended for putting out short volumes like this on important topics.

**James N. Levitt, ed. 2014. *Conservation Catalysts: The Academy as Nature's Agent*. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy: Cambridge, MA, USA. ISBN: 9781558443013, 368 pp., \$30.00 (paperback).**

Reviewed by *John M. Halstead*, University of New Hampshire

This ambitious book brings together (in the editor's words) "poets, tree pollen analysts, and policy wonks" (pg. xx) to address a wide variety of environmental issues from a broad set of scientific and philosophical perspectives. Its primary goal is to illustrate the role that university faculty and other groups can play in effecting better environmental policy, being the catalysts to conservation to which the title refers. The book's emphasis is primarily on applied case studies across the globe, but with a focused effort to illustrate how these studies can be extrapolated to other regions. The book is divided into five sections: regional conservation initiatives; biodiversity conservation at the landscape scale; sustainable development and land conservation; law, policy, and organization; and the contribution of the humanities. Each section is introduced with an overview, which makes transition easier. The book itself is nicely formatted with well-constructed diagrams and color pictures.

The book's first section details university conservation efforts from disparate parts of the U.S. In "The Wildlands and Woodlands Initiative of the Harvard Forest, Harvard University," *David Foster, David Kittredge, Brian Donahue, Kathy Fallon Lambert, Clarisse Hart, and James Levitt* chronicle the Wildlands and Woodlands project's success in motivating large-scale regional conservation efforts in New England. The group's efforts are rooted in the belief that "an academically based vision for the region could yield new and useful perspectives on conservation" (p. 11). The chapter describes how land protection was increased within the structure of existing institutions and agencies, and the importance of the university as a model for ideas. In "The University of Montana, Missoula: A Campus with an Ecosystem," *Gary Tabor, Matthew McKinney, and Perry Brown* focus on an 18-million-acre ecosystem in the Northwestern U.S. and Canada as a laboratory to study climate change effects across a range of climates and elevations. The authors illustrate problems of connecting the many groups addressing threats like climate change, habitat destruction, and water management, comparing objectives, time horizons, and other features of academic and policy communities. Their conclusion is not particularly complimentary of past efforts, citing lack of interdisciplinary work, lack of connection with non-academic stakeholders, and limited confidence of governments and citizens in universities. The Crown of the Continent Initiative attempts to correct this; they conclude that management should be at "multiple spatial scales...recogniz[ing] socioeconomic and political realities" and that the Crown has "all the human and natural resource elements to prototype large scale adaptive management and network governance...in full recognition that the land and the university are intertwined" (p. 44). The third chapter, by *Karl Flessa*, "Research Network and Large-Landscape Conservation and Restoration: The Case of the Colorado River Delta" deals with the convoluted history of the Colorado River. Allocation of regional water led to the disposal of brackish ground water in Mexico, leading to an "unintentional wetland," the Ciénega de Santa Clara. The

University of Arizona organized the Research Coordination Network (RCN) to facilitate interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, and international research in natural and human-modified ecosystems. RCN's actions to foster trust among individuals and academic institutions are a good example of bridging social capital. The conclusion speculates on the academy's role as "honest brokers of policy alternatives" noting "the facts never speak for themselves" (p. 57). They state that "academic scientists can work with all stakeholders precisely because they are not stakeholders themselves" (p. 56) (arguable, as academics sometimes bring their own biases to the table.) In closing, it is worth noting that all of Part I's authors provide not just useful case studies but illustrate how their approaches can be generalized to other areas.

Part II addresses biodiversity conservation at the landscape scale. "Saving the Florida Scrub Ecosystem: Translating Science into Conservation Action" by *Hilary Swain* and *Patricia Martin* includes a history of threats to the nation's 15<sup>th</sup> most endangered ecosystem and efforts to reverse them culminating in the P2000 Act, a voluntary seller program which led to the conservation of nearly 2 million acres, with nonprofits and research groups targeting key sites for conservation. A key feature of this effort was that science was to play a key role in land management; the authors note "Saving this ecosystem has never involved much public grassroots conservation effort" (p. 87) though it is "one of North America's great conservation success stories" (p. 90) with a synergistic coupling of research and conservation, noting "Success in conservation is never a single step; it is always a long journey" (p. 91). "Catalyzing Large Landscape Conservation in Canada's Boreal Systems: The BEACONS Project Experience" by *Fiona Schmiegelow*, *Steven Cumming*, *Kimberly Lisgo*, *Shawn Leroux*, and *Meg Krawchuck* tells of Canadian scientists coming together in the Boreal Ecosystem Analysis for Conservation Networks program; though boreal areas provide essential habitat and carbon storage, broad, in-depth knowledge of the region was lacking. The Canadian Boreal Initiative's overall goal was "not in managing scarcity but in maintaining integrity" (p. 105). The Conservation Matrix Model used is a new approach, focusing on managing natural patterns of species distribution and abundance rather than simply a "safe minimum standard" to avoid extinction—proactive rather than reactive. Lack of resources has been a problem; still, university scientists are "uniquely positioned to provide strong scientific leadership in stakeholder-driven planning processes" and "lend continuity to research programs that support the full cycle of adaptive management" (p. 118). The chapter provides a detailed discussion of expanding the approach to broader areas, using excellent graphics. The section's third chapter, "Working Landscapes and the Western Hemisphere Jaguar Network" by *Joe Figel*, takes the reader to Latin America to study whether development of palm oil plantations is compatible with preservation of jaguar habitat. Palm plantations account for about 10 percent of the world's permanent cropland, are encroach on forested land, and require substantial infrastructure. While the author makes a case for why plantations are a major consideration for conservation planning, the chapter is largely technical and lacks the broader policy discussion of the section's other chapters.

Part III focuses on sustainable development and land conservation. "The Kenyon College Land Conservation Initiative" by *Douglas Givens* is a local approach to conservation starting with the history of a nonprofit entity separate from the college. This effort grew from the Kenyon College campus to work with state and local conservation agencies. An interesting feature was recruitment of the College's English department to help with education and outreach. The study makes the argument that efforts by colleges and universities can have a large cumulative effect on conservation. "The Quiet Corner Initiative at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies" by *Mary Tyrrell*, *Matthew Fried*, *Mark Ashton*, and *Richard Campbell* focuses on



northeastern Connecticut and south central Massachusetts, a landscape facing increased development pressure. The Quiet Corner Initiative (QCI) started as a small conservation effort which grew to integrate expertise at Yale with local stakeholders. The QCI directly involves students in data base development, education on the value of ecosystem services, and creation of stewardship plans. While the chapter is a bit lacking on discussion of project outcomes, it is an excellent example of how the university's teaching mission can be integrated in local land use planning, and how a major research university can also be active in outreach and education for local communities. *Robert Lilieholm, Christopher Cronan, Michelle Johnson, Spencer Meyer, and Dave Owen* move north to Maine in "Alternative Futures Modeling in Maine's Penobscot River Watershed: Forging a Regional Identity for River Restoration." The chapter focuses on the University of Maine's role in the Sustainability Solutions Initiative funded by NSF to examine how forest management, climate change, and urbanization drive landscape transformation in coupled social-ecological systems. The chapter is principally tools-driven, generating simulations of different landscape scenarios with the goal of providing a template for national modeling efforts. Stakeholder input is used to derive the models via focus groups, with attention to graphics and development scenarios. Students are integrated into the process via collaborative efforts among the University and other nonprofits. The last chapter of the section by *Robin Reid, Dickson Kaelo, David Nkedianye, Pattie Kristjanson, Mohammed Said, Kathleen Galvin, and Isabella Gambi*, crosses the ocean in "The Mara-Serengeti Ecosystem and Greater Maasailand: Building the Role of Local Leaders, Institutions, and Communities." They stress the role of outreach and cooperation with major stakeholders, to construct "more than a story about innovate conservation work" but "a narrative about building local institutions and enabling local leaders to work broadly across large landscapes" (p. 206). This is perhaps the section's most ambitious chapter. The Reto-o-Reto initiative would build institutional bridges to meet the twin demands of conservation and pastoral development in regional ecosystems. A transdisciplinary team worked with local leaders to build trust to better work together, but the team found "information needs of community members and policy makers were far greater than we were able to fulfill...We tackled this problem by using research...only when absolutely needed" (p. 216). Thus, the approach was largely qualitative in nature, with personal experience and anecdotal information often used to address community needs. It is not yet clear if declines in wildlife populations are slowing. It is an open question whether this model, which creates high levels of engagement and information exchange between communities and researchers but is very time- and labor-intensive, can be used in other regions. The authors (p. 221) are unambiguous: "we say yes: this approach is highly transferable."

Part IV takes up the area of law, policy, and organization. The first chapter by *Federico Cheever and Nancy McLaughlin*, "Law as a Cornerstone of Conservation Policy: United States Law Schools as Conservation Catalysts," is mainly a literature review; although they provide some specifics for outreach and facilitation, it is less action-oriented than others in the book. *Geoff Wescott's* "A Walk on the Beach: Catalyzing the Conservation of Victoria's Coast" uses a first person narrative to describe his efforts to be a "pracademic." He does note that his accomplishments may be difficult to replicate due to reliance on one person (himself). He stresses that a conservation catalyst must be able to translate complex research into "comprehensible community outcomes" (p. 266); universities should cultivate and reward these skills. In "Karukinka: A New Model for Conservation," *Guillermo Donoso* discusses beavers, tourism, and overfishing on Tierra del Fuego. Management efforts involve Chilean academics, nonprofits, and government agencies, with WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) leading. Goldman Sachs created a reserve, an approach emulated by other firms. The author thinks (p. 279) "WCS's strategy for

Karukinka will yield a new model for regional conservation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: protecting biodiversity and supporting the prosperity of local people through innovative public-private partnerships.” An important feature is including Chilean staff at local, regional, and national levels. In *Karena Mahung’s* chapter, “Conservation Easements as a Land Conservation Strategy in Trinidad & Tobago,” an easements taxonomy is followed by both opportunities and current regional efforts. The author is optimistic for the strategy’s success as the country is in a position “to align most, if not all, of the major prerequisites necessary for the application of easements” (p. 301). The chapter is concise and applied, with an abridged overview of strategies, the roles of supporting agencies, and current and possible application in the region.

Part V concludes the text with a discussion of the humanities’ role in conservation. The first two chapters describe artistic efforts, a film by *Alex Suber* in “Colorado College’s Large Landscape Conservation Strategy to Save the Colorado River Basin” and a slam poetry piece, “Body of Bark,” by *Caroline Harvey*. The third chapter, “The Drowning Fish: Large Landscapes and the Burden of Significance” tells *Blair Braverman’s* story of a hunting trip with sportsmen of quite different ideologies from hers. She makes the important point of being able to bridge divides with different groups who are nonetheless committed to playing a role in landscape management, and the need for inclusiveness in developing conservation strategies. The final chapter describes a grade-school student group’s efforts to promote conservation. While this last section of the book is well-intentioned and while the humanities should certainly play a role in conservation strategies, it seems a bit of an awkward “add on” that is not truly integrated into the text.

Overall, this book is an excellent primer in the various paths to being a “conservation catalyst.” It suffers a bit from the inevitable unevenness that comes from trying to forge a coherent narrative from authors discussing different issues from different areas, in different styles from different disciplines. Nonetheless, the book goes beyond simply presenting interesting case studies and provides information for the reader to pursue the chapter’s research approach. The first two sections in particular provide templates for approaching various conservation issues. This text could be a stand-alone reference for a study of conservation policy in a graduate or upper-level undergraduate course, or a useful supplement to a natural resources policy course. Finally, given the applied nature of many of the chapters, it would be a useful shelf reference for researchers and policy makers in universities, nonprofits, and government agencies.