

give a nod to indigenous peoples in the so-called North' in her larger body of research. In fact, this collection (or set of explorations) is uneasily situated in international relations conversations (Myanna Lahsen's chapter in particular). Nonetheless, this edgy aspect to the project embodies many of the complex contestations that intersect and move within these issues of power, knowledge, norms, discourses and climate change. I suspect this low-intensity dissonance is by design. While the attention paid to the theoretical divisions within constructivism risks reifying what is operationally often a matter of emphasis, this restlessness in the book works well overall.

The editor is clearly sensitive to a number of issues as she pre-figures many potential critiques in the Introduction. She writes '...the book cannot contain all possible perspectives...we urge others to learn from our efforts and to generate further studies, comparisons and constructive suggestions...'. She is correct. Nonetheless, while her own self-evaluation rightly calls for analyses of other contexts, such as Africa and Asia, I found that biophysical agency was remarkably underconsidered. The book could have benefited from more consistent accounting of this unmistakably vital 'actor'. Moreover, greater attention paid to the varied natural science processes shaping understanding of climate change (along with social, political and cultural factors) in the theatre of discursive structuration would have further strengthened the volume. As it stands, analyses of the variegated role of biophysical processes in the social construction of climate change are awkwardly obscured. While Nicholas Onuf notes this heterogeneity in the Foreword, it is not consistently carried through the book.

In highly contentious neo-millennial environmental challenges such as climate change, social constructionist approaches need to be scrupulous in order to minimize sparking illusory and counterproductive debates. While such interventions seek to enhance understanding of complex and dynamic human-environment interactions, misuse (catalogued voluminously through time) instead can enhance obfuscation.

Amid these dangers, I found that the present collection very successfully navigated around these potential pitfalls by treading that treacherous 'middle ground' between positivism and pure subjectivity, and provided an incisive and illuminating series of papers. Thus, meeting the editor's aforementioned goals many times over, the volume provides highly informative and valuable building blocks for understanding of power-knowledge interactions as they relate to climate change. With a critical edge, these contributions trace shifts in discourses and policy considerations, while they help to anticipate future changes in various contexts and social settings.

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Vietnam: A Natural History

BY ELEANOR JANE STERLING, MARTHA MAUD HURLEY AND
 LE DUC MINH; ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOYCE A. POWZYK

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Vietnam is rich in cultural, biological and geological diversity, conjuring images of expansive forests, mangrove deltas, majestic

mountains, bustling cities and indigenous people. As a destination or research study site, Vietnam provides incredible beauty, a long and fascinating history and one of the richest biological regions on the planet. Behind these vivid images are highly impacted ecosystems, incomplete knowledge of its biological diversity and increasing threats to its plants and animals. Bringing together the first comprehensive overview of the rich natural history of Vietnam intended for scientists and travellers required the synthesis of widely dispersed sources of knowledge scattered in publications, obscure reports, manuscripts and unpublished information from scientists. This richly descriptive and generously illustrated publication provides a modern overview of the country's biological richness, the historical context of present levels of diversity and the grim reality of the threats to this diversity.

The early chapters provide an overview of Vietnam's natural and cultural diversity and the history of human populations and their relationship with the environment. The authors then explore the origins of Vietnam's diversity within the geological context of the region's dynamic physical environment and provide an overview of the composition of the present-day flora and fauna. The faunal groups present in Vietnam are then described. Three chapters compare and contrast three regions in Vietnam (north: Bac Bo, central: Trung Bo and south: Nam Bo) successfully highlighting the substantial biological and cultural differences between them. Each of these chapters explores the regional topography, climate, ethnic diversity and characteristic habitats, plants and animals, and includes a short listing of recommended areas for the best chance of viewing wildlife. The final chapters provide historical overviews, elucidate modern threats to Vietnam's biodiversity and describe the continuing efforts to mitigate these. Underlying the book is the recognition that Vietnam's biodiversity is incompletely known, and as such, this natural history account is incomplete. Recent discoveries of animals and plants from Vietnam continue to stimulate broad interest in the region's biodiversity. This book is a comprehensive overview of the present state of knowledge of Vietnam's natural history. Hopefully there are plans for revisions as understanding of the biodiversity and region is changing rapidly.

Working from often-fragmentary specimens and cryptic notes, Dr Joyce A. Powzyk beautifully illustrates the book in watercolours of key examples of Vietnam's biodiversity. The well-written and engaging text complements the maps, illustrations and photographs. This book is an effective traveller's guide, an introduction to Vietnam's rich and fragile natural history, providing thoughtful commentary on critical conservation issues and will help raise awareness of the tenuous nature of its biodiversity.

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Tourism and Climate Change. Risks and Opportunities

BY SUSANNE BECKEN AND JOHN E. HAY

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Most conservationists view tourism with distinctly mixed feelings. It can contribute to rural livelihoods and, through ecotourism,