

Environmental humanities: why should biologists interested in the environment take the humanities seriously.

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# Environmental Humanities: Why Should Biologists Interested in the Environment Take the Humanities Seriously? FREE

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**What do the humanities have to do with the environment?** As they are commonly understood, environmental problems are issues that manifest themselves primarily in the environment itself. Natural scientists research these problems and suggest solutions, aided by technology, economics, and policy; it was bioscientists who defined the modern usage of the concept of *the environment* after World War II. Ecologist William Vogt famously used it in his 1948 volume *The Road to Survival*: “We live in one world in an ecological—an environmental—sense.” He and others at the time thought of *the environment* as a composite of issues that had been in the making for some time—most prominently, population growth, which had been much discussed since the World Population Conference in Geneva in 1927, but also soil erosion, desertification (observed by Paul Sears in his famous 1935 book, *Deserts on the March...*

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