

The Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Theory, by Teena Gabrielson, Cheryl Hall, John M. Meyer and David Schlosberg (eds). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. xvii + 662pp., £95, ISBN: 9780199685271.

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Handbooks are small books that provide information about a particular subject. With its 41 chapters spanning contributions from the best-known theorists in environmental political theory (EPT), this handbook is definitely not small, but its size is justified by the diversity of contents and the depth of coverage. Combining essays written in encyclopedic style with others where the authors present their own viewpoints, it gives a fine idea of EPT as a field of inquiry where the insights and methods of political theory and other related disciplines illuminate contemporary environmental challenges.

After a brief introduction, the volume is divided into four parts. Part II asks where to locate EPT, both regarding its own roots and its connection with close kin like political science, environmental ethics, sustainability studies and environmental action research pedagogy. Most chapters are devoted to explore EPT's indebtedness to key Western political theories like liberalism, republicanism and critical theory, while there is only one focusing on a non-Western approach. Although the editors explicitly recognize this problem, the absence of other non-Western perspectives constitutes in my view this volume's largest omission.

Part III asks what the environment is, and who and/or what are part of the political community. The plurality of approaches used by EPT is reflected on the selection of essays, which range from hardcore critical theory (like those discussing the conception of the environment as a *hyperobject*, and the place of plants in biopolitics) to plain analytic political philosophy (like that connecting cosmopolitanism and environmentalism). In between, a piece by Steven Vogel discusses different interpretations of *nature*, while another by David Schlosberg analyses different understandings of environmental management in the Anthropocene.

'Why EPT?' is the question of Part IV. Political ideals and notions are examined in light of environmental concerns, including justice, human rights, freedom, individual agency, sustainability, population control and well-being. It is worth highlighting the contributions of Robyn Eckersley (looking at the harmful effects of climate change as the result of structural injustice), and John Barry's and Andrew Dobson's analyses of economic growth and the limits-to-growth thesis.

Finally, Part V asks how certain structures might constrain or enable the realization of EPT's goals. Capitalism, eco-managerialism, science, democracy, citizenship, green radicalism and environmental authoritarianism are among the topics explored. John Dryzek offers an illuminating critique of global environmental governance, while Joan Martínez-Alier gives a useful list of concepts coined by grassroots movements and then appropriated by EPT (like climate justice, food sovereignty and *buen vivir*, among many others).

Considering its breadth and depth, its abundance of bibliographic references, and the variety of theoretical and methodological approaches encompassed, this collection will be an invaluable source both for neophytes and EPT scholars.