

Global Justice and Development is not an easy read, for at least three reasons. First, virtually every argument is repeated at least three times: once when the author looks forward to the next section, once when the argument is developed in detail and once when the argument is summarized. Second, Culp has a tendency to write overly complex sentences. Third, the book does not contain a single graph, table or figure, to illustrate, summarize or support the often complex arguments put forward in the text. It consists of 170 pages of plain text and another 20 of endnotes. These make the book a terribly slow and annoying read. And that is too bad, as there is a powerful message here. The book would benefit substantially from a more easy-flowing argument with a more elaborate and practical exploration of the implications of the discourse-theoretic approach for international development practice.

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Nunan, Fiona. 2015: *Understanding Poverty and the Environment: Analytical Frameworks and Approaches*. Abingdon and New York: Routledge. xiv + 206 pp. US\$145 ISBN 978-0-415-707565 (hardback), US\$62.95 978-0-415-707596 (paperback).

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As concerns continue to mount over the future of the environment, in light of climate change and how this might impact impoverished populations worldwide, greater precision is needed in how the relationship between poverty and the environment is understood and what can, or should, be done about it. This is what *Understanding Poverty and the Environment: Analytical Frameworks and Approaches* attempts to do as it takes on the

herculean task of drawing out the numerous ways in which scholars and development practitioners understand the relationship between poverty and the environment. In the book, Fiona Nunan, Senior Lecturer and Director of the International Development Department at the University of Birmingham, suggests that simplistic analyses by development agencies that rest on the idea of ‘cycles of poverty’ and ‘downward spirals’ cannot sufficiently address the structural issues at the root of poverty–environment relationships, resulting instead in a focus that looks only at individual responses to them. These types of approaches suggest that environmental degradation is the result of poor land use and environmental practices of the impoverished ignoring the role of, for example, shifting land tenure and use schemes that affect the environmental decision-making of poor communities. As a result, their various policy solutions that seek to address environmental problems attempt to regulate the behaviours of the poor, leaving in place the institutional and structural causes of those behaviours. To overcome this, Nunan suggests that development scholars and practitioners alike take seriously the variety of complex approaches available to understand human–environment relationships and develop a deeper understanding of the complexity of the issue of poverty and the environment.

To that end, the book ‘builds on the critique of the vicious circle portrayal by presenting frameworks that can facilitate analysis of the diversity and complexity of poverty–environment relationships’ (p. 9). Nunan does this by placing a variety of disparate approaches into six broad categories of scholarship: political ecology (drawing chiefly on the introductory texts written by political ecologists Tim Forsyth and Paul Robbins), institutional analysis (in particular the entitlements approach developed by Melissa Leach and colleagues, Frances Cleaver’s critical institutionalism and more mainstream institutional studies such as the work of Elinor Ostrom), gendered approaches (including traditional Women in Development, Women and Development and

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Gender and Development approaches as well as more critical gendered frameworks such as feminist political ecology), livelihoods and well-being approaches (primarily Ian Scoones and J. Allister McGregor, along with their respective critics), social network analysis and governance analysis. Through each category of literature, she offers a useful overview of the history, key figures and current debates in the literature as well as a brief case study intended to show how the framework or approach might be used in the creation of more effective social, economic and environmental policy. Each chapter ends with a summary of key points and a brief annotated bibliography of additional readings.

This discrete categorization results in a somewhat unorthodox combination of works where well developed and theoretically coherent, if broadly applied, approaches (such as political ecology) end up next to less well-defined collections of literature that speak to a particular subject across a variety of theoretical positions (such as the section on gendered analysis). Likewise, political ecology (and political ecologists) crop up throughout the text as they draw on, work within and critique these other approaches. However, the relationships between the approaches, aside from political ecology, are not explored in much detail. How and why political ecology is so prevalent throughout the literature on poverty and the environment while there is apparently little theoretical or analytical crossover otherwise is never really explained. While this is not to suggest that this organization detracts from the author's stated goal, more context on how interrelated many of these approaches are, how they inform each other, debates between them and the key features that differentiate them throughout the text would make for a stronger volume.

This book is intended as an introduction to numerous and varied bodies of literature and will thus be most valuable to those just beginning to tackle the issues of poverty and the environment. It provides a good overview of the literature and contemporary debates

surrounding each of the covered frameworks but does not, and is not meant to, provide a detailed analysis of their complexities. Those well versed in one or more of these literatures might find it a useful resource to 'brush up' on the similarities and differences between these approaches but may find it lacking in detail. Instructors of development studies courses geared towards early stage graduate students or advanced undergraduates will find it particularly useful as it shows the applicability of a large number of approaches and has an impressive bibliography and suggested readings list for students to draw on. However, the case studies provided in each chapter leave something to be desired—if only for their brevity—and as such the book is best supplemented by additional readings that can bolster each section. Nonetheless, it is a wonderfully thorough introduction to such an important body of scholarship.

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Papaioannou, T. and Butcher, M. 2013: *International Development in a Changing World*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. 368 pp. \$140 (hardback), \$44.95 (paperback), \$33.99 (ebook). ISBN 978 1 78093 234 7 (hardback), 978 1 78093 237 8 (paperback), 978 1 78093-236-1 (ebook).

Butcher, M. and Papaioannou T. 2013: *New Perspectives in International Development*. 240 pp. London: Bloomsbury Academic. \$110 (hardback), \$34.95 (paperback), \$28.99 (ebook). ISBN 978 1 78093 234 9 (hardback), 978 1 78093 251 4 (paperback), 978 1 78093-248-4 (ebook).

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These two books contribute to studies of development by introducing a comprehensive and updated overview of how 'development' is understood, transformed and utilized in today's world. The first volume, *International*