

Article Review: Oceania

In this article the authors, Adrian Peace, Linda H., and Connor and David Trigger, take notice of some of the major issues and greatest achievements that face environmental anthropology today. They first address the “literature that stands as testament to the variety of environmental issues- water, whales, and the weather” (page 217). Next it is revealed that the best critics of an environment come from within a certain area, or environment but there have been immense concerns from anthropologists about unveiling these views. The last point talked about in this article refers to the Asia Pacific region and all the anthropologic research that is done there.

The article begins by addressing issues such as weather and climate change and other common environmental themes. It then goes on to address the difficulties and complexities of relationships and tensions that divide the differentiated groups/ individuals involved in environmental contests. These pages dive deep into “environmental politics related to cultural politics around natural resource management, local community understanding of historical rights inland and water, and related matters” (page 220). Many questions are brought up and answered regarding environmental protection and what that entails from a political stand point as well as in everyday life and the role that anthropology plays. “One of the strengths of Milton’s book is that anthropology’s distinctive focus on the importance of culture is demonstrated at all levels of social organization and political activity... Milton shows that anthropologists can make a productive contribution to environmental debates in modern society” (page 220).

The UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) has conducted research to prove that the Asia Pacific region is the fastest growing source of global greenhouse gas emissions. In the region where six out of the ten countries who are most at risk for climate change this environmental issue is particularly important, especially the low-lying Pacific Island countries. One of the examples that have gained the attention of anthropologists is the impact that the atoll submersion and the increasing tidal inundation of the Pacific Islands. This passage in particular really stuck out to me because it describes the anthropological side of the reason for climate change and gives a new perspective into the reasoning behind this phenomenon. The passage also mentions the people of Tuvalu who are being called the world's first "climate refugees" because they show dislike towards such loaded language and are subjected to discourse of crisis.

Overall, this article was very interesting to read, I was amazed to learn about all the different ways that anthropology is related to the environment and climate change. All the different views on climate change and the different people that live in different regions were exciting to learn about. I have always been a supporter of environmental change, keeping the planet as clean as possible to support future generations. It was amazing to learn though just how different people view this change. Some think that it is the product of misfortune, if a husband cheats on his wife, she will experience bad seas and jealousies that can pull the sea either way to cover or expose a beach. It amazed me to learn that people feel this way and it depends on where they live geographically that can impact this feeling as well. Some people don't experience climate change as drastically and therefore don't think much of it, however,

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the people that live in low-lying islands experience a great deal of climate change being so close to a large body of water.

In conclusion, this article was very informative over the different groups of people that live all over the world and how differently they perceive climate change. It was also interesting to find out about the other impacts that anthropology has on climate change through political and first-hand ways. As a supporter of environmental change, I find some of the people's way of thinking to be a bit ignorant but understandable based on their upbringing. I would defiantly recommend this article to any other supporter, or non-supporter, of environmental change to gain a new perspective into the way people view the planet we live on.