



Introduction Human Ecology and Community

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ABSTRACTS Those intrigued by the study of human ecology might well enter into a community of people and chart what they observe, then look at the groupings and networks, hierarchies and followers, and leaders and outcasts, and finally define the structure and dynamics of social, economic, political, and spiritual life. Roles, gender, sex, ethnicity, culture, lifestyle, power, and wealth serve to unite and yet also serve to divide. This article presents a brief conceptual framework, and then describes the explorations and academic work of ten university students, who in the processes of examining various sub-communities, became colleagues and community psychologists. The community, Palmerston North, New Zealand, is well organised, diverse, and ever fascinating. The parts of this community chosen for study cover a wide range, and appear here aligned in a developmental sequence, running from primary and secondary education through work, the military, and then many other alternative situations.

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