

Human Ecology: One Coherent Unit, not a Multi-or Interdisciplinary Amalgam

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ABSTRACT This paper concerns the perception of the study of human ecology. Amongst many, human ecology is seen as a combination of many discrete areas of study and therefore multi-or interdisciplinary in nature. This paper argues that the perception of the study of human ecology should be similar to that of the ecology of any other animal species. The ecology of any individual animal species is seen as one holistic coherent unit and therefore so should human ecology. Possible reasons for the perceived distinction between human ecology and the ecology of other biological organisms are discussed and reasons for rejection of this type of approach given in terms of the shared biological nature of human beings and other living organisms. To illustrate the holistic concept of human ecology, nineteen specialized areas of research are examined with regards to their position within human ecology and their equivalents indicated in the ecology of other biological species. It is suggested that a coherent holistic view of human ecology is essential, as it is through knowledge of the interactions of the many areas comprising human ecology that *Homo sapiens* has the potential to direct its own future ecology in desirable directions.