

## Reviews

**Towards a Democratic Division of Labour in Europe? The Combination Model as a New Integrated Approach to Professional and Family Life.** By WALTER VAN DONGEN  
Bristol: The Policy Press, 2009, 288 pp. £29.99 (paperback) ISBN 978 1 84742 269 9

This book sets itself an ambitious task: to develop future policy models of the gender division of labour in Europe which reflect both the empirically observable trends taking place in this regard and normative views concerning the direction in which change should be heading. To this end, the book reviews an impressive range of statistical evidence and conceptual approaches relating to the ways in which professional and family life is combined in European societies. It is therefore not only of interest for its policy recommendations but as an impressive source of information and ideas concerning the gender division of labour.

The main premise of Van Dongen's arguments is that since the early 1980s in Europe, the 'male breadwinner' model of the gender division of labour has been replaced, albeit at different rates in particular national contexts, by a new 'Combination' model in which there is more symmetry between men's and women's participation in professional and family work over the lifecycle. Van Dongen sets out to decide how policy should intervene to attempt to shape this process in democratic societies. He focuses in particular on how to balance the goals of gender equality against the freedom of individuals and families to choose less equal gender divisions of labour for their own households. In addition, he argues, any variation on the Combination model adopted must promote social solidarity and economic efficiency. Based on the extensive review of empirical evidence and normative views mentioned previously, Van Dongen promotes what he calls 'the Complete Combination model'. This model aims for both men and women to participate to a high degree in professional work and for there to be a largely equal gender division of labour for all. In contrast to 'stronger' combination models, the Complete Combination model gives more freedom to individuals to choose less equal divisions of labour, a freedom deemed necessary in a democratic society.

It could be suggested that the book arrives at a fairly moderate, 'common sense' conclusion, possibly reflecting the fact that Van Dongen is involved in policy practice rather than policy critique. That is not to deny, however, the validity of his arguments and the

important contribution of the book to 'mainstreaming' the issue of the gender division of labour in a broader analysis of how work is to be organised and distributed across European societies in the future.

JAN WINDEBANK, *University of Sheffield*

**Partnerships for Empowerment: Participatory Research for Community-based Natural Resource Management.** Edited by CARL WILMSEN, WILLIAM ELMENDORF, LARRY FISHER, JACQUELYN ROSS, BRINDA SARATHY and GAIL WELLS  
London: Earthscan, 2008, 292 pp. £24.95 (paperback) ISBN 978 1 84407 563 8

A number of traditions can be identified as participatory research yet all share a basic characteristic, that participatory research and management methodologies are necessarily conducted under the evolving paradigm of process, local knowledge, and reversals of learning: the research is relevant and meaningful – to and for the community. Moreover, ownership of the information, and perhaps the research process itself, depending on the terms of engagement, is community based.

Much of this is outlined by Carl Wilmsen in the opening chapter 'Negotiating community, participation, knowledge and power in participatory research'. Wilmsen gives a brief history of the development of participatory methodologies, as well as their philosophical underpinnings. Also discussed is change resulting from either a radical social agenda or a milder form of social reform.

Chapter 2, by J D Wulforst and others, further expands on shared characteristics of various participatory approaches, insisting on these three: a degree of community-centred control, reciprocal production of knowledge, and utility and action of outcomes. In this discussion, the authors are trying to situate participatory action research.

Subsequent chapters present obstacles to institutionalising participatory research in community forestry in the USA (chapter 3, by Carl Wilmsen and Ajit Krishnaswamy) and discuss the need for greater support in capacity building and training, and willingness for greater flexibility and adaptation on the part of all involved. As authors William F Elmendorf and Michael Rios note in chapter 4, 'Participation and understanding takes work: cultivation, time, listening, and flexibility' (p. 97).

This is a text rich with case studies, from a critique of the Native American Tending and Gathering

Garden in the Cache Creek Nature Preserve in Woodland, California, to the Little Tennessee Perspectives project in Macon County, North Carolina, each drawing close attention to the rapidly changing landscape.

Chapters such as 'Research on native terms' by Don L Hankins and Jacquelyn Ross (chapter 11), call into question the hidden assumptions about culture embedded in research. Like lenses, such assumptions filter how we perceive social reality. The editors' final chapter, 'Participation, relationships and empowerment', offers ideas about balancing rigour with relevance, and 'good' science.

In short, participatory research elevates relaxed rapport over, say, prolonged residence in a particular place. At the very least, participatory research approaches facilitate meaningful exchange, quick understanding, and, at the same time, enjoyment of the work; an enjoyment that necessarily comes with learning. Participatory research is indeed a stylish business for its inherent adaptability and its endless possibilities for empowerment: these are important lessons for graduate students and researchers everywhere.

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**Global Lives: Britain and the World, 1550–1800.** By MILES OGBORN

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008, 368 pp. £17.99 (paperback) ISBN 978 0 521 60718 6

Miles Ogborn wrote *Global Lives* to highlight human agency in the development of the British empire, and 'to put the life back into global history' (p. 333). He succeeds on both counts. *Global Lives* is like a grown-up, sophisticated version of Genevieve Foster's *World* books (1944–1947), providing sketches of 42 individuals in the contexts of their time and place. Miles Ogborn constructs a rich, complex and multifaceted story of an empire's expansion by fits and starts. He takes readers to what Mary Louise Pratt (1992) calls the contact zones, from British ports to Ireland, to North America and the Caribbean, to India, to West Africa, and the Pacific islands and the oceans themselves. Luminaries such as Pocahontas, Captain James Cook and Toussaint L'Ouverture share the stage with lesser-known men and women in each region, including royalty, pirates, merchants and slaves. Subalterns speak and more than hold their own in this global story.

The chapters generally focus on a particular contact zone or trading practice over a period of time, establishing the interplay between macro and micro themes and perspectives, weaving them through individual stories, and summing them up at each chapter's end. The story of William Freeman, for example, illuminates the mundane details of the developing triangular transatlantic trade. In sketching the details of

Freeman's life as a Caribbean sugar plantation owner and London-based commission agent, Ogborn draws out the importance of credit and personal trust in establishing and maintaining a mercantile world over thousands of miles.

Deviousness and duplicity were also effective personal and imperial strategies. We meet working-class British women taking advantage of drunken sailors, company agents investing and trading on the side against employers' rules, buccaneers and privateers functioning as state-sponsored naval terrorists, West African slave traders losing violently to their competition and becoming enslaved themselves. In politics and trade, Europeans, Africans, Amerindians (to use Ogborn's terminology), Indians and Pacific Islanders all engaged in efforts to gain advantage in their contacts with the other, whether politically or economically, and Ogborn makes clear that the eventual outcome of Britain's empire was neither assured nor preordained.

By offering breadth over depth, there are the usual issues of wanting to know more, and Ogborn concludes each chapter with a paragraph on his sources, mostly secondary, where readers can turn for further information. Well written, thoughtful and sympathetic, *Global Lives* deserves broad appeal for undergraduates, as well as the general public.

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**Diasporas.** By STÉPHANE DUFOIX

London: University of California Press, 2008, 136 pp. £15.95 (paperback) ISBN 978 0 520 25360 5

In this updated translation of a 2003 contribution to the French reference series *Que sais-je?*, sociologist Stéphane Dufoix offers some intriguing reflections on how the concept of 'diaspora' has been – and should be – employed in scholarship on dispersed populations. The purpose of this slim volume is not to provide a comprehensive overview of diasporic populations (for that, try Robin Cohen's *Global Diasporas*, published in its second edition in 2008) – nor is it to catalogue work in diaspora studies, although the first chapter does provide a useful history of the use of the term. Instead, Dufoix argues for a critical re-assessment of how we approach the study of dispersed communities. He

suggests that using the term 'diaspora' to represent the experiences of particular dispersed peoples often leads to 'static thinking' by essentialising these groups, and obscuring the differentiation both among and within them. Following from this, Dufoix lays out a schema of diasporic structures that includes four ideal types (the centropерipheral, the enclaved, the atopic, and the antagonistic), in which categorisation is based on how extraterritorial communities relate to what he calls a 'referent-origin' (which may be either state, nation, or territory of origin), and on how dispersed populations in different parts of the world are linked with each other.

Throughout the book, Dufoix struggles to find a balance between using 'diaspora' as a unifying theme, even as he questions the utility of the term for critically examining experiences of migration. Nevertheless, by emphasising that 'diaspora' is 'just a word' (p. 2), he handily dispenses with the often unproductive discussion of whether the concept has been stretched beyond usefulness by what Rogers Brubaker has called 'the 'diaspora' diaspora' (2005). Dufoix's argument against static thinking in diaspora studies is well argued and important, as is his insistence on a flexible, relational view of his ideal types of dispersed populations. However, his carefully delineated and diagrammed four-part schema might work against him here: it is not entirely clear how it might be applied to future research in a way that does not simply reify new categories – and, indeed, Dufoix himself does not use his ideal types to illuminate the subsequent empirical discussion of strategies for managing distance. Yet for those with an interest in pushing diaspora studies beyond facile classifications and debates over semantics, Diasporas should prove to be both edifying and energising.

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**Freedom and Constraint in Caribbean Migration and Diaspora.** Edited by ELIZABETH THOMAS-HOPE Kingston (Jamaica): Ian Randle Publishers, 2009, 392 pp. US\$35.00 (paperback) ISBN 978 976 637 351 1

Migration and mobility are among the most enduring processes shaping the geography of the Caribbean. As many of the contributors to this recently published edited volume note, almost all the inhabitants of the region are descended from migrants – whether forced

or voluntary – and the collection's title acknowledges the continued relevance of 'constraint' and 'freedom' in explaining migratory processes. Perhaps the greatest strength of this book is the way it brings together a variety of disciplinary approaches – economic, literary, political, psychological, and sociological – to the study of migration and mobility to, from, and within the Caribbean. The broad scope of the 21 papers in this volume should appeal to a wide range of scholars, and it is to be hoped that this will encourage readers to engage with the ideas and concepts examined by contributors from outside of their regular academic circles – for example, there is undoubtedly significant value for scholars of the economic aspects of migration to be aware of the social and psychological effects of the process, and vice versa. Furthermore, as policies relating to migration are shaped and re-shaped in the Caribbean and the traditional 'destination' societies of North America and Western Europe, a multi-faceted collection such as this one ought to contribute to better-informed and more holistic approaches to the challenges and opportunities posed by continuing high levels of mobility.

The foreword, preface and introduction could, however, have highlighted some of these connections and issues more clearly. They tend to provide a background to the subsequent chapters rather than an analysis of them: they could have been more ambitious in their analysis and assessment of common themes. Similarly, the two main sections: 'Social constructions of race and identity in the experience and culture of migration and the diaspora' and 'Paradoxes and possibilities of transnationalism', are rather broad: several shorter sections (potentially supported by editorial analysis) may have helped to move this volume from 'collection' to 'synthesis'. In addition, much of the cultural analysis looks backwards rather than forwards: the poems of Louise Bennett and the novels of Samuel Selvon are repeatedly cited, perhaps at the expense of more recent cultural depictions of mobility.

However, the breadth of coverage of the Caribbean is particularly pleasing – the papers not only present research from the different linguistic sub-regions (the Anglophone, Hispanic, Francophone and Dutch-speaking Caribbean are all covered), but several authors have examined migratory linkages between these (a discussion of Jamaican migrants in Curaçao; a depiction of Venezuelan students in Trinidad and Tobago), or have produced comparative analyses (an assessment of civil society responses to deportees in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic). As tends to be the case in edited volumes, the individual chapters vary in quality – yet there is much of relevance for geographers interested in migration, mobility, and the constitution of transnational Caribbean societies.

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**Deserts and Desert Environments** (Environmental Systems and Global Change Series). By JULIE LAITY. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008, 342 pp. £29.99 (paperback) ISBN 978 1 57718 033 3

This welcome addition to the literature will be useful for undergraduates who are taking courses involving aspects of dryland geomorphology, or who are interested in a general understanding of the diversity of geomorphological and ecohydrological processes operating in the world's deserts. This text may also be useful to some practitioners who want to broaden their understanding of deserts. Although I have worked in a number of dryland regions and taught on the topic to undergraduate and postgraduate students for a number of years, I did find some useful tit-bits to keep me amused and found the range of citations to recent literature generally reassuring.

In terms of organisation, the author divides the book into 13 chapters, which themselves fall into four broad and relatively logical themes. The first represents a summary of background information relating to deserts such as their location, climate, and hydrological frameworks. The second outlines a useful range of desert geomorphological processes and highlights both their context and links within dryland landscapes. There is good coverage of aspects of weathering, lake systems, and aeolian/fluvial processes. The final section elaborates on desert ecohydrological interactions with summaries of plant and animal community processes and dynamics, and finishes on a short review of the concept and reality of desertification.

One of the distinctly positive aspects of this text is that the author is consistent in attempting to include examples, case studies and summary literature from a wide range of locations and sources. However, given that I work in a number of the fields that are covered, I am able to quickly surmise that this approach works well in some chapters, but that there are inevitably noticeable gaps in others. Generally this can be attributed to the fact that the sections and associated chapters were most likely designed to be short and to the point, and I am willing to accept that some material will inevitably be missed out. However, one constant omission that is perhaps less understandable throughout is that very few examples of either conceptual or validated process models, that are used in the wider literature to describe relationships between some of the variables that are discussed, are included. Given the complexity of climate feedbacks, the inherent nonlinearity of some desert processes and resulting landforms and recent significant advances in this field, this is slightly disappointing. Such an omission is especially apparent when the author finally addresses the complex and controversial issue of human intervention in deserts and the concepts of desertification. Although a range of interesting case studies is presented, it will be

hard for some readers to appreciate the processes and feedbacks that have operated in each case, and how this might impact on our ability to manage or mitigate desertification. The level of detail included throughout this text is therefore only broadly sufficient for undergraduates who have a basic understanding of geomorphological concepts and who want to delve into dryland landscapes. Advanced undergraduates will struggle to derive any significant depth of understanding of processes acting in a number of the key areas covered, and may find a more useful source of inspiration in existing and recently revised competitor texts which address similar themes (e.g. Parsons and Abrahams 2009; Thomas 1997).

Despite these quibbles, I would recommend *Deserts and Desert Environments* as a useful starting point for any undergraduate student wishing to explore a range of dryland environments and landforms for the first time. The well illustrated and accessible nature of this textbook will suit them well.

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**Sandstone Landforms.** By ROBERT W YOUNG, ROBERT A L WRAY and ANN R M YOUNG. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009, 304 pp. £70.00 (hardback) ISBN 978 0 521 87733 6

Young *et al.* start their informative overview of sandstone landforms by noting the relative neglect of the geomorphology of sandstones compared to the literature devoted to landforms in granitic or carbonate rocks. They attribute this neglect to 'the widespread assumption that the natural sculpturing of gently dipping and resistant sandstones is a relatively straightforward matter that holds few surprises' (p. 3). They then note that 'lithological and structural simplicity must be demonstrated rather than assumed' (p. 3), and provide many detailed examples where such assumptions are not met. Throughout the book, the authors discuss the interactions among lithology (depositional environment, diagenesis), structure (tectonic deformation, stress geometry) and weathering in general terms and with respect to specific examples. They tend to emphasise the importance of lithology relative to structural or climatic controls, and the book includes a thorough discussion of rock mechanics. Individual chapters cover cliffs and erosional processes, curved slopes, chemical weathering, solutional landforms, erosional forms (including those in bedrock channels),

climatic zonation of sandstone terrain, and tectonic constraints on sandstone landforms.

The book ends with a brief mention of gaps in knowledge, such as the common neglect of how the mechanical properties of rock influence landforms. This volume builds on the authors' 1992 book on the same topic, and is unique in providing within a single volume so many diverse aspects of surface and near-surface processes and forms created in sandstone bedrock. The writing is clear, concise, and readable. The text is well illustrated with numerous black and white photographs and diagrams, and examples are chosen from a wide range of geographic environments that literally span the tropics to both poles. Extensive references and a thorough index are included, and the size and weight of the book make it easy to hold. *Sandstone Landforms* will provide a thorough and useful reference for readers, from undergraduate students to research geomorphologists.

ELLEN WOHL, *Colorado State University, USA*

**Quantitative Analysis of Marine Biological Communities: Field Biology and Environment.** By GERALD J BAKUS

Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2007, 435 pp. plus CD ROM, £58.95 (hardback) ISBN 978 0 470 04440 7

Undergraduate or graduate students undertaking their first research projects are often faced with a bewildering number of decisions to make, such as what surveying method to use, how to design the sampling strategy, and which statistical techniques are best for their data. This book assists with this decision-making process by providing an overview of a wide range of sampling and analytical methodologies used in marine biological studies, and indeed in other ecosystems. The book is split into sections on sampling and sampling design, various analytical techniques, and sampling offshore systems. The range of techniques discussed is certainly impressive, including most regularly used marine sampling techniques, univariate and multivariate statistics, analysis of time series data, and modelling and systems analysis. One has to admire any book that takes on introducing topics such as Bayesian statistics, fractals, and analysis of DNA sequences in just a few pages. Of course the book is not intended as a guide to these techniques, but rather provides an overview of their use and a range of references for further reading. Thus readers are alerted to techniques and issues that they may not be aware of, but might be important and useful for their research.

In addition to highlighting various methodologies, the book provides information and case studies on how to actually conduct many of the field sampling methods and implement some analytical techniques.

While this is fine and useful for relatively simple statistics, I did wonder whether it was worth providing even an introduction to the analytical basis of complex techniques such as Bayesian statistics: the space may have been better used to describe more fully the principles of these techniques and their advantages. Similarly, I found some of the text a little unbalanced with, for example, over eight pages dedicated to the production of multimedia CD-Roms and PowerPoint presentations but only the following two and a half pages covering landscape ecology, including GIS. I had a few other quibbles: some of the photos are poor, there are better examples of methods such as DNA sequencing than some of the illustrative examples taken from the author's own laboratory, and many of the statistical techniques are best implemented in the popular and freely available R software that is not mentioned. However, the book is a valuable introduction to key techniques for many marine studies, and will become a well thumbed book in many personal and institutional libraries.

ALASTAIR HARBORNE, *University of Exeter*

**Dinosaurs: A Concise Natural History.** By DAVID FASTOVSKY and DAVID WEISHAMPEL

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009, 379 pp. £35.00 (paperback) ISBN 978 0 521 71902 5

This is a new (but perhaps more accurately, a re-branded) textbook that has its origins in the two earlier editions by the same authors, which were entitled *The Evolution and Extinction of the Dinosaurs*. Rather unusually, compared to the rather more rigidly constrained teaching structure of degree courses in the UK, there is a strong drive to introduce 'non-science majors' taking undergraduate degrees in US universities and colleges to some form of digestible, attractive (and perhaps to their minds *non-challenging*) science. One of the more attractive of these courses has tended to be something involving the word 'dinosaur'. Dinosaurs are renowned for having fascinated many of all ages – so the attraction to learn a bit more about them and pick up some points toward a degree result seems almost irresistible to a substantial number of students. As a consequence, a number of textbooks have appeared in recent years that provide the essential book-based back up to the taught course; these have, quite understandably, been interestingly varied in their quality and approach, but it is undoubtedly the case that Fastovsky and Weishampel have been at the forefront of this genre.

The book is structured pedagogically as far as possible and its contents are broken into four distinct sections: Part 1 provides the essential introductory matters and therefore explains the principles of geology and the geological timescale, what fossils are

and how they are collected and prepared for study, and then introduces the process of analysis that results in a systematic framework (of familial relationships) that is essential to understanding dinosaurs in the broader context of the history of life on Earth. An example of this approach is then followed through by using the principles expounded in the explanation of how dinosaurs fit into the phylogeny of animal life.

Parts 2 and 3 are the essential meat of the book in that they cover in detail the principal dinosaurian groups, summarising in great detail and with the aid of some wonderful artwork (by John Sibbick) their anatomy and evolutionary relationships. Part 4 contains what might be regarded as a compendium of more discursive (and intellectually challenging) topics associated with dinosaurs: how did they control their body temperature? How did their diversity change across the Mesozoic? And related to this, how did they fit into our understanding of the ecology of the time? There is also space for the perennial problem (or non-problem: birds after all survived and they are without question dinosaurs!) of their extinction. One rather interesting section within this part of the book also deals with slightly more philosophical questions relating to the history of ideas as well as the major contributors to the study of dinosaurs.

All in all, this book is comprehensive, informative and rather chatty in style (clearly targeted at its undergraduate audience). The text has many information boxes that supplement and explore specific questions and there are questions at the end of each chapter. The book is also apparently supported by online resources (images from the text, lecture slides prepared in PowerPoint format, and answers to the questions that litter the text are also provided for clarification). Overall, the book is 'fit for purpose'. It is indeed concise as well as being accessible and highly informative on the topic of dinosaurs and the science that can be applied to understanding them. As a well-structured, thoughtful and helpful undergraduate teaching guide it is absolutely excellent.

DAVID NORMAN, *University of Cambridge*

### **Assessing the Conservation Value of Fresh Waters.**

Edited by PHILIP J BOON and CATHERINE M PRINGLE  
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009, 284 pp. £35.00 (paperback) ISBN 978 0 521 61322 4

Inland fresh waters represent only a tiny fraction of the world's total area of aquatic habitat, but are of disproportionate interest to the human population. In this

book the editors seek to explore the ways in which the ecological value of rivers and lakes is measured, and how this translates into priorities for preservation or restoration. Their target audience includes postgraduate students, academics and those with professional interests in conservation.

In the first two thirds of the book each chapter is authored by a Briton and a North American: an appropriate structure since a principal aim is to compare between these two developed countries with long histories of conservation activity. Given that the UK is only slightly larger than Minnesota, it raises some interesting (unanswered) questions about comparable scales. These chapters provide useful summaries of the legislation relating to conservation of fresh waters, of the roles of government (local and national), NGOs and voluntary bodies, and of the systems used for assessment of conservation value and restoration potential.

The remainder of the book breaks from the two-author, transatlantic template, with chapters on evaluating fresh waters for conservation in Sweden, Australia, South Africa and the developing countries (principally in South America). This change of gear properly earns the book its subtitle 'an international perspective'. I found this the more rewarding section, partly because it was less familiar and partly because, being less heavily burdened with the need to describe two sets of complex legislation and organisational infrastructure, it was a more engaging read.

Allowing for inevitable differences in style between authors, the standard of writing is good. However, there is some repetition between chapters, and very limited cross-referencing. The two colour plates are located in a chapter appropriate to neither, but are given in monochrome in their relevant chapters, and in any event are of limited value (maps with no scale or orientation). In a book of this sort it is not easy to get the balance right between description on the one hand, and synthesis and critique on the other. This balance varies between chapters, but overall it would have been better had there been more of the latter. Perhaps it was not the intention to speculate about the future, but the book is largely silent on issues of climate change. To mix biological metaphors, it is the elephant in the room with the potential to be a cat among conservation pigeons. These quibbles notwithstanding, anyone wishing to have a sound introduction to the evaluation of rivers and lakes for conservation purposes will find this volume a very good source of authoritative information.

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The Combination Model as a new integrated approach to professional and family life. Book · November 2008. DOI: 10.2307/j.ctt9qgtbc. This paper is based on a broad internationally comparative study on the division of professional and family work in the Western world (Van Dongen, 2008), integrating the conceptual, normative and empirical perspective. We present a new general conceptual approach to time and human activities and discuss its impact on the methodological, empirical and normative approach in social sciences in general and in time use research in particular. A new basic theory of time and human activities in a complex world and some major consequences for time use research. Article. Dr Walter.