
Reviews

Fish by E R DeSombre, J S Barkin; Polity Press, Cambridge, 2011, 296 pages, £38.00 cloth, £12.99 paper, ISBN 9780745650197, 9780745650203

In 2008 over half of the world's marine fish stocks monitored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2010) were estimated to be fully exploited, with a further third categorised as overexploited, depleted, or recovering from depletion. The realisation that only a minority of our wild fish stocks can sustain an increase in fishing pressure is of considerable concern, yet equally worrying is the fact that international efforts to address these problems over the last forty years have been largely unsuccessful. It is this observation that forms the central theme of *Fish*, as Elizabeth DeSombre and Samuel Barkin examine the crisis of industrial fishing in the world's oceans and the possible ways in which it can be addressed.

Fishing is a diverse industry that is subject to a complex interrelationship of environmental, social, political, and economic factors. For this reason the authors devote the first section of the book to providing a context for the current crisis in fishing. In the introductory chapter DeSombre and Barkin provide a diagnosis of the problem and outline some of the unique attributes of fish as a resource. In the marine environment wild fish represent a common property good which essentially belongs to no one. Fish stocks are both rivalrous and non-excludable: their exploitation by one actor prevents simultaneous exploitation by others, yet by their very nature it is difficult to prevent access to them. While such principles are well known to economists, the authors describe these concepts clearly for those who may be encountering them for the first time. This is followed by a chapter detailing the growth of the global fishing industry to the present day, which is comprehensive without being tiresome.

It is in the third and fourth chapters of the book where the crux of the problem of world fisheries is explored in earnest. Industrial fishing in the oceans remains the central theme of discussion, although a concise overview of the artisanal and recreational fishing sectors is also provided. An examination of the structure of the fishing industry provides the reader with a clear understanding of how political economy and market structure currently exacerbate, rather than alleviate, many of the problems of both developed and developing world fisheries. This theme is developed further in the following chapter, which provides a critique of the regulatory efforts aimed at reducing pressure and ensuring long-term sustainability. In addition to exploring established management measures, the authors provide a well-balanced discussion of more recent developments, including marine protected areas and the development of private property rights in the form of individual transferable quotas.

In recognition of the limitations of existing management and regulation efforts, the focus of the final two chapters shifts towards alternative approaches for tackling the crisis in global fisheries. In the fifth chapter the authors explore the aquaculture industry and examine whether the farming of fish can really provide a panacea to the problems of wild capture fisheries, as some believe. The use of species-specific examples is particularly beneficial, as it highlights the variable impact of different types of aquaculture on reducing pressure on capture fisheries. The wider issues associated with the aquaculture industry are also discussed, including the paradox of the 'fishmeal trap' in which reliance upon fishmeal as a feedstuff is increasing the pressure on wild fish stocks. However, given the considerable growth of aquaculture over the last twenty years, this latter topic could have been afforded more detail—particularly with respect to the ecological implications of removing vast quantities of fish from the food chain. In the final chapter of the book the authors examine the role of consumers in changing global fishing practices. Consistent with preceding chapters, the authors provide a well-balanced discussion of consumer-driven measures, such as certification schemes and collective action strategies. Fundamentally, while such measures continue to influence consumer awareness and behaviour, their application must be viewed within a wider approach to fisheries management and regulation. This leads the reader to a brief, yet logical conclusion in which DeSombre and

Barkin identify three perspectives on ensuring the sustainability of the world's fisheries: improving governmental regulation, reducing the size of the industry, and making informed choices as consumers.

The publication of this book comes at a time when public awareness of the issues facing the global fishing industry is gaining increasing momentum. In light of these developments, this work provides an ideal introduction to this subject that will appeal to a wide audience with an interest in global fisheries and the marine environment. At 192 pages in length, this is not the most comprehensive publication on the issues facing world fisheries; however, it is arguably one of the most accessible, and with a retail price of £12.99 for the paperback edition it remains competitively priced.

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2010 *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010* (FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Rome)

Water resources planning and management edited by R Q Grafton, K Hussey; Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2011, 800 pages, £55.00 cloth, ISBN 9780521762588

In this book the authors seek to establish a comprehensive and interdisciplinary understanding of the water quality and water quantity problems that humans are facing throughout the world. As stated in the preface, the editors are hopeful that this book will be the first of its kind to draw upon both scientific and sociological insights of contemporary water governance experiences and research from engineers, hydrologists, sociologists, economists, ecologists, anthropologists, political scientists, environmental historians, geographers, and others. Therefore, they aim to offer an extensive coverage of perspectives regarding water governance on the global debate.

This book is divided into three parts and includes foundation chapters on the physical processes of water resources; a variety of themes and theories regarding water planning and management, with the purpose of seeking a balance between growing water supply demands and environmental water sustainability; and numerous case studies addressing experiences, challenges, and difficulties in implementing better water practice in different areas of the world.

The contributors begin with an attempt to understand water scarcity and quality problems and then suggestions to help overcome these challenges. Accordingly, in part I they focus on exploring the immensity of the global water and hydrological cycle, its interconnectedness of ecosystems, and how water should be used and governed amidst the twin challenges of an increasing world population and climate change. The authors focus mainly on surface water and groundwater connectivity, water quality, and aquatic ecosystems in the fields of agricultural (eg, food production, virtual water transfer), industrial (eg, water pollution and quality), domestic (eg, safe drinking water), and environmental (eg, the prevention of biodiversity loss) water consumption and protection.

Part II comprises eight chapters where authors discuss theories and concepts concerning water planning and management, such as environmental governance, stakeholders, gender, risk, uncertainty, and the precautionary principle. Readers will benefit from knowledge of a wide range of such concepts and thus gain an enhanced understanding of better water governance. Each contributor to this section does an excellent job in not only addressing the challenge and complexity of domestic and international water law and potential risk and uncertainty in water planning and management practices but also suggesting what endeavours could be done in this regard—be it the importance of wide stakeholder engagement, the application of adaptive and integrated water management, or capacity building and knowledge sharing. In this section a gender perspective on the practice of participation in water resource management and decision-making processes has been acknowledged and stressed. Authors also discuss the problems of ongoing water privatisation in some developing countries, such as Chile, and argue that

sole reliance upon the market operation might leave little room for those countries to pursue environmental sustainability and other societal goals.

This book is a valuable collection of case studies. In light of the great complexities and variations in water and geography the editors set out to have an explicit global vision of how water is consumed and managed in different parts of the world. However, drawing upon the comparative analysis of case studies from nineteen different countries discussed in part III, it can be concluded that, owing to the large variety of geographical and environmental characteristics of water resources, practices of water planning and management should be taken only when it suits local or regional circumstances.

In summary, the editors have provided a broad coverage of disciplines and topics and present a well-integrated collection of chapters about the implications for multilevel environmental governance of water resources. Although the book includes many chapters, the contributors concentrate on the logical and incorporated whole pertaining to water governance, rather than merely presenting separate pieces tackling specific water problems. The thirty-five chapters are well organised in a coherent manner—with a natural flow from basic concepts to water planning and management and concluding with a large number of case studies from different parts of the world.

A remarkable feature of this book is that the editors draw upon both scientific and sociological insights and appeal for a more collaborative, full-scale, and robust stakeholder involvement in water management and decision-making process, highlighting the role of the general public. Therefore, they suggest a combined bottom-up (stakeholder engagement) and top-down (regulation and policy) approach for future water governance.

However, for a more thorough understanding of the cases included in this book readers need to consult multiple knowledge areas, such as different cultures, countries, and geographical variations. Even though the contributors have employed both quantitative and qualitative research methods to present case studies, technical analysis and quantitative data seem to play a dominant role. Some theories and concepts regarding water governance have been discussed in part II, but they have not always been referred to in part III. Nevertheless, this is clearly not the chief focus of the editors, who hope to offer practical guidance in solving water problems.

Overall, I found this book to be comprehensive, scholarly, inclusive, and practical. It would serve as an excellent textbook for college students and academic researchers in this field, as well as a valuable tool for water professionals, experts, and scholars. It could also be regarded as a good reference book for understanding water resources planning and management.

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Handbook on multi-level governance edited by H Enderlein, S Wälti, M Zürn; Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, Glos, 2010, 512 pages, £145.00 cloth (US \$245.00) ISBN 9781847202413

In the past two decades the concept of multilevel governance (MLG) has been widely applied in the political sciences, particularly in debates about public policy making, local government, federalism, and European integration. MLG highlights that government competencies in democratic systems are, more often than not, flexibly dispersed across multiple territorial jurisdictions (the multilevel element) and that private actors play a significant role alongside public ones in increasingly nonhierarchical policy networks (the governance element). Beyond these descriptive insights, the theoretical basis of MLG has remained relatively slim. MLG is primarily a metaphor that can be applied in a variety of contexts, but there have been few attempts to systematically draw together these different applications and to explore whether they can be consolidated to form a more comprehensive theory.

The *Handbook on Multi-level Governance* partially fills this gap in the literature. The editors assemble thirty-one chapters, many written by internationally renowned authors. The book begins with a conceptual section in which prominent approaches to analyzing MLG are represented; contributions to this section distinguish different types of MLG (Hooghe and Marks,

Scharpf) and link the concept to debates about fiscal federalism (Geys and Konrad), multilevel games (Mayer), and global governance (Zürn). The main part of the book is composed of five large sections that discuss the use of MLG in different research contexts: domestic politics, European integration, comparative regionalism, global governance, and public policy making.

The *Handbook* provides an authoritative overview of the MLG literature. In spite of a number of weaknesses—some chapters mention the concept only peripherally, and the index (which mainly lists authors' names) is largely useless—it has the potential to be widely used as a source of reference. The book is systematically structured, and most chapters are of high quality; the contributors clearly show where MLG has provided value added compared with more traditional approaches (for example, by highlighting the role of flexible interconnections between different governments in federations). Particularly enlightening are the chapters on the role of MLG in international relations, a research field where the concept is relatively rarely adopted, even though the internationalization and transnationalization of policy making make it appear ever more appropriate.

While the editors do an admirable job in summing up existing research, the *Handbook's* contribution to the further development of MLG is less significant. The editors do not fully exploit the potential to draw comparisons and establish connections between different academic debates, and they do not resolve crucial definitional ambiguities that become apparent. Their own definition of MLG describes it as “a set of general-purpose or functional jurisdictions that enjoy some degree of autonomy within a common governance arrangement and whose actors claim to engage in an enduring interaction in pursuit of a common good” (page 4). This definition is much more in line with traditional understandings of federalism than with many other attempts to define MLG, including ones by contributors to the volume which emphasize “shared competences and inter-locking jurisdictions” (Hallerberg, page 133) rather than jurisdictional autonomy, “permanently adaptive process[es] between the different levels” (Zürn, pages 94–95) rather than established governance arrangements, and the lack of overarching normative reference points rather than a focus on the common good.

Similar ambiguities become apparent in the attempt to apply MLG to international relations. While Zürn claims that “it does not make sense to speak of ... multi-level governance” (page 81) when dealing with intergovernmental relations, Mayer's discussion of multilevel games as an aspect of MLG focuses precisely on this kind of international diplomacy. Humrich and Zangl argue that MLG exists “as soon as international law-making is no longer entirely subordinated to consent on the domestic level and as long as it does not take precedence over legislation at the domestic level” (page 343); they do not seem to realize that this definition would rule out the European Union, whose law does take precedence over member-state law, but which for most observers constitutes the paradigmatic case of MLG.

Such conceptual blurriness underlines that MLG has a long way to go before it can be considered a consolidated theory. The editors of the *Handbook* do little to explicitly raise and discuss such problems. They also do not address crucial normative questions, such as the implications of MLG for the democratic quality of governance. This issue was relatively neglected in the first generation of MLG scholarship but has recently received much more scholarly attention. Still, none of the thirty-one chapters in the *Handbook* are focused on this issue (Rittberger's discussion of parliaments comes closest). This omission underscores once more that the *Handbook* primarily sums up first-generation MLG scholarship, while it does less than it could to drive the academic debate forward.

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Climate change policies: global challenges and future prospects edited by E Cerdá, X Labandeira; Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, Glos, 2010, 304 pages, £69.95 cloth, ISBN 9781849808286

A wealth of recipes for preserving the Earth's climate from dangerous change have been proposed by scholars and policy makers in recent decades. The delayed negative effect of present emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and their transboundary nature (independently of the source, all emissions increase the world's stock of concentrations) aggravates the complexity and magnitude

of the problem. Hence prescriptions for addressing the global external cost arising from GHG emissions are bound to be multifaceted and to rely on various instruments and methodologies. After all, we are in a situation where “mutual coercion mutually agreed upon by the majority of the people affected” (Hardin, 1968, page 1247) is no easy task, given the temporal and spatial issues mentioned above. Moreover, the present lack of a supranational institution for regulating global carbon emissions sets the stage for free riding—that is, individual countries have an incentive to delay curbing emissions and rely on the mitigation efforts of others.

How to navigate, then, the complex landscape of proposed policies to cope with climate change? This edited book offers an excellent panoramic view of many leading economists’ take on the subject. It is based on a workshop with a focus on climate change policies organized by the editors in Madrid in February 2010. The ten chapters cover a broad range of issues, with the first six contributions dealing mostly with national implications of mitigation and adaptation policies and the remaining ones concentrating on the international aspects of climate change policies. Inevitably, there is some degree of overlap among chapters, as national issues cannot be isolated from international architectures for achieving a certain target in terms of GHG concentrations. But both the expert and the casual reader with an interest in what academics have to say about what policies have or should be put in place to avoid a tragedy of the (climate) commons will find food for thought.

Chapters in the first part span issues concerning how to best model the economic impacts of projected climate change (Hanemann), how to quantify adaptation costs and redistribution policies towards developing countries (Ciscar, Paci, and Vergano), how to review mitigation strategies (Edenhofer, Knopf, Luderer), suggestions for instruments to encourage low-carbon technologies (Del Rio), how to address the issue of leakage and competitiveness (Quirion), and calculations for the distributional effects of carbon pricing at the national level (Grainger and Kolstad). It is worth taking stock of the main messages from these initial chapters of *Climate Change Policies* before moving on to the exploration of the international dimension of climate agreements in the second part of the book. The picture that emerges from these reviews is one of heterogeneous challenges, in terms of both academic advances (Hanemann, for instance, suggests many improvements to impact modelling, in order to better account for nonlinearities, spatial scales, and uncertainties; he concludes that many of these modifications have the potential to augment previous impact estimates) and political challenges. The latter include—as evident in the three chapters by Edenhofer, Knopf, and Luderer, by Quirion, and by Grainger and Kolstad—the issue of redistribution or rents within and outside the national borders. While it represents a major obstacle to sizeable mitigation efforts at the national level, the authors advance authoritative policy recommendations to overcome it, notably by means of economic transfers and other price mechanisms. While I enjoyed the broad overview on the domestic challenges and prospects for cooperation on climate action, I found some of the discussions drifted away from the contents of the associated chapter. For instance, in her discussion of the chapter “Issues on the economics of adaptation to climate change” Padron appears to be eager to state her own views about climate change at large, rather than addressing those raised by Ciscar, Paci, and Vergano. Given the redundancy of some of the arguments made in this and other discussions, the reader would have benefited from a greater integration of the discussions with the main chapters.

In the remainder of the book the focus is shifted on to the prospects for reaching a binding international agreement to curb global emissions and avoid exceeding a predetermined concentration target. The chapter by Carraro and Massetti reviews the main game-theoretic contributions accumulated in the last twenty years of research on international environmental agreements. Markandya follows suit by shifting attention to how to achieve meaningful mitigation in emerging countries (by means of an international carbon market coupled with transfers from developed to developing countries), while Michaelowa explores the effectiveness of the clean development mechanism to achieve the above objective by decoupling allocation of emissions from reduction in emissions. In the final chapter contributors report on the developments in climate change policies in China, the European Union, and the United States. Each section is written by experts of the area (respectively, Zhang, Soria and Saveyn, and Arroyo).

Summing up, this rigorous but accessible book offers valuable lessons from scholars with a wide range of expertise related to the economics of climate change and should be of interest to both researchers and practitioners in search for an overarching compendium about current views on climate change policies.

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Hardin G, 1968, "The tragedy of the commons" *Science* **162** 1243–1248

Polluted and dangerous: America's worst abandoned properties and what can be done about them by J B Hollander; University of Vermont Press, Burlington, VT, 2009, 332 pages, £44.50 cloth (US \$30.00) ISBN 9781584657194

Justin Hollander's *Polluted and Dangerous* brings a renewed focus to persistent concerns associated with abandoned and contaminated properties. These properties, which are commonly referred to as brownfields, have proven difficult to reuse. They continue to challenge planners and policy makers in their quest to redevelop these sites. In five richly documented case studies the reader learns about the experiences, challenges, and lessons of brownfield redevelopment in Trenton, New Jersey; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; New Bedford, Massachusetts; Youngstown, Ohio; and Richmond, Virginia.

The author's key contribution is that he further distinguishes brownfields from abandoned buildings, vacant lots, and underutilized or obsolete properties. By developing a nuanced category called high-impact temporarily obsolete abandoned derelict sites (HI-TOADS), Hollander convincingly demonstrates the planning challenges and policy implications of the redevelopment of the worst types of brownfields. While the concept of TOADS draws on previous work with collaborators at Rutgers University, Hollander provides some novel updates. In addition to abandonment and lack of use, he identifies HI-TOADS as brownfields that have on-site negative impacts such as crime, dumping, fire, disease, and aesthetic or environmental damage. Moreover, the compelling characteristic of HI-TOADS is that they have off-site negative impacts of declining property values at least one-quarter mile away from the brownfield.

Thus, Hollander sets out to answer four research questions: (1) Which US cities are most likely to contain HI-TOADS? (2) Do local planners consider HI-TOADS as problems? (3) What public policies are used to address HI-TOADS? and (4) How successful are such public policies? In methodological terms Hollander employs a mixed methods approach including quantitative and qualitative tools. To begin, the author employs a multivariate statistical analysis to determine which US cities would be more likely to contain HI-TOADS. Next, Hollander conducts telephone interviews with planners and local political actors in cities more likely to contain HI-TOADS. Then, the author conducts field research for five case studies on HI-TOADS. These are meticulously documented in eight appendices. Hollander's triangulation of methods successfully demonstrates that work in the urban affairs field benefits immensely from such approaches.

No study is without limitations, and Hollander appropriately acknowledges them. First, the geography of this study is limited to the East Coast and Midwest. The expansion to southern and western regions would certainly illuminate new insights on brownfields. Second, the availability of new data is limited. It would be useful and interesting to continue these studies in new regions using the most recent socioeconomic and housing data from the 2010 decennial census. And, third, a more fleshed out discussion of the policy implications would be appreciated. For example, how does the typology of HI-TOADS inform the process of policy making and decision making? The author concludes that the redevelopment of these sites centers on economic development policies, community empowerment approaches, and environmental health planning. Reflection on each of these policy areas is likely to frame future political dialog on brownfield redevelopment.

Notwithstanding these minor limitations, this book is not just an ordinary academic monograph: reading *Polluted and Dangerous* is like a breath of fresh air because it is lively and well written. Moreover, its tone is clear and sharply focused. As a former community planner in the US General Services Administration and as a Presidential Management Fellow, Hollander exceptionally translates his experiences as a practitioner into his writing. Academics will appreciate Hollander's synthesis of the literature on brownfields; planners and policy makers will benefit from the author's experiences and keen insights from the practitioner's field.

It is particularly important to note that Hollander's theoretical framework, typologies, and methods serve as an ideal launching pad for other scholars and practitioners to investigate the effects of the global economic regression on the collapse of housing markets and businesses. Since the publication of this work, scores of properties—residential, commercial, and industrial—have been abandoned. The market response is an oversupply of properties and a diminished demand for properties, which makes it a rational decision to abandon even more property. Such negative externalities undoubtedly impact surrounding property values as well as built and natural environments. This presents a rich opportunity for urban environmentalists to continue this line of scholarship.

Polluted and Dangerous is a welcome and timely contribution to the literature in urban affairs and environmental studies. Hollander's research stands at the intersection of urban planning and environmental studies. His work ably demonstrates both the potential and utility of interdisciplinary work in the social sciences. Few scholars have studied the long-term impacts of brownfields on people and place. *Polluted and Dangerous* is an important first cut at filling this gap in the literature. This is not only a book for libraries—it should be read by planners and advocates alike who care about the future of abandoned property.

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The international handbook on non-market environmental valuation edited by J Bennett; Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, Glos, 2011, 416 pages, £135.00 cloth, ISBN 9781848444256

Nonmarket environmental valuation (NMEV) has grown exponentially in the last few decades in terms of scale, scope, and the range of techniques available. From early studies focusing on revealed preference techniques, such as the travel cost method, the discipline has grown through the development of stated preference techniques such as contingent valuation—especially in the wake of their use after the Exxon Valdez spill. Recent developments have led to the merging of these techniques to create new methodologies, such as contingent behavior.

The International Handbook on Non-Market Environmental Valuation provides a valuable summation of the current landscape of NMEV. The contributors provide empirical case studies of a range of techniques as well as some of the most up-to-date discussions of solutions to some of the key theoretical and methodological issues facing the area.

Jeff Bennett begins with an ambitious aim: “to advance the development and application of non-market environmental valuation as a tool for policy-making”. The *Handbook* certainly draws on a significant, distinguished, and diverse set of authors to provide a range of work to help achieve this aim, with contributions from leading academics and practitioners to bring together both practical experience and detailed theoretical thought.

The *Handbook* feels naturally split into four sections. The first includes a range of case studies that utilize revealed preference techniques. The tools of hedonic pricing and the travel-cost method are applied to a range of situations: the pricing of externalities of roads in Norway, the pricing of coral reef quality in Hawaii, and the valuing of beaches in Minorca. These help to highlight the range of situations in which NMEV can be applied—and provide an introduction for the uninitiated to NMEV in general and these techniques in particular. They also help to highlight the range of results that can be elicited from NMEV—from the findings that proximity to coral reefs are factored into house prices in Hawaii to the findings that the presence of nudists increases visits to beaches in Minorca. This section is likely to prove especially useful to relatively inexperienced practitioners of NMEV—highlighting the scope of the possible—and the range of interesting results that can be obtained.

In the second section, contributors focus on examples and design issues surrounding the use of stated preference techniques: issues such as the delivery method of surveys, the importance of consequentiality, and the implications of valuing 'moment of consumption' or 'moment of experience' are discussed in chapters 6, 7, and 8. Chapter 9 provides a fascinating example of the inclusion of scientific principles into CV surveys, with the inclusion of bioindicators into a study of public preferences for the restoration of migratory fish passage in Rhode Island. This helps to highlight the importance and the possibility of providing robust scientific evidence in the design of stated preference surveys. This section would be most benefit practitioners of stated preference techniques, but does perhaps lack examples that would appeal to the uninitiated in the area.

The third section, composed of chapters 10 and 11, provides valuable insight into the technique of contingent behavior that merges revealed and stated preference techniques. Using examples of off-highway recreational vehicles and water demand in Vietnam, the authors highlight the versatility of the method and help to highlight key methodological questions and limitations.

The fourth section, composed of the last six chapters of the *Handbook*, brings together a range of chapters investigating key theoretical and methodological issues faced by NMEV. This section helps to show the complexity and depth of thought in the area—but may be beyond the reach of those inexperienced with the techniques. The design issues discussed in chapters 13 and 14 provide valuable resources for those designing stated preference surveys while, in chapters 15 and 16, authors extend the work of academics such as Carson and Groves (2007) by providing theoretical and methodological underpinnings of state of preference techniques.

The last chapter in the volume is perhaps the most interesting. It covers the controversial but common and vital issue of benefit transfer. Given the resources required to undertake NMEV, the ability to transfer findings into new settings is vital in expanding its use, especially in policy making and in emerging and developing economies. Thomassin and Johnston provide a detailed discussion of some of the issues surrounding benefit transfer and an empirical example of its potential for use in transferring water quality improvement estimates between the US and Canada.

In summary, the *Handbook* provides a detailed and thorough survey of the landscape of NMEV, from interesting and accessible case studies to in-depth discussions of its theoretical underpinning. The aim of appealing to policy makers and academia alike is a challenge that many similar publications attempt, but this is often fraught with difficulties. The *Handbook* makes a good attempt at meeting this challenge, although the sheer breadth of the undertaking means that not all chapters will be relevant to all levels of experience. It's unlikely to be read cover to cover by many but is likely to provide a valuable resource to dip in and out of as required—and is worth having on the shelf!

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