

About the Series

There is widespread agreement about the existence of a generalized ecological crisis in today's world. There is also a growing realization that the existing disciplines are not well equipped to account for this crisis, let alone furnish workable solutions; a broad consensus exists on the need for new models of thought, including more constructive engagement among the natural, social, and humanistic perspectives. At the same time, the proliferation of social movements that articulate their knowledge claims in cultural and ecological terms has become an undeniable social fact. This series is situated at the intersection of these two trends. We seek to join critical conversations in academic fields about nature, globalization, and culture with intellectual and political conversations in social movements and among other popular and expert groups about environment, place, and alternative socio-natural orders. Our objectives are to construct bridges among these theoretical and political developments in the disciplines and in nonacademic arenas and to create synergies for thinking anew about the real promise of emergent ecologies. We are interested in those works that enable us to envision instances of ecological viability as well as more lasting and just ways of being-in-place and being-in-networks with a diversity of humans and other living beings and nonliving artifacts.

New Ecologies for the Twenty-First Century aims at promoting a dialogue among those engaged in transforming our understanding and practice of the relation between nature and culture. This includes revisiting new fields (such as environmental history, historical ecology, ecological economics, or political ecology), tendencies (such as the application of theories of complexity to rethinking a range of questions, from evolution to ecosystems), and episte-

mological concerns (e.g., constructivists' sensitivity toward scientific analyses and scientists' openness to considering the immersion of material life in meaning-giving practices). We find this situation hopeful for a real dialogue among the natural, social, and human sciences. Similarly, the knowledge produced by social movements in their struggles is becoming essential for envisioning sustainability and conservation. We hope that these trends will become a point of convergence for forward-looking theory, policy, and practical action. We seek to provide a forum for authors and readers to widen—and perhaps reconstitute—the fields of theoretical inquiry, professional practice, and social struggles that characterize the environmental arena at present.