

Call for Papers

Book on 'Urban human-nature partnerships – From the Anthropocene to the Ecocene'

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We are inviting contributions to this exciting book project which is confirmed to be published open access by [Edward Elgar Publishing](#).

As we live in an urban century and an era of exceeding planetary boundaries, positive visions beyond anthropocentric worldviews of human-nature relations are urgently needed. This book intends to present ideas from basic to applied research as well as affective interventions that are aiming at a deep change from the Anthropocene to the Ecocene. In this book, we want to re-discover, re-think, and re-sense the soulfulness, intelligence, and relational value of nonhuman nature in cities, its peri-urban borders and urban land teleconnections. The book will reflect individual and collective paths to strengthen our external and internal relational capacities to bring human-nature partnerships to our daily lives.

Preference is given to concepts and case studies which take into account relational models of human-nature connections that place nonhuman nature as equal to humans as well as to cutting edge methodological contributions regarding the co-production of knowledge in this regard.

The book invites researchers and practitioners who deal with cities and our internal and external nature to listen to nonhuman nature's voice and respond to it in a mode of human-nature resonance. Furthermore, the book invites non-academics to present affective interventions for human-nature partnerships as part of a good life. Such contributions can include poems, illustrations, sound arts, embodied and spiritual practices, or storytelling.

The overall aim of this book is to provide inter- and transdisciplinary contributions at the interface of urban ecology and sustainability transformation research. We thereby aim to address different dimensions of knowledge, providing inspiring information and data, touching our heads and hearts, and empowering our self-efficacy to explore human-nature partnerships in cities and beyond. We aim to reach this goal by working with different perspectives implemented along the chapters, thereby working with visualizations, quotes and lively analogies explored by various disciplines and Earth participants (e.g. from astrophysics to urban shamans, from arts to spiritual practices).

To provide an integrative approach to tackle sustainability transformations from various perspectives, the book is divided into three major sections which address major types of sustainability knowledge:

System knowledge: In the context of the intensifying social-ecological crisis, sustainability transformations need to link system thinking with social-ecological awareness about the co-dependency between human and nonhuman wellbeing. The contributions of this book will reflect on a relational perspective of urban social-ecological systems presenting cutting-edge research on urban sustainability challenges and human's and nonhuman's nature self-efficacy to speak with an own voice.

System knowledge describes the status quo of individual and collective challenges in cities and beyond that mute our relationships with the external and internal nature.

We warmly invite you to contribute to this section by covering following topics:

- Systemic causes such as stressful urban lives, injustice, extinction of nature experience, climate anxiety muting our human voice and constraining, for instance, empathy, mindfulness and care for human-nature partnership
- Anthropocentric concepts, policies, and planning approaches such as ecosystem services or lacking legal regulations muting nonhuman nature's voice for human-nature partnership
- Consequences of lacking human-nature partnerships constraining, for instance, planetary health, ecological justice, or urban co-habitation

We invite academic contributions engaging in (relational) autoethnographic studies to explore one's affective role in research. Thereby, we welcome chapters in which the authors openly and critically reflect on individual and structural worldviews and values that shape the respective research and gain system knowledge embedded into the Anthropocene.

Target knowledge: The development of a future vision that nourishes innovative thinking and ideas for a good life for human and nonhuman nature can provide science, civic population, and decision-makers basic points of reference on how to approach the desired change. This book sheds light on social and natural science that pave the ground for an ontological turn from anthropocentric to ecocentric human-nature relations in cities and beyond.

We welcome contributions to this section which illustrate cases that deepen our target knowledge by formulating positive visions of (urban) human-nature partnerships. These visions sketch pathways for transformations from an Anthropocene to an Ecocene. Besides the mind-based thinking about the world as we know it, such visions consider relational embodied and creative imaginations of a world we dream of and which we would like to share with our future generations and siblings across the globe on a resonating Earth.

This chapter invites contributions in the context of visions related with urban human-nature partnerships such as:

- convivial nature conservation
- planetary health (diet)
- the ecological just city
- care
- degrowth and societal boundaries
- participatory visions of green urban transitions
- moral imaginaries
- decolonial futures

Authors are invited to reflect new and already published studies from a different perspective such as from more-than-human nature, thereby exploring how we can do research from an ecocentric perspective. In this regard, also author tandems between arts and academic colleagues are invited to develop transdisciplinary and multi-perspective visions of human-nature partnerships.

Transformation knowledge: For identifying, evaluating and reflecting deep external and internal levers for transformations towards urban human-nature partnerships, this book links innovative research with affect-laden transfer approaches addressing research and the general public to engage in a flourishing life on this beautiful and magic Earth.

We cordially invite your contributions to this section to present and discuss transformation knowledge in terms of:

- practices of internal transitions (e.g. mindfulness, embodiment, spirituality)
- strategies for external transitions (e.g. legal adaptations, urban design affordances, urban planning transformations)
- approaches that combine internal and external transitions

The selected examples will illustrate external and internal pathways of individual and collective actors which foster transformative turning points for joyful and serious kin-making with non-human nature in urban daily life. Transformations are dynamic and complex calling for relational perspectives. In this regard, we invite chapters dealing with human and more-than human nature's processes and multi-scalar agencies disrupting hierarchical and linear understandings of human-nature relations.

Summary of the essence of the book:

- Provides a unique overview of inter- and transdisciplinary research on sustainable human-nature relationships
- Links urban social-ecological research with sustainability transformations
- Illustrates practical and conceptual ideas to foster urban human-nature partnerships for a flourishing life
- Presents internal and external leverage points for sustainability transformations
- Shows affect-laden transdisciplinary interventions how to touch our hearts for a resonating life on Earth

We welcome a range of theoretical, empirical and practical studies from all parts of the world (co-)authored by people with diverse backgrounds to achieve varied geographical representation, inclusion of diverse types of knowledge and enable pluralistic modes of presentation. Therefore, apart from academic contributions we explicitly invite innovative formats that explore human-nature partnerships beyond intellectual textual explorations, such as artistic, poetic, or performative.

Call for sending your expressions of interest:

We co-create this book based on a two-stage submission format. If you are resonating with the book's theme and interested in contributing to it, please send us a brief chapter proposal, including:

- working title
- list of authors and affiliations
- information to which book section (system, target, or transformation knowledge) you'll contribute to and how
- intention to contribute to an academic text-chapter or if you present an artistic, poetic, or performative case
- abstract of approximately 500 words
- brief explanation how and why your contribution fits in the book



Please send your expressions of interest
till 1st September 2024
via the [**online submission form**](#).

Overall timeline:

- Expression of interest and submission of chapter abstracts: 1st September 2024
- Notification on acceptance of Abstract 15 October 2024
- Submission of full chapters: 03/25
- Review of chapters: 04/2025 – 08/2025
- Revision of chapters: 01/2026
- Finalization of book manuscript: 05/2026

Submission formalities:

- Each academic text-chapter will comprise about 15 pages including 3 figures and 2 tables
- The presentation of an artistic, poetic, or performative cases will be presented in boxes comprising each 1-2 pages and 2-3 figures
- Details on author guidelines (e.g. word count) will be provided upon invitations to full chapter submissions.
- For author guidelines by the publisher, please visit:



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