Potter, Gary R., Angus Nurse and Matthew Hall (eds.). 2016. *The geography of environmental crime: conservation, wildlife crime and environmental activism*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-137-53842-0, £66.99 (used c£38, Ebook £52.99).

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The geography of environmental crime offers a useful survey of the rapidly emerging field of green criminology. It is one of a series on green criminology recently published by Palgrave, and an important example of what two decades of work in this field has contributed to studies of environmental harm, activism and conservation. The book aims to stir theoretical and practical discussion about the effectiveness of contemporary environmental criminal justice. With rich empirical and methodological materials, the collection clearly excels at exemplifying the diverse epistemological, normative, theoretical and empirical constitution of the emergent field. While not comparable in breadth to the 27 chapter *Handbook of transnational environmental crime* (Elliot and Schaedla 2016), the book makes its own mark. The strong contributions needed a more substantive intellectual agenda in the introduction, and readers may also be surprised by the book's lack of engagement with geography as a discipline, given its title. But the contributions individually reflect fine scholarship, bringing together theoretically rigorous case study analyses that shed new light on different types of environmental crime, especially wildlife crime and conservation. Its interdisciplinarity has much in common with fields of study like political ecology.

The collection begins with a surprisingly brief introductory chapter which considers some of the trajectories of the field, highlighting key definitional issues, its major approaches, and a recent critique of the field's "lack of clarity about the scope, purpose and theoretical orientation." A lack of theoretical coherence and an uncritical co-existence of divergent, even opposing normative underpinnings are some of the most enduring challenges for the field of green criminology. Three major sections follow: 'Perspectives on conservation crimes', 'Crime prevention and detection', and 'Critical perspectives on policy and enforcement.'

The first section presents three chapters devoted to the contested notion of environmental crime and how this is understood, lived out and problematized by the general public. The first one by Saif *et al.* considers poaching, trade and use of tiger parts in Bangladesh, looking at the diverse motivations and complex web of actors linking nature through to end users. Problematically, the blame for tiger population decline is attributed to local populations, while failing to *fully* account for the extra-local, cross-national and long historical trajectories of their decline and what kinds of interventions these suggest. John Cianchi offers a qualitative exploration of the discourse and experiential milieu within which 'nature' emerges as a locus of radical environmental praxis. While showing how 'nature' itself becomes an active participant in creating specific kinds of radical biocentric cultures, the singularity of such an experiential engagement with nature needed investigation, and how radical environmentalism is just one part of the multiple subjectivities that contest visions of a desirable human-environment relationship. Sauvant *et al.* examine the malicious criminalisation of radical environmentalists as eco-terrorists, significantly important given the unprecedented rate at which activists are being killed globally. There is legally sanctioned malicious criminalisation of environmental activists, but also an increase in extra-legal harm to them.

The second section on crime prevention and detection opens with a chapter by Amy Hinsley *et al.* on the use of scientific tools and procedures in environmental crime prevention – particularly improving traceability of wildlife products. The work is largely scientific and apolitical. The plurality of epistemologies that exist in green criminology, and the socio-political embeddedness of scientific claims and procedures, could have been acknowledged. Bill McClanahan *et al*. analyze the workings of 'warrior conservation', showing how the emergent militarisation of conservation is as much about accumulation and pacification, as it is about the protection of iconic megafauna. They challenge a simplistic approval of intensified wildlife protection by showing how 'conservation wars' persist at the intersection of the dark underside and the soft facade of anti-poaching in Africa. Elisa Reuter *et al*. use situational crime prevention theory to focus attention on the environmental circumstances that enable rhino poaching to take place. Whether the approach can go beyond the casual separation of human activities from environmental circumstances to address complex environmental crimes is still to be seen.

Taking a critical view on environmental law enforcement, the last two chapters shift attention away from the global South, and the 'usual suspects' in wildlife poaching. From a legal perspective, Sahramäki shows how enforcers in Finland are shaped by the social construction of environmental crime and a specific criminalisation of economic poaching, which shapes enforcement practices. Rytterstedt reveals the mechanisms that enable the act of poaching to be seen as a deviant behaviour. These two chapters reveal some important psychosocial underpinnings of wildlife poaching and policing, although an appreciation of the political and economic structures that shape individuals' fields of possibility is also needed.

Overall, the diversity of approaches, objects of analysis, theoretical frameworks and varied insights from case studies reflect the strength of the emergent field of green criminology. Tensions persist across the spectrum of normative and epistemological positions on display in the book. These reflect broader tensions within green criminology itself. Evident, for instance, in the simultaneous grounding of environmental harm within systemic capitalist political economy and within individual culpability for environmental destruction, captured in such terms as 'everyday ecocide', and in the tensions between epistemologies that take categories of analysis (e.g. harm, crime, nature, law, etc.) as given, against others that take their contestation as a starting point for analysis. Clearly, environmental criminology needs to go further in articulating its intellectual distinctiveness, and its synergies with fields such as geography, politics, history, critical conservation studies and political ecology. It also seems imperative for a field so concerned with 'nature' and the 'environment' to grapple with the implications of the Anthropocene. Above all, green criminology will have to move beyond interdisciplinarity, to clarify its unambiguous contributions to intellectual and practical efforts to create more just socio-ecological futures. *The geography of environmental crime* makes a useful contribution by beginning to stimulate debates in this direction. The book makes a useful library resource for those interested in appreciating the variety of approaches to understanding the intersection of environmental crime, environmental law enforcement and contemporary biodiversity conservation.

References

Elliott, L. and W.H. Schaedla (eds.). 2016. *Handbook of transnational environmental crime*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

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