

ment. Research on lakes, streams, wetlands, forests and the Baltic Sea is included. While most of the papers are by Finnish scientists, there are a fair number from Norway and Sweden and a sprinkling from Canada, China and other countries. The quality of research papers is comparable with those published in well-known ecological periodicals from other countries. I am confident that as the journal becomes more widely known, the authorship will become more broadly international. That being said, a journal that makes the excellent, but often quite inaccessible, boreal research in Finland easily available internationally is important in its own right.

The journal is remarkably well turned out for a new, modestly priced periodical. Figures and tables are clear and well reproduced, and the layout is very attractive. In contrast to many foreign-produced publications in English, the writing and editing is nearly flawless... in fact, better than in most English language publications from North America.

My sole criticism is that several of the papers do not reference key relevant research papers from North America. This would easily be corrected by using referees from more countries, which will no doubt happen as the journal attracts a more international authorship. Publication is very rapid, on average about four months after acceptance for the volumes under review.

Perhaps my highest recommendation is that I have recommended that our library subscribe, despite declining budgets for journals. It is indispensable for those working in the Boreal, and very useful for those engaged in ecological research in other ecosystems. □

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Common ground among quagmires

Journal of Industrial Ecology

Editors David Allen and John Ehrenfeld
MIT Press. 4/yr. \$95 (institutional); \$40 (personal)

Gilbert S. Hedstrom

The business world of the twenty-first century is likely to be shaped by now-familiar forces, including rapid technology development, greater openness and vitality in political systems, and rampant globalization. At the same time, a second set of forces has the power to strongly affect the direction it takes. These 'sustainability drivers', fuelled by increasing world population and declining living systems, may be the least appreciated, least understood set of threats and opportu-

nities facing business.

Industrial ecology is a discipline that provides for exploring this territory and exploiting this new set of opportunities. While the term 'industrial ecology' has been around for over ten years, this is essentially a new field. And like any new field, it has the potential for either bringing clarity and focus to significant issues or becoming mired in jargon and academic debate. For industrial ecology to be a useful part of sustainability solutions, the scientific, government and business communities will need to speak the same language, based not on self-interest and emotion but rather on common interests and logic.

The *Journal of Industrial Ecology* takes a major step in bringing clarity to a potentially very confusing topic. The quarterly journal, launched in the winter of 1997, offers a thoughtful and comprehensive, yet accessible venue for exploring the potential role of industry and government in reducing the environmental burdens throughout the product life cycle, from extraction of raw materials, to the production of goods, to the use of those goods and to the management of the resulting wastes.

Several factors distinguish this journal. It is timely, for to think about issues of sustainability as the next century dawns is both prudent and ethical. Its global perspective brings fresh and balanced voices to a sometimes parochial discussion. Finally, it is both very readable and very well edited, with the articles fitting together more like a puzzle than a melange of individual contributions.

Not to be read only once or in one sitting, this journal is an important reference for those interested in how business and government can maintain the benefits of the first industrial revolution while dramatically reducing the burden those benefits place on the underlying living systems that need to be sustained during the next industrial revolution. □

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Imperilled wetlands

Mangroves and Saltmarshes

Chief Editors Eric Wolanski and Charles S. Hopkinson Jr.
SPB Academic Publishing. 4/yr. Print only.
\$152 (institutional); \$80 (personal)

Thomas J. Smith III

Mangrove forests dominate the intertidal zone of the world's tropical coastlines, yielding to saltmarshes in the temperate and arctic zones. Unfortunately, more than 80 per cent of the world's population also lives in the coastal zone. Saltmarshes and mangroves face tremendous human pressure from



Coastal mangrove swamp at low tide.

development, despite their known ecological services to man. These services include: supporting productive fisheries; preventing shoreline erosion, especially from storms; and the uptake and transformation of nutrients. In some developing countries in the tropics, mangrove forest is being lost at a rate of more than 10 per cent a year. A journal devoted to the scientific understanding and enlightened management of these two important coastal ecosystems is therefore quite justifiable.

Since its launch in December 1996, *Mangroves and Saltmarshes* has published four issues, each with six research articles. Papers address both pure and applied research topics, but notes, comments, rebuttals, book reviews and so on are not included. The layout and graphical presentation are very good, and the turnaround time for submissions is quick. Based on the dates presented in the last two issues, the average paper takes four to five months from submission to acceptance.

Unfortunately, the quality of the papers in the issues I reviewed was highly variable; ranging from horrid (presumably on the principle that if a paper has been rejected everywhere else, send it to a new journal) to truly excellent. The quality is not related to the country of origin; indeed, the worst paper, in my opinion, was from a member of the editorial board.

A strength of the journal is that the editorial board is endeavouring to assist authors from less developed nations to present their results to the worldwide scientific community.

Many paradigms concerning mangrove forests were originally developed from studies in Florida, but these paradigms do not necessarily hold for mangroves worldwide. So the presentation of research conducted in the vast expanses of mangroves in less developed areas is needed. Authors from the developed world need to see these studies

and examples from elsewhere to help us take a less blinkered view.

Because mangrove and saltmarsh ecosystems are both wetlands, and found in estuaries, *Mangroves and Saltmarshes* may have difficulty finding a niche. Numerous established journals cover similar themes, including: *Estuaries*; *Wetlands*; *Aquatic Botany*; *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*; and *Coastal Zone Management Journal*.

I hope *Mangroves and Saltmarshes* succeeds. I believe it can fill an important role for the research, and especially, resource management communities in developing and developed countries alike. □

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Human interest stories

Applied Geographic Studies

Editor Milton E. Harvey
John Wiley and Sons. 4/yr. USA \$155, elsewhere \$179 (institutional); USA \$70, elsewhere \$94 (personal)

Michael Batty

Geography emerged as an academic discipline at the height of imperialist expansion in the late nineteenth century, but by the 1960s it had lost its taste for describing regions and landscapes in meticulous detail in favour of more systematic inquiry. It divided into human geography, which drew on theory and method in the social sciences, particularly economics, and physical geography, which oriented itself towards the earth sciences.

The subject has softened its scientific stance since then, moving away from a search for strong theory, becoming more pragmatic

and, in the process, taking on a multitude of applications.

Applied Geographic Studies was launched last year in response to such developments. Building on a series of successful conferences that drew together a diversity of geographic applications, its content reflects contemporary human issues that have important geographical dimensions. Environmental problems, such as the spatial distribution of pollutants and their implications for disease and health care, are of concern; also relevant to this focus is the use of geographical models for marketing and retailing, for problems posed by the impact of ageing, and for the provision of housing. The journal covers population studies involving urbanization, migration and the current problems of global geopolitics, although so far there is little discussion about the traditional areas of urban planning and transportation.

Starting a journal such as this is a hazardous undertaking, because a competitor (*Applied Geography*) has existed for a dozen or more years, and several others specialize in the subject. But the editor has assembled an impressive editorial board of 32 well-known academic geographers who are involved in applications, and nearly half of these have been enticed to write in the four issues that make up the first volume.

The result is a useful and balanced collection of competent articles that reflect the intended range. The articles are quiet and unpretentious as is the style and presentation of the journal. If the editor and board are able to keep up this momentum, then *Applied Geographic Studies* will soon become an established outlet for geographic applications of quality. □

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Civil defence in the war against AIDS

AIDS and Behavior

Editor Thomas L. Patterson
Plenum. 4/yr. USA \$150, elsewhere \$175 (institutional); USA \$50, elsewhere \$59 (personal)

Ralph J. DiClemente

While there have been great advances in the understanding and treatment of HIV, there is, at present, no cure. And, while promising candidate vaccines are being readied for testing, an effective, widely available vaccine is not anticipated in the foreseeable future. Thus, primary prevention of HIV transmission is of paramount importance in curtailment of the pandemic.

The behavioural and social sciences have played and will continue to play a critical role



HIV particles budding from an infected T-cell.

in understanding the factors associated with HIV-related risk behaviours, both sexual and drug-related, and in the development of interventions designed to reduce such behaviours among HIV seronegative as well as HIV seropositive individuals.

The role of these sciences, however, is not limited to changing behaviour that might lead to infection. They also play a key role in understanding factors associated with medication adherence, with understanding an individual's coping response, with identifying the neuropsychological impact of HIV infection on cognitive functioning, and with examining the emotional effects of HIV such as depression. Such understanding can help in the development of interventions which will improve people's lives in all these areas.

HIV-related behavioural and social research was often published in broad-based public health journals or more clinically focused HIV publications, but the growth in such research makes *AIDS and Behavior* a welcome new vehicle for its dissemination.

The journal has an outstanding editorial board, a veritable Who's Who of the field. Many of the articles are empirically based rather than theoretical reviews or commentaries, but non-empirical articles are also welcomed. Emerging areas of research are more fully explored by groups of five to seven thematically linked papers co-ordinated by a guest editor, usually an expert in that particular area.

Topics span the gamut from primary to secondary prevention, adjustment to living with HIV, and the influence of a host of psychosocial factors on risk behaviour and adherence. The research is of high quality, perhaps reflecting the fact that many of the contributing authors are inveterate investigators. The journal is attractive and well formatted, with clear text, tables and figures. Articles are usually from eight to ten pages long, although longer articles are also published; turnaround time is satisfactory.

Anyone interested in this area of HIV research will be well served by examining *AIDS and Behavior*. □

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Night lights: cities, burning vegetation (purple), oil flares (red) and the aurora borealis (light blue).