



# Environmental Communication and the Public Sphere

By J. Robert Cox, Phaedra C. Pezzullo

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**Environmental Communication and the Public Sphere** By J. Robert Cox, Phaedra C. Pezzullo

The **Fourth Edition** of **Environmental Communication and the Public Sphere** remains the only comprehensive introduction to the growing field of environmental communication, ranging from an historical overview of key terms to important legal and technological developments. This innovative book focuses on how human communication influences the way we perceive and act in the environment. It also examines how we interpret environmental “problems” and decide what actions to take with regard to the natural world.

Three-time president of the Sierra Club, the largest environmental group in the United States, lead author Robert Cox leverages his vast experience to offer insights into the news media, Congress, environmental conflict, advocacy campaigns, and other real-world applications of environmental communication. New coauthor Phaedra Pezzullo brings two decades of applied experience working with grassroots environmental justice and health organizations, citizen advisory boards, and student-led campaigns, as well as her internationally recognized research on toxic pollution, social injustices, public advocacy, and more.

The authors introduce the reader to the major areas, terms, and debates of this evolving field. The **Fourth Edition** incorporates major revisions that include four new chapters on visual and popular culture, digital media and activism, the sustainability of college and corporation campuses, and the legal “standing” of citizens and nature. Updates throughout the text draw on timely topics including visual communication used in climate science campaigns, fracking and challenges to the right to know, plastic bag bans, consumer apps, digital activism for environmental justice, green marketing, and arguments on giving legal rights to nonhuman entities from dolphins to rivers.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

**Robert Cox** (PhD, University of Pittsburgh) is Professor Emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His principal research areas are environmental and climate change communication, and strategic studies of social movements. One of the nation's leading scholars in environmental communication, Cox is coeditor of *The Routledge Handbook of Environment and Communication* (2015), as well as authoring numerous studies of environmental and climate change campaigns. He has served three times as President of the Sierra Club, the largest grassroots U.S. environmental organization, and is also on the Board of Directors for Earth Echo International whose mission is "to empower youth to take action that restores and protects our water planet." Cox continues to advise environmental groups on their communication programs, and serves as an advisory editor for the journal, *Environmental Communication*. Cox regularly participates in environmental and climate change initiatives and has campaigned with former Vice President Al Gore, singer Melissa Etheridge, and other public figures. He also enjoys hiking and trekking in the Himalayas and the southern Appalachian Mountains in the U.S.

**Phaedra C. Pezzullo** (Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) is an associate professor at Indiana University in Bloomington. Her interdisciplinary training in environmental sciences and humanities informs her principle areas of publication, including environmental justice and health communication, public advocacy, tourist studies, and the anthropocene. She is the author of *Toxic Tourism: Rhetorics of Travel, Pollution, and Environmental Justice* (2007), which won four book awards, including the Christine L. Oravec Research Award in Environmental Communication. Pezzullo also coedited *Environmental Justice and Environmentalism: The Social Justice Challenge to the Environmental Movement* (2007) and edited *Cultural Studies and the Environment, Revisited* (2010). She served on the national Sierra Club's Environmental Justice Committee for seven years, as commissioner of the City of Bloomington's Environmental Commission in Indiana for eight years, and as an ally or faculty sponsor for many environmental justice communities, from those who lobbied to remediate the PCB landfill in Warren County, North Carolina, to the students at Indiana University who successfully campaigned to retire the campus coal plant.

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