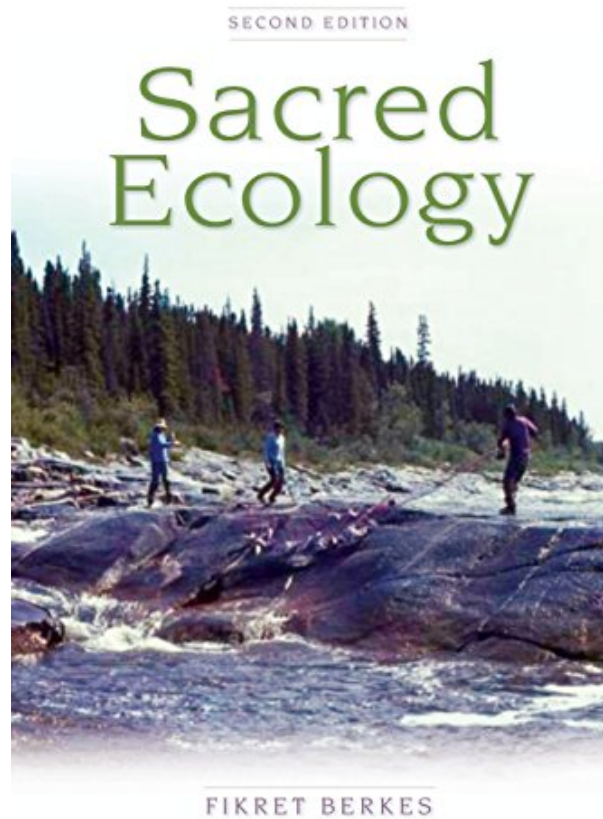


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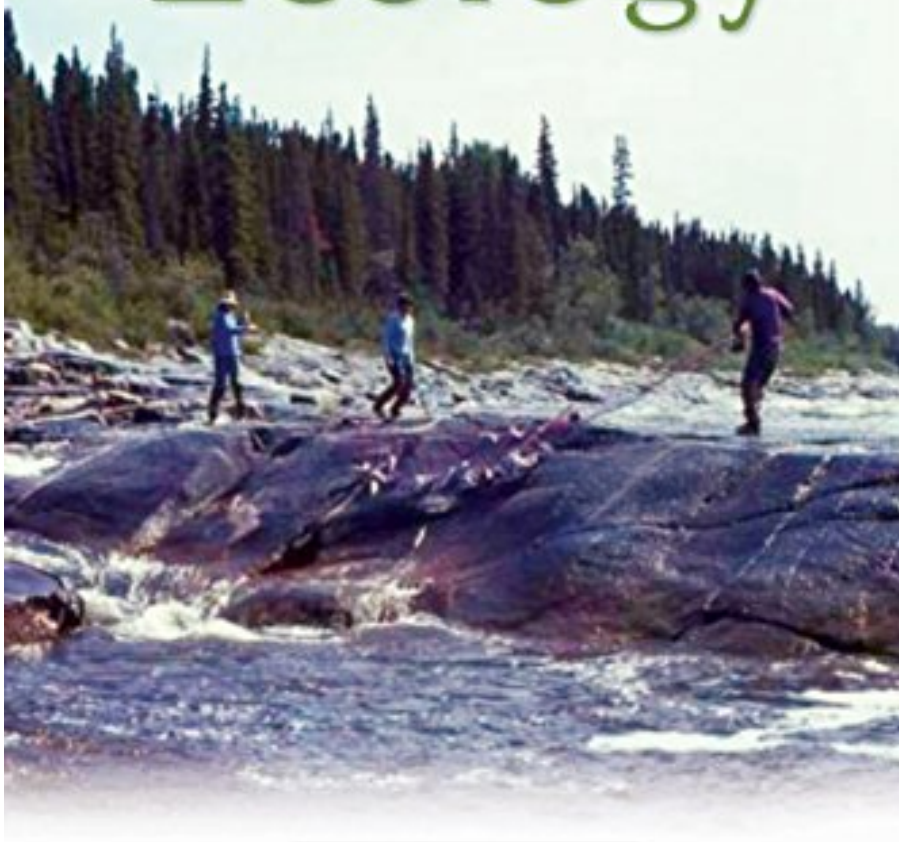


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About the Author

Dr. Fikret Berkes is Distinguished Professor and Canada Research Chair at the Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba, Canada

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Sacred Ecology examines bodies of knowledge held by indigenous and other rural peoples around the world, and asks how we can learn from this knowledge and ways of knowing. Berkes explores the importance of local and indigenous knowledge as a complement to scientific ecology, and its cultural and political significance for indigenous groups themselves. This second edition is expanded and updated throughout, and places greater emphasis on "knowledge as process". It has two new chapters, Chapter 8 on climate change, demonstrating how indigenous communities "read" environmental signals, and Chapter 9 on how indigenous knowledge deals with complexity.

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About the Author

Dr. Fikret Berkes is Distinguished Professor and Canada Research Chair at the Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba, Canada

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A Bridge between Worldviews

By Gary Gripp

Over the past couple decades a quiet conceptual revolution has been taking place in various academic outposts around the world. As someone who has been away from academia for more than thirty years, I find this new multi-disciplinary way of thinking about natural resources, complexity, and the human future, to be highly exhilarating--even to the point of generating hope. This new Second Edition of Sacred Ecology brings into focus the author's own lifetime of work while also highlighting that of like-minded colleagues, many of whom Berkes has collaborated with over the years, together turning out dozens of books and learned articles, all in some way concerned with sustainability. To give an idea of the book's scope, here is a list of Berkes' academic interests (found in his curriculum vitae online). All find play in the book:

- Common property resources
- Traditional ecological knowledge
- Co-management
- Community based resource management
- Sustainable development, northern Canada

- Sustainable development, international
- Human ecology and conservation
- Ecology of living resources
- Small scale fisheries
- Resource and environmental policy
- Ecological economics

Many of the points covered in the book are complex (including complexity theory itself), but Berkes avoids the high levels of abstraction and convoluted prose common to academic writing. Here is a quote to give a sense of the book. "Adaptive Management is a good match for traditional ecological knowledge, and a potential bridge between Western and indigenous ways of knowing in the areas of ecology and resource management. It is part of the holistic tradition in Western science, not the mainstream tradition, but significant nonetheless. This holistic tradition includes systems theory, gestalt psychology, quantum physics, and ecology (Capra, 1996). Systems theory is often equated with complex adaptive systems. Fuzzy logic (not mentioned by Capra) may also be added to the list. Many of these holistic sciences are potentially suitable to provide frameworks for integrating Western and indigenous knowledge." (p 269-70).

Sacred Ecology offers a possible way out of the resource pickle we find ourselves in today, by constructing a bridge between our own failed reductivist paradigm and one that has proven itself over time.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

textbook for Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

By C. Chemsak

I did a lot of work trying to find a comprehensive introduction to TEK and this surpassed all of my expectations. Berkes is incredible. This book is pricy, but absolutely worth it. A must for anyone who even thinks they are interested in TEK, LEK, IK, etc.

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About the Author

Dr. Fikret Berkes is Distinguished Professor and Canada Research Chair at the Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba, Canada

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