Call for Papers

Theoretical and Methodological Advances in Environmental Decision-Making Research

Special Issue of Population and Environment

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Implementing solutions to environmental problems—such as practices to reduce solid waste, decrease water use, promote biodiversity conservation, and adopt energy-efficiency measures—requires, along with more structural changes, effective environmental decision-making by individuals and households. For several decades, social scientists have produced important insights into the causes, characteristics, and impacts of environmental decision-making. As climate change heightens environmental concern, this literature is poised to generate valuable new knowledge about individuals’ and households’ environmentally significant decisions.

For this special issue, we seek papers that explore theoretical and conceptual developments or cutting-edge methodological and analytical advances in research on environmental decision-making. Environmental decision-making encompasses observed and self-reported environmentally significant behaviors and behavioral intentions measured at the individual- or household-level, as well as the cognitive, attitudinal, and affective factors (e.g., worldviews, values, beliefs, identities, norms, etc.) that influence them. Deeper understanding of these dynamics may reveal novel opportunities for behavioral interventions, further insights about causal links and the scope conditions of existing theories, and more nuanced explanations of structural constraints.

Specifically, we seek papers that offer new synthetic, integrative theoretical frameworks; more refined conceptualizations, operationalizations, and measurements; or methodological or analytical advances that more powerfully explain environmental decision-making. We welcome research that uses non-traditional data sources such as social media or big data, and we especially encourage contributions focused in the developing world, as well as those that take an explicitly comparative, cross-national approach. More generally, the research should improve broader understanding and theory regarding the association between population and environment. We encourage contributions based on quantitative as well as qualitative data, as well as those that focus on policy dimensions.

Population and Environment publishes research articles (both full-length and research briefs), and reviews focused on the reciprocal links among population, natural resources, and the natural environment, with the purpose of deepening scientific and policy dialogue in this often complex area. Contributors come from multiple disciplines, often taking an interdisciplinary perspective on the complex relationships between population and environment.

Please direct questions to Aaron McCright (mccright@msu.edu) or Summer Allen (snap.summer@mac.com), special issue editors, or Elizabeth Fussell, Editor-in-Chief (elizabeth_fussell@brown.edu). Submitted manuscripts should be formatted in accordance with Population and Environment guidelines.