

BOOK REVIEWS

From the Book Review Editor of the Special Issue on Climate Change

Climate change is affecting the lives of many communities and how to prepare for these changes is not always easy to define. To enhance community engagement in both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, there is a need to better assess how the complexity of climate change is affecting not only humans but the ecosystem where they live and the interactions among nature and people. This means also understanding how politics, policies, and other issues may help (or not) to improve engagement of communities in moving from discourse to action.

At Brock University's master's program in Sustainability Science, graduate students have the opportunity to take a course on climate change where various aspects, including community engagement, are discussed. During their semester, they also have the opportunity to critique a book that they have selected. In this special issue, we offer a selection of four book reviews that were completed by students in the program in 2019 and 2020. These books bring various perspectives of how different approaches can be taken to enhance knowledge mobilization and community engagement and move forward to define solutions to the climate crisis.

The first review, by Meredith DeCock-Caspell, examines *Climate Change and Natural Disasters: Transforming Economies and Policies for a Sustainable Future* by Vinod Thomas. This book is a good introduction to the issues of climate change, and explains how to deal with the fact that disaster risks management must involve all levels of governance, from local to national, in order to be prepared for the extreme weather events and disasters that have been linked to climate change.

In *The Politics of Green Transformations*, Pulkit Garg explains how political challenges make it difficult to take action at the community level. The various levels of government and governance may limit the capacity of people to move forward toward a green economy to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Sam Gauthier, in her case, presents the edited book entitled *Coastal Zones: Solutions for the 21st Century*, where different authors summarize their perspectives on how to find solutions regarding the impacts of climate changes, and especially natural hazards and sea level rise that can concern coastal communities.

Finally, Conner Thompson summarizes an interesting book, *Don't Even Think About It: Why Our Brains Are Wired to Ignore Climate Change*, that may initially be a little off path regarding community engagement. However, understanding the challenges to communicate climate change to people is one of the first major roadblocks to overcome to get people to take action regarding change. Especially in coastal and rural communities, climate change deniers can be quite present and have in many cases the capacity to derail any public engagement and action.

I believe these books are of interest to anyone trying to work with communities or who is interested in developing action research projects that require communication, knowledge transfer, and activities directly in communities. Climate change is a wicked problem that is complex to communicate and bring people to see the importance to implement solutions. Learning from others can be a right step to engage with local communities where much work needs to be done as most climate change action, especially in the sphere of adaptation, needs to be developed and implemented at the community level.



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