

Critical Notice of *A New Environmental Ethics: Life on Earth in the*

Next Millennium. New York & London: Routledge, 2012 .

2nd ed., 2020.

Holmes Rolston, III

Dale Jamieson (Philosophy, New York University) says “This is an introduction to environmental ethics that only Holmes Rolston could write – at once gut-wrenchingly direct and poetically inspired. It will attract new generations to the field that he did so much to create.”

David Schmitz (Philosophy, University of Arizona) says: Holmes Rolston’s *A New Environmental Ethics* is new in the best sense: an honest, fresh appraisal of where we are and where we are heading. It likewise is old in the best sense. There comes a time to reflect on where we have been and why, what we have accomplished, and what we stand for. This is Rolston’s time, and his is a voice that will be heard across generations.”

Willis Jenkins (Bioethics, Yale University) says: “A succinct overview of the field from its most important thinker, this book is the indispensable introduction to environmental ethics.”

Ben Dixon (Philosophy, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas) says: “With characteristic rigor, Rolston proves once again to be a moral explorer *par excellence*. His new book not only surveys the existing terrain of environmental ethics literature, but it persuasively argues for following a greener, more life-respecting morality; it is an exemplary read for an environmental ethics course.”

The three preceding are on the back cover of the book.

Laura Westra (Philosophy, University of Windsor, Ontario and Faculty of Law, University of Milan, Italy) says “The richness of the field of environmental ethics is, for the most part, fully showcased in Holmes Rolston III’s new book, *A New Environmental Ethics*. ... The book should be a landmark publication for the discipline for the discipline, from one of its greatest founders, but it falls short. Many chapters are inspiring, however, especially those in which his deep knowledge of science is coupled with his outright religious appreciation of all of Earth’s life and history. ... Each chapter reveals his unusually poetic prose and his wide-ranging knowledge of most of the developments in the field of environmental ethics. ... Among the strengths of the book is Rolston’s outstanding, in-depth treatment of organisms, species, natural systems, wilderness and nature’s intrinsic value. Equally outstanding is his encyclopedic (although at times, selective) knowledge of the field of environmental ethics as he tackles broader and more far-reaching issues” Westra thinks the

treatment of environmental justice in the book needs further development. Review, "Respecting Life: A Human Obligation" in *BioScience* 63(1):55-56, 2013.

Haydn Washington (Institute of Environmental Studies, University of New South Wales, Australia) cites *A New Environmental Ethics: The Next Millennium for Life on Earth*. In Helen Kopnina and Eleanor Shoreman-Ouimet, eds., *Sustainability: Key Issues* (New York: Routledge, Earthscan, 2015), pp. 359-375, citation on p. 363, p. 375.

John J. Piccolo (River Ecology and Management Group, Institute for Environmental and Life Sciences, Karlstad University, Sweden) cites *A New Environmental Ethics: The Next Millennium for Life on Earth*. In "The Land Ethic and the Conservation of Native Salmonoids," *Ecology of Freshwater Fish*, 2015, released online 22 Nov, pp. 1-5. DOI: 10.1111/eff.12263. Piccolo repeatedly cites Rolston for his accounts of intrinsic value in nature, in "Duties to Endangered Species (*BioScience*) "Environmental Ethics: Values in and Duties to the Natural World (Bormann and Kellert)," and "Value in Nature and the Nature of Value (Attfield and Belsey)." Citations and quotations on pp. 1-5, passim.

John J. Piccolo (River Ecology and Management Group, Institute for Environmental and Life Sciences, Karlstad University, Sweden), Gunther Unfer (Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management, Vienna, Austria), and Javier Lobon-Cervia (National Museum of Natural Sciences (CSIC), C/José Gutiérrez Abascal, Madrid, Spain) cite *A New Environmental Ethics* for its arguments for intrinsic value in nature. In "Why Conserve Native Brown Trout?", pp. 643-647 in *Brown Trout: Biology, Ecology and Management*, 1st ed. Javier Lobón-Cerviá and Nuria Sanz, eds., (John Wiley, 2017), citation on p. 645, p. 647.

Haydn Washington and Paul Twomey (Institute of Environmental Studies, University of New South Wales, Australia) cite *A New Environmental Ethics: The Next Millennium for Life on Earth*. In "Conclusion: The Endless Growth Myth: Simplicity and Complexity," in Haydn Washington and Paul Twomey, eds., *A Future Beyond Growth: Towards a Steady State Economy* (New York: Routledge, 2016), on p. 246, p. 250.

Marion Hourdequin (Philosophy, Colorado College) cites and quotes from *A New Environmental Ethics: The Next Millennium for Life on Earth*. In *Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice* (London, New York, Bloomsbury Academic, 2015), p. 74.

Rosely A. L. Imbernon (School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities – University of São Paulo, Brazil) and Clara Vasconcelos (Faculty of Sciences, University of Porto, Portugal) cite *A New Environmental Ethics: The Next Millennium for Life on Earth*. In "Geoethic Ethic Issues Involving Tailings Dam: Values and Conflicts," pp. 49-57 in *International Journal of Educational Studies* 5(no. 1, 2018), citation on p. 50, p. 51, p. 57.

Haydn Washington (Institute of Environmental Studies, University of New South Wales, Australia) cites *A New Environmental Ethics*. In *A Sense of Wonder towards Nature: Healing the Planet through Belonging* (London: Routledge, Earthscan, 2019), citations on p. 60. p. 62, p. 72, p. 128, p. 133, p. 193, p. 196, p. 200, p. 209.

Melissa Clarke (Frederick Community College, Frederick, MD) says: "Ultimately this text does a superior job of provoking the reader to think, provides a broad range of complexities and examples, and will serve as an approachable and useful text for environmental ethics. ... It is a welcome addition to the field." Review in *Environmental Ethics* 36(2014):255-256.

John Nolt (Philosophy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville) writes: "In this introductory textbook Holmes Rolston III, a founding father of the field, summarises for students the wisdom of a lifetime of controversy and reflection. The book's coverage is wide, but it treats many issues only briefly and always with a strong Rolstonian slant. This partiality is intentional; as Rolston explains in the Preface, the book is written for use with any of the standard anthologies, so that the two sources together provide a comprehensive view.

Rolston is a superb naturalist, animated by a passion for wild nature. His encyclopedic knowledge, not only of biology and ecology but also of the history of environmentalism and of environmental ethics (much of which he himself shaped), is evident throughout the book. Each chapter is dense with scientific facts, historical incidents, quotations from experts and vivid case narratives. These are interspersed with questions to stimulate thought and student discussion." "Especially well done is Rolston's spirited defence of wilderness preservation and restoration. ... Here his 'interpretive seeing' goes right to the heart of the matter: 'Deep in a wilderness, looking up at night at the myriad stars, with coyotes howling, one sees at once that nature is not ended.'

What is new in *A New Environmental Ethics*, for students, at least, is the broadening of moral perspective that Rolston has championed now for many decades, and the scientific, bioregional, personal and spiritual narratives that enliven it. 'Interhuman ethics', he writes, 'has spent the last two millennia waking up to human dignity. As we expand ethics in this new millennium, environmental ethics invites awakening to the greater story of which we humans are a consummate part.'" Review in *Environmental Values* 22 (no. 1, Feb. 2014): 133-135.

For an extensive roundtable on this book, see "Roundtable on Holmes Rolston, III: A New Environmental Ethics: Life on Earth in the Next Millennium," in Villanova Center for Liberal Education, *Expositions, Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2012. Contains: Introduction / Christian Diehm – Comments on *A New Environmental Ethics : The Next Millennium for Life on Earth* / Marion Hourdequin – Interpretive Skills for Environmental Ethics / Nicole Klenk – Unnaturally Cruel : Rolston on Animals, Ethics, and the Factory Farm / Christian Diehm. Online at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10217/70416>.

For a summary of new features in the 2nd edition see:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10217/211043>