



A Student's Introduction to Geographical Thought: Theories, Philosophies, Methodologies

By Pauline Couper

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Written with flair and passion, **A Student's Introduction to Geographical Thought:**

- Explains the key ideas: scientific realism, anti-realism and idealism / positivism / critical rationalism / Marxism and critical realism/ social constructionism and feminism / phenomenology and post-phenomenology / postmodernism and post-structuralism / complexity / moral philosophy.
- Uses examples that address *both* physical geography and human geography.
- Use a familiar and real-world example - 'the beach' - as an entry point to basic questions of philosophy, returning to this to illustrate and to explain the links between philosophy, theory, and methodology.

All chapters end with summaries and sources of further reading, a glossary explaining key terms, exercises with commentaries, and web resources of key articles from the journals *Progress in Human Geography* and *Progress in Physical Geography*. **A Student's Introduction to Geographical Thought** is a completely accessible student A-Z of theory and practice for both human and physical geography.

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Review

"Translating the philosophies of geography to an undergraduate audience is a task beyond many of us, but Pauline Couper succeeds superbly in *A Student's Introduction to Geographical Thought*. Engaging and relevant, she never patronizes her audience nor trivializes the theories she discusses. A rare, genuinely student friendly text that preserves the complexity of its subject matter whilst allowing the student to engage with it on their own terms."--Tim Hall

'An accessible account of theories and philosophy in and of geography. I hope that every undergraduate studying geography reads this book. Those who do will be enriched.' --James D Sidaway

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An accessible account of theories and philosophy in and of geography. I hope that every undergraduate studying geography reads this book. Those who do will be enriched. (James D Sidaway)

About the Author

Pauline Couper is Head of Programme for Geography at York St John University, and has always maintained enthusiasm for the breadth of the discipline. With a PhD in fluvial geomorphology and professional experience in geoconservation, her research interests now lie predominantly in philosophy of geography and human/environment relations, particularly in terms of how geographical and environmental knowledges are developed and performed.

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