

Earth Ethics: A Case Method Approach. By James B. Martin-Schramm, Daniel T. Spencer, and Laura A. Stivers. Ecology and Justice. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2015. Pp. xxii + 314. \$39.

Martin-Schramm and fellow authors adopt the title *Earth Ethics* to signal the breadth and depth of the issues pertaining to our interconnected world. In surveying these issues, the authors diligently respect tensions between, inter alia, the well-being of individual creatures and the well-being of ecosystems; the instrumental necessities for human flourishing and the intrinsic value of nonhumans; and sustainability and viable solutions to social injustices in a globalized world.

The book is divided into two parts. The first frames the state of earth ethics by outlining interconnected factors contributing to our ecological quandary and establishing a taxonomy of various ecological perspectives and their correlating values. It also offers a set of principles and a quite helpful methodological strategy for evaluating particular issues within an ethic of ecological justice. However, the authors make an occasional misstep in this section. For example, their depiction of Christianity as a dualistic religion with an “escapist mentality” in which “the self needs liberation from the material world for life in an ideal spiritual realm in heaven” (17) is difficult to sustain given both Christianity’s traditional rejection of Gnosticism and its credal affirmation of bodily resurrection. On the whole, however, part I is accurate, concise, and clear. As such, it will undoubtedly prove invaluable to students and introductory readers—although the text will work best, as the authors acknowledge, when supplemented with other materials.

Perhaps the real value of the book lies in its case-method approach. Part II consists of nine chapters, each devoted to a particular case study, with each study powerfully reflecting the various tensions at work within specific issues such as overpopulation and food production. The authors provide real-life, complex situations that lend themselves to the critical evaluative method they introduce in part I. The authors’ commentaries also provide effective guidance for the evaluative process, but avoid being overly directive. Additionally, readers will find several well-developed exercises to spur further reflection on ecological issues.

In short, this text is extremely well-suited to college classrooms and those who wish to examine issues in ecological ethics.

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Building the Human City. By John F. Kane. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2016. Pp. xxiii + 265. \$35.

William F. Lynch, SJ (1908–1987), wrote keenly on the human condition erupting in America during the 1960s. He attracted attention through the 1980s (*Time* put him on its cover) but then faded from view. John F. Kane’s clear, orderly, readable study could restore him to wider appreciation. Kane successfully weaves together Lynch’s personal development with an analysis of books that presented it.