**Ecology Approach in Human Geography**

Traditionally, many geographers have been interested in the relations between methodologies of human geography and ecology, but their standpoints have been divergent. The purpose of this review is to clarify the context and directions of the ecological approach with reference to the methodology of sociology, anthropology and ecosystem theory in the U.S.A. and the U.K.In the Chicago School of sociology, human ecology is defined as the study of community. Human ecologists make a distinction between community and society. Society is based upon the cultural consensus of the inhabitants, while community is based upon their biotic competition and symbiosis. But the biotic community concept has been severely criticized. In response to this criticism, human ecology has divided into two schools.

 The Neo-orthodox school mainly studies spatial structures of communities. And Socio-cultural school emphasizes the individuals' perception and image of the space.Anthropologists, traditionally, have been interested in the geographical area and historical change of cultures. Steward has proposed a theory of cultural ecology which concerns adaptation of culture to environment. In contrast to him, other anthropologists propose a more biological, ecological anthropology that is based upon ecosystem theory or Darwinism.In addition, some geographers have introduced community theory (Morgan, Moss) and ecosystem theory (Stoddart) from biology, especially ecology. These are theoretical frameworks that attempt to dissolve the distinctions between physical and human geography and between idiographic and nomothetic approaches, in order to defend the unity of geography. The Chicago School of sociology inspired the theory which investigates the morphology and function of urban areas, which has in turn influenced urban geography. Anthropology has inspired ecological methodology which investigates man's adaptation to environment from the viewpoint of activities for subsistence. Such movements have affected current cultural geography.In sociology, anthropology and human geography, the ecological approach commonly concerns the process in which social behaviors adapt to and interact with space and environment, as well as the values and perceptions of man, and energy flows in that process.

In conclusion, the author would like to understand the ecological approach in the following currents:1. Both geography and ecology are studies based upon region and place.2. Both geography and ecology endeavor to comprehend nature and society integratively.3. The ecological approach is wholistic.4. The ecological approach studies historical changes.5. The ecological approach treats circulation and economic phenomena.6. The ecological approach investigates the relations between internals and externals of population, community and ecosystem.7. The ecological approach is functional.8. The ecological approach is systematic.

Many geographers, however, have criticized ecological approach for the following reasons: (1) Ecological approach is not deductive and analytical. (2) Ecological approach is based upon biological analogy, and is destitute of socioeconomic scope about human society. Therefore, in attempts to solve problems of environmental pollution geographically, it may be necessary to add wider social framework to ecological approach.

* [Log In](http://www.academia.edu/login)
* [Sign Up](http://www.academia.edu/signup)
* [more](http://www.academia.edu/4489257/LANDSCAPE_STUDY_FROM_GEOGRAPHY)
	+ [Job Board](http://www.academia.edu/Jobs)
	+ [About](http://www.academia.edu/about)
	+ [Press](http://www.academia.edu/press)
	+ [Blog](https://medium.com/%40academia)
	+ [People](http://www.academia.edu/Directory/People)
	+ [Papers](http://www.academia.edu/Directory/Papers)
	+ [Terms](http://www.academia.edu/terms)
	+ [Privacy](http://www.academia.edu/privacy)
	+ [Copyright](http://www.academia.edu/copyright)
	+ [We're Hiring!](http://www.academia.edu/hiring)
	+ [Help Center](http://support.academia.edu/)
	+ [less](http://www.academia.edu/4489257/LANDSCAPE_STUDY_FROM_GEOGRAPHY)

**Locational Analysis Approach in Human Geography: Major Criticism Against Locational Analysis**

Locational analysis is an approach to human geography which focuses on the spatial arrangement of phenomena. Its usual methodology is that of spatial science. The main objective of locational analysis was expressed as building accurate generalization, models and theories with productive power (Berry and Marble, 1968).

Locational analysis is based on the philosophy of positivism. The philosophy of positivism underpins the approach, which concentrates on the identification of theories of spatial arrangements and so is closely linked to the discipline’s quantitative revolution. A number of geographers in U.S.A. advocated the cause of locational analysis in the 1950s, although it has much deeper roots in the work of pioneers who were later adopted by geographers. Bunge (1966), for example, wrote a thesis on Theoretical Geography based on the premises who stated that geography is the ‘science of locations’. Others such as McCarty, were strongly influenced by developments in the field of economics, to which they introduced the spatial variable. These links led to the close interrelationship between geographers and regional scientists in the 1960s and 1970, and illustrated by attempts to build economic geography theories of spatial arrangements (Smith, 1981). Locational analysis is based on empiricism. Empiricism is a philosophy which accords special privilege to empirical observations over theoretical statements. Specifically, it assumes that observational statements are the only ones which make direct reference to phenomena in the real world, and that they can be declared true or false without reference to the truth or falsity of the theoretical statements. In empirical inquiry, it is assumed that its facts ‘speak for themselves’. They presented a strong case for using geometry as the language for the study of spatial form.

Haggett, in his book Locational Analysis in Human Geography (1965), appealed to adopt the geometrical tradition to explain order, location order and patterns in hun an geography. Such a focus needed: (1) to adopt a system approach which concentrates on the patterns and linkages within a whole assemblage; (2) to employ models as to understand man and environment relationship; and (3) to use quantitative techniques to make precise statements (generalizations) about locational order. For the spatial analysis they suggested to adopt ‘linear model’, spatial autocorrelation and regression. Other geographers who contributed substantially to the field of locational analysis are Morril, Col, Chorley, Cox, Harvey, Johnston, Pooler, Sack and Smith.

Morril was strongly influenced by the geometrical traditions adopted by Bunge and Haggett. In his book, The Spatial Organisation of Society, he argued that people seek to maximize spatial interaction at minimum cost and so bring related activities into proximity—the result is that human society is surprisingly alike from place to place… [because of] the predictable, organized pattern of locations and interactions. The locational approach in human geography has been criticized on philosophical and methodological grounds by the behaviouralists and humanists.

Some of the main criticisms against locational analysis are as under:

1. The locational analysis based on positivism ignores the normative questions to explain the man and environment relationship. It was their mistaken belief that “positive theory would lead to normative insight”. The cultural values are quite important in any decision making process. The ideal location for any economic activity may not be acceptable to individuals and the society (see quantitative revolution).

2. The locational analysis did not reflect the reality of decision making processes and so was of little value in predicting locational arrangement.

3. The models developed with the help of locational analysis conceal the complexities of the real world.

4. At present, there is economic interdependence of societies at the global level, which means that spatial interdependence has become much more important and “locally experienced environmental dependencies lost their rationale”.

5. Locational analysis has also been criticized on the ground that it encourages the social order of capitalism in which the owners of the means of production become rich and the poor becomes poorer.

6. The locational analysis has given a chance to the capitalists to optimize their profits. It gives an uncontrolled liberty and licence for plunder and miscalled profit.

7. Owing to locational analysis, there is over production and the economy enters the era of over industrialization.

8. It is mainly because of the locational analysis and capitalism that there is a total newness—new technology, new means of transportation, new education, new art, new morals, new media, new amusement, new weapons, new violence, new terrorism, new war and new mode of exploitation.

9. The followers of spatial science (positivists) treat people as dots on a map, statistics (data) on a graph, or numbers in an equation. They consider humans as non-living and other livings (plants and animals).

It is because of the inadequacies of the locational analysis that the ‘behaviouralism’ and ‘humanism’ achieved much significance in human geography. Whatever the reason for its origin, there is little doubt that locational analysis substantially changed the nature of human geography from the mid-1960s, although there is some doubt that it ever dominated the discipline (Mikesell, 1984). It presented geography as a positivist social science, concerned to develop precise, quantitatively stated generalization about pattern of spatial organization, thereby enriching and being enriched by Location

**The landscape study from Geography.**

The study of landscape is approached by various disciplines it frequently arise when study objectives and thematic multi projects or multidisciplinary research or when performing diagnostics and outline proposals for intervention planning practices and land management.. The landscape was and is regarded as an object of study and analysis from the different approaches that characterize the discipline: from historicist approaches - cultural - perceptive - symbolic of the discipline as well as positivist perspectives - spatial - systemic -environmental. Given this to conduct a study of the landscape, as with other objects of study, there is always the need to make it clear epistemological assumptions, theoretical and conceptual, methodological and procedural where research is done while maintaining consistency within the work .Considering lawful and useful reflection on the use of the term in academic, we believe that the implementation of the study of landscape can be a contribution to land to offer, professionals from other disciplines, a clarification of the different meanings that can to have the concept of landscape from Geography.

**The view from a systemic perspective.**

The landscape-as a science of analysis, also continued to exist from a perspectiveor approach and positivist hand Physical Geography. An analysis of the evolution of the concept of physical geography landscape from anaturalistic systems view is presented by Frolova and Bertrand (2006) in an articleon Geography and paisaje6 dissemination.The authors consider the landscape as a concept that is at the iterfaz between thescientific model and representation, clarifying that: "It is the appearance of things,but they themselves are of interest to scientists therefore propose modelslandscape based on the interaction between various elements of space, trying toget them operational models available for use in scientific experiments. But lookingfor better access to the complex world around us, geographers inevitably buildabstract objects and idealize reality, because the essence of the world around us isnot perceived either directly, or empirically.The geographer's view directly focuses on understanding the field, in which theconcrete melts into the visible. (Frolova and Bertrand, 2006: 258-259).The landscape is regarded as one of the scientific concepts "integrators" of emerging environmental geography that focus on Soviet geography. By the 1930sSoviet geography begins to address the need to analyze the "geographiccomplexes" or "natural territorial complexes" expression "physical-geographicalprocess together." It mentions the geographer A. A. Grigoriev and who arguesthese concepts and forms of analysis, based on the study of the processes thatdetermine the dynamics of the physical environment to be understood as the set of environmental processes that approximates the systemic paradigm, differentprocess concept treated as binary relations between the elements of the physical 

environment. We understand that these statements are made in line with theprinciple of comprehensive analysis of territory posed by the Russian soil scientistVV Dokuchaiev.Towards the end of the thirties the bio geographer Carl Troll enters horizontalspace studies landscape, traditional geography, and vertical functional dimensionbotanists and proposes the concept of translated LandschaftsoecologieGeoecology and / or Landscape Ecology. According Bolos’(1992) defined TrollLandscape Ecology Geo-ecology subsequently called.The assimilation of systems theory in physical geography would have resulted, asFrolova and Bertrand (2006), a conceptual renewal integrated analysis of thephysical environment by introducing the concept of geosistema. Sochava Victor ismentioned as one proposed in 1978, from Russia, geosistema-theory or system of natural elements located in space-derived concepts originating in the geochemistryand geophysics of the landscape and of the theories of information and systems.Meanwhile Georges Bertrand, from France, in the seventies propose their ownmethodology of geographical study of the environment based on the concept of Soviet geosystem but also draws inspiration from American ecology and theGerman Science Landscape but geosistema adapting the concept of anthropogenic landscapes and proposing a more qualitative and humanecompared with quantitative model and Soviet naturalist (Frolova and Bertrand,2006: 264).Indicates Matthew Rodriguez (2005) that in recent decades the introduction of environmental issues and the concept of environment is not only to achieve greater integration within physical geography but also between it and human geographyseeking to overcome the dichotomy Nature-Society. He argues that under the"environmental paradigm" is part of the concepts of Jean Tricart Eco geographypostulated in France in 1960, the Geoecology made by Carl Troll in Germany andthe Geography of Soviet geographer’s landscapes. These studies analyzegeographic environmental systems understanding them as the relationship Nature- Company specific physical spaces, favoring joint spatiotemporal differentcategories of environmental systems taking nature as the center of theinterrelationships and the concept of natural landscape as basic and fundamentalcategory of study but by accepting this notion of natural landscape of social andcultural landscape.Thus, at the scientific structure of geography get to propose, within the GeneralGeography-boarding a new direction: the Geoecology of Landscapes, which isadded to the traditional division since object-based or thematic criteria between



 Physical Geography and Geography human. This Geoecology of Landscapes isdefined from a global and integrated based on the concepts of geosistema andlandscape (from its meaning of natural landscape or anthropological training -naturally) assimilating as synonymous to Geography, Landscape. According to Matthew Rodriguez, (2005) this Geoecology of Landscapes inheritsthe legacy of Geography and Landscape Complex Physical Geography being near the Ecogeography and Environmental Geography. Beside the Geoecology of Landscapes believes that there are two other addresses that have the landscapeas its nodal concept: Landscape Ecology (like cutting mainly biological discipline)and Cultural Geography of Landscape (focusing on the socio - ecological, inperception of the landscape, and analysis of the cultural landscape) formingbetween the three so-called Science of Landscape.