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Frontiers of Biogeography

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books noted with interest

The World's beaches: A global guide to the science of the shoreline

Orrin H. Pilkey, William J. Neal, James Andrew Graham Cooper & Joseph T. Kelley
 2011, University of California Press, 302 pp.
 \$70.00/£48.95 (Hardback), US \$29.95/£20.95 (Paperback)
 ISBN: 9780520268715 / 9780520268722
<http://www.ucpress.edu/>

Ever wonder whether you chose the wrong study system? Engagingly written and with arresting illustrations, the authors provoke jealousy of their research area with a comprehensive account of coastal geology and a global classification of beach environments. Relatively little attention is given to the biota, with characteristic plants and animals covered in short sections, though with a longer consideration of what can be learnt from sea-shells. There are no in-text references but the recommended further reading would make this an ideal primer for students or those beginning shoreline-related work. Otherwise it's perfect holiday reading for the beach.

The theory of ecology

Samuel M. Scheiner & Michael R. Willig (eds.)
 2011, The University of Chicago Press, 416 pp.
 £120.00 (Hardback), \$40.00 (Paperback)
 ISBN: 9780226736853 / 9780226736860
<http://www.press.uchicago.edu/>

The editors have assembled a Who's Who of theoretical ecologists to consider the state of the field's big ideas. Much content will directly appeal to biogeographers, including chapters on meta-communities, the Equilibrium Theory of Island Biogeography, global change and biogeographical gradients, as well as stressing linkages among areas where ideas have apparently developed independently. Each chapter opens with an instructive diagram illustrating the connections between theoretical frameworks, further stressing the continuity of the field and resolving the broader pictures. It could form the spine of a graduate ecology course or a valuable refresher for even the most experienced reader.

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Editorial policy for book reviews

Frontiers of Biogeography will publish in-depth reviews of recently published books (typically less than one year old) on biogeography or of interest to biogeographers, alongside a 'Noted with Interest' section providing brief details of new publications. Authors, editors or third parties are invited to suggest books for review to the Book Review Editor, Dr Markus Eichhorn, School of Biology, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, United Kingdom; telephone ++44 (0)115 951 3214; e-mail markus.eichhorn@nottingham.ac.uk. We welcome offers to review books for *Frontiers of Biogeography*, but will not accept an offer to review a specific book. Anyone wishing to review books should send a brief *curriculum vitae*, description of competencies, and a statement of reviewing interests to the Book Review Editor. Reviews should be in an essay style, expressing an opinion about the value of the book, its focus and breadth, setting it in the context of recent developments within the field of study. Textbook reviews should consider their utility as resources for teaching and learning. Avoid describing the book chapter by chapter or listing typographical errors. The length should normally be 1000 words (1500 words for joint reviews of related texts) including a maximum 10 references. Authors may suggest a short heading for the review, followed by the title of the book(s), the authors/editors, publisher, publication date, price, hbk/pbk, pages, ISBN and website (where available). Figures or tables will not ordinarily be included. Authors of reviews must verify that they have not offered (and will not offer) a review of the same book to another journal, and must declare any potential conflict of interest that might interfere with their objectivity. This may form a basis for editorial decisions and such disclosures may be published. Book reviews will usually go through a light editorial review, though in some circumstances also will be considered by one or more referees.