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The Handbook of Ecocultural Methodology and Transformation
– a follow-up to [*The Handbook of Ecocultural Identity* \(2020\)](#)

Call for Chapters: Submissions due to editors for consideration by 1 December 2025

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Recent major global environmental reports emphasise that humanity's dominant anthropocentric ways of orienting to the Earth have brought us to today's global environmental, extinction, and climatic crises (see, e.g. UNEP, 2021). As the species responsible, we must develop the insight and tools to change the life-extinguishing paradigms driving these crises. Systems change theorists (e.g., Meadows, 2015) argue the *most powerful leverage point* for bringing about massive transformation is in making visible, deconstructing, and reworking these dominant orienting paradigms through which we encounter and shape the world. This book aims to build shared methodological foundations to buoy research across disciplines that challenges dominant anthropocentric paradigms and amplifies enduring and rising paradigms to undergird pluriversal futures (Escobar, 2020) defined by mutual survival and flourishing.

To do this work, scholars across disciplines have crafted an ecocultural theoretical lens, tracing ways in which humans, no matter their cultural identities, contexts, or cosmologies, are always ecologically enmeshed and consequential, whether harmfully or harmoniously (Milstein and Castro-Sotomayor, 2020). Ecocultural inquiry reweaves the two inextricable realms of ecology and culture, which research in Western/ized and/or industrial/ized settings has dominantly viewed and examined as separate strands. This ecocultural reintegration in research acknowledges we “are made of, part of, emerging from, and constantly contributing to both ecology and culture” (ibid, p. xix), widening the scope and aims of inquiry to understand the paradigms we live by as informed by interactions and meaning-making ranging from the complex to the mundane.

An established ecocultural research methodology, however, has been missing, slowing the emergence of ecocultural knowledge at a time it is urgently needed. Outside of important integral Indigenous research approaches (e.g., Cajete, 2004; Country, 2015; Graham, 2020; Kimmerer, 2013; Shay, 2021; Smith, 2021; Whyte & Cuomo, 2016; Wright et al., 2012), transdisciplinary

ecocultural research approaches looking at diverse cultural and environmental contexts have required reinventing the analytical wheel with each study. **The aim of this book is to collaboratively grow an expansive, inclusive, and supportive ecocultural methodology that will nourish paradigm-shifting research into the future.** In doing so, we also seek to build upon preliminary methodological efforts in ecocultural research, including ad hoc mashups of useful existing interdisciplinary discourse and constructivist methodologies, such as Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough, 2013), Cultural Discourse Analysis (Carbaugh, 2007), constructivist grounded theory (Charmaz, 2014), Positive Discourse Analysis (Stibbe, 2020), and mindful blendings of ecological, cultural, critical, and creative lenses.

The [*Handbook of Ecocultural Identity*](#) (Milstein and Castro-Sotomayor, 2020; open access 2025) prepared the ground for this work, gathering 40 international authors from across disciplines to apply an identity-focused ecocultural framework to understand and respond to diverse projects, articulating ways individual and collective identities and their emotional, embodied, ethical, and political sensibilities are culturally and ecologically implicated and impactful. As a powerful conceptual tool, ecocultural identity provides researchers a theoretical hub from which to operate and has set off a wave of theory- and praxis-focused research (see Milstein, Castro-Sotomayor, & Carr, 2026).

This follow-up volume builds on the groundwork and theoretical implications of ecocultural identity to support and grow research inquiry and insight not only into identity but into myriad scales and areas of ecocultural experience in which humans interrelatedly perceive, communicate, and act with/in/toward the ‘more-than-human world’ (Abram, 1996). Addressing today’s wicked, interlinked planetary problems calls for a broad methodology that cuts across disciplines, cultural contexts, and praxis to illuminate ways cultural orientations and ecological relations interlink, shaping everything from everyday experience to political change to Earthly renewal.

Submission Details

This call invites researchers from across disciplines to collectively articulate an ecocultural methodology. **We are looking for chapter submissions that introduce ecocultural methodology tenets, articulations, and elaborations, case studies, practical applications, creative iterations, and reflexive accounts.** The resulting volume will comprise a selection of chapters that collectively construct an ecocultural methodology for researching and reimagining ecocultural orientations, relationalities, and implications. We are especially interested in submissions that investigate fertile intersections between an ecocultural research methodology and restorative relations and that explicate ways to apply such a methodology to interactions,

spaces, and scales ranging from the interpersonal to the internatural (Plec, 2013). **The volume has garnered initial major academic press interest and will likely take the form of a handbook.**

Please note, this book has a **methodological and applied research focus**. Chapters will need to provide a foundation for weaving relational webs and deepening observations between ecocultural scholarship and public praxis to support and sustain efforts toward the massive restorative change needed in the second half of this ‘decisive decade’ (Figueres & Rivett-Carnac, 2020). Successful submissions will exhibit accessible, cross-disciplinary perspectives to explicate and demonstrate ways an emergent ecocultural methodology can be clearly articulated and how such a methodology can be used not only to avoid or reverse dominant anthropocentric ways of doing research but to expand and enhance ecocentric research perspectives, practices, findings, and outcomes. In illustrating these kinds of pragmatic functions, contributors will both outline an emergent supportive ecocultural methodological structure for doing research and demonstrate possibilities that arise from using an ecocultural methodology. Case study submissions, for instance, should not only exhibit applications of ecocultural methodological lenses, foci, data collection and analysis processes, and outcomes, but aim to expand our understanding through the application of an ecocultural methodology of the many ways humans ecoculturally are, how we endure and transform, and how we may engender planetary renewal instead of crises.

Questions submissions could address include (but are not limited to):

- What kinds of ontological, epistemological, and/or ethical considerations does an ecocultural methodology require and how do these shape core tenets of such a methodology?
- How do various modes of thought and practice inform and/or emerge from an ecocultural methodology?
- What kinds of ecocultural methodological reflexivities, frameworks, and tools should inform the practical steps of research, including subject of focus, data collection, analysis, writing, publication, and dissemination?
- How does the more-than-human world have agency in and inform an ecocultural methodology?
- How can embracing difference and non-normative ways of being and doing (in terms of ecocultural identity, interspecies relations, language, culture, gender, indigeneity, religion, spirituality, race, disability, sexuality, etc.) strengthen impact of an ecocultural methodology?

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- How can an ecocultural methodological approach contribute to restorative and responsible collaborations, alliances, and coalitions in praxis?
- How do ecocultural identities (of the researcher, study participants, communities, institutions) become apparent, amplify, or transform when using an ecocultural methodological lens?
- How could and should an ecocultural methodology transform scholarship, pedagogy, advocacy, and practice?
- What roles do Earthly emotions – including active hope or despair – play in an ecocultural methodology and transformation?
- What roles do justice, voice, and reparation have in an ecocultural methodology?
- How can interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary/transdisciplinary research approaches and/or collaborations nurture a diverse, thriving, and evolving ecocultural methodology?
- How can various technologies, the arts, and other modes of creative performance, communication, and embodied and sensorial approaches inform an ecocultural methodology?

The volume seeks to have an international and transdisciplinary scope to represent the range of articulations, approaches, and perspectives within an emerging ecocultural methodology. Scholars, educators, and graduate students from across disciplines, as well as ecocultural practitioners, advocates, and artists are invited to submit full papers or abstracts. **For consideration, submit: (1) a 200-word author bio** (with link, if available, to your official online profile), **(2) a 200-word summary of the ecocultural methodology approach, function, use, and take-away tool/s of your submission**, AND **(3) an extended abstract (400-500 words) OR a complete paper (3,000-7,000 words including references)** (in either form, use APA 7th edition for citations/references). In addition to typical research or practice submissions, creative approaches are welcome. Artists may submit 3-5 images with their abstract or paper, clearly explaining how the images relate to their written submission.

For consideration, make your submission by 1 December 2025 using this form:

<https://forms.gle/SjwvGJMc3eJ69KSi7>.

If you have any questions or issues with the form, please email Lyb Maree (l.maree@unsw.edu.au).

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