

Statement of Aims

Environmental Politics is concerned with four aspects of the study of environmental politics, with a primary, though not exclusive, focus on the industrialised countries. First, it examines the evolution of environmental movements and parties. Second, it provides analysis of the making and implementation of public policy in the area of the environment at international, national and local levels. Third, it carries comment on ideas generated by the various environmental movements and organisations, and by individual theorists. Fourth, it aims to cover the international environmental issues which are of increasing salience. Its coverage of the developing world does not reach beyond this to the affairs of individual countries, partly because of the journal's chosen focus and partly because of the number of existing journals dealing with development. *Environmental Politics* is sensitive to the distinction between the goals of conservation and of a radical reordering of political and social preferences, and aims to explore the interface between these goals, rather than to favour any one position in contemporary debates.

Deliberation in the Wilderness: Displacing Symbolic Politics

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The environmental benefits of deliberative democracy are increasingly cited, but not well understood. Nor are the processes involved in arriving at deliberated policy preferences in contrast to those under the status quo. Analysis of the Far North Queensland Citizens' Jury (FNQCJ) reveals that the difference reflects as much a move away from a non-deliberative status quo as toward a deliberative ideal. Before deliberation, symbolic arguments proffered by political interests resulted in deep fracturing of an underlying environmental consensus. The deliberative process served to dissipate symbolic claims, liberating citizens to formulate their own judgements based largely on this pre-existing environmental concern. The findings suggest a focus for deliberative democracy in displacing symbolic politics that disenfranchises both nature and humans.

Deliberative democracy is increasingly cited for its potential to reconcile humans and the environment in politics [Goodin, 1996; Eckerstey, 2000; Ward et al., 2003]. This is backed up to some extent by empirical evidence that reveals increased environmental affinities in relation to formal deliberative processes such as citizens' juries, consensus conferences and deliberative polls [Kenyon et al., 2001]. Such is the confidence in the deliberation-environment nexus that there is a push to design institutions to deliver promised environmental benefits [Smith, 2001; Ward et al., 2003].

A number of explanations point to why deliberation ought to yield environmental outcomes. One involves a 'moralising effect' [Miller, 1992] whereby citizens are encouraged to look beyond immediate self-interest toward the common good. This includes environmental concerns, where

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