



Citizen Science

A Study of People ,
Expertise and
Sustainable Development

Alan Irwin

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

**Also available as a printed book
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CITIZEN SCIENCE

In *Citizen Science* Alan Irwin explores the difficult relationship between science, society and the environment.

Drawing upon sociological studies of scientific knowledge and of the 'risk society', the author argues that 'sustainable development' will not be possible without attention to questions of citizenship and citizen knowledge. Having conducted a critical discussion of the relationship between science and environmental policy-making, he considers the existence of more 'contextual' forms of knowledge and understanding. Current discussions of the public understanding of science tend to dismiss these citizen expertises as uninformed or irrational. Irwin argues that such forms of expertise are essential to the processes of sustainable development – not least because of the challenge they offer to scientific institutions.

The book addresses matters of environmental threat and sustainability from the perspective of science and citizenship. For example, Irwin doesn't fall into the trap of using a simple 'pro' or 'and' stance on science, but discusses the relationship between scientific understanding and the different ways in which people make sense of environmental concerns. In conclusion, the book considers the practical possibilities for sustainable development which emerge as a consequence.

Citizen Science provides a much needed route through the fraught relationship between science, the public and environmental threat.

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CITIZEN SCIENCE

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sustainable development

Alan Irwin



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