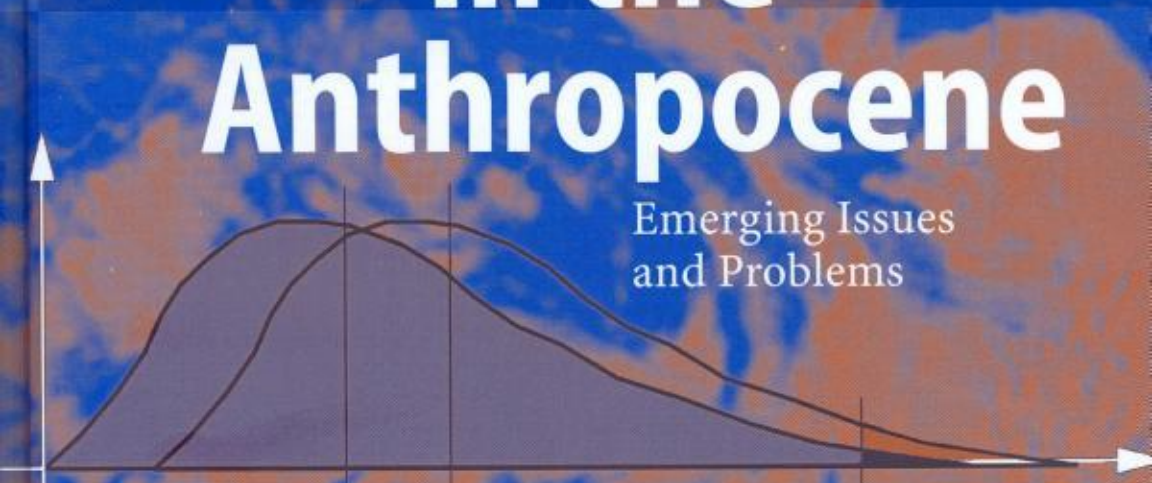


Eckart Ehlers
Thomas Krafft
Editors

Earth System Science in the Anthropocene

Emerging Issues
and Problems



Springer

Eckart Ehlers

Thomas Krafft

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Eckart Ehlers
Thomas Krafft
(Editors)

Earth System Science in the Anthropocene

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With 37 Figures and 10 Tables



Springer

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Preface

This volume intends to document some aspects of the ongoing debate on crucial issues of Earth System Science in the Anthropocene. To the best of the editors' knowledge it is still one of only those few publications that provide different perspectives on the concept of the "Anthropocene". A group of international and German experts – many of the latter members of the German National Committee on Global Change Research (NKGCR) – have contributed their views on current or emerging issues in the context of Global Change and Earth System Science, Environmental Change and Human Security, Interfaces between Nature and Society and on Scientific Challenges for Anthropogenic Research in the 21st Century. The volume provides an overview and update on the new Joint Projects of the Earth System Science Partnership of the four international Global Change Research Programmes and on some German contributions to them. As a sequel to the earlier publication "Understanding the Earth System" this book aims at stimulating the necessary scientific discussion on the future development of Global Change Research and the better integration of and cooperation between natural and social sciences.

The editors want to thank the authors of this volume for their contributions and all those who have made this book possible. They are especially grateful to the authors for their patience in connection with the sometimes painfully slow editing process of this volume. While every effort has been made on the part of the editors to ensure consistency in terminology, methods of quotation and other formalities in connection with the publication process, they surely did not manage to escape certain inconsistencies in the final version of the book.

Financial assistance for this publication has been kindly provided by the German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). Editors and authors are grateful for the Ministry's continuous commitment and support to Global Change Research.

Bonn, München, June 2005

Eckart Ehlers
Thomas Krafft

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