

Allen, Bruce (2011). Review of *Bioregionalism and Global Ethics*. In *Interdisciplinary Studies on Literature and Environment* [Association for the Study of Literature and Environment]18(3):683–685. Extract at <<https://academic.oup.com/isle/article-abstract/18/3/683/747214>>.

**Extract:**

Richard Evanoff's *Bioregionalism and Global Ethics* achieves two main tasks. First, it provides a comprehensive review of the various arguments involved in the movement to establish an ecologically based global ethic. Second, it proposes a model for creating a society that can provide the core values of promoting ecological sustainability, achieving social justice, and maximizing human well-being. Evanoff's vision is based on a transactional approach that views humans as “both constituting and being constituted by the natural environments they inhabit” (99). This approach considers the welfare of humans and nature to be joined in a dialectical—rather than dualistic or oppositional—interplay between humans, culture, and nature.

Writing from a background in environmental philosophy, Evanoff's extensive coverage of the philosophical, economic, sociological, and anthropological aspects of the debates on environmental ethics provides a helpful update or introduction for readers whose studies are normally more focused on literary concerns. With its clearly defined chapter topics and logical development, the book is also a valuable teaching resource. Its sixteen chapters cover topics such as the history of bioregionalism and bioregional ethics, bioregionalism vs. the dominant development paradigm, anthropocentrism and ecocentrism, communicative ethics, the land ethic, ecological sustainability, environmental justice, biocultural diversity, local economies, and the transition to a bioregional world order. Its extensive, well-organized bibliography also makes it a handy reference source. Despite the danger in such a comprehensive work of burying the author's voice beneath the weight of all the arguments being reviewed, Evanoff balances his account with the steady advancement of his own model, thus keeping the narrative fresh.