
POLITICS OF NATURE

*How to Bring the Sciences
into Democracy*



Bruno Latour

*Translated by
Catherine Porter*

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, Massachusetts
London, England
2004

Contents

Introduction: What Is to Be Done with Political Ecology?	1
1. Why Political Ecology Has to Let Go of Nature	9
First, Get Out of the Cave	10
Ecological Crisis or Crisis of Objectivity?	18
The End of Nature	25
The Pitfall of “Social Representations” of Nature	32
The Fragile Aid of Comparative Anthropology	42
What Successor for the Bicameral Collective?	49
2. How to Bring the Collective Together	53
Difficulties in Convoking the Collective	57
First Division: Learning to Be Circumspect with Spokespersons	62
Second Division: Associations of Humans and Nonhumans	70
Third Division between Humans and Nonhumans:	
Reality and Recalcitrance	77
A More or Less Articulated Collective	82
The Return to Civil Peace	87
3. A New Separation of Powers	91
Some Disadvantages of the Concepts of Fact and Value	95
The Power to Take into Account and the Power to Put in Order	102
The Collective’s Two Powers of Representation	108

CONTENTS

x

Verifying That the Essential Guarantees Have Been Maintained	116
A New Exteriority	121
4. Skills for the Collective	128
The Third Nature and the Quarrel between the Two "Eco" Sciences	131
Contribution of the Professions to the Procedures of the Houses	136
The Work of the Houses	164
The Common Dwelling, the <i>Oikos</i>	180
5. Exploring Common Worlds	184
Time's Two Arrows	188
The Learning Curve	194
The Third Power and the Question of the State	200
The Exercise of Diplomacy	209
War and Peace for the Sciences	217
Conclusion: What Is to Be Done? Political Ecology!	221
<i>Summary of the Argument (for Readers in a Hurry . . .)</i>	231
<i>Glossary</i>	237
<i>Notes</i>	251
<i>Bibliography</i>	287
<i>Index</i>	301