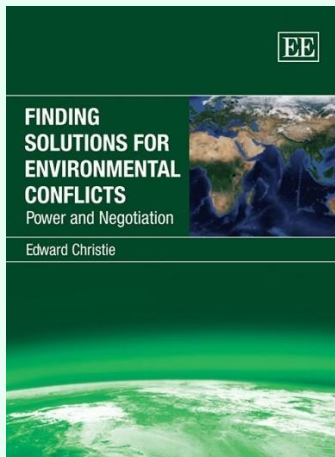


## BOOK REVIEWS



### ***Finding Solutions for Environmental Conflicts: Power and Negotiation (2008)*** **Sole Author: Dr Edward Christie**

**1. Professor Marlen Arnold, Technical University of Munich, Freising, Germany, 3 *Okologisches Wirtschaften* (“Ecological Management”), 55, 2009**

The author, Edward Christie, introduces his readers to a challenging thematic in which he effectively brings together a legal and scientific perspective for the solution of environmental conflicts, thereby providing a bridge between the two approaches.

*In the book the author addresses jurists, scientists, the legislator, engineers and planners and introduces different juristic principles and embeds these into scientific conceptions, thereby introducing his readers from different disciplines to a new interdisciplinary approach.*

This bridge building exercise results in a new interdisciplinary basis from which environmental problems can be solved collaboratively.

***It is in this interdisciplinary context that the author offers far-reaching alternatives, examples and solutions for conflict negotiations, which he describes successfully and correctly.***

The book advocates a juristic and scientific perspective and discusses global environmental problems to which contemporary society is exposed.

Additionally, the author critically reflects on these problems and offers bridges and alternative solutions for environmental conflicts.

The reader also is presented with numerous scientific concepts, perspectives and juristic positions and how environmental conflict solutions in a context of tension and power can be achieved.

***In sum the political and juristic positions in Australia, Great Britain and the USA are dominant in the book and so are the options offered for environmental conflict solutions. However, the book equally offers numerous concrete options for environmental conflict solutions which can be effectively applied across other countries and cultures.***

## **2. Federal Court Australia Justice Peter R. A. Gray (2008): **FOREWORD** to *Finding Solutions For Environmental Conflicts: Power and Negotiation*.**

“There was a time when someone like Dr Edward (“Ted”) Christie would have been described as a “*renaissance man*”: A term used to designate someone whose interests and accomplishments spanned a variety of academic and practical disciplines.

In the 21st century, we need a new term, not only expressed in language that is gender-inclusive, but apt to cover the talents of a person who has the ability to combine the most up-to-date developments in several fields of thinking, to establish a new standard. Whatever the new term might be, as this book demonstrates, it applies to Dr Ted Christie...

It is not surprising that, with his breadth and depth of experience and expertise, Ted Christie has written a book that merits being described as revolutionary...

If this book is read, and its contents are heeded, as widely as is justified, then the days of the application of traditional dispute-resolution procedures to environmental disputes should be over in the 21st century...

***To describe this book as revolutionary is not to resort to hyperbole.***

***It will bring about significant change.***

***Dr Ted Christie, renaissance man (or its 21st century equivalent), deserves acclamation for having written it”.***

**3. Sanmeet Kaur, Lecturer in Law, City University, London  
LL.B (Queen Mary College, London and Universiteit Leiden)  
LL.M (UCL) 19 Review of European Community & International  
Environmental Law, 366, 2010**

“Edward Christie adopts an inter-disciplinary approach in this book to evaluating conflict-resolution models in the management and resolution of environmental conflicts.

*He considers the interplay  
between lawyers, scientists and policy makers in three jurisdictions,  
namely Australia, the UK and the USA.  
He employs a comparative approach  
to examining how environmental conflicts arise and are managed...  
this comparative approach is a major strength of the book...*

In this book, Christie systematically analyses the characteristics of environmental conflicts and how the disciplines of law, science and policy making can and do converge to resolve such conflicts.

***This book is a valuable resource for academics and professionals involved in environmental law, environmental science, and policy making as well as those involved in dispute resolution”***

**4. Karin Johnsrud, 37 International Journal of Legal Information,  
254, 2009**

“Finding Solutions for Environmental Conflicts: Power and Negotiation is a well-written book that provides the reader with a clear understanding of the issues that generally arise in environmental conflicts, how those issues are addressed through litigation and the administrative decision-making process, and how using ADR can produce more equitable and long-lasting solutions.

***With a background  
in ecology, environmental law, and mediation,  
Edward Christie is knowledgeable about the subject of the book  
and has the expertise needed  
to tie the distinct areas together”.***

**5. Patricia Hania BAS, LL.M-ADR, M.E.S, Ph.D, Candidate, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University Toronto, Canada, 11 *Environmental Law Review*, 318, 2009**

“[Edward Christie]... combines science and law into a problem-solving method based on ADR principles to ensure the scope of the book presents a cross-disciplinary viewpoint where neither wholly legal nor wholly scientific perspectives dominate.

[The] book is directed at a diverse audience, including the 'lawyer, scientist, engineer, planner ... as well as indigenous peoples' who can bring 'traditional indigenous knowledge' to the negotiating table.

Moreover, given that the book is written in highly accessible language, it is possible that a layperson such as a member of a local community group might consider consulting this book when creating a strategy to engage effectively in an environmental conflict. ...

Five [of the book] chapters [*sustainability; EIA; risk, precaution and the environment: biotechnology – GMOs; hazardous chemicals and public health; and biodiversity and threatened species*] provide a wealth of information to understand the critical issues pertaining to the subject matter and to evaluate, as well as select, the most appropriate dispute resolution process - that is, litigation or negotiation, which are both tied to the disputant's source of power.

***In sum, Edward Christie offers a pragmatic, solution-oriented book on ADR... interwoven with a discussion of the relevant environmental law principles and scientific concepts (for example, the precautionary principle and the concepts of critical habitat and habitat change, to name a few, and the scientific perspective of causation, which differs from the legal perspective).***

Although Christie focuses on disputes in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, many of the issues he raises are generic to disputes in other jurisdictions, such as Canada.

**6. 12 *New Zealand Journal of Environmental Law*, 339, 2008**

“Finding Solutions for Environmental Conflicts: Power and Negotiation addresses the growth of environmental law, principles and concepts, matters of public interest and participation, and the approaches available in finding consensual agreement which may integrate law, science, and alternative dispute resolution.

***The book provides information and guidance on a cross-disciplinary approach using ADR processes and will appeal to not only professionals but also indigenous communities and environmental groups. It adopts an international perspective in the information provided"***

**7. Frances Kabat, 16 *Buffalo Environmental Law Journal*, 135, 2008-2009**

"Edward Christie's *Finding Solutions for Environmental Conflicts* does more than just analyse the processes through which environmental conflicts can be resolved. The text takes its readers through the basic principles of the environmental decision-making process and explains how litigation, in addition to alternative dispute resolution techniques such as negotiation, can be used to address environmental problems.

***What makes Christie's text unique is that it helps readers to understand the legal system of not only the United States, but of the United Kingdom and Australia as well, providing readers with a broad sense of the interactions of law and environmental decision-making processes in other common law nations...***

This perspective helps readers understand the truly global nature of environmental conflict and the different strategies that can be employed to resolve these conflicts".

