



# A Student's Introduction to Geographical Thought: Theories, Philosophies, Methodologies

*Pauline Couper*



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This ism-busting text is an enormously accessible account of the key philosophical and theoretical ideas that have informed geographical research. It makes abstract ideas explicit and clearly connects it with real practices of geographical research and knowledge.

Written with flair and passion, **A Student's Introduction to Geographical Thought**:

- Explains the key ideas: scientific realism, anti-realism and idealism / positivism / critical rationalism / Marxism and critical realism/ social constructionism and feminism / phenomenology and post-phenomenology / postmodernism and post-structuralism / complexity / moral philosophy.
- Uses examples that address *both* physical geography and human geography.
- Use a familiar and real-world example - 'the beach' - as an entry point to basic questions of philosophy, returning to this to illustrate and to explain the links between philosophy, theory, and methodology.

All chapters end with summaries and sources of further reading, a glossary explaining key terms, exercises with commentaries, and web resources of key articles from the journals *Progress in Human Geography* and *Progress in Physical Geography*. **A Student's Introduction to Geographical Thought** is a completely accessible student A-Z of theory and practice for both human and physical geography.



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