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A biologist looks at problems of population and the environment

Alan S. Parkes

In his book, Backlash: A Biologist Looks at Problems of Population and the Environment, the distinguished biologist the late Professor Sir Alan Parkes, CBE, ScD, FRS, takes a unique perspective on the human problems of our time. Refusing to build a wall of professional jargon around population issues, he prefers to simplify and relate them to a wide range of global events that threaten the future of the earth and its people.

After four chapters on the essential elements of demography, he identifies a catalogue of disasters from which it is remarkable that so many have survived, and describes the degradation of the natural environment as a consequence of man's increasing numbers and technology. There is always a BACKLASH, not least the backlash of sophistication as we foul our nest and our air and add man-made disasters to the natural hazards that affect human numbers.

The book covers a wide range of interrelated disciplines of topical importance and interest and would provide excellent and stimulating teaching material for human biology, social biology and environmental science courses in secondary schools or colleges of higher education. The book is therefore being made available to members of educational establishments at a concessionary price, as given below.

Published by the Parkes Foundation, March 1993 ISBN 0 907232 08 6; 223pp; 102 line illustrations

Special price to educational establishments: £5/copy; £15 for five copies

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The Parkes Foundation has set up a Small Grants Fund to help promote research into the biosocial sciences. Priority will be given to the support of field work which involves the integrated study of biological and social features of human populations. Relevant disciplines are anthropology, demography and population studies, ecology and environmental studies, nutrition and population genetics.

Grants will be particularly directed to help graduate research students to meet field and travel costs, but others may apply. Undergraduate projects, however, will not be supported. Grants will be small, usually not exceeding £500, and successful candidates will need to provide a report following completion of the work.

Applicants should provide a short statement of the proposed research, a budget, a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees. Application forms may be obtained from the address below. The closing date for applications is the end of each calendar year, and awards will be made early in the following year.

Applications should be submitted to:

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Population Studies

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Book reviews

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