



## **Why social scientists should engage with natural scientists?**

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The urgency and complexity of environmental problems call for different forms of scientific investigation that: transcend the artificial divide between the social and natural sciences; and are more immediately engaged in the ubiquitous real-time, real-life experiment that environmental instability presents. The paper will offer a brief history of relations between the social and natural sciences and consider the challenges that climate change presents for the interdisciplinary study of land use. It will draw on experience of designing an interdisciplinary research programme in the UK, which is addressing environmental problems, to address the question – why is it imperative that social scientists engage with natural scientists, and what do the social sciences have to offer the natural science community?