

Santa Fe Accord

Advanced Seminar in Historical Ecology

SCHOOL OF AMERICAN RESEARCH

13-19 OCTOBER 1990

We are alarmed at the current peril to humanity and the biosphere.

Historical understanding is essential to enable present and future generations to live with dignity on a changing earth. To achieve this, we must appreciate both global connections and the diversity of local knowledge.

We question habits of thought that pit nature against culture and science against history, that assume human interaction with the environment can be characterized by mechanic principles, and that ignore the dynamism of human ecology.

We underscore the importance of historical antecedents, of cognition and communication, of human agency, and of rich human experiences with different landscapes.

We call for research and management options that draw on the lessons from the human past to guide and promote a sustainable quality of life.

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