

Understanding values in landscape evaluation: a geographic perspective

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Much has been written about how the values people hold affect their environmental perception, especially in the field of social psychology. Although the concept of landscape has played a central role in geography for over a century, studies about the values people hold and how they affect perception of, and attitudes towards, landscapes are surprisingly scarce. This paper discusses the role of values, attitudes and perception in shaping how people use urban national parks in the United States and Australia. The paper examines how geographic insights into values and landscape evaluation can help scholars to better understand how and why people use urban green spaces like national parks. Theoretical models are explored and results from empirical research are used to appraise the utility of these models for future research.

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