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Introduction

Finnish Society for Practise Based Inquiry (Praba; www.praba.fi) opened a call of papers in autumn 2018. The call was based on the 17th Congress of Methodology in Hämeenlinna on April 24, 2018. The theme of the Congress was Human and Nature, organized by Praba and Häme University of Applied Sciences (www.hamk.fi).

The relationship between human and nature is very complicated. In the book, the intention is to characterize the relationship between human and nature from different perspectives and backgrounds. Obviously, humans are part of nature which does not cover the essential aspects of the relationship. However, seeing human beings as a part of nature gives the book a posthumanistic viewpoint; nature should be considered in all actions and human beings have NO intrinsic right to destroy nature or set themselves above it in ethical considerations.

The technological development made by humans also has impact on the relationship between human and nature. However, the technology does not change only this relationship but also humans themselves. Technology provides us with new skills and tools which change us. At the same time, technology changes nature, as global warming or pollution of nature demonstrate. Not all the changes are negative. The whole variety of nuances within the relationship between humans and nature tells us a rich story in which there are several different aspects.

The relationship between humans and technology is interesting and extremely complex. The tools offered by technology are not mere tools, but they have several different roles. They can change the relationship between humans and nature. For example, ships changed the distances between countries. However, there are different kinds of tools, like languages, cars, and factories, which change humans, nature, and their relationship. Moreover, technology is not merely separate tools, but it constitutes technosystems where humans are involved.

The relationship between humans and nature is not mediated merely by technology and technical tools but also by culture. Culture changes humans' understanding about nature and hence also changes the relationship between humans and nature. Because of cultural reasons, humans may think nature as a mere source of satisfac-

tion for our needs or as worthy in itself which entails changes in our use of technological tools. However, the distinction between technology and nature is not sharp as the example of language as a tool shows. Language is a tool mediating humans and external nature but, at the same, language is a cultural object. Moreover, technology is also a cultural object. The Western economic-technical cultural rationality is dominating; however, could tourism function as a step which shows us new kinds of cultural approaches?

Culture is a complex unity of individual, social, and environmental factors (*milieu*). This affects relationships both between individuals and communities, and nature. This can be considered from a general philosophico-cultural perspective (Droz) or from a specific cultural perspective (Fontes et al., Suoza et al., Freitas et al.). The latter, at the same time, exemplifies citizen science which deepens the cultural perspective. Cultural aspects give a clear and general understanding of the human–nature relationship. However, there is a need to consider the human–nature relationship from an individual point of view, which is interesting from the ethical perspective (Konkka). This raises several specific questions like travelling (Ketarauskis), machine and sport (Siitonen & al. and Väänänen). These individual aspects are closely connected to cultural aspects which is reflected in the context of peacekeeping (Anttila et al.). The connection is systematically built by education (Konst). Does this make everything a social construction (Dremel)?

During the writing and publishing process of this book, our planet has been in the middle of tragic natural disasters. The Amazon area, which was strongly in the focus in the Human and Nature seminar and in this book, has almost been destroyed. The results are dramatic and reflect all over the world. In the background of the Amazon case there is human beings' greed and endless aim to profit maximization. As a further example, the hurricanes in the Pacific Ocean have destroyed nature and constructed environments alike.

A phenomenon called climate anxiety has been diagnosed especially in young people, the worry and fear of climate change and its impacts are growing everywhere, and climate immigration is increasing too.

The intention of this book is to characterize the relationship between human and nature. There is no fixed viewpoint from which the relationship should be characterized. The articles aim to offer several different perspectives to the topic both from micro and macro perspectives. Interaction brings the articles together – the focus in

all articles is interaction between human and nature. Interaction has as many different models as the authors: physical or mental, bare or hidden. Globalization (or internationalization) is also strongly present in the relationship between human and nature – when changing the environment, human beings have to relocate themselves and find a position in the new nature.

In all, this book aims to generate both an opportunity and duty to open our eyes and minds to the reality, and also to support and encourage us to take concrete steps towards a sustainable future.

The editorial board thanks all authors for contributions and participation in the common journey in the publishing process.

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