

Contents

Preface Acknowledgements Introduction		vii xi 1
Chapter 1	Ideas, change and stability in physical geography What are ideas and how do they change? 5	5
	Is there a history of ideas in physical geography? 10 What are the important concepts in physical geography? 13 Summary 24	
Chapter 2	The nature of reality What is reality? 25 Views of different philosophies 27 Case Study: Critical rationalism — an example from environmental reconstruction 31 Reality as a dialogue 35 Theory, reality and practice 36 Case Study: Myths and theories 38	25
	Physical geography as historical science 41 Summary 43	
Chapter 3	Entities and classification Introduction 45 What are entities? 46 Entities and kinds 47 Case Study: Species as natural kinds 51 Case Study: Magnitude and frequency – entities out of context 52 Classification 56 Case Study: Classification of soils 58 Summary 60	45

Chapter 4	Explanation in physical geography 63 What is explanation? 63 Causality 65 Case Study: Necessary and sufficient conditions 67 Explanatory frameworks 70 Case Study: General and token-type landslides 77 Summary 79	63
Chapter 5	Probing reality Probing and the dialogue with reality 81 Measurement systems 84 Case Study: Multiple working hypotheses 88 Case Study: Triangulation of techniques – measurement of surface form on rocks 90 Practice in physical geography 92 Case Study: Linking process and form – intensive study of bedforms 95 Case Study: Probing reality – fluvial flow structures 97 Computer simulation of reality 101 Summary 102	
Chapter 6	Systems: the framework for physical geography? Systems analysis in physical geography 103 Application of systems thinking 106 Systems and change 108 Case Study: Systems and landscape sensitivity 113 Summary 115	103
Chapter 7	Change and complexity Equilibrium: an ex-concept? 117 Chaos and complexity: more of the same? 121 Emergence and hierarchies: scale revisited? 126 Case Study: Complexity and change – landscape evolution and organization 131 Summary 136	117
Chapter 8	Physical geography and societies Paradigms and social networks 137 Social construction and physical geography? 139 Ethics in physical geography: reflection required? 140 Physical and human geography: division or integration? 143 Summary 146	137
References Index		147 157