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Autore	Inkpen Robert <1964-, >
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frameworks; Case Study: Abduction as a form of explanation in environmental reconstruction; Case Study: Linking theory and practice; The problems of causation; Summary; Chapter 5. Probing reality; Probing and the dialogue with reality; Measurement systems; Case Study: Triangulation of techniques - measurement of surface form on rocks; Practice in physical geography

Case Study: Linking process and form - intensive study of bedforms

Case Study: Probing reality - fluvial flow structure; Case Study: Multiple working hypotheses; Summary; Chapter 6. The field; What is 'field science'?; The philosophies of fieldwork; Case Study: Local underdeterminism and the Younger Dryas event; 'Simplifying the field' - laboratory and experimental research; Monitoring the field; Fieldwork as a reflective and imaginative practice; Summary; Chapter 7. Systems - the framework for physical geography?; Systems analysis in physical geography; Application of systems thinking

Systems and change

Case Study: Systems and landscape sensitivity; Summary; Chapter 8. Change and complexity; Equilibrium - an ex-concept?; Chaos and complexity - more of the same?; Case study: Chaos theory and ecological systems; Emergence and hierarchies - scale revisited?; Case Study: Scale and (dis)connectivity; Case Complexity and change - landscape evolution and organization; Summary; Chapter 9. Modelling; Conceptual approaches to modelling; Types of models; Conceptual models; Analogue models; Deterministic models; Empirical- statistical models

Case Study: Numerical modelling of Late Quaternary relative sea-level change and glacial isostatic adjustment

Sommario/riassunto

<P>This accessible and engaging text explores the relationship between philosophy, science and physical geography. It addresses an imbalance that exists in opinion, teaching and to a lesser extent research, between a philosophically enriched human geography and a perceived philosophically empty physical geography.</P><P>The text challenges the myth that there is a single self-evident scientific method that can, and is, applied in a straightforward manner by physical geographers. It demonstrates the variety of alternative philosophical perspectives and emphasizes the difference that the real wo
