

# M7X01447

## Applying Social Psychology

### Applying Social Psychology to the Environment

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# Environmental Psychology

- ▶ What does it mean to you?
  - Climate Change
  - Noise/Air Pollution
  - Built & Natural Environment
  - Scarcity of Resources
  - Implications for Mental and Physical Health
- ▶ What does it mean to other (lay) people?

# Humans and the Environment

- ▶ Planet Earth – population:
  - 1970 = 3.69 billion
  - 2015 = 7.33 billion
    - Average annual growth rate  $>1\%$  per year
    - This is slowing – 1960s were above 2%
  - 2099 estimate = 10.8 billion
    - Growth rate estimate = .09% (UNDESA, 2013)
  - UK population = 64.6 million in 2014
  - Peak at 74.3 million in 2039
    - 51% of increase from net migration
    - 49% from natural increase (ONS, 2014)

## ► Population density

- England = 413 people per sq km
- Wales = 149
- Northern Ireland = 135
- Scotland = 68
  
- Monaco = 25,718
- Bangladesh = 1114
- South Korea = 500
  
- Australia 3.1
- Greenland = 0

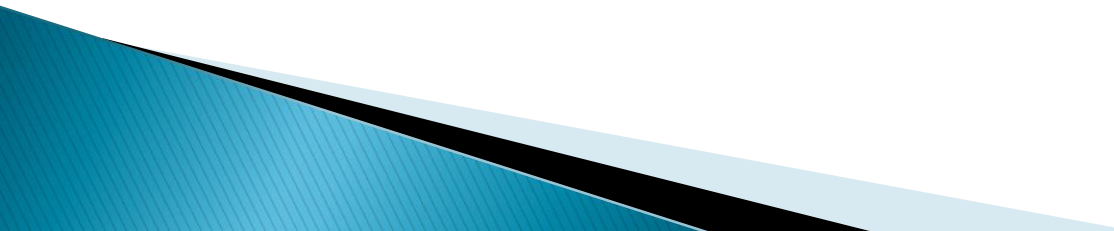
# What is our 'Environment'?

- ▶ Our surroundings
  - Natural environment
  - Social settings
  - Built environment
  - Learning environment
  - Informational environment
    - (BPS Environmental Psychology Section, 2015)



**Task 2:** What does your environment look/feel like? And how has it changed over time (that you can remember)?

# The Tragedy of the Commons

- ▶ In 1833, the English economist William Forster Lloyd published a pamphlet which included a hypothetical example of over-use of a common resource. This was the situation of cattle herders sharing a common parcel of land on which they are each entitled to let their cows graze, as was the custom in English villages. He postulated that if a herder put more than his allotted number of cattle on the common, overgrazing could result. For each additional animal, a herder could receive additional benefits, but the whole group shared damage to the commons. If all herders made this individually rational economic decision, the common could be depleted or even destroyed, to the detriment of all.
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- ▶ ‘Individual good – collective bad’ trap
- ▶ ‘One-person’ trap
- ▶ ‘Missing hero’ trap
  - How do each of these play a role in dealing with the environment?

# Climate Change

- ▶ The time for climate scientists to be discussing climate change and the environment is over – it is now down to engineers and psychologists to be doing the talking
  - Prof Kevin Anderson (2015)

What does this mean? Why engineers and psychologists instead of climate change scientists?