

Interactive comment on “Ideas and perspectives: Biogeochemistry – Its Future Role in Interdisciplinary Frontiers” by Thomas S. Bianchi et al.

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I have mixed reaction to this paper. On the one hand, how can one criticize a plea for more interdisciplinary perspectives, especially into genomics and the social sciences? And one certainly cannot criticize pleas for better communication of our results to improve science-based policy. On the other hand, all this has been said before, widely and frequently, so I really didn't learn much from this perspectives piece, nor did it offer new excitement. The very name: Bio-Geo-Chemistry, reflects the interdisciplinary roots of this field of endeavor. In several papers, Paul Falkowski and Diane Newman have reviewed how the evolutionary biochemistry of prokaryotes has left its mark on

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the Earth's chemical conditions. Even the importance of integrating the social sciences in environmental science is widely recognized—witness a program of coupled human and natural systems at NSF and a requirement by the agency for social science linkages in its long-term ecological research programs. Better transmission of our results to policy makers was named Translational Ecology by Schlesinger in a 2010 editorial in *Science* and now the focus of a working group at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) at the University of Maryland. I have a fear that the statements about rapid evolution (page 3, line 79ff) are at odds with the recognized inefficiency of eugenics. So, I have no real criticisms of this piece; I just question its novelty and potential impact amongst the crowded pages on our computers that already sap our time and energy for forward progress.

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