Bringing together some of the most eminent thinkers in the field, this book celebrates the seminal contribution of Ted Benton to the pressing themes of nature, social relations and human needs. An introductory overview of the writings of Ted Benton focuses on the subtle ways in which he has combined the concerns of biology and sociology, and more broadly, the life sciences and social sciences. The following chapters are divided into four parts, all of which have been central to Benton’s work; examining realism, naturalism and the philosophy of the social sciences; the continuing relevance of Marxism; philosophical anthropology and human needs; ecology, society and natural limits. The concluding chapter is a stimulating and important rejoinder by Ted Benton; variously clarifying, conceding, defending, and insisting, but most of all savouring the opportunity to further develop pressing lines of thought. With chapters by leading sociologists, this study, the first to critically assess the impact of Benton’s work, will be invaluable to all those concerned with the relation between the natural and social worlds.

CONTENTS:
Introduction: Intricate Webs: Nature, Social Relations and Human Needs in the Writings of Ted Benton; R.Stones and S.Moog
PART I: REALISM, NATURALISM AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
"FOR Science in the Social Sciences": The End of the Road for Critical Realism?; G.McLennan
Practising Nature and Culture: An Essay for Ted Benton; J.Law
PART II: THE CONTINUING RELEVANCE OF MARXISM
The Continuing Relevance of Marxism; P.Devine
Four Pillars of a Revisionist Marxism; E.Morawska
PART III: PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND HUMAN NEEDS
Cognitive Capitalism and Species-Being; P.Dickens
Understanding Lay Normativity; A.Sayer
PART IV: ECOLOGY, SOCIETY AND NATURAL LIMITS
Ecological Politics for the Twenty-First Century: Where Does Nature Fit in?; S.Moog
Realism, Naturalism and the Red-Green Nexus: Benton’s Contribution to Ecological Theory; K.Soper
Labour, Nature and Dependence; J.O’Neill
Conclusion: Philosophy, Materialism and Nature: Comments and Reflections; T.Benton

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