

## CHE Fellow appointed Visiting Professor

Contributed by Centre for Human Ecology  
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The University of Strathclyde have awarded the honorary post of Visiting Professor of Human Ecology to CHE fellow Alastair McIntosh. Based in the Department of Geography and Sociology, Alastair will contribute to the department strategy of bringing academic teaching and research closer to communities and public debates.

Prof David Miller, the Head of Department of Geography and Sociology said: "We very much welcome this appointment. The development of Human Ecology in the department is a key part of our rapid development strategy to foster research and teaching which is relevant and engaged in the world beyond the academy. Our orientation towards public interest research is well served by our increasing links with local community groups in Glasgow as well as by our engagement with public policy questions and issues of public controversy. We hope Alastair can bring added zest to that process."

Osbert Lancaster, Executive Director of CHE, said: "I am thrilled that human ecology has been recognised by creating an honorary professorship. It is a first for Scotland, and wonderful that it should be so from a university that rightly prides itself on 'useful knowledge'."

Alastair's recent academic work includes a recent article in *The Land*, the journal for English land reform, where he took issue with historian Michael Fry's attempt to deny the Highland Clearances in his recent book, 'Wild Scots'.

In another article just published in *Reforestation Scotland*, Alastair argued the need for Scotland's land reform agenda to address conflict management and leadership in communities ("Land reform has given us the long-awaited 'revolution'. The next challenge is to ensure that we're not rebels without a clue.") Meanwhile, Scottish Environment LINK (the network of environmental NGOs) have just published *The Battle for Roineabhal* - a major report on the campaign that stopped the Harris superquarry in which Alastair played a role.

Recently he and Claude Martin, former director general of WWF International, spoke to MBA alumni at the INSEAD business school near Paris (on eldership and the future of management). This month he is speaking at the Govan International Festival in April (on cultural rights) and in May Alastair will deliver The Highland Lecture at Greyfriars Highland Church in Edinburgh in May (on crofting law reform). In October he has been invited to give a keynote address, "Sparking the Fire of Regeneration", at the international conference of Interpret Scotland in Aviemore, October 2007.

Together with his wife, Verene Nicolas (also a CHE Fellow), Alastair is also in dialogue with senior French environmentalists about holding an exploratory seminar later this year to consider whether spirituality can and should play a greater role in social and environmental transformation.

Links:

[Alastair McIntosh](#)

[University of Strathclyde](#)

[Scottish Environment LINK](#)