

AcE-Bs 2013 Hanoi  
ASEAN Conference on Environment-Behaviour Studies  
Hanoi Architectural University, Hanoi, Vietnam, 19-22 March 2013  
*"Cultural Sustainability in the Built and Natural Environment"*

## Influence of Five Types of Ecological Attachments on General Pro-Environmental Behavior

Juneman<sup>a\*</sup>, Any Rufaedah<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Bina Nusantara University (BINUS), Psychology Department, Kemanggisian Ilir III/45, DKI Jakarta 11480, Indonesia

<sup>b</sup>Ministry for The Development of Disadvantaged Regions, Jl. Abdul Muis No. 7, DKI Jakarta 10110, Indonesia

---

### Abstract

This research related five attachment objects all together, i.e. home attachment, neighborhood cohesion, workplace/campus attachment, city attachment, and national identity, with general pro-environmental behavior. Additional analysis included prejudice toward pro-environmental activists and psycho-socio-demographic profiles as explanatory variables. The participants were 262 urban young adults (121 males, 141 females; Mage = 30.09 years, SDage = 9.82 years) who are citizens of Jakarta and its surrounding areas. The result showed that the higher the attachment to, consecutively, workplace/campus, city, and neighborhood, the higher the general pro-environmental behavior. Home attachment, national identity, and prejudice toward pro-environmental activists could not predict pro-environmental behavior.

© 2013 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. Open access under [CC BY-NC-ND license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

Selection and peer-review under responsibility of Centre for Environment-Behaviour Studies (cE-Bs), Faculty of Architecture, Planning & Surveying, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia

**Keywords:** Pro-environment; community; attachment; urban psychology

---

### 1. Introduction

Place attachment is "a set of feelings about a geographic location that emotionally bind a person to that place as a function of its role as a setting experience" (Cristoforetti, Gennai, & Rodeschini, 2011). Scannell and Gifford (2010) divided place attachment into two types; those are natural/physical attachment (for instance, "I am attached to the green areas here", "The natural areas are notable to me"), and civic/symbolic/social attachment (for instance, "I am attached to this city", "This city is remarkable to

---

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +62-21-5327630; fax: +621-21-533-2985.  
E-mail address: [juneman@binus.edu](mailto:juneman@binus.edu).

me"). They found that natural attachment can predict pro-environmental behavior; on the other hand, civic attachment cannot predict it. This present research is different from Scannel and Gifford's research since it assumes that based on Gestalt perspective (for instance, Winter & Koger, 2004), both of the natural and civic attachment cannot be separated. For example, when people use the word "city" or "nation", those two words have already contained an abstraction or an imagination of a territorial, physical atmosphere, historical and futurist-symbolic-sociocultural dimension, and even the spirituality of the city or nation. Based on that idea, the researcher argues that any psychometric effort, which dichotomize and produce two different indexes between civic attachment and natural attachment, is an effort that is reductionistic and leads a pretty serious critical evaluation.

According to the researcher, the useful matter to be a focus for research is not the distinction between civic and natural attachment, but the effect of micro-, meso-, and macro- attachments on pro-environmental behavior. Theoretically, a number of researches (for instance, Dallago et al., 2009) have connected place attachment with social capital. On the other hand, social capital "exists at micro-, meso- and macro-levels, and may consist of horizontal as well as vertical relationships, or links of bonding, bridging or linking" (Francis, 2002, p. 5). By integrating the assumption with the findings of environmental psychology research, we hypothesize that multi-faceted attachments contribute to pro-environmental behavior. Moreover, the empirical studies on this subject nevertheless were inconclusive, and the places included in those researches were highly diverse (houses, parks, tourist places, etc.).

Within 24 hours per day, people move among these three systems (micro-, meso-, macro-), either move physically (move from one place to another place) or move mentally (for instance, from thinking the homes into thinking the nation, from concerning on the city into concerning on the workplace, etc). People do not move from symbolic place to physical place or vice versa. It is because a place is always a symbolic and at once a physical place. Reischer and Koo (2004, p. 299) stated, "the body beautiful as an icon of social values ... The body beautiful may be read as a primary site for the social construction". If people agree that there is a parallelism between nature and human body, then as a consequence, the beauty of nature as well as the beauty of body will involve symbolic processing. In the dynamic movements of an individual, those three systems always interact evolutionarily, in which human grows inside them and together with them (Liljenström & Svedin, 2005). Operationally, in this research, micro-attachment is operationally defined as home attachment; meso-attachment is limited as neighborhood cohesion, workplace/campus attachment, as well as city attachment; and macro-attachment is limited as national identity.

Practically, urgency to held this research is related to intervention. It is known that many prominent cities in this world, not to mention Jakarta the capital of Indonesia, suffered from lots of environmental problems, e.g. flood, waste management, air and water pollution, ruined public areas, etc. At the time in which this research is written, Jakarta had been stricken by a bad flood in 17th January 2013. Besides that, Joko Widodo, the Governor of Jakarta, stated his complaint related to trash habit of the citizens of Jakarta (Tranggana, 2012): "Days ago, Manggarai floodgate had been already cleaned, but three days after that the trash re-accumulated, not only trash even mattress there. Normalization of the river will be useless if citizens still littering. The small things will accumulate as high as mountain if they are ignored".

Nowadays, it seems there is a frustration in the handling of environmental issues because they involve complexity of networks between variables. A number of strategies have been implemented, and it costs quite a lot. It is hoped that the results of this research can be used to give information about the attachment object which has the greatest contribution to pro-environmental behavior, so psychosocial intervention can be prioritized and focused on it.

This research also involves variable of prejudice against environmental activists as predictors of pro-environmental behavior. Related to this matter, there are two urgencies. First, it is based on the fact that, in Indonesia, there are request to dissolve Greenpeace (a group of pro-environmental activists) because of

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1116994>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1116994>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)