

I know it, I own it, and I care for it:

How perceived environmental knowledge strengthens ownership for the environment

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Short Abstract

Psychological ownership (PO), i.e. perceiving something as mine, can have powerful consequences and trigger protective behavior of that which is psychologically owned. We show that PO can emerge for something as abstract as the environment. Focusing on the theorized role of knowledge in the emergence of PO, we find that measured (Study1A,1B) and manipulated (Study2,3) perceived knowledge predicts PO for the environment and, in turn, pro-environmental behavior (Study3). We advance the literature by showing that perceived superior knowledge of the environment itself matters.



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