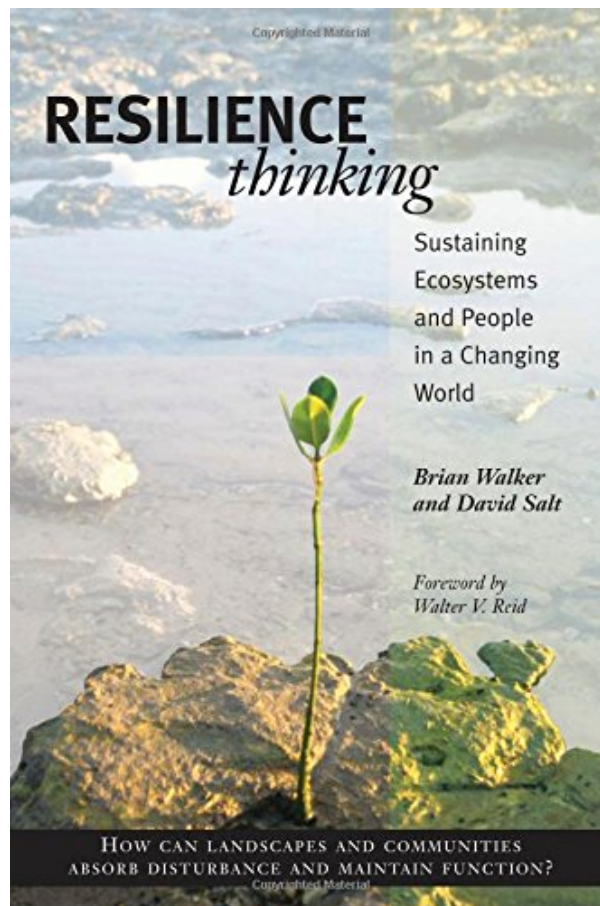
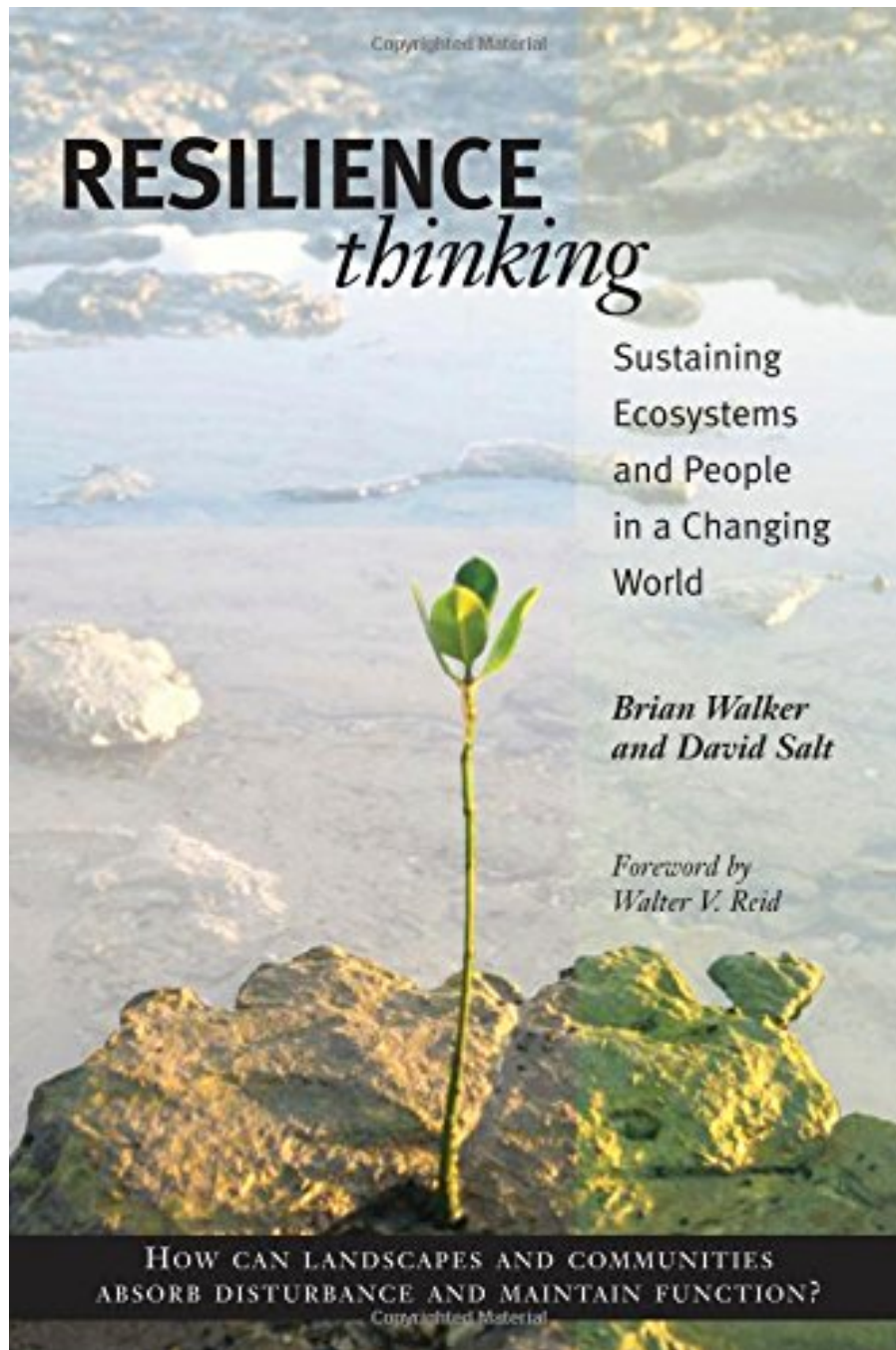


**RESILIENCE THINKING: SUSTAINING
ECOSYSTEMS AND PEOPLE IN A
CHANGING WORLD BY BRIAN WALKER
PHD, DAVID SALT**



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Review

"Resilience Thinking is an impressive and highly successful effort to explain complex ecological and social interactions and changes in a unified framework and in language accessible to a wide audience. This book should stimulate extensive discussions on these critical issues and innovative ways to approach them." (Harold Mooney Achilles Professor of Environmental Biology, Stanford University)

"Resilience Thinking provides a much-needed accessible entrée into a concept that holds the key to our future.... Full of wisdom, sophisticated science, and practical guidance, this book provides profound ideas, insights, and hope to scientists, students, managers, and planners alike." (Jane Lubchenco Distinguished Professor of Zoology, Oregon State University)

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"This is one of those books that barely mentions planning as such, but has lots of implications for it. It's short but will repay some extra quiet time...Their goal is to get us to look at the world and its systems in a fresh new way." (Planning)

About the Author

Brian Walker is a Research Fellow in Australia's CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences, Visiting Researcher in the Stockholm Resilience Centre, and Chair of the Resilience Alliance.

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Increasingly, cracks are appearing in the capacity of communities, ecosystems, and landscapes to provide the goods and services that sustain our planet's well-being. The response from most quarters has been for "more of the same" that created the situation in the first place: more control, more intensification, and greater efficiency.

"Resilience thinking" offers a different way of understanding the world and a new approach to managing resources. It embraces human and natural systems as complex entities continually adapting through cycles of change, and seeks to understand the qualities of a system that must be maintained or enhanced in order to achieve sustainability. It explains why greater efficiency by itself cannot solve resource problems and offers a constructive alternative that opens up options rather than closing them down.

In Resilience Thinking, scientist Brian Walker and science writer David Salt present an accessible introduction to the emerging paradigm of resilience. The book arose out of appeals from colleagues in science and industry for a plainly written account of what resilience is all about and how a resilience approach differs from current practices. Rather than complicated theory, the book offers a conceptual overview along with five case studies of resilience thinking in the real world. It is an engaging and important work for anyone interested in managing risk in a complex world.

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Features

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Basic Resilience Thoery primer

By Tammy Parker

I used this book in my graduate research and when I missed placed it, several years past grad school, I had to buy it again for a reference. It is a short book, but packed with useful information to help you understand Resilience Theory. If authors Walker and Scott taught in the US I'd be signed up in a doctorate program with them. Definatly check out this book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Like the author

By Ballenamar

I come from a background in conservation and complex systems. Like the author, I have been struggling to describe the very important worldview of systems thinking and the need to apply this thinking to ecological issues. Systems science has a language of its own which has yet to be translated for effective use by those conservation people who make important ecological decisions. I think of folks like the field biologists who work with public lands agencies. Honestly, the systems science people have a long way to go in describing

their critically important ideas. The author of this book makes a valiant attempt to bridge the gap but is entrapped in buzzwords and dense text. He uses the word "resilience" when he should probably be describing ecosystems and sustainability in terms of Nature's interconnections (energy conduits) that hold these systems together by transporting and transforming energy. Broken connections are the driving force behind broken ecosystems and are the cause of reduced resilience/sustainability.

I can't be too harsh because I find myself with the same struggle of trying to translate the systems research work of Santa Fe Institute (and others) into useful, applicable ecological knowledge at the field level.

I have some of the same minor complaints as other reviewers. The editing is poor in places. Someone from the outside should have worked with the author to make the book more readable. Nonetheless, the use of good case studies did offset the dense and often technical/obtuse writing.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent book - simple and clear without being dumbed-down.

By Erik Lee

This is a fantastic little book. The presentation of complex adaptive systems and the things that determine how resilient they are is crystal clear and concise. My background is computer science research, with a fair amount of experience in complex systems from that angle, and this book was still excellent for putting things into simple and straightforward language without dumbing it down or skipping important connections.

My other life is as a permaculture designer. If you're not familiar with that, permaculture is a discipline that seeks to build ecologically sound, self-sustaining human settlements. Currently there is very little in the permaculture literature regarding systems and resilience, and personally I think that this is the next big step forward. This book is the best introduction to those ideas that I've ever seen, and I heartily recommend it to anyone getting into permaculture design.

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