

506 Why Fish Don't Exist (Book Review Feb 2023) – Plants Dig Soil Consulting Ltd.

#RealisticRegenAg | What happens when the person that you look up to for inspiration turns out to not really be the person you thought they were? Well, this is a very interesting book, Why Fish Don't Exist, and I'm going to talk about my takeaways from it in this upcoming episode.

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YouTube: (Company): <https://www.youtube.com/@scottcgillespie>

Author website (NOT an affiliate link – buy or borrow from wherever you choose):

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Why-Fish-Dont-Exist/Lulu-Miller/9781501160349>

Future Ecologies – 4.8 Ground Truthing (not related to the book but this is the episode I was in, and it was through the Discord server as a Patron that I found out about this book):

<https://www.futureecologies.net/listen/fe-4-8-ground-truthing>

Transcript (auto-generated by <https://otter.ai>)

<https://www.plantsdigsoil.com/podcast/506-fish-dont-exist>

What happens when the person that you look up to for inspiration turns out to not really be the person you thought they were? Well, this is a very interesting book, Why Fish Don't Exist, and I'm going to talk about my takeaways from it in this upcoming episode.

Hi, my name is Scott Gillespie of Plants Dig Soil, the name of the podcast and the consulting company. We're an independent agronomy company. We do not sell products. We provide advice only. We focus on #RealisticRegenAg which has to be proven and profitable. We work in person or remote or a combination of the two. Our pricing is set to be affordable to anyone from a Q&A package to full farm planning. There's no long-term commitments, you can retain our services, do it yourself or hire others. Of course we always love to work with people over the long term.

Let's get into this book review. Now just to be clear, I'm not following a particular pattern or way of doing a book review. It's just what I have taken away from it and I hope to encourage or inspire you to look at it yourself or read it yourself. So, this book I originally came across in the Future Ecologies Discord server, which is perfect being a Patron of Future Ecologies. And if you remember back in October, I was part of the Future Ecologies podcast where I talked about Ground Truthing which was our

episode title, and we talked about carbon payment systems and how they can how we look at them from an ecological standpoint. Now that doesn't relate to the book, but I just wanted tell you how I found out about this book

So this book is written by Lulu Miller and it is a very interesting mix of memoir, of story of a certain time in her life, ecology and also learning a dark side of a person that she looked up to. So she really looked up to this person called David Starr Jordan. He was a taxonomist in the 19th century. Well, you can guess: his main focus was fish and he was determined to find all the fish he could in the world and categorize them. Now, what was interesting or what the main event in this in this story or the story of this person is that there was an earthquake or a fairly famous earthquake in 1906 in California, and everything was in glass jars, everything was tagged. But when it smashed over the floor, there were fish parts and tags and glass everywhere. And so, at this point, he had been working on this for a long time.

So the question is, do those fish that still exist? And what do you do when something that extreme happens when at that point, your life's work is destroyed. And what she took inspiration from him in this is that he just kept going, and she was going through some difficult times in her life. I'm not going to elaborate on because I want you to read it and learn. But it helped her in her life circumstances and then she kind of got obsessive about him and wanted to learn more about him. Now, this is where it does take a darker turn, and I'm not going to tell you too much about it because I don't want to give the story away. She does talk about this in interviews she talked a little bit about it. So but I don't want to give away what's the dark turn is on it but it's it made the person who she was looking up to question a lot of what she was taking from him

And in a lot of ways this book relates to last month's book called *The Next Great Migration*. A lot of the problems or the issues that were talked about in *The Next Great Migration* are from the same time period that this is from in the early 20th century and late 19th century, and it's the thinking at that time of looking for order in the world and trying to put everything in their place or I guess, yeah, fixed species into their niche. Now, Darwin was not was before this time, but his work had changed so much when it came out. It was very controversial that people were getting used to the idea that there was that things could change and evolve, but they were still very much cleaned to this idea that everything can be categorized.

Now another ecological question that comes up in this is what if it hasn't been found? Or what if a species hasn't been categorized? Does it exist? Or does that matter? And of course, the fish that were tagged and then were the species was destroyed. What happens to it? Is it still a species or is it or is it nothing again, so it's a very interesting book. There's a lot of other interesting themes in it going through ecology and what it can mean. But I want to leave it there. I hope you will take a look at this book. You can buy it, there's a link in the description to the author's website. So then you can pick wherever you want to buy it from, or you can borrow it from a library or however you want to, to look at it. But anyways, I hope this was enjoyable and I will talk to you again next month.