

David Howard's thoughts for the
SAGES-NABO Meeting
March 26th

What are the three most important issues we need to understand about human - environment interactions?

1. Time scale of interaction relative to effect - no direct correlation exists
2. No absolute 'constants' in the relationship between human and environmental characteristics/transitions
3. Spatial variations of societal and biophysical contexts always exist

What are the biggest obstacles to developing inter-regional comparisons and synthesis?

The importance of 'place'. Locality creates specific spatial and temporal contexts that may not determine macro- or generic nature-society relations, but may render direct comparative studies problematic.