

ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

President's Column

by Arthur P. J. Mol
Department of Social Sciences
Wageningen University
the Netherlands

At the time of writing this address most environmental sociologists will be as much focused on the Iraq war as on their more narrow, environmental research areas. Shortly after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York, RC24 gathered together in Kyoto for one of its many successful two-day RC24 conferences. At that time and place environmental sociologists felt a strong need to discuss the happening of 9/11, both in terms of concerned citizens as well as in terms of what the consequences of this event might be for environmental sociology and the agenda for environmental sociologists. Although the interpretations and evaluation of 9/11 in Kyoto were quite diverse, the general feeling was that indeed it will have consequences for the world order. Themes such as the role of nation states, democracy and governance, information and transparency, (environmental) security, homogenization, and heterogenization in globalization are a few of the issues that were put on the agenda in Kyoto and were believed to be of relevance for environmental sociology.

Now, with the unilateral start of the war against Iraq, we see that many environmental sociologists feel and are engaged as concerned citizens. I have seen numerous petitions, calls for demonstrations, and requests for institutional signatures by environmental sociology networks. But we have not yet witnessed a serious influence of the 9/11 aftermath on the *research agenda* of environmental sociology. Only empirical studies and information on the environmental consequences of war and the military sector are emerging. Here new challenges lie ahead.

That is not to say that RC24 fell asleep after the major World Conference in August 2002, where we had 18 sessions with over one hundred papers. Far from that. RC24 co-sponsored a session of the World Social Forum in January 2003 in Brazil. You will find a brief report of that session in this newsletter. For the coming period three major RC24 co-sponsored conferences will be organized in different parts of the world. In June 2003 the conference *Governing Environmental Flows, reinventing the State in Global Modernity* will be held in Wageningen the Netherlands. In July Juju Wang, Yoshi Mitsuda and Seejae Lee will put together a special RC24 sponsored session on environmental sociology at the World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology in Beijing. This is a direct follow-up of the Kyoto conference, of the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Connection for Environmental Sociologists (APECS), and of the large representation of Asian environmental sociologists in Brisbane. Finally, in October/November 2003 the University of Wisconsin at Madison will hold a two-day conference on *Environment and the Treadmill of Production*, arguably one of the most influential perspectives in the short history of environmental sociology. You will find information in this newsletter about all three events. Contributions to these meetings will - explicitly or implicitly - reflect some of the consequences of the 9/11 aftermath for environmental sociology.

Through these and other conferences we hope to enlarge the RC24 community, which is one of the most active, best-organized, and largest RCs within the International Sociological Association. I will attempt to maintain RC24's well-deserved reputation for action and organization, as well as try to increase its membership further. It is especially in these times of globalization that global networks do matter. As the locations of RC24 conferences and of their participants show, we form indeed a global network.

Notes from the Editor

by Ray Murphy
Department of Sociology
University of Ottawa
Canada

In preparing this issue of the newsletter, I took the initiative to write the governors of RC24 the following request. "It would be useful for our members to know their board of governors better. Would you please send me for inclusion in the newsletter an outline of your present research, how your knowledge and skills as an environmental sociologist are used (or insufficiently used) in your area and country, and the main environmental concerns and debates in your area of the world. ... I would appreciate something that gives members information about you personally and about environmental issues in your region". I received responses from several members of our governing board and they are presented below. The messages are wholly theirs except for minor editing that can be blamed on me. I would like to thank them for sharing their knowledge and thoughts with members of RC24. As you will see, my open-ended invitation elicited a variety of responses, from the personal to the factual to the political in these troubled times. In all cases they were focussed on environmental sociology. I hope to receive more responses from the remaining governors that will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

Eugene Rosa
Vice-President of RC24
Department of Sociology
Washington State University
U.S.A.

This issue of the RC24 newsletter marks the regular transition of new officers and board members for our

committee. We can all be extremely thankful for the incredible dedication and hard work of our predecessors, especially the leadership of President Fred Buttel, in bringing about the many successes we have enjoyed over the past four years. We continue to be a vibrant, active, leading committee of the International Sociological Association, a position we can look forward to advancing under the able leadership of Arthur Mol. I look forward to working with Arthur and the rest of the RC24 leadership in extending the fine legacy laid down by all of our predecessors, going back to the 1990 meetings in Madrid. Bill Freudenburg, Terry Clark, and Aaron McCright and I have begun discussions to organize a RC24 workshop for 2004, in San Francisco in conjunction with the American Sociological Association meetings. I end these brief comments with the solemn hope that by the appearance of the next newsletter peace will prevail around the planet.

Matthias Gross,
Treasurer of RC24
Institute for Science and Technology Studies (IWT)
Department of Sociology
Universität Bielefeld
Germany

As a student I was attracted to the sociology of science and technology, as well as the micro-interactionist school, especially laboratory studies, prominent at Bielefeld (e.g., Karin Knorr Cetina). I tried to combine my personal interests in environmental issues with my sociological interests. At the time I entered the graduate level (1994), nothing that could be called environmental sociology was known at Bielefeld, and those who occasionally touched environmental themes (most prominent here perhaps Niklas Luhmann) were not taken seriously as "environmental" sociologists by most colleagues. Since North America seemed more advanced in this

field, I spent the academic year 1995/96 in Northern California at Humboldt State University, a place known for its eco-activism and eccentric research on environmental themes. I found that many of today's environmental sociologists, almost by reflex, regarded classical sociology as detached from material and natural issues. This was not unique to North America; Luhmann for instance even devoted a whole chapter to the "total abstinence" of sociology from ecological issues in his *Ecological Communication*. In Bielefeld's science and technology seminars, writings of science studies scholars like Bruno Latour were discussed, who in an even more explicit way than most North American environmental sociologists argued that classical sociology led sociology down the wrong track since the inner properties of the material world were treated as mere receptacles for human categories. In the same seminars, however, some classical authors, for example Durkheim and especially the material side of his theory of "social facts" as well as his theory of "social morphology", were taught as early versions of a sociology of the material environment. This reading of Durkheim and others (e.g., coming to fruition in the work of Hans Linde) made a lot of sense to me. Whom should I believe? Thus, I started to search for more classical environmental thought and found so much that I wrote my diploma thesis (1996/97) on the history of environmental sociology, beginning in the mid-to-late 19th century. Over the years I expanded and revised the manuscript until it was finally published with Juventa Verlag (2001) as *Die Natur der Gesellschaft: Eine Geschichte der Umweltsociologie* [The Nature of Society: A History of Environmental Sociology].

In 2001 I received my Ph.D. from the Department of Sociology at Universität Bielefeld funded with a three year fellowship of the *German Science Foundation* (DFG) at the Graduate School "Genese, Strukturen und Folgen von Wissenschaft und Technik" integrated into the *Institute for Science and Technology Studies*. My revised and partially rewritten dissertation will be published under the title *Inventing Nature: Ecological Restoration by Public Experiments* with Rowman &

Littlefield/Lexington Books in May 2003. For my dissertation research, I spent the spring of 2000 at the Rural Sociology Department at the University of Wisconsin, where I got to know Fred Buttel over a few excellent Wisconsin beers. Fred also visited Bielefeld a year later. At the 2002 ISA World Congress in Brisbane he asked me if I would be interested in becoming the treasurer for RC 24. I was interested. So here I am.

Currently I am co-directing an interdisciplinary project on "Real-world Experiments: Strategies for Robust Ecological Design" at the *Institute for Science and Technology Studies* (IWT) at Universität Bielefeld in Germany. This project is part of a major academic program funded by the *Volkswagen Foundation*. Since interdisciplinary environmental research in German academia has serious deficiencies, especially with regard to a fruitful cooperation between the social and the natural sciences, the *Volkswagen Foundation* has launched a generous program to provide support for young academics and to improve the basis for environmental research at German universities. The emphasis is on providing young scholars with the opportunity to set up their own interdisciplinary projects in the field of environmental research. An elementary condition is that the research project goes beyond the applicant's own particular discipline.

I am collaborating with a young environmental scientist from the ETH Zürich, Holger Hoffmann-Riem. Our project combines my knowledge and skills as an environmental sociologist with a background in classical social theory as well as science and technology studies with the natural scientific side by asking how environmental research can be made more "robust" when scientists work in the field and are ineluctably brought into contact with the wider society. The core idea behind the project is that the flexibility of the experimental method in the laboratory is being extended to the general public; hence society becomes a laboratory. The goal is to further tighten the theory of "real-world experiments" (*Realexperimente*) and to develop intellectual tools for the implementation of scientifically and socially "robust" approaches to environmental design. Real-

world experiments are understood as based on societal self-experimentation, which includes both the natural system as well as social dynamics. They are associated with recursive learning processes, which combine the production and the application of knowledge. The “Real-World Experiment” project focuses on a set of case studies, including landscape design, lake restoration, community supported dune restoration and waste management. The project’s initiator and founder of the sociological notion of *Realexperiment* is Wolfgang Krohn, who is also our project advisor. Further information on the project and the concept of real-world experiments can be found at www.uni-bielefeld.de/iwt/realworld/.

Luigi Pellizzoni

Governor of RC24
Department of Human Sciences
University of Trieste
Italy

My present position is that of associate professor of environmental sociology. I am also teaching the sociology of participatory processes. My areas of interest are the theoretical and empirical study of the following: a) environmental issues, with particular reference to technological risks, in their cultural, institutional and scientific implications; b) late modernity and rationality, with particular reference to the implications of uncertainty; c) deliberative democracy and new governance arrangements, with particular reference to participatory processes on land use planning, environmental protection and technological development. Recently I have been involved in several projects, some at national level (e.g. funded by the National Research Council), others at international level (mostly funded by the European Community within the EC framework programmes). Among the issues addressed are: public perception of GMOs and related policies, risk perception and communication, emergency management concerning major accident hazard sites, environmental professions and training, etc. At present I am involved in an international project on

food production and consumption and a national inter-university project on deliberative democracy applied to intractable controversies. I have published four books (two in collaboration), and edited one. Some of my articles are in English and are published in the *British Journal of Sociology*, *Theory Culture and Society*, *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, *Journal of Biolaw and Business*. Two articles are in press in *Environmental Values* and the *European Journal of Social Theory*. I am just starting to work on a new book, addressing in a more systematic way the issue of late modernity, rationality and the transformation of governance.

Generally speaking, publications in our field have increased remarkably in the past decade and environmental sociology is now taught in many university courses. This does not mean that environmental sociology has become a leading field in the Italian sociological studies, but certainly the situation has improved in comparison with some years ago. There is also some perceivable cross-pollination with other disciplinary fields, particularly policy sciences, political sociology and sociology of science.

The themes hinted above and in the publications listed below broadly correspond to some of the most “sensitive” topics in the Italian current public debate. The “governance” issue represents another emerging field in Italy. An additional “hot spot” consists of genetics in its agricultural and medical applications. There is now a fierce opposition against GM food, or at least a widespread scepticism towards its claimed advantages, at the farmer, retailer and consumer level. Positions on its medical applications are more diversified. As regards environmental movements, scholars’ interest is mostly attracted to “No global” groups (only partially overlapping with environmental groups), while major environmental organisations are now quite integrated in the political establishment, though the current right-wing government is much less in tune with environmental concerns than the previous one. Grassroots movements now develop above all in response to two issues: waste disposal and siting of mobile phone aerials. Widespread debate at the level of the general public is concerned with the impact of major infrastructural development projects (like a

bridge across the Sicily channel), above all in the context of an increasing relaxation of controls on entrepreneurial activities pursued by the Berlusconi administration. Another organizational tendency (in contradiction to official discourse) is towards centralisation of decision-making on environmental and technological issues, with attempts to disempower local (regional and municipal) administrations. A very interesting area is, on the contrary, represented by the flourishing of participatory processes on urban planning, environmental protection, etc. There are very few examples of application of the most famous models (no consensus conferences for example have been held up to now, to my knowledge), but there are a lot of experiences, the exemplarity and effectiveness of which is difficult to evaluate because a systematic collection and analysis of cases is lacking.

Ariel Salleh

Governor of RC24
College of Arts, Education, and Social Science
University of Western Sydney
Australia

I guess you could describe me as a feminist sociologist of knowledge with activist experience in mining politics, biodiversity conservation, and science for people projects. I convened the first Environment and Society section for the Australian and New Zealand Sociological Association in 1982 and taught the first ecofeminist course at the University of New South Wales in 1983. In the early 90s, I enjoyed several sojourns in the USA, and introduced ecofeminist ideas as a visiting scholar in Environmental Education at New York University, teaching the subject again to graduates in Women's Studies at St Scholastica, Manila in 1998. Ecofeminism is a routine part of my syllabus as an Associate Professor in Social Ecology at the University of Western Sydney, and the beauty of this perspective is that it allows students to integrate class, gender, ethnicity, and ecological dimensions of experience in a systematic way.

I help out on the Editorial Boards of Organization & Environment (US) and Capitalism Nature Socialism (US) and besides ISA RC24 Environment and Society, serve as an Advisor to the Berlin based Women and Life on Earth Network and to the Australian Government Gene Technology Ethics Committee. Debate over the release of GMOs is alive and well in the antipodes. Other big environmental concerns here are uranium mining, Aboriginal rights and approaches to land management, logging largely for computer paper in Japan, and dying rivers due to hydro dams and cotton irrigation. Needless to say, many women take leadership in ecological matters and Australian parliaments have several women Green Party representatives.

While the discipline of philosophy boasts several international ecofeminist writers, sociology has been slow to nurture ecofeminist thought, for this reason, much of my time goes towards pioneering that development. Besides the book *Ecofeminism as Politics: nature, Marx and the postmodern* (1997) which puts forward what I call "an embodied materialism", I've contributed some 150 articles, reprints, and public lectures to ecology from a sociological perspective. My current writing project is a book length gender deconstruction of contemporary ecopolitical thought. I'm always keen to communicate with others who think polyphonically, ie run gender and ecological problematics at the same time. There are deep structural reasons why it makes sense to do this of course!

Ingolfur Blühdorn,

Governor of RC24
University of Bath
United Kingdom

My current work may be divided into four main areas which are obviously closely related to each other: firstly, I am still fascinated by the ongoing transformation of eco-political discourses and keep working on the *theory of post-ecologist politics* that I have developed in various recent publications.

Secondly, I have a strong interest in the changing political profile and strategic repositioning of Green Parties, in particular the German Greens. Thirdly, I have recently been experimenting with a *theory of simulative politics* that explores the strategies by which late modern societies are trying to resolve the problems emerging from their increasingly one-dimensional economic orientation. And finally, I am increasingly interested in the relationship between democratic renewal and increased efficiency as two major goals of societal modernisation. In November 2003, a mini-conference on this topic will be held in Bath. If you are interested, get in touch...

A Note on the Instrumentalisation of Environmental Sociology by Ingolfur Blühdorn

At a point when the USA and their closest European allies are pursuing the most unashamed resource war in recent history, the time might be right for eco-political theorists and environmental sociologists to rethink their function within, and contribution to, late modern societies. I am not trying to say that the war against Iraq is only a resource war; any one-dimensional explanation would clearly be simplistic. But it seems to me that never before it has been made so unambiguously clear that with regard to western lifestyles and privileges no compromise, let alone radical alternative, is acceptable. Quite irrespective of transatlantic disagreements about the limits of diplomacy, it has become blatantly evident that, ultimately, for the stabilisation of the socially exclusive and ecologically ruinous system of consumer capitalism military force is indispensable. Whatever the concerns of environmentalists, the western way of life clearly *is* sustainable – at least for the time being, and at least for some parts of the global population. It is sustainable in the sense that the required military hardware and ideological superstructure *are* available and *will* be mobilised. Where does this leave environmental sociologists?

For social theorists and environmental sociologists this situation represents a double challenge: it calls for sociological analysis and explanation, and it demands normative evaluation and

political prescriptions. This double challenge is very serious, indeed, because what we are witnessing is not only the uncompromising insistence on economic patterns and lifestyles which are known to overstretch natural resources, destroy environmental integrity, and jeopardise social peace. But beyond this the neo-realist reorganisation of national politics and international relations seems to suggest that whatever is being said about the new significance of social justice, democratic renewal, public accountability, or the emerging global civil society amounts to little more than - to borrow an expression of John Gray - 'a drug to stupefy the intellect and an antidote to despair'. The body of ideas that eco-political theory and environmental sociology have been concerned about is certainly one of the babies that the US and its allies are throwing out with the bathwater that Donald Rumsfeld called "Old Europe".

I have tried to conceptualise the departure from these 'old European' ideas and their replacement by the renewed reliance on the law of the strongest as the transition to *post-ecologist politics*. The term does not mean to suggest that modern societies have ever been ecologist; they obviously have not. I suppose at the centre of post-ecologist politics is the more or less undisguised recognition that the global elite's non-negotiable patterns of growth, consumption and identity formation clearly cannot be extended to humanity at large, and that any attempt to do so would actually be counter-productive. The implicit question of post-ecologist politics is then probably how the global majority can be excluded so that this lifestyle may be sustained for the privileged minority. Of course, our discipline's standards of ecological correctness forbid us even to think along these lines. But any such self-censorship is disastrous because it makes us blind to the eco-political strategies and practices of late modern societies. One of the most effective ways of achieving the post-ecologist objectives of exclusion is surely to nurture the view that ecological imperatives and those of the capitalist consumer economy have been reconciled. I suspect that late modern societies are fairly successful in convincing themselves that liberal democracy has successfully absorbed the

environmental agenda and thus pacified the eco-political battles of earlier decades because they have reformulated environmental issues in ways which conform to both the imperatives of the capitalist system and those of late modern patterns of identity construction. A certain deradicalisation of the ecological debate and eco-politics is undeniable. Environmental issues have undoubtedly lost much of their ideological explosiveness. Have environmental sociologists contributed to the construction of this equally convenient and fatal myth of reconciliation?

Driven by their commitment to making a constructive contribution to the ecologisation of late modern society, and exposed to ever increasing pressure to generate external research income for their cash-strapped institutions, the work of many environmental sociologists is becoming ever more applied, user-oriented, technical and economically exploitable. Undoubtedly, this work is important, indeed indispensable if the ecological modernisation of contemporary societies and something like global justice and sustainability are ever to be achieved. But in the exploration of contemporary eco-politics, the question is not simply how existing and innovative technologies, procedures and institutions can respond to environmental concerns and implement ecological imperatives. A very important, but as yet neglected, dimension in the ongoing transformation of eco-political debates and policy approaches is that ecological imperatives and concerns themselves are subject to change. I believe, if we are to understand to what extent and in what way ecological imperatives and those of liberal democratic consumer capitalism have really been reconciled, more emphasis needs to be placed again on exploring the cultural and normative foundations on the basis of which late modern societies formulate their environment-related concerns and implement their remedial policies. And perhaps more emphasis needs to be put again on exploring to what extent official rhetoric and policies of social inclusion, democratic renewal, ecological modernisation or the global civil society are indeed drugs to stupefy the intellect. The Iraq war reminds us that the belief in the pacification of the ecological debate is a delusion. An

environmental sociology that reduces itself to a service provider to late modern society necessarily becomes part of the problem that it supposedly aims to resolve. Despite all obvious problem, I still like to believe that we do have the means to break out of this instrumentalisation.

Recent Publications, Awards, etc.

Pellizzoni, Luigi, and Giorgio Osti. 2003. *Sociologia dell'ambiente* (Sociology of the environment). Bologna: Il Mulino. This handbook addresses the notion of environmental crisis; the "sociological gaze" on the environment (i.e. goals, theoretical articulations and keywords of the discipline); social interaction and the environment (i.e. social movements, third sector etc.); social production and use of environmental (scientific, technical and non-scientific) knowledge; environment and development; environment, politics and policy.

Pellizzoni, Luigi and Giorgi Osti (eds.). 2002. Special Issue of "Sociologia urbana e rurale" (Urban and rural sociology), no. 68 devoted to the interdisciplinary study of new environmental governance concerning issues such as the management of parks, the problem of electromagnetic fields, the implementation of Local Agenda 21, the siting of incinerators, etc.

York, Richard, Eugene A. Rosa, and Thomas Dietz. 2003. "Footprints on the Earth: The Environmental Consequences of Modernity". *American Sociological Review* 68:1-22.

Short, James F., Jr. and Eugene A. Rosa. 2003. "Some Principles for Siting Controversy Decisions: Lessons from the U.S. Experience with High Level Nuclear Waste". *Journal of Risk Research* (forthcoming).

Rosa, Eugene A. and James F. Short, Jr. 2003. "Publics, Organizations, and Institutions: The Importance of Context in Siting Controversies". In

Ragnar Lofstedt and Asa Boholm (eds.), *Contesting Local Environments*. London: Earthscan (forthcoming).

Rosa, Eugene A. 2003. "The Logical Structure of the Social Amplification of Risk Framework (SARF): Metatheoretical Foundations and Policy Implications", p. 46-76 in Nick Pidgeon, Roger Kasperson, and Paul Slovic (eds.), *Risk Communication and Social Amplification of Risk*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (forthcoming).

Van der Heijden, Hein-Anton. 2002. "Political Parties and NGOs in Global Environmental Politics". *International Political Science Review* 23: 187-201.

York, Richard, Eugene A. Rosa, and Thomas Dietz. 2002. "Bridging Environmental Science and Environmental Policy: Plasticity of Population, Affluence, and Technology". *Social Science Quarterly* 83: 18-34.

Eugene Rosa was appointed to several bodies of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council as follows: 2002-2003 Committee to Review the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Strategic Plan; 2002-2005 National Board On Radioactive Waste Management; 2001-2003 Committee on Principles and Operational Strategies for Staged Repository Systems. The Climate Change Committee produced its first report: National Research Council, 2003. *Planning Climate and Global Change Research: A Review of the Draft U.S. Climate Change Science Program Strategic Plan*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press. The Staging Committee produced the report: National Research Council, 2003. *One Step at a Time: The Staged Development of Geologic Repositories for High-Level Radioactive Waste*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.

The *Handbook of Environmental Sociology* (Greenwood Press, 2002), edited by Riley Dunlap and William Michelson, has been selected as an

"Outstanding Academic Title for 2002" by Choice magazine. Published by the Association of College and Research Libraries, Choice is relied on by academic librarians when making acquisitions decisions. The Handbook was one of 13 sociology titles honored in 2002. A very positive review of the Handbook appeared in the Dec., 2002 issue of Choice, and the award was announced in the January, 2003 issue.

Conference Report

III World Social Forum

Porto Alegre, Brazil
23-28 January 2003

RC24 Workshop

A Sustainable and Equitable World is Possible
Report by Paulo R. Martins
Research Institute of Technology IPT/Brazil

The following papers were presented in this workshop.

- 1) "Equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of natural resources: Comparative analysis of important institutions related with different stakeholders" by Sergio Peres-Neira (U del mar, Chile).
- 2) "Lecciones de Johannesburgo retos locales y globales para la sostenibilidad ambiental y social" (Lessons from Johannesburg: Local and global challenges for social and environmental sustainability) by Iñaki Barcena y Pedro Ibarra (Universidad del Pais Vasco)
- 3) "La apertura cualitativa en la investigación sobre la percepción de los conflictos ecológicos-sociales: una reflexión a partir de la experiencia de la sociedad Española" (A qualitative approach for the investigation of the perception of social-ecological conflicts: A reflection based on the experience of Spanish society), by José Manuel Rodríguez

Victoriano. (Universidad de Valencia).

4) "Dams in Brazil: Ramifications of neoliberal development", by Sabrina McCormick, MA (Brown University).

5) "The decision of the Zambian government to ban genetically modified food aid", by Dr David Fig (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa).

6) "Bloqueios à coalizão entre verdes e vermelhos no Brasil" (Obstacles to a coalition between Greens and the Left in Brazil), by Ricardo T. Neder (UNESP/Rio Claro).

7) "Ecological democracy?: Toward a social theory of public participation in environmental management", by Mercedes Pardo (Universidad Pública de Navarra).

37 people participated in this workshop from 10 countries.

The next World Social Forum will be in India in 2004 and again in Brazil in 2005.

Upcoming Conferences

GOVERNING ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS Reinventing the Environmental State in Global Modernity

Organization: Environmental Policy Group, Wageningen University and RC24. June 13-15, 2003. Wageningen, the Netherlands.

See for further information enclosed brochure and the website <http://www.sls.wageningen-ur.nl/es/>

36th World Congress International Institute of Sociology

36th Conference,
Beijing, 7-11 July, 2003
(<http://www.iis2003beijing.com.cn>)

Call for Papers

Session 112: **Glocalized Sustainable Development: Asia-pacific Perspectives of Environmental Sociology**

Following a successful 2001 Kyoto Environmental Sociology Conference, TESC (Taipei Environmental Sociology Conference) has been scheduled in 2003. To promote environmental sociology in China, TESC was proposed to organize a session at 36th IIS World Congress.

Topics:

1. Indicators for sustainable Development
2. Environmental sociology dealing with sustainable development
3. Asia-pacific views on sustainability
4. East-west dialogue on sustainable development.
5. Successful cases of sustainable development and local Agenda 21.

Organizers:

Prof. Juju Wang, Tsing Hua University, Taiwan;
Prof. Hisayoshi Mitsuda, Bukkyo University, Japan;
Prof. Seejae Lee, Catholic University of Korea.

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Co-sponsors: APECS, ISA RC 24

Another session:

'Globalisation and environmentalism'

Session director Hein-Anton van der Heijden

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Since the 1992 Unced-Conference in Rio, the environmental movement is increasingly becoming a global social movement. Participation in negotiations on UN environmental regimes, the global operations

of mass membership groups like Greenpeace, WWF and Friends of the Earth International, and the role of numerous environmental groups and activists in the so-called “anti-globalisation movement” are just a few examples. However, how does this globalisation of the environmental movement look like in different parts of the world, and which theories and concepts are the most appropriate to analyse them? Does the globalisation of the environmental movement look like the same in, say, China, the US, Western Europe and Brazil, and how about the usefulness of concepts like International Political Opportunity Structure (IPOS), ecological modernization and multi-level environmentalism? In this session papers dealing with, or related to, one or more of these questions are mostly welcomed. Send your paper proposals as soon as possible!

**ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY NETWORK
Sixth Conference of the European Sociological
Association**

Murcia, Spain, 23-26 September 2003

The Environment & Society Network (ESN) of the European Sociological Association (ESA) is organizing sessions at the Sixth ESA Conference in Murcia, Spain.

The overall theme of the ESN sessions is “Sustainability and Social Change”.

This broad theme will be elaborated in a series of more specific sessions, including:

1. Nature-society relations and new theories of social research
2. Biotechnology and the social sciences
3. Environmental attitudes, social movements, and civil society
4. Expert knowledge and environmental democracy
5. Nature policy between EU regulation and local participation
6. Sustainable development after Johannesburg
7. Corporate governance: a new road to sustainability?
8. Environmental justice and environmental policy.

The organizers:
Ørnulf Seippel
Hilary Tovey
Kris van Koppen

Session co-ordination and contact address for further information:

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Environment & Society Network: www.esa-esn.org
ESA Conference Murcia: www.um.es/esa

News on Italian conferences

There are two conferences of major relevance scheduled in the next few months. The first is titled “Sostenibilità: tra sviluppo e rischio ambientale” (Sustainability: between development and environmental risk) and will take place in Milan on 15-16 May. It is organized by AIS (Italian sociological association) and will feature contributions from environmental sociologists as well as those in other areas of sociology. The second is the Fourth National Seminar of Environmental Sociology, which will take place in Turin on 19-20 September. This has become a regular meeting every two years. The first one dated back to 1996 in Trieste, was followed by a meeting in Rome in 1999 and Cosenza in 2001. This seminar presents a state-of-the-art synthesis of theoretical and empirical research in Italy. It is open also to non academics. Two main themes to be addressed this year are i) the state of environmental sociology as a discipline and ii) sustainability.

Call for Papers

Symposium on **Environment and the Treadmill of Production**

October 31, 2003 – November 1, 2003

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Sponsored by the

Departments of Rural Sociology and Sociology

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Co-sponsored by RC24 of ISA.

The “treadmill of production” is arguably the most visible and venerable concept of the first three decades of environmental sociology. This symposium aims to take stock of the development of North American and global environmental sociology through the lens of retrospective and prospective views on the concept of treadmill of production.

This two-day symposium will involve presentations by practitioners of the treadmill of production approach of Allan Schnaiberg and his associates, and commentaries on the utility of this approach by other social scientists. The presentations will consist of invited papers, and of papers by additional contributors who respond to this call. In addition to the organizers, presenters will include Allan Schnaiberg, David Pellow, Kenneth Gould, John Bellamy Foster, Adam Weinberg, Jeffrey Broadbent, Kevin Wehr, and Brian Obach. Invited participants include Rachel Schurman and Michael Goldman.

Papers on any topic relating to the treadmill of production concept are welcome. In addition to papers that examine the treadmill of production notion from an environmental-sociological perspective, we are especially interested in papers that examine the treadmill of production notion from the vantage points of political sociology, environmental studies, the world-economy and globalization, social movements, and economic sociology, or from the perspective of disciplines other than sociology. Highly promising papers proposed by authors unable to attend the symposium may be considered for presentation (by one of the members of the local organizing committee) and/or for publication in a book growing

out of the symposium. High priority will be placed on including perspectives from scholars outside of North America. In the event that the number of submitted papers is larger than can be accommodated in the two-day symposium, the local organizing committee will select among the proposed abstracts to determine the final program. The deadline for abstracts is 1 May 2003. Notification of acceptance of abstracts and the preliminary program will be available by 15 May 2003.

The University of Wisconsin organizing committee for the Symposium on Environment and the Treadmill of Production consists of Frederick Buttel, Michael Bell, Stephen Bunker, Aya Hirata, Christine Overdeest, Brad Brewster, and Damayante Banerjee. For information about the symposium, contact Fred Buttel (Department of Rural Sociology, University of Wisconsin, 1450 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706; fhbuttel@wisc.edu; 608-262-7156).

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