

ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Arthur P. J. Mol
President of RC24
Department of Social Sciences
Wageningen University
the Netherlands

While we all knew it would happen sooner or later, most of us were still shocked by the death of our former president Fred Buttel early this year. It is usually only after such giants fall away that one starts to realize how important they have been. Important not only in a direct sense of intellectual output and development of environmental sociology, but more even so as an example what we think an academic should be. I'm glad to announce that the RC24 Board of Governors has installed a "Frederick H. Buttel International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology: An award of the Research Committee Environment and Society (RC24) of the International Sociological Association (ISA)." This award - approved by the ISA - will be handed out once every four years during the ISA World Congress, for the first time in 2006. On our website you can read the procedures of this award, the committee that will select candidates, and the time schedules. The least we can do for Fred is to come up with a solid list of nominations, and give the selection committee a difficult task.

A number of other conferences are upfront. In July a large group of environmental sociologists will gather in the south of France, while at exactly the same time RC24 will co-organize at least two environmental sociology sessions in the International Institute of Sociology conference in Sweden. In September a conference will be organized in Bath (UK) by Ingolfur Bluhdorn and colleagues. And after that we are all set to look forward to the ISA World Congress in Durban, summer 2006, where RC24 will organize 15 sessions on various themes. Information on all this can be found at the RC24 website (www.environment-societyisa.org).

In addition, we are preparing elections for a new Board of Governors for RC24, who will take over at the Durban conference. Riley Dunlap and Gert Spaargaren will lead the nominations committee, and are urging you to propose candidates for the various posts (president, secretary, treasurer and governors). Elections will follow late 2005 or early 2006 by mail ballot.

While all this will no doubt give you the correct impression of a lively community of environmental sociologists, RC24 can still use more members. Please have a check on your membership and renew it once you are informed that the four year period ends. Any activities to get your colleagues into an RC24 membership are highly appreciated!

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

by Ray Murphy
Editor of the Newsletter and Secretary of RC24
Department of Sociology
University of Ottawa
Canada

Fred Buttel was President of RC24 from 1998 to 2002. Throughout those years, as well as after and for many years before, he fought a long and courageous battle with cancer. Through remission and deterioration, good days and bad, he maintained his good humour and kept contributing to environmental sociology, the sociology of development, and rural sociology. It became obvious that Fred's days were numbered, so those three fields celebrated the man and his work in a meeting devoted to him last August. Fred seemed to have enjoyed the occasion thoroughly. I saw him for the last time when I was invited to give a paper at a conference on "Development Challenges for the 21st Century" at Cornell University in the United States in early October. Fred was one of the lead speakers along with Immanuel Wallerstein. It was even more obvious than in August that his condition had deteriorated. Physically he was just a shadow of the energetic man I had known a few years earlier, but mentally he was as sharp as ever. It was he who made some of the most insightful comments at the plenary session. But by January he was gone.

Our present President Arthur Mol had the idea of starting an international award for outstanding contributions to research in environmental sociology and naming the award in honour of Frederick H. Buttel. Arthur was the driving force in launching this award and having it approved by the Board of Governors of RC24 and by the International Sociological Association. Knowing that Fred was soon going to die, Arthur acted quickly and was able to tell Fred about it before his death. Fred was pleased and honoured. I think Arthur had the idea when he attended the American Sociological Association's meetings last summer in San Francisco where our current Vice-President Eugene Rosa won the 2004 prize awarded by the Environment and Technology Section of the ASA for an outstanding contribution to research.

I was asked by the RC24 Board of Governors to be the Chairperson of the committee that makes the first award. Other members of the committee approved by the Board are Andy Jamison of Denmark, Pedro Jacobi of Brazil, Ryoichi Terada of Japan, and Maria Kousis of Greece. This is a daunting task for our committee, which runs the risk of being loved by one environmental sociologist and hated by all the others who are also making outstanding contributions to the development of the field. Hopefully you will not hate us for doing as best we can the difficult mission you asked us to accomplish. I am sure that you will all recognize that this new award is a way of enhancing the visibility of our field and that it is a means of drawing attention to the contributions of all of you even if our committee has been put in the impossible position of choosing one person's contribution. You have already received the email I sent indicating the rules for this award set by the ISA and they are published again in the "AWARDS" section near the end of this Newsletter.

Our committee must now operationalize those principles into a precise set of practices. Let me give you an example of the difficulties involved. The ISA rules state that "nominations can be made by any member of ISA and/or of RC24 (including Award Committee members), but has to be supported by at least two other members of RC24 and/or ISA". The Award Committee must determine a winner from among the environmental sociologists nominated, so if a Committee member nominates a candidate there is the appearance that the member will favour the candidate he or she nominated. How can a Committee member nominate and then equitably decide among the nominees, in other words be an advocate and still be an impartial judge? To avoid this conundrum as Chairperson of the Award Committee, I will not personally nominate anyone nor will I write letters of support for anyone, even though I have many environmental

sociologists in mind who have made excellent contributions to the field. I will however continue to pester you with open calls for nominations, that is, requesting that you nominate the person you think is most deserving. This message constitutes such a request for you to nominate someone.

Another major task for RC24 is preparing for what I have called the “sociological Olympics”: the World Congress of the International Sociological Association every four years. The next one takes place in July 2006 in Durban, South Africa. The ISA has limited resources and hence sets the number of sessions each RC can have according to the number of members “in good standing” (meaning paid-up members of both ISA and RC24). The ISA has already made a preliminary determination and RC24 has almost enough (but not quite) members in good standing to justify the number of sessions we have planned. The ISA will review its membership figures again on January 15, 2006 and according to the new count either drop or add sessions from the programme submitted by each RC. If your membership lapses between now and then and you are late in renewing it, the result could be the loss of one of our sessions. So please renew your membership to both the ISA and RC24 on time, and encourage other environmental sociologists to join.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

“Women and the Environment: Globalizing and Mobilizing”,

The US National Women’s Studies Association

9-12 June 2005

Renaissance Orlando Resort at Seaworld, Orlando, Florida, USA.

Vandana Shiva will give the Keynote. Plenary speakers include Karen Warren on ecofeminism, Winona LaDuke on cultural and bio-diversity, and Jill Schneidermann on the politics of water. The NWSA Ecofeminist Task Force encourages papers and panels which show women’s global leadership through initiatives on Oil & Water Extraction; Bio-piracy, Toxics & DU; Global Peace & Justice; Land Rights, Sustainability & Community.

The annual conference of the US National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) provides a forum for an exchange of ideas and a showcase for creative activities of women engaged in the theory and practice of Women’s Studies, feminist education and lifestyles. Our 26th Annual Conference is in Florida, a mecca of environmental concerns from the ecological fragility of the everglades, to the exploration of extra-terrestrial environments and from the child-friendly environments of Fantasy and Adventure Lands to the deadly failure of foster care.

Many terms have been used: ecofeminism, envirofeminism, ecological feminism, feminist ecology to describe what emerged in the 1980’s as a third wave of feminism. The discourse has embraced an increasingly diverse body of scholarship and activism addressing the complex relationships and theoretical orientations women have with their external physical and social environments and their internal physiological and psychological environments.

Web www.nwsa.org

"Environment, Knowledge, and Democracy"

6-7 July 2005

**sponsored by the RC24 of the ISA and organised by The University of the Mediterranean, Department of Human Sciences, DESMID-UMR Espace and the SHADYC (EHESS-CNRS)
Faculty of Sciences of Luminy, Marseille, France**

Organizing Committee:

Cécilia CLAEYS-MEKDADE (DESMID - University of the Mediterranean, Marseille, Suzanne de Cheveigné (SHADYC-CNRS-EHESS, Marseille), Marie Jacqué (DESMID - University of the Mediterranean, Marseille).

Themes:

Biodiversity, global change and risk management.

The border between scientific and popular knowledge

Thinking the cultural diversity of knowledge about nature and the environment

The place of knowledge within decision making

The media, internet and the environment

Interdisciplinarity: background and perspectives

All the accepted papers will be published on a CD-ROM and a selection of papers will be published in a journal or a collective book.

Full paper: two weeks before the conference

Further information about the conference and submissions of abstracts:

Conference.Sociology@luminy.univ-mrs.fr

Registration fees after April 30th 2005 are 350 Euros (the fee includes accommodation, meals and coffee from the July 5th evening to the July 8th morning (3 nights))

About 90 proposals for papers have been accepted from environmental researchers in 25 different countries.

"Technonatures III: Environments, Technologies, Spaces and Places in the Twenty First Century"

37th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology

July 6th -9th 2005

Stockholm, Sweden

In an era marked by accelerating environmental change and deepening battles over eco-technological and biotechnological transformations, the nature of 'Nature' and the politics of n/Nature are increasingly up for grabs. Technonatures is an onrunning series of conferences and symposia concerned with investigating the 'power geometries' of emerging hybrid worlds and discussing future trajectories and possibilities.

Technonatures III is organised as an interim conference at the World Congress of Sociology in association with Research Committee 24 (Environment and Society) of the International Sociological Association. In this meeting, we would like to draw environmental sociology, into conversation with urban political ecology, STS, environmental geography/anthropology, advocates of cyborg studies/ANT and the new political economy of networks, flows and mobilities. The aim will be to grapple with the dilemmas

posed by 'technonatural times' and to reflect on the possibilities that exist for supporting socially and environmentally just productions of social and techno-natures. We are interested in hearing from colleagues who could present papers in the following areas:

Theme I : Technonatural Political Economies and Political Ecologies

Damian White, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, James Madison University, USA

Theme II : Technonatural Bodies, Subjectivities and Cultures

Chris Wilbert Dept of Planning, Anglia Polytechnic University, UK

Fletcher Linder Department of Sociology and Anthropology, James Madison University, USA

Theme III : Technonatural Urban Worlds/Sustainable Urban Futures?

Damian White, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, James Madison University, USA

Chris Wilbert Dept of Planning, Anglia Polytechnic University, UK

Theme IV: Environmental Politics in Technonatural Times: Exhaustion or Renewal?

Damian White, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, James Madison University, USA

Chris Wilbert Dept of Planning, Anglia Polytechnic University, UK

For information contact Damien White (whitedf@jmu.edu) or Chris Wilbert (c.wilbert@apu.ac.uk)

Ecology, Imperialism, and the Contradictions of Capitalism

July 22-24, 2005

York University

Toronto, Canada

Joan Martinez-Alier, Ariel Salleh, Joel Kovel, and Alex Demirovic

2005 Capitalism, Nature Socialism Conference.

For further information contact Liette Gilbert gilbertl@yorku.ca or Stefan Kipfer kipfer@yorku.ca

Double Standards and Simulation:

Symbolism, Rhetoric and Irony in Eco-Politics

International Conference at the University of Bath, UK, 2nd - 4th September 2005

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/esml/conferences/index.htm>

As the era of globalisation is nurturing a new culture of enhanced consumerism, venturesomeness, flexibility and ever accelerated innovation, ecological virtues such as precaution, deliberation, long-termism, risk avoidance and social inclusion may be turning into major obstacles. Policy approaches associated with the audit culture of ecological modernisation and sustainable development provide evidence that environmental movements have had a political impact, yet, the neo-liberal, neo-realist and neo-materialist model of progress central to 21st 'turbo-capitalism' may still represent a head-on challenge to ecological thinking: Does it signal a new era of post-environmentalism?

To investigate how contemporary eco-politics is shaped by symbolic action, rhetoric, simulation and irony is the challenging goal of this conference. It will bring together empirical research on case studies of double standards, symbolic politics, eco-rhetoric, the politics of irony, agenda hijacking, etc. and theoretical work trying to conceptualise and theorise such instances of symbolic politics, simulation, rhetoric or irony in eco-politics. It will explore both the capacities and limitations of symbolic politics and contestations. Main thematic strands include:

1. *Theorising the politics of irony and simulation*
2. *Symbolism and rhetoric in environmental policy and governance*
3. *Symbolic challenges and contestations in eco-movements*
4. *Performance and symbolism in media discourses*

The conference will be the launch-pad for further research exploring **HOW** notions of civilisation risk pervade contemporary high profile debates such as those around climate change, bio-technology and finite natural resources, **WHICH** rhetorical, symbolic and discursive resources and registers dominate, **WHERE** they are reproduced and **WHAT** impact they have within political and policy circles and the wider public sphere will define the anatomy of a 'post-ecological politics' for a global age. Papers will begin to define this terrain offering theoretical, policy, or regulatory orientated contributions. Arrangements for the high profile publication of suitable papers are in place.

The preliminary programme for this conference has already been drawn up. If you would like to contribute but have missed the official deadline, please contact us (sending an outline of 300-500 words) as a matter of urgency.

Ingolfur Blühdorn (I.Bluehdorn@bath.ac.uk)
Marcel Wissenburg (M.Wissenburg@fm.ru.nl)
Ian Welsh (WelshI@Cardiff.ac.uk)

Please copy all communication to all three addresses

RC24 sessions at ISA World Congress 2006
July 23-29, 2006
Durban, South Africa

RC24 will organize 14 sessions on its own, one together with one other RC, and one (or perhaps two) together with two other RCs. If you plan to present a paper in one of the sessions contact one of the two session organizers directly, as listed below. For more information on the ISA World Congress, see their website <http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2006/>. There information is listed on hotels and travelling, local conditions, fellowships, etc. RC24 will only have a few travel fellowship for RC24 members from C (and B) countries.

1. Civil Society and the Environmental State: Directions in Environmental Governance

Organizers: Dana Fisher & Ingolfur Bluedorn
(drf2004@columbia.edu) (mlsib@bath.ac.uk)

What can be expected from the state in terms of environmental regulation? What are the capacities and capabilities of civil society actors for environmental self-regulation? Much of the literature on environmental movements and environmentalism from below has been equally critical of the economy and the state, but has demanded (eco) political control and regulation of the economy via civil society. The literature on ecological modernisation and Third Way politics, in contrast, has strongly relied on the proactive state as the main environmental regulator taking environmental responsibility, and on economic/market instruments for the implementation of environmental targets. However, there is evidence that the state has, at best, taken symbolic action; whilst civil society has often opposed environmental regulation imposed by the state. The workshop invites papers investigating the limited commitment of the state (and international regimes) and of civil society (including activists as well as transnational networks) as eco-political actors.

2. Globalization and Environment

Timmons Roberts & Maria Tysiachniouk

(jtrobe@wm.edu) (tysiachn@hotmail.com) (tysiachn@indepsores.spb.ru)

What are the elements of globalization which are leading to the destruction of the world's environment? What elements include hopeful trends? This session will bring together diverse approaches to environmental sociology's insights into these questions.

3. Innovation and Controversy in Theories of Environment and Society

Gert Spaargaren & Peter Dickens

(gert.Spaargaren@wur.nl) (p.dickens1@ntlworld.com)

The past half decade or so has witnessed remarkable ferment in theory development in environmental sociology. These efforts have included theoretical innovations and new perspectives (e.g., global environmental flows), rediscovery of preexisting theories (STIRPAT elaborations of neo-Malthusianism, Jeavons paradox), and new controversies. Papers that reflect on recent theoretical advances and debates are welcome, as are papers that identify needed areas of theoretical development in environmental sociology.

4. Environmental Justice for Sustainable Development

Hellmuth Lange & Dai-Yeun Jeong

(lange@artec.uni-bremen.de) (jeongdy@cheju.ac.kr)

A large amount of research has been done on sustainable development with a focus on the relationship between environmental preservation and economic development. Although justice is a core issue of Agenda 21 too, research on environmental justice and sustainability is still relatively rare. As a consequence, there is a substantial need for elaborating more detailed theoretical framings and, as a consequence, for conceptualising the issue in a political perspective. Therefore, this session invites contributions presenting theoretical and/or empirical findings on environmental justice in relation to sustainability.

5. Environmental Movements and Environmental Organizations for a Sustainable Future

Koichi Hasegawa and Bill Markham

(hasegawa3116@yahoo.co.jp) (bill@uncg.edu)

This session will focus on social movements and social movement organizations that operate on the national or international level to bring about social changes that would benefit the environment and create a sustainable future. Papers that address citizens' motivations to participate in environmental movements and organizations, the internal dynamics of environmental movements and organizations, or on how such movements and organizations shape and are shaped by their host societies are welcome.

6. Consumption and lifestyles

Maurie Cohen and Mette Jensen

(mcohen@adm.njit.edu) (mje@dmu.dk)

Papers in this session will address the social, political, and cultural dimensions of sustainable consumption and lifestyles. The primary emphasis will be on household provisioning, mobility practices, and general resource consumption in affluent countries, but we also invite contributions on the environmental implications of contemporary consumption and lifestyle practices in developing nations and in a global context.

7. Environmental attitudes and behaviors

Riley Dunlap and Seejae Lee

(rdunlap@mail.ucf.edu) (seejaelee@catholic.ac.kr)

Papers dealing with all aspects of what can be termed "environmental or ecological consciousness" (attitudes, beliefs, values, etc.) and behaviors are welcome, although those reporting empirical analyses (whether quantitative or qualitative) will be given preference. Papers reporting cross-national comparisons are especially welcome, but all submissions will be given consideration.

8. Science, technology and risk

Cecilia Claeys Mekdade and Gene Rosa

(Claeys.Mekdade@luminy.univ-mrs.fr) (mekdade@wanadoo.fr) (rosa@wsu.edu)

This session is devoted to the dynamics between scientific and technological change and risks to humans, social systems, or ecosystems. Encouraged are theoretical, empirical, and policy papers that trace the linkages of these dynamics, especially the linkages between science and technological change and emergent threats to environmental sustainability.

9. Environmental and Health Issues Related to Food Production and Consumption

Julia Guivant and Ralph Matthews

(juguivant@uol.com.br) (Ralph.Matthews@ubc.ca)

The environmental and related human health impacts of food production and food consumption have become dominant environmental concerns of the twenty-first century. Of particular concern are the environmental impacts of genetically modified foods; the impact of industrial agriculture and husbandry on the environment; and the industrialization of the oceans through both extensive over fishing and the extensive expansions of aquaculture. Related to this are the environmental impacts of government policies in both underdeveloped and developed countries aimed at food safety and food security. This session seeks papers which provide both conceptual and empirical analysis that casts insight into the environmental impact of food production and consumption, particularly as this involves public policy, the role of science, and new trends in the networks from/to table-farm.

10. Community, Natural Resources, and the Environment

David Sonnenfeld and Stewart Lockie

(sonn@wsu.edu) (s.lockie@cqu.edu.au)

This session deals with the following topics: the role of communities in natural resource management; community-driven environmental regulation; community-state and community-NGO relations in environmental policymaking; inter- and intra-community conflicts in natural resource use; gender, communities, and the environment; communities, property regimes, and the environment; research methods in communities, natural resources, and the environment; and related topics.

11. Nature by design

Matthias Gross and Kelly Moore

(mgrosz@uni-bielefeld.de) (kmoore@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

For many environmental activists restoring and designing ecosystems is seen as a way of compensating for unavoidable exploitation and also as a basis for a positive, intimate relationship between society and the rest of nature. These activists are challenging sociological theorizing about nature because they place an emphasis on interacting with nature in ways that established sociological principles cannot explain. Furthermore, while acknowledging that the role of professional ecologists is often important, the hands-on practitioners, such as volunteers and amateurs, often achieve insights that contribute to and even challenge existing ideas about the ecology of the system being restored. In this session papers that theoretically and empirically tackle the challenge of including nature into sociological thinking are invited for submission. This for instance includes theoretical and empirical work in ecological restoration, adaptive management, urban park design, ecological field experiments, and related fields.

12. African Environments: the impact of global apartheid?

Jacklyn Cock and David Fig

(cockj@social.wits.ac.za) (davidfig@iafrica.co.za)

Africa is characterized by increasing poverty, aids and environmental degradation. The challenge of the twenty first century is whether it can reverse this pattern of exclusion which is partly a legacy of colonial role. In order to incentivise participants attending the Africa session, a field trip will be organized to the South Durban basin. This area contains all the contradictions; it is a living case study from which we can generalize about African environments.

13. Current Research in Environmental Sociology

Arthur Mol and Ray Murphy

(Arthur.mol@wur.nl) (Raymond.Murphy@uottawa.ca)

This session will look into recent developments in environmental sociology, both theoretically and empirically.

14. Disasters and the Environment

Joint session with RC24 and RC39

Ray Murphy and Joe Scanlon

(Raymond.Murphy@uottawa.ca) (jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca)

Disasters have been referred to as ‘the monitor of development’, as ‘unpaid bills’, and as an externalized ‘debt of development’. They are symptomatic of the adaptive fitness of society’s relationship to its environment. Sustainability and disaster are inversely related, especially when one recognizes that disasters are not always sudden and can also be slow-onset. The intensified activities of industrialization have exacerbated vulnerability and will likely increase the frequency and cost of disasters in the 21st Century. Cultural expectations of safety and invulnerability can lead to disastrous consequences by encouraging social constructions that are incompatible with nature’s constructions. Environmental problems act as catalysts of disaster and disasters can exacerbate environmental problems. Environmental sociology consists of the investigation of potential disasters involving the material environment. Disasters give a preview of what could happen if environmental problems are not solved. Findings of ‘failures of prophecy’, ‘incubation of disaster’, ‘catastrophic mistakes’, ‘normal accidents’, ‘man-made disasters’, ‘repeat disasters’, ‘disasters by design’, and ‘unnatural disasters’ have an ominous ring for environmental sociologists who seek to learn more not only about the social construction of environmental perceptions, discourse and practices but also about their material consequences. This session seeks to broaden and

deepen the perspectives of both disaster sociology and environmental sociology through a dialogue between them.

15. New technologies, public participation and environmental monitoring: new possibilities for public engagement?

Steven Yearly and Maria Eugénia Rodrigues

sy3@york.ac.uk (mer113@york.ac.uk)

This session aims to gather international case-study and conceptual analysis that looks at the idea that new forms of portable and publicly available technologies (from cell phones, picture-phones, laptops, small sensing devices and so on) could be used to spread access to monitoring capability. Such developments might also allow people to monitor "the environment" in ways which fit with their own understanding/evaluation of the environment. Thus, the idea is to look at some examples which might be seen as exemplifying this democratizing trend but also to invite critical analysis, both in principle and practice.

16. Environmental Challenges of City-Regions in a Globalizing World

Joint session with RC21, RC24 and RC47

Louis Guay & Pierre Hamel

Louis.Guay@soc.ulaval.ca (pierre.hamel@umontreal.ca)

City-regions are increasingly on the top of the agenda of territorial public policy. This is related to demographic and spatial change, but also to the expansion of the knowledge economy at a global scale. Beyond the new urban hierarchy – which goes hand in hand with an increasing concentration of capitalist accumulation – emerging out of demographic and economic changes, environmental issues are becoming paramount and multifaceted. They are linked to urban sprawl, to the quality of city life as well as to the capacity of local and metropolitan governments to manage environmental controversies. The objective of this panel is above all to assess the importance of environmental issues and their relationships to other aspects of city-region's development in a comparative perspective. In what terms are environmental challenges defined by social and political actors within city-regions? Under what conditions is urban development in city-regions compatible with environmental protection? To what extent can environmental justice be considered a main concern of metropolitan governance? These questions are only a small sample of the environmental concerns of city regions' development. Nevertheless, we think that if the development of city-regions is on the urban agenda, this question cannot be dealt with without taking into account environmental issues. This is mainly what we intend to explore in the session.

17. Science, Ecology and Economics in a globalized world. Science and Technology confronting the ecological crisis.

Joint session with RC02, RC23 and RC24

Andrew Jorgenson, Marja Häyrynen-Alestalo and Arthur P.J. Mol

jorgenson@mail.wsu.edu (marja.alestalo@helsinki.fi) (arthur.mol@wur.nl)

What are the positive/negative effects of the applications of Science and Technology to the environmental problems in a local, regional and worldwide context? What is new about the use of S&T in terms of ecological sustainability? Is society doing its job to reverse the environmental deterioration trend? Is there a proper balance between costs of sustainability and reasonable profit?

AWARDS

Call for Nominations Frederick H. Buttell International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology

The ISA has approved this award and specified a list of rules for granting the award. Below you will find the announcement specifying those rules as well as the list of members of this first selection committee. The timetable for the first award is somewhat different than for future awards so that it can be given at the 2006 meetings in Durban.

The Award Committee encourages you to make nominations. Please note that you must i) include the name of the nominee, his or her CV, the list of publications on which the nomination is based, and a cover letter that provides a rationale for the nomination, ii) two other members of RC24 and/or the ISA whom you may solicit must support the nomination by also writing letters giving the rationale for the nomination, and iii) all the elements of the nomination must arrive no later than August 31, 2005 when nominations close. You can send your nomination to any member of the Award Committee but it will facilitate the administration of the selection process if all are sent to the Chairperson Raymond Murphy.

The Award Rules have been specified by the ISA. The most difficult issue to handle for an international organization is that of language. Negotiations within the ISA led to a rather ambiguous formulation: “nominees must have published in one or more of the major languages used by the international academic community, or have had their work translated in any of these major languages”. What are the “major languages”? The ISA noted that publications would have to attract a wide international audience. Hence the ISA’s intention was that English be one of the languages but not only English; Spanish and French being other possibilities.

Since this is the first time the award will be granted, the Award Committee must operationalize the ISA rules and construct procedures. We would be pleased to receive any suggestions you may have. In addition to giving the award, the Committee will report on its activities to RC24 members at the meetings in Durban and perhaps make suggestions to the ISA in the light of the experience of making the first award.

Announcement of a new ISA RC24 Award

Title

Frederick H. Buttell International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology: An award of the Research Committee Environment and Society (RC24) of the International Sociological Association (ISA), established March 17, 2005

Purpose

The international award is intended for outstanding contributions of scholars to the study of environment-society relations during the four years since the last call for nominations.

Recognition

Recipients of the Frederick H. Buttell International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology will receive a certificate or plaque that will be handed to the recipient, after reading the summary of the Award Committee report in public at an appropriate RC24 meeting at the ISA World Congress.

Eligibility

Any sociologist or social scientist, whether or not being a member of the research committee and/or ISA, is eligible. Award Committee members are not eligible to receive the award.

Nominations

Nominations can be made by any member of ISA and/or of RC24 (including Award Committee members), but has to be supported by at least two other members of RC24 and/or ISA. Nominations must include the name of the nominee, a CV, the list of publications on which the nomination is based, and a cover letter that provides a rationale for the nomination. The Award Committee may actively solicit nominations, and will also encourage RC24 members and other ISA members to nominate scholars.

As the Award focuses on international contributions of scholars to the study of environment-society relations, questions of accessibility for the international community are important considerations. This means that nominees must have published in one or more of the major languages used by the international academic community, or have had their work translated in any of these major languages (a reasonable expectation for an international Award). The Award Committee will take into account the possible disadvantage if nominees are not publishing in their mother language.

Selection process

An Award Committee will be responsible for the selection process. Every four years – just before the time of the ISA World Congress - the Board of RC24 will establish an Award Committee; the Board will also appoint the Chairperson of the Award Committee. The Award Committee will consist of at least three but preferably five members, of which at least one is also member of the incoming Board of RC24. The Award Committee should have an diverse geographical representation and be able to cover the main languages (either by themselves or via their networks).

The Award Committee will write a report describing its activities and the rationale for the selection of the winner of the award. The Award Committee may also make recommendations for improving the procedures and functioning of the Award process. The report is submitted to the Board of RC24 and, if it introduces recommendations for procedural changes, to the Executive Committee of the ISA. The Board of RC24 has to approve the winner of the Award, but will consider only the adequacy of the procedures and their conformity with ISA and RC24 policies. A summary of the report will be publicly available, and published on the RC24 website and in its newsletter.

Costs

The Award will consist of a certificate/plaque and the announcement of the Award winner in ISA and RC24 communication media. No monetary prize is linked to this award; however, award winners from ISA's B and C category countries will be entitled to RC24 financial assistance for travelling to the World Congress.

Neither RC24 nor the ISA will reimburse the Award Committee for costs it incurs, except that RC24 may reimburse the expenses of obtaining the publications of the nominated scholars in the most cost-efficient way.

Timetable

The Award will be given once every four years and the winner will be announced publicly at the ISA World Congress, during one of the RC24 sessions or a special awards event.

Calls for nominations will be made public at least two years before the ISA World Congress. Nominations will close no later than one year before the ISA World Congress, and the Award Committee will report its selection no later than eight months in advance of the ISA World Congress, in order to provide ample time for the RC24 Board to approve the recommendation of the winner before the World Congress and for the recipient to make plans to attend the World Congress.

For the first Award, to be handed out at the ISA World Congress in Durban, July 2006, an adapted time schedule will be followed. Calls for nominations will be sent out by late March 2005 and nominations will close by August 31, 2005. The Award Committee will report by December 31, 2005.

Comparable Awards

To the knowledge of the RC24 Board no comparable international awards exist in the field of environmental sociology. Some national associations or sections of national associations, have awards for environmental social scientists or environmental sociologists. These are, however, typically restricted to scholars from that national community.

Award Committee 2006 for the “Frederick H. Buttel International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology”

Chairperson

Raymond Murphy
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