

# ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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### President's Column

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by **Ray Murphy**, President of RC-24

Department of Sociology

University of Ottawa, Canada

When I was doing interviews concerning climate change, I asked the Governor of the State of Maine whether Americans would accept European-level taxes on gasoline. He responded that any politician who mentioned that possibility has disappeared. Canada is similar to the United States in this regard. The taboo words in the North American political lexicon are: 'carbon tax'. In the last federal Canadian election, the leader of a major party proposed a small carbon tax. He lost the election and has subsequently disappeared politically. In North America, expensive, administratively awkward, less effective cap-and-trade policies must do all the heavy lifting to tackle climate change, even though they too will increase gasoline prices indirectly. General Motors is teetering on the edge of bankruptcy as I write this, and has come cap-in-hand for a bailout from American and Canadian taxpayers, yet General Motors in North America has had to add an extra shift at its assembly lines to satisfy demand for the Camaro, its gas-guzzling muscle car that caters to the adolescent nostalgia of aging aficionados. Climate change sociologists will have their work cut out for them analyzing the collision of the change aspiration "yes, we can" solve environmental problems with the "no, we won't" inertial vested interest of institutions and life style habitus of the population. Although this collision occurs most intensely in North America, it is present in other countries as well. There are nevertheless some grounds for hope. The leader of the Canadian province of British Columbia, which is Canada's answer to California, explicitly proposed a small carbon tax, admittedly much less than the tax on gasoline in Europe, and last week was re-elected. It is the first time I know of in North America that an electoral program containing an explicit carbon tax has won a major election. Of course many other issues were involved in that election, but it is hopeful to know that such a polluter-pays tax proposition is not necessarily a kiss of death for politicians, since money will have to be raised somehow to solve environmental problems.

As you know, one of the five themes of the 2010 World Congress is "sustainability." I had written to ISA Vice President Hans Joas, who is in charge of that theme, offering the help and cooperation of RC-24. He recently sent me a draft of the description of this theme decided by the ISA Programme Committee, and requested my comments. There will be three plenary sessions on "sustainability" with three speakers (one non-sociologist) per plenary session. The sociologists are to be "truly excellent", while respecting the ISA policy of diversity in gender, generation, and region, that is, not only Euro-American old guys. I am pushing for the 2006 and 2010 Buttell Award winners, namely Michael Redclift and a winner to be announced in early 2010, to be invited as speakers at the plenaries. They have been certified by their peers in the Buttell competition as truly excellent in environmental sociology.

The RC-24 Call for Papers for the World Congress has already been sent out on the RC-24 listserv, is on our website, and is included on pages 3-4 of this Newsletter. I requested more sessions and I will repeat that request if RC-24 receives a sufficient number of good proposals that exceed our quota of allotted sessions.

*Current Sociology* May 2009 Vol. 57 No. 3, pages 365-426 [<http://csi.sagepub.com/current.dtl>] has just published a special subsection on environmental sociology containing new articles by the 2006 Buttell Award nominees. My thanks goes to Dennis Smith, the editor of *Current Sociology*, for agreeing to this project when I suggested it to him after the Durban World Congress and for conducting the peer review process for the papers. Such a publication was one of the recommendations of the 2006 Buttell Award Committee and it has successfully been brought to fruition giving more visibility to environmental sociology in the discipline of sociology.

I will be attending the American Sociological Association meetings in San Francisco in August, the European Sociological Association meetings in Lisbon in September, as well as the Canadian Sociological Association meetings in Ottawa in May. I will also be one of the keynote speakers at the 2<sup>nd</sup> German Environmental Summit in Leipzig in November. As RC-24 President I will do my best to represent and promote RC-24 at all these conferences. It is unfortunate that I do not have the financial resources to attend more national meetings. Our Secretary Dana Fisher has accepted to be a keynote speaker at the Asian Environmental Sociology Conference in Taipei, Taiwan in November.

RC-24 will be setting up an election committee in the coming months to elect an executive and board of governors for the period 2010-2014. The committee will seek nominations and each member will be able to vote on the candidates.

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## Notes from the Editor

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by **Dana R. Fisher**, Secretary of RC-24 and Editor of the Newsletter  
Department of Sociology  
Columbia University, USA

Hello Colleagues:

This spring, I was lucky enough to attend the meetings of the International Studies Association (the \*other\* ISA) and the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (the IHDP). Both of these organizations have vibrant communities of scholars who are working on issues related to the society-environment relationship. I was very interested to participate in these meetings, which tend to draw predominantly from the field of political science. Participating in these two meetings made me realize how much work is actually being conducted on the society-environment relationship around the world. It also made me realize that there are some really interesting opportunities to connect to broader communities of scholars who do similar work.

For those of us who study politics or do policy-relevant work, there is a lot we can learn from the environmental section of the International Studies Association and the IHDP. First and foremost, these communities connect directly to the policy world. The best example is the IHDP, which is actually a joint program of the International Council for Science, the International Social Science Council, and the United Nations University. Although some members of the RC-24 have very good connections to the policy world and have been successful in getting their work into the hands of policymakers, most of us would benefit from some institutional support and direct links to networks that facilitate such connections. Perhaps we could brainstorm about this issue when we meet in Sweden next summer? In the meantime, I will be looking into the connections that these other organizations have and the ways that they connect their members into channels to policymakers. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any ideas about this issue.

For those of you who are about to finish your academic years (as we are in the United States), I wish you all a productive break!

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## **Call for Proposals to the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden (11-17 July 2010)**

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The full Call For Proposals is available at our website:  
[www.environment-societyisa.org/Conferences](http://www.environment-societyisa.org/Conferences)

**The deadline for submission of abstracts to the session organizer is 15 September 2009.**

### **Proposed Sessions:**

#### **Session 1: The pillar of social sustainability in eco-standardisation**

Organizer: Magnus Boström, Södertörn University College, Huddinge, Sweden, [magnus.bostrom@sh.se](mailto:magnus.bostrom@sh.se)

#### **Session 2: Global environmental change and the viability of adaptive technologies**

Organizers: Matthias Gross, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany, [matthias.gross@ufz.de](mailto:matthias.gross@ufz.de) and Filip Alexandrescu, University of Toronto, Canada, [filip.alexand@gmail.com](mailto:filip.alexand@gmail.com)

#### **Session 3: Civil society and environmental governance**

Organizer: Dana Fisher, Columbia University, USA, [drf2004@columbia.edu](mailto:drf2004@columbia.edu)

#### **Session 4: Green consumption and the tensions between global and local markets**

Organizer: Julia Guivant, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil, [juguivant@uol.com.br](mailto:juguivant@uol.com.br)

#### **Session 5: Social theory, environmental reform, and the new world (dis)order**

Organizers: Arthur Mol, Wageningen University, The Netherlands, [Arthur.Mol@wur.nl](mailto:Arthur.Mol@wur.nl) and David Sonnenfeld, State University of New York at Syracuse, USA, [dasonnenfeld@gmail.com](mailto:dasonnenfeld@gmail.com)

#### **Session 6: Environmental attitudes and behavior: What do surveys tell us?**

Organizers: Riley Dunlap, Oklahoma State University, USA, [riley.dunlap@okstate.edu](mailto:riley.dunlap@okstate.edu) and Luisa Schmidt, University of Lisbon, Portugal, [schmidt@ics.ul.pt](mailto:schmidt@ics.ul.pt)

#### **Session 7: Market based instruments for the provision of ecosystem services**

Organizer: Stewart Lockie, Central Queensland University, Australia, [s.lockie@cqu.edu.au](mailto:s.lockie@cqu.edu.au)

#### **Session 8: The human management of the 'natural order': invasive/endangered species,**

**flood/drought, salty/fresh water**

Organizer: Cecilia Claeys-Mekdade, Université de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France, mekdade@univmed.fr

**Session 9: The shaping of public environmental risk perceptions**

Organizer: Leonardas Rinkevicius, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania, leonardas.rinkevicius@ktu.lt

**Session 10: Environmental issues and people's voice in Asia**

Organizer: Koichi Hasegawa, Tohoku University, Japan, k-hase@sal.tohoku.ac.jp and KU Do-Wan, Environment and Society Research Institute, Korea, kudowan@korea.com

**Session 11: Sustainability: addressing the Earth in peril**

Organizer: Eugene Rosa, Washington State University, USA, rosa@wsu.edu

**Session 12: Culture/climate change: migration, adaptation, and re-settlement in an age of change**

Organizers: Steven Yearley, University of Edinburgh, UK, steve.yearley@ed.ac.uk and Laura Jeffrey, University of Edinburgh, UK, laura.jeffery@ed.ac.uk

**Session 13: Environmental organization and natural resource sustainability in the developing world**

Organizers: Lotsmart Fonjong, University of Buea, Cameroon, lotsmart@yahoo.com and William Markham, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA, wtmarkha@uncg.edu

**Session 14: Water crisis and governance: social learning and political-institutional challenges - experiences of the North and the South**

Organizer: Pedro Roberto Jacobi, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil, prjacobi@usp.br

**Session 15: Biodiversity regulation and institutionalization of global-local linkages**

Organizer: Karunamay Subuddhi, Indian Institute of Technology, India, subuddhi@hss.iitb.ac.in

**Session 16: New trends in environmental sociology**

Organizer: Mikael Klintman, University of Lund, Sweden, mikael.klintman@fpi.lu.se

**Session 17: Sustainability transitions and environmental sociology**

Additional session on the Congress theme.

Organizers: Joan David Tabara, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, joandavid.tabara@uab.cat and Ernest Garcia, Universitat de València, Spain, Ernest.Garcia@uv.es

**Session 18: Sustainability and quality of life: concordant or conflicting goals of societal development?**

Joint Session of RC-24 Environment and Society and RC55 Social Indicators [host committee]

**Session 19: Leisure and tourism: Environmental dimensions**

Joint Session of RC13 Sociology of Leisure [host committee] and RC-24 Environment and Society

**Integrative Session**

RC-24 together with two associations: Korean Association of Environmental Sociology, and Chinese Sociological Association Committee of Population and Environment will also submit a proposal to organize an Integrative Session on environmental problems of the emerging powers of China and Korea

Organizers: Seejae Lee, RC-24, Catholic University of Korea, South Korea, seejaelee@catholic.ac.kr and Dayong Hong, Renmin University, China, President of Chinese Sociological Association Committee of Population and Environment, [hongdy@ruc.edu.cn](mailto:hongdy@ruc.edu.cn)

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## **Upcoming Conferences and Calls for Submissions/Participation** (in chronological order)

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### **International Conference on Water, Environment, Energy, and Society** **Firozabad (Agra), India** **28-30 June 2009**

#### Sub-Themes

- Pollution of water bodies and sanitation—the ecological, economic, and social dimensions
- Environment and energy
- Water for Rural development
- Water and social health
- Private sector participation in water services
- Water politics, law, and public apathy
- Economics of water resources projects

Detailed Information about paper submissions and registration are available on the RC-24 website: [www.environment-societyisa.org/Conferences.html](http://www.environment-societyisa.org/Conferences.html)

**For more information**, e-mail Dr U.S.Pandey at [us\\_pandey123@yahoo.com](mailto:us_pandey123@yahoo.com)

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### **The IV International Nanotechnology, Society and Environment Seminar** **Manaus, the Capital of the Brazilian Amazon State, Brazil** **20-22 October 2009**

All RC-24 members are invited to participate in this Seminar and provide their reflections about innovation and research in nanoscience and nanotechnology. Members are particularly encouraged to provide a social and environmental perspective to this discussion about science and technology.

The focus of discussions will be on the social, environmental and political responsibility of the nanotechnological innovation impacts, socio-technic choices and their impacts on life, as well as nanotechnology as a subject of social and environmental study.

The roundtables at the Seminar will include researchers from different disciplines that have been working with nanotechnology from Brazil and outside, discussing many aspects of nanotechnology development, including: regulation, ethics, communication, public engagement, agriculture, environment, and society.

**For more information:** please contact Paulo Martins at: [marpaulo@ipt.br](mailto:marpaulo@ipt.br)

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### **Reshaping Nature: Old Limits and New Possibilities** **Leipzig, Germany**

## 5-7 November

The German Sociological Society's Section on Environmental Sociology and the Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology at the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ are pleased to announce the *Second German Environmental Sociology Summit*. Confirmed Speakers include: Andreas Diekmann (ETH Zürich, Switzerland), Raymond Murphy (University of Ottawa, Canada), Mercedes Pardo (University Carlos III Madrid, Spain), Eugene Rosa (Washington State University, USA), and Gert Spaargaren (Wageningen University, Netherlands).

**For further information**, contact Matthias Gross at [matthias.gross@ufz.de](mailto:matthias.gross@ufz.de)

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## **The Second International Symposium on Environmental Sociology in East Asia**

Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan  
13- 15 November 2009

**Symposium Theme:** Low Carbon Society and Green Collar Alternative

**Session Topics:**

Paradigm Shift and Low-Carbon Society  
Sociological senses of Green Collar  
Environmental Refugee: Discourse on Class  
Carbon Offset: Social or Political Issues  
Environmental Movement toward Low-Carbon Society  
Green Collar in Business  
Community-based Empowerment  
Carbon Perspectives of Environmental East Asia

**Please submit abstracts by 30 June 2009. Abstracts format:**

One page Word file: 300 words with Keywords, A4 size  
Language: English  
Submit to: [juju@mx.nthu.edu.tw](mailto:juju@mx.nthu.edu.tw); [jujuwang2@gmail.com](mailto:jujuwang2@gmail.com)  
We will send out acceptances by 30 July 2009.

**For more information, go to the Symposium blog:**

<http://tw.myblog.yahoo.com/environmental-sociologists>

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## **Journals and Volumes**

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**The July-December 2008 issue of *Ambiente e Sociedade*** – a bi-annual journal of Environment and Society – includes articles about Environmental History, Education and Environmental Conservancy, Environmental Sociology, Water Management, and Multidisciplinary Social Practices.

The issue is available at: [www.ambientesociedade.org.br](http://www.ambientesociedade.org.br)

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**The October/December 2008 issue of the *Journal of Industrial Ecology*** is a special issue on *Materials Use Across World Regions: Inevitable Pasts and Possible Futures*. The special issue examines resource use on a global scale—focusing on materials use at national and world regional levels, detailed analysis of metals cycles within this context, and assessment of existing governmental policies that are based on material flow analysis (MFA). Countries and regions examined include Australia, Japan, Austria, the USA, Europe, Latin America, and the transition economies.

The *Journal of Industrial Ecology* is an international, multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed bimonthly published by Wiley-Blackwell, owned by Yale University, and headquartered at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. The special issue is edited by Helga Weisz, of Klagenfurt University, Austria, and Heinz Schandl, of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia.

The special issue is available at: [www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/121581908/issue](http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/121581908/issue)

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**The December 2008 issue of *Organization & Environment* (Volume 21, Number 4)** features a symposium on the early contributions of William Catton and Riley Dunlap to environmental sociology. In addition to an introduction by Richard York, it includes essays by William Freudenburg and John Jermier as well as individual essays by Catton and Dunlap reflecting on their early work.

#### **Articles**

Ecological Citizenship and the Corporation: Politicizing the New Corporate Environmentalism

ANDREW CRANE, DIRK MATIEN, AND JEREMY MOON

Overcoming the Social and Psychological Barriers to Green Building

ANDREW J. HOFFMAN AND REBECCA HENN

Environmental Organizations and Communication Praxis: A Study of Communication Strategies Among a National Sample of Environmental Organizations

MICHAEL DREILING, NICHOLAS LOUGEE, R. JONNA, AND TOMOYASU NAKAMURA

#### **Citation Classics and Foundational Works**

Introduction to the Symposium on Catton and Dunlap's Foundational Work

Establishing an Ecological Paradigm

RICHARD YORK

Thirty Years of Scholarship and Science on Environment-Society Relationships

WILLIAM R. FREUDENBURG

Exploring Deep Subjectivity in Sociology and Organizational Studies: The Contributions of William Catton and Riley Dunlap on Paradigm Change

JOHN M. JERMIER

A Retrospective View of My Development as an Environmental Sociologist

WILLIAM R. CATION, JR.

Promoting a Paradigm Change: Reflections on Early Contributions to  
Environmental Sociology

RILEY E. DUNLAP

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**The May 2009 issue of *Current Sociology*** (Volume 57, Number 3) features a collection of articles by the 2006 Buttell Award nominees.

### **Contents**

Introduction

RAYMOND MURPHY

The Environment and Carbon Dependence: Landscapes of Sustainability and Materiality

MICHAEL REDCLIFT

Sociology and Climate Change after Kyoto: What Roles for Social Science in Understanding Climate Change?

STEVEN YEARLEY

Agricultural Biodiversity and Neoliberal Regimes of Agri-Environmental Governance in Australia

STEWART LOCKIE

The issue is available at: <http://csi.sagepub.com/current.dtl>

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## **Announcements and Resources** (including summaries of members' books)

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**Arthur P.J. Mol, David A. Sonnenfeld, and Gert Spaargaren (editors). *The Ecological Modernisation Reader: Environmental Reform in Theory and Practice*. London and New York: Routledge, June 30, 2009. ISBN 978-0-415-45370-7.**

For more than a quarter-century now, Ecological Modernization has been an increasingly important mainstream theory of environmental transformation among governments, corporations, environmentalists, intergovernmental organizations, and others around the globe. This trend arguably commenced with the publication of the Brundtland Report in 1987, and has continued in the efforts of well-known politicians including Al Gore, and entrepreneurs such as Paul Hawken, Ray Anderson, and others. In 2007, a major report on Ecological Modernization was published by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and taken up by the highest levels of the Chinese government; and the Chancellor, Foreign Minister, and other high government officials in Germany have been giving major policy speeches on the need for ecological modernization in Europe, most recently in the context of calls for a "Green Marshall Plan".

Despite several decades of scholarship and the vital, mainstreaming of this perspective into environmental policy and politics around the world, until now there has been no widely available, single, authoritative volume establishing the foundation of this school of thought, bringing together ecological modernization theories, research, debates, and policy applications for broadly educated audiences around the world. This volume seeks to meet such a need, as an

essential international handbook on environmental reform in theory and practice, including original material commissioned exclusively for this collection and key foundational works from three decades of research, scholarship, and policy experience.

The collection includes a series of thoughtful, up-to-date review essays by leading scholars from around the world on the dynamics, politics, and experience of institutional environmental reform, and a selection of the best published works and debates from three decades of scholarship on Ecological Modernization Theory. Included are key foundational works until now not widely available in English and an agenda for continued scholarship, policymaking, and practice.

The volume contains four thematic sections: Foundations of Ecological Modernization Theory, Transformations in Environmental Governance and Participation, Greening Life-Cycles and Life-Styles, and Environmental Reform in Asian and Other Emerging Economies. Each section begins with a review essay by leading scholars on Ecological Modernization and environmental reform. Essayists were selected from different countries/ continents and disciplinary backgrounds to strengthen the volume's broad usefulness, and include Martin Janicke, Mikael Skou Andersen, Dana R. Fisher, Oliver Fritsch, Michael Rock, Maurie Cohen, as well as the volume's editors.

For more information, see <http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld/reader.htm>

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**Raymond Murphy. 2009. *Leadership in Disaster: Learning for a Future with Global Climate Change*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press**

Disasters occur when hazards of nature strike socio-technological vulnerabilities. While science provides valuable indications of risk, it does not yield certainty, yet leaders must make sense of threats. Raymond Murphy's case study of the management of the 1998 ice storm - the most costly disaster ever in Canada, northern New York state, and Maine - presents rare interviews with key political and emergency management leaders that provide an insider's view of the challenge of responding to extreme weather. They document a generally well managed crisis, but also reveal the slippery slope from transparency to withholding critical information as the crisis deepened, and examine conflict resolution between leaders during a disaster. The study looks into whether technological development inadvertently constructed new vulnerabilities to nature's forces, thereby manufacturing a natural disaster. As this extreme weather may foreshadow what will occur with global warming, Murphy's interviews also explore the politics, economics, ethics, and cultural predispositions underlying climate change, investigating how modern societies create both risks they assume are acceptable and the burden of managing them. An innovative comparison with Amish communities, where the same extreme weather had trivial consequences, is instructive for avoiding future socio-environmental calamities. *Leadership in Disaster* is a major contribution to the analysis of vulnerability, resilience, and the challenge of confronting environmental problems, such as global climate change, and a valuable resource for scholars and general readers seeking to learn more about how extreme weather disasters can be managed.

For more information, see <http://mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=2331>

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**Ariel Salleh (editor). 2009. *Eco-Sufficiency and Global Justice: Women Write Political Ecology*. London & New York: Pluto Press.**

As the twenty-first century faces a crisis of democracy and sustainability, this book brings academics and alternative globalization activists into conversation. Through studies of neoliberalism, ecological debt, climate change, and the ongoing devaluation of reproductive and subsistence labor, these uncompromising essays by internationally distinguished women thinkers expose the limits of current scholarship in political economy, ecological economics, and sustainability science.

With in-depth analyses of climate change, the Millennium Development Goals, financial meltdown, and new theoretical concepts for understanding humanity-nature links, the essays reveal the workings of an invisible but sustaining 'meta-industrial economy', an understanding of which is critical for social and environmental justice to be achieved.

The book is a must read for anyone committed to building alternatives and will be indispensable to students of political economy, ethics, global studies, sociology, women's studies, and geography.

This book has been endorsed by:

Vandana Shiva, Foundation for Science, Technology & Ecology, New Delhi

Richard Norgaard, Professor of Energy and Resources, UC Berkeley

Peter Dickens, Cambridge University, author of *Society & Nature*

Lim Li Ching, Third World Network, Kuala Lumpur

**For more information**, go to: [www.arielsalleh.net](http://www.arielsalleh.net)

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## **Recent Member Publications (in alphabetical order)**

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**Salleh, Ariel.** 2009. Review Essay: 'Kheel's Nature Ethics.' *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, Vol. 20, No. 1, 130-134.

**Salleh, Ariel and Susan Hawthorne.** 2009. A Conversation: "Thinking Beyond, Thinking Deep." *Island Magazine*, No. 116, 8-17.

**Salleh, Ariel.** 2009. "The Dystopia of Technoscience: An ecofeminist critique of postmodern reason." *Futures*, Vol. 41, No. 4, 201-209.

**Salleh, Ariel.** 2008. "Climate Change - and the 'Other Footprint.'" *The Commoner*, No. 13: [www.commoner.org.uk](http://www.commoner.org.uk)

**Salleh, Ariel.** 2008. "How the Ecological Footprint is Gendered: Implications for ecosocialist theory and praxis." *Green Leaf*, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Beijing, No. 126, 68-73. (in Mandarin).

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## **The RC-24 Board (Elected 2006):**

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### **Executive:**

President: Raymond Murphy (Canada)  
Vice-president: Julia Guivant (Brazil)  
Secretary: Dana R. Fisher (USA)  
Treasurer: Matthias Gross (Germany)

### **Board of Governors:**

Cecilia Claeys-Mekdade (France)  
David Fig (South Africa)  
Maria Kousis (Greece)  
See Jae Lee (Korea)  
Stewart Lockie (Australia)  
Leonardas Rinkevicius (Lithuania)  
Maria Tysiachniouk (Russia)  
Past-president: Arthur Mol (The Netherlands)  
Past-past-past-president: Riley Dunlap (USA)

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**For more information, Please consult the RC-24 Website at:**

**[www.environment-societyvisa.org](http://www.environment-societyvisa.org) for information about:**

- How to become a member of the RC-24
  - Previous Newsletters
  - Resources
  - Statues
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