



International Sociological Association  
Research Committee on Environment and Society

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## President's Column

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by **Stewart Lockie**, President of RC-24  
Research School of Social Sciences  
College of Arts and Social Sciences  
The Australian National University, Canberra

To begin, I would like to convey my deepest sympathy to colleagues affected by recent natural disasters including the earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand. I am sure I speak for all RC24 members in expressing both my dismay that the ensuing nuclear emergency at Fukushima is yet to be brought under control, and my hope that this will be resolved sooner rather than later.

These and other recent catastrophic events (tornados in the US and New Zealand, floods in eastern Australia, the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and so on), have precipitated numerous and heated debates over the safety of nuclear energy, the adequacy of planning and building standards, the use of dams in flood mitigation, the reality of anthropogenic climate change, and numerous other potential implications and issues. The haste with which commentators weigh into these debates is often ill-judged and insensitive. Nevertheless, catastrophic events and the debates they spawn leave much for us to reflect on as environmental sociologists. Recent disasters emphasize the interdependency of social and ecological systems, the need to develop sophisticated theorizations of risk and hazard, and the deep divisions between rival political camps over how to conceptualize and act on these as matters of policy concern.

The shadow of Fukushima will focus considerable empirical and theoretical work in environmental sociology over the next few years. Many of you will have read the column published by RC24 member Koichi Hasegawa in the most recent edition of ISA's Global Dialogue which raises a number of relevant issues for our consideration ([www.isa-sociology.org/global-dialogue/?p=261](http://www.isa-sociology.org/global-dialogue/?p=261)). If you have not, I encourage you to do so, and to respond to Koichi's invitation on behalf of the Japan Sociological Society by pencilling the 2014 World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama into your diaries (July 13-19). I expect that the thematic session on Natural and Human Disasters, and the Recover of Local Society will be of great interest. Thank you Koichi for the invitation and for your contribution to this edition of the RC24 newsletter.

Before then, we have the 2012 ISA Forum of Sociology in Buenos Aires to plan (August 1-4). The call to propose sessions for the RC24 program is currently open ([www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/rc/rc.php?n=RC24](http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/rc/rc.php?n=RC24)). As the invitation states, we are particularly

interested in proposals that engage with the Forum theme of social justice and democratization. However, proposals are welcome on all topics of interest to members in the broad field of environment and society. In fact, any suggestions you would like to make about the organization of the RC24 sessions, social events etc are more than welcome. I can't guarantee that every proposal will find its way into the program but I can assure you that your suggestions and enthusiasm are highly valued by the Board!

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## Notes from the Editors

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by **Mikael Klintman** (Research Policy Institute, Lund University, Sweden) & **Magnus Boström** (Dept. of Life Sciences, Södertörn University, Sweden)  
**Co-Secretaries of RC-24 and Editors of the Newsletter**

This issue of the Newsletter reflects the entire range of activities and contributions by RC24 members. Much activity is taking place in the important area of social theory development on environmental issues. This is crucial for being able to communicate about similarities and differences across sectors and regions, and for shedding light on underlying structures of social and environmental change. Moreover, as Stewart Lockie has already mentioned, this issue of the Newsletter includes experiences and activities from the immediate, in part bodily, experiences of environmental catastrophe. As editors we were, to be honest, slightly uncomfortable in our quasi-journalist role of asking fellow environmental sociologists living in the middle of an environmental catastrophe to write about their impressions. However, with his piece in this Newsletter issue, Koichi Hasegawa shows how the willingness to share one's impressions and tying these to the larger bulk of environmental sociology can be stronger than the sense of practical and emotional inconvenience in writing. We're sure this is highly appreciated among the whole RC24 community. In a similar vein, Dana Fisher, Riley Dunlap, and Debra Davidson have provided this Newsletter issue with their impressions as well as analytical insights based on their collaboration and friendship with the late William R. Freudenburg, distinguished environmental sociologist.

As editors, we kindly ask all of you readers to continue helping us make the list serve and the Newsletter useful. You do this by communicating with us about any relevant news about upcoming events, vacant positions, new publications, etc, that we in turn spread worldwide through the above-mentioned fora. Moreover, please continue to visit the RC24 website, at [www.environment-societyisa.org](http://www.environment-societyisa.org). We should also take the opportunity to remind everyone that the very basis for the Research Community on Environment and Society is paid memberships. Those of you who haven't renewed your RC24 membership, please do so right away!

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## **Voices from Ruins: Rebuilding a Real Sustainable Community**

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By **Koichi Hasegawa**

Tohoku University, Japan

Here is a battlefield. Even 40 days later, standing in a coast area severely devastated by the Giant Tsunami on March 11, I am realizing here is a kind of battlefield although I never visited a real battlefield. Many wooden houses swept away, only basements left. Only the steel frame of the most sturdy structures remain. I found a lot of markings of everyday life suddenly shut down by the tsunami: a shard of broken pottery, futon, photo album, toys, cars and so on. I feel like I am listening to a lot of voices of sorrow and mourning from ruins and piles of wreckage. The devastated coast area is over 400 kilometers long from Ibaragi prefecture to Aomori prefecture. Especially along the beautiful deeply-indented coast line, called the Ria Coast of North-East Japan, the tsunami destroyed every fishing port.

More than 14,000 people died and more than 12,000 people are still missing. Around 130,000 people have been evacuated. This tragedy is the largest disaster in Japan since World War II. Among the refugees, the most tragic and painful cases are the 54,000 residents who were living near the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear station operated by TEPCO, the Tokyo Electric Power Company. In most cases, their homes were safe from the tsunami, but relatively highly exposed to the leak of radiation. The government emergency evacuation plan did not work because it's estimated area of contamination, only a 10-kilometer radius around the nuclear station, was too small. Much confusion followed. The government had to expand the evacuation zone to include a 20-kilometer radius from the nuclear station and the special spot in northwest outside the 20-kilometer radius predicted to accumulate more than 20 millisieverts of radiation in one year. Evacuees are hoping to return to their homes as soon as possible, but no one including Prime Minister Kan and the CEO of TEPCO can estimate exactly when they will be able to do so. Farmers in this area are prohibited to grow crops and fishermen are prohibited to catch fish. They can only cry and resent the fumbling electric company and the national government.

How can I find a way to the future from this catastrophic situation? Where can I find some hope? First I have to accept the fact of the tsunami disaster and the nuclear disaster as "the second defeat" after World War II. Embracing defeat will be the starting line.

Why did we fail to protect safe community life in the coastal area? Why did we fail to prevent this nuclear disaster? Why did we fail to change a very risky pro-nuclear energy policy?

One of major backgrounds of the nuclear disaster is the "Atomic Circle," a very closed relationship between Politics = Government = Academy = Industry = Media. The Atomic Circle consists of people with shared vested interests in promoting nuclear energy. They are people of the nuclear industry, engineers of companies that make nuclear plants like Toshiba, Hitachi and Mitsubishi, people of the nuclear power division of the electric power company, scholars of nuclear engineering, officers of nuclear regulation sections of the government, officers of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy within the Ministry of Economics, Trade and Industry (METI) and politicians. For media, power companies are the largest advertisers. Politicians of the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) -- the party in power from 1955 to 2009 -- backed pro-nuclear policy in exchange for political funds from the power companies. In the case of the Democratic Party of Japan, the current ruling party, the main support bases are labor unions related to the power companies and electronic products companies. For this reason, the

DPJ cabinet has not changed the pro-nuclear energy policy established under the LDP cabinet. TEPCO is the largest private electric power company in the world.

In Japan, there is no “real independent regulator” of nuclear issues. This disaster revealed that the “Nuclear Safety Commission” and “Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency” have not been working at all. They are a kind of puppets of the electric company and METI. Scholars have noted the role of the “iron triangle” or “triple control machine” in Japanese conservative politics (Broadbent 1998). For example, the triangle operating in the construction of dams consists of the construction company, conservative politicians and government officers. But the “Atomic Circle” is much more tightly closed than the typical iron triangle and the power of the monopoly electric company is much stronger. Social movements opposing nuclear energy started in the mid-1950s right at the beginning of governmental nuclear energy policy, but their influence has been very limited. Such movements have rarely been successful in forcing the abandonment of a planned nuclear construction project (See Hasegawa 2004 Ch8 and Ch9; Hasegawa 2011).

In my view, building a sustainable eco-friendly community will be the way to the future. So far, when we have talk about “sustainability”, we were almost neglecting to protect everyday life from huge natural disasters like tsunamis or earthquakes. From now, we should focus on “sustainability” from the standpoint of disaster prevention and safety.

Accelerated global warming will bring so many disasters like huge floods, hurricanes, typhoons and so forth. Recovery and regeneration of the local community will be a focal point of discussion. Eco-friendly communities utilizing renewable energy sources like solar, wind, biomass and local resources related to farming and fishery, not dependent on nuclear energy or fossil fuels, will be a trigger to the sustainable future. We should remember that the Chinese character “crisis” consists of “risk” or “danger” and “opportunity” or “chance”. We should turn this crisis into the chance of “renewal” based on “renewable energy resources.”

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Hasegawa, Koichi, 2004, *Constructing Civil Society in Japan: Voices of Environmental Movements*, Trans Pacific Press.

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## **Upcoming Conferences (in chronological order)**

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### **Second ISA forum of sociology**

Buenos Aires, Argentina

1-4 August 2010

### **Research Committee on Environment and Society, RC24 on Environmental justice, citizenship, and governance:**

#### **Programme coordinator, RC24:**

Stewart Lockie, The Australian National University, Australia, [stewart.lockie@anu.edu.au](mailto:stewart.lockie@anu.edu.au)

#### **Deadlines**

- Session proposals: June 1, 2011
- On-line abstract submission will be open **from August 25 to December 15, 2011.**

#### **Call for sessions**

The Research Committee on Environment and Society, RC24, invites members to propose sessions for the 2012 World Forum. We are particularly interested in proposals that engage with the Forum theme of social justice and democratization. However, proposals are welcome on all topics of interest to members in the broad field of environment and society.

RC24 plans to organize 16 sessions for the 2012 Forum. Sessions will be 90 minutes duration and comprise mostly regular paper sessions in order to give as many members as possible the opportunity to present their research. Each session will have at least two convenors, preferably from different countries. Please send proposals to the Programme Coordinator.

#### **Submissions should include the following information:**

- Title of the session
- Format of the session. E.g.:
  - Regular session– 15-20-minute presentations with an open call for abstracts
  - Poster session
  - Special session on the conference theme
  - Featured or keynote speaker
  - Author meets their critics
  - Panel sessions– a larger number of shorter papers on a specific theme
  - Joint session– identifying the other participating RC
- A 250-word maximum description of the session
- Language(s) of session
- Full name, affiliation and contact details of the session organizers and/or session chairs, if different

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## **Jobs, Volumes, and Calls for Submissions/Participation**

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### **Calls for submissions: Sociologica**

Sociologica is pleased to invite submissions on the theme "Reassessing sustainability" for an issue to be published in 2012. The idea of sustainability has represented for decades a point of reference for scientific work, policy-making, social movements action and public mobilization in general. In sociology the concept and related reformist policy orientation have been mainly associated with the ecological modernization framework. Always a contested notion, the conceptual and practical strength of sustainability is now seriously questioned by the fundamental failure of the post-Rio summits, the growing drama of climate change and the emergence of competing narratives, such as the "downshifting" one. It is therefore time for a thorough reassessment. We invite papers aimed at discussing the discourse and practice of sustainability, in its evolution and present declensions, from both theoretical and empirical perspectives.

**Manuscripts should be submitted by 30 September, 2011.**

<http://www.sociologica.mulino.it/news/newsitem/index/Item/News:EVENT:230>

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## **Announcements (in alphabetical order)**

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**The international Compon research project--Comparing Climate Change Policy Networks--with teams now in over 17 countries is in the news and making progress.**

A panel was held at the AAAS in DC, including team leaders from Japan (Abe Fellow Koichi Hasegawa--his paper was presented but an accident prevented his attendance) and other countries. The panel photo and information are at: <http://compon.org/content/aaas2011>. The presentation giving the project overview and some results is here:

<http://compon.org/sites/default/files/publicfiles/AAAS%202011%20Comparative.pdf>.

After the panel, the journal Science interviewed two members, Jeff Broadbent and Sony Pellissery, about the Compon project and presented the interview on a podcast. The Science On-Line Podcast is at:

<http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2011/02/podcast-international-responses-.html?ref=hp>

Also, the Compon project is featured in one of the new White Papers submitted to the NSF Grand Challenges for the SBE (Social, Behavioral and Economic) sciences to help set NSF funding priorities for the next decade. The White Paper suggesting the institution of a global data collection project on social, political and other reactions to climate change based on the existing COMPON project (author: Jeff Broadbent) is available at:

<http://compon.org/sites/default/files/publicfiles/Broadbent%20NSF%20White%20Paper%203-11.pdf>

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## In Memory: William Robert Freudenburg

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By Dana R. Fisher

University of Maryland-College Park, USA



[Note: this piece includes excerpts from an obituary prepared by Bill's brother, his wife, and the chair of his department at UCSB, along with comments I made during the Freudenfest in honor of his work in November 2011].

William R. Freudenburg, Ph.D., died of bile duct cancer at his Santa Barbara, California home on December 28, 2010.

Bill was an extremely prolific environmental sociologist. During his career, which was cut short at 59, Bill's work had a lasting impact on the study of natural resource dependent economies, rural communities, environmental risk perceptions, disaster response, and furthered our comprehension of the society-environment relationship more broadly. Bill's work resonated with sociologists, scholars of environmental studies, as well as everyday people. Bill was a leading force in expanding the purview of sociology to include all things environmental, publishing rigorous sociological work in peer-reviewed journals that showed what we do and why it matters. His work was published in the top sociology journals in the United States, including the *American Sociological Review*, *The American Journal of Sociology*, and *Social Forces*.

I had the distinct pleasure of learning about environmental sociology from Bill. I was also blessed with the chance to experience how Bill created community as he practiced his craft. In the past few years, it has become clear to me how special and unique my experience and training was. One of my favorite of Bill's works was on the conjoint constitution between society and the environment (co-authored with Frickel and Gramling in 1995). The central component of this concept is the recognition that there is a "mutual contingency" between the physical and social worlds. In his own words in a 2002 article in *Society & Natural Resources*, Bill explained further: "What have commonly been taken to be 'physical facts' are likely in many cases to have been shaped strongly by social construction processes, while at the same time, even what appear to be 'strictly social' phenomena are likely to have been shaped in important if often overlooked ways by the fact that social actions often respond to stimuli and constraints from the biophysical world" (2002: 233; see also Freudenburg, Frickel, and Gramling, 1995).

Although I never realized it before, I think that the mutual contingency outlined in the conjoint constitution can also be applied to personal success and achievement. Some of it can be explained by raw talent and intellectual capacity. However, much of our success in the world is also shaped by the social interactions we have and the people who invest in these interactions. Bill Freudenburg was committed to such social interactions—whether over a beer or over a twenty-fifth draft of a paper, approached with as much tenacity as the first. He had an amazing, selfless capacity and genuine enthusiasm to give to others through his time and attention.

Bill's contributions to scholarship were shaped every bit as much by his personal history as his formal education. Bill was born in Madison, Nebraska on November 2, 1951, to Eldon Gilbert Freudenburg and Betty Davis Freudenburg. He grew up in West Point, Nebraska, and attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Following his undergraduate studies, he attended Yale University where he earned his Ph.D. in Sociology. His thesis, on the "Boom and Bust" cycles associated with oil shale development, was based on a year living in Paonia, Colorado. He developed friendships there that he maintained for the rest of his life.

Bill embarked on his academic career in 1978 as an Assistant Professor at Washington State University. He taught there until 1986, when he moved to the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he served as Professor of Rural Sociology. While in Madison, Bill met the love of his life, Sarah Stewart, whom he married on October 19, 1996 in Denver Colorado, surrounded by the mountains he always cherished. They were blessed with a son, Maxwell Stewart Freudenburg, who was born on August 3, 2000.

In 2002, the University of California Santa Barbara lured Bill, Sarah and Max away from Madison to the sunny, and hazard-prone coast of California. The Freudenburg-Stewart family flourished in Santa Barbara, despite a number of evacuations from their family home in the face of southern California's famous wildfires. He held the Dehlsen Endowed Chair in the Environmental Studies Program, where he was a core member of the Program, teaching the introductory environmental studies class to over 400 students each year. He received consistent accolades for his teaching, including being voted an "Outstanding Professor," receiving spontaneous ovations after many of his lectures. Bill was a passionate teacher, insisting on teaching his course right through the fall quarter of 2010, and many of his students expressed their gratitude for his lasting impact on their outlook and careers in contributions to his online memorial, established by the Environmental Studies Program.

On November 6, 2010, Bill was honored for his extensive scholarly contributions by many colleagues, former and current students and friends from across the nation at "Freudenfest," a day-long symposium held at UCSB. Links to information on Freudenfest, a lecture on his last book (*Blowout in the Gulf*), and a tribute page can be found at: <http://es.ucsb.edu/>

Bill was a wonderful family member, husband, father, and mentor. During my talk at the Freudenfest in Santa Barbara, I presented a list of how to be a great teacher/mentor, based on my experiences learning from him:

- 1) Be an active member of the community and help to connect people with similar interests.
- 2) Start your research with a theoretically driven research question and then test it in the real world.



- 3) To be a good interdisciplinarian means working with people from other disciplines and actively engaging with them and their work.
- 4) Teach by doing: listen without judging and be open to all perspectives.
- 5) Do not give up on good ideas and well done research—persevere and get it out!

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## **An Intellectual Biography of William R. Freudenburg**

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by **Riley E. Dunlap**

Oklahoma State University, USA &

**Debra J. Davidson**

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

The world lost one of its most productive, creative and influential environmental sociologists when William R. Freudenburg passed away on December 28, 2010. Bill, who had just turned 59 the month before, finally lost his battle with cancer, having well-exceeded the expectations of his doctors after the original diagnosis of bile-duct cancer in summer of 2009. He remained highly active until the end, finishing teaching his Fall course and managing to complete a book on the 2010 BP oil spill with his long-term collaborator Robert Gramling, *Blowout in the Gulf: The BP Oil Spill Disaster and the Future of Energy in America*, that came out a couple of months before his untimely death. While it is impossible to do full justice to the depth and scope of Bill's rich legacy of scholarly contributions in a short amount of space, we sketch out broad themes and highlight major trends and accomplishments in his remarkable career.

After completing his undergraduate degree in his home-state at the University of Nebraska, Bill moved to Yale University in 1974 for graduate work in sociology where his advisor was Kai Erikson. Perhaps it was his small-town background that led him to focus on "energy boomtowns" in Colorado, small communities that were undergoing rapid and disruptive growth as a result of oil shale development pushed by the Carter Administration in reaction to the 1973-74 "energy crisis." This work led to Bill being offered a joint position in the Departments of Sociology and Rural Sociology at Washington State University, whose faculty he joined in Fall of 1978 before completing his dissertation and receiving his PhD the following year.

Bill quickly made a name for himself with a series of articles and chapters that provided highly insightful and theoretically grounded analyses of these communities (e.g., Freudenburg 1981; 1982), earning the nickname "Boomtown Bill" in the process. This work typically involved a creative synthesis of qualitative and quantitative evidence, solidly grounded in sociological theory, and often cast with an eye toward policy relevance—qualities that would become characteristic of Bill's scholarship. Probably the most influential were those he managed to get published in the premier sociology journals, *ASR* (Freudenburg, 1984) and *AJS* (Freudenburg 1986a). Both required multiple submissions and numerous revisions, and Bill recently noted that they needed "to be presented as an analysis of something else ... rather than an analysis of a

community going through environmentally related disruptions” (Freudenburg 2008:451). Yet, these analyses of the differential impact of rapid growth on adolescents versus adults and the “density of acquaintanceship” represent the first appearance of work by an environmental sociologist in these elite journals, one of many breakthroughs by Bill

As an aside, these two early pieces also laid the groundwork for Bill’s superb record of placing environmentally relevant research in elite journals, demonstrating his ability to frame his empirical research in ways that engaged theoretically significant issues. Most American sociologists regard *ASR*, *AJS* and *Social Forces* as the three top disciplinary journals, and Bill managed to publish two articles and a long comment in *ASR*, four articles in *AJS* and six in *SF*. This is an unparalleled record for an environmental sociologist, and made an enormous contribution to legitimizing environmental sociology within the larger discipline.

Social science interest in energy boomtowns stemmed in part from the fact that “social impact assessment” was rapidly growing as a field of inquiry, due to legal decisions mandating that environmental impact assessments include “SIAs.” This momentum stimulated creation of an “Ad Hoc Committee” within the American Sociological Association charged with drawing up guidelines for the conduct of SIAs, and Bill quickly became a leading contributor to the work initiated by the short-lived committee (while developing a course on the topic at WSU). Bill’s work led to a number of articles on social impact assessment (e.g., Freudenburg and Keating 1982; 1985), emphasizing the need for strong sociological contributions—methodologically rigorous and theoretically grounded—to SIAs, most notably an agenda-setting review piece in the *Annual Review of Sociology* (Freudenburg 1986b) that both signified and solidified Bill’s leadership in the field.

As reflected in his choice of a dissertation topic, from the outset Bill had a strong desire to focus his intellectual efforts on important societal phenomena, and this seems to have led to his interest in the policy process. When the ASA developed a “Congressional Fellow” program Bill applied, and worked with the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1983-84. This experience, described in Freudenburg (1986c), heightened Bill’s interest in the policy domain. One can see the impact of this interest not only in his work on SIA (e.g., Freudenburg and Keating 1985) but throughout the rest of his career, especially notable in pieces on nuclear power (Freudenburg and Jones 1991), agency failure (Freudenburg and Gramling 1994a; Freudenburg and Youn 1999), social science contributions to environmental management (Freudenburg 1989), social science input into policy-making (Freudenburg and Gramling 2002), the use of science in court cases (Freudenburg 2005a), and the misuse of science to resolve environmental controversies (Freudenburg, Gramling and Davidson 2008).

Coming back to chronological order, another important development in Bill’s career occurred while he was at WSU. Likely due to WSU’s proximity to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, Bill became interested in nuclear power and waste. This led to a co-edited book with Eugene Rosa (Freudenburg and Rosa 1984) and a long-term focus on nuclear issues (Freudenburg and Baxter 1984; 1985; Freudenburg and Jones 1991; Freudenburg 2004; Freudenburg and Davidson 2007; Alario and Freudenburg 2007), as well as a growing interest in environmental and technological risk in general and risk assessment writ large. This line of work led to numerous articles and chapters dealing with risk, including a landmark contribution in *Science* (Freudenburg 1988), that continued to appear up until his death. The work on risk is especially rich theoretically, as exemplified by several articles: Freudenburg and Pastor (1992), Freudenburg (1993); Davidson and Freudenburg (1996); and Alario and Freudenburg (2003; 2007; 2010). In addition to

introducing his well-known concept of “recreancy,” Bill, along with his colleagues, has offered insightful comparisons of American middle-range and European grand theorizing on risk, especially in terms of their relative degrees of empirical support.

After spending a 1984-85 sabbatical at the University of Denver, placing him close to the energy boomtowns he continued to follow, Bill moved to the Department of Rural Sociology at the University of Wisconsin in 1986, where he again helped strengthen a leading environmental sociology program. Building upon his earlier interests, at Wisconsin Bill used his boomtown work as a basis for contributing broader insights about extractive economies in general. He developed a highly productive and influential research program on the topic which, on the whole, offered irrefutable counter-evidence to the general assumption that natural resource development is an attractive option for rural communities, pointing to multiple maladies that coincide with such economies (Freudenburg and Jones 1991b; Freudenburg 1992; Freudenburg and Gramling 1992; Freudenburg and Gramling 1994b; Freudenburg and Frickel 1994; Frickel and Freudenburg 1996; Freudenburg and Gramling 1998; Freudenburg, Gramling and Schurman 1999; Freudenburg and Wilson 2002). In addition to several graduate students studying at Wisconsin, Bill’s work on extractive communities was done with Robert Gramling, with whom he began to collaborate after the two met on an advisory panel on offshore oil-drilling sponsored by the U.S. Minerals Management Service. This chance encounter launched one of the most productive partnerships in environmental sociology—resulting in three important books, seven magazine articles and technical reports, and a total of 20 peer-reviewed articles.

By the 1990s, with the help of Gramling, Bill began to turn more of his efforts toward one of his long-standing priorities—enhancing the academic position of the still-youthful field of environmental sociology. Focusing explicitly on the vexing issue of theorization of socio-environmental relations, this attention—as with his other pursuits—led to several landmark contributions with his collaborators (e.g., Freudenburg, Frickel and Gramling 1995; Gramling and Freudenburg 1996a). Bill and colleagues reported the results of creative studies that took an historical and comparative approach to analyses of societal-environmental interactions, enabling them to compare varying environmental conditions and differing societal conditions over time, documenting the dialectic and socially contingent nature of environmental outcomes, always exemplifying in resounding terms the fact that “Nature does matter.” The clearest exemplar of this work is his comparison of the enthusiastic support for oil production in Louisiana to the equally enthusiastic opposition to oil in California and Florida, groundbreaking in both its findings and its contribution to sociological method (Freudenburg and Gramling 1993; 1994c; Gramling and Freudenburg 1996b). This line of work offers current and future students important tools for studying the relationship between social and physical phenomena, and offers a superb illustration of the fruits of good environmental sociological research.

Around the same time period, Bill’s risk scholarship began to showcase inquiries into disasters and corrosive communities in particular, beginning with a case study of the *Exxon Valdez* spill (Gramling and Freudenburg 1992) and ending with several articles and a book chronicling the social determinants of the catastrophe that was Hurricane Katrina (Freudenburg et al. 2008; 2009a; 2009b; Gramling et al. 2011), in all cases emphasizing the social constructions of natural and technological disaster alike.

It was perhaps this accumulating record of case study material on disaster and corrosive communities that highlighted for Bill the enduring inequities associated with the distribution of environmental benefits and risks. His latest and arguably most compelling work was devoted to

this issue, as represented in his groundbreaking research on disproportionalities and the double diversion tactics that serve to maintain them (Freudenburg 2005b; 2006), as well as an article and volume co-edited with Robert Wilkinson (Freudenburg and Wilkinson 2008; Wilkinson and Freudenburg 2008) and work with long-time collaborator Margarita Alario (Alario and Freudenburg 2010). His attention to equity simultaneously illustrated his continued enthusiasm for interdisciplinary work, and was one of the key topics of engagement with his natural science colleagues (e.g. Haberl et al. 2006).

Bill was a leader not only on the basis of his intellectual achievements, but quite literally through the numerous offices held throughout his career in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (Chair, Section on Social, Economic and Political Sciences (1994-1997); the American Sociological Association (Chair, Section on Environment and Technology, 1989-91); and the Rural Sociological Society (Chair, Natural Resources Research Group, 1982-83; President 2004-5). At the time of his death, he was President-Elect of the newly-established Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences, an organization which he helped found. Bill also compiled an exemplary record of service on prestigious advisory panels and boards, serving on several National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Panels as well as Advisory Committees for the U.S. Department of Energy and Department of Interior. He was an outstanding spokesperson for environmental social science in these advisory roles.

Throughout his career Bill developed a number of theoretically derived concepts that have become valuable tools in social science analyses of environmental issues and are instantly associated with his name, including the “density of acquaintanceship,” “diversionary reframing,” “recreancy,” “corrosive communities,” “disproportionality,” “double diversion” and “SCAMs (for “Scientific Uncertainty Argumentation Methods”). The continued fruitful use of these concepts by others will ensure that Bill’s legacy continues, and their importance was best captured by fellow environmental sociologist Steve Kroll-Smith in a January 1, 2001 post on the ENVIROC listserv paying tribute to Bill: “I came to know some time ago that the greatest among us create vocabularies that become the way the rest of us speak or write the world into existence. Please accept my thanks for the words, the ideas and the subtleties of thought that pushed my work and me forward. “

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## Recent Member Books (in alphabetical order)

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**Tony Fitzpatrick, 2011. *Understanding the environment and social policy*. Bristol, UK: Policy Press.**

Bringing together leading experts, this textbook explores the key social, political, economic and moral challenges that environmental problems pose for social policy in a global context. Combining theory and practice with an interdisciplinary approach, the book reviews the current strategies and policies and provides a critique of proposed future developments in the field. Understanding the environment and social policy guides the reader through the subject in an accessible way using chapter summaries, further reading, recommended webpages, a glossary and questions for discussion. Providing a much-needed overview, the book will be invaluable reading for students, teachers, activists, practitioners and policymakers.

For information on this book, see

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847423795&sf1=keyword&st1=Fitzpatrick&m=2&dc=13>

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**Hein-Anton van der Heijden, 2011. *Social movements, public spheres and the European politics of the environment: Green power Europe? (1st ed.)*. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.**

Bringing together leading experts, this textbook explores the key social, political, economic and moral challenges that environmental problems pose for social policy in a global context. Combining theory and practice with an interdisciplinary approach, the book reviews the current strategies and policies and provides a critique of proposed future developments in the field. Understanding the environment and social policy guides the reader through the subject in an accessible way using chapter summaries, further reading, recommended webpages, a glossary and questions for discussion. Providing a much-needed overview, the book will be invaluable reading for students, teachers, activists, practitioners and policymakers.

For information on this book, see <http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=372104>

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**Rolf Lidskog and Göran Sundqvist (Editors). 2011. *Governing the air. Science-policy-citizens dynamics in international environmental governance*. Cambridge, MA, USA: (MIT Press).**

By bringing together contributions from International Relations (IR) and Science and Technology Studies (STS), as well as from other fields of social science, this book contributes to an elaborated understanding of the science-policy-citizen dynamics in international environmental governance. The rationale for this book is the need to better understand how regulation is shaped. The point of departure is that regulation is dynamic; various actors strive to influence regulatory processes. The empirical focus is on European regulation of transboundary



air pollution, but its findings are also of high relevance for the wider question of international environmental governance. In contrast to a number of previously conducted studies on transboundary regulation in general, and air pollution regulation in particular, this book digs more deeply into processes that render air pollution governable. It claims that the dynamics of this kind of regulation are under-researched, not least in terms of how different actors and processes mutually influence each other. By focusing on processes rather than products, strategies rather than interests, learning rather than knowledge, this book gives a nuanced view of how air pollution is made governable. Also, because this book does not view the field of international regulation solely as the object of nation-states' policy-making (supported by scientific communities), but also includes the role of citizens in this regulation, it contributes to the ongoing discussion on how to construct socially robust regulation.

For information on this book, see  
<http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?ttype=2&tid=12690>

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[In French:]

**Mercedes Martinez-Iglesias & Ernest Garcia, 2011. *La décroissance* : 'Le changement social au-delà des limites de la planète'. In Yves-Marie Abraham, Louis Marion & Hervé Philippe, *Décroissance versus développement durable : Débats pour la suite du monde*. Montréal, Canada : Les Éditions Écosociété, pp. 187-202.**

Le modèle de société issu de la Révolution industrielle, fondé sur le dogme de la croissance économique infinie, s'essouffle. La course effrénée à la production de richesses matérielles, censée satisfaire toujours plus de besoins, entraîne une dégradation de la biosphère très préoccupante pour la survie des générations futures, sans pour autant garantir des conditions de vie décentes aux générations actuelles. Les auteurs de cet ouvrage collectif, issus d'horizons très variés, se demandent comment nous en sommes arrivés là et ce qu'il convient de faire « pour la suite du monde ». S'ils partagent un même souci d'agir avant qu'il ne soit trop tard, ils ne s'accordent pas en revanche sur les moyens à mettre en oeuvre. Le salut passe-t-il, comme le proposent les partisans d'un « développement durable », par un effort de conciliation entre respect de l'environnement, croissance économique et progrès social ? Ou bien doit-on absolument rompre avec l'impératif de la croissance et remettre en question des institutions telles que l'entreprise, l'innovation technologique, le salariat et même la recherche scientifique, comme le soutiennent les promoteurs d'une « décroissance soutenable » ? « Toute croissance exponentielle, quel que soit le taux de l'exposant, est invivable à long terme, et le long terme n'est jamais si long que cela... », écrit Michel Freitag. Et s'il fallait, comme le suggère Yves-Marie Abraham, dépasser cette perspective dualiste en allant jusqu'à repenser notre idée même de Nature et réinventer une nouvelle cosmologie ?

For information on this book, see <http://www.ecosociete.org/t147.php>

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**Angela Wardell-Johnson, Naama Amram, Ratna Malar Selvaratnam & Sundari Ramakrishna, 2011 (Editors). *Biodiversity & social justice: Practices for an ecology of peace.* Perth WA: Black Swan Press.**

Biodiversity fits within a broader landscape, not only of ecological systems, but also of social, cultural and economic systems. Through identifying and understanding different voices, values and practices in biodiversity conservation we improve the potential for effective long-term biodiversity conservation that is peaceful and inclusive. This book draws on the collective knowledge of a linked cycle of theory and practice. The contributors benefit from being grounded by practical biodiversity communities and draw on experience at the global scale. Insights from practice in Indigenous, developing and developed contexts in Asian, Australian and African landscapes are included. The integration of landscape practice theory with technological, socially grounded and philosophical perspectives presents social justice as a rationale for biodiversity conservation with as much power as plant and animal conservation. This collective synthesis of Indigenous, scientific and local knowledge guides practice in effective and sustained biodiversity conservation in a breadth of contexts. This ecology of peace provides a compelling reason for working with compassion in biodiversity conservation.

For information on this book, see <http://research.humanities.curtin.edu.au/blackswan/orders.cfm>

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## **Recent Member Articles, Special Issues & Conference Proceedings (in alphabetical order)**

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**Best, Henning and Thorsten Kneip (2011).** The impact of attitudes and behavioral costs on environmental behavior: a natural experiment on household waste recycling. To appear in: *Social Science Research*.

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**Best, Henning (2010).** Environmental concern and the adoption of organic agriculture. *Society and Natural Resources* 23(5): 451–468.

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**Fisher, Dana R. (2011).** “Comment: The Limits of Civil Society’s Participation and Influence at COP-15.” *Global Environmental Politics*. Volume 11, Number 1: 8-11

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**Stoddart, Mark C.J. (2011).** “Constructing Masculinized Sportscares: Skiing, Gender and Nature in British Columbia, Canada.” *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* 46(1): 108-124.

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**Stoddart, Mark C.J. (2011).** “Grizzlies and Gondolas: Animals and the Meaning of Skiing Landscapes in British Columbia, Canada.” *Nature and Culture* 6(1): 41-63.

**Stoddart, Mark C.J. and David B. Tindall (2011).** "Eco-feminism, Hegemonic Masculinity and Environmental Movement Participation in British Columbia, Canada, 1998-2007: 'Women always Clean Up the Mess.'" *Sociological Spectrum*. 31(3): 342-368.

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**Conference Proceedings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Economic Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity. Conference Proceedings. Barcelona, March 26-29, 2010.**

Available Online, at <http://www.degrowth.org/Proceedings-new.122.0.html>

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**Symposium on the Politics of Social Change: *The Sociological Quarterly* 52(2), 2011**

**Articles:**

**McCright, Aaron M., and Riley E. Dunlap. 2011.** "The Politicization of Climate Change and Polarization in the American Public's Views of Global Warming, 2001-2010." *The Sociological Quarterly* 52:155-194.

**Antonio, Robert J., and Robert J. Brulle. 2011.** "The Unbearable Lightness of Politics: Climate Change Denial and Political Polarization." *The Sociological Quarterly* 52:195-202.

**Nagel, Joane. 2011.** "Climate Change, Public Opinion, and the Military Security Complex." *The Sociological Quarterly* 52:203-210.

**Jenkins, J. Craig. 2011.** "Democratic Politics and the Long March on Global Warming: Comments on McCright and Dunlap." *The Sociological Quarterly* 52:211-219.

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**Symposium on "Social Theory and the Environment in the New World (dis)Order" *Global Environmental Change* 21(3), August 2011 (In Press)**

**David A. Sonnenfeld and Arthur P.J. Mol, eds.**

**Editorial**

*David A. Sonnenfeld, State University of New York; and Arthur P.J. Mol, Wageningen University, the Netherlands*

## Articles

"Multipolarity and the New World (dis)Order: US Hegemonic Decline and the Fragmentation of the Global Climate Regime" *J. Timmons Roberts, Brown University, USA*

"China's Ascent and Africa's Environment" *Arthur P.J. Mol, Wageningen University, the Netherlands*

"Governing through Disorder: Neoliberal Environmental Governance and Social Theory" *Luigi Pellizzoni, University of Trieste, Italy*

"Food System Sustainability: Questions of Environmental Governance in the New World (dis)Order" *Philip McMichael, Cornell University, USA*

"Theories of Practices: Agency, Technology, and Culture. Exploring the Relevance of Practice Theories for the Governance of Sustainable Consumption Practices in the New World-Order" *Gert Spaargaren, Wageningen University, the Netherlands*

"Delegating, Not Returning, to the Biosphere: How To Use the Multi-Scalar and Ecological Properties of Cities" *Saskia Sassen & Natan Dotan, Columbia University, USA*

Several contributions are available online now at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/>. For further information see: [http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld/gec2\\_toc.htm](http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld/gec2_toc.htm)

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