



isarc24

International Sociological Association
Research Committee on Environment and Society

President's Column

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

For decades, environmental sociologists argued that relationships between humans, natural resources and ecosystem processes need to be mainstream sociological concerns. The 2010 ISA World Congress provided plenty of evidence that environmental sociology is coming of age. Environment-society relationships were among the core themes running through the Congress; addressed in the opening Presidential Session 'Sociology on the Move', a series of Plenary sessions on sustainability, Integrative Sessions on environmental degradation in the Global South and on the interaction of social and climate change, a British Sociological Association session on Innovating a Low-Carbon Society, RC24's own over-subscribed program, other Research Committee programs and, of course, the International Symposium on Environmental Sociology and Sustainable Development held prior to the World Congress in order to accommodate the overflow of papers submitted to RC24.

It always feels good to be part of something that is growing. As a sub-discipline, we can be proud of the outstanding job the founders of environmental sociology have done, first and foremost, as scholars producing research and publications that deserve their place among the sociological canon, but also as networkers and institution builders who have fostered a sense of community and peer support among established and early career scholars alike. Let's be honest though. The explosion of interest in environmental sociology is in no small way related to anxiety about anthropogenic climate change and the failure of governments around the world to institute meaningful mitigation and/or adaptation measures. Add to this widespread failure to meet either Millennium Development Goals or Convention on Biological Diversity targets (in this, the United Nations Year of Biodiversity) and it is obvious that there is urgent work to be done. For those of you who are new to RC24, welcome!

It is an enormous honour to be elected President of RC24 at this important time in the development of environmental sociology. Thanks to all members who participated in the elections by nominating and/or voting for the Board, and congratulations to all those elected. I will look forward to working with you.

As incoming President I need to thank outgoing President Ray Murphy and all members of the previous Board for their work over the past four years. Ray was tireless both in coordinating

RC24's activities and in lobbying ISA to lift the ceiling they placed on the number of sessions allocated to any one research committee at the World Congress. Vice-President Julia Guivant chaired the selection committee for the 2010 Buttlet Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology. Secretary Dana Fisher kept us all informed of RC24 activities as editor of the RC24 newsletter and maintenance of the website. Treasurer Matthias Gross undertook the unglamorous task of managing our finances with humour and efficiency.

The incoming Board met several times during the World Congress to get to know each other and begin planning the next four years. Lots of ideas were kicked around, but the Board is also aware of just how much is involved in continuing to do well what has gotten RC24 to where it is now. Our priorities over the next four years will therefore be:

- Maintaining the high profile of environmental and sustainability concerns in ISA through constructive dialogue with the ISA Executive.
- Encouraging members to organize regional meetings (i.e. conferences, symposia, public lectures and other events) linked to and promoted by RC24.
- Participation in the 2012 ISA World Forum of Sociology (venue to be announced). World Forums are organized primarily to facilitate meetings by and among research committees. In light of difficulty experienced at the recent World Congress in accommodating all the papers submitted to RC24, the Board will investigate with ISA prospects for parallel paper sessions and supplementary poster presentations.
- Participation in the 2014 World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama, Japan (13-19 July).
- Continue to promote high calibre nominations for the Frederick H. Buttlet International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology (awarded every four years).
- Negotiate with ISA to offer additional RC24 awards for scholarship in environmental sociology, most likely for early-career scholars and linked to papers submitted to the 2014 World Congress.
- Scope and initiate a dedicated international *Environmental Sociology* journal linked to, but editorially independent of, RC24 and national environmental sociology associations.
- Continue to build the RC24 community through progressive improvement of communication media including the website, listserv, newsletter etc.

There has also been some discussion over whether and how RC24 could provide support for a broader suite of education and training activities, as well as how we might facilitate collaborative research among members. We welcome your input on these and other less developed ideas.

Please send me your feedback and ideas for consideration by the Board! RC24 is a member-based organization and only prospers through the efforts of members including, but extending beyond, the elected Board. How can you contribute to RC24?

- Organize a regional meeting.
- Use the newsletter to expose your publications and events to RC24 members.
- Plan ahead to contribute to and attend the 2012 World Forum and 2014 World Congress. Consider submitting ideas for a thematic session or workshop as well as a paper.
- Write a short article on critical issues and promising initiatives in environmental sociology (i.e. three pages or less) for the newsletter.
- Send us feedback and suggestions.

Notes from the Editors

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

Hello Colleagues,

After Dana Fisher's exemplary job as Secretary of RC24, the two of us (Mikael Klintman & Magnus Boström) have succeeded her by sharing this position. This sharing, as well as Dana's continued responsibility for the website (something that she started with as Secretary) makes our workload less than half Dana's previous one, obviously. Still, it is by no means a trivial task that we have, communicating and distributing news and information within this very active research community as well as externally.

Already several months before the World Congress in Gothenburg we were given the opportunity to be part of the local team, together with Raymond Murphy and Matthias Gross, in preparing the RC24 activities for the Congress and the Pre-Symposium. To plan for these events that were to place on our home turf (in Sweden) has been a good preparation for our current tasks: taking care of the list serve, being Editors of the Newsletter as well as members of the Executive Board.

However, the position as Secretaries has little meaning or use without the communication with the other members of RC24. Thus, we kindly ask you 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

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!

Finally, although you can't have missed it, we want to draw your attention to the brand new, beautiful RC24 logo, created by **Alexander Vlassov** (see also the note below).

Notes from ISA-RC24 Business Meeting, 11 July 2010,

by **Dana R. Fisher**, outgoing RC-24 Secretary and incoming Vice President

The meeting was called to order with about 39 people in attendance. (Counts were taken at the beginning and the end of the meeting. This number reflects the average of those numbers.)

Mikael Klintman began by giving us a brief history of the room, which was named after one of the most loved singer-songwriters in Sweden, Evert Taube (he also painted the art on the walls of the room as a thanks for being able to stay there for free).

Raymond Murphy, President's Report:

Ray reported on the activities of the RC24 in the past 4 years. The Buttell Award began 6 years ago. Michael Redclift won the first installment of this award at the ISA World Congress in Durban in 2006. Work by the nominees for the award contributed to an issue of *Current Sociology*, which focused on Buttell Award nominees (May 2009; vol. 57, 3).

The second installment of the Buttell Award was given to Arthur Mol during the ISA World Congress in Gothenburg in 2010. Ray awarded Arthur with a beautiful plaque (OK, it was paper, but one will arrive soon). William R. Freudenburg was the other nominee for the award. Ray noted that being nominated is to win. Thanks to Julia Guivant and the Buttell Award committee for their hard work.

The RC-24 is very active. In contrast to many RCs that do not have many inter-Congress Conferences, we had conference in numerous countries in the past four years. RC-24 had the most papers presented at the World Forum in Barcelona in 2008. Thanks to the Organizing Committee for the World Forum.

We received about 220 paper proposals for the 2010 World Congress. Ray tried to get more sessions, but to no avail. The new President will have to deal with this problem for the next World Congress in Yokohama in 2014. Given the many papers that didn't fit into the RC-24 sessions, we organized a symposium to accommodate all of the papers submitted.

In addition, one of the sub-themes of the World Congress was Sustainability. The ISA Executive Committee gave 5 plenary sessions for each sub-theme. The ISA identified 2 sociologists per session. Ray submitted names for sessions and the Executive accepted 4 sessions and the ISA made decisions about who to accept. Hopefully, our inclusion in the plenary sessions will give more attention to our Research Committee. We are one of the successful RCs of the ISA.

Ray thanks us for making RC-24 so successful, mentioning the Executive, the Election Committee, and the Board of Governors.

Ray announced the new RC-24 Executive.

Matthias Gross Treasurer's Report:

Matthias presented the following table of membership. He discussed the issue of banking fees, which have become an issue in the past four years. [He noted that royalties of books published as the product of an RC-24 meeting are expected to go to the RC-24 account.](#) We have about 3500 Euros.

Thanks to Matthias for 8 years of hard work!

Dana Fisher presented the Secretary's Report:

We continue to publish a newsletter twice a year. In addition, we have a moderated listserv for members. The listserv was transferred to the new Secretariat recently. There are many people who are on our list who have not renewed their memberships and Magnus and Mikael will remind them in the near future.

Dana continues to run the Website, which archives our newsletter and posts information about upcoming conferences. In the next Executive, the Vice President (Dana Fisher) will run the Website.

A number of people noted how useful the book of abstracts from the Symposium had been. Future RC-24 conferences should aim to provide such a book with e-mail addresses for each paper, which will enable members to contact authors for their papers (if they are posted on our website, there may be issues with publication of the papers).

Julia gave a report on the Buttell Award:

The committee included Michael Redclift, Arthur Mol (who removed himself when he was nominated), See Jae Lee, and Steve Brechin. The process for nominating the committee involves the President coming up with names for members, which are then submitted to the Board of Governors. For details on the Award, see the RC-24 Website.

There was a discussion about how to make the nominations process better for next time, which involved a conversation about how to get people to be nominated more than once. There was also a discussion about how many recommendations are needed. The answer is “multiple,” so two is possible.

Arthur suggested that we consider an award for Best Paper/Best Book/ Best Student Paper.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a journal for the RC-24:

David Sonnenfeld reported that preliminary discussions began at the ISA World Congress in Durban but progress has not been made. A question was posed regarding how the RC-24 journal would link with other environmental journals. David has since developed a proposal.

2014 World Congress in Japan:

Koichi Hasegawa spoke that the next World Congress will be held in Yokohama 13-19 July 2014 (which will be the last day of the world cup in Brazil). The Japanese Association will provide a tour of eco-facilities. He is chair of the local organizing committee.

A question was posed about when to schedule the RC-24 Business Meeting in Yokohama. The decision to move it to before the World Congress began in Sweden was to maximize sessions.

Inter-Congress Conferences:

Gert Spaargaren spoke about the fact that we should publicize resources for these regional conferences. He also asked if the World Forum will continue to be held in between the World Congress. At this point the 2nd World Forum is scheduled to take place in September of 2012 (location is still under discussion).

Timmons Roberts asked a question about how many sociologists had been nominated for the IPCC. Very few have been nominated and this subject is worth discussing further.

Stewart Lockie officially took office:

He thanked the Board and everyone who voted for him. He gave a special thanks to Ray Murphy. Looking back through 2010, he noted that there has been a lot of bad news: COP-15, biodiversity loss, etc. However, these issues contributed to the strengthening of our community. He noted that the real challenge of the next 4 years is to expand the RC-24 and environmental sociology more so that it becomes even more mainstream within the discipline.

Upcoming Conferences (in chronological order)

Upcoming Symposium: Freudenfest: A Symposium to Honor William R. Freudenburg's Scholarly Contributions

Please join us for an upcoming special symposium called Freudenfest, to be held November 6, 2010, at the University of California at Santa Barbara. There is a tremendous need to forge new directions in scholarship on environment and society that can ensure meaningful contributions to academia and civil society alike. There is perhaps no other contributor who has offered a larger trove of concepts and insights to direct such an endeavor than William R. Freudenburg, Dehlsen Professor of Environment and Society at UCSB. Over the past several decades, his work in the areas of risk, disaster, and natural resource development, and most critically the political forces that define such events, has offered multiple seeds that warrant further development by others in our sub-discipline.

Please join us for a day of collaborative discussion and celebration of Dr. Freudenburg's contributions to sociology, environmental studies, and society. Several presenters have already confirmed their ability to start the discussion off with their own insights, including Eugene Rosa, Kathleen Tierney, Tom Heberlein, Lee Clarke, Raymond Murphy, Rick Krannich, Bob Gramling, Riley Dunlap, Dana Fisher, Debra Davidson and Rich Stedman. Planning is still in the works, and we will have a registration form and payment process set up soon. In the meantime, please let the organizing committee chair, Debra Davidson (debra.davidson@ualberta.ca) know by email of your intention to participate. Fees have been kept nominal, to cover the costs of refreshments and a banquet dinner. The fee for students is \$50, and \$85 for the rest of us. We have blocks of hotel rooms reserved at a discounted rate at the Hotel Santa Barbara (<https://www.reservations-page.com/C00000/H00196/be.ashx?pc=Freudenfest>), and Holiday Inn Express Hotel Virginia (<http://www.hotelvirginia.com/>).

Organizing Committee Members:

Debra Davidson, Riley Dunlap, Dana R. Fisher, Bob Gramling and Josh Schimel

Upcoming Conference: 10th Nordic Environmental Social Science Conference (NESS 2011) Power landscapes – histories and futures

14-16 June 2011 at Aula Magna, Stockholm University

We invite researchers from a range of different disciplines within the social sciences and humanities to share ideas and experiences from research on the NESS 2011 overall theme: Power

landscapes - histories and futures. This tenth NESS conference is a collaborative effort between Stockholm University, its Stockholm Resilience Centre and Stockholm Environment Institute.

Around the world, pressures from climate change, globalization and changing use of natural resources increasingly affect both the physical and socio-economic and political landscapes. This conference will explore the influence of historic pathways and new trends on how a diversity of actors respond to those changes and mobilize in order to better govern their own futures. We invite researchers to visit the home page of the conference to find out more on the 12 planned workshop themes:

www.stockholmresilience.su.se/ness2011

Send your abstract to the relevant workshop (via matilda.valman@stockholmresilience.su.se) before 1 February 2011.

Jobs, Volumes, and Calls for Submissions/Participation

Lectureship in the Sociology of Sustainability at the School of Social and Political Science at the University of Edinburgh,

Salary Scale: £36,715 - £43,840 The position is available from 1 August 2010.

We are seeking an outstanding candidate(s) to join the Sociology subject area of the School of Social and Political Science in the College of Humanities and Social Science as a Lecturer.

Call for Travel Grant Applications for Starting Scholars from Overseas to attend the The 83rd Annual Meeting of the Japan Sociological Society

Nagoya University, Japan, 6-7 November 2010

Deadline of the Applications: 21 June 2010

For conference details, please visit <http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/jss/research/conf-e.html>

For more information on the application, contact Koichi Hasegawa, Chair of the Japan Sociological Society's International Liaison Committee; E-mail:

k-hase@sal.tohoku.ac.jp

Call for Manuscripts for a Special Issue of Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture Volume 5, Issue 1 (2012)

Communication and Sustainability: Exploring Intersections of Science, Policy, Action, and Culture

Editors: Harald Heinrichs (Leuphana Universität Lüneburg) and Laura Lindenfeld (University of Maine)

This special issue emerges from the perspective that communication research and practice should play a more prominent role in sustainability science. The collection of essays will consider the ways in which communication scholarship and practice can and should contribute to sustainability science as part of larger global sustainable development efforts.

Manuscripts should be emailed to laura.lindenfeld@umit.maine.edu by March 31, 2011

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1752-4032&linktype=cfp>

Announcements (in alphabetical order)

Riley E. Dunlap, Oklahoma State University, has been elected a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. Dunlap was nominated for fellow status by APA's Division on Population and Environmental Psychology in recognition of his scholarship on environmental attitudes, beliefs and values.

As of January 2011, Dana R. Fisher will move to the Department of Sociology at the University of Maryland, where she will be a tenured Associate Professor and will be heading the new "Center on Society and the Environment."

Gene Rosa, Sociology, has been appointed a Visiting Fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University. The Ward W. and Priscilla B. Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University harnesses the expertise and imagination of leading academics and decision-makers to create practical solutions for people and the planet. In the same spirit that inspired Stanford's role in Silicon Valley's high-tech revolution, the Woods Institute is pioneering innovative approaches to meet the environmental challenges of the 21st century - from climate change to sustainable food supplies to ocean conservation.

David A. Sonnenfeld, has kindly agreed to share his compiled list of journals within the broad research field of society and environment: See http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld/envsoc_journals.htm

New RC24-logo: The RC-24 would like to express its thanks to **Alexander Vlassov**, at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS): Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building for designing the new RC-24 logo. The design was selected after a competition that was initiated by RC-24 member Ian McGregor and was overseen by Darrall Thompson, Senior Lecturer in the School of Design at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Recent Member Books (in alphabetical order)

Michael Carolan, 2010. *Decentering Biotechnology: Assemblages Built and Assemblages Masks*. Farnham: Ashgate.

Decentering Biotechnology explores the nature of technology, objects and patent law. Investigating the patenting of organic life and the manner in which artifacts of biotechnology are given their objective appearance, Carolan details the enrollment mechanisms that give biotechnology its momentum. Drawing on legal judgements and case studies, this fascinating book examines the nature of objectification, as a thought and a thing, without which biotechnology, as it is done today, would not be possible. Unable to reject biotechnology per se, recognizing that such a rejection would essentialize the very objective categories shown to be manufactured, Carolan ultimately argues for doing biotechnology differently. A theoretically sophisticated analysis of the nature of objects and the role of technology as a form of life which shapes the social landscape, *Decentering Biotechnology* engages with questions of power, globalization, development, resistance, exclusion, and participation that arise from treating biological objects differently from conventional property forms. As such, it will appeal to social theorists, sociologists and philosophers, as well as scholars of law and science and technology studies.

For information on this book, see: <http://www.ashgate.com/Default.aspx?page=583>

Michael Redclift, M., & Graham Woodgate, (Editors). 2010. *The international handbook of environmental sociology* (2nd ed.). Cheltenham UK; Northampton MA: Edward Elgar.

The second edition of *The International Handbook of Environmental Sociology* is a major interdisciplinary reference work consisting of 26 original essays. The authors are leading scholars, many of whom are intimately involved in national, regional or global environmental policy processes. Their essays mark changes and continuities in the field of environmental sociology, drawing attention to the theoretical debates and substantive concerns of today. As well as providing an assessment of the scope and content of environmental sociology, this Handbook sets out the intellectual and practical challenges posed by the urgent need for policy and action to address accelerating environmental change.

Contributors: W.M. Adams, B. Ambrose-Oji, I. Barcena Hinojal, T. Benton, R.L. Bryant, F.H. Buttel, C.N. Buzinde, J. Carmin, T. Dietz, R.E. Dunlap, A. Escobar, J.B. Foster, M.K. Goodman, N. Haenn, J. Hannigan, E.D. Hinton, M. Kousis, R. Lago Aurrekoetxea, S. Lockie, D. Manuel-Navarrete, A.P.J. Mol, R. Murphy, B.C. Parks, M.R. Redclift, J.T. Roberts, E.A. Rosa, W. Sachs, J.-G. Vaillancourt, G. Woodgate, S. Yearley, R. York

For information on this book, see:
http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/bookentry_main.lasso?id=13276

Recent Member Articles (in alphabetical order)

Boström, Magnus and Tamm Hallström, Kristina. 2010. "NGO Power in Global Social and Environmental Standard-Setting." *Global Environmental Politics*, 10(4): 36-60.

Dunlap, Riley E. 2010. "Climate Change and Rural Sociology: Broadening the Research Agenda." *Rural Sociology*, 75: 17-27.

Klintman, Mikael & Kronsell, Annica. 2010. "Challenges to Legitimacy in Food Safety Governance? The Case of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)." *Journal of European Integration* 32(3): 309-327.

Rosa, Eugene A., Seth P. Tuler, Baruch Fischhoff, Thomas Webler, Sharon M. Friedman, Richard E. Sclove, Kristin Shrader-Frechette, Mary R. English, Roger E. Kasperson, Robert L. Goble, Thomas M. Leschine, William Freudenburg, Caron Chess, Charles Perrow, Kai Erickson, and James F. Short. 2010. "Nuclear Waste: Knowledge Waste?" *Science* 329: 762-763 (13 August).

Rosa can be heard on a Science podcast at:

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/sci:329/5993/762/DC1>

Salleh, Ariel. 2010. "Embodied Materialism in Action," *Polygraph: special issue on Ecology and Ideology*, 22: 183-199: <www.duke.edu/web/polygraph/cfp.html>

Salleh, Ariel (2010) "How the Ecological Footprint is Sex-Gendered: Implications for an Eco-Socialist Theory and Praxis" in Q. Huan (ed.), *Eco-Socialism as Politics*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Stoddart, Mark C.J. and David B. Tindall. (2010). "'We've also become Quite Good Friends': Environmentalists, Social Networks and Social Comparison in British Columbia, Canada." *Social Movement Studies* 9(3): 253-271.

The RC-24 Board 2010-2014

Executive:

President: Stewart Lockie (Australia)
Vice-President: Dana R. Fisher (USA)
Secretary: Magnus Boström (Sweden) and Mikael Klintman (Sweden)
Treasurer: Peter Oosterveer (Netherlands)— According to RC-24 statutes, the Treasurer is an appointed position.

Board of Governors:

Joan David Tabara (Spain)
David Sonnenfeld (USA)
Cigdem Adem (Turkey)
Lotsmart Fonjong (Cameroon)
Pedro Jacobi (Brazil)
Dayong Hong (People's Republic of China)

Past-presidents:

Raymond Murphy (Canada)
Arthur Mol (the Netherlands)
Riley Dunlap (USA)

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

www.environment-societyisa.org for information about:

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

Mikael Klintman
Research Policy Institute
Lund University
PO. Box 117
SE-221 00 Lund, Sweden
Email: mikael.klintman@fpi.lu.se
Website: www.fpi.lu.se/en/klintman

Magnus Boström
Dept. of Life Sciences
Södertörn University
SE-141 89 Huddinge, Sweden
Email: magnus.bostrom@sh.se