



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 RC24

School of Sociology

College of Arts and Social Sciences

The Australian National University, Canberra

Colleagues,

Thank you again to everyone who helped to coordinate and who participated in the recent ISA Forum of Sociology in Buenos Aires (1–4 August 2012). All of us owe an extra vote of thanks to Melina Tobias from Universidad de Buenos Aires, our local liaison and organizer of a memorable night at Million. As stated in my last column, environmental justice and conflict over access to natural resources attracted most interest from Latin American delegates, lending RC24 sessions both distinctiveness and coherence. I found it a particularly rewarding meeting and hope all who attended can say the same. If you weren't able to attend, more opportunities for involvement in RC24 activities lie just around the corner. Over the next few months we will be issuing a call for session proposals for the 2014 World Congress in Yokohama along with calls for participation in various regional conferences.

I would also like to draw to your attention to the activities of other organizations. In May, the International Social Science Council (ISSC) released the report, *Transformative Cornerstones of Social Science Research for Global Change* ([www.worldsocialscience.org/?p=2871](http://www.worldsocialscience.org/?p=2871)). This will be followed in 2013 with a special edition of the annual World Social Sciences Report focused on *Changing Global Environments*. These and other reports reflect a growing engagement by the ISSC and other key international science organizations with topics of core concern to members of RC24. ISSC is currently coordinating the design of a ten year program for funding and coordination of social science research on global environmental change on behalf of the [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\)](http://www.sida.se). ISSC is also participating alongside the International Council for Science (ICSU) in Future Earth ([www.icsu.org/future-earth](http://www.icsu.org/future-earth)), another ten year initiative for developing the knowledge necessary to underpin sustainability transitions and responses to climate and other environmental changes.

These are important projects and I strongly encourage RC24 members to seek out opportunities for participation. Both the ISSC and ICSU have been seeking input from our parent organization, the International Sociological Association. As a consequence, I will be contributing a short piece

on sociological approaches to global environmental change to the World Social Sciences Report 2013. Both I, and ISA President Michael Burrawoy, have been lobbying for more representation on the science and other committees overseeing international projects with, to date, limited success. We will keep pushing. While sociology represents one of many social sciences relevant to these initiatives we do, of course, believe that sociological contributions are both critical and unique.

There is one aspect of the *Transformative Cornerstones* report I find troubling. It argues that while projects such as the International Human Dimensions of Environmental Change Program have been tremendously successful in promoting understanding of the importance of social sciences, global environmental change has failed nevertheless to capture mainstream social scientific attention. Based on a search for articles using the terms ‘climate change’ and/or ‘environmental change’ in the Thompson ISI Social Science Citation Index 2000-2010, the authors conclude that the traditional disciplines of sociology, anthropology, political science and psychology lag significantly behind environmental studies, economics and geography. This they attribute to methodological preferences, institutional incentives and, most importantly, the framing of environmental change in ways that ‘simply do not speak to the concerns and skills of mainstream social scientists’. This line of argumentation is flawed in at least three ways:

- First, far too much is read into a very limited bibliometric analysis. Use of more search terms (terms such as environmental justice, sustainability, sustainable development, conservation policy, wilderness preservation, environmental policy etc) would have revealed a far wider engagement with environmental change at multiple scales across all the social sciences. Little is to be learned, conversely, by comparing social science disciplines with each other based solely on how many articles are published that meet search criteria. Doing so takes no account of variable publication rates across disciplines or the extent to which social scientists working on environmental change already work and publish across disciplinary boundaries.

- Second, *Transformative Cornerstones* ignores the extent to which concerns with environmental change are institutionalized in disciplines like sociology through our professional associations, research agendas, journals and curricula. In a submission I made to ISSC in advance of their release of this report I noted that RC24 is one of the ISA’s largest and most active research committees, that many regional and national sociological organizations also support large networks of environmental sociologists, and that environmental sociology is increasingly treated in undergraduate sociology programs as core curricula. I am sure many other disciplines make similar claims.

- Third, traditional social scientific concerns are rendered no less important by the contemporary scale of global environmental change. Environmental change will certainly encourage many social scientists who do not consider themselves predominantly ‘environmental’ in focus to consider how such change intersects with other interests. Criticism, however, of so-called traditional social scientists for maintaining their scrutiny of inequalities, institutions and social transformations not directly related to environmental change is unwarranted.

I can only speculate on why the ISSC maintains the view that mainstream social scientists are largely disinterested in global environmental change. The task for us, I believe, is to keep reminding ISSC and other organizations which seek to represent us as social scientists that we, their constituents, are ready and willing to contribute. Again, please do familiarize yourselves with projects such as Future Earth and participate as you can.

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## Notes from the Editors

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

When collecting the material for this issue of the Newsletter, we made a few reflections:

- First, it is striking how personal experiences, their political contexts, and analyses in environmental sociology tie into each other. The Hurricane Sandy has affected many RC24 members personally, as described by Dana Fischer, who is one of them. Moreover, we have examples in the list of RC24 members' publications of studies, for instance of Mexican Caribbean coping strategies and governance structures related to hurricanes. David Navarrete, Mark Pelling, and Michael Redclift are the authors of this piece.
- Second, the network potential of RC24 becomes clear, both when seeing the current list of various contexts, not least outside of RC24, where RC24 members are active, and by many of us literary bumping into each other in arrangements outside of RC24. One of many examples was 4S (Society for Social Studies of Science) earlier this Autumn. It is probably fair to say that all of us RC24 members are involved in sister or cousin research networks that might be of interest for the other RC24 members in order to enrich our "field" of environmental sociology.
- Third, although RC24 is a *research* committee, it is encouraging to see activities geared towards teaching being brought up in this Newsletter, such as David Sonnenfeld's material for teaching research method and design. To be honest, it is perhaps as teachers of environmental sociology that many of us provide our most important contributions. It is crucial that environmental sociology reach students in secondary school as well. In many countries around the world, sociology has for years been a subject taught in secondary school. Coming from Sweden, we as editors are happy to see that the sociology subject has finally (this Autumn) reached secondary school even in Sweden. And even better, a member of RC24, Rolf Lidskog, is one of the first in our country to write a book in sociology for secondary school in Sweden. We are confident that he has sneaked in a disproportionate amount of *environmental* sociology into the book, and we ask you all to do the same in your role as teachers in your countries!

As usual, we'd like to 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. Please do also continue to visit the RC24 website, at [www.environment-societyisa.org](http://www.environment-societyisa.org). Finally, 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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## Getting Used to Extreme Weather Events: Thinking beyond Hurricane Sandy

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By Dana R. Fisher, Vice President, RC24

University of Maryland, United States

On 29-30 October, Hurricane Sandy battered the eastern coast of the United States. The storm hit hardest in the mid-Atlantic region, from the Washington, DC area up through the state of Connecticut. Meteorologists say that the hurricane was so bad because it involved the convergence of two weather systems: a hurricane and what is called a ‘Northeaster,’ which causes severe winter storms up the Northeastern corridor of the US. The effects of the storm were staggering: more than 6 million people lost power throughout the region, including a huge portion of Manhattan; the storm surge flooded areas up the Northeast coast, including the New York City subway, the tunnels running in and out of New York City, and mass transit throughout the region; and fires broke out due to downed power lines and damage to power substations. Emergency responders were limited in what they were able to do until the high winds died down on the 30<sup>th</sup> October. As a result, fires destroyed entire neighborhoods and live wires remained down and dangerous longer than normal (for a very good photo essay of the damage, see [www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2012/11/hurricane-sandy-the-aftermath/100397/](http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2012/11/hurricane-sandy-the-aftermath/100397/)). The cost of the storm has been estimated to be more than US\$40 billion.

As of my writing almost a month after the event, some areas have not yet had their power restored. Gas rationing, which was implemented in parts of New York and New Jersey continued through 23 November. Even now, cleanup efforts are ongoing, and hundreds of houses have been slated to be bulldozed in some of the hardest hit areas because they are too damaged to be repaired. The storm is said to have produced 12 million cubic yards of waste across the region compared with 3 million cubic yards produced by the attack on the World Trade Center on 9/11/2001.

In the Washington, DC area, we were lucky: because the storm made its landfall slightly north of us, we did not experience the storm surge. That said, we did experience extremely high winds—with gusts over 80 miles per hour (about 129 km per hour) and rainfall that broke daily records throughout the area. In preparation for the storm, everything closed, including the US government.

One of the other reasons that the storm did less damage than expected to the DC area is the fact that we were hit with a ‘derecho’, or a line of severe wind storms, this past summer. During the derecho, we experienced wind gusts at the same level as Hurricane Sandy, which caused serious damage throughout the area. My family lost power for a week and a tree fell on our house, punching holes through our roof. Although it sounds bad, no one was hurt, and we were lucky compared to many in the area, including our neighbors and my colleagues at the University of Maryland.

As a result of the damage this summer, power companies around the area engaged in efforts to upgrade the power infrastructure—securing poles and wires—as well as trim trees to reduce future damage. Due to these efforts and the fact that the derecho already knocked down the weakest trees and branches, we experienced fewer downed wires and trees than expected and power outages were much shorter than predicted. For example, our electricity was restored

during Hurricane Sandy in less than a day. Most people in the DC area agree that if we had not gone through the extreme weather in the summer, the damage from Sandy would have been much more substantial.

There is no question that the effects of Hurricane Sandy are the product of the complex interactions between society and the natural environment. As these extreme weather events become more common, society will become better prepared for them—in terms of prediction and mitigation of potential problems. As sociologists, such extreme events provide prime research opportunities. We have a responsibility to use these opportunities to lay bare these social processes. We also have a responsibility as human beings to figure out how to respond to these events in ways that are equitable and just.

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## **Let's talk environmental issues in Yokohama, 2014**

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By **Koichi Hasegawa (Dept. of Sociology, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan)**

Chair of local organizing committee of the World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama 2014

I am very glad and honored to invite you, members of RC24 to Yokohama on behalf of the chair of local organizing committee of the World Congress of Sociology, 2014. This is one of the most leading "eco city" to aim for a smart city as well as keeping a very beautiful harbor city. I will make a plan of a special excursion for RC 24 members to visit some site of smart city facilities like the great excursion in Durban, South Africa 2006.

Pacifico Yokohama, our venue has enough large space and facilities to provide us all meeting places and rooms at only one site, only two buildings. So we will be very convenient to move from one session to any other sessions. Most hotels are locating within walking distance, 10 or 15 minutes walk.

I am afraid you have some image that in Japan all are expensive. But such images are out of dated. For example, in Japan a half litter bottle of water costs only 1.4 dollars.

Japan is very safe. Someone are concerning about the effect of the Fukushima nuclear disaster. As an environmental sociologist and a long year critic of promoting nuclear energy policy by the Japanese government, I guarantee you that Yokohama is now completely safe.

From Pacifico Yokohama, you can look over a beautiful bridge, *Yokohama Bay Bridge*, a land mark of the area. As a German sociologist Simmel sharply described, bridges are visualizing of our will to link. I believe our sociological work is bridging East and West, South and North, Past and Future, female and male, nature and society, and bridging sociological cleavages for more equal world. The Yokohama Congress will be bridging separated world.

The Yokohama Congress is the first World Congress of Sociology held in East Asia. Japan and East Asia have a long years history of tackling environmental problems a rapid economic growth brought. We are facing a lot of environmental issues to talk in Yokohama from community to global level and for future generations.

Yokohama is waiting for you, your friends and students.

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## Upcoming Conferences (in chronological order)

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### **4th Annual Conference on Climate Change, Science and Business – impacts and solutions: How to gain competitive advantage. 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. – 4th Feb. 2013, London.**

The Climate Change and Economy Group Conference is for people with an interest in, and concern for, scientific, policy and strategic perspectives in climate change. It will address a range of critically important themes relating to the vexing question of climate change, flood and economy, role of science on climate change mitigation, ozone layer depletion. Plenary speakers will include some of the world's leading thinkers in the fields of climatology and environmental science, as well as numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by researchers and practitioners. We are inviting proposals for paper presentations, workshops/interactive sessions, posters/exhibits, or colloquies. Virtual participation is available for those who are unable to attend the conference in person. Proposal ideas that extend beyond these thematic areas will also be considered. A limited number of Access Grant Award will be granted to Participating Paid Delegates attending the conference to cover per diem, flight ticket and travel insurance. For more information about the ideas and themes underlying this conference, online registration, accommodation, access grant scholar award and venue,

**Conveners:** Climate Change and Business Group: 49 Lavender Gardens, Battersea, London, SW11 1DJ. Phone: +44 (702) 405-7146, Fax: 07024034169. Please email: [gilbert\\_jonathan@aol.com](mailto:gilbert_jonathan@aol.com) for more information.

Dr. Jonathan Gilbert Head Organizing Committee Climate Change and Business Group 49 Lavender Gardens, Battersea, London, SW11 1DJ, UK.

**Themes:** \*Ozone Layer Depletion and implication \* Renewable Energy \* Alternative fuels and sustainability \*Flood and Flood Control \*Air Pollution and Public Health \*Effects of air pollution on public health \*Sources of air pollution \*Air pollution monitoring and modeling \*Air pollution prevention and control \*Urban/indoor air pollution and control \*Air quality measurement and management \*Global Water Resources and air pollution.

Other topics related to water pollution: \*Water Quality and Public Health: \*Purification of drinking-water supplies \* Erosion and Erosion control \*Treatment, disposal and discharge of waste-water \*New waste-water treatment technologies \*Methods of monitoring water quality \*Modeling and measuring of water pollution \*New water purification technologies \*Ground water pollution control \*Water resources and quality assessment \*Water resource protection and sustainable use \*Hydro-biology and water pollution.

**Proposal Submission Deadlines for 2013 Conference:** Proposals are reviewed in phases and may be submitted any time up to the final deadline. Proposals for In-Person presentations submitted prior to the Interim Deadlines are given special guarantees and considerations (**see below**). Proposal for an In-Person presentation received at the Final Submission Deadline will be given a place in the conference program, but requests for session types, presentation times, or thematic grouping may not be guaranteed. Accepted proposals must be accompanied by a paid

registration in order to be scheduled.

25th December 2012, Deadline for abstract submission

10th January 2013, Notification of acceptance

19th November 2013, Deadline for full paper submission

31st January - 4th February 2013 Conference dates

**Conference Registration:** All presenters are expected to register online once the abstract is accepted. Registration is free of charge for delegates from developing countries. Also free flight ticket, travel insurance, visa fees and per diem to be provided for all paper presenters and participating delegates.

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**The 22nd annual conference of the Society for Risk Analysis – Europe (SRA-Europe) will be arranged 17-19 June 2013 at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway.**

### **Call for Abstracts**

The theme of the conference is “Safe societies - coping with complexity and major risk”, concerning challenges related to our society’s vulnerability to major risk of natural and industrial disasters, malicious attacks, financial breakdowns, and epidemic diseases.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts on topics related to the conference theme, including, for instance:

- Risk analysis and assessment of natural and technological hazards, health and security threats
- Risk communication and stakeholder involvement on major risk issues
- Safety management and regulation of major risks
- Organizational coping with major risk
- Societal safety, civil protection, and emergency preparedness
- Understanding and identifying complexity in society
- Vulnerability and resilience in complex systems and societies
- Decision making in face of complexity
- Uncertainty and precaution in risk governance
- The role of insurance in major accident prevention
- Anticipating and monitoring the risk of extreme outcomes
- Learning from major events
- Acceptance of major risk
- Risk monitoring and indicators
- Risk perception of catastrophic events
- Relations between risk, safety, acceptability, and trust

Abstracts may be presented orally or in a poster session. Authors are furthermore invited to submit full-length papers which will be assessed for publication in a special issue of Journal of Risk Research (optional). The submission of a full paper is optional; it is possible to present an abstract without writing a full paper.

Abstracts should not exceed 400 words and pdf is the only accepted file format.



## Call for symposia

Initiatives to organize special symposia related to the conference themes are particularly welcomed. A symposium is a conference session composed by 3 to 6 presentations/abstracts on a common topic. Symposium proposals must be submitted to the organizing committee ([srae2013@videre.ntnu.no](mailto:srae2013@videre.ntnu.no)) by 15th of January 2013. The symposium proposal must contain: 1) title of symposium; 2) name of person (and his/her email address) responsible for planning and arranging the symposium; 3) short description of the topic and contents of the symposium (max 200 words); 4) list of the presentations in the symposium (title of abstract and author names). Please notice that each abstract in the proposed symposium need to be submitted individually at the conference abstract submission system (see below). Symposium organizers and presenters must pay participation fee similar to other conference participants.

## Important dates:

- Deadline for submission of abstracts and proposals for symposia: 15 February 2013
- Deadline for submission of optional full-length papers: 1 June 2013

Submitting your abstract does not mean that you are registered for the conference. The organizers require the commitment of one of the authors to register for and attend the conference to present the paper. If none of the authors of an abstract have registered for the conference by 17th of May 2013, the presentation will be removed from the conference program.

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## European Sociological Association 11th Conference, TORINO, 28-31 August 2013

### Call for Papers

#### Instructions

Authors are invited to submit their abstract either to the general session (open) or any specific session. Please submit each abstract only to one session. After abstract evaluation, coordinators will have the chance to transfer papers between sessions where applicable. Abstracts should not exceed 1750 characters (including spaces, approximately 250 words). Each paper session will have the duration of 1.5 hours. Normally sessions will include 4 papers. Abstracts can only be submitted online no later than 1st of February 2013 to the submission platform at: [www.esa11thconference.eu](http://www.esa11thconference.eu). Abstracts sent by email cannot be accepted. The information requested during abstract submission include: 1) name(s), affiliation(s) and email of all the author(s); 2) contact details of presenting author (postal address, and telephone in addition to email); 3) title of proposed presentation; 4) up to 4 keywords (optional). Submitting authors will receive an email of acknowledgement of successful submission receipt. Abstracts will be peer reviewed and selected for presentation by the relevant Research Network or Research Stream; the letter of notification will be sent by the conference software system in early April 2013. Each author cannot submit more than two abstracts (as first author).

Abstract submission deadline: 1st February 2013

Abstract submission platform: <http://www.esa11thconference.eu>

If you have further questions on the conference, please visit the conference website.



For information on the Research Networks, visit: <http://www.europeansociology.org/>

## RN12 - Environment and Society

*Coordinator: Matthias Gross < [matthias.gross@ufz.de](mailto:matthias.gross@ufz.de) >*

*Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Leipzig, Germany*

The Environment & Society Research Network (RN12) of the European Sociological Association (ESA) brings together social scientists with a research interest in issues of environment and sustainability. The theme of the 11th conference of the European Sociological Association (ESA) is “Crisis, Critique and Change.” In accordance with this theme, RN12 will critically focus on the environmental dimensions of contemporary crisis and also reflect on transitions and changes out of the crisis.

Whereas debates on climate change after Fukushima have taken a backseat role in the face of the significance of society’s energy dependencies, the Environment & Society Research Network remains dedicated to all fields of environmental research in connection to social theory, sustainability, consumption, food, democracy, energy, climate, science and technology, innovation, conservation, governance, and justice. Our sociological focus will be on areas as diverse as water management, energy shortages, air and soil pollution, vulnerability to natural and technological disasters.

At the RN 12 sessions at the ESA conference in Torino in 2013, we aim to explore issues of environment and society from diverse theoretical, methodological and empirical points of view and, no less important, in a more practical perspective of societal action.

We invite you submit abstracts to the session themes listed below. Topics addressed in the RN 12 sessions include, but should not be restricted by those listed below:

- 01RN12. Social Theory and the Environment
- 02RN12. Climate Change and the Role of the Social
- 03RN12. Natural Disasters, Resilience, and Vulnerability
- 04RN12. Renewable and Non-renewable Energies
- 05RN12. Social, Environmental, and Financial Pillars of Sustainability
- 06RN12. (Un-)Sustainable Consumption
- 07RN12. Rationality and Environmental Decision Making
- 08RN12. Local Food and Global Food Chains
- 09RN12. Environmental Communication, Values, and Attitudes
- 10RN12. Participation, Citizenship and Environmental Democracy
- 11RN12. Science, Technology, and Environmental Innovation
- 12RN12. Human Ecology and Global Environmental Change
- 13RN12. Biodiversity and Nature Conservation
- 14RN12. Governance and Management of Water
- 15RN12. Environmental Justice
- 16RN12. New Trends in Environmental Movements Research
- 17RN12. Adapting Urban Structures to Global Environmental Change
- 18RN12. Transitions to Green Economy and Society
- 19RN12. Beyond Rio+20: International Environmental Policy and the Impact on the Social
- 20RN12. Environment & Society (open)

We are open for additional topics as long as they can be accommodated in the conference schedule. Authors from outside of Europe are especially welcome to submit abstracts and participate in the sessions.

08JS12.           RN12 Joint session with RN08 Disaster, Conflict, and Social Crisis Network  
Energy Futures: Emerging Conflicts, Impacts, Opportunities

*(Chair: Debra J. Davidson & Matthias Gross)*

This session will focus on research exploring the multiple emerging trajectories along which society's relationship with energy supplies is unfolding. New 'non-conventional fuels,' such as shale gas and bitumen are being developed rapidly, as are renewable fuels, including biofuels, geothermal fuels, and wind power. And finally, conventional fossil fuel sources are being exploited in ever more remote locations, with little scrutiny. Each of these is associated with a suite of discursive frames and socio-ecological impacts that demand critical evaluation, as they constitute an increasing proportion of our energy portfolio. In many cases, new fuel sources are heartily endorsed with little attention to the uncertainties and risks associated with their adoption. In others, adoption is constrained because the potential benefits are under-represented due to elevated risk concerns. Sociological attention to the risks, benefits, and evolutionary implications of society's energy futures is growing, but to date little effort has been made to synthesize this important body of work. In this session, papers covering several of these lines of inquiry will be presented.

Note: all submitted abstracts will be assessed by an international review panel. The language of the abstract should be English. Acceptance of the abstract will be based on the following criteria:

- Does the abstract indicate that the paper will make an original, understandable, and meaningful contribution to environment and society debates?
- If the paper presents new empirical material it must be clear from the abstract upon which research any of the conclusions for environment and society debates are based.
- If the paper mainly presents new theoretical considerations it must be clear from the abstract which existing theories and concepts the paper is in discussion with, and which new insights will be added to the debates.

For further questions or comments, please contact RN12's coordinator Matthias Gross at: [matthias.gross@ufz.de](mailto:matthias.gross@ufz.de)

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## **The XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama, Japan, July 13-19, 2014**

*Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology.*

[www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/](http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/)

Although the Congress seems far away, there are some deadlines to bear in mind.

**1. Proposals for Integrative Sessions: 15 January.** The International Sociological Association has issued a call for proposals for Integrative Sessions which involve at least three Research Committees (Working and/or Thematic Groups), three National Associations or a combination of the two. Please consult ISA Congress website for guidelines for applying for integrative sessions <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/> and forward your ideas to the RC24 executive.

**2. Call for Sessions: January 15, 2013.** In early January, RC24 will issue a call for session proposals. Please give some consideration now to major themes that RC24 ought to address through the congress. Proposals should identify themes likely to engage a broad cross-section of RC24 members. Proposals will also be considered for sessions hosted jointly with other research committees, working and thematic groups.

**3. Call for Papers: April 7.** RC24 will issue a call for paper proposals by April 7. The on-line abstract submission will open in early June 2013. A complete set of deadlines and guidelines for will be circulated soon.

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## Announcements (in alphabetical order)

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**David Sonnenfeld** generously shares a newly updated list of supplementary readings on **Research Methods and Design in Environmental Studies**, now available at:

[http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld/documents/EST603-supplemental-readings-2012\\_000.pdf](http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld/documents/EST603-supplemental-readings-2012_000.pdf)

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### **Job opening: Experienced Research Fellow: Socio-economic Aspects of Remediation.**

The Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology at Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ is offering a position in sociology or a related field for two years within the European Union funded Initial Training Network project 'Advancing sustainable *in situ* remediation for contaminated land and groundwater' – ADVOCATE – for an Experienced Research Fellow: Socio-economic Aspects of Remediation.

Please send your complete application documents including a CV, motivation letter and copy of certificates under the code digit 163(2012 to the personnel department, P.O. Box 500136, D-04301 Leipzig, Germany or by e-mail to [application@ufz.de](mailto:application@ufz.de) (deadline December 10, 2012).

Further information can be obtained by Matthias Gross, [Matthias.gross@ufz.de](mailto:Matthias.gross@ufz.de)

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### **A big national meeting in Brazil on research in Environment and Society on Sept. 18-21, 2012**

Anppas (Associação Nacional de Pós Graduação e Pesquisa em Ambiente e Sociedade- Brasil) National Association of Graduate Studies and Research in Environment and Society- Brazil) organized its 6th national meeting from Sept. 18-21 in the city of Belem in the State of Para in

the Amazon Region. More than 500 participants in 18 working groups and 15 Round Tables. More than 1300 extended abstracts were received and around 300 papers were presented. During the meeting 28 books were launched whose authors participate in the meeting. Pedro R. Jacobi was part of the organizing team. Julia Guivant and Pedro Roberto Jacobi launched the book that includes the articles recommended by each coordinator of the 18 working groups. The title is “Perspectivas ambientais- novos desafios teóricos e novas agendas públicas”- Environmental Perspectives - new theoretical challenges and new public agendas. Editor: Editora Annablume, São Paulo, Brazil.

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

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**Frances Fahy and Henrike Rau, eds. 2013. *Methods of Sustainability Research in the Social Sciences*. London: Sage.**

Sustainability is a key concept used by social scientists interested in interactions between human society and the environment. Although hotly contested and subject to intense debate, it offers an important starting point from which to explore the connections and exchanges between people and the biophysical world they inhabit. In addition, sustainability has the potential to provide a shared conceptual space for inter- and transdisciplinary research on social-ecological issues that brings together people with diverse disciplinary backgrounds and diverging worldviews. This book offers a systematic and critical review of established and emerging methodological approaches and tools for the integrated investigation of sustainability questions. Recognising the significance of scale for sustainability efforts and measurement, its scope ranges from the local to the global. This emphasis of socio-spatial scales is complemented with systematic reflections on the centrality of time in sustainability thinking and practice and its implications for research.

The book is divided into four areas:

- Part I: examines the key challenges inherent to social scientific sustainability research, focusing in particular on epistemological and methodological questions that arise from recent efforts towards greater disciplinary integration.
- Part II: discusses methodologies aimed at the investigation of attitudes and behaviour observable at the local level - from families and households to individual organisations within communities.
- Part III: focuses on comparative sustainability research across different levels of socio-political organisation - from cities and regions to nation-states.
- Part IV: covers recent developments which recognise the significance of time for sustainability research and which offer innovative methodological approaches that focus on life events and long-term outcomes. It also offers a critical assessment of current and future trends in social-scientific sustainability research and reflects on both chances and challenges of doing research that aims to be relevant to diverse audiences, including academics, policy makers, sustainability advocates and practitioners.

Bringing together contributions from international social scientists, the book will be suitable for academic and non-academic audiences interested in sustainability research and will be a core

teaching text for undergraduate and postgraduate courses in sustainability and sustainable development, geography, environmental sociology and the environmental sciences.

For information on this book, see

[www.uk.sagepub.com/books/Book235581](http://www.uk.sagepub.com/books/Book235581)

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**Julia S. Guivant e Pedro Roberto Jacobi (orgs.). *Perspectivas ambientais: novos teóricos e novas agendas públicas*. (In Portuguese) São Paulo: Anablume.**

For information on this book, see

[www.annablume.com.br/comercio/product\\_info.php?cPath=44&products\\_id=1777](http://www.annablume.com.br/comercio/product_info.php?cPath=44&products_id=1777)

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**Kai N. Lee, Richard Howarth, and William Freudenburg, 2012. *Humans in the Landscape: An Introduction to Environmental Studies*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.**

[N.B. that the late Bill Freudenburg co-authored this book]

This is the first textbook to fully synthesize all key disciplines of environmental studies. *Humans in the Landscape* draws on the biophysical sciences, social sciences, and humanities to explore the interactions between cultures and environments over time, and discusses classic environmental problems in the context of the overarching conflicts and frameworks that motivate them.

For information about this book, see

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail.aspx?ID=4294969924>

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**Luigi Pellizzoni and Marja Ylönen, eds. 2012. *Neoliberalism and Technoscience. Critical Assessments*. Farnham: Ashgate.**

This book provides a comprehensive assessment of the connection between processes of neoliberalization and the advancement and transformation of technoscience. Drawing on a range of theoretical insights, it explores a variety of issues including the digital revolution and the rise of immaterial culture, the rationale of psychiatric reforms and biotechnology regulation, discourses of social threats and human enhancement, and carbon markets and green energy policies. A rich exploration of the overall logic of technoscientific innovation within late capitalism, and the emergence of a novel view of human agency with regard to the social and natural world, this volume reveals the interdependence of technoscience and the neoliberalization of society. Presenting the latest research from a leading team of scholars, *Neoliberalism and Technoscience* will be of interest to scholars of sociology, politics, geography and science and technology studies.

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**Maurie J. Cohen , Halina Szejnwald Brown , Philip J. Vergragt, eds. 2013. *Innovations in Sustainable Consumption*. London: Edward Elgar.**

This timely volume recognizes that traditional policy approaches to reduce human impacts on the environment through technological change – for example, emphasizing resource efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources – are insufficient to meet the most pressing sustainability challenges of the twenty-first century. Instead, the editors and contributors argue that we must fundamentally reconfigure our lifestyles and social institutions if we are to make the transition toward a truly sustainable future. These expert contributions pinpoint specific areas in which innovation will be required. These include economic policies, socio-technical systems of production and consumption, and dominant social practices. Drawing on these and other diverse areas of scholarship, this fascinating book highlights new conceptual frameworks for achieving the twin sustainability goals of decreased resource use and enhanced individual and societal well-being.

For information on this book, see

[www.e-elgar.co.uk/bookentry\\_main.lasso?currency=US&id=14746](http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/bookentry_main.lasso?currency=US&id=14746)

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**Mikael Klinton, 2013. *Citizen-Consumers and Evolution: Reducing Environmental Harm through Our Social Motivation*. Houndmills Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.**

[From the publisher:] This book reflects upon and critiques the potential of citizen-consumers to alter their natural consuming habits and to 'shop ethically, 'care for the environment' and 'think globally' so as to reduce environmental harm. Developing a substantial challenge to the existing accepted theories, this book sets out a groundbreaking approach to understanding citizen-consumer behavior, by forging a productive alliance between environmental sociology and evolutionary theory, arguing that is social motivation rather than rational choice in a traditional sense that is the driving force behind human agency. Recognizing the importance of social motivation is essential as a basis for the advancement of sustainable development and adaptation of the norms and practices of citizen-consumers, markets, and politics.

For information on this book, see

<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=638420>

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**Philippe Léna & Elimar Pinheiro do Nascimento, eds. 2012. *Enfrentando os limites do crescimento: sustentabilidade, decrescimento e prosperidade*. Rio de Janeiro: Garamond.**

The book contains articles by Serge Latouche, Joan Martinez-Alier, Mauro Bonaiuti, Gilbert Rist, Alain Gras, Clovis Cavalcanti, Eduardo Gudynas and 19 more authors. Ernest Garcia, member of RC24 has contributed "Decrescimento e bem viver: algumas linhas para um debate adequado" [Degrowth and "living well": some lines for a debate"]

For information on this book, see

[www.garamond.com.br/produtos\\_descricao.asp?lang=pt\\_BR&codigo\\_produto=486](http://www.garamond.com.br/produtos_descricao.asp?lang=pt_BR&codigo_produto=486)

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## Recent Member Articles, Special Issues & Conference Proceedings

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**Bleicher, Alena and Matthias Gross. 2012.** “Confronting Ignorance: Coping with the Unknown and Surprising Events in the Remediation of Contaminated Sites,” in Kabisch, Sigrun; Anna Kunath, Petra Schweizer-Ries, and Annett Steinführer (eds.), *Vulnerability, Risks, and Complexity: Impacts of Global Change on Human Habitats* (pp. 193-204). Göttingen: Hogrefe.

**Bleicher, Alena and Matthias Gross. 2011.** “Response and Recovery in the Remediation of Contaminated Land in Eastern Germany,” in Rachel A. Dowty and Barbara L. Allen (eds.), *Dynamics of Disaster: Lessons on Risk, Response and Recovery* (pp. 187-202). London: Earthscan.

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**Catton, Willian. (22 October 2012).** *Sociology and Sustainability: Emerging Perspectives* (Sociologia y Sostenibilidad: perspectivas emergentes), in a seminar in Valencia (Spain). This is a lecture that can be viewed via the following link:

<http://tv.uimp20.es/1/section.aspx/viewvideo/3579>

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**Cornell, S., Berkhout, F., Jäger J., Chabay, I. de Wit, B., Langlais, R., Mills, D., Moll, P., Otto, I., Petersen, A., Pohl, C., Tàbara, J. D., Tuinstra, W., van Kerkhoff, L. 2012.** Knowledge and global environmental change: the challenge of opening up knowledge systems’. Special Issue on “Responses to Environmental and Societal Challenges for our Unstable Earth (RESCUE)” project. *Environmental Science and Policy*.

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**Garcia, Ernest (2012):** "Degrowth, the past, the future, and the human nature". *Futures* 44(6), 546-552.

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**Garcia, Ernest; Martínez Iglesias, Mercedes, 2011.** "Medio ambiente y desarrollo económico en los inicios del siglo XXI". *Panorama Social* 13, 121-133. ["Environment and economic development at the beginning of the 21st century". An analysis of the environmental roots of the current economic recession in Spain.]

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**Gross, Matthias. 2012.** ‘Objective Culture’ and the Development of Nonknowledge: Georg Simmel and the Reverse Side of Knowing. *Cultural Sociology* 6 (4): 422-437 DOI: 10.1177/1749975512445431.

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**Jaeger, C. C. Tàbara, J. D. and Jaeger J. 2011.** *European Research on Sustainable Development. Vol I: Transformative science approaches for Sustainable Development.* Heidelberg, Germany: Springer and European Commission.

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**Otero, I., Boada, M. and Tàbara, J. D. 2013.** ‘Social-ecological heritage and the conservation of Mediterranean Landscapes under global change. A case study in Olzinelles (Catalonia)’. *Land Use Policy*. 30:25-37; doi:10.1016/j.landusepol.2012.02.005

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