



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,

Here in Australia we've just been through the warmest winter on record. The unusually warm weather has brought the earliest start to the bushfire season anyone can remember. Hundreds of homes have been razed and we're still months away from the usual heatwaves of summer. We think back to bushfire seasons marred by hundreds of fatalities and grapple with the emotional contradictions of feeling relieved that "only" two lives have been lost so far. And now we look to our Philippine neighbours and see what else the warm conditions have wrought – high surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda), and an unfolding humanitarian crisis through the Visayan islands.

As President of RC24, I would like to say to all our Philippine members and friends that our thoughts are with you at this time. I have many family members in the Philippines, and many friends and colleagues, about whom I am deeply concerned. I know you do too.

Calls by Philippine commissioner Yeb Sano at UN climate talks in Warsaw for global solidarity to fight climate change and "stop this madness" are supported, I am sure, by all of us. Sano challenged those who deny the reality of climate change to leave their comfort zones and visit those parts of the world where climate change has become "a matter of life and death". Sen rejected the classification of any disaster as "natural" and argued that we must recognize the impacts of unsustainable consumption on the world's most poor and vulnerable.

One day later, a newly elected Australian government took the first legislative steps towards repealing the previous government's so-called carbon tax and replacing it with a (misleadingly named) direct action policy. This is not the place to unpack these policies in detail. Suffice to say that, in my view, both sides of politics are arguing over how best to achieve trivial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (a five percent target) with minimal political damage. Like many environmental policies, each of these options could be improved through serious and sustained deliberation and analysis. But current debates over climate in this part of the world are seldom

measured, or indeed civil, conversations about the best policy options. They are heated and polarized pseudo-debates characterized by posturing, misinformation and opportunism.

Fortunately, as sociologists, we have the opportunity to offer different perspectives: unpacking the interests at play in climate politics; highlighting the social impacts of environmental transformations and policies; exploring opportunities to promote social change; working with our colleagues in other disciplines and outside academe to develop new knowledge; and communicating research to our students, peers and others. RC24 aims to facilitate such communication and while it would be naïve to think that the publication and exchange of sociological research will alone change the world, neither should we underestimate its importance.

With this in mind I would like to draw your attention to several RC24 initiatives and activities:

**New journal, *Environmental Sociology*.** I am very pleased to announce that RC24 has secured agreement with Routledge to publish the journal *Environmental Sociology*. This an important step in the continuing institutionalization of environmental sociology as a mainstream sociological sub-discipline. A dedicated flagship journal will promote creativity and innovation in environmental sociology while increasing, I believe, the visibility of distinctly sociological perspectives on the environment to non-sociological audiences. Diverse theoretical, methodological and empirical perspectives will be encouraged. More information on editorial arrangements and submission processes will be issued soon.

**World Congress of Sociology, 13-19 July 2014.** Abstract submission for the 2014 World Congress in Yokohama has now closed. Timelines for notifying authors of abstract acceptance are on the Congress website and we will do our best to comply with those timelines. Three hundred and four abstracts were submitted to sessions hosted by RC24 (including 12 submissions to two joint sessions we are hosting with other committees). Fifty eight abstracts were submitted to joint sessions hosted by other research committees. With 21 sessions available for presentations, this leaves us with an average of just under 15 submissions per session. Realistically, we can only accept 5-6 papers in each session for verbal presentation. However, we do not want to turn away a large number of quality presenters and are exploring ways to manage the situation.

**Pre-Congress Conference, 12-13 July 2014.** The Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology and the Institute for Sustainability Research, Hosei University, will co-host a two day conference right before the ISA World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama. We will be attempting to shift across to this event a number of the abstracts submitted to RC24 sessions at the World Congress. We hope to have more details for you soon. Many thanks to Prof Saburo Horikawa and his colleagues for organizing this event! A similar RC24 pre-conference held prior to the last World Congress in Gothenburg was an outstanding success and I strongly encourage you to participate.

**World Social Sciences Report 2013.** On behalf of the International Sociological Association I contributed a short piece on sociological engagements with global environmental change to the International Social Science Council's 2013 report on state-of-the-art in the social sciences. The report, *Changing Global Environments*, also features a chapter by RC24 Board Member David Tàbara on knowledge practices, sustainability and socio-ecological systems. The report will be launched on 15 November 2013 and should then become available on the ISSC website ([www.worldsocialscience.org/activities/world-social-science-report/the-2013-report/](http://www.worldsocialscience.org/activities/world-social-science-report/the-2013-report/)).

Thank you to all the RC24 members who have contributed, and continue to contribute, to these initiatives. Thanks especially to members of the Board, who deal with a constant stream of correspondence requesting their input and who always give it willingly.

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## Notes from the Editors

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by **Mikael Klintman** (Dept. of Sociology, Lund University, Sweden), and **Magnus Boström** (School of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences, Örebro University, Sweden). **Co-Secretaries of RC-24 and Editors of the Newsletter**

Dear Colleagues,

This issue of the RC24 has announcements and reflections of a few big things, in a positive as well as in a very negative sense. Some of them are already mentioned above in the President's column. A couple deserves to be repeated here, along with a few further important matters.

Firstly, although **Stewart Lockie** mentions it rather humbly and casually, it is, from the perspective of RC24 big – no, great – news that the first international journal fully devoted to environmental sociology is about to be launched. **Stewart, David Sonnenfeld** and several other RC24-members have worked long and hard to reach this goal that has been on the RC24 wish list for several years. Please stay tuned for further information in subsequent Newsletter issues and info via the RC24 list serve!

A second important matter announced in this November issue is that it is high time to nominate the new RC24 board. Please take this opportunity to nominate your favorites!

Thirdly, it is important to note a particularly good number of calls for submissions to conferences, joint publications as well as to job openings in this Newsletter issue. We hope that the number of such contributions of relevance will continue to be high in subsequent newsletter issues.

Finally, as editors we would like to send our warmest thoughts to the many people affected by the Super Typhoon Haiyan. As in connection with previous catastrophes, we have approached a couple of RC24-members living or working close to the affected areas, asking them to give their reflections in the Newsletter. Also this time, it has been slightly uncomfortable to disturb people with this request, people who are obviously fully preoccupied emotionally and practically with getting back to normal routines. Yet, the responses have once more been a generous willingness to share personal experiences. We thank **Gloria Luz M. Nelson from the Philippines & Marvin Joseph F. Montefrio, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and Yasmin Patrice Y. Ortiga, Syracuse University** for their personal as well as professional reflections of Haiyan and its social and cultural aftermaths.

As usual, we ask all of you readers to continue making 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. In addition to brief notes, you are very welcome to provide 1-3 pages of reflections of any kind that are of interests to scholars in environmental sociology. Please do also continue to visit the RC24 website, at [www.environment-societysa.org](http://www.environment-societysa.org). Moreover, 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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## **The Super Typhoon Haiyan Nov. 8, 2013: First-Hand Experiences by Environmental Sociologists**

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### **Personal reflections on Haiyan and its social implications**

**By Gloria Luz M. Nelson, professor Professor of Sociology, Department of Social Sciences College of Arts and Sciences, University of the Philippines Los Baños College, Laguna, the Philippines.**

The Philippines, located along the typhoon belt, is disaster prone. Natural calamities are part of Filipinos' social reality. The two dozen typhoons that batter the country annually has given us ample experiences on how to prepare and respond to the onslaught of strong winds and many days of torrential rains. Unfortunately, it was the first time we experienced the danger of storm surges. As a people, we are known for our resilience and yet the faces of the people who lost everything and everyone in the mega disaster from super typhoon Haiyan is a test of our fortitude and ability to lead. There are many lessons learned from this experience. We have to accept that climate change is a "here and now" event. We can only blame ourselves for the abuse and misuse of nature's resources. We have to be aware that the Philippines as an archipelago of 7,100 islands is very highly vulnerable to disaster. We need to re-evaluate our mitigation and adaptation strategies specifically our protocols for disaster relief operations. We know that being a poor nation contributes to our vulnerability. Moreover, poor people who depend on agriculture for livelihood are easy target to climate change. Those with resources migrate and those left behind are left with the daunting task of rebuilding communities. We will always be thankful for all the countries that came and will continue to contribute humanitarian aids to our disaster-stricken countrymen. Filipinos are traditionally prayerful people. These rituals and faith cannot build houses and cannot provide jobs but can certainly help to restore cooperative spirit and hopes of the survivors.

## Issues of Knowledge Production and Dissemination in the Aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan

**By Marvin Joseph F. Montefrio, Ph.D. Candidate, Environmental and Natural Resource Policy, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry,**

**and**

**Yasmin Patrice Y. Ortega, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology, Syracuse University**

News from the devastated areas in Typhoon Haiyan's path came to the rest of the world in a painful trickle of information. Yet, with each new image of flattened villages and hungry survivors, the Filipino public responded with an outpouring of anger and frustration. How could we not know this would happen? Why were we not better prepared? Can we make sure that we will be prepared *next time*? To answer these questions, much has been said about the problems associated with Philippine governance; in particular, systemic corruption and poor infrastructure. There are many sources that provide rich analyses of these issues. In this reflection, we believe that the case of Haiyan raises important issues about knowledge production as well. In a newspaper column written four days after Haiyan's departure, Filipino scholar Mahar Lagmay is quoted saying that the Philippines needs an "army of disaster scientists" in order to develop innovative knowledge on disaster preparation. However, this "army" has yet to materialize and will be unlikely to do so in the next few years.<sup>1</sup> Drawing on the first couple of weeks of response to Typhoon Haiyan, here we reflect on the challenges faced by scholars "on the ground" around the world in the production and dissemination of knowledge for disaster response.

Filipinos are no strangers to extreme weather events. The Philippines goes through an average of 20 typhoons a year, and this has been the case for centuries. Agencies on disaster management were established as early as the onset of the 20<sup>th</sup> century under the American colonial regime, making the nation's disaster policies some of the "most advanced" in Southeast Asia. So why then, a century later, does the country lack a sustainable pool of disaster "experts"? Local pundits have suggested many reasons. These include underfunded laboratories, poor basic education, and the low wages of Filipino professors. When asked this question by foreign colleagues and friends, we often respond by first defining the role of a Filipino scholar. In the Philippines, scientists are not only expected to *produce* knowledge, but also to personally bear the responsibility of disseminating the information. In the case of Haiyan, the task fell heavily on the hundred or so scientists associated with Project NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards), headed by Mahar Lagmay himself. Project NOAH staff members not only create hazard maps and develop new tools for predicting floods, but also teach local communities *about* these hazards and *how* to use NOAH's data. While 100 people might seem substantial, they are spread thinly across our country's 1,493 municipalities, themselves scattered amidst 7,107 islands. As noted by one scientist, Project NOAH offices are always empty because staff members are meeting with NGOs and local government officials around the country. Such work receives barely any recognition from mainstream academia, where the task of dissemination or outreach is defined mainly in terms of journal publications. It is perhaps understandable that

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<sup>1</sup> La Viña, T. (12 November, 2013). Raw feelings from Yolanda. Manila Standard Today, Opinion. Retrieved from <http://manilastandardtoday.com/2013/11/12/raw-feelings-from-yolanda/> on November 19, 2013.

bright Filipino students seek to become scholars elsewhere, so that they can *just* focus on their research, or *just* be paid to do intellectual work.

Perhaps another reason for the small number of “disaster scholars” is our existing definitions as to *what knowledge* can “contribute” to better preparation for disasters like Haiyan. In the midst of the mad scramble to get relief goods to hard-hit villages in Central Philippines, Regin Regidor lamented that the National Center for Transportation Studies was never included in national-level disaster planning and preparation.<sup>2</sup> An expert in logistics and transportation, Regidor watched in frustration as food supplies failed to reach desperate survivors because of bottlenecks in delivery. In this sense, building an army of disaster experts requires not only the recruitment and training of new scholars but also the inclusion of fields beyond those traditionally associated with disaster studies, which in the Philippines usually involves geologists, hydrologists and meteorologists.

Sociologists and other social scientists can (and in many places, do) play an important role in understanding how disaster knowledge is translated into meaningful policies and action. In the case of Haiyan, evidence shows that Project NOAH generated nearly accurate predictions of typhoon Haiyan’s movement and strength, as well as the estimated heights of storm surges in the coastal regions of affected areas. This information was relayed in advance to the national and local governments and the media, which ultimately was communicated through, among others, a public address from the President the day before Haiyan’s landfall. However, in Tacloban City, one of the most devastated areas, the evacuation procedure did not take into consideration the risk of storm surges advised by Project NOAH. The city mayor himself was in a seaside resort at the height of the typhoon.<sup>3</sup> The pervasive discourse in popular media and public forums blames the incompetence of politicians and the government as a whole for ignoring critical information. Miscommunication and incompetence may provide some explanation, but there is still little understanding of the social processes that take place between the generation, dissemination and use of knowledge with respect to disaster preparation and response. This remains a black box where more scholarship is needed. Why did the local government of a tiny island of 1000 inhabitants manage to effectively evacuate all its residents to higher ground, while the mayor of one of the busiest cities in the region completely underestimated the storm surge? Filipino Sociologist Randy David offers one possible explanation. In his recent op-ed column titled, “Danger as a Social Construct,” David argued that the concept of storm surge was historically rooted to strong tropical cyclones but later on stripped of its association with physical danger.<sup>4</sup> This suggests that words like *typhoons*, *monsoon rains*, *floods* and other related concepts may have a plethora of social, cultural and political meanings in particular contexts, which complicates translation of knowledge to action.

As Filipinos, Haiyan is a profound, national tragedy. As scholars, we see it as a clarion call for researchers to investigate the state of institutional climate and disaster knowledge around the world, particularly in the most vulnerable, poor and low-lying countries, and the accessibility of that knowledge to those who make critical decisions on the ground. The Philippines provides a bewildering paradox: it is a country with a long history of severe weather events, but one that

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<sup>2</sup> Personal communication, November 18, 2013

<sup>3</sup> Malig, J. (20 November, 2013). Tacloban City gov’t warned of flood hazard in January. ABS-CBN News. Retrieved from <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/11/20/13/tacloban-city-govt-warned-flood-hazard-january> on November 20, 2013.

<sup>4</sup> David, R. (16 November 2013). Danger as a social construct. Philippine Daily Inquirer, Opinion. Retrieved from <http://opinion.inquirer.net/65499/danger-as-a-social-construct> on November 19, 2013.

continues to suffer from underdeveloped knowledge of disaster management and persistent ill-preparedness in many localities. Along with globally rising sea levels, increasing and more intense tropical storms, Haiyan underscores the urgency for scholarly efforts to unravel this puzzle.

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## **Upcoming Conferences (in chronological order of abstract deadlines)**

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**The 5th International conference on Sustainability Transitions (IST2014), 27-29 August 2014, Utrecht Science Park, Copernicus Institute, Utrecht, The Netherlands:**

**Deadline for submitting abstracts: November, 2013.**

See the conference website, at

<http://www.transitionsnetwork.org/events/2014-08-27-5th-ist-conference>

The conference is organized by the Copernicus Institute ([www.uu.nl/copernicus](http://www.uu.nl/copernicus)) of Utrecht University ([www.uu.nl](http://www.uu.nl)) at Utrecht Science Park (<http://www.utrechtsciencepark.nl>) with social activities in the old Utrecht centre (<http://www.visit-utrecht.com/en>).

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**An invitation of proposals for ‘open panels at 4S and ESOCITE Joint Meeting, 20-23 August 2014, Buenos Aires, Argentina:**

**Deadline for proposals: 1 December, 2013**

4S and ESOCITE are now inviting proposals for ‘open panels’ at its 2014. The selected open panels will later be included as part of the formal call for papers. A ‘panel’ is a session of papers that address a shared theme. The purpose of calling for open panels is to stimulate the formation of new networks around topics of interest to the 4S/ESOCITE community. Like any meeting session, an ‘open panel’ is a paper session with a theme and a responsible chairperson(s). The difference is that it is not submitted already filled up with papers. Rather, open panel themes are subsequently included in the call for papers (opening December 15), and authors nominate their paper for one or more panels. An open panel may extend across up to three sessions of five papers each (i.e. a total of maximum 15 papers).

Proposers of open panels commit to work closely with the program chairs to achieve the final composition of their panels, and they must be prepared to chair the panel or suggest colleagues who are willing to do so.

4S and ESOCITE boards specially encourage our colleagues to propose “mixed” sessions, helping in the interaction of both communities, and avoiding the risk of having two parallel meetings. Papers will be invited in Spanish, Portuguese or English, so please let us know whether your panel will be monolingual or multilingual.

To propose an open panel, visit [http://www.4sonline.org/session\\_concepts](http://www.4sonline.org/session_concepts) and submit your name, institutional affiliation, session title, and a short (maximum 300 words) description of the open panel theme. Please try to be clear and concise, to stimulate a broad participation of several colleagues.

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**2nd Energy & Society Conference: Midterm conference of ESA RN 12, in cooperation with ISA RC 24 Krakow, Poland, 4-6 June, 2014**

Conference theme: *Energy Transitions as Societal Transitions: Challenges for the Present and the Future*

**Deadline for submitting abstracts: 15 December, 2013**

See the conference website, at [www.energyandsociety.confer.uj.edu.pl](http://www.energyandsociety.confer.uj.edu.pl)

Energy transitions are strongly linked to wider societal change. Questions remain, however, regarding how these links can be characterized and whether proposed energy transitions currently place enough emphasis on the implied transformations to societal structures, including habits, life styles, social structures and norms. Further, it is unclear whether the extent of change and the sometimes quite radical implications for society are adequately captured in existing attempts to chart transitional pathways. Two key overarching concerns are at the centre of this conference. First, issues relating to whether non/changing societies are enabling or blocking wider technological or infrastructural transformations. This includes problems of societal acceptance, participation and living cultures, as well as political structures and the nature of contemporary societies (e.g. capitalist, neo--liberal societies). Second, questions about the ways that technological or infrastructural transition intersects with economic, cultural, social, and political routines. This incorporates concerns about environmental justice and capability effects and social sustainability that may be disrupted through technological and infrastructural transition.

We invite all researchers interested in the social aspects of energy transitions to submit abstracts for the 2nd Conference of the International Energy and Society Network, which will be held at the Institute of Sociology (Jagiellonian University), Krakow, Poland, on June 4--6, 2014. The conference aims at bringing together researchers interested in relations between energy and society and to provide an opportunity for them to connect with others for the purpose of international exchange and possible research collaboration in this area. The conference will feature a keynote by a distinguished scholar in this field. In addition to thematic panels of regular paper presentations, the program will include workshops and scheduled time and space for discussions. Additionally, optional excursions will be organized, likely to include a visit to the Laboratory of RES and Energy Safe Technologies or to a Coal Mining site.



## Submissions

We encourage submissions on a wide variety of topics, including but not limited to the following:

- Energy policies as public policies: social impacts of energy transitions, socially conscious shaping of transitions.
- Structural changes to the energy system and changes in society: decentralization, shifts from “big players” to a multitude of actors, from consumer to prosumer.
- Energy transition as local project: local initiatives, citizen power plants, local strategies, and the interplay of governance levels.
- Conceptual approaches to energy transition research: existing concepts---new applications, innovations in theory.
- Energy transition in context: national and regional conditions, paradigms and pathways, energy cultures.
- Interlinking socio-technical systems: energy – water, energy – waste, energy---food.
- Practice, materiality, energy and social change: innovations in practice, embeddedness, technology and change.
- Energy poverty, justice and development: energy poverty research and concepts, environmental justice, political and personal conceptions.
- Public acceptability: implications for energy system transitions, approaches to understanding acceptability.
- Energy demand, markets and innovation: the shaping of demand, implications of energy market innovation for demand.

Please send your abstracts of no more than 250 words by 15th of December 2013 via e-mail: [Energyandsociety@uj.edu.pl](mailto:Energyandsociety@uj.edu.pl)

Notifications of acceptance will be given in January 2014

Full Papers are welcome but are not a requirement. Any full papers submitted will be distributed to the conference participants. A journal special issue is planned as an output of the conference.

More information is available at [www.energyandsociety.confer.uj.edu.pl](http://www.energyandsociety.confer.uj.edu.pl)

## About the Energy and Society Network

The Energy and Society Network was established in 2010 by academics active in the European Sociological Association Research Network on Environment and Society and in the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Environment and Society. Over 140 researchers from Europe and elsewhere contributed to the first conference of the Energy and Society network, which was held in Lisbon in 2012 as a Midterm Conference of the ESA’s Research Network on Environment and Society. The network published a selection of papers from the first conference in a special issue of *Nature and Culture* due for release in 2014.

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**The Second Summer Institute on Contested Global Landscapes, May 18– 23, 2014,** at Cornell University. We welcome applications from advanced graduate students (i.e., completing dissertations) and junior scholars (i.e., who received a Ph.D. after May 2011) in the humanities, social sciences, and other relevant disciplines.

**Deadline for applying: Midnight (EST), December 15, 2013.**

See the webpage of the Summer Institute, at <http://socialsciences.cornell.edu/summer-2014-institute-on-contested-global-landscapes/>

The theme of the [2014 Summer Institute](#) is “Knowledge and the Politics of Land.” In the context of what has been called a contemporary “Global Land Grab” and expanded interest in questions of natural resource availability and access, we ask what role knowledge and knowledge production have played in shaping the politics, economics, and social life of land and land management. How have various disciplines, professions, and indigenous knowledges facilitated and challenged shifting patterns of ownership and access to land in the past and the present? How are knowledge-making capabilities both mobilized and shaped by struggles over land?

We seek to critically examine the relationship between knowledge (and ignorance) in land politics across time, space, culture, and ecology. We are interested in receiving proposals across this broad topic as well as on a number of more specific, interrelated issues, including:

- Knowledge claims and knowledge-making in contemporary land deals;
- How and why certain forms of knowledge are moved, diffused, and imposed (as well as those that do not travel) and the wider environmental, economic, social, and political implications of such (im)mobility;
- How actors negotiate particular and universal knowledge claims;
- The role of measurement, standardization, estimation, and prediction in both reflecting and reproducing the politics of land;
- The role of various experts and multiple, often competing forms of expertise in enabling, but also complicating and sometimes undermining struggles over land;
- The ways that particular social and natural science disciplines are enmeshed in the politics of land management;
- Construction of systems of innovation, land economics, and the politics of diffusion;
- How knowledges of state and non-state actors combine, compete, and manifest in land politics;
- The complex relationship and dynamics between “lay,” “local,” and “indigenous” forms of knowledge and “expert” or “scientific” knowledge;
- How notions of scarcity, abundance, productivity, and potentiality infuse and animate the production and politics of knowledge.

Successful applicants (up to 10) will signal broad empirical and theoretical originality. The Institute intends to stimulate vibrant and unexpected cross-disciplinary exchange among scholars whose research is directed to different times and spaces. This call for applications is not limited by historical period or world region.

Applicants should apply using this online [form](#). Please upload a cover letter (max. 2 pp single-spaced), a current CV, and a writing sample in one PDF document. The form also asks applicants to submit an abstract (no more than 300 words) in PDF format of an unpublished paper (that the applicant will contribute to the Institute and have reviewed in final form for possible inclusion in the edited volume/special issue). Successful applicants will be notified by February 1, 2014. International participants will be responsible for researching and completing their own visa and related legal arrangements. Please note that accepted applicants are expected to attend the entirety of the Institute.

The Summer Institute is connected to a larger project on [Contested Global Landscapes](#) that held a [2013 Summer Institute](#). The [2014 Summer Institute](#) is coordinated by Sara Pritchard (Science and Technology Studies), Steven Wolf (Natural Resources), and Wendy Wolford (Development Sociology). Questions should be directed to Sara Pritchard at [sbp65@cornell.edu](mailto:sbp65@cornell.edu), Steve Wolf at [saw44@cornell.edu](mailto:saw44@cornell.edu) or Wendy Wolford at [www43@cornell.edu](mailto:www43@cornell.edu).

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**Pre-Conference in Environmental Sociology and Sustainability Research, 12-13 July, 2014, 'Pacifco Yokohama,' Yokohama, Japan (where the World Congress will be held), First announcement:**

**Deadline for submitting abstracts: To be announced!**

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Day 1: 9:00-17:00

Day 2: 9:00-16:00

In collaboration with RC24, the Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology and the Institute for Sustainability Research, Hosei University will be co-hosting a 2-day pre-conference right before the ISA World Congress of Sociology to be held in Yokohama in 2014. All congress participants are encouraged to attend this conference. Although tentative at the time of this writing, we are planning to have individual paper sessions as well as special thematic sessions on Fukushima disaster and Asia-related issues.

Details will be notified to all the members of RC24 as soon as they are ready. Please save the dates and we will be very much looking forward to welcoming you all in Yokohama next summer.

Saburo Horikawa  
Chair, International Relations Committee,  
Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology  
[sab@hosei.ac.jp](mailto:sab@hosei.ac.jp)

**Regional conference of RC24 : Environment, Technology and Sustainable Development: Promises and Challenges in the 21st Century (ETSD2014), March 2-4, 2014, ABV-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Gwalior (ABV-IIITM), Madhya Pradesh, India**

**Deadline for submission of abstract: 15 January 2014**

Conference website: [www.etsd2014.org](http://www.etsd2014.org) ; Email: [ps@iiitm.ac.in](mailto:ps@iiitm.ac.in) or [smzavestoski@usfca.edu](mailto:smzavestoski@usfca.edu)

ETSD2014 will jointly organized by ABV-IIITM Gwalior with Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, India and College of Arts & Sciences, University of San Francisco, USA.

The main conference themes are:

Science and Technology

- Information and communication technology (ICT) for sustainable development
- Managing scientific innovation and diffusion for sustainable society
- Using social media to achieve sustainable development goals
- Appropriate and alternative technology for natural resource management
- Science and technology in disaster preparedness and management (e.g, flood, drought, desertification, forest fire, cyclone, hurricane)

Climate change

- Adaptation and mitigation: Role of stakeholders
- Biodiversity and conservation: prospects and challenges under climate change
- Public policies in building resilience to climate change impacts
- Sustainable options for financing climate change
- Emerging trends in compensation and rewards for ecosystem services
- Biodiversity and conservation in the era of climate change

Energy

- Societal costs of a fossil fuel dependent economy
- Successful models for renewable energy technologies
- Sustainable industrial energy models

Water

- Water contamination: quality, access and equity
- Cultural practices of water preservation and conservation
- Challenges and practices in drinking water provision both in rural and urban areas

Urban Ecology

- Emerging options for sustainable cities
- Urban water bodies: sustainability and its challenges

- Cultural practices in preserving urban ecology

#### Environmental Governance and Policy

- Policies and laws for technology transfer and diffusion of innovation
- Democratic mechanisms and decision making processes for sustainable development
- Environmental governance and public policy: issues and challenges

#### Inequality and Justice

- Role of technology in addressing social inequality
- Resistance against technology: GMO, biotechnology, nanotechnology, nuclear energy
- Social inequality, environmental degradation and justice
- Corporate social and environmental responsibility

### **Misc. information about ISA World Congress in Yokohama, July 13-19, 2014 (abstracts submission closed):**

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

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

Chair of local organizing committee of the World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama 2014, k-hase@m.tohoku.ac.jp

#### Leading "eco city" Yokohama

Welcome to Yokohama! As a chair of the local organizing committee of the World Congress, I am very glad to hear that RC 24 received total 362 submissions of abstracts including for joint sessions. The whole ISA received around 10,000 submissions. Amazing!

Yokohama is one of the most leading "eco city" in Japan to aim for a smart city as well as keeping a very beautiful harbor city. Pacifico Yokohama, our venue has enough large space and facilities to provide us all meeting places.

#### Safety in Yokohama

Someone might be 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. Since the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster on March 11, 2011, I have been collecting scientific and correct information, including critical and skeptical voices from national and international NGOs. As a specialist of the matter, I inform you that: 1) scientists are carefully monitoring radiation levels offshore near the Fukushima plant; 2) the leaking might bring long-term effects to the ecology of the ocean; 3) the radiation levels are extremely stable, low, and safe in Tokyo and Yokohama; 4) drinking water and any foods in the market are strictly monitored and completely safe.

#### Recommended hotel

The ISA site for hotel reservation will be open soon (<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>). RC24 has an excellent custom to encourage members to stay at

the same hotel at the world congress. I would like to personally recommend you to reserve *Yokohama Sakuragicho Washington Hotel via the ISA site*, where is locating within walking distance, 15 minutes walk to the venue and very close to the Sakuragicho Station. The location is really convenient to visit anywhere within and outside the city.

Inter Continental Yokohama Grand Hotel is a next door of the venue. But I'm afraid it's too expensive in case of single-stay, especially for Friday night and Saturday night.

Stay from July 11th for the Pre-conference

Please keep remember, RC24 has a two-day Pre-conference on July 12th and 13th in collaboration with Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology and Hosei University. So I strongly recommend you to stay from July 11th to July 19th. I hope you will really enjoy the conferences and streets, shops cafes, museums and more in Yokohama. Too much fun! If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me. Looking forward to seeing you in Yokohama soon!

Useful information all about Yokohama for foreign travellers

<http://www.welcome.city.yokohama.jp/eng/travel/>

Including information of cheaper hotels, Ryokan (Japanese style Inn) and hostels

<http://www.welcome.city.yokohama.jp/eng/travel/accommodations/>

[http://www.welcome.city.yokohama.jp/eng/travel/accommodations/ryokan\\_hostel/](http://www.welcome.city.yokohama.jp/eng/travel/accommodations/ryokan_hostel/)

<http://www.pacifico.co.jp/english/services/accomodations.html>

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## Impressions from a conference

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### **After the IX Italian Conference of Environmental Sociologists: “resourEnvironment - Policies, Practices and Cultures of Innovative Sustainability”.**

Dario Minervini, [dario.minervini@unina.it](mailto:dario.minervini@unina.it)

Ivano Scotti, [ivano.scotti@unina.it](mailto:ivano.scotti@unina.it)

University of Naples “Federico II”. Department of Social Sciences.

The IX edition of the Italian Conference of Environmental Sociologists took place at the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Naples “Federico II” on October 4th-5th, 2013. “Innovative sustainability” was the watchword that animated the debate, which focused on the pluralization of green paths and socio-technical innovations.

The Conference was open to non-Italian scholars and participants from Brazil, France, Poland and Spain attended this intense two-day event.

The opening session of the Conference hosted a keynote speech from Gert Spaargaren (University of Wageningen – Netherlands). The ensuing debate highlighted that the “practice” perspective can be particularly useful to analyze and understand the dynamics of ecological transition (such as power relationships, adaptation strategies and resistances) in contemporary societies.

The conference included six sessions, addressing the relations between the conference theme and the following issues: commons, expert knowledge, gender, injustice, policies and risk. The

presentations contributed to unfolding the dynamics with which new social configurations translate sustainable options in practice and at different levels to face the environmental challenge. Among the themes addressed we can mention green technologies, sustainable production and consumption, regulatory models of environmental governance, collective and bottom-up management of commons, social and economic accountability.

The need clearly emerged to rethink the study of environmental issues in a multi-disciplinary way and provided with analytical equipment able to take into account institutional and relational aspects of social life. This should allow to better understand how, why and when sustainable innovations are adopted or traditional practices are reinvented (from “new” wood houses to smart-domotic systems, from certificated organic food to self-production, etc.). This sort of reflections opened up questions that obviously need further investigation.

The environmental crisis of Naples was at the centre of the closing plenary. In particular new strategies for urban waste management were presented and analyzed. This session was attended also by municipal authorities, journalists and officials from the local company of waste collection and management. One question clearly emerged: how can sociological (independent) knowledge promote a more effective, ethical and sustainable waste management? The answer seems not easy to find and the role of sociologists in the co-construction of an innovative path to sustainability represents in itself a relevant field of investigation.

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

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### **Nominations RC24 Board 2014-2018**

#### **Deadline for submitting your nominations: January 1, 2014.**

The RC 24 Nominations Committee, appointed by the current Board, is seeking nominations for the next election, to be held this winter. We will be electing a new set of officers to assume positions at the World Congress in Yokohama, July 2014, which they will hold for the next four years. The Committee is soliciting nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary and six Board Members (the Treasurer is appointed by the President). The key duties of these officers are as follows:

- a. The President represents RC24 in all meetings and correspondence with the ISA and other bodies, is responsible for coordinating the activities of RC24 and seeing that the other officials of RC 24 fulfill their responsibilities.
- b. The Vice-president chairs the Frederick H. Buttell Award Committee and is responsible for all duties associated with the award. Besides that the Vice-president can replace the President in the latter's absence.
- c. The Secretary produces the Newsletter and is responsible for the operation of the listserver, getting messages out to members, etc. The website can be maintained by the secretary, but that might also be allocated to one of the other Board members
- d. The members of the Board are expected to be active in representing RC24, in increasing members of RC24, and in organizing RC24 co-sponsored conferences in between the

World Congresses, and for responding to requests for input and decisions from the President.

All RC24 members are encouraged to submit (self)nominations for these positions. When doing so keep in mind that the RC24 Statutes specify that, “An effort shall be made to ensure a fair regional, national, and gender representation, and to ensure that each Board consists of some continuing and some new members. Board members should be nominated, above all, in recognition of their activity in and service to RC 24, and of their contributions to environmental sociology scholarship.” Self-nominations are acceptable, and encouraged. Board members should be or become member of RC24. Information on the RC24 Board and the election process can be found in the ISA RC24 statutes at [http://www.isa-sociology.org/rcs/rc24\\_st.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/rcs/rc24_st.htm).

The members of the Nominations Committee are Julia Guivant, Brazil; Riley Dunlap, USA; Ray Murphy, Canada; and Arthur Mol, the Netherlands. Submit nominations to Arthur Mol at [Arthur.mol@wur.nl](mailto:Arthur.mol@wur.nl) by **January 1, 2014** at the latest.

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## **Call for Contributions to an Edited Book on Social Practice Theories, Lifestyle Politics, and Sustainability Transitions**

**Deadline for submitting abstracts: 15 December, 2013**

*Working Title: Consumers, Activists, and Environmental Governance: Advances and Applications in Social Practice Theories*

*Edited by Emily Huddart Kennedy, Maurie J. Cohen, and Naomi Krogman*

### **Overview**

The idea for this book was born during a session on social practice theories at the inaugural conference of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) at Clark University in Worcester, MA, USA in July 2013. Several participants questioned the prevailing view that a sustainable society could emerge from a combination of technological inventiveness and voluntary consumer practices. By contrast, more genuine opportunities for sustainability transitions recognize the essential mutuality of lifestyle shifts, social mobilization, and new modes of governance.

Lifestyles are gaining prominence in current sustainability scholarship, but novel routines are constrained in their capacity to transcend extant infrastructures and to overturn dominant economic and political interests. Social mobilization has proven an effective way to challenge these obstacles, but ongoing involvement requires commitments that are difficult to keep going alongside paid, full-time work and changes can be piecemeal and difficult to maintain over the long term. Finally, research on governance has attracted considerable attention, but without civic engagement, new institutions may be unable to transform development paths. This work also



remains largely disconnected from changes occurring within dominant sociotechnical configurations. It is the aim of this volume to address this range of issues.

A useful way to enjoin these challenges is through social practice theories of the human-environment interface. A particular strength of these approaches is their ability to facilitate research that decenters the individual and instead focuses on everyday activities and their distribution across space and time. However, social practice theories have not yet achieved deep integration with work on normative lifestyle shifts, social mobilization, or environmental governance. The proposed volume seeks to employ a global orientation and a strong empirical focus on social practices to explore how we might achieve this integration to more effectively enable sustainability transitions. While this volume will build on existing research, we especially seek to formulate new perspectives that apply social practice perspectives to collective undertakings and civic participation. These activities could include involvement with solidarity purchasing groups or community gardens as well as acceptance of leadership roles in transition town activities. Our aim is to advance social practice theories to better explain interactions between “inside-the-household” and “outside-the-household” routines. In this sense, the proposed volume will feature contributions intended to broaden conceptions of the interstitial spaces between “private” and “public” activities at the heart of everyday lives while simultaneously enhancing the quality of biophysical and social environments.

### **About the Editors**

*Emily Huddart Kennedy* is Assistant Professor in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology at the University of Alberta and Adjunct Faculty in the School of Environment and Sustainability at Royal Roads University. As an environmental sociologist her work focuses on the role that humans have on the natural world and she is particularly interested in how individuals approach sustainability challenges. Emily has published in the areas of environmental citizenship, sustainable consumption, and social practice theories. Her most recent research uses the sustainable food movement as a case study to explore civic engagement in environmental issues.

*Maurie J. Cohen* is Associate Professor and Director of the Program in Science, Technology, and Society at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Associate Faculty Member in the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers University, and Associate Fellow at the Tellus Institute. He is also Editor of *Sustainability: Science, Practice, and Policy (SSPP)* and co-founder and Executive Board Member of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI). His books include *Innovations in Sustainable Consumption: New Economics, Socio-technical Transitions and Social Practices* (with Halina Brown and Philip Vergragt) and *Exploring Sustainable Consumption: Environmental Policy and the Social Sciences* (with Joseph Murphy). Dr. Cohen is currently a member of the Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Green Development created under the auspices of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development.

*Naomi Krogman* is the Academic Director of the Office of Sustainability (2012–2015) and Professor in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology at the University of Alberta. She has conducted research on sustainable consumption; environmental policy implementation; integrated and collaborative resource management; gender, environmental change, and development; and social impacts of resource development. She

teaches courses on social theory about environmental change and sociology of environment and development. Her research currently addresses the future of sustainability sciences and studies in higher education and the ways in which higher education can better prepare students to address the most pressing problems of the world today.

**Expectations of Accepted Proposals**

As a potential contributor to this project, you would be responsible for submitting a 5,000–8,000 word chapter and revising your manuscript based on peer review in accordance with the timeline outlined below. The book chapters will be thematically organized with separate sections conceivably focusing on:

- Household social practices with an environmental impact
- Political social practices with an environmental orientation
- Sustainable practices as environmental citizenship

**Timeline**

<b>December 15, 2013</b>	Submit a manuscript proposal to <b>huddartk@ualberta.ca</b> . Submissions should include name(s) of author(s), a working title, abstract (250 words approximately), and 4–6 keywords.
<b>February 15, 2014</b>	Editors will review submissions, organize thematic sections, and contact authors of accepted submissions.
<b>April 1, 2014</b>	Submission of draft manuscript.
<b>May 31, 2014</b>	Reviewers’ comments returned to authors.
<b>August 31, 2014</b>	Submission of revised manuscripts.

**Job opening: Assistant Professor (tenure Track) with a specialization in culture and technology (Position#: VPA-SOCI-2013-001), The Sociology Department at Memorial University, St. John’s, NL, Canada.**

**Deadline for applying: December 6, 2013 (the date when applications should reach the Head).**

See this link for the full information: [http://www.mun.ca/soc/Ad-Tenure\\_track-2013.pdf](http://www.mun.ca/soc/Ad-Tenure_track-2013.pdf)

The person appointed will be able to demonstrate excellence in both teaching and research in both areas and will have a strong record of scholarly achievement. The successful candidate will be prepared to teach undergraduate, honours, and graduate students. Please forward a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, a teaching dossier, three reference letters, as well as two examples of written work (either published or unpublished, but at least one example single authored) to: Dr. Karen Stanbridge, Head, Department of Sociology, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John’s NL, Canada, A1C 5S7; Phone (709) 864-7457; Fax: (709) 864-2075.

## **Job opening: Opportunity for post-doc environmental sociologists - Postdoctoral research fellows at Örebro University, Sweden**

### **Deadline for applying: 15 December, 2013**

At Örebro University, Sweden, there is now a call for five very favorable career-building positions as postdoctoral research fellows within Humanities and Social Sciences. These are for a four-year period. See

<http://www.oru.se/english/vacancies/?rmpage=job&rmjob=860&rmlang=UK>

The research fellow should position his/her research within one of the university's existing research groups/environments.

We will emphasize the possibility for environmental sociologists to apply for this, as we have a strong section on environmental sociology at Örebro.

See <http://www.oru.se/humus/environmental-sociology-section/>

Qualified for the appointment are applicants who have obtained a degree of doctor no more than seven years prior to the application deadline

For more information, contact Magnus Boström ([magnus.bostrom@oru.se](mailto:magnus.bostrom@oru.se)) or Rolf Lidskog ([rolf.lidskog@oru.se](mailto:rolf.lidskog@oru.se))

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

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**Stewart Lockie, David A. Sonnenfeld, and Dana R. Fisher, eds. 2013. *Routledge International Handbook of Social and Environmental Change*. London: Routledge.**

Today, the risks associated with global environmental change and the dangers of extreme climatic and geological events remind us of humanity's dependence on favourable environmental conditions. Our relationships with the landscapes and ecologies that we are a part of, the plants and animals that we share them with, and the natural resources that we extract, lie at the heart of contemporary social and political debates. It is no longer possible to understand key social scientific concerns without at the same time also understanding contemporary patterns of ecosystem change.

The *Routledge International Handbook of Social and Environmental Change* reviews the major ways in which social scientists are conceptualizing more integrated perspectives on society and nature, from the global to local levels. The chapters in this volume, by international experts from a variety of disciplines, explore the challenges, contradictions and consequences of social-ecological change, along with the uncertainties and governance dilemmas they create. The contributions are based around the themes of:

Climate change, energy, and adaptation

Urban environmental change and governance

Risk, uncertainty and social learning

(Re)assembling social-ecological systems

With case studies from sectors across both developed and developing worlds, the *Handbook* illustrates the inter-connectedness of ecosystem health, natural resource condition, livelihood security, social justice and development. It will be of interest for students and scholars across the social sciences and natural sciences, as well as to those interested and engaged in environmental policy at all levels.

For further information on this book, including contents and author descriptions, please see: <http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld/handbook.htm>; and the publisher's website at: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415782791/>.

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**Michael Redclift and Marco Grasso, eds. 2013. *Handbook on Climate Change and Human Security*. London: Edward Elgar.**

The Handbook on Climate Change and Human Security is a landmark publication which links the complexities of climate change to the wellbeing and resilience of human populations. It is written in an engaging and accessible way but also conveys the state of the art on both climate change research and work into human security, utilizing both disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches. Organized around thematic sections, each chapter is written by an acknowledged expert in the field, and discusses the key concepts and evidence base for our current policy choices, and the dilemmas of international policy in the field. The Handbook is unique in containing sophisticated ethical and moral questions as well as new information and data from different geographical regions. It is a timely volume that makes the case for acting wisely now to avert impending crises and global environmental problems. The Handbook is international in scope and provides an assessment that will be of value to academics, students and policy professionals alike. NGOs and policy institutes which need a grasp of the specificity and range of the issues and problems will also find this book insightful.

**Contents** Contributors include: K. Bickerstaff, H.G. Brauch, S. Dalby, G. Edwards, G. Feloa, D. Gasper, N.P. Gleditsch, M. Grasso, C.M. Hall, E. Hinton, C.D. Klose, M. Mason, R. Matthew, R. Nordås, M. Nuttall, Ú. Oswald Spring, M.R. Redclift, E. Remling, J.C. Ribot, J. Scheffran, D. Simon, S. Srinivasan, J. Timmons Roberts, S. Vanderheiden, E.E. Watson, C. Webersik

For information on this book, see

[http://www.e-elgar.com/bookentry\\_main.lasso?id=14660](http://www.e-elgar.com/bookentry_main.lasso?id=14660)

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**Michael Briguglio, 2013. *EU Accession and Civil Society Empowerment: The Case of Maltese ENGOs*. Doctoral Dissertation, University of Malta.**

This thesis investigates whether European Union (EU) Accession has influenced civil society empowerment in Malta, with specific reference to Environmental NGOs (ENGOs). In particular, the study will examine whether Maltese ENGOs have experienced empowerment in the first

years following EU accession. This study verifies (1) whether EU accession has effected lobbying of ENGOs; (2) whether EU accession has enhanced the empowerment of ENGOs; and (3) whether EU accession has led to the institutionalisation of ENGOs. This study analyzes the construction of environmental politics in relation to Malta's EU accession. For this scope, discourse analysis was applied to engage with respondents from ENGOs and with specific case studies involving ENGOs in particular. A major conclusion that can be derived from this thesis is that EU accession has generally enhanced the empowerment of Maltese ENGOs, but this process was uneven, was combined with other overdetermining factors and depended on different issues and on different types of ENGO. ENGOs had greater access to opportunities that were unavailable prior to Malta's EU accession. The construction or otherwise of hegemonic formations related to the empowerment of ENGOs was related to sensitizing, procedural, structural and substantive impacts. Empowerment through hegemonic formations was not common, but ENGOs were successful in constructing nodal points and in benefitting from different types of impacts, especially sensitizing and procedural ones.

E-copies are available by request

[michael.briguglio@um.edu.mt](mailto:michael.briguglio@um.edu.mt)

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## Recent Member Articles, Special Issues & Conference Proceedings

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**Boström, Magnus; Gilek, Michael; Jönsson, Anna Maria; Karlsson, Mikael (2013).** *IKEA and the Responsible Governance of Supply Chains. IKEA's work on chemicals in textiles.* Södertörn Working Paper 2013:1. Södertörn University. Electronically available at: [http://bibl.sh.se/publikationer/vara\\_publicationer/IKEA\\_and\\_the\\_Responsible\\_Governance\\_of\\_Supply\\_Chains/diva2\\_656883.aspx](http://bibl.sh.se/publikationer/vara_publicationer/IKEA_and_the_Responsible_Governance_of_Supply_Chains/diva2_656883.aspx).

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**Broadbent, Jeffery, Sun-Jin Yun, Dowan Ku, Kazuhiro Ikeda, Keiichi Satoh, Sony Pellissery, Pradip Swarnarkar, Tze-Luen Lin, Ho-Ching Lee, and Jun Jin. 2013.** "Asian Societies and Climate Change: The Variable Diffusion of Global Norms." *Globality Studies Journal* 32: 1-22. Available online, at <http://globality.cc.stonybrook.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/032JBroadbent.pdf>

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**Gross, Matthias. 2013.** "Old Science Fiction, New Inspiration: Communicating Unknowns in the Utilization of Geothermal Energy." *Science Communication* 35 (6), 810-818.

**Gross, Matthias and Alena Bleicher. 2013.** "It's Always Dark in Front of the Pickaxe': Organizing Ignorance in the Long Term Remediation of Contaminated Land," *Time & Society* 22 (3), 316-334.

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**Király, G., Pataki, Gy., Köves A., Balázs B. 2013.** Models of (Future) Society: Bringing Social Theories Back In Backcasting, *Futures* 51. 19–30. URL: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016328713000761>

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**Kneafsey, M., Venn, L., Schmutz, U., Balázs, B., Trenchard, L., Eyden-Wood, T., Bos, E., Sutton, G., and Blackett, M. (2013)** Short Food Supply Chains and Local Food Systems in the EU. A State of Play of their Socio-Economic Characteristics. JRC Scientific and Policy Reports Number 25911 EN, Joint Research Centre. Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, Luxembourg. URL: <http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/publications/pub.cfm?id=6279>

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**Rogers, D and Balázs, B. 2013** (forthcoming). The View from Deprivation: Poverty, Inequality, and the Distribution of Wealth. In: Pogge, T., Köhler, G., Cimagamora, A.D. (eds). *Poverty & the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): A critical assessment and a look forward*. London: Zed Books. (contact authors to see working draft)

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**Stoddart, Mark C.J. & Ramos, Howard. 2013.** “Going local: Calls for local democracy and environmental governance at Jumbo Pass and the Tobeatic Wilderness Area.” *Interface: A Journal for and about Social Movements* 5(1): 229-252. (This is the article version of the paper that the authors presented at the RC24 meetings in Buenos Aires last year).

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### **World Social Science Report 2013: Changing Global Environments**

The *World Social Science Report 2013* issues an urgent call to action to the international social science community to collaborate more effectively with each other, with colleagues from other fields of science, and with the users of research to deliver solutions-oriented knowledge on today’s most pressing environmental problems. It contains dozens of social scientists’ contributions (e.g., by the RC24-member David Tàbara). The report calls for a transformative social science that is bolder, better, bigger, different:

- **bolder** in reframing and reinterpreting global environmental change as a social problem
- **better** at infusing social science insights into real-world problem-solving
- **bigger** in terms of having more social scientists to focus on global environmental change
- **different** in the way it thinks about and does research that helps meet the vexing sustainability challenges faced today.

Around 150 authors from all over the world and a wide range of disciplines offer insights that help us understand the challenges before us. The report is divided into nine sections:

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- *Introduction*: Social sciences in a changing global environment
  - *Key messages and recommendations*: Global environmental change changes everything
  - The complexity and urgency of global environmental change and social transformation
  - Social science capacity in global environmental change research
  - The consequences of global environmental change for society
  - Conditions and visions for change and sense-making in a rapidly changing world
  - The responsibilities and ethical challenges in tackling global environmental change
  - New approaches to governance and decision-making
  - Contributions from International Social Science Council members, programmes and partners
-

The *World Social Science Report 2013* is being launched at UNESCO in Paris on Friday, 15 November 2013.

The report will be available to read online in the [OECD i-library](#) from 15 November. It was prepared by the ISSC and co-published with UNESCO and the OECD.

For access to the report online, see <http://www.worldsocialscience.org/activities/world-social-science-report/the-2013-report/>

See also

[http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/the-social-challenges-of-global-environmental-change\\_9789264203419-en](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/the-social-challenges-of-global-environmental-change_9789264203419-en)

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## The RC-24 Board 2010-2014

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### 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](http://www.environment-societyisa.org) for information about:**

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

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## Editors

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