



Environment
and Society

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Debra Davidson
University of Alberta
ddavidso@ualberta.ca

Dear friends and colleagues,

It has been another busy and productive term for RC24 members! If you are looking for some additions to your summer reading list, just check out the list of recent publications below. Planning for the upcoming World Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil next summer is in full swing. Porto Alegre is the capital of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, near the Atlantic coast and situated at the intersection of five rivers near the Argentina border. Porto Alegre is described as “more European” than much of the rest of the country, where Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and German influences are noticeable. It will be winter in July, so if you are accustomed to sweltering at our ISA conferences, you are in for a pleasant surprise! Not that weather is in any way predictable anymore, but as I write, the temperatures in Porto Alegre are in the comfortable range of 13-20C. I realize that those of you currently enduring the record-breaking heat in southern Europe and Asia will likely find such a temperature range unimaginable right now.

The conference theme could not be a more accurate depiction of RC24: Democracy, environment, inequalities, intersectionality. This will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase the important work you have all been doing throughout your careers. This meeting is also an important opportunity to learn more about environment-society dynamics in Latin America, and build relationships with our environmental sociology colleagues in Brazil. We have a fantastic line-up of RC24 sessions, and abstract submissions are currently being accepted until September 30, at the ISA Portal: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/porto-alegre-2020>. We will be hosting a total of 23 sessions at this Forum, including several joint sessions with other research committees, on a diverse array of topical and conceptual subjects. We will also be able to hold several roundtables, so if you would like to suggest a roundtable topic, please let us know! I am also pleased to announce that a co-sponsored proposal for a Common Session that includes RC24, RC17 and RC48, on the topic of “Climate change and collective action towards societal transition,” has been provisionally approved. These sessions are held in the evenings and are featured prominently on the Forum calendar, so we are especially excited about this event.

I am also very pleased to inform you all that RC24 has formed a diversity and inclusion committee, consisting of volunteers from our membership, who will develop strategies to ensure that RC24 provides a welcoming and enriching community for all, regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religion. As a professional association, it is our very purpose to do everything in our power to help all of our members reach their full potential as scholars through participation in

RC24. But attending to diversity and inclusion is more than this. I believe wholeheartedly that our collective vitality as an intellectual and active community depends upon the inclusion of multiple backgrounds, perspectives, experiences and beliefs, and we cannot do that unless everyone feels their contributions are valued. We will soon be inviting you all to assist the committee by sharing your own perspectives and ideas through a Google survey, so keep your eyes open for the shared link in your email inbox soon.

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Henrike Rau
LMU Munich
henrike.rau@lmu.de

Dear RC24 members,

In my role as RC24 secretary, I am privileged to witness first hand the important research work done by you. Throughout the year, I receive many notifications of newly published books, articles, book chapters and conference papers. RC24 members also regularly appear in the media, including on key social media sites and as commentators in blogs on key environmental and sustainability issues.

Undoubtedly, the upcoming ISA World Forum in July 2020 in Porto Alegre will be another great opportunity to showcase your research on pressing problems of our time such as shifts in society-environment relations, causes and consequences of (un)sustainable resource consumption, or the unequal distribution of the negative consequences of climate change. Many of these topics have gained much greater prominence in public debate and political life than ever before, partly aided by the activities of the Fridays4Future movement around the world, including in the host country Brazil.

Our next newsletter will be published in December 2019. Please send me your contributions by 15th November 2019. In addition to new publications and upcoming workshops and conferences, it would be great to once again include research notes or workshop summaries (max. 200 words).

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

EcoSummit 2020: Building a sustainable and desirable future: Adapting to a changing land and sea-scape, 21 - 25 June 2020, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia
Extended deadline to submit symposia and side event proposals: **19th July 2019**

Beyond2020 – World Sustainable Built Environment Conference, 9-11 June 2020, Gothenburg, Sweden

Call for abstracts: <https://beyond2020.se/conference/paper-submission-guidelines/>
Deadline for submission of abstracts: **31 July 2019**.

ISA World Forum, 14-18 July 2020, Porto Alegre (Brazil)

‘Challenges of the 21st Century: Democracy, Environment, Inequalities, Intersectionality’

Call for abstracts: <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2020/cfp.cgi>

Deadline for abstract submission: **30 September 2019**.

4th IAFOR International Conference on Sustainability, Energy & the Environment, 10-12 January 2020, Honolulu, Hawaii (USA)

Deadline for abstracts: **18 October 2019**.

<https://iicseehawaii.iafor.org/>

Sixteenth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability, 29-31 January 2020, Santiago, Chile

‘Sustainability Lessons in the "Global South": Priorities, Opportunities, and Risks’

The timeline for this conference includes a number of proposal and registration deadlines. The final deadline for proposals is **29th December 2019**.

<https://onsustainability.com/2020-conference/call-for-papers>

5th International Conference on Environmental and Economic Impact on Sustainable Development, 10-12 June 2020, Seville, Spain

Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted as soon as possible by completing the online form:

https://www.wessex.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_chronoforms5&view=form&Itemid=5763&chronofrom=Abstract&conf=environmental-impact-2020

International Conference on Environmental Sociology and Societal-Environmental Interactions (ICESSEI), 18-19 June 2020, Toronto, Canada

Final deadline for abstract submission: **17th May 2020**

<https://waset.org/conference/2020/06/toronto/ICESSEI>

‘Greening’ the ISA Forum in Porto Alegre

Koichi Hasegawa

Tohoku University, Japan

As a member of the ISA executive committee (EC) and the ISA Research Coordinating Committee, I am very happy to tell you that efforts are currently underway to make the upcoming ISA World Forum 2020 a much ‘greener’ event, thereby responding to the environmental theme of the forum. Allison Loconto, an EC member and former President of RC40 (Agriculture and Food) and I have prepared a report to the EC meeting in March 2019. The main target is to raise the consciousness of the delegates regarding CO2 emissions reductions, promoting SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and to taking voluntary action. For example, we will try to:

- educate and give information about protecting forests in Amazon, reducing CO2 emissions and promoting SDGs by posting in the venue
- conduct a "carbon offset forum" buying carbon credits to offset the amount of CO2 emissions for cooling, lighting etc. during the forum
- encourage to separate waste into organics/papers/plastics in accordance with local regulations
- control and keep the temperature of the meeting rooms at moderate level, ex. 28°C
- provide congress bag made from organic materials like a cotton provide reusable water bottles made from recyclable materials or encourage delegates to bring their own
- offer sustainable, local, organic food for the catering options

In the conference pack we will provide information about: local public transport options, ‘green’ certified hotels and lodging options, economic and solidarity lodging options that are close to the conference site, sustainable food options in the city as well as sustainable tourism options in the region.

As you know, a ‘perfect’ green forum will be impossible to achieve given the potential costs and inconvenience to delegates and the organizing committee that this would bring. However, a step-by-step approach is very critical. Let us join to promote the greener Forum as environmental sociologists. If you have any ideas to promote the greener Forum, please let me know: k-hase@m.tohoku.ac.jp.

Institute of Social Ecology moved from Klagenfurt University to the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna

Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna, Austria, marina.fischer-kowalski@boku.ac.at

The Institute of Social Ecology, known for its groundbreaking interdisciplinary research across environmental sociology, land-use science and environmental history since the early 1990s, has recently found a new institutional home. Following the Institute’s move to the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, research on sociometabolic regimes, resource use, land use patterns and societal transitions continues unabated. However, it is not yet clear whether the Institute’s very successful Masters programme in Social and Human Ecology (with more than 200 degrees awarded so far) can continue in the new institutional environment.

AWARDS

Matthias Groß receives Buttlet Award 2018

Prof. Dr. Matthias Groß, winner of RC24’s 2018 Frederick H. Buttlet International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology, recently received the award plaque to commemorate this special accomplishment. The awardee was officially announced during the

World Congress of Sociology in Toronto in July 2018 in a speech by Stewart Lockie, former RC24 president.

Matthias Groß is an internationally recognised environmental sociologist from Germany who has published widely on key environment-society topics, including the invention of nature, non-knowledge and ignorance in environmental decision-making, renewable energy and its impact on society and public participation in ecological restoration. He is Head of the Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig and Professor of Environmental Sociology at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena.

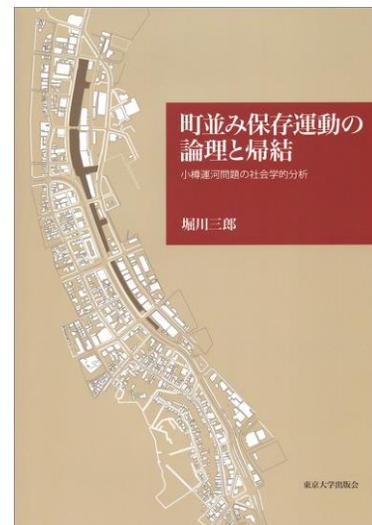
The Frederick H. Buttel International Award was established in 2005 to recognize and showcase outstanding contributions by individual scholars to the study of environment-society relations. Previous winners include Michael Redclift, Arthur Mol and Timmons Roberts.



Matthias Groß, winner of RC24's 2018 Frederick Buttel International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology, received the award plaque.

Saburo Horikawa's book *Why Place Matters* wins the Ishikawa Prize

Saburo Horikawa's most recent book, *Why Place Matters: A Sociological Study on a Historic Preservation Movement in Otaru, Japan, 1965-2016* (University of Tokyo Press, February 2018) recently won the Ishikawa Prize, the highest award of the City Planning Institute of Japan. It is highly unusual that a sociology book receives such an important recognition from the discipline of city planning. Based on more than 30 years of intensive fieldwork and through "thick description" of preservationists, the book analyses the relationship between urban environments and society. It provides a clear picture of the ways in which townscape preservation, a *social* issue, has been individualized and turned into a matter of personal taste. An English translation is expected in March 2020.



Saburo Horikawa is professor of urban and environmental sociology at Hosei University in Tokyo, Japan. RC24 member since 1997. He now serves as RC24 Treasurer.

RECENT MEMBER ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS

Boström, M., Micheletti, M. & Oosterveer, P. (eds) (2019) *Oxford International Handbook of Political Consumerism*. Oxford University Press.

This volume offers the first comprehensive theoretical and comparative overview of the ways in which the market becomes a political arena. Chapters by leading scholars, including several RC24 members, examine political consumerism in different locations and industry sectors, and in consideration of environmental and human rights problems, political events, and the ethics of production and manufacturing practices.

<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190629038.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780190629038>

Boström M, Andersson E, Berg M, Gustafsson K, Gustavsson E, Hysing E, Lidskog R, Löfmarck E, Ojala M, Olsson J, Singleton BE, Svenberg S, Uggla Y & Öhman J. (2018) Conditions for transformative learning for sustainable development: a theoretical review and approach. *Sustainability* 10(12): 4479. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su10124479>

Bush, S. and Oosterveer, P. (2019) *Governing Sustainable Seafood*. New York and London: Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Governing-Sustainable-Seafood-1st-Edition/Bush-Oosterveer/p/book/9781138017542>

David, M. and Gross, M. (2019): Futurizing Politics and the Sustainability of Real-world Experiments: What Role for Innovation and Exnovation in the German Energy Transition? *Sustainability Science*. DOI: 10.1007/s11625-019-00681-0

Davidson, D. J. (2019) Exnovating for a renewable energy transition. *Nature Energy*, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s41560-019-0369-3>

Davidson, D. J., Rollins, C., Lefsrud, L., Anders, S. and Hamann, A. (2019) Just don't call it climate change: Climate-skeptic farmer adoption of climate mitigative practices. *Environmental Research Letters*, 14(3): 034015.

Davidson, D.J. (2019) Emotion, reflexivity and social change in the era of extreme fossil fuels. *British Journal of Sociology*, 70(2): 442-462.

Davidson, D. J. (2019) The Effort Factor: An adjustment to our understanding of social-ecological metabolism in the era of Peak Oil. *Social Problems*, 66(1): 69–85.

Davidson, D.J., Fisher, A. and Blue, G. (2019) Missed opportunities: The absence of climate change in media coverage of forest fire events in Alberta. *Climatic Change*, 153(1): 165-179.

Gabaldón-Estevan, D., Peñalvo-López, E., Alfonso Solar, D. (2018) The Spanish Turn against Renewable Energy Development. *Sustainability*, 10, 1208. <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/10/4/1208>

Gabaldón-Estevan, D., Orru, K., Kaufmann, C. & Orru, H. (2019) Broader impacts of the fare-free public transportation system in Tallinn. *International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development*, DOI: 10.1080/19463138.2019.1596114

Galafassi, D., Tàbara J. D., Heras M. (2018) Restoring our senses, restoring the Earth. Fostering imaginative capacities through Arts for envisioning climate transformations. *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*. Special Feature on Imagination and imaginative capacity for transforming to sustainability: Future thinking for a world of uncertainty and surprise. Guest editors: Manjana Milkoreit and Michele-Lee Moore. <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.330>

Galafassi, D., Kagan, S., Milkoreit, M., Heras, M., Bilodeau, Ch., Juarez-Bourke, S., Merrie, A., Guerrero, L., Pétursdóttir, G. and Tàbara, J. D. (2018) ‘Raising the Temperature’: The Arts in a Warming Planet. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*. Special Issue on Sustainability Governance and Transformation. 31: 71–79. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2017.12.010>

Gross, M. (2019) The Paradox of the Unexpected: Normal Surprises and Living with Nonknowledge. *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, 61(3): 20-25. DOI: 10.1080/00139157.2019.1589308

Grealis, E., Musch, A. and Rau, H. (2019) The Impact of German Energy Policy on Household Energy Use. In F. Fahy, G. Goggins and C. Jensen (eds.) *Energy Demand Challenges in Europe: Implications for policy, planning and practice*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 21-33.

Gross, M. and Schulte-Römer, N. (2019) Remaking Participatory Democracy through Experimental Design. *Science, Technology & Human Values*, 44. Doi: 10.1177/0162243918799172.

Haberl, H., Wiedenhofer, D., Pauliuk, S., Krausmann, F., Müller, D., Fischer-Kowalski, M. (2019) Contributions of sociometabolic research to sustainability science. *Nature Sustainability*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-019-0225-2>

Lidskog R. (2018) Invented communities and social vulnerability: the local post-disaster dynamics of extreme environmental events. *Sustainability* 10(12); 4457; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su10124457>

Lidskog, R., Johansson, J. and Sjödin, D. (2019) Wildfire, responsibility and trust: public understanding of Sweden’s largest wildfire. *Scandinavian Journal of Forestry Research*, 34 (3): 319-328. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02827581.2019.1598483>

Tàbara, J. D., Takama, T., Mishra, M., Hermanus, L., Andrew, S. K., Diaz, P., Ziervogel, G. and Lemkow, L. (2019) Micro-solutions to global problems: understanding social processes to eradicate energy poverty and build climate-resilient livelihoods. *Climatic Change*, 1-15.

Tàbara, J.D., Frantzeskaki, N., Hölscher, K., Pedde, S. Lamperti, F. Kok, K., Christensen, J.H., Jäger, J., and Berry, P. (2018) Positive tipping points in a rapidly warming world. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*. Special Issue on Sustainability Governance and Transformation, 31: 120-129. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2018.01.012>

Tàbara, J.D., Jäger, J., Mangalagu D. and Grasso, M. (2018) Defining Transformative Climate Science in the context of high-end climate change. *Regional Environmental Change*. IMPRESSIONS project Special Issue, 1-12 <https://doi:10.1007/s10113-018-1288-8>.

Hein, J. E. and Chaudhri, V. (2018) Delegitimizing the enemy: framing, tactical innovation, and blunders in the battle for the Arctic. *Social Movement Studies*
DOI: [10.1080/14742837.2018.1555750](https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2018.1555750)

Heinrichs, H. (2019) Strengthening Sensory Sustainability Science - Theoretical and Methodological Considerations. *Sustainability*, 11(3): 769 ff.

Romero-Lankao, P. and Gnatz, D. (2019) Risk Inequality and the Food-Energy-Water (FEW) Nexus: A Study of 43 City Adaptation Plans. *Front. Sociol.* 4: 31. doi: 10.3389/fsoc.2019.00031

Romero-Lankao, P. and Norton, R. (2018) Interdependencies and Risk to People and Critical Food, Energy and Water Systems—2013 Flood Boulder Colorado, USA. *Earth's Future*, 6(11): 1616-1629.

Romero-Lankao, P., Bulkeley, H., Pelling, M., Burch, S., Gordon, D., Gupta, J., Johnson, C., Kurian, P., Lecavalier, E., Simon, D., Tozer, L., Ziervogel, G. and Munshi, D. (2018) Realizing the Urban Transformative Potential in a Changing Climate. *Nature Climate Change*. Vol.8. p.754-761.

Romero-Lankao, P, Bruns, A., and Wiegleb, V. (2018) From risk to WEF security in the city: The influence of interdependent infrastructural systems. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 90: 2013-2022.

Schaffartzik, A. and Fischer-Kowalski, M. (2018) Latecomers to the fossil energy transition, frontrunners for change? The relevance of the energy underdogs for sustainability transformations. *Sustainability*, 10(8), 2650; doi: 10.3390/su10082650

Singh, Simron J., M.Fischer-Kowalski, W.Haas (2018) The Sustainability of Humanitarian Aid. The Nicobar Islands as a case of 'complex disaster'. In: Reddy, Sunita (ed.), *The Asian Tsunami and Post-Disaster Aid*. Singapore (Springer Nature), pp. 143-165. [978-981-13-0181-0, 431332_1_En](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-0181-0_431332_1_En), (8)

RESEARCH NOTES

Connecting Climate Change, Energy, and Social Futures

Mark C.J. Stoddart, Department of Sociology, Memorial University, Canada, mstoddart@mun.ca

The Climate Change and Energy Futures workshop was held at Memorial University in October, 2018. The event was co-organized by RC24 members Mark Stoddart (Memorial University) and Catherine Wong (University of Luxembourg), as well as John McLevey (University of Waterloo), John Sandlos (Memorial University), and Vanessa Schweizer (University of Waterloo). The workshop goal was to create a transdisciplinary and international space to engage in “thinking futures” related to climate change and energy systems. Contributions focused on the social challenges, possibilities and trade-offs involved in pursuing fossil fuels, nuclear power, hydro-electric, and emerging renewable energies, such as geothermal and wind power. Much of the research and thinking about energy and social futures is being done by engineers and economists. This produces a range of models that focus on technological innovation and market mechanisms as drivers of new energy futures. But these models often ignore the social and political forces that support or constrain various energy futures. Furthermore, these models fail to account for socio-economic and political inequalities that determine who has the power to envision and implement new social futures, and which communities are subjected to the social futures that are envisioned by others. The workshop, which included participation by RC24 members including Pradip Swarnakar, David Tindall, Tuomas Ylä-Anttila, and others, highlighted the value of interdisciplinary environmental social science for understanding the social dynamics of climate change and energy futures.

Outputs from the workshop so far include:

- The final report, which is available at: https://www.academia.edu/37964039/Climate_Change_and_Energy_Futures_workshop_Final_Report?source=swp_share
- A blog post, which is available at: <https://www.hss.mun.ca/nexus/posts/81>
- Two episodes of the *Crosscurrents* podcast from the Nexus Centre (Memorial University), which are available at: <https://www.hss.mun.ca/nexus/podcasts>

Sharing research ideas and inviting co-contributors

Meenakshi Sinha Swami, Department of Economics, Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi, Delhi, India, meenakshi.sinhaswami@gmail.com

The anthropocene is here - whether Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen and Eugene Stroemer and other researchers make us realize its implications or not. In this context, I am currently exploring two key issues: a) the impact of unbridled urbanization in emerging economies on the physical growth of individuals, and b) the relationship between consciousness, well-being and happiness, and its links with the environment.

The various impacts of rapid urbanization worldwide are felt by us all. I am currently engaged in a multidisciplinary paper tentatively titled ‘Natural environment and growth in individuals’. A fact

in Delhi, India, which is disturbing to me is the growth factor in individuals and a lowering of physical statistics across the generations. The shrinking physique of individuals is a surprise as I often travel out of Delhi, the capital city, and that is when the difference is so striking. Key factors that need to be considered include dietary preferences, air quality, water quality, or the availability of green spaces, among others. I am currently planning a survey with young people in major cities in India that will incorporate these factors. I am open to expanding this research and invite co-authors especially from Asian cities with higher pollution levels.

Another of my multi-disciplinary research ideas, also at a nascent stage for I am presently searching through literature, deciding on dependent and independent variables. This paper is going to analyse the relationship between meditation, consciousness, well-being and happiness in urban areas. While I'm still contemplating which parameters to pick up for well being, ambient natural environment could be treated as a decisive factor for a healthy life. Suggestions are welcome from co-contributors and future co-authors.

Environmental and Social Risk Perception in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

Uriel Ezike Chidozie, University of Lagos, Nigeria, ezikechidozie@yahoo.com

Oil exploration impacts the environment, and cultural experiences of host communities differ. In Nigeria, oil exploration has resulted in environmental degradation and community crisis. Studies on the impact of crude oil exploration have placed more emphasis on environmental and health implications to host communities while there has been little attention on risk perception of residents. My work examines the environmental and social risk perception of the residents of Ogbia communities in Bayelsa State, Nigeria, at their interface with the activities of crude oil companies. Structural functionalist theory guided the study, while exploratory design was adopted. Data were collected from five purposively selected communities in Ogbia based on their oil spill experience (Oloibiri, Otuasega and Elebele) and non-oil spill experience (Otuokpoti and Otuoke). Ogbia residents perceived ecological change as a debilitating risk to survival, caused by activities of oil exploration companies. This perception informed their adaptation choice, which included deliberate acts of deviance such as petition writing, vandalism and violent protests. Local knowledge has to be integrated into mainstream perspectives, to provide appropriate guidelines for community participation in programs aimed at eradicating environmental victimization.

Researching consumption biographies: An emerging area of environmental social science

Henrike Rau, LMU Munich (Germany), henrike.rau@lmu.de

How people use resources such as energy, water, or space varies greatly across the life course. Major life events such as a new job, relocation, the birth of a child, or retirement can change people's consumption more or less dramatically, potentially amplifying unsustainable patterns in the process. For example, the birth of a child can initiate an entire 'consumption cascade' that involve a wide range of goods, services and material resources. As a member of the Future Earth Germany Working Group on Sustainable Consumption, I have the privilege of working with leading scholars in the field who share an interest in social-scientific research on consumption across the life course. Given my own background in mobility biographies research and my previous work on life events and 'mobility milestones' and their impact on mobility practices, I

very much welcome this discussion and look forward to future collaborations in this area. Any comments or articles from RC24 members on consumption biographies and closely related topics would be most welcome.

<http://www.dkn-future-earth.org/en/community/working-groups/working-groups/sustainable-consumption.html>

The RC-24 Board 2018-2022

Executive:

Debra J. Davidson (President, Canada)
Rolf Lidskog (Vice president, Sweden)
Henrike Rau (Secretary, Germany)
Saburo Horikawa (Treasurer, Japan)

Board of Governors:

Lotsmart Fonjong (Cameroon)
Dayong Hong (China)
Sadegh Salehi (Iran)
Mark Stoddart (Canada)
Pradip Swarnakar (India)
Catherine Wong (Luxembourg)

Past-presidents:

Koichi Hasegawa (Japan)
Stewart Lockie (Australia)
Raymond Murphy (Canada)
Arthur Mol (the Netherlands)
Riley Dunlap (USA)

Please consult the RC-24 Website www.isarc24.com for information about:

- How to become a member of the RC-24
- Previous Newsletters
- Environmental Sociology journal
- Activities
- Blog
- Governance of RC24
- and more