



Environment  
and Society

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## President's Column

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**Debra Davidson**  
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I wish my first President's Column entry could provide a positive story. But, as is likely the case for many of you, the urgent threats to democracy, to women, Muslims, black and brown people, LGBTQ people—the list continues to expand—that we are witnessing across the globe have preoccupied my time and sensibility this year. Rather than writing papers and preparing lectures, I sit reading the news, aghast. And yet, as I keep reading, I have reason for another concern. The recent rise of extremism has overshadowed the release of one of the most urgent statements made by the IPCC to date in the Special Report on 1.5C, that makes clear the need to achieve net zero emissions in a mere 30 years if we have any hope of limiting global warming to this level. And if one digs even further to the back pages of our digital news, we can find a cascade of dire new climate-science observations on extreme heat, coral reef loss, hurricanes, food security threats and sea level rise that should be front page news, but aren't, not even close. These things are not unconnected. Gains for extremism and losses for democracy are direct hits to our efforts to confront environmental problems, and empower the people most vulnerable to their effects. The attacks on our synagogues and belittling of the victims of harassment coincide with the dismantling of environmental states, toxic spills and breaches of climate commitments, in many cases with approval from the same members of the power elite. Rather than serve to deflate your energy and motivation for doing what you do best, let these atrocities have the reverse effect; let them motivate you to persist, in your teaching, research and outreach on environment-society relations. For some, this may be a taller order than it is for others. Many of you are working in small numbers or alone. Maybe some of you have been subject to vitriolic threats and violence yourselves for the important work you do, or perhaps simply because of your gender or the colour of your skin. But do not forget you have a large international community of colleagues and supporters in RC24. You are not alone. And let us each be that community, by expressing active support and encouragement for each other. The next time you are asked to write a review, or provide an evaluation of a funding or tenure application, be honest, but constructive. Seek to inspire, rather than belittle. Seek to build, and broaden, our base, rather than narrow it. Share the work of others in addition to your own, especially that of emerging scholars. And when students come to your office with their lofty ideas for creating change, tell them they can do it, show them how it can be done. We have important work to do, and for that to happen we need each other.

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## A Note from the Secretary

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**Henrike Rau**  
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Dear RC24 members,

I am delighted to send you this newsletter as new RC24 secretary. I joined RC24 more than a decade ago, looking for other academics who share an interest in environmental sociology and who work on similar issues. In RC24 I found a very open, supportive and inclusive research community with a global membership. I have since enjoyed many fruitful links and collaborations with RC24 members, many of which first developed during my participation in ISA conferences.

The RC24 executive plays a crucial role in coordinating and maintaining a vibrant membership organization. I am thus thrilled to have been elected to the position of RC24 secretary (2018-2022). My plan is to continue the excellent work of previous secretaries by taking a very active role in the running of the organization. I hope to work closely with both the membership and other members of the executive to maintain and further develop strong links within the organization. Regular and effective communication (e.g. through the RC24 newsletter, social media) will be central to these efforts.

I am already planning the next newsletter, to be circulated in June 2019. Please send me your contributions by 31st May 2019. In addition to new publications and upcoming workshops and conferences, I would very much welcome short summaries of recent research or workshops (max. 200 words).

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## Upcoming Conferences

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ASA Annual Meeting, 10-13 August 2019, New York (USA)

‘Engaging social justice for a better world’

Call for abstracts: <http://www.asanet.org/annual-meeting-2019/2019-call-submissions>

The deadline for abstract submission is on **9 January 2019**.

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Nordic Geographers Meeting, 16-19 June 2019, Trondheim (Norway)

‘Sustainable Geography – Geographies of Sustainability’

The deadline for abstracts (max. 250 words) is **10 January 2019**.

<https://www.ntnu.edu/geography/calls-and-deadlines>

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European Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (ERSCP), 15-18 October 2019, Barcelona.

‘Circular Europe for Sustainability: Design, Production and Consumption’

Call for abstracts: <http://erscp2019.eu/submit.php>

Prospective authors are invited to submit up to two abstracts of maximum 500 words no later than **31 January 2019** through the conference website.

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Environmental Justice Conference, 2-4 July 2019, University of East Anglia, Norwich (UK)  
'Transformative Connections'

Call for papers: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/global-environmental-justice/conference-2019>

Deadline for submission of abstracts is **31 January 2019**.

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ESA Conference 2019, 20-23 August, Manchester (UK)

Call for papers: <https://www.europeansociology.org/call-papers-published-0>

The deadline for abstract submission is on **1st February 2019**. You can choose to submit an abstract to either one of the 5 Semi-Plenaries, 37 Research Networks, 33 Joint Sessions, 19 Research Streams or the PhD Summer School. Research networks particularly relevant to RC24 members include RN12 (Environment and Society) and RN05 (Sociology of Consumption).

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ECSS – The European Conference on the Social Sciences, 9-10 July 2019, Brighton (UK)  
'Independence & Interdependence'

Call for papers: <https://ecss.iafor.org/call-for-papers/>

Deadline for abstract submission: **22nd February 2019**.

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## Recent Member Activities

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### Publications

- Davidson, D. J. (2018) Rethinking adaptation: Emotions, evolution, and climate change. *Nature and Culture*, 13(3): 378-402.
  - Davidson, D. J., Edou, E. and Robinson, B. (2018) Chipping away at democracy: Legislative slippage in Alberta's energy development zone. *Energy Research and Social Science*, 46: 303-310.
  - Davidson, D. J. and Stedman, R.C. (2018) Calling forth the change-makers: Reflexivity theory and climate change attitudes and behaviors. *Acta Sociologica*, 61(1): 79-94.
  - Fischer-Kowalski, M., Rovenskaya, E., Krausmann, F., Pallua, I. and O'Neill, J.R. (2019) Energy Transitions and Social Revolutions. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 138: 69-77.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0040162517311526?dgcid=author>
  - Godin, L. and Sahakian, M. (2018) Cutting through conflicting prescriptions: How guidelines inform "healthy and sustainable" diets in Switzerland. *Appetite*, 130: 123-133.
  - Horikawa, S. (2018) *Why Place Matters: A Sociological Study on a Historic Preservation Movement in Otaru, Japan, 1965-2016*. Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press (504pp., ISBN 978-4-13-056114-3 [in Japanese]).
  - Horikawa, S. et al. (eds.)(2018) *Nuclear Power Plant Disaster and the Evacuation: A Chronology*. Tokyo: Suirensa (425pp., ISBN 978-4-86369-532-0 [in Japanese]).
  - Horikawa, S. and Aoyagi, M. (2018) Environmental Sociology: An Overview, in *Society for Environmental Economics and Policy Studies* (ed.) *Encyclopedia of Environmental Economics and Policy Studies*. Tokyo: Maruzen, pp.14-17 [in Japanese].
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- Jensen, C.L., Goggins, G., Fahy, F., Grealis, E., Vadovics, E., Genus, A. and Rau, H. (2018) Towards a Practice-theoretical Classification of Sustainable Energy Consumption Initiatives: Insights from Social Scientific Energy Research in 30 European Countries. *Energy Research and Social Science*, 45: 297-306.
  - Kais, S. M. and Islam, M.S. (2018) Challenges for Sustainable Aquaculture: Evidences from Bangladesh. *Aqua Practical*, 3(2): 3-6.
  - Klapwijk MJ, Boberg J, Bergh J, Bishop K, Björkman C, Ellison D, Felton A, Lidskog R, Lundmark T, Keskitalo ECH, Sonesson J, Nordin A, Nordström E-M, Stenlid J & Mårald E. 2018. Capturing complexity: Forests, decision-making and climate change mitigation action. *Global Environmental Change*, 52: 238-247. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2018.07.012>
  - Lidskog, R. and Sjödin, D. (2018) Unintended consequences and risk(y) thinking. The shaping of consequences and responsibilities in relation to environmental disasters. *Sustainability*, 10(8): 2906 <https://doi.org/10.3390/su10082906>
  - Lidskog, R. and Sundqvist, G. (2018) Environmental expertise as group belonging: environmental sociology meets Science and Technology Studies. *Nature and Culture*, 13(3): 309-331, <https://doi.org/10.3167/nc.2018.130301>.
  - Rau, H., Goggins, G. and Fahy, F. (2018) From Invisibility to Impact: Recognising the Scientific and Societal Relevance of Interdisciplinary Sustainability Research. *Research Policy*, 47(1): 266-276. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2017.11.005>
  - Rau, H. (2018) Minding the mundane: Everyday practices as central pillar of sustainability thinking and research. In M. Boström and D. Davidson (eds.) *Environment and Society: Concepts and Challenges*. London: Palgrave, pp. 207-232.
  - Sahakian, M. and Bertho, B. (2018) Exploring emotions and norms around Swiss household energy usage: When methods inform understandings of the social. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 45: 81-90.
  - Wellstead, A., Beisbroek, R., Cairney, P., Davidson, D., Dupuis, J., Howlett, M., Rayner, J. and Stedman, R. (2018) Overcoming the ‘Barriers’ Orthodoxy: A New Approach to Understanding Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Governance Challenges in the Canadian Forest Sector. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, 48: 1-5.
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## Research notes

### **ENERGISE – European Network for Research, Good Practice and Innovation for Sustainable Energy**

Henrike Rau, LMU Munich (Germany), WP1 leader in ENERGISe, [henrike.rau@lmu.de](mailto:henrike.rau@lmu.de)

ENERGISE is an innovative pan-European research initiative to achieve a greater scientific understanding of the social and cultural influences on energy consumption (<http://www.energise-project.eu/>). Funded under the EU Horizon 2020 programme for three years (2016-2019), ENERGISe develops, tests and assesses options for a bottom-up transformation of energy use in households and communities across Europe. Between September and December 2018, the ENERGISe team has been rolling out living labs in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK to observe existing practice cultures related to

energy use in a real-world setting, and to test both household and community-level initiatives to reduce energy use.

The final conference of the ENERGISE project will be held as part of the ERSCP 2019 Conference in October in Barcelona. <http://www.energise-project.eu/node/1262>

### **Environmental Management Standards: A Sociological Study of Hindustan Zinc and the Villages in Periphery**

S. C. Rajora, Professor of Sociology (Retired), University of Kota, [drscrajora@gmail.com](mailto:drscrajora@gmail.com)

A study on “Environmental Management Standards: A Sociological Study of Hindustan Zinc and the Villages in Periphery” was completed recently at the Lead Zinc Smelter Plant located at *Chandaria* a suburb near Chittorgarh in Rajasthan state of India. The objective was to enquire and understand the policy and standards related to the process and management/treatment of hazardous waste excreted by the plant on one hand and to examine the social accountability with reference to the peripheral villages- *Suwania*, *Biliya*, and *Nagri*. It was found that industrial waste has become a great threat and challenge for the environment at national level by its multifaceted dangerous effects on all kinds of species of livings; human beings, animals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, water bodies, trees, plants, crops and many more. Thus, industrial waste and environmental pollution has become not merely a national threat rather a global threat. It was noted that the evil effect of hazardous waste has been much deepened in the in the peripheral villages. On the basis of feedback from the field it was found that damage control was urgently required otherwise the situation shall continue to decline day by day probably would be beyond control in near future.

### **Ramifications of Environmental Economics Research in Emerging Economies**

Dr. Meenakshi Sinha Swami, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi, Delhi, India, [meenakshi.sinhaswami@gmail.com](mailto:meenakshi.sinhaswami@gmail.com)

Growth rates, climate change and present day social concerns and their ramifications are shaping and reshaping research in emerging economies under the broad field of environmental economics. On the development platform emerging economies are differently placed than developed economies and thus require a far higher and increasing rate of resource consumption.

The broad areas of research which have been keeping scholars busy in emerging economies especially India concern a) Degrowth pathways in emerging economies b) Sustainable and inclusive growth patterns; c) Sustainability in Jugaad Innovation; d) Planning for smart cities [Inclusive and socially, economically and ecologically sustainable] ; e) Universal Homo oeconomicus and its ramifications; f) Oikonomia vs Chrematistics; g) Real vs Virtual sustainable patterns; h) Real-Real Economy [Energy flows (fossil fuels, electricity, etc. ), and Material flows (raw materials, water, etc.) etc. And environment fund and stock analysis]; i) Anthropocene debate in emerging economies; j) The open system approach based on thermodynamic principles; k) Entropicity in economics [irreversibility, in complete recycling, no perpetual motion system, no “renewable” energy]; l) Ecological economics: Resilience vs Carrying Capacity; m) Multiple Indicators for growth and development [environmental, social, economic,

political and psychological]; n) Systems Analysis; o) Ecosystem functions: Regulation functions and Production functions p) Post-normal science; q) Material-flow analysis (MFA) [Inputs: resources, energy and Outputs: waste, emissions, heat]; r) Sustainability of common property rights s) Resource led growth and t) Environmental ethics among others

Due to differing environmental, social and economic patterns research areas shape differently in emerging economies.

## The RC-24 Board 2018-2022

### Executive:

<p><b>Debra J. Davidson (President, Canada)</b>          I have been immersed in environmental sociology since my first graduate seminar with William Freudenburg back in 1991, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve RC24 for the next four years! My teaching and research has been focused on climate change, energy and food systems for awhile now, with a particular interest in reflexivity, and transition processes. I have been at the University of Alberta for 19 years, but I hail originally from Los Angeles California. When I'm not working, my two teenage daughters keep me busy.</p>	
<p><b>Rolf Lidskog (Vice president, Sweden)</b>          I am professor in sociology and coordinator of the Environmental Sociology Section at Örebro University. Since my start as PhD-students in the late 1980s, I have been researching environmental policy and politics. Gradually, the role of environmental knowledge and environmental expertise has come into my focus, and currently most of my research time is devoted to the constitution, institutionalization and contribution of scientific expertise in environmental discourses and environmental governance. As part of the board of RC24 I hope to, together with the other board members, to continue the work to make environmental sociology stronger by building networks and facilitating discussion. Environmental sociology has an important role to play in society and to handle environmental challenges we face, and RC24 is an important mechanisms for strengthening both the identity and the voice of environmental sociology.</p>	

**Henrike Rau (Secretary, Germany)**

Henrike Rau is professor of social geography and sustainability research at LMU Munich and specialises in social-scientific sustainability research. Her research projects on (un)sustainable consumption concerning mobility, energy and food include CONSENSUS ([www.consensus.ie](http://www.consensus.ie), 2009-15) and ENERGISE ([www.energise-project.eu](http://www.energise-project.eu), 2016-19). She has published 60+ peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and edited collections on environmental and sustainability issues, including 'Methods of Sustainability Research in the Social Sciences' (Sage, 2013) and 'Challenging Consumption' (Routledge, 2014). Henrike Rau is a member of the SCORAI Europe steering committee (<http://scorai.org/europe/>) and Future Earth Germany's Working Group on Sustainable Consumption (<http://www.dkn-future-earth.org/en/community/working-groups/working-groups/sustainable-consumption.html>).



**Saburo Horikawa (Treasurer\*, Japan)**

Professor Saburo Horikawa holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in sociology from Keio University (Tokyo, Japan). His research interests include historic environment preservation, urban communities, Minamata disease, and the historical development of Japanese environmental sociology. His research focuses on uses and meanings of townscape, and rise of grassroots movements to preserve them. His most recent book, Why Place Matters: A Sociological Study on a Historic Preservation Movement in Otaru, Japan, 1965-2016 (Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, February 2018 [in Japanese]), is a milestone in the field.



\* According to RC-24 statutes, the Treasurer is an appointed position

**Board of Governors:**

**Lotsmart Fonjong (Cameroon)** holds a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon, an M.A. in Development Studies, from the University of Leeds, UK, and a Certificate in International Human Rights from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. He is a Professor of Geography at the University of Buea, Cameroon. His is co-author with William Markham of Saving the Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa published in 2015 by Palgrave Macmillan. Author of four other books and several scientific publications on environmental, gender and development issues in Africa, his current research focus is on gender and climate change, land grabbing and women's land rights, and water governance in Africa.



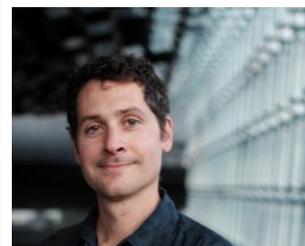
**Dayong Hong (China)**, Professor in Sociology, Research Centre for Sociological Theory and Methodology, Renmin University of China. He is President of the Chinese Association of Environmental Sociology, and Vice President of the Chinese Sociological Association. His teaching and research mainly focus on the fields of social development and social policies, especially on environmental governance and poverty alleviation. He has published many books, including *Ecological Modernization and Transformation of Civilization* (2014), *Social Foundation for Eco-Friendliness* (2012), *Social Relief in China's Social Transformation* (2004) and *Social Change and Environment Issues* (2001), and had over 70 papers published in Chinese and international academic journals.



**Sadegh Salehi (Iran)**, Associate professor of Environmental Sociology, University of Mazandaran. My main research interests focus on understanding environmental behaviour, in particular household energy use and water consumption. I am especially interested in understanding which social and situational factors affect people motivation to act pro-environmentally. Also, I study which factors affect the effectiveness and acceptability of environmental policy and climate change policy. I am involved in various research projects that aim to understand how to realise a sustainable energy transition. Among other activities, I serve as a Director-in-Charge of *The Journal of Tourism Planning and Development*. I will try to encourage graduate students and junior researchers to join the RC24. I also try to collaborate with international colleagues who are interested in conducting their filed work in Asian region.



**Mark Stoddart (Canada)**  
 I am currently an Associate Professor in the Sociology Department at Memorial University in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. My main current preoccupation is a five-year project on the various cultural, political and collective action contact points between offshore oil and nature-based tourism as different development pathways across the North Atlantic region. This project, which compares Denmark, Iceland, Newfoundland and Labrador, Norway, and Scotland, is the basis for the upcoming book, *Industrial Development and Eco-Tourisms: Is Co-existence Possible between Oil Exploration and Nature Conservation?* Other ongoing research focuses on rural coastal communities that attempt to leverage tourism for social-ecological wellbeing. I have also been on the Canadian team of COMPON (Comparing Climate Change



<p>Policy Networks), where I have been interested in media framing of climate debate. As an RC24 board member, I hope to help foster and expand our inclusive and diverse intellectual community, in terms of global region, language community, methodological and theoretical orientations, and career stage.</p>	
<p><b>Pradip Swarnakar (India)</b> is an associate professor of sociology at the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior. His research areas include environmental sociology, climate change, social networks, and sustainability transition.</p>	
<p><b>Dr. Catherine Wong (Luxembourg)</b> is an environmental sociologist at the University of Luxembourg. She specialises in risk governance in the topical areas of climate change policy, energy systems and global cities, using qualitative comparative research methods.</p>	

**Past-presidents:**

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

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