



International Sociological Association  
Research Committee on Environment and Society

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## President's Column

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### **Koichi Hasegawa**

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Colleagues,

Let me start to talk about the third ISA Forum of Sociology, which will be held in Vienna, Austria from July 10-14, 2016. Now we are calling for abstracts for 15 sessions except the business meeting and other four joint sessions. Visit the ISA site (<http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/rc/rc.php?n=RC24>). I believe any of them are very attractive and will get so many abstracts. Every session organizer will have a headache to select some of them. Indeed, we received 22 session proposals and I had to select 15 sessions. Each of them are dealing with very crucial and relevant topics. The selection was so tough and so heavy for me. Remember, the deadline for submitting abstracts is September 30. You can submit via on line above. It is also my pleasure to announce that our new journal, Environmental Sociology published its second issue. See the site (<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rens20/1/2>) and submit your own article.

Second, I would like to inform you of the current situation of the Fukushima nuclear accident and Japanese nuclear energy policy. More than four years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster, and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Accident in March 11, 2011. The combined disaster is Japan's largest since the Second World War and one of the most severe in the histories of industrialized nations as well as the history of modern Japan. The question is what should we learn from this tragic event, and in particular, what lessons should we learn in order to prevent another serious nuclear accident in Japan and other countries? We are facing the post-accident reality.

For more than nineteen months since September 15, 2013, no nuclear reactor has been in operation in Japan due to the Fukushima accident. However the current Abe government, which regained power in the December 2012 general election, is aiming toward the early resumption of nuclear power plant activity, probably some time after coming July. The Fukushima accident had an enormous impact on Japan and the world. It prompted Germany to decide to permanently shut down eight aging reactors on August 6, 2011, with the remaining nine reactors to be phased out

by the end of 2022. Then this policy was neither disputed nor revised, not even during the course of the general election in 2013.

While the Fukushima accident has highlighted some structural issues in Japanese bureaucracy and civil society that underlie the accident such as the presence of the hard-line pro-nuclear establishment that includes the mass media, the ineffectiveness of the nuclear regulatory system and the relative weakness of public opinion and social movements in critiquing the nuclear power issue, the pro-nuclear power establishment is trying to make a comeback by accumulating 'faits accomplis'. It avoids making the resumption of nuclear power operations an election issue while slowly building up faits accomplis to advance its agenda. This is a standard tactic favored by the Japan's central government.

Disappointingly, the 3.11 disaster and the Fukushima nuclear accident have not yet met my expectation that they would provide Japan with the momentum to move toward a 'post-nuclear society'. On the contrary, our society's desire for strong leadership has boosted Prime Minister Abe's aggressive policy stance and driven Japan towards the right and his revisionist conception. See Hasegawa (2014, 2015 forthcoming).

Third for the climate change issue, 2015 is the most critical year. From late November in Paris, the COP21 Conference will be held. The conference goal is to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement, a successor to the 1997 Kyoto protocol to take effect in 2020 and to effectively limit the global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. At the beginning of this year, in our blog (<http://www.isarc24.com/blog>), our secretary, Debra gave her comments on the COP20 conference, raising the very stimulating question and provided her three suggestions: "What can we do to make COP21 different?" Already almost a half year passed. Let's think about *your idea to do and draw your students' ideas in your classroom following her*.

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## **An Update on the Journal *Environmental Sociology***

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Foundation Editor, [editor.jes@jcu.edu.au](mailto:editor.jes@jcu.edu.au)

The first two issues of *Environmental Sociology*, published by Routledge on behalf of RC24, have already been released and Issue 3 will be out shortly. Thank you to everyone who has submitted papers and participated in the review process!

Interest in the journal is proving strong. Enough papers have progressed beyond the review process to fill the next two issues. I am excited to see how this interest translates into subscriptions, citations and general feedback on how we are being perceived by readers.

I won't say too much here on the rationale for the journal. You can read more about this in my opening editorial essay, 'Why environmental sociology?'. Remember that all financial members of RC24 have full access to the journal. In fact, for the time being, Routledge is making all articles available open access.

The success of this project will, of course, depend on how well we develop a community of contributors and readers. I encourage you to do participate in this community by:

- Considering *Environmental Sociology* as an outlet for your very best work.
- Requesting your institutional library take out a subscription.
- Encouraging your students and colleagues both to follow the journal and to read specific articles you have found interesting.
- Responding to requests to review papers (even if to say you're not available!).

Submission guidelines and other journal information can be found at [www.tandfonline.com/rens](http://www.tandfonline.com/rens).

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## Environment & Society Reflections by Members

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### Ecological Consciousness in Ecovillages across the World

Meenakshi Sinha Swami, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Economics,  
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Ecovillages have been formed across the world by individuals who have a strong desire to give to themselves, their children and eventually to mankind, a new way of life, far away from the urban mess of congestion, noise, environmental degradation and chaos, which societies and governments have successfully created. Ecovillages are incubators for environmental and social health. Love for the mother earth, and all its inhabitants thrive among community cohesion in ecovillages. According to Global Ecovillage Network (GEN, 2013) ecovillage integrates 4 dimensions of sustainability (ecology, economy, the social and the cultural) into a holistic approach.

Some ecovillages were formed with spirituality as the driving force while some with ecological conservation in mind. But vertical assimilation is transforming them. They are becoming places of convergence towards higher consciousness while undertaking strong ecological initiatives. Karen Litfin (Litfin, 2013) shares her unique experience of sustainable living in ecovillages through four broad windows—ecology, economics, community, and consciousness—or E2C2.

Ecological consciousness is the foundation along with social consciousness for the vertical convergence towards higher consciousness. According to a Konohana ecovillager (**Furuhashi, 2014**) nature is a fundamental and inextricable part of the human condition and we live and flourish in biodiversity. According to the Gaia Trust (2014), the precursor of GEN, "The vision

is for all people to live in settlements containing all elements of society much like a holograph, where every part contains the whole. Plant and animal systems reflect this manifold/variety.”

Ecological sustainability in ecovillages has led to the prioritization of conservation of resources, reliance on local materials, saving energy, organic agriculture, shared transportation, recycling waste, sustainable environmental education etc. Ecovillages believe in “community led eco-action”.

A number of Ecovillages globally have conducted assessments of their environmental impact. The German ecovillage, Sieben Linden, was studied in cooperation with the University of Kassel and found that their CO2 emissions were 28% of the German average. The Japanese ecovillage, Konohana Family, did a survey, and found out their CO2 emissions were around 50% of the Japanese average. An ecological footprint survey was conducted at Findhorn Foundation in U.K. in 2005, and also at the Konohana Family ecovillage in 2007. The survey undertaken by the Findhorn Foundation, found their footprint was half the national average. The Konohana Family ecological footprint is about 1/3 the Japanese average—or 1/6 the US average. They achieved this environmentally sustainable low impact lifestyle by producing food utilising sustainable agriculture, implementing renewable energy production best suited to each location, and living as a community sharing a spirit of mutual support (**Furuhashi, 2014**).

Ecovillages have for many years acted as micro-laboratories for building a low carbon, post-growth society (Hopkins, 2014). Tuggelite, the first ecovillage in Sweden, is justly famous for its extremely low energy consumption. The houses are hyper-insulated with naturally available materials. Tuggelite also runs the Karlstad Bus Fleet through the bio-gassification of garbage. Hjorthoj Ecovillage in Denmark is covered entirely by solar and biomass energy.

Features of ecological consciousness in some well-known ecovillages:

Ecovillage	Ecological Consciousness & Beliefs
Findhorn, UK Estd, 1962	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interdependence of all life is at the heart of all learning and practice at Findhorn.</li> <li>• Findhorn features more than 100 ecologically-benign buildings</li> <li>• It supplies energy from four wind turbines and is part of the ORIGIN project seeking to synchronize energy demands with locally generated electricity</li> <li>• The individual water usage here is less than the average in UK</li> <li>• It boasts a biological Living Machine waste water treatment system</li> <li>• It is served by a car-sharing club that includes zero-emissions electric vehicles</li> <li>• The Findhorn Foundation Ecovillage Project has received Best Practice designation from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Findhorn, 2014)</li> </ul>
Auroville, India Estd. 1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auroville has planted over 3 million trees, providing shade for the mostly Caucasian residents while rejuvenating the soil and bringing back wildlife</li> <li>• The forest also provides firewood for the 40,000 Tamil villagers, who live around Auroville</li> <li>• Auroville allows for natural regeneration of vegetation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste water treatment plant, water harvesting , solar energy is being used</li> <li>• A large solar bowl on the roof of Auroville’s Solar Kitchen provides steam for cooking several hundred meals each day.</li> <li>• While Auroville does not fully feed itself, it farms organically and shares its practices—like Effective Microorganisms (EM)—with local villagers.</li> <li>• (Auroville, 2014)</li> </ul>
The Farm Community USA Estd. 1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They consider the earth to be sacred.</li> <li>• They have agreed to be respectful of the forests, fields, streams and wildlife under their care.</li> <li>• They agree that the community is a wildlife sanctuary with no hunting for sport or food. (Farm, 2014)</li> </ul>
Svanholm Community, Denmark Estd. 1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Svanholm are the pioneers of organic farming in Denmark, they were instrumental in introducing organic dairy and other organic foods to Danish stores and supermarkets.</li> <li>• Svanholm uses off-grid energy and other ecologically sustainable systems.</li> <li>• Svanholm enjoys fresh milk and yogurt every day from its herd of 100 dairy cows. (Svanholm, 2014)</li> </ul>
Konohana Family, Japan Estd. 1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fully vegetarian community on their way to becoming vegan</li> <li>• Konohana Family produces 260 varieties of vegetables, rice, fruits, grains, tea and herbs, using natural organic farming methods.</li> <li>• Konohana Family’s food production depends on microorganisms (MO). They use their original MO, called Konohana-kin, for almost every product. More than 120 kinds of effective MOs which are based on lacto-bacillus and are cultured at Konohana Family regularly.</li> <li>• Konohana Family has achieved very high food self-sufficiency. Consuming less than 30% of their fully organic produce. (Konohana, 2014)</li> </ul>
Sieben Linden, Germany, Estd. 1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their common goal is to question our habits of consumption, challenging the world-wide exploitation of humans, animals and the environment</li> <li>• They consider their low ecological footprint to be due to vegan/vegetarian diet, car sharing, avoidance of plane travels and good insulation of their houses.</li> <li>• Their communal kitchen is solely vegetarian, largely vegan.</li> <li>• They have the highest density of straw-bale-buildings in Europe.</li> <li>• Approximately 65% of the yearly required electric power is generated by photovoltaic systems.</li> <li>• Water consumption is reduced to 2/3 of the German average, due to the application of compost toilets.</li> <li>• Goods and devices for household and office, building materials, clothes etc. are bought, if possible, from sustainable manufacturing or else they use second-hand products.(Sieben Linden, 2014)</li> </ul>

Table 1: Ecological consciousness in some important ecovillages

## Conclusion

Ecovillages are heralding a new chapter in ecological living through peaceful community effort. Ecovillage formation is also gaining momentum since it provides a viable alternative to existing globalized inhumane structures by exploring decentralized solutions on a community level and connecting traditional and contemporary knowledge for a peaceful existence, spiritual growth and a sustainable future.

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## In Memoriam: Harutoshi Funabashi

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### Tsunehide Chino

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Harutoshi Funabashi, Professor and the leader of the Institute for Sustainability Research at Hosei University, passed away during his sleeping at his home in early morning on August 15,

2014, due to a sudden attack of subarachnoid hemorrhage, at the age of 66. It was just one month after our two day pre-Congress in Yokohama.

Prof. Funabashi is a sociologist who has carried out research on various topics concerning pollution and environmental issues since late 1970s. He is one of the founders of the Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology, established in 1992 and which boasts one of the largest associations specified environmental sociology in the world (roughly 600 members). He started his career as a sociologist with strong orientation of being a theoretical inventor. Later, advancing to research in social problems, touched off by the experience of meeting ecologists while studying in France from 1986 to 1988, he began to concentrate on research in environmental issues from the age of about 40.

He conducted research on a wide range of environmental issues including Minamata mercury diseases in Kumamoto and Niigata areas, noise and vibration pollution of the bullet train and waste disposal issues. Since 1988, he had been tackling with the issue of the nuclear fuel cycle facilities in Rokkasho Village, Aomori Prefecture, and visited the site area every year, with his students, the late Prof. Nobuko Iijima (the first president of the Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology) and Prof. Koichi Hasegawa (the current president of RC24). I was one of Prof. Funabashi's students and have been joined his research in Rokkasho since 2002. We conducted interviews with a large number of people including Assembly members and administrative officers of the Aomori Prefecture as well as residents, local activists and journalists. We had critically analyzed the failure of political processes led to this large amount of concentration of low to high level radioactive wastes. We published several books and papers on this subject.

His paper, "Environmental problems in postwar Japanese society" (Funabashi, 1992) appeared in the first issue of International Journal of Japanese Sociology, the official English journal of Japan Sociological Society. You can also read his papers in English and grasp his theoretical perspective, "Intervention of the Environmental Control System in the Economic System and the Environmental Cluster" (Funabashi, 2004) and "The Duality of Social Systems and the Environmental Movement in Japan" (Funabashi, 2011).

In 2009, Hosei University founded the Institute for Sustainability Research. Prof. Funabashi led the institute as a director, organized many research projects including utilizing of renewable energy resources, high-level radioactive waste issues, and analyzing the energy policy decision making process. When the 3.11 Tsunami disaster and the Fukushima nuclear accident occurred in 2011, immediately he took leadership and organized several research groups in the Science Council of Japan and the Japan Sociological Society. I knew that Prof. Funabashi had plans to visit China, Taiwan, and Korea to strengthen the network of environmental sociologists in East Asia during his sabbatical leave in 2011. However, he abandoned his visit abroad and devoted his time and energy to serve a severe situation of Fukushima area and Japanese society after the disaster.

He theoretically analyzed the social structure and the social process that caused the Fukushima nuclear disaster in his paper "Why the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster is a Man-made Calamity" (Funabashi, 2012). World's environmental sociologist should have been deeply impressed his strong leadership in the publication of "*A General World Environmental Chronology*" (GWEC Editorial Working Committee, 2014).

Prof. Funabashi was actively involved in civil society, making policy proposals for building of a recycling-based society and making efforts in many communities to support the startup of renewable energy projects run by local citizens. He served as chairperson of the Citizens' Commission on Nuclear Energy, established in April 2013, organizing the discussions which have included the participation of many citizens and specialists (I am also one of the members). He was systematically organizing the meeting and pursuing coming of a nuclear phase-out. The commission published its policy principles under the title of "*Our Path to a Nuclear-Free Japan: Policy Outline for a Nuclear Phase-out.*" He had also been active for the local residents' movement in his home town, Oiso Town, Kanagawa Prefecture and served as a director of the "Oiso Eneshift" established in 2013.

In the University of Tokyo, Prof. Funabashi's major was aeronautical engineering at the Faculty of Engineering. However, faced with the student uprisings of the late 1960s, he changed his mind to study sociology. He had a 5kW PV panel system on the roof of his home. This system started in 1993 from a 250W panel system installed by himself!. He bought parts and appliances in famous Akihabara, Tokyo. He had continued to improve and upgrade it for seven years with local builder's support. This practice is very symbolic of his strong will to push forward to the long-term goal with integrating both theoretical and practical orientation.

On coming July 12, Sunday, we are going to hold Prof. Funabashi's memorial gathering with the panel at Hosei University to honor for his scholarly works and social activities with his colleagues, ex- and current students, friends and NGO activists. Under the title of "Social Reform and Missions of Research", the panel will be focusing on Prof. Funabashi's research minds, will and activities for a building sustainable society.

And on October 30, Friday, we will have another memorial night of him at the Fifth International Symposium on Environmental Sociology in East Asia (ISESEA-5) in Sendai. Riley Dunlap, Lee Seejae and other guests from abroad will make a speech on him.

He was wonderful family member, husband, father of three sons and great teacher and mentor. His wife, Dr. Keiko Funabashi is a very active and well-known leading sociologist of gender and family. Both were long year comrades from their days of high school classmates.

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## *Sharing Condolences: Letters in Remembrance of Professor Harutoshi Funabashi*

Saburo Horikawa, Chair, International Relations Committee, JAES, and Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Hosei University (Tokyo, Japan)

Email: [sab@hosei.ac.jp](mailto:sab@hosei.ac.jp).

After the passing of Professor Harutoshi Funabashi on Aug. 15, 2014, I received many condolence letters from participants abroad to the Pre-Congress, last July 12-13 in Yokohama. I would like to share some of these letters and the memories of him with you.

Prof. Riley E. Dunlap (Oklahoma State University, U.S.A.)

Like the others, I'm shocked and deeply saddened. Funabashi was a very good human being, and had so much more to do, so this is a tragedy. I'm so happy he (and the rest of you) managed to complete the Chronology that meant so much to him and the JAES.

I will always remember him for graciously serving as discussant for my presentation during my first visit to Japan back in 1991, where his good nature was so apparent.

And we will all remember him for his role in organizing such a successful pre-congress symposium last month.

Please pass our good wishes and deepest sympathy to his family. And to you and his other colleagues, we wish you the best during this terrible time.

Riley

Prof. Raymond Murphy (University of Ottawa, Canada)

That's terrible, shocking news. He seemed so vigorous at the conference and worked hard to make it a great conference. Its success was in large part due to his efforts (and yours). I give you, all Japanese environmental sociologists, and his family my sincerest condolences. We often seem to have ill fortune after our World Congresses. Four years ago, our sustainability plenary speaker Steve Schneider, died on the plane going home from Sweden.

My deepest sympathy to you because I know that you were particularly close to him.

Ray

Prof. Arthur P.J. Mol (Wageningen University, the Netherlands)

This is terrible, shocking and completely unexpected news! We were in the middle of developing

new plan for collaboration; he seems to be as active as ever during our conferences.

Harutoshi was a man full of energy and plans during the preconference and ISA conference, but in fact for as long as I have known him. He just finished two major works, was a key figure in the preconference organization, was heavily involved in civil society organizations around the Fukushima disaster. He had major plans of further internationalizing Japanese environmental sociology, of showing the world what Japanese environmental sociology has to offer and why nuclear energy was a dead end technology that has to be replaced for renewables, the sooner the better. He not just studied that academically but also served among groups of victims of the Fukushima disaster and civil society organizations collecting evidence and pressuring the government to ban this technology.

Above all he was an extremely kind colleague, always open, helping and teaching young scientists, stimulating exchanges of ideas and facilitating international collaboration. He was among the first environmental sociologists to actively participate in RC24 and always was present during our conference. He never was there for himself but always there to further ideas, his colleagues and the discipline. An example for all of us.

This is a most tragic loss, one which we will find hard, but have, to live with. Words fall short to express my feelings of extreme sadness. Please pass my sincere condolences to Harutoshi's family, his direct colleagues in his department and the entire Japanese environmental sociology community.

Kind regards,

Arthur

Prof. Seejae Lee (the Catholic University of Korea, Korea)

Yesterday, after I received the shocking sad news from Sab, I had to take some time to think about Prof.Funabashi. Since we met at the

Preconference of ISA last month, and had a long drinking and talking time with him afterwards, I cannot believe his passing away.

Since I went to Japan in Summer 1974 to study at the University of Tokyo, we have been friends exactly for 40 years. We both were born in 1948, the same year. He and his wife Dr.Keiko Funabashi were all my classmates at the graduate school.

We have exchanged greeting cards every year and met again in 1991 at Kobe as environmental sociologists. He was energetic in academic research, and always pursued a theoretical frames on the basis of the extensive empirical research. I learned a lot from him on academic attitude, not limited to specific methods.

Last year October, we invited him to Korea to give us his academic results, methods, and information from his research on the nuclear power plant area. He poured out all he had in his brain and gave us ample resources. We Korean research team will not forget encounter with him.

We have collaborated with him in making his World Environmental Chronology, and finally it was published in English last month just before the ISA Congress. His extensive collection of the Nuclear Power Plant resources was also published at the same time. I praised both monumental works should be counted as world heritage asset, because both volumes will contribute to our

future generation immensely. Without Harutoshi's untiring efforts, both works could not come into reality. I was relieved that this two monumental works become his last great job, and lifework.

From 2008, we East Asian environmental sociologists from Japan, China, Taiwan and Korea have held a conference in every two years. In forming the exchange network, Prof. Funabashi was one of the most important leaders who strongly promoted exchange. Through this network, environmental sociologists in Asia could know each other, environmental studies and environmental problems of respective countries. We will not forget the roles he played in the network. He showed really sincere academic attitudes and achievement that would give enormous impacts on the development of sociological studies of environment in Asia and world.

For last two years, he involved himself in anti-nuke movement in Japan, and led the movement. His engagement on this movement is really impressive, since he showed again through and sincere stance in movement. His death is really a great loss for Japanese society that has pursued the de-nuclearization of Japanese society.

Though we are very much sad on his early death, his life had been vividly full, his life time was so intense that he left massive achievements to us. His quality of life is really amazing.

I am now traveling, and may not be able to attend the funeral for him, but I strongly hope a memorial event for Harutoshi san should be planned, where I can attend.

Yours sincerely,  
Seejae Lee  
Professor of Sociology Emeritus  
The Catholic University of Korea

Prof. Shu-Fen Kao (Fo Guang University, Taiwan)

I am really sad and in shock to hear this news yesterday from Professor Funabashi's son. Professor Funabashi was still in great energy in Yokohama last month. In fact, we were looking forward to having his visit to Taiwan next week to share his research with us in The Society Risk Analysis Asia Conference. It's our great loss!

Professor Funabashi is a wonderful colleague, excellent scholar and his kindness to junior colleagues has greatly encouraged younger scholars. I will miss him a lot.

Professor Funabashi had had a good fight to make this world a better place. May he rest in peace and his family members be comforted.

Shu-Fen

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## **Upcoming Conferences**

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### **Third ISA Forum of Sociology**

Vienna, Austria, 10-14 July 2016

Theme: "The Futures We Want: Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World."

As one of the largest section of the ISA, RC24 will have 22 exciting sessions, and we hope many

of you will submit papers in them!

Here is what ISA Vice-President Schulz has to say about the upcoming Forum:

This theme encourages a forward-orientation in empirical, theoretical, and normative research to tackle the problems and opportunities that often cut across borders.

Protests around the globe have challenged inequality, oppression, and ecological destruction, and have insisted on the possibility of another, better world. Intensifying uncertainties demand innovations in methods and theories. Tomorrow no longer appears as pre-determined by inevitable trends but as a rather contingent outcome of complex, typically multi-scalar dynamics that vary in their intensity of contentiousness. Social actors aspire, desire, envision, expect, fear, imagine, plan, project, reject, sustain, and wage war over futures. What can sociology contribute to these broader debates? How do assumptions and aspirations about the future influence daily routines and long-term collective lives? How are risks identified, avoided, mitigated, transferred, or shared? What closes and opens the horizons of social imaginaries? How are different forces positioned to shape futures? How can the making of futures be democratized? What can be learned by comparing struggles in different countries and settings? How do emancipatory movements and everyday practices at the grassroots overcome discipline, exploitation, and misrecognition? What visions for alternative futures are imaginable, desirable, and achievable? What are viable roadmaps for social transformation?

**On-line abstract submission will be open until 30 September 2015!! See: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/>**

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***INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAND GOVERNANCE FOR EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - JOINING FORCES***

8-10 July 2015

Utrecht, the Netherlands

Organized by the Netherlands Academy on Land Governance (LANDac) and its partners and aims to present state-of-the-art knowledge on how land governance may contribute to equitable and sustainable development, as well as setting the agenda for future research and fostering collaborations for new research, policy and practice.

Since the start of the land grab debate in 2008 our knowledge has advanced greatly: we now know much more about the diversity of drivers, actors and alliances involved, and the scope and impacts of the developments. We also know that there are strong historical roots to these developments; many problems are the outcomes of policies in the past. At the same time, land has now become embedded in a diversity of related discussions about sustainable development, food security, rural development and agriculture, investments, housing, urbanization, biofuels, climate change, gender, and many more. But new questions have also emerged, e.g. what stakeholder interaction takes place and how does that impact on land governance; what are effective policies, at which level; how can land tools and data be used effectively and equitably; how can investments be made more beneficial for all by means of benefit sharing mechanisms; how to effectively implement principles and guidelines for strengthening land governance. This conference seeks to bridge gaps between disciplines, sectors, theory and practice, investment

advocates and critics, recipient and investing country debates; and is aimed at making an effort to move the frontiers of the land debate in the direction of equitable and sustainable development.

We are inviting abstract submissions for papers, posters and other forms of contributions on the topics outlined in this call. You are kindly invited to submit your abstract of no more than 300 words to [landac.geo@uu.nl](mailto:landac.geo@uu.nl) by 1 February 2015 mentioning LANDac conference 2015 in the subject line. Abstracts should be written in English. The organizing committee will decide on the selection of abstracts. Following this process, selected authors are invited to submit their full papers or other contributions by 1 June 2015. In case of any questions, please contact the conference organizers through: [g.betsema@uu.nl](mailto:g.betsema@uu.nl).

There is no registration fee. We do ask for a contribution of for lunches and the conference dinner on 9 July. LANDac has limited funds available to cover for travel and accommodation. In case you wish to apply for this possibility, please attach a short written explanation of why you need assistance in covering your costs and why it is essential that you attend the conference.

Authors who submit an abstract are not automatically registered for the LANDac Conference. Please register for the conference separately by sending an email to [landac.geo@uu.nl](mailto:landac.geo@uu.nl) mentioning LANDac conference 2015 in the subject line. All submitting authors/ presenters of other contributions should be available to present at the conference in person or by a co-author (8-10 July 2015, Utrecht, the Netherlands).

LANDac ([www.landgovernance.org](http://www.landgovernance.org)), is a network of Dutch organizations interested in how land governance can contribute to equitable and sustainable development.

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## ***International Workshop: Core Concepts in Environmental Sociology***

**ÖREBRO, 23-25 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Arranged by the Environmental Sociology Section, Örebro University, Sweden in collaboration with Research Committee 24 (Environment and Society) of the International Sociological Association**

What are the core concepts in environmental sociology that have contributed to scholarship and praxis, and what theoretical advances are needed? Considering that our conceptual understanding of nature-society relations plays a key role in the theoretical and empirical directions taken in sociology, as well as society's influence on those relations themselves, the core concepts developed and advanced by environmental sociologists have tremendous influence. But the continued societal and scholarly relevance of our field, and indeed the vitality of environmental sociology itself, demands that we subject our core concepts and emerging conceptual developments to critical scrutiny.

Since the early 1970s, environmental sociology has successfully "brought nature back in" to sociology. Environmental sociology has indeed become one of the strongest sub-disciplines in sociology. But are the prevailing core concepts in our field adequate? What is the need for conceptual innovation to better understand and cope with our most demanding environmental problems and risks today and in the future? This workshop aims to go beyond the well-trodden debates--realism vs constructivism, ecological modernisation vs treadmill of production, European vs American environmental sociology--and instead look for other avenues for theoretical innovation. Treatments of these debates, moreover, tend to define a theoretical

landscape of incommensurable paradigms. In particular, there may be a need for more explicit and systematic theoretical discussions within environmental sociology on a middle range level, without overlooking the need for development of *core concepts* to guide research.

### **Keynotes**

Matthias Gross, Professor in Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research and University of Jena, Germany

Raymond Murphy, Professor in Sociology, Canada, University of Ottawa

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

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### ***The Fifth International Symposium on Environmental Sociology in East Asia* (ISESEA-5)**

In collaboration with RC24, the Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology (JAES) will be hosting an international symposium (ISESEA-5\*) to be held in Sendai, Japan, in 2015. All RC24 members are encouraged to attend this Symposium. 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. Field trip (excursion) is also planned.

Date: Friday, October 30th—Sunday, November 1st, 2015

Venue: "Katahira Sakura Hall," Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan (<http://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/>)

Tentative Schedule:

DAY 1 (Oct. 30th): Registration, Welcome Party, session 1.

DAY 2 (Oct. 31st): sessions and thematic session.

DAY 3 (Nov. 1st): Field Trip (excursion) to the 2011 Great Earthquake and tsunami affected area.

Details will be provided to members of RC24 as soon as they are ready. Open Submission Calls and the deadline for Submissions will be announced shortly. Please save the dates and we will be very much looking forward to welcoming you all in Sendai next autumn.

About the ISESEA: The very first ISESEA was held in 2008 in Tokyo and it was decided to hold a symposium in every two years in East Asia region (Taiwan, Korea, China and Japan). ISESEA-2 was held in 2009 in Hsinchu (Taiwan), the 3rd in 2011 in Bucheon (Korea), the 4th in 2013 in Nanjing (China), concluding the first round. This Sendai Symposium will mark the beginning of the ISESEA's second round.

For further information, please contact:

Saburo Horikawa, Chair, International Relations Committee, JAES, and

Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Hosei University (Tokyo, Japan)

Email: [sab@hosei.ac.jp](mailto:sab@hosei.ac.jp).

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### ***Sustainable and Just Rural Transitions: Connections and Complexities***

IRSA XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology

Toronto, Canada August 10-14, 2016

Global environmental changes, shifting resource scarcities, deepening social inequalities, both innovation and crisis in urban centers, and new patterns of voluntary and involuntary migrations are among the conditions and dynamics now shaping the futures of rural places and people. Intensifying and intertwining forces of commodification, industrialization, neoliberalization and globalization over the last several decades have produced uneven and arguably illusory gains, given evidence of the increasingly precarious position of labor and livelihoods throughout the rural world and the widespread distribution of environmental harm and ecological degradation. Within these general patterns and trends, circumstances can vary greatly across rural contexts within and between continents. Rigorous analysis of the interconnected challenges now experienced by rural people and places, as well as comprehensive assessment of the proposed solutions and diverse experiments now underway will increase our understanding of the pathways which may be open, blocked or yet to be created for movement towards more sustainable and just rural futures. Sociologists and other social scientists addressing rural concerns play indispensable roles in identifying, analyzing and assessing the forms and consequences – both intended and unintended – of the diverse transition aspirations and experiences of rural people and places. **We invite proposals for sessions that invoke the overarching theme of the Congress: the connections and complexities shaping prospects for sustainable and just rural transitions in the present era of crisis and change.** For more details on the call for sessions and a list of suggested themes, please see the attached notice [pdf] or visit the IRSA Congress 2016 website: <http://www.ryerson.ca/arts/irsacongress2016/call-for-submissions/call-for-sessions.html>

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## Other Announcements and Activities

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The **Sustainability Canada Dialogues** is a network of academics from the sciences, social scientists, business, engineering, and elsewhere, including RC24 member Mark Stoddart. They recently launched their report, *Acting on Climate Change: Solutions from Canadian Scholar*, at the Americana conference in Montreal in March, accompanied by a day-long workshop with a range of participants from municipal and provincial governments, as well as the Assembly of First Nations. More information on the project is at: <http://www.sustainablecanadadialogues.ca/en/scd>

The full report can be reviewed (and endorsed) at the website. This network also produced a special issue of *Alternatives* journal, freely accessible at: <http://www.alternativesjournal.ca/magazine/canadas-map-sustainability-411#.VVISIPiViko>

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## Second Edition of *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences* has been published

The second edition of the *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences* was officially published in April 2015. This extensive collection of articles includes an entire section entitled ‘Environmental and Ecological Sciences’, which was co-edited by RC24 member Prof. Dr. Henrike Rau (LMU Munich, Germany). RC24 members have also provided a number of entries across four thematic areas: conceptual approaches, interdisciplinary research areas, key

issues and methods and measurement. Topics include sustainable production and consumption; environmental sociology; social ecology; the sociology and politics of risk; climate change and the media; environmental policy; food security, the slow food movement and the sociology of food; time use and resource consumption as well as various entries on sustainability theory and practice in key areas such as economic development, transport, water use, tourism and agriculture. This major reference work in the social sciences is likely to appeal to environmental sociologists and social scientists researching sustainability issues.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/referenceworks/9780080970875>

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### ***New Journal of Transformations***

We invite potential authors to publish articles in the interdisciplinary journal "Transformations" (one double issue annually) devoted to STS, sustainability, future. It is published by Kozminski University, Warsaw, Poland.

We can send a free copy if requested (postal address needed).

Our homepage: [www.ciasf.kozminski.edu.pl](http://www.ciasf.kozminski.edu.pl)

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### **Former RC24 president, Professor Arthur Mol, has been appointed as Rector Magnificus and member of the Wageningen University and Research Executive Board**

The Wageningen UR Supervisory Board has appointed Professor Arthur P.J. Mol (1960) as Rector Magnificus and member of the Executive Board with effect from 28 May 2015.

Arthur Mol, a sociologist, has led the Environmental Policy Group since 2000. He also guest lectures at Tsinghua University in Beijing and at the National University of Malaysia. He is editor of the journal *Environmental Politics* and of the books in the *New Horizons in Environmental Politics* series. His most important research topics are globalisation, social theory and environmental issues, ecological modernisation, sustainable production and consumption, and urban environmental policy. In this context he looks in particular at how and in what form information influences policy shaping and implementation, and how administrators and other players involved with these issues can consciously use this information in their activities.

Arthur Mol studied Environmental Hygiene in Wageningen (1985) and obtained his doctorate in Sociology at the University of Amsterdam in 1995. From 2009 to 2014 he was the Director of the Wageningen School of Social Sciences, as well as being a member of the Doctorate Board. In his capacity as a promotor he has helped 48 candidates to obtain their PhD and is currently supervising another 23 who are in the process of preparing their theses.

As a member of the Executive Board of Wageningen UR, Professor Mol will be responsible for the education and research portfolio. The other members are Professor Louise O. Fresco (President) and Dr Tijs Breukink (finances and operational management). Professor Mol's particular focus will be on continuing the renewal and modernisation of education at Wageningen University.

**Congratulations Arthur!**

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## Recent Member Publications

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### Books

Gross, Matthias and Linsey McGoey. 2015. *Routledge International Handbook of Ignorance Studies*. Routledge, 408 pp.

#### *Synopsis*

Once treated as the absence of knowledge, ignorance today has become a highly influential topic in its own right, commanding growing attention across the natural and social sciences where a wide range of scholars have begun to explore the social life and political issues involved in the distribution and strategic use of not knowing. The field is growing fast and this handbook reflects this interdisciplinary field of study by drawing contributions from economics, sociology, history, philosophy, cultural studies, anthropology, feminist studies, and related fields in order to serve as a seminal guide to the political, legal and social uses of ignorance in social and political life.

Fischer-Kowalski, M, A.Reenberg, A.Schaffartzik, A.Mayer (eds. 2014), *Ester Boserup's Legacy on sustainability*. Dordrecht-Heidelberg-New York-London (Springer Open).

#### *Synopsis*

Arising from a scientific conference marking the 100th anniversary of her birth, this book honors the life and work of the social scientist and diplomat Ester Boserup, who blazed new trails in her interdisciplinary approach to development and sustainability.

### Articles

Biesbroek, Robbert, Johann Dupuis, Andrew Jordan, Adam Wellstead, Michael Howlett, Paul Cairney, Jeremy Rayner & **Debra Davidson**. 2015. Opening up the black box of adaptation decision-making. *Nature Climate Change* 5, 493–494.

Boström, Magnus; Anna Maria Jönsson, Stewart Lockie, Arthur P.J. Mol, Peter Oosterveer (2014) Sustainable and responsible supply chain governance: challenges and opportunities. *Journal of Cleaner Production*. doi:10.1016/j.jclepro.2014.11.050

Boström, Magnus; Rabe, Linn & Rodela, Romina (2015). Environmental non-governmental organizations and transnational collaboration in two macro-regional contexts: The Baltic Sea and Adriatic-Ionian Sea regions. *Environmental Politics*. doi=10.1080/09644016.2015.1027057

Briguglio, Michael (2014), Bird Hunting in European Malta: A Case of ENGO Empowerment?, in Liam Leonard, Sya Buryan Kedzior (ed.) *Occupy the Earth: Global Environmental Movements (Advances in Sustainability and Environmental Justice, Volume 15)* Emerald Group Publishing Limited, pp.295 - 324

Gale de Oliveira, Michelle S.; Kennet, Miriam; Amaral, Sofia; Tezza, Enrico; **Briguglio, Michael**; Salman, Doaa (2014): *The Greening of the Mediterranean - Crisis and Recovery* (Reading: The Green Economics Institute Publishing House).

Briguglio, Michael; Brown, Maria; Bugeja, Ian (2014): *ENGO Activism in the EU: The G20, Climate Change and Social Policy*. In: Tony Fitzpatrick (ed) *International Handbook On Social Policy And The Environment*, pp.176-204. UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Dunlap, Riley E. 2015. "Environmental Sociology." Pp. 796-803 in James Wright (ed.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd edition, Volume 7.

Davidson, Debra J., Kevin E. Jones and John Parkins. 2015. "Food safety risks, disruptive events and alternative beef production: a case study of agricultural transition in Alberta." *Agriculture, Food and Human Values*. Published online May, DOI 10.1007/s10460-015-9609-8.

Fischer-Kowalski, M. and A.Schaffartzik (2015). Energy availability and energy sources as determinants of societal development in a long-term perspective. *MRS Energy & Sustainability. A Review Journal vol 2 e1, 1-14*, doi:10.1557/mre.2015.2

Fischer-Kowalski, M., F.Krausmann, I.Pallua (2014). A sociometabolic reading of the Anthropocene: Modes of subsistence, population size and human impact on Earth. *The Anthropocene Review vol 1, 7-33*, doi:10.1177/2053019613518033/[anr.sagepub.com](http://anr.sagepub.com)

Fischer-Kowalski, M., 2015. Social Ecology. In: James D. Wright (ed.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd edition, Vol 22. Oxford: Elsevier. pp. 254–262.

Hasegawa Koichi (2014) Rethinking Civil Society in Japan: Before and After the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster, M. Mariotti, T. Miyake and A. Revelant eds., *Rethinking Nature in Contemporary Japan: Science, Economics, Politics*, Venice: Edizioni Ca' Foscari Publisher, 55-70. Electronically available at: <http://edizionicafoscari.unive.it/col/dbc/9/42/JapStuds/1>.

Hasegawa Koichi. (2014) The Fukushima Nuclear Accident and Japan's Civil Society: Context, Reactions and Policy Impacts. *International Sociology*, 29-4, 283-301. DOI 10.1177/0268580914536413, Electronically available at: <http://iss.sagepub.com/content/29/4.toc>

Hasegawa Koichi. (2014) Anti-nuclear Movements in Japan: Before and after the Fukushima Nuclear Accident, Kazuhiro Ueta and Yukio Adachi eds., *Transition Management for Sustainable Development*, Tokyo: United Nations University Press, 251-272.

Jasney, Lorien, Joseph Waggle and **Dana R. Fisher**. 2015. An empirical examination of echo chambers in US climate policy networks. *Nature Climate Change*. Published online 25 May. doi:10.1038/nclimate2666

Murphy, Raymond. 2015. "Sustainable Development or the Creeping Incubation of Disaster?". Chapter 26 (pp. 391-403) in D. Springett and M. Redclift (eds.) *The Routledge International Handbook of Sustainable Development*. London: Routledge.

Murphy, Raymond. 2015. "The Emerging Hypercarbon Reality, Technological and Post-carbon Utopias, and Social Innovation to Low Carbon Societies". *Current Sociology* Vol. 63(3): 317-

338.

Salehi, Sadegh, Zahra Pazuki Nejad, Hossein Mahmoudi, Andrea Knierim. 2015. Gender, responsible citizenship and global climate change. *Women's Studies International Forum*, Volume 50, May–June 2015, 30-36

Scanu, E. (2015) Climate governance in the post-industrial city: The urban side of ecological modernisation. *Environmental Sociology*, 1, 2: 102 - 115.

Scanu, E. (2014) La construction sociale de la mobilité durable urbaine : les discours sur les enjeux du transport dans la ville de Québec. *Recherches sociographiques*, LV, 2: 333-362.

Sodero, Stephanie, and **Mark C.J. Stoddart** (2015). "A Topology of Diversion: Legitimizing Discourses of Oil Extraction, Tourism Attraction, and Climate Action." *Environmental Sociology* 1(1): 59-68.

Stoddart, Mark C.J. and Howard Ramos (2015) "Communications Breakdown: To Move the Masses, Speak Boldly and Carry a Big Shtick." *Alternatives Journal* 41(1): 71-72.

Stoddart, Mark C.J., Howard Ramos, and David B. Tindall (2015). "Environmentalists' Media-work for Jumbo Pass and the Tobeatic Wilderness, Canada: Combining Text-centred and Activist-centred Approaches to News Media and Social Movements." *Social Movement Studies* 14(1): 75-91.

Stoddart, Mark C.J. and Stephanie Sodero (2015). "From Fisheries Decline to Tourism Destination: Mass Media, Tourism Mobility and the Newfoundland Coastal Environment." *Mobilities* 10(3): 445-465.

Stoddart, Mark C.J. and David B. Tindall (2015). "Canadian News Media and the Cultural Dynamics of Multilevel Climate Governance." *Environmental Politics* 24(3): 401-422.

Stoddart, Mark C.J. (2015) "Wilderness Revisited: Canadian Environmental Movements and the Eco-Politics of Special Places." *Protest and Politics: The Promise of Social Movement Societies* (pp. 255-273). H. Ramos and K. Rodgers, Eds. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Tindall, David B., Joanna L. Robinson, and Mark C.J. Stoddart (2015). "A View from Sociology: Environmental Movement Mobilisation over Old Growth Temperate Rainforests in British Columbia." *Conflicts in Conservation: Navigating Towards Solutions* (pp. 152-167). S. Redpath, R. Gutierrez, K. Wood, and J. Young, Eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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## **The RC-24 Board 2010-2014**

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