



International Sociological Association
Research Committee on Environment and Society

President's Column

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Colleagues,

First, I am very pleased to inform that calling for abstracts for the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Toronto, Canada from July 15-21, 2017, is now opening. We have 24 sessions including joint sessions, but except the business meeting. Visit the ISA site (<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2018/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium461.html>). I believe any of them are so attractive and will get so many abstracts. Every session organizer will have a headache to select some of them. Indeed, we received totally 36 session proposals and I had to select 24 sessions. Each of them are dealing with very crucial and relevant topic. The selection was so really tough and so heavy. Remember, the deadline for submitting abstracts is September 30. You can submit via on line above.

Second, unfortunately for the world, we are now entering the frightening age of “post-truth” and “alternative facts”. The climate change issue is one of crucial topics facing political attacks led by the new US president. Among the list of 24 sessions above, you find four sessions directly dealing with the climate change issue. Unfortunately I had to drop other two session proposals regards to climate change due to the limit of slots. This is a good evidence we are tackling with the most critical current issue. So, I am seriously afraid the Trump administration will bring dangerous setbacks on this issue.

The US President is upholding the slogan of “Make America Great Again” and is in control of the nuclear button. A tweet or a presidential executive order can be revoked, but the button, once pushed to launch a nuclear weapon, cannot be unpushed.

Remember, Max Weber said that modern society is the era of disenchantment, rationalization and the devaluation of mysticism. The principles of modern society are to make rational judgment based on truth, discuss things rationally, and have sympathy for social minorities based on universal values such as freedom, justice, human rights and friendship, and these should have brought us great benefits.

I am seriously afraid that the age of post-truth and alternative facts will, in the end, mean the age of brute strength and the age of power and money.

Japan, the Philippines and the U.S.A. One by one, top political leaders who propound we-firstism and anti-intellectualism have appeared on the scene, and international tension is rising. It seems like that the post-war values that protected us for over 70 years are now approaching a crisis.

It is not with terror and violence that we will be able to counter the age of post-truth and alternative facts. The way we will counter the age of post-truth and alternative facts is with the power of precisely perceived facts, fact checks, deliberation based on the analysis of facts, plus the power of rationality and rational thinking.

In Toronto, let us all engage in a rational discussion on environmental issues based on facts, data and the shared academic value. I would like to close this note by introducing and stressing a counter-phrase I invented, "Make the Earth Great Again. Make the Earth Great Again."

A Note from the Secretary

Debra Davidson
University of Alberta

Please be aware that plans are in the works to hold a RC24 Pre-conference prior to the World Congress of Sociology, to be held in Toronto in July, 2018! I hope everyone who is planning to attend the World Congress can join us a day early for our pre-conference. Our pre-conferences are a great opportunity to get to know your RC24 colleagues better, and have focused discussions within a smaller group than in regular Congress Sessions.

A number of Canadian RC24 members and friends have kindly agreed to assist with the planning and facilitation. Please join me in thanking Raymond Murphy, David Tindall, Natali Rodrigues, Mihai Sarbu, Mark Stoddard, and John Hannigan, for offering to assist! I will keep you posted by email as our plans evolve.

Environment & Society Reflections by Members

Environmental Habitus:

The Intergenerational Transmission of Environmental Behaviours in Cross-National Comparison

Itay Greenspan, Femida Handy, Tally Katz-Gerro

In this contribution, we report on research funded by the US-Israel Binational Science Foundation 2016-2018. We are in the half way point of the funding period and would welcome expressions of interest from scholars engaged in research on similar topics to promote knowledge exchange. We are particularly interested in organizing sessions and presentations for

the International Sociological Association world congress of sociology in Toronto, July 2018 (<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/>) and SCORAI meeting in Copenhagen, June 2018 (<http://scorai.org/2018-conference/>).

The environmental agenda has inspired discussions on the social mechanisms through which people acquire a pro-environmental behaviour. We propose a conceptual framework which moves beyond the current emphasis on innovative technologies as solutions to environmental problems because this emphasis neglects the ways in which individuals may respond to these innovations. Specifically, within the literature on the determinants of environmental behaviour, we propose an alternative to the current attention given to individual demographic and attitudinal characteristics that explain environmental behaviours. Instead, we propose to shift the focus of analysis to the family unit, to examine the importance of intergenerational transmission for the development of dispositions that are considerate of the environment.

Our main theoretical heuristic is *environmental habitus*. It argues that a pro-environmental stance may run in the family; if one's family hold values and behavioural dispositions of frugality, modesty, or conservation, it will have consequences for everyday pro-environmental behaviour. Adoption of environmental behaviour does not only take place because people follow the imperatives of the environmental movement or because they hold an environmental ideology; it also lies in the mundane, daily practices of a family.

We follow Bourdieu's (1984) notion of *cultural habitus* as a set of embodied dispositions that generate perceptions (attitudes) and practices (behaviors). We maintain that a combination of family dispositions with place and period effects shape individuals' *environmental habitus*. To translate habitus into the environmental field, we argue that expressions of environmental habitus may include awareness of inconsistency in ones' environmental lifestyle, reflexivity about daily practices, seeking time in nature, and conscious effort to live environmentally in one's household. Everyday practices that have consequences for the environment are negotiated within the family, often with a bi-directional influence between generations.

We examine environmental habitus comparatively, asking if it takes different forms in three different national contexts – *Israel, the United States, and South Korea*. These countries are characterized by different cultural and economic contexts, different framings of environmental issues, and different historical trajectories.

Our research questions include the following: To what degree is engagement in environmental behavior different (or similar) across three generations and between the three countries? To what degree can we identify an environmental habitus that is transmitted between generations (either from parents to children or vice versa)? Are there differences between the countries in the transmission of environmental habitus? and: To what degree is engagement in environmental behavior shaped by framings that differ across country contexts and time?

Our analysis will be based on two original data sources: family group interviews of three generation families (grandparents, parents, children), and nationally representative surveys of family dyads (parents and children). Preliminary findings point to interesting socialization mechanisms – such as verbal and non-verbal cues, mutual learning and control - that allow the transmission of behaviours and attitudes across generations.

Please contact one of us for more information or to organize to the conferences mentioned above: Tally Katz-Gerro (University of Manchester) tally.katz-gerro@manchester.ac.uk; Femida

Handy (University of Pennsylvania) fhandy@sp2.upenn.edu; Itay Greenspan (Hebrew University) itaygree@mail.huji.ac.il.

Upcoming Conferences

Translating Clean Energy Research to Rural India September 4-8, 2017

Call for participants:

Under the Researcher Links scheme offered within the Newton-Bhabha Fund, the British Council, the University of Edinburgh and IISER Pune will be holding a workshop on the above theme in IISER Pune, India on 4th – 8th September 2017. The workshop is being coordinated by Professor Neil Robertson and Professor Satish Ogale, and will have contributions from other leading researchers. We still have a few places left for Early Career Researchers from the UK or India, working either in relevant physical sciences or social sciences, to apply to attend this workshop. The workshop specifically aims to bring together physical and social scientists to jointly tackle sustainable energy problems. All travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the Newton-Bhabha Researcher Links programme. Further information is available at: <http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/news-events/events/uk-india-newton-researchers-link-workshop>. The application form is available on the website and should be sent to chem.uk-india@ed.ac.uk as soon as possible to secure a place, and definitely before the deadline of Friday 23rd June.

Malta Sociological Association: Sociology of Southern Europe November 18, 2017 (One-day Conference)

Southern Europe, so often seen as the periphery of Northern Europe has historically played a key role in world history. The Mediterranean Sea belongs to Europe as much as it does to Africa and Asia. Trade, civilisations, ideas, cultures and peoples have long crossed its boundaries freely and indiscriminately.

The Malta Sociological Association (MSA) is organizing a one-day conference on the Sociology of Southern Europe on Saturday 18 November 2017.

MSA is inviting submission of abstracts relevant to the conference theme. Papers may fall under different sociological themes and may deal with specific Southern European societies or adopt a comparative approach.

To propose a paper, please send a brief abstract (150-300 words) to maltasociologicalassociation@gmail.com by not later than 30 June 2017.

Participation fee: MSA members 20 Euro, non-members 30 Euro. Participation also includes a coffee break.

To join MSA please find details at <https://maltasociologicalassociation.blogspot.com.mt/>

American Society for Environmental History

March 14-18, 2018, Riverside, California

The Program Committee welcomes teaching sessions, non-traditional formats, and sessions that encourage active audience participation. It encourages panels that include historians at different career stages and different types of institutions (academic and public) and that are gender and racially diverse. This year, we are introducing “lightning sessions” – individual presentations of 5 minutes each with up to 10 slides. For other sessions, we strongly prefer to receive complete session proposals, although we will endeavor to construct sessions from proposals for individual presentations. Sessions will be scheduled for 1.5 hours. It is ASEH policy to allow at least 30 minutes for discussion in every session. No single presentation should exceed 15 minutes, and each roundtable presentation should be ten minutes or shorter since roundtables are designed to maximize discussion. Commentators are allowed but not required. *Please note that individuals can propose to present or comment on only one panel or roundtable session (but can chair additional sessions).*

You will need the following for your submission: the names, e-mails, and affiliations of all presenters, commentators, and chairs. Panels proposals require a brief abstract for each presenter and the panel, while roundtable proposals require an abstract only for the roundtable.

Call for Proposals is now open. ***Deadline for proposal submissions: July 14, 2017.***

Click here to submit your proposal: <https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/aseh/aseh18/>

Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association

August 12-15, 2017, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

The submission deadline has passed to submit presentations for the upcoming American Sociological Association’s Annual Meetings in Montreal this August, but it still may be a worthwhile conference to attend.

Section on Environment and Technology Sessions:

1. Energy and Inequality. Session Organizer: *Tammy L. Lewis*, City University of New York-Brooklyn College

2. Environmental Movements. Session Organizer: *Tammy L. Lewis*, City University of New York-Brooklyn College

3. Section on Environment and Technology Refereed Roundtables . Session Organizer: *Tammy L. Lewis*, City University of New York-Brooklyn College. *Session will be*

one-hour in length; followed by the Section's business meeting

4. Sustainabilities: Ideologies and Practices. Session Organizer: *Tammy L. Lewis*, City University of New York-Brooklyn College

5. Water and Inequality. Session Organizer: *Tammy L. Lewis*, City University of New York-Brooklyn College.

6. Technology, Politics, and Socio-Environmental Solutions. This joint panel highlights how politics in science and technology condition societal efforts to address major environmental and ecological challenges. Broadly, we seek papers that critically engage scientific, social scientific, and technological efforts to understand and address (or “fix”) major socio-environmental challenges, from climate change to global toxics to widespread environmental inequalities and injustice. What role can environmental sociologists and sociologists of science and technology play in enhancing the social robustness of environmental solutions? Session Organizers: *Scott Frickel*, Brown University and *Tammy L. Lewis*, City University of New York-Brooklyn College. Session co-sponsored with Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology

7. Environmental Policy. Organized by *Fernando I. Rivera*, University of Central Florida

8. Environmental Sociology. Organized by *Kathleen J. Tierney*, University of Colorado-Boulder

International Society for Quality-of-life Studies Conference

September 28th to 30th 2017, Innsbruck, Austria

The conference's theme is “Quality-of-life: Towards a Better Society”. Over 500 high quality abstracts have been submitted to the conference.

ISQOLS conferences provide a space for scholars to present their research findings on quality-of-life, well-being, and happiness, as well as to discuss their relevance for policy making. ISQOLS gathers scholars from all corners of the world, from many disciplines, with different methodological and theoretical perspectives, and following different approaches, but with one common goal: generating research-based knowledge to contribute to the well-being in societies.

To learn more: <http://www.isqols2017.org/>

Other Announcements

Journal of Interest

For those of you who are not already readers of the journal *Energy Research and Social Science*, much of the work featured in this journal will be of interest. The latest issue has articles on, for example, local governance of shale gas, a critical look at solar cooking technologies, energy demands associated with working at home, and more. Here is the web site:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/22146296/28>

I draw particular attention to a Call for Papers for a Special Issue in this journal on “Problems of method in the social study of energy and climate change.”

<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/energy-research-and-social-science/call-for-papers/problems-of-method-in-the-social-study-of-energy-and-climate>

Edited by James Goodman and Jonathan Paul Marshall, University of Technology Sydney

Energy and climate change are intimately related, as the main causes of climate change have to do with the production, politics, organisation and technology of energy. Social processes, rooted in prevailing models of capitalism and development, and the associated patterns of energy production and use, are altering world ecology and society. Researching questions of energy transition and climate change, poses profound questions for the methods of both social science and energy research.

This Special Issue aims to explore insights arising from how we go about researching energy and climate change from a social perspective. The questions and dilemmas that arise during research are both significant in themselves, and highly revealing of wider issues. Consequently we ask contributors to begin with their direct experience of undertaking research into the social aspects of energy and climate, and to use that experience, and the problems of method evoked, to explore the conundrums we face as part of a wider society being transformed by climate change and related forms of social action.

There are several matters which immediately call for attention:

1. There are questions about the role of interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary or multi-methods research in grappling with interwoven socio-ecological contexts and their different knowledges;
2. The extent to which climate and energy research necessarily engages with normative priorities and agendas for political agency, such as the politicization of knowledge;
3. The degree to which the abstracted and distanced character of climate change creates conflicts between levels and aspects of social action.

There are also more practical issues such as:

1. How to combine ecological processes with social processes;
2. How to relate the qualitative experience of climate change with the quantitative ‘big data’ of climate science; and
3. Problems of how to build methods of data collection and analysis in complex, multileveled situations.

This list of possible concerns is not meant to be exhaustive, but all these concerns engage, in one way or another, with the wider methodological and epistemological questions of how social scientists can bring the socio-ecological imagination to bear, to address the political relations between energy and climate change, and be sensitive to the consequences of the tools they employ. We are interested in papers from all kinds of social and cross-disciplinary research,

including anthropology, economics, social psychology, political economy, statistical sociology, political science, cultural studies, social ecology, human geography, social studies of science and their various combinations.

Ideally papers would show how issues of method or methodology transformed a particular empirical study and opened insights into the nature of the social, and other, dynamics involved.

Time Table

Abstracts to be in by August 1st, 2017. Notification of acceptance by August 15th, 2017.

Papers due by November 1st, 2017, or earlier.

Final decision: June 1st, 2018.

Publication around July, 2018.

Please send abstracts to: jon.marshall@uts.edu.au & james.goodman@uts.edu.au

Call for Nominations: Buttel Award

Call for Nominations for the:
FREDERICK H. BUTTEL INTERNATIONAL AWARD 2018
for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology

Title

Frederick H. Buttel International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology: An award of the Research Committee Environment and Society (RC24) of the International Sociological Association (ISA), established March 17, 2005, and given once every four years.

Purpose

The international award is intended for outstanding contributions of scholars to the study of environment-society relations during the four years since the last call for nominations.

Recognition

Recipients of the Frederick H. Buttel International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology will receive a certificate or plaque that will be handed to the recipient, after reading the summary of the Award Committee report in public at an appropriate RC24 meeting at the ISA World Congress 2018.

Eligibility

Any sociologist or social scientist, whether or not being a member of the Research Committee and/or ISA, is eligible. Award Committee members are not eligible to receive the award, and will resign from the Committee when nominated.

Nominations

Nominations can be made by any member of ISA and/or of RC24 (excluding Award Committee members), but has to be supported by at least two other members of RC24 and/or ISA.

Nominations must be sent by email to the Chair of the Award Committee, Magnus Boström (magnus.bostrom@oru.se), including the name of the nominee, a CV, the list of publications on which the nomination is based (only publications since the last call, that is between July 2013 to July 2017), and a cover letter that provides a rationale for the nomination. Copies of the publications can be attached or, in case they are not available electronically, photocopies can be posted to the Chair's address.

As the Award focuses on international contributions of scholars to the study of society-environment relations, questions of accessibility for the international community are important considerations. This means that nominees must have published in one or more of the major languages used by the international academic community (English, French and Spanish) or have had their work translated in any of those major languages (a reasonable expectation for an international Award). The Committee as well will consider complementing the evaluation with additional publications in another language (such as Dutch, Japanese or Portuguese). The Award Committee will take into account the possible disadvantage if nominees are not publishing in their mother language.

Timetable

Nominations will close by July 30, 2017. The Award Committee will report its selection by January 31, 2018. The winner will be announced publicly at the ISA World Congress in 2018, during one of the RC24 sessions or a special awards event.

Comparable Awards

To the knowledge of the RC24 Board no comparable international awards exist in the field of environmental sociology. Some national associations or sections of national associations, have awards for environmental social scientists or environmental sociologists. These are, however, typically restricted to scholars from that national community.

Award Committee 2018:

Magnus Boström (Chair)

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Recent Member Books, Articles, Special Issues, Book Chapters & Conference Proceedings

Boström, Magnus; Ugglå, Ylva & Hansson, Viktor (2017) Environmental representatives: whom, what, and how are they representing? *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning*. doi=10.1080/1523908X.2017.1332522

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Link: <https://bletterblog.wordpress.com/2016/10/19/institutionalization-a-one-way-process-the-case-of-birdlife-malta/>

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Löfmarck E, Uggla, Y & Lidskog R (2017) Freedom with what? Interpretations of “responsibility” in Swedish forestry practice, *Forest Policy and Economics* 75: 34-50

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Ojala, Maria & Lidskog, R. 2017. “Mosquitoes as a threat to humans and the community: The role of place identity, social norms, environmental concerns and ecocentric values in public risk perception,” *Local Environment* 22(2): 172-184.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2016.1185097>

Stoddart, Mark C.J., David B. Tindall, Jillian Smith, and Randolph Haluza-DeLay (2017). “Does Media Visibility Amplify Political Efficacy? Climate Change Policy Networks in Canadian National News Media.” *Environmental Communication* 11(3): 386-400.

The RC-24 Board 2014-2018

Executive:

| | |
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| President: | Koichi Hasegawa (Japan) |
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| Secretary: | Debra Davidson (Canada) |
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**For more information, Please consult the RC-24 Website at:
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