



International Sociological Association  
Research Committee on Environment and Society

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## President's Column

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Colleagues,

First, now is the time to talk about the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Toronto, Canada from July 15-21, 2018. We are calling for session proposals for whole 24 regular sessions including the business meeting. Remember, the deadline for submitting the proposals of integrative sessions and other special sessions is January 15, the one for regular sessions is March 15, and the one for submitting any abstracts is September 30. The main theme of the conference is Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities. Visit the ISA site (<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/>). In Canada, we have so many of very strong and active leading members, our secretary Debra Davidson, David Tindall, Mark Stoddart, the former President Raymond Murphy and others. I hope we will have the Pre-Conference.

Second, let me talk about the results of the US Presidential election. Imagine what would happen, if Al Gore had been elected, not George W. Bush, as the US President in the 2000 election. The US would stay in the Kyoto Protocol and it would function more effective. Had the Iraq war occurred? Had ISIS and other terrorists whom this war brought prevailed so often and so many?

Democracy, populism and SNS in America produced the worst election campaign and the new President. I recommend you to check the exit poll by CNN (<http://edition.cnn.com/election/results/exit-polls/national/president>). You will realize the strong contrast and “the divided states of America” by race, age, gender, education, income, party identification, religious affiliation and ideology.

Under the Presidency of Donald Trump, what will happen? I am seriously afraid he will destroy the content of the Paris Agreement for the climate change protection which went to enactment on November 4. I observed the moment of the adopting the agreement in Paris last December and

reported on it in the newsletter No.24. What will his win bring for the environment of the US and worldwide? Will it increase the number of coal-fired thermal power plants? The proliferation of nuclear weapons? Will it enhance the number of incidents of the cultural frictions and tensions? Will he enlarge cleavages, discrepancies and segmentations of societies under the name of “make America great again”? Finally, will he make the Earth worse? Japan’s right wing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is proud to being the first foreign visitor to this President-elect on November 17. Both are sharing some of the political senses, anti-intellectualism, populism and chauvinism. Can we wake up from a nightmare or are we going to further more dangerous situation?

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## **A Note from the Secretary**

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Debra Davidson  
University of Alberta

After a successful ISA Forum in Vienna this past summer, plans are already underway for our next opportunity to gather en masse: the World Congress of Sociology, to be held in Toronto, Canada, July 15-21, 2018. The Congress Theme will be Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities.

Calls for regular sessions will not begin until February 2017, and abstract submissions will begin in April. But a call for special sessions has been solicited. A number of our members have come forward to take the lead on developing some exciting proposals for Integrative Sessions. Integrative sessions have two key benefits: they bring together researchers from within different research committees working on common topics, and they add to the total number of sessions we are allotted at Congress. Mihai Sarbu is leading an effort to propose an integrative session on the relationships between fossil fuels divestment movements and consumer capitalism, in collaboration with the Futures Research and Social Movements RCs. Stevis Dimitris is working on a proposal for an integrative session on Work, Workers and the Environment, together with Labour and Economy and Society RC’s (yet to be confirmed). Finally, Mark Stoddart is developing a proposal for a session on Globalization, Resource Extraction, and Social Movement Mobilization in the Americas. If you are interested in potential presenting a paper in either of these sessions, please let me know as soon as possible so I can put you in touch with the organizers.

We are also working to secure support for a pre-conference in Toronto. If anyone is interested in assisting with its planning and organization, particularly if you have some familiarity with the Toronto area, please contact me!

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## Journal Update, *Environmental Sociology*

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Stewart Lockie  
James Cook University, Cairns, Australia  
[editor.jes@jcu.edu.au](mailto:editor.jes@jcu.edu.au)

As this newsletter goes to press, we will have just finished our second full year of publication of *Environmental Sociology*. Volume 2, Issue 4 is a special issue focused on conceptual innovation in environmental sociology which, for me, could hardly represent our aim better of positioning environmental sociology at the very cutting edge of the social and natural sciences.

In August I presented a report from our publisher Routledge on performance of the journal. As of July:

- Around 2,500 institutions had access to *Environmental Sociology*, mostly through online sales agreements.
- There were approximately 12,000 full text downloads in 2015 and over 4,000 downloads January to July 2016.
- The journal received 72 submissions in 2015 and 48 in the first half of 2016.
- About half our submissions came from North America.
- Average time from submission to final decision was 61 days.

The most frequent question about the journal is when it will be listed in citation indexes such as ISI and Scopus. The publisher and I are working to submit applications for indexing as soon as we are eligible. Unfortunately, we don't know how long the applications will take to assess. What we do know is that a successful outcome depends on publishing on time, publishing complete issues, attracting high quality authors and demonstrating our articles are being read.

All we really need to do to meet the criteria applied by indexing services is to treat *Environmental Sociology* as what it is – a society journal. *Our* society journal. I'd like to ask every one of you reading this whether you have:

1. Submitted an article to *Environmental Sociology*?
2. Checked the journal for papers relevant to your research or classes?
3. Recommended an article from *Environmental Sociology* to colleagues or students?
4. Shared information about an article on social media such as Twitter or Facebook?
5. Registered as a reviewer ([www.editorialmanager.com/rens/](http://www.editorialmanager.com/rens/))?
6. Conducted a review?

If you were able to answer yes to any one of these questions then I would like to thank you for your contribution. If not, I look forward to your contribution!

I could write more but there are now so many excellent articles published and in press via the journal website ([www.tandfonline.com/loi/rens20](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rens20)). Check it out and get reading. And if you like something you read, why not post a comment online? You can tag us on Twitter @EnvSociology or use hashtag #environmentalsociology.

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## Environment & Society Reflections by Members

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### *Will the Climate be Trumped?*

Debra Davidson

First, for the bad news. The American Electoral College (I refuse to say American voters, because Clinton actually won the popular vote) just voted for an admitted climate-denier who also has a penchant for dismantling environmental laws, and exploiting fossil fuels to the fullest, to take the executive office of the United States. And many Congressional Republicans, who currently enjoy the majority in both the Senate and House of Representatives, are only too ready to support such moves.

President-elect Donald Trump has made clear his intentions to drastically reduce funding for the Environmental Protection Agency; open up federal lands to further oil, gas and coal development; retract the linchpin in Obama's climate policy legacy, the Clean Power Plan, which places limits on CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from power plants; do away with any other environmental regulations considered to be "job-killing"; and—here's the kicker—eliminate federal funding for climate research. On this last point, not only is the funding support for many of our own colleagues directly threatened, but the U.S. produces the lion's share of much of our current global knowledge storehouse regarding climate change. Scientists have relied upon continuing observations from the Mauna Loa Observatory and the dozen NASA satellites and other spacecraft committed to collecting data on earth systems as key sources of information.

And, he is poised to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement, and is unlikely to be swayed by warnings from France's President Hollande (while addressing COP22 in Marrakesh) that pulling out of the Paris Agreement would be "disastrous for future generations and dangerous for peace." To Hollande's voice has been added pleas by Ban-Ki Moon, among other leading figures in the international community.

The impacts have already begun to unfold despite the fact that the President-elect won't enter the Oval Office for another two months. For one thing, share prices in renewable energy firms based in the U.S. have plummeted, while those in coal companies such as Peabody have soared. He has already named his nominee for 'transitioning'—read gutting—the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Myron Ebell. Ebell, not surprisingly, is also a climate denier, and an influential one at that, having been recruited from the conservative think tank Competitive Enterprise Institute. We've already learned plenty about those conservative think tanks, thanks to the work by Riley Dunlap and his colleagues.

Now, let's put all of that bad news into perspective. Should we be worried? Absolutely. The U.S. is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world, and actions taken here unquestionably have global repercussions. Trump has a Republican-controlled Congress to work with, and despite the Party divisiveness instigated by Trump on other policy issues, in regard to climate change and the environment, Trump and Congressional Republicans see eye to eye across the board. And, even if he were to be impeached mid-term, as some predict, his Vice President, Mike Pence, would continue to pursue the same environmental course.

Rather than be overwhelmed by despair, though, I would suggest we environmental sociologists have our period of mourning, and then get to work. First, let's consider some of the good—or at least redeeming—news. Trump appears to be somewhat delusional regarding the amount of

power (he thinks) he has. No, he does not have the power to “dismantle” the Paris Agreement as he has boasted on the campaign trail. (Nor can he “Lock her up,” as he has threatened to have in store for Hillary Clinton, nor can he simply build a wall across the Mexico-U.S. border and send the bill to Mexico). The Paris agreement has been formally adopted by over 100 nations so far, and participants in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties in Marrakesh have wholeheartedly stated their commitment to continue their mission. The founding fathers of the United States also saw fit to instill several checks and balances to avoid concentrating power in the Executive Office. The courts, at least so far, have played an important role in protecting environmental laws. Some of his propositions in other policy areas are just plain unconstitutional, so judicial challenges should keep him quite busy.

We do still have a strong and vocal contingent of climate hawks in Congress, including 6 newly-elected. Beyond the federal government, a growing cadre of lobby groups is already putting the pressure on: in fact over 800 businesses have indicated their support for the Paris Agreement to the President-elect. State and local governments, which have always been the real climate leaders in the U.S., represent strong and autonomous sub-national policy realms. 29 states across the U.S. have renewable portfolio standards, and research by the U.S. Energy Information Administrations suggests they are meeting or exceeding expectations on the whole, not necessarily because Americans are becoming greener, but because, increasingly, it simply makes economic sense. Many of the bold campaign statements made by Trump, moreover, will be met by repercussions from international allies and trading partners.

Social movement organizations, environmental and otherwise, have been reaping a recent flood of new support since the elections. Remember, Reagan’s attempts to dismantle environmental protection in the 1980’s inspired the biggest boost for the U.S. environmental movement since Earth Day in 1970, and that momentum spilled over into the Clinton era. Today, in addition to the ongoing protests directly targeting the President-elect himself, the protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline, which began as a local resistance movement involving mainly the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has swelled into a massive international movement. Beyond North Dakota, climate and anti-fossil fuel movements in the U.S. have continued to build in momentum since actions mounted against the Keystone XL pipeline over 5 years ago. Out of the spotlight but possibly just as influential among these movements have been the mounting local mobilizations against fracking across the U.S. states.

In other words, Trump has set a course of action that promises long, hard-fought battles on all fronts. But only if we are all prepared to invest our efforts into confronting his agenda at every step. What can we do? First, U.S.-based environmental organizations are in for expensive court battles and need all the financial help we can offer (so do the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, and numerous other organizations supporting the rights of women, LGBTQ, Indigenous, Muslim peoples).

Our research is just important, including our assessments of the social injustices imposed by climate change and environmental degradation, disproportionalities in responsibility for emissions, and research on social practices that can inform strategies for those businesses and organizations advocating for low-carbon transition strategies, including but not limited to renewable energy adoption.

Most important of all, we must become public sociologists. Publication in peer-reviewed journals enriches the academy and contributes to the advancement of scholarship. Engaging the media,

policy-makers and civil society groups, as well as our own neighbours, elected officials, university administrators and students, can do so much more.

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## Upcoming Conferences

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### *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association*

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

The American Sociological Association's call for papers for the 2017 meetings in Montreal is available. You can access the complete call

here: [http://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/17pgm\\_call\\_for\\_papers.pdf](http://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/17pgm_call_for_papers.pdf).

The submission deadline is January 11, 2017!!

#### **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 (one-hour).** Session Organizer: *Tammy L. Lewis*, City University of New York-Brooklyn College *\*Session will be one-hour in length; followed by the Section's 40-minute 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

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## ***International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM)***

***June 19-22, 2017 in Umeå, Sweden***

***Symposium Theme: Contested Spaces: Bridging Protection and Development in a Globalizing World***

**Call for Abstracts:** Abstract submissions for organized sessions, individual papers and posters are now open and due **December 1, 2016, at midnight (Central Standard Time)**. Individual paper and poster abstracts can be submitted electronically by going to the [ISSRM 2017 webpage](#) and clicking on “Add” next to “Abstracts (Oral Presentations and Posters)” on the right side of the page. Please note: a login account is required before an abstract can be submitted; you must also be logged into your account to submit an abstract.

**Guidelines for Abstracts:**

Abstracts should be in paragraph form without bullet points. Additionally, the abstract body should include details regarding the background, purpose, methods, results, and conclusions. Please also include theory/analytical framework and a description of the methods employed (e.g. quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, etc.).

**\*\*Individuals are limited to serving as lead presenter on only one oral paper presentation. This does not include co-authorship and individuals may present both an oral paper presentation and organize a session, present a poster, or serve on a panel.**

Please email Jessica Burk ([info@iasnr.org](mailto:info@iasnr.org)) if you have any questions.

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## ***13th Nordic Environmental Social Science Conference (NESS)***

University of Tampere, Finland, 6 - 8 June 2017.

The general theme of the conference this year is HopefulNESS, read more about this on the conference website: <http://www.uta.fi/jkk/en/ness2017/index.html>

Authors of accepted abstracts will be asked to provide full papers, and must be prepared to serve as dedicated discussants to another paper.

**Key practical info:**

- Abstract submission: [https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/ness2017\\_callforpapers](https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/ness2017_callforpapers)
- Abstract submission deadline: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- Notification of acceptance: Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017
- Full paper due: 30 April 2017

RC24 members have been invited in particular to contribute papers to the working group ***“Theorising sustainability interventions: practice, consumption, technology and organization,”*** described as follows:

All societies face an increasingly complex mix of environmental challenges, at scales from the household to the global. Climate changes, resource depletion and de-forestation are three obvious examples, but many others are equally relevant. Across the world, various interventions are now

being carried out in the form of experiments, trials, pilots, policies etc. New technologies are introduced, new forms of organization are tested, new actor-constellations are forged, new types of information are provided. This occurs top-down, bottom-up and “middle-out”, driven by grassroots, big corporations, municipalities and others, all with the aim of making modes of existence more sustainable.

This working group aims to elicit empirical, theoretical and conceptual discussions addressing intervention, experimentation and critique. What emerging ideas about society, human rationality, future expectations and socio-technical change are revealed by experimentation? What are the competing and/or catalysing ideas about what constitutes a sustainable life: “smart”, “eco” and “slow” are three examples. Do interventions lead to changes in entitlement, expectations and social excesses? What are the relationships between the rationales of such concepts, the kinds of interventions that are crafted in their names, and the practice changes emerging from such interventions?

We are interested in contributions that consider the outcomes, or potential outcomes of interventions. What kinds of expected and un-expected practice changes arise? For example, do interventions targeting consumption lead to expected changes in consumption practices, or are rebound effects empirically common? Do interventions affect different groups in different ways? As an example, do interventions privilege certain groups over others, or do they serve to exclude weaker groups. Thus, while trials, pilots and experiments are often framed as “neutral”, we are also interested in the implicit and explicit political potential in the (re)negotiation and (re)production of sustainable societies.

This session will bring together a variety of empirical projects using interventions and transitions methods. Some examples of potential questions to be addressed include, but are definitely not limited to:

- What are the assumptions, goals and rationales underpinning current sustainability interventions? Which discourses are they part of, and how are they justified?
- What can be learned from studying multiple interventions comparatively, and how do lessons learned translate across different localized contexts?
- How do new digital technologies designed to change consumption patterns become interwoven in emerging or existing practices? How do they enable change, or why do they not work as intended?
- How do social, economic or technological interventions targeting unsustainable practice work? (For example transportation interventions targeting Electric Vehicles, biking, walking, public transport, ride sharing, etc).
- How can we understand pilot and demonstration projects as practice interventions? What is the role of different actors in such projects? (e.g. industry, policy makers, knowledge producers, technology users, consumers) What are some common differences between pilot projects and wide-scale implementations?

By sharing empirically driven studies that deal broadly with the role of interventions for practice change, we hope to come to a deeper theoretical appreciation of the role of interventions in sustainability transitions.

Convenors: Tomas Moe Skjølvold, [tomas.skjolsvold@ntnu.no](mailto:tomas.skjolsvold@ntnu.no) and Tullia Jack,



***International Conference on Human Dimensions of Environmental Risks:  
Behavioural Experiments, Field Experiments, Survey Research***

21-26 May 2017, Congressi Stefano Franscini (CSF) of ETH Zurich, Monte Verità, Ascona

**Organizers:**

Andreas Diekmann, Karin Kurz, Ulf Liebe, Peter Preisendörfer, Stefan Wehrli

Conference Office: Stefan Wehrli, ETH Zurich

enri2017@ethz.ch, <http://www.socio.ethz.ch/enri2017>

Abstract deadline: 31 January 2017.

Both local environmental problems (air and water pollution, soil contamination, toxic waste) in wealthy and in developing countries as well as global risks (climate change, loss of biodiversity) are mainly due to emissions from industrial and agrarian production, energy provision, transportation and household consumption. Researchers from economics, sociology, social psychology and political science have explored opportunities to reduce environmentally harmful activities. Monetary incentives are clearly effective in market economies but sometimes cause side effects and may be, under certain circumstances, detrimental to the intrinsic motivation of pro-environmental behavior. Economists have developed new instruments and institutions such as ecological tax reform or emission permits. Sociologists, social psychologists and political scientists have focused on citizens' environmental consciousness and its possible impact on individual behavior and on social movements and voting.

New and innovative research pays attention to the effects of "soft" incentives and explores the interplay of new technologies and environmentally responsible behavior. While environmental research is often based on survey methods an increasing number of new findings stems from experimental research, field experiments, and randomly controlled intervention studies. Moreover, researchers employ simulation models or develop and apply models of strategic interaction based on game theory. There is also a long-standing tradition of research on designing institutional rules to mitigate the "tragedy of the commons" and to test hypotheses on common pool resources (CPR) in lab or field experiments.

New data sources are accessible via the internet. Particularly, geo-coded data are helpful for investigating the impact of various features of the social context and infrastructure on environmental behavior. Furthermore, the analysis of data in a geographic-information-system (GIS) is relevant to determine the impact of environmental burden (e.g. noise, particulate matter, air pollution) on citizens' health and subjective perceptions of environmental risks.

The international and interdisciplinary conference will bring together researchers mainly from the social sciences (sociology, social psychology, economics, political science, ethnology) to exchange ideas, present and discuss innovative research and new methodological approaches to various aspects of the human dimensions of environmental problems and risks.

Here are some examples of research questions:

People's perception of risks is often vastly biased compared to objective probabilities of detrimental events. Which factors increase or diminish the bias and what is the implication of

biased risk perception for environmental policies?

What is the impact of “soft incentives” (information feedback, social norms, “default options”, symbolic rewards, etc.) versus monetary incentives on pro-environmental behavior?

Which type of institutional rules will promote and sustain cooperation in social dilemma-type environmental problems?

What are the distributional implications of norms and institutions to further pro-environmental behavior? Do low-income households lose disproportionately through increased carbon taxes and energy prices? Are minorities and low-income households particularly affected by environmental burdens?

The conference will offer a platform for the exchange of ideas for experts developing, testing and applying theories of environmental behavior; the perception and management of environmental risks; and the effects of institutional regulations to mitigate environmental problems on diverse social sciences. Invited participants are from a variety of countries and have different disciplinary backgrounds.

We welcome further contributions. Contributions (title, abstract, manuscript if available) should be submitted no later than 31 January 2017 to the conference office (enri2017@ethz.ch). Please mention whether you are applying for a conference presentation or a poster session. See the conference website: <http://www.socio.ethz.ch/enri2017> for a description of the venue and for conference fees.

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## ***8<sup>th</sup> International Sustainability Transitions Conference***

18-21 June, 2017, Gothenburg, Sweden

website: <http://ist2017.org>

Deadline for submissions 10 December 2016.

The 8th International Sustainability Transitions Conference (IST 2017) will devote special attention to the challenges confronting those wanting to take action and do more. What understanding and conclusions can transition scholars bring to the table, and what key theories and findings are yet to be developed and discovered?

### **Program**

The IST 2017 conference program includes a number of focused paper sessions, inspiring keynote talks and eye-opening speed talk, dialog and poster sessions.

### **Call for abstracts**

We invite scholars to submit papers on a broad range of issues and debates in sustainability transitions research.

### **Themes**

We also invite proposals on ‘dialog’, ‘speed talk’ and ‘poster’ sessions that can tackle an even wider range of questions related to sustainability transitions.

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**Dealing with the Unintended in Ecology, Animal Rights and Wildlife  
Conservation, a Mini-workshop.**

8-9 May 2017, Warsaw, Poland.

Deadline for submitting abstracts is 15 December 2016.

This mini-workshop is organized within the framework of the Unintended Consequences Workshop "*Managing the Unintended: Externalities, Side-Effects and Overflows in Everyday Life*". The event is the fifth of the series of meetings on unintended consequences, which are organized within the framework of Polish Sociological Association, University of Warsaw, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw and The Maria Grzegorzewska University.

More information is available at <http://unintended.uw.edu.pl/> We also invite you to follow our Facebook profile, where you can find news and updates about Workshop on Unintended Consequences <https://www.facebook.com/UnintendedConsequencesWorkshops/>

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**22<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Alternative Futures and Popular Protest**

April 10-12, 2017, Manchester University.

The Conference rubric will remain as in previous years. The aim is to explore the dynamics of popular movements, along with the ideas which animate their activists and supporters and which contribute to shaping their fate. Reflecting the inherent cross-disciplinary nature of the issues, previous participants (from over 60 countries) have come from such specialisms as sociology, politics, cultural studies, social psychology, economics, history and geography. The Manchester conferences have been notable for discovering a fruitful and friendly meeting ground between activism and academia.

**PRELIMINARY CALL FOR PAPERS**

We invite offers of papers relevant to the conference themes. Papers should address such matters as:

- \* contemporary and historical social movements and popular protests
- \* social movement theory
- \* utopias and experiments
- \* ideologies of collective action

**To offer a paper**, please contact either of the conference convenors with a brief abstract:

**EITHER** Colin Barker,

email: [c.barker@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:c.barker@mmu.ac.uk)

**OR** Mike Tyldesley, Politics Section, HPP,

Manchester Metropolitan University

Geoffrey Manton Building, Rosamond Street West

Manchester M15 6LL, England  
Tel: M. Tyldesley 0161 247 3460  
email: [m.tyldesley@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:m.tyldesley@mmu.ac.uk)  
Fax: 0161 247 6769 ([+44 161 247 6769](tel:+441612476769))

**(Wherever possible, please use email, especially as Colin Barker is a retired gent. Surface mail and faxes should only be addressed to Mike Tyldesley)**

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

One way we organise this particular conference is that we ask those giving papers to supply them in advance, for inclusion in a Dropbox folder of the complete papers which will be available to all delegates from the conference opening.

\* **Preferred method:** send the paper to Colin Barker as an email attachment in MS Word or .pdf format. Any separate illustrations etc. should be sent separately, in .jpg format. If this is impossible, post a copy of the text to Mike Tyldesley on a CD disk in MS Word or .pdf format

\* Final date for receipt of abstracts: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March February 2017

\* Final date for receipt of actual papers: Friday 31st March 2017

## CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS AND COSTS

The conference cost will be inclusive of three lunches, teas/coffees. The full cost is £145.00, with a cost of £85.00 for students and the unwaged. Please register online at

<https://www.kxregistration.mmu.ac.uk/alternativefutures2017>

### Hotels, hostels and dining out

We can supply information about relatively cheap local hotels and hostels. Let us know if you would like this information. Conference participants will be invited to dine together at two local (and not too expensive) restaurants on the two conference evenings. Payment for dinners should not be made in advance, but directly to the restaurants on the night.

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## Other Announcements

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Call for Papers for Special Issue of the journal *Projections* (volume 13), Topic: Conscripting Climate: Environmental Risk and Defensive Urbanism

Editors: Aria Finkelstein and Hannah Teicher

**Paper submission deadline: January 16, 2017**

As adaptation to climate change has become a concern for municipalities, resilience has largely replaced sustainability as the dominant environmental framing in planning discourse (Fainstein 2015, Vale 2014). This shift towards the “securitization of nature” (Davoudi 2014) coincides with the elevation of climate change on military agendas. In the military’s conception, climate change will not only contribute to security issues from resource wars to refugee crises, but will act as a “threat multiplier,” magnifying all existing forms of risk (Vergano 2015). In the U.S., for instance, the military has been assertive in planning for climate change long before the federal government made it a policy priority. This potential alliance between planners and the military seems an unlikely one, but in fact there is a long history of planners both shaping urban form to meet security needs and appropriating military technologies and systems. Still, given the current iteration of urban risk, planners must consider the relationships between security, urban form,

and ecological risk anew.

This new resilience agenda has also prompted an important shift in the role of “nature” within urban planning; nature has once again become a threat rather than the beneficent asset imagined in sustainability discourse (Davoudi 2014, Nash 2014). While resilience has been touted as offering a more constructive conception of human-environment relations, it has been criticized for obfuscating power dynamics. Some urban scholars argue that planning and policy moves harness this idea of ecological risk to foster a “dual city” (Castells 1984, Graham and Marvin 2001, Davis 2006), exacerbating uneven development and “fortress” urbanism. Defensive ecological infrastructure creates “premium ecological enclaves” for those with the means to insulate themselves from the worst effects of climate change (Hodson and Marvin 2010), while it renders everyday urban space increasingly less habitable for the rest (Castells 1984; Simon and Marvin 2001).

We invite papers that look at this intersection of security—especially as conceived of by the military and police—and ecological risk in the built environment, including, but not limited to, the following:

- How security organizations are using language and/or tools similar to those of urban planning organizations, comparing the impact on framing and implementation
- Whether and how forms of defensive urbanism are changing in response to particular conceptions of climate risk
- How security discourse interacts with climate justice agendas at multiple scales
- The relative impact of a military climate agenda in the political context of a rightward, anti-globalization turn in U.S. and European politics
- Security framings in relation to other contemporary climate discourses, and its relative strength and effects
- How urban plans or urban landscapes are being shaped to address the intertwined challenges of security and climate change
- The role of security in prioritizing mitigation versus adaptation in the built environment
- The translation of design practices from direct security applications to other types of urban climate adaptation
- The production of urban space in response to climate security risks, through design proposals or interventions

Papers will be juried through a blind, peer-review process by an editorial board. Authors will be invited to present projects at a symposium to be hosted at MIT’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning April 4, 2017. This volume of [Projections](#) will be published in the fall of 2017. Please send papers of between 5,000-7,000 words (excluding references) to Aria Finkelstein ([araritz@mit.edu](mailto:araritz@mit.edu)) and Hannah Teicher ([hteicher@mit.edu](mailto:hteicher@mit.edu)) by January 16, 2017.

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## Recent Member Books

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Briguglio, Michael and M. Brown (Editors). 2016: *Sociology of the Maltese Islands* Malta: Miller

The volume includes a chapter entitled 'The Environment', by Michael Briguglio. Here is what a recent reviewer, Angele Deguara, had to say about this new volume:

All in all, I believe that this publication is an important contribution to the development of local sociology at a time when the people on the islands are exploring and experiencing new ways of living and of looking at the world in our increasingly individualistic and pluralistic society; new ways of doing things such as meeting others, communicating, learning, working, shopping, presenting themselves and doing politics. It gives a vibrant image of the many facets which make our society unique and yet not so distinct from other modern societies. It portrays the Maltese islands as they were moulded and changed by their geography, by their eventful and turbulent history, by both global and local happenings, by powerful institutions such as the Roman Catholic Church and Politics, by their traditions and beliefs as well as by the actions and experiences of the people on the islands who are after all the main protagonists.

Source: <http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2016-11-21/newspaper-lifestyleculture/The-sociology-of-the-Maltese-Islands-6736166902>

Haberl, H., Fischer-Kowalski, M., Krausmann, F., Winiwarter, V. (Eds.), 2016. *Social Ecology. Society-Nature Relations across Time and Space*. Springer, Cham.

This book presents the current state of the art in Social Ecology as practiced by the Vienna School of Social Ecology, globally one of the main research groups in this field. As a significant contribution to the growing literature on interdisciplinary sustainability studies, the book introduces the purpose and nature of Social Ecology and then places the “Vienna School” within the broader context of socioecological and other interdisciplinary environmental approaches. The conceptual and methodological foundations of Social Ecology are discussed in detail, allowing the reader to obtain a broad overview of current socioecological thinking. Issues covered include socio-metabolic transitions, socioecological approaches to land use, the relation between actor-centered and system approaches, a socioecological theory of labor and the importance of legacies, as conceived in Environmental History and in Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research. To underpin this overview empirically, the strengths of socioecological research are elucidated in cases of cutting-edge research, introducing a variety of themes the Vienna School has been tackling empirically over the past years. Given how the field is presented – reflecting research carried out on different scales, reaching from local to global as well as from past to present and future – and due to the way the book is structured, it is suitable for classroom use, as a primer, and also as an overview of how Social Ecology evolved, right up to its current research frontiers.

Gould, Kenneth A. and Tammy L. Lewis. 2017. *Green Gentrification: Urban Sustainability and the Struggle for Environmental Justice*. Routledge.

Green Gentrification looks at the social consequences of urban "greening" from an environmental justice and sustainable development perspective. Through a comparative examination of five cases of urban greening in Brooklyn, New York, it demonstrates that such initiatives, while positive for the environment, tend to increase inequality and thus undermine the social pillar of sustainable development. Although greening is ostensibly intended to improve environmental conditions in neighborhoods, it generates green gentrification that pushes out the working-class, and people of color, and attracts white, wealthier in-migrants. Simply put, urban greening "richens and whitens," remaking the city for the sustainability class. Without equity-oriented

public policy intervention, urban greening is negatively redistributive in global cities.

This book argues that environmental injustice outcomes are not inevitable. Early public policy interventions aimed at neighborhood stabilization can create more just sustainability outcomes. It highlights the negative social consequences of green growth coalition efforts to green the global city, and suggests policy choices to address them. The book applies the lessons learned from green gentrification in Brooklyn to urban greening initiatives globally. It offers comparison with other greening global cities. This is a timely and original book for all those studying environmental justice, urban planning, environmental sociology, and sustainable development as well as urban environmental activists, city planners and policy makers interested in issues of urban greening and gentrification.

<https://www.routledge.com/Green-Gentrification-Urban-sustainability-and-the-struggle-for-environmental/Gould-Lewis/p/book/9781138920163>

Klintman, Mikael. 2017. *Human Sciences and Human Interests: Integrating the Social, Economic, and Evolutionary Sciences*, Routledge.

Within the disciplines of social, economic, and evolutionary science, a proud ignorance can often be found of the other areas' approaches. This text provides a novel intellectual basis for breaking this trend. Human Sciences and Human Interests opens a broad debate about what scholars in the different human sciences assume, imply or explicitly claim with regard to human interests. Mikael Klintman draws the reader to the core of human sciences - how they conceive human interests, as well as how interests embedded within each discipline relate to its claims and recommendations about how to reduce environmental and health-related harm. Moreover, by comparing theories as well as concrete examples of research on environment and health through the lenses of social, economic and evolutionary sciences, Klintman outlines an integrative framework for how human interests could be better analysed across all human sciences. This fast-paced and modern contribution to the field is a necessary tool for developing any human scientist's ability to address multidimensional problems within a rapidly changing society. Avoiding dogmatic reasoning, this interdisciplinary text offers new insights that are especially relevant to scholars and advanced students within the aforementioned disciplines, as well as those within the fields of social work, social policy, political science and other neighbouring disciplines.

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9. Evolutionary theory: Interests, continuity and change
10. Book Conclusions

Osti, Giorgio. 2016. *Storage and Scarcity: New practices for food, energy and water*. Routledge

In an era of abundance, at least part of humanity has stopped thinking about the future provision of basic vital resources such water, energy and food. Storage actions, with all their variants whether real or imagined, are sources of innovation in the provision and treatment of crucial resources. This book deals with cases of water, food, energy and biodiversity storage as a response to a new era of scarcity. Examining multilevel storage policies, consumers' practices and local organisations, author Giorgio Osti explores a variety of examples such as the need to stock agriculture produce, the industry and practices of food conservation, the role of artificial water basins in controlling floods and droughts and the development of batteries able to compensate for the intermittence of renewable energy sources. Storage and self-sufficiency can be achieved in many technical ways, at different territorial levels and according to different policies or philosophies. Being more a grasshopper or an ant - the two extreme positions - depends not only on the technologies available but also on different analyses of the environment and different attitudes to the future. This book offers an environmentalist perspective that uncovers hidden or absent activities of ultramodern societies that will be useful to students of environmental sociology as well as those researching and studying at the interface of environmental studies and geography.

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- 1: Accumulation vs networking: The terms of the storage issue
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### Recent Member Articles, Special Issues, Book Chapters & Conference Proceedings

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The latest issue of Environmental Sociology (Volume 2, Issue 4, November) is a Special Issue on the topic of "Conceptual Innovation in Environmental Sociology," with Guest Editors Rolf Lidskog and Claire Waterton. This work is one of two outputs from **workshop on core concepts in environmental sociology** in September 2015, when the Environmental Sociology Section at Örebro University, in cooperation with RC24, organized the workshop *Core Concepts in Environmental Sociology*, headed by Magnus Boström and Rolf Lidskog.

The workshop aimed to contribute to theory development and conceptual innovation within global environmental sociology. It gathered some 30 participants from 4 continents. The workshop led to an open call to special issue on conceptual innovation in environmental sociology, edited by Rolf Lidskog (Örebro University) and Claire Waterton (Lancaster University).

This special issue includes nine papers whereof several were presented at the workshop. The



issue raises questions about how concepts shape our world, both discursively and materially, but also about our responsibility to critically scrutinize our established concepts as well as our introduction of newer ones. The special issue includes critical-constructive discussions of such concepts as Anthropocene, environmental representation, externalities and risk as well as approaches such as the material turn and intersectionality.

Take a look at this great line-up!

### **Editorials**

[Conceptual innovation in environmental sociology](#)

Rolf Lidskog & Claire Waterton

Pages: 307-311 | DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2016.1259865

### **Original Articles**

[Catching up with things? Environmental sociology and the material turn in social theory](#)

Luigi Pellizzoni

Pages: 312-321 | DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2016.1190490

[Re-conceptualizing \(environmental\) sociology](#)

Debbie Kasper

Pages: 322-332 | DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2016.1197474

[Conceptual lenses to bring into focus the blurred and unpack the entangled](#)

Raymond Murphy

Pages: 333-345 | DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2016.1229592

[An intersectional risk approach for environmental sociology](#)

Anna Olofsson, Susanna Öhman & Katarina Giritli Nygren

Pages: 346-354 | DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2016.1246086

[A sociology of environmental representation](#)

Magnus Boström & Ylva Ugglå

Pages: 355-364 | DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2016.1213611

[Connecting urban and environmental catastrophe: linking natural disaster, the built environment, and capitalism](#)

Albert S. Fu

Pages: 365-374 | DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2016.1220891

[Externalities: why environmental sociology should bring them in](#) |

Malcolm Fairbrother

Pages: 375-384 | DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2016.1196636

[Living in the Anthropocene: towards a risk-taking society](#) |

Jens Oliver Zinn

Pages: 385-394 | DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2016.1233605

[Anthropocene – a cautious welcome from environmental sociology?](#) |

Rolf Lidskog & Claire Waterton

Pages: 395-406 | DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2016.1210841

Keep your eyes open in the coming year, because the workshop will also result in a book to be published by Palgrave, edited by Magnus Boström (Örebro University) and Debra Davidson (University of Alberta), with the title *Environment and Society: Concepts and Challenges*. This book will include some 15 chapters on various conceptualizations in and surrounding environmental sociology, and how these shape our thinking about and treating of the environment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. How can we avoid an ecological reductionism that characterizes many dialogues in the environmental sciences, as well as a social reductionism within sociology? Chapters in this volume will be written by several RC24 profiles, and each will grapple with the problematics associated with how we think and talk about the natural world and our role within it, with an eye toward directing these discussions toward pathways that support transitions toward ecological sustainability.

Other Member Contributions:

Boström, Magnus & Michele Micheletti (2016). Introducing the sustainability challenge of textiles and clothing. *Journal of Consumer Policy*. DOI 10.1007/s10603-016-9336-6 (Introductory article to a special issue on sustainable textiles)

Boström, Magnus, Rolf Lidskog & Ylva Ugglå (2016) A reflexive look at reflexivity in environmental sociology. *Environmental Sociology* Open access:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23251042.2016.1237336>

Briguglio, Michael. (2016): Institutionalization: A one-way process? The case of Birdlife Malta. Bretterblog series: Movements and Institutions.

Briguglio, Michael. (2016). The Zonqor Conflict in Malta, in M. Trinidad Bretones, C. Andrés Charry, J. Pastor, J. Quesada (Eds). **2015: Social Conflict Yearbook**, pp. 210-219. Observatori del Conflict Social: Universitat de Barcelona.

Lippert, Ingmar, Franz Krause, & Niklas Klaus Hartmann (2015). Environmental Management as Situated Practice. *Geoforum*, DOI: [dx.doi.org/10/7sd](http://dx.doi.org/10/7sd) <<http://dx.doi.org/10/7sd>>

Lippert, Ingmar. 2016. Failing the market, failing deliberative democracy: How scaling up corporate carbon reporting proliferates information asymmetries'. *Big Data & Society*, DOI: <http://doi.org/br76>

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## The RC-24 Board 2014-2018

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