



International Sociological Association
Research Committee on Environment and Society

President's Column

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Colleagues,

First, I am very pleased to inform you that we received a total of 400 abstracts for the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Toronto, Canada from July 15-21, 2018. We have 25 sessions including two joint sessions, not including the business meeting. Visit the ISA site for updated information (<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/>). Each session organizer had a headache to select presenters. The selection was so really tough and too heavy. This number is the great evidence of very energetic activities of our colleagues.

Remember, the deadline for registration for presenters is March 20, 2018. Be careful, presenters who have failed to register will be automatically deleted from the program. Our strong Canadian colleagues are preparing a pre-conference, following successful pre-conferences at Yokohama in 2014 and Gothenburg in 2010, so please plan to extend your stay to include participation in this gathering from July 13-14. Many of our members whose excellent abstracts we could not accommodate in our regular sessions will be invited to present their work at the pre-conference. Let us join and have exciting days of *sociological football* games in Toronto.

Second, in Bonn, Germany, the UN climate change conference, COP23 was held from November 6 to 17. One of the topics is the use of coal, which increases CO2 emissions, as well as the Trump administration's declaration of their intention to depart from the Paris Agreement. Although receiving little international media coverage, the Japanese government is currently pushing coal-fired electricity across the nation. Its 2015 energy strategy posits coal as "safe and reliable" and calls for a 26% share of coal by 2030. There are currently 45 new coal power plants recently opened, under construction or being planned. Four have come online, while a further 4.3 GW is under construction and 17.2 GW under planning. If achieved, this will increase the size of Japan's coal power plant fleet by 50%. Ignoring the global imperative to fight climate change and transition to renewables, Japanese corporations who have invested heavily in coal abroad need an outlet for their dirty fuel. Among the 45 new power plants, several are preying on the economically challenged tsunami regions of the north. As a gross environmental and social

injustice, electricity produced in these areas will go to Tokyo, profits will go to headquarters in large cities, air pollution will choke local residents and climate risk will be burdened by the young.

In my city, Sendai, only a few years after devastation from the tsunami of 2011, which claimed nearly 1,000 lives, the municipality has permitted construction of a new coal fired power plant (Sendai Power Station with a capacity of 112 MW), which started operation on October 1. To save costs, it is designed with vintage, highly polluting sub- critical technology. The developers cleverly dodged a policy loophole to avoid carrying out an environmental impact assessment. Yet there are 35 schools in the vicinity (including elementary, middle and high schools and universities) where children will be at risk from air pollutants such as PM_{2.5}, NO_x and mercury. Two more coal plants are planned in the same city or nearby. This breaks Sendai's proud coal-free history for the past 10- years. Its reputation as a "city of trees" enjoyed for the past 100- years is set to become a "city of coal".

While citizen opposition to this wave of new coal fired power plants has mushroomed across Japan, civic action in Sendai of which I am at the head as an environmental sociologist and public sociologist is particularly active and attracting a high level of national press attention. A citizen group comprised of faculty from Tohoku University, local medical associations and NGOs has raised a total of 48,000 signatures in support of a petition. On September 27, this group has launched a litigation from 124 plaintiffs living in the vicinity of the abovementioned Sendai Power Station. This legal action is being carried out from the grounds of contributions to climate change, adverse impacts on human health, infringement over the basic human right to enjoy a safe atmosphere and climate, negative ecological impacts on an adjacent wetland, and the lack of contribution to post-tsunami development in Sendai. To demonstrate adverse health impacts, participating researchers have prepared scientific data from atmospheric modelling based simulation of premature deaths that will likely arise from PM_{2.5} and NO_x emissions.

This is the first legal proceeding of its kind in Japan. This promises to change the nature of civil actions in various cities around Japan dealing with the rollout of new coal fired power plants. The suite also holds ambitions of prompting a strengthening of local, prefectural and national regulations regarding coal fired electricity.

A Note from the Secretary

Debra Davidson
University of Alberta

It is time once again to rejuvenate our organization through the election of new members of Executive and Board of Governors. The RC 24 Nominations Committee, appointed by the current Board, is seeking nominations for the next election, to be held this winter. The deadline for nominations has been set for January 1, 2018. We will be electing a new set of officers to assume positions at the World Congress in Toronto, July 2018, which they will hold for the next four years. The Committee is soliciting nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, and Secretary; plus six Board Members (the Treasurer is appointed by the President). The key duties of these officers are as follows:

1. The *President* represents RC 24 in all meetings and correspondence with the ISA and other bodies, and is responsible for coordinating the activities of RC 24 and seeing that the other officials of RC 24 fulfil their responsibilities.
2. The *Vice-President* chairs the Frederick H. Buttell Award Committee and is responsible for all duties associated with the award. Besides that, the Vice-President can replace the President in the latter's absence.
3. The *Secretary* produces the Newsletter and is responsible for the operation of the listserv, getting messages out to members, etc. The website can be maintained by the secretary, but that might also be allocated to one of the other Board members
4. *Board Members* are expected to be active in representing RC 24, in increasing the membership of RC 24, and in organizing RC 24 (co-) sponsored conferences between the World Congresses; and for responding to requests for input and decisions from the President.

All RC 24 members are encouraged to submit (self-) nominations for these positions. When doing so, please keep in mind that the RC 24 Statutes specify that:

“An effort shall be made to ensure a fair regional, national, and gender representation, and to ensure that each Board consists of some continuing and some new members. Board members should be nominated, above all, in recognition of their activity in and service to RC 24, and of their contributions to environmental sociology scholarship.”

Self-nominations are acceptable and encouraged. Board members should be or become members of ISA and RC 24. Information on the RC 24 Board and the election process can be found in the RC 24 statutes, available at: <http://www.isarc24.com/>.

The members of the Nominations Committee are Stewart Lockie, Australia; Ana María Vara, Argentina; and David Sonnenfeld, USA. *Please submit nominations to Prof. Ana María Vara (amvara@unsam.edu.ar) by **January 1, 2018**, at the latest.*

Journal Update, *Environmental Sociology*

Stewart Lockie
James Cook University, Cairns, Australia
editor.jes@jcu.edu.au

The most frequent question asked of me as Editor of *Environmental Sociology* is when we will be indexed in the main citation databases. I can tell you that submissions have been made to Web of Science and Scopus. I cannot tell you what sort of timeframe we are looking at for a response. Criteria for indexing include publication consistency and quality but the assessment process is a bit of a black box.

Still, we have every reason to be confident. Over the three years *Environmental Sociology* has been in print we have published over 100 manuscripts across 12 issues, including two special issues on conceptual innovation in environmental sociology and exposure to environmental

toxins. Another special issue on intersectionalities and environmental justice will be online early in the New Year.

As I have said many times, the only thing we need to do to ensure the publishing success of *Environmental Sociology* is to treat it as what it is – a society journal.

What does this mean in practice?

Read. Why not browse each new issue (you can subscribe for email alerts from the journal front-page or follow us on Twitter at [@EnvSociology](https://twitter.com/EnvSociology))? Or check what we've published next time you're looking for a reference on a particular topic?

Refer. Tell people what you're reading. Use your social media accounts (#environmentalsociology). And cite the papers that speak to your own scholarship.

Recommend. Check whether *Environmental Sociology* is available via your library and, if not, recommend it to your librarian.

Write. Submit your best work. This is the flagship journal for environmental sociology. Quality is paramount.

Review. It is hard to overstate the importance of thoughtful and constructive reviews. Reviews do not need to be thousands of words long. Thoughtful, constructive and *succinct* is just fine.

Rave. Don't forget to tell people about your own work!

Each author publishing in *Environmental Sociology* receives 50 free e-copies of their article to share. If you have the financial resources to do so, you also have the option of participating in the Open Select (or Gold Open Access) program which allows anyone, anywhere to download your article. If not, you are still able to share your work through institutional repositories and scholarly networking sites provided you follow the appropriate embargo periods etc. You can get more information from the Taylor and Francis Author Services site at <http://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/sharing-your-work/>.

Submission guidelines and other journal information can be found at www.tandfonline.com/rens.

Please note that as the official journal of RC24, all current financial members receive free individual electronic subscriptions (membership details are available at www.isa-sociology.org/rc24.htm). Parallel membership of ISA is encouraged but not required

Thank you everyone who has contributed to the journal including members of the Editorial and International Advisory Boards, editorial staff at Routledge, contributing authors and, of course, referees.

Upcoming Conferences

*9th International Sustainability Transitions (IST) Conference
Manchester, UK
12-14 June*

IST2018 will be hosted by the Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI) and Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR), in association with the Sustainable Transition Research Network (STRN).

The conference will run from 12th to 14th June, with a newcomers session on the 11th June.

Our conference theme, '*Reconfiguring Consumption and Production Systems*', aims to re-engage with a founding assumption of transition scholarship to study 'whole system' change. We also welcome submissions on topics that form the core of the new STRN research agenda.

Full details of the conference theme and guidance of abstract submission can be found in the attached document and also on the conference website:

<http://www.conferecare.manchester.ac.uk/events/ist2018/>

The deadline for abstracts is 11th January 2018.

We look forward to receiving your submissions and to welcoming you to Manchester in June 2018.

IST2018 organising committee:

Andrew McMeekin (Chair)

Frank Geels

Mike Hodson

Jo Mylan

***24th International Symposium on
Society and Resource Management (ISSRM)
Salt Lake City, Utah
June 17-21***

The conference theme: 'Landscape Legacies and Global Trajectories' reflects a conscious recognition that scientists and resource managers must learn from the past if they are to build a more sustainable future where natural resources and the societies that depend upon them coexist at multiple scales spanning the global to the local. Looking to the past to inform the future is essential when attempting to grapple with the complex social and natural resource problems that our society faces today. Humanity's relationship with natural resources shapes landscapes, leaving enduring legacies of individuals' and communities' lived experience. Emerging technologies and proactive decision making hold the promise of allowing us to leave behind landscapes that are healthier, more diverse, and more connected than those we inherited. For this to happen, cutting-edge interdisciplinary science is needed.

Abstracts will be due February 15.

Contact the IASNR office at info@iasnr.org for any questions.

Web Site: https://www.iasnr.org/?page_id=2202

***XXIII International Conference of the
Society for Human Ecology
Navigating Complexity:
Human –Environmental Solutions for a Challenging Future
Lisbon, Portugal
July 7 - 10***

First Call for Participation - Preliminary proposals for **Symposia, Paper Sessions and Workshops** are invited immediately. This conference is meant to be as broadly interdisciplinary as possible, so suggestions from all areas of human ecology – theory, education, research, and practice – are welcomed.

Like previous SHE meetings, it is intended to bring together a diverse group of educators, researchers, and practitioners who utilize or are interested in, interdisciplinary and ecological approaches. We look forward to a diverse and exciting program with an excellent range of speakers, symposia, round-tables and individual presentations.

Anyone with suggested themes that would like to see them included in the program is invited to reply to: sheconference2018@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you next year.

All the best,

Iva Pires (Program Chair: SHE-XXIII)

***113th Annual Meeting of the
American Sociological Association
Feeling Race: An invitation to Explore Racialized Emotions
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
August 11-14***

ASA is now accepting paper and other proposal submissions for the 2018 Annual Meeting. Please visit <http://www.asanet.org/annual-meeting-2018/2018-call-submissions-information> page to learn more about the opportunities available. The deadline to submit is January 11, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern.

View the roster of confirmed sessions here: <http://www.asanet.org/annual-meeting-2018/program-information>.

Fourth Energy and Society Conference
Energy Transitions in a Divided World
Midterm conference of the European Sociological Association
Research Network 12 - Environment and Society
University of Exeter, UK
3 – 5 September

The Energy & Society Conferences have been aiming at inspiring and providing networking opportunities for researchers interested in energy and society issues. Following the success of the three previous conferences, a fourth Energy & Society conference will be hosted in Exeter. We hope this can be a great occasion for developing the sense of community that has been emerging from these meetings, as well as from the conferences of the European Sociological Association. In order to provide a lively forum for insightful debates, the conference will include other formats besides keynote presentations and sessions for oral presentations. Participants will also be able to present and discuss their research in roundtables and in poster sessions. The conference will also offer workshops proposed and organized by participants. Moreover, participants are invited to propose informal meetings, which will be announced during the conference. We hope that the social events will also contribute to make this a pleasant and friendly conference.

Call for papers: <http://geography.exeter.ac.uk/energyandsociety/callforpapers/>

The deadline for the submission of abstracts and workshop proposals is **January 15 2018!**

Find out more about The Energy and Society Network and how to become a member:
<http://geography.exeter.ac.uk/energyandsociety/network/>

Recent Member Activities:

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

Berg, Monika & Lidskog, Rolf. 2018. Deliberative democracy meets democratised science: a deliberative systems approach to global environmental governance. *Environmental Politics* 27 (1): 1-20 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2017.1371919>.

Bohr, Jeremiah & Riley E. Dunlap. 2017. "Key Topics in Environmental Sociology, 1990–2014: Results from a Computational Text Analysis." *Environmental Sociology*. DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2017.1393863

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

Boström, Magnus & Klintman, Mikael (2017) Can we rely on 'climate friendly' consumption? *Journal of Consumer Culture* DOI: 10.1177/1469540517717782

Boström, Magnus. (2017) Environmental SMOs and resource mobilization in the post-communist versus the west-European context. *Qualitative Research in Organizations and Management*. 12(3):225-244

Davidson, Debra J. 2017. "The Effort Factor: An adjustment to our understanding of social-ecological metabolism in the era of Peak Oil." *Social Problems*. doi: 10.1093/socpro/spx031.

Dunlap, Riley. 2017. Keynote address at the 6th International Symposium on Environmental Sociology in East Asia held at National Taiwan University, Taipei, Oct. 19-21.

Fisher, Dana R., Dawn M. Dow, and Rashawn Ray. 2017. "Intersectionality Takes it to the Streets: Mobilizing Across Diverse Interests for the Women's March." *Science Advances*. <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/9/eaao1390.full>

Fisher-Maltese, Carley, Dana R. Fisher, and Rashawn Ray. 2017. "Can learning in informal settings mitigate disadvantage and promote urban sustainability? A study of school gardens in Washington, DC." *International Review of Education*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11159-017-9663-0>

Holleman, Hannah. 2017. "De-naturalizing Ecological Disaster: Colonialism, Racism, and the Global Dust Bowl of the 1930s." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 44(1): 234-60.

Holleman, Hannah. 2017. "Capital and Ecology." In Ingo Schmidt and Carlo Fanelli (Eds.), *Reading 'Capital' Today*. (London: Pluto Press: 160-80).

Hannah was also awarded the 2017 Fred Buttel Outstanding Scholarly Achievement Award from the Rural Sociological Society, July 2017, and the 2017 PEWS Distinguished Article Award by the Political Economy of the World System section of the American Sociological Association, August 2017. CONGRATULATIONS HANNAH!

Jetzkowitz J, van Koppen CSA, Lidskog R, Ott K, Voget-Kleschin L and Wong CML. 2018. The significance of meaning. Why IPBES needs the social sciences and humanities. *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research* 31 (1) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13511610.2017.1348933>.

Lankao, Patricia Romero, Timon McPhearson, and Debra J. Davidson. 2017. "The Food, Energy and Water Nexus and Urban Complexity." *Nature Climate Change* 7(4): 233-235.

Leifeld, Philip and Dana R. Fisher. 2017. "Membership Nominations in International Scientific Assessments." *Nature Climate Change*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nclimate3392>

Lippert, Ingmar. 2017. "How Do Environments Come to Matter?" *Science as Culture*, DOI: 10.1080/09505431.2017.1398225. Books reviewed: *Refining Expertise: How Responsible Engineers Subvert Environmental Justice Challenges*, by G. Ottinger, New York and London: New York University Press, 2013, 221 pp. *How Climate Change Comes to Matter: The Communal Life of Facts*, by C. Callison, Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2014, 316 pp.

Lippert, Ingmar. 2017. Keynote "Dispositifs of green futures: certainty and tactics in baselining environments" at the workshop MAKING FUTURES: GREEN ALTERNATIVES AND STS

INTERVENTIONS. ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY IN POZNAN, NOVEMBER 24-25, organised by Les Levidow, Luigi Pellizzoni and Aleksandra Lis.

Potvin, Catherine, Divya Sharma, Irena Creed, Sally Aitken, Francois Ancil, Elena Bennett, Fikret Berkes, Steven Bernstein, Nathalie Bleau, Alain Bourque, Bryson Brown, Sarah Burch, James Byrne, Ashlee Cunsolo, Ann Dale, Deborah de Lange, Bruno Dyck, Martin Entz, Jose Etcheverry, Rosine Faucher, Adam Fenech, Lauchlan Fraser, Irene Henriques, Andreas Heyland, Matthew Hoffmann, George Hoberg, Meg Holden, Gordon Huang, Aerin Jacob, Sébastien Jodoin, Alison Kemper, Marc Lucotte, Roxane Maranger, Liat Margolis, Ian Mauro, Jeffrey McDonnell, James Meadowcroft, Christian Messier, Martin Mkandawire, Catherine Morency, Normand Mousseau, Ken Oakes, Sarah Otto, Pamela Palmater, Taysha Sharlene Palmer, Dominique Paquin, Anthony Perl, André Potvin, Howard Ramos, Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne, Natalie Richards, John Robinson, Stephen Sheppard, Suzanne Simard, Brent Sinclair, Natalie Slawinski, Mark Stoddart, Marc-André Villard, Claude Villeneuve, and Tarah Wright (2017). "Stimulating a Canadian Narrative for Climate." FACETS 2: 131-149. Part of Sustainable Canada Dialogues project.

Ripberger, Joseph T., Hank C. Jenkins-Smith, Carol L. Silva, Deven E. Carlson, Kuhika Gupta, Nina Carlson and Riley E. Dunlap. 2017. "Bayesian versus Politically Motivated Reasoning in Human Perception of Climate Anomalies." *Environmental Research Letters*: 12 114004

Sarbu, Mihai. 2017. (Re)defining Climate Change as a Cultural Phenomenon. In P. Albanese, L. Tepperman, & E. Alexander (Eds.), *Reading Sociology: Canadian Perspectives* (3rd ed., pp. 331–334). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Sun-Jin Yun with Riley E. Dunlap (eds.). 2017. *Sourcebook on Environmental Movements in Korea*. Seoul, South Korea: Academy of Korean Studies Press.

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.

Stoddart, Mark C.J., Tuomas Ylä-Anttila, and David B. Tindall (2017). "Media, Politics, and Climate Change: The ASA Task Force Report and Beyond." *Environmental Sociology* 3(4): 309-320.

Taylor, Peter Leigh, and David A. Sonnenfeld, eds. (2018). *Water Crises and Governance: Reinventing Collaborative Institutions in an Era of Uncertainty*. London and New York: Routledge. ISBN 9781138299764. [webpage]

Wijaya, A., Glasbergen, P., & Mawardi, S. 2017. "The mediated partnership model for sustainable coffee production: experiences from Indonesia." *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review*, 20(5): 689-708.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.22434/IFAMR2017.0021>

Wijaya, A., Glasbergen, P., Leroy, P., & Darmastuti, A. 2016. "Governance challenges of cocoa partnership projects: seeking synergy in multi-stakeholder arrangements for sustainable agriculture." *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, pp.1-25. doi: 10.1007/s10668-016-9874-8

The RC-24 Board 2014-2018

Executive:

President: Koichi Hasegawa (Japan)
Vice-President: Magnus Boström (Sweden)
Secretary: Debra Davidson (Canada)
Treasurer: Peter Oosterveer (Netherlands)—According to RC-24 statutes, the Treasurer is an appointed position.

Board of Governors:

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Rolf Lidskog
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Past-presidents:

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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