

ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

President's Column

by **Ray Murphy**, President of RC-24

Department of Sociology

University of Ottawa, Canada

In response to the Call for Papers for the First World Forum of Sociology to be held in Barcelona, Spain, in September 2008, there were 152 submissions for the 14 RC-24 sessions. In light of this enthusiastic response, the organizing committee of RC-24 (Raymond Murphy of Canada, David Tabara of Barcelona Spain, Mercedes Pardo of Madrid Spain, and Ernest Garcia of Valencia Spain) requested seven more sessions from the ISA for a total of 21. The ISA Vice-President for Research, Arturo Rodríguez Morató replied that he could not guarantee us the seven additional sessions until the end of January when all the participating RCs will have submitted their programs to the ISA, but that the likelihood was very high that we would be given the additional sessions. So, we are doing our planning on the assumption that the extra sessions will be granted. The RC-24 is also participating in two joint sessions with other RCs. In short, the response of you, the members of RC-24, is truly impressive. There is a paradox in this. The objective of Professor Morató and the ISA was to help inactive RCs (those who do not organize conferences between World Congresses) become more active. I do not know whether this goal has been achieved, but your response indicates that active RCs like RC-24 have taken full advantage of this opportunity to become even more active. The list of RC-24 sessions (albeit incomplete) and session organizers is listed below under the "Upcoming Conferences" section. The seven additional sessions were allocated in the following way: i) four vastly oversubscribed sessions were given an extra session with the same organizer; ii) our committee is presently inventing three more sessions on the basis of the papers received. Thus the list below is incomplete but it does give you an indication of where we stand in the organization of the Forum at this early stage. Please be patient concerning our confirmation that your paper has been accepted for a session because we must wait until February to receive confirmation ourselves from the ISA that the RC-24 will indeed have the seven additional sessions.

At that Barcelona Forum, the RC-24 will try to organize a business meeting. The ad hoc committee you established at the Durban World Congress to evaluate the possibility of launching an environmental sociology journal affiliated in some way with RC-24 will give a report on its activities and conclusions. Its members are Steve Yearley, Gert Spaargaren, David Sonnenfeld, and Dana Fisher. We will also discuss a suggestion by Timmons Roberts that a web site be created and operated upon which to place the best papers from RC-24 conferences. Other issues of interest will also be discussed.

China is an emerging world power and a newly wealthy state. That wealth can be seen in its major cities, such as Beijing and Shanghai. But it is also a developing country rising out of poverty. China is blazing the path for other developing countries on how to use globalization to its advantage. The increasing standard of consumption of such a large population in China has,

however, resulted in a deeper and wider ecological footprint, both within China and beyond. Even Chinese government officials admit that China faces two serious problems: i) inequality between the minority inhabiting prosperous cities and the majority living in rural areas, and ii) environmental problems of resource depletion and pollution. In order to tackle these problems, the First Beijing International Environmental Sociology Conference was held at the end of June. It was jointly sponsored by the Center for Studies of Sociological Theory & Method of Renmin University, the Sociology Department of Renmin University, the Sociology Department of Hohai University, and the Environment and Society Research Committee (RC-24) of the International Sociological Association. The central theme was “Examining China’s Environmental Situation: Insights from Environmental Sociology”. About one-half of the participants were Chinese environmental sociologists and the other half were international environmental sociologists most of whom are members of the RC-24. Simultaneous translation was provided between Chinese and English. A Vice-minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration of China, Mr. Zhou Jian, was a featured speaker. He contended that China is moving “from an emphasis on economic growth that ignores environmental protection to developing environmental protection and economic growth with equal importance.” Like many countries in the West, he operationalized this in terms of intensity based targets (reducing energy, pollution, and emissions per unit of GDP). The atmosphere, land, and water are, however, affected by the absolute amount of pollution and emissions regardless of whether they come from high pollution/emissions per GDP or high GDP. If ecological modernization is defined only in the relativist sense of intensity based targets, it will not achieve ecological rationalization. The challenge for all nations is to restrain the absolute level of pollution and emissions and of consumption of resources rather than polluting more by consuming more with slightly better technology. The RC-24 would like to thank Professor Dayong Hong of Renmin University for doing such an excellent job of organizing the conference and also thank Riley Dunlap for helping to launch the conference.

I took the liberty of asking Professor Dayong Hong to send me a summary of his paper on the growth of environmental sociology in China for distribution to all RC-24 members. You will find the abstract below. Since the paper itself is too long for our Newsletter, it can be found under the new “Resources” Section of the RC-24 website (<http://www.environment-societyisa.org/Resources.html>). Although we do not presently have the capacity to place multiple conference papers on the RC-24 website, this paper is unique and we do have space for one paper. This paper gives RC-24 members an overview of the development of environmental sociology in China, which is not available from other sources. This is particularly important information for our members because China will have enormous impact on the planet’s environment and because it could be either a positive or negative environmental role model for other developing countries. Placing the paper on the RC-24 website is also a symbolic gesture of welcome to our mainland Chinese colleagues, none of whom are yet members of the RC-24. It constitutes an invitation to them to make their voices heard internationally and their influence felt in the RC-24.

Environmental social science has become quite active in Asia. I received an invitation from Professor Dai-Yeun Jeong of the Department of Sociology at the Cheju National University of South Korea to present a paper at the Jeju International Environmental Education Forum in November and then from Professor Seejae Lee to speak at the Korean Association for Environmental Sociology Workshop in Seoul. So back I travel 14 time zones and thousands of kilometres from Canada to Asia where I will be a representative of the RC-24. I am told that

Jeju (Cheju) is the Hawaii of Korea and that its name has been Romanized in two ways with these two different spellings. Some information about the Forum is given below under the Upcoming Conferences section. The title of my paper is “Reflexive, Ecological Modernization and the Environmental Education of Leaders”.



Photo of (left-to-right): Ray Murphy, Riley Dulap, and William Freudenburg in China during the First Beijing International Environmental Sociology Conference in June 2007.

Notes from the Editor

by **Dana R. Fisher**, Secretary of RC-24 and Editor of the Newsletter
Department of Sociology
Columbia University, USA

In the United States right now, the Presidential election is beginning to heat up and we are about to enter Primary season. As national politics command increasingly more of our attention and parts of our country deal with severe drought and the aftermath of forest fires and an oil spill in San Francisco Bay, it is remarkable how little attention the environment is receiving in the national political arena. Although environmental issues are relatively absent from current

national political debates, more and more citizens are starting to take action in their local communities and their daily lives.

For example, on 3 November, thousands of Americans demonstrated around the country during the Step-It-Up Day of Action against climate change. Mobilized through their informal social networks, the diversity of actions around the country was impressive. In early December, Americans will join citizens from seventy-seven countries, in a global day of action for international demonstrations on climate change that have been scheduled to take place during the international climate change negotiations (MOP3, COP13) in Bali, Indonesia (for more information, see www.globalclimatecampaign.org). This level of internationally coordinated collective action illustrates some of the more innovative ways that civil society is responding to environmental politics (or the lack thereof) across nations-states. It gives us the chance to observe the different mobilizing structures at play around the world: from highly institutionalized social movement organizations, to very informal social networks that mobilize through friends, neighbors, and e-mail lists.

Along with this type of civic innovation, local political leaders and businesses in the United States are trying to respond to the increased levels of concern of the American public. In early November, the United States Conference of Mayors held a Climate Protection Summit. As part of the Summit, the participants called for federal partnerships on climate protection. It is unclear if these sub-national efforts will yield national political outcomes. In towns and cities across the US, however, environmental politics have become a central component of local governance.

The connections (and potential disconnections) between the different scales of politics have become a central component of my research interests these days. As the RC-24 continues to cultivate a vibrant community of scholars, I hope that we as a Research Committee will have the opportunity to work together to develop a better understanding of the connections between local, national, and international environmental politics around the world.

The Growth of Chinese Environmental Sociology

By **Dayong Hong**

Department of Sociology
Renmin University, China

and **Chenyang Xiao**

Department of Sociology
Albright College, USA

Abstract: This paper examines the characteristics and growth of Chinese environmental sociology and then predicts future developments. The authors argue that the development of environmental sociology in China can be divided into two phases: its spontaneous introduction and research without a clear disciplinary consciousness prior to the mid 1990s, and then intentional research and its construction with an increasingly clear disciplinary consciousness after the mid 1990s. At present, Chinese environmental sociology has shown its latest trends towards advancing academic research, communicating with foreign and domestic colleagues, organizing domestic colleagues, and internationalizing its research perspective. The authors believe that future developments of Chinese environmental sociology will largely depend on

whether scholars in this area can effectively analyze the partial failure of environmental governance in China by looking further, digging deeper, and utilizing multi-angle perspectives in their sociological research of environmental issues.

Key words: Chinese environmental sociology, environmental governance, social transformation.

Authors: Dr. Hong is a Professor of Sociology at Renmin University of China. His main research interests include environmental sociology, applied sociology and social policy. Dr. Xiao is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Albright College, USA. His main research interests include environmental sociology, social statistics and research methodology.

This paper is available on the “Resources” Section of the RC-24 Website at:
<http://www.environment-societyusa.org/Resources.html>

Report on the Faculty Diversity and Environmental Justice Research Symposium at the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment (6-9 June 2007)

By **Dorceta E. Taylor**
School of Natural Resources and Environment
University of Michigan, USA

The issues of diversity and environmental justice are very salient in today’s society. Consequently, a two-part conference was organized to explore research related to (a) diversity in academic environmental programs as well as other kinds of environmental institutions and (b) domestic and international environmental justice research. Though diversity was identified early on as key element of environmental justice mobilizing, it has been an understudied element of the research. However, recent Supreme Court decisions have heightened interest in diversity and highlight the need for greater understanding of the topic and greater inquiry into it.

Though environmental justice scholarship has been in existence for some time, it is only relatively recently that this area of inquiry emerged as a vibrant field of research and scholarly interest. During the past two decades the field has grown exponentially to include a wide array of topics, questions, methodological approaches and theoretical explanations. Since the mid 1980s, numerous reports, books, and journal articles have been published in the field of environmental justice. Scholarly research and publications have coincided with the rise of the environmental justice movement and have been an essential part of movement building. Despite the growing significance of environmental justice scholarship and the convening of several national and international gatherings focused on mobilization, the Michigan conference was the first to convene an international gathering focused primarily on environmental justice research. The gathering was unique in that it offered an opportunity for researchers in the field to gather in one place to assess the past, present and future of the research; map out strategies; initiate collaborative efforts; network; and identify and nurture the future generation of scholars.

In an effort to link conference activities with local environmental justice initiatives, the conference activities began with an optional pre-conference environmental justice tour of Southeast Michigan. About 25 conference participants had a chance to meet with local activists and discuss food security issues on their visit to Growing Hope. Growing Hope is a cooperative community garden in Ypsilanti where low-income and minority residents produce their own fresh fruits and vegetables. Southeast Michigan has the largest Arab community in the U.S. Conference participants visited ACCESS, an Arab community center, to examine occupational and health hazards arising from industrial complexes in their Dearborn neighborhood. The third stop on the tour was at Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice. There residents of low-income African American communities discussed environmental hazards arising from the proliferation of industrial facilities. They also discussed the displacement and disruption that will arise with the construction of a new bridge to (Windsor) Canada. Activists from these three community groups also attended and participated in the conference.

About 175 people attended the conference. It opened officially with a plenary on gender and racial diversity among the faculty in academia. The panel examined strategies for enhancing the recruitment and retention of women and minorities in environmental disciplines and the sciences in general. The conference featured presentations – many from young scholars and rising stars in the discipline – on topics as varied as new applications of spatial analyses, international dimensions of oil and gas exploration, toxic food consumption, climate justice, health disparities, gentrification, framing and environmental justice discourses, ecovillages, and fair trade. The conference featured a concurrent film screening session, breakfast conversations with a researcher from New Orleans, and a conversation with authors of seminal environmental justice books and reports (*Toxic Wastes and Race* and *Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards*). Students from several countries participated in the conference. Many presented on panels or during the poster session. The conference also featured a tribute to long-time environmental justice researcher: Bunyan Bryant.

More details of the conference can be found on the conference website at: http://sitemaker.umich.edu/diversityejresearchsymposium/conference_announcement. A detailed conference program is located at: http://sitemaker.umich.edu/diversityejresearchsymposium/files/2007_conference_schedule.pdf and a collection of abstracts of the research topics presented at the conference can also be viewed at: http://sitemaker.umich.edu/diversityejresearchsymposium/files/fd_and_ej_research_symp_abstracts.pdf Several of the research articles presented at the conference will be included in a forthcoming book on advances in environmental justice research. Plans are underway to convene a similar gathering in two to three years.

Report on the Fourth International Seminar on Nanotechnology, Society and Environment (6-8 August 2007)

By **Paulo Martins**,
Engineering Division
IPT Agency of Innovation, Brazil

The development of nanotechnology has changed our society and environment. At the same time, because of this development, changes are taking place within public policies and the production process. To discuss these and others questions from the point of view of Human Science the IV International Nanotechnology, Society and Environment Seminar took place on 6-8 August 2007 Vitória city, the capital of Espírito Santos State, Brazil. The seminar was organized by the Brazilian Research Network in Nanotechnology, Society and Environment – RENANOSOMA - coordinated by Dr. Paulo Martins.

Discussions were held at ten roundtables with international guests that included Alfred Nordmann, Hugh Lecey, Peter Cookson, Scott Walsh, Rex Reimond, Pat Mooney, and Leonardo Teixeira. Many members of RENANOSOMA served as Brazilian speakers for the event (including: Sonia Dalcomuni, Richard Domingues Dulley, Paulo Martins, and Noela Invernizzi). They contributed with their analyses of nanotechnology and Society, Ethics, Economy, Environment, and Agriculture. The applications of nanotechnology were displayed by coordinators of the Brazilian Research Network in Nanotechnology in Exact and Natural Science, which included examples at the global level. With this seminar, the RENANOSOMA aimed to contribute to nanotechnology as a subject of Human Science and expand the limits of this discussion beyond the scientists and technologists, to involve common people and citizens.

See the call for participants for the fifth seminar in the **Upcoming Conferences** section of the Newsletter.

Report on the Workshop: Globalizing Lifestyles between McDonaldization and Sustainability Perspectives – The case of the new middle class (4-5 October 2007).

By **Hellmuth Lange**
Research Center for Sustainability Studies
University of Bremen

In industrializing countries, new groups of consumers are emerging who have remarkable purchasing power. Representing the “new middle classes” these consumers are frequently seen as the most relevant promoters of the profoundly unsustainable “western lifestyles” outside the OECD. Due to their emergence, it is all the more important to ascertain whether there is a spread

of “bad habits” only. More precisely: are there indications of growing environmental concern and civic responsibility, too – similar to that which is taking place in the North-Western world?

Sociologists, political scientists, geographers and anthropologists from different countries congregated in Bremen in early October, presenting both case studies from different countries (India, China, Singapore, Ecuador, Brazil, Israel, Germany), as well as theoretical perspectives. The agenda covered the relation between consumption patterns and lifestyles, their cultural and material (systems of provisioning) embeddedness and lessons to be drawn with regard to modernisation theory in general and a more substantiated understanding of globalization.

An edited volume of the proceedings is in preparation and will be published by Springer / Environmental Science.

Upcoming Conferences and Calls for Papers (in chronological order)

Jeju International Environmental Education Forum Jeju, South Korea 22-23 November 2007

Jeju is situated in the southern part of the Korean peninsula and covers a lava plateau with a shield volcano. It has the reputation as the best Korean province in achieving sustainable development. UNESCO designated Jeju Island as a biosphere reserve in 2002, and the Jeju volcanic lava tubes were registered on the UNESCO world natural heritage list in 2007.

In accordance with these qualities, the Jeju Special Self-Government has launched the Jeju International Environmental Education Forum that will be held in Jeju every year. The aim of the Forum is to share information and promote a coordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education at an international level.

The major themes of the Forum are:
Sustainable Development and Environmental Education;
Environmental Education to Students;
Environmental Education to Citizens;
Environmental Education through Experience;
the Earth Environment and Environmental Education;
the Institutionalization of Environmental Education;
Regional Environmental Activity and Environmental Education;
Globalization and Environmental Education;
the Information Society and Environmental Education;
Environmental Education for Environmental Problems.

Thirteen papers will be presented at the 2007 Forum.

Everyone is welcome to contact Professor Dai-Yeun Jeong (Cheju National University, South Korea), who is the chair of the organizing committee, **for more information** at:
jeongdy@cheju.ac.kr

The Forum homepage can be viewed at: <http://la21jeju.or.kr> (the English homepage is currently under construction).

**The Fifth International Nanotechnology, Society and Environment Seminar—V
SEMINANOSMOA
Natal, Capital of Rio Grande Do Norte State, Brazil
15-17 October 2008**

At this meeting, we will discuss the relationship between Nanotechnology, the environment, and society, as well as the economy, ethics, agriculture and regulations.

All members of the RC-24 who are working with nanotechnology are invited to participate in this event.

For more information: please contact Paulo Martins at: marpaulo@ipt.br

**First ISA World Forum of Sociology
“Sociological Research and Public Debate”
RC-24 theme: “Contributions of Environmental Sociology to Sustainable Societies”
Barcelona, Spain
5-8 September 2008**

The RC-24 organizing committee [Raymond Murphy (Canada), Joan David Tabara (Spain), Mercedes Pardo (Spain), and Ernest Garcia (Spain)] announces the following RC-24 sessions:

- 1- "Social learning about environmental issues"
Session organizer: J. David Tabara (Spain)
Email: joandavid.tabara@uab.cat
- 2- "Social dimensions of global environmental change"
Session organizer: Mercedes Pardo (Spain)
Email: mpbuendi@polsoc.uc3m.es
- 3- "Social movements towards a post-carbon era"
Session organizer: Ernest Garcia (Spain)
Ernest.Garcia@uv.es
- 4- "Temas de actualidad en el medio y la sociedad I" (session in Spanish)/
"Current issues of environment and society I"
Session organizer: Ignacio Lerma (Spain)
Email: Ignacio.Lerma@uv.es
- 5- "Temas de actualidad en el medio y la sociedad II: estudios de caso" (session in Spanish)/
"Current issues of environment and society II: case studies"
Session organizer: Ignacio Lerma (Spain)
Email: Ignacio.Lerma@uv.es

- 6- "Sustainable global food markets: facing new challenges"
Session organizer: Julia Guivant (Brazil)
Email: juguivant@uol.com.br
- 7- "Ecological restoration, adaptation, and environmental change"
Session organizer: Matthias Gross (Germany)
Email: matthias.gross@ufz.de
- 8- "Environment in the information age"
Session organizer: Arthur Mol (The Netherlands)
Email: Arthur.Mol@wur.nl
- 9- "Environmental attitudes: conceptualizations and comparisons"
Session organizer: Riley Dunlap (USA)
Email: riley.dunlap@okstate.edu
- 10- "Environmental behaviors and policies: sociological analyses"
Session organizer: Riley Dunlap (USA)
Email: riley.dunlap@okstate.edu
- 11- "Environmental justice and ecological debt"
Session organizers: Michael Redclift (UK) and David Manuel Navarrete (Spain)
Email: michael.r.redclift@kcl.ac.uk
- 12- "Science and technology and risk"
Session organizer: Eugene Rosa (USA)
Email: rosa@wsu.edu
- 13- "Ecological risk: local to global"
Session organizers: Nick Pidgeon (UK) and Eugene Rosa (USA)
Email: PidgeoinN@cardiff.ac.uk
rosa@wsu.edu
- 14- "Community and natural resources"
Session organizer: Stewart Lockie (Australia)
Email: s.lockie@cqu.edu.au
- 15- "Public participation in environmental monitoring"
Session organizers: Steven Yearley (UK) and Maria Eugenia Rodrigues (UK)
Email: steve.yearley@ed.ac.uk
eugenia@ics.uminho.pt
- 16- "Democratizing knowledge, democratizing power I: downstream dynamics of knowledge/power"
Session organizer: Luigi Pellizzoni (Italy)

Email: PellizzoniL@sp.units.it

17- "Democratizing knowledge, democratizing power II: upstream dynamics of knowledge/power"

Session organizer: Luigi Pellizzoni (Italy)

Email: PellizzoniL@sp.units.it

18- "Environmental organization for a sustainable future"

Session organizer: Seejae Lee (South Korea)

Email: seejaelee@catholic.ac.kr

19- To be announced

20- To be announced

21- To be announced

22- "Leisure, Tourism and Environment".

Joint session of ISA Research Committee on Sociology of Leisure (RC 13) and ISA Research Committee on Environment and Society (RC 24).

Session organizer: Ishwar Modi (India)

Email: iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in

23- "The 'knowledge-based bio-economy': critical perspectives".

Joint session of ISA Research Committee on Environment and Society (RC 24) and ISA Research Committee on Sociology of Science and Technology (RC 23).

Session organizer: Les Levidow (U.K.).

Email: L.Levidow@open.ac.uk

There will be a limited number of travel grants to help participants from categories C and perhaps B countries attend the Forum.

Journals, Volumes, and Calls for Submissions/Participation

Call for Participants in International Discussion of Environmental Justice.

On the occasion of the ESA-conference in Glasgow in September 2007, one of the sessions of our RG-12 on "Environment and Society" was dedicated to "Environmental Justice." The overarching question was: How can the environmental justice-topic, after having been raised in the US and focussing on particular features of US-society and its civil rights movement, foster a better understanding of political struggles related to environmental problems in other parts of the world, in particular under welfare state conditions? In the past few years, interesting debates on the adaptability of the paradigm and the problem have been evolving.

Some participants of this session in Glasgow agreed to try to assess the ongoing debate and move it forward, if possible.

Anyone who is interested in joining this effort should contact: Carmit Lubanov (don1298@netvision.net.il) or Hellmuth Lange (lange@artec.uni-bremen.de).

Volume 15 of *Research in Social Problems and Public Policy* (which several years ago published the landmark RC-24 volume, *The Environmental State Under Pressure*, edited by Frederick Buttel and Arthur P.J. Mol), will again focus on an important environmental issue that lies at the confluence of "Social Problems and "Public Policy." The new issue, edited by Robert Wilkinson and William Freudenburg, is focusing on *Equity and the Environment*.

The volume notes that, soon after the Santa Barbara oil spill in 1969, the academic world saw a virtual explosion of new, interdisciplinary 'environmental' programs, many of which took explicit note for the first time of the fact that "environmental" problems are inherently social problems as well. Even in the new programs, however, issues of equity and the environment were usually relegated to isolated classes on environmental ethics.

Today, they still are.

That, the volume argues, needs to change. The connections between equity and the environment clearly deserve more careful study. The authors in the volume -- who include Paul Mohai, Bob Bullard, Dorceta Taylor, Anne Statham, Sharon Harlan, Lisa Berry, James Boyce, and more -- point out that equity and inequality are actually at the core of almost all "environmental" problems. That remains true whether we are focusing on equity in risk and exposure (environmental justice), equity across time (sustainability), equity in access to needed food and water (development), or even newer bodies of research showing that societal inequalities may actually increase the overall levels of physical environmental harm being created. The volume, in short, brings together the leading research on equity and the environment, doing so in a way that it intended to encourage more work on the topic in the future.

It also reflects a growing recognition of the importance of equity issues among RC-24 members. Far from questions that deserve to stay relegated to a small pigeonhole, it argues, issues of equity and inequality deserve to be absolutely central to the future study of connections between humans and the habitat that we share with all other life on earth.

For more information on the volume, which is now in press and will soon be available from Elsevier, go to www.elsevier.com/locate/series/rsp PPP

Announcements and Resources (in alphabetical order)

The American Sociological Association (ASA) Environment and Technology, and Teaching and Learning Sections are pleased to announce the first-ever ASA Wide Teach-in on Global Climate Change to take place 31 January 2008. Participants are being asked to add global

warming to your course curriculum on this day. **For more information**, contact Kari Marie Norgaard at: norgaakm@whitman.edu

Riley E. Dunlap has been appointed Regents Professor of Sociology at Oklahoma State University. The highest faculty honor awarded in the State of Oklahoma's system of higher education, a Regents Professorship "is bestowed to recognize a scholar of exceptional ability who has achieved national and international distinction." Dunlap was granted the honor for his contributions to environmental sociology and environmental social science.

Eugene A. (Gene) Rosa, Washington State University and **Tom Dietz**, Michigan State University (as chair along with Barbara Entwisle), were appointed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Human Impacts of Climate Change Advisory Committee of the Federal Advisory Committee Act whose task was to review the EPA "Analysis of the Effects of Global Change on Human Health and Welfare and Human Systems."

David Sonnenfeld has joined the Department of Environmental Studies at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF), in Syracuse, NY, as Professor and Chair. His department has two new Masters degrees in Environmental Studies (M.S. and M.P.S.) and is in the final stages of approval by SUNY System Administration, and participates in a number of other interdepartmental graduate programs. In addition to his colleagues at SUNY-ESF, David looks forward to working with environmental sociologist Steve Brechin and others at Syracuse University, with which SUNY-ESF shares a campus and facilities. For further information about David's new department see: <http://www.esf.edu/es>

Recent Member Publications and Talks (in alphabetical order)

Eugene A. (Gene) Rosa, Professor of Sociology, Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professor of Environment and Natural Resources, Affiliated Professor of Fine Arts, Affiliated Professor of Environmental Science, and Faculty Associate in the Center for Integrated Biotechnology was selected to deliver the 2007 Distinguished Faculty Address during the 23 March 2007 Showcase event at Washington State University. The Distinguished Faculty Address is the first award created at Washington State University to recognize faculty excellence and is awarded annually to a distinguished faculty member from any of the university's fields of study. In 2006 Rosa was also honored with the Distinguished Achievement Award of the College of Liberal Arts at WSU.

Eugene A. (Gene) Rosa, Washington State University, gave the keynote address: "A Thousand Flowers, A Thousand Weeds: New Challenges to the Rationality of Risk" at the University of Cambridge, UK on 30 March 2007. The address is from his work in progress, with collaborators around the U.S., on developing new frameworks for analyzing large-scale risks (e.g. climate change, nanotechnology, bioengineering, terrorism, and others).

Eugene A. (Gene) Rosa, Washington State University, was one of only three academics, and the only environmental sociologist, to make a presentation at the conference "The Role of Nuclear

Power in Global and Domestic Energy Policy: Recent Developments and Future Expectations," sponsored by the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy and held at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. Featured speakers included: Senators Howard Baker, Jr., Lamar Alexander, Bob Corker, and Bennett Johnston; Congressmen Lee Hamilton, Zach Wamp and Marsha Blackburn; Secretary of Energy, Samuel Bodman; Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Dale Klein; Director of the Japanese Atomic Energy Commission, Shunsuke Kondo; and Director of the French Atomic Energy Commission, Alain Bugat.

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