



International Sociological Association
Research Committee on Environment and Society

President's Column

by **Stewart Lockie**, President of RC-24
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Colleagues,

Let me start with a big *thank you* to all who have helped in various ways with organization of RC24 sessions at the forthcoming ISA Forum of Sociology in Buenos Aires (1–4 August 2012). The online program management platform has closed so my fingers are crossed that everything (or almost everything!) is in place. As the program stands, 116 papers will be presented in 16 sessions hosted by RC24 and another 58 will be presented in six joint sessions hosted by other research committees.

On numbers alone, the scale of the program is not dissimilar to 2010's ISA World Congress in Gothenburg or 2008's ISA Forum in Barcelona. However, there is a distinct shift to Latin America in the profile of participants. Several sessions have accepted papers in Spanish and/or Portuguese but there will be no shortage of Latin American participation in English language sessions. For those of us travelling from other continents, this will be a wonderful opportunity to engage with the intellectual cultures of a region often under-represented in international forums. ISA is yet to announce speakers for the limited number of plenary sessions but one would hope these capitalize on our venue and encourage dialogue with and between Latin American scholars.

Are there distinctly Latin American themes within the RC24 program? Announcing sessions in advance as per ISA guidelines does tend to direct submissions rather than respond to emerging themes. Nevertheless, environmental justice and conflict over access to natural resources have clearly attracted the most 'local' interest. How much do we put this down to the empirical realities of the continent and how much do we put down to the theory and practice of sociology in Latin America? The editorials in this newsletter by Marta Biagi, Mariano Ferro, Julien Vanhulst and Adrián Beling demonstrate a deep theoretical engagement with the social and environmental legacies of colonization, state-building and capitalist development. My fellow Australian, Raewyn Connell, argues that the theoretical resource of the Global South is routinely under-estimated in social scientific discourses dominated by Europe and North America. The challenge is to look beyond the obvious empirical differences in research context and to

understand how concepts of conflict and justice are being operationalized and challenged by environmental sociologists working in Latin America.

A major headache when programming conferences is dealing with no-shows. ISA sought to circumvent this problem by insisting that presenting authors register for the Forum by the early bird date or have their paper removed from the program. The risk, of course, was that people wouldn't have their funding organized in time to pay the registration and would withdraw. When the call for abstracts closed in December last year we had 169 proposals to present in RC24-hosted sessions and 106 proposals to present in joint sessions hosted by other committees. RC24 rejected about 30 proposals so the actual fall-off between submission and registration for RC24 sessions was less than 20 percent.

This looks like a good outcome. The fact that all authors now on the program have already paid their registration fees suggests the no-show problem should be minimal. However, if you have any alternate thoughts on the manner in which this Forum has been organized please let me know. There were, for example, anomalies in the online abstract submission process that may have disadvantaged some of you. I will be meeting with other research committee presidents and the executive of ISA in Buenos Aires in advance of the Forum and would like to ensure that your views are represented.

Lastly, linguistic diversity is a matter that requires more of us than scheduling occasional sessions which permit those with less confidence in English to present in another official ISA language (Spanish or French). For the upcoming Forum, sessions in Spanish were an obvious and important choice. Several members have corresponded with me concerning the question of whether we should encourage more multi-lingual sessions at RC24 events and how this might be balanced with the needs of other non-native English speakers whose first language is not recognized by ISA. If you have any concerns or ideas please share them with me and/or other Board members.

Notes from the Editors

by **Magnus Boström** (Dept. of Life Sciences, Södertörn University, Sweden), and **Mikael Klintman** (Dept. of Sociology, Lund University, Sweden)
Co-Secretaries of RC-24 and Editors of the Newsletter

The coming World Forum in Buenos Aires has social justice and democratization as its key topic. What has environmental sociology to contribute? Has environmental sociology been too occupied in explaining environmental destruction, exploring the risk society, environmental movements, and green attitudes and lifestyles, as well as investigating potentials for environmental reform, and become insensitive towards such a classical sociological topic as inequality? Not exactly, of course, because environmental sociologists have during the recent decades been among those with the most innovative thoughts on democratization, citizenship and on the rethinking of society-and-nature relationships.

Yet, we feel that environmental sociologists are not immune to becoming trapped in the historical dualism of the social versus the environmental. In sustainability debates we often hear the call that both social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development need to be

considered, and that we ought to achieve better integration between these two in both academic reflection and in practice. In reality, these dimensions are treated separately. In this May 2012 issue of the RC24 Newsletter, several pieces connect directly or indirectly to challenges and opportunities with relationships between the environmental, social, and economic dimensions. The two South American contributions deserve particular mentioning: **Marta Biagi, Mariano Ferro, Julien Vanhulst, and Adrián Beling** share their important insights into current socio-environmental issues in Latin America as well as the historical and cultural bases for challenges and opportunities surrounding these issues. Reflections shared by these environmental sociologists are particularly valuable as the World Forum is approaching. The coming event in Buenos Aires will be an excellent opportunity to discuss what environmental sociologists can do to theorize and figure out how environmental studies could become more sensitive to the timeless issues of social justice and democracy.

As editors we'd like to ask all of you readers to continue helping us make the list serve and the Newsletter useful. You do this by communicating with us about any relevant news about upcoming events, vacant positions, new publications, etc, that we in turn spread worldwide. Please do also continue to visit the RC24 website, at www.environment-societyisa.org. Finally, we should also take the opportunity to remind everyone that the very basis for the Research Community on Environment and Society is paid memberships. Those of you who haven't renewed your RC24 membership, please do so right away!"

In light of the upcoming World Forum: I. Argentine and the South American Socio-Environmental Status

By **Marta Biagi & Mariano Ferro**

University of Buenos Aires

Looking back on South American history we see that certain pre-Columbian cultures had rules about the use, management and distribution of water courses and the land which today, we would call "sustainable". Spanish conquerors included them in the IV Book of the Compilation of the Laws of the Indies of 1680. This sustainable environmental management has disappeared in modern times. The model of economic development in Argentina and in all Latin America, is based on an unsustainable and uneven use of the environmental goods and services provided by the planet; it is highly extractive, with an ever growing pressure over natural resources (Di Paola, 2012). There are particularly three challenges in South American environmental sociology that we hope to be discussed and elaborated at the Buenos Aires Forum:

1. Conflicts over water and some emblematic cases: The reduction of flow in the rivers of the Del Plata Basin and their pollution poses a serious threat to the diplomatic relations among the countries that share the basin. The industrial use of the water damaged bilateral relationships between Montevideo and Buenos Aires when Uruguay authorized, in October 2003, the installation of two trans-national mega-undertakings for the production of paper pulp in Uruguay. The Itaipu dam, built over the Paraná river by Brazil and Paraguay between 1975 and 1982, is a source of conflict between Brazil and Asunción due to the increase in the price of electricity. Itaipu, the largest electric power plant in the World, supplies the fourth part of the Brazilian consumption of electricity. In the field of intra-national conflicts, a successful social movement rose up against the privatization of water (2000): protests in Cochabamba (Bolivia)

and the ensuing repressions, in an area ecologically considered without water. The Guaraní Aquifer, a system that covers territory in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay; Amazonia -a region shared by eight countries-; seabeds and Antarctica have great geopolitical relevance; attempts for internationalization exist, as well as pressures of different kinds.

2. Access to information and indicators for a better participation and control of environmental public issues (FARN, 2012): Environmental Awareness and Citizen Participation within the context of a culture of distrust and individualistic features. Right or duty? Case studies showed that citizens often have little knowledge and interest over matters such as air pollution or water issues; individualistic and materialistic behaviors; an apathetic attitude of the population towards the role of the State, together with distrust in political institutions, but at the same time, they appear to leave everything in the hands of those same institutions, thus abandoning their potential transformation power. Repeated experiences of unpredictable institutional behavior have contributed to the disbelief in the public sector (Simioni, Daniela, 2003; Biagi, Marta, Ferro, Mariano, 2011). On the other hand, the analysis of the environmental aspects of civic discourse and practices in Latin America has to consider why strong social movements have played key roles as collective actions that managed to place the ecological issue in the national agendas: the movement called 'Florestania' (Acre state, Brazil), the Environmental Assembly of Gualaguaychú (Entre Ríos province, Argentina), the Coalition in Defense of Water and Life (Cochabamba, Bolivia), among many others.

3. The incorporation of environmental rights in constitutions: In Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela and Peru, and the most advanced case of institutionalization of bio centric ecological ethics in the new Constitution of Ecuador, introduced —for the first time in the world— the 'inalienable rights of nature' in a constitution, show some of the outstanding consequences of the demands of ecologists. But how to measure the effectiveness of environmental law? The General Environmental Law (LGA, in Spanish), is an excellent tool of the environmental policy of Argentina, but it has turned 10 years old and yet, we must still struggle for a full implementation. The cases of Riachuelo, deforestation in Salta and lithium in Puna, are clearly anchored in LGA. Lack of - or scarce - interdisciplinary advice may affect the effectiveness of statutory laws and regulations. Measuring the effectiveness of environmental law enforcement is critical to achieving sustainable development (Capaldo, Griselda, 2011)

The debate on such matters and additional benefits will arise in the Forum, such as the identification of new problems or the reformulation of others; the description of weaknesses and strengths at regional, national, and international levels; the need to foster new courses of action and/or research.

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In light of the upcoming World Forum: II. *Sumak Kawsay* - Sustainability Made in Latin-America

By **Julien Vanhulst**

Université Libre de Bruxelles (IGEAT-CEDD) and Universidad Alberto Hurtado (Santiago, Chile), and

Adrián Beling

Universidad Alberto Hurtado (Santiago, Chile)

In line with the second priority of the XVII World Congress of Sociology (2010 - Gothenburg) which stresses the importance of sustainable development as normative and analytical perspective, the emergence of the notion of Sumak Kawsay ("buen vivir" or "good living") as an alternative to development in some Latin American countries, may provide fresh insights to the

challenges of sustainability. *At the same time, it can be regarded as a specific Latin-American pathway to Rio+20, as the Quito declaration¹ suggests.*

Development and its discontents

It is commonplace in contemporary debates about sustainable development to find parties engaging in endless discussions about the precise meaning of “sustainable”. This fixation with defining boundary parameters for what is sustainable seems to veil the fact that the noun “development” fails no shorter of precision than its epithet. Indeed, nowadays, “development means almost anything”, says Wolfgang Sachs (2007), “from building a skyscraper to building latrines, from drilling for oil to drilling for water”. And yet, despite this void of content, the notion of development has enjoyed virtually unquestioned legitimacy since its debut in the political jargon (attributed to US President Truman’s inaugural speech in 1949), unparalleled by any other idea in the history of political thought: from Rostow’s ‘stages of economic growth’, through dependency theory and endogenous development, to sustainable development and human development alike, all have hailed the idea of development as the promise land of all historical trajectories. Yet, after six decades of ‘development’ –the latest avatar of the five centuries old idea of ‘progress’- humanity had never been so unequal and the planet so vulnerable. So is development a utopia to guide our imagination and efforts, or rather a ghost that continues to haunt us after centuries? Answering this question requires distinguishing between at least two dimensions of development: one descriptive and the other a normative (Zaccai 2001). The normative dimension has rarely been put into question. This should not come as a surprise: development *does* mean something vaguely positive; it connotes improvement, advancement, progress. Therefore it is very difficult to oppose: who would want to reject the positive? (Sachs 2007). Conversely, from the descriptive viewpoint –that is, the state of affairs and its specific contents– development has been increasingly subject of controversy and bold criticism.

Development revisited

Despite the fact that the notion of development continues to fuel the dominant paradigm normatively informing policy and political agendas, it can be safely assumed that it has lost much of its appeal after sixty years of undisputed sovereignty and too little to show for. But disenchantment does not stop at the unfulfilled promises of development: The path-breaking work of some authors stemming from diverse disciplinary and theoretical backgrounds, such as Gilbert Rist, Wolfgang Sachs and Serge Latouche, with Arturo Escobar and Eduardo Gudynas representing Latin America, to name only a few, have dared problematizing *also* the normative dimension of development, by historically contextualizing its emergence, exposing its socially constructed character and its systemic deterrents. At this point, development is seen by many as a myth, an anemic principle devoid of any practical value, which has imploded as a result of its inherent contradictions. As the tree of development dies out, it unveils the problematic and indeterminate character inherited by its “greenest” sprout: the ideal of sustainable development. This progressive surrogate of the classical notion of development would thus be semantically unable to circumvent its filial links to a failed project.

Sumak Kawsay

Featuring prominently within the critical current of development, *Sumak Kawsay*, a concept stemming from the worldview of the aboriginal peoples of South America, emerged at the end of the 20th century as an alternative to challenge the notion of sustainable development, while simultaneously re-activating the imperatives that gave rise to the latter, twenty years back from now. The Quechua term *Sumak Kawsay*, which can be equated to the Aymara term *Suma Qamaña*, is usually translated as “good living” or “good life”. This transposition, however, is reductive and cannot account for the conceptual thickness of the original terms, which, in the aboriginal view, amounts to a principle of life and of plenitude that is also a guide for action. *Sumak kawsay* means “to live in harmony and balance; in harmony with the cycles of Mother Earth, of the cosmos, of life and of history, and in balance with all forms of existence” (Huanacuni 2010: 7). Drawing from these aboriginal origins, *Sumak Kawsay* has been academically theorized and translated into normative principles which have started to permeate the political sphere, particularly in Ecuador and Bolivia. It encompasses both the idea of society-nature interdependence (a tread developed also by environmental sociologists) and also that of universality as a plurality. These two features imply a fundamental rupture with the modern Western ideologies, in particular with their society-nature dualism and their Eurocentric universalistic pretensions.

Cultural pluralism

The notion of *Sumak Kawsay* does not resemble the Western idea of progress towards welfare, but rather looks into a way of living the present in harmony, that is, assuming and respecting differences and complementarities. Thus, the notion of *Sumak Kawsay* also breaks away from the modern notion of “equality”, assuming its logic impossibility in an invariably diverse world, and rather pointing to a pathway of harmony and “unity in diversity”. This dimension of *Sumak Kawsay* resonates with the sociological theories of hybridization (García Canclini), multiple modernities (Eisenstadt, Larraín, Wagner), the third modernity (Domingues) and the like, which aim at overcoming both universalistic and particularistic reductionisms.

Society and nature interdependence

In addition, the principles derived from *Sumak Kawsay* overcome the society-nature divide characteristic of European modernity, which has also been confronted by environmental sociologists like Catton and Dunlap since 1978. Following this tread, Eduardo Gudynas (2009: 52) talks of a biocentric turn: “good living for humans is only possible if the survival and integrity of the whole of the web of life is ensured” (author’s translation). It is this dimension of *Sumak Kawsay* which situates it within the contemporary environmental debates, particularly as an alternative to the discourse of sustainable development.

Sustainable development versus Sumak Kawsay

As has been highlighted by Bill Hopwood, Mary Mellor and Geoff O’Brien in 2005, “The widespread rise of interest in, and support for, the concept of sustainable development is potentially an important shift in understanding relationships of humanity with nature and

between people.” Basically, the notion of sustainable development focuses on the links between environmental and socioeconomic issues. However, its interpretations gave place to several approaches, sometimes opposed to one another, such as ecological modernization and ecosocialism. *Sumak Kawsay* can be considered as embedded in the sustainable development debate because it regards the interdependent relationship of humanity and its natural environment, but it leans rather towards a Deep Ecology *pathos* insofar as it takes into account the “whole web of life” and Earth as a single organism. At the same time, however, it confronts said line of thought by rejecting the subordination of humanity to nature, but rather posing their mutual interdependence and need for harmonization instead. That is, it mirrors one of the dimensions that emerged in the discussions on environment and society in the 1970s but was then diluted in the ambiguity of the Brundtland Report that assigns economic and environmental dimensions the same hierarchy thus opening the door to conflicting interpretations.

Moreover, in its normative dimension, *Sumak Kawsay* proposes a transformation of economic structures and power relations within and between societies. *Sumak Kawsay* implies “good living” for everyone, as opposed to “*la dolce vita*” for a few privileged ones. In this sense, it rivals mainstream interpretations of sustainable development which in practice amount to maintaining the status quo or introducing incremental reforms into the system (Hopwood et al. 2005) without putting the legacy of modernization or development as a whole into question. The fact is that, 25 years after the *canonization* of sustainable development, the controversies that gave rise to it remain intact, and the insertion of *Sumak Kawsay* in global debates on society and the environment by Latin American scholars re-activates social reflection about the environmental and socioeconomic drifts of the ideal of development, including mainstream interpretations of sustainable development.

On popular tradition, knowledge and politics: Two success stories

Over the last decade or so, the political landscape has changed drastically in most Latin-American countries. With a big majority of self-denominated left-wing ‘progressive’ governments, a new type of policies have emerged hand in hand with a new political discourse that draws on the aspirations of the wider, historically marginalized population strata. However, now as before, the goal of development remains the Holy Grail, both in the domestic policy domain as well as in the pathways to regional integration. While in progressive Latin America, as in contemporary world politics, it is ‘politically correct’ to talk about “valuing diversity”, the fostered alternatives and solutions are seldom anchored in the particularities of peoples and communities, but rather in pre-defined, standardized ‘best practices’ which shape the discourse of development.

Sumak Kawsay, conversely, has a different meaning. It refers to a different form of life, to a series of fundamental social, economic and environmental rights. Both the market and the state alike thus need to be politically re-conceptualized and subjected to regulations meeting the social and ecological boundaries of current times. The market is a social setting subject to the needs of individuals and communities, which should thus be understood as a space for the exchange of goods and services with a *triple bottom-line* premise: societal, ecological and shareholder’s interest –not this last group’s only. In short, the state needs to be “*citizenized*”, while the market needs to be “*civilized*”. The up-scaling of *Sumak Kawsay* is conditional upon enhanced citizen involvement and the emergence of collective learning processes widening of the scope of the

thinkable, the analyzable and the desirable (Pelfini 2007). This type of learning can be regarded as taking place in South America: States of Ecuador and Bolivia are the pioneers of a new, authentic alternative policy approach –but not least a life-philosophical one–, whereby a rare, historical conjunction has been realized: traditional knowledge of secular aboriginal cultures, modern scientific-intellectual production and domestic politics have found a path of convergence which has materialized in the first two “ecocentric” democratic Constitutions of modern history.

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Upcoming Conferences (in chronological order)

Meeting of Anppas – National Association of Graduate Studies and Research on Environment and Society

Belem do Para, Brazil.
18-21 September 2012

For instructions and details, please see <http://www.anppas.org.br>

Call for papers

Special session at the 2012 Berlin Conference on
“Evidence for Sustainable Development”, 5-6 October 2012

Evidence-based approaches to researching the impact of collaborative and participatory governance on sustainable development

Special session organized by

Prof. Dr. Jens Newig, Dr. Edward Challies, Nicolas Jager, MA
Working group governance and sustainability, Leuphana University Lüneburg

Governance: collaborative, participatory, adaptive, polycentric, network-like... Current thinking offers many propositions of how decision-making should be shaped in order to produce sustainable policy outcomes. The main assumption behind these approaches is that *the form and process of governance matter for its outcomes*. For instance, participation of citizens and stakeholders in environmental governance is widely believed to enhance sustainable policy outcomes as compared to less participatory forms of governance.

Virtually all of these claims (that particular forms of governance are instrumental to achieving sustainability goals) have been challenged on theoretical grounds. Moreover, reliable empirical data on the effectiveness of governance forms are still lacking. And finally, much of the literature refers to normative assumptions about the merits on certain forms of governance rather than on unbiased research. In short: There is much *belief* in the merits of collaborative or participatory forms of environmental governance, but little *evidence*.

This special session at the Berlin Conference 2012 “Evidence for Sustainable Development” aims to discuss and advance the state of the art in evidence-based approaches to the link between governance modes and sustainability outcomes.

We invite:

- *conceptual and methodological* contributions on how to research and deliver evidence on the link between governance modes and sustainability outcomes;
- *empirical* papers presenting state-of-the art evidence on the link between governance modes and sustainability outcomes;
- contributions that address the (potential) *uptake* of evidence on the appropriateness and effectiveness of governance modes by policy-makers.

We look forward to receiving paper abstracts of up to 300 words by **31 May 2012**. All abstracts will be externally reviewed. Notification of acceptance is scheduled for end of June 2012. Please submit your abstracts to jager@uni.leuphana.de.

This special session is hosted by the ERC-funded project 'EDGE' – Evaluating the Delivery of Participatory Environmental Governance using an Evidence-Based Research Design (see www.leuphana.de/institute/infu/forschung/details-des-forschungsprojektes.html?p_id=88).

**Call for abstracts to RC24 sponsored workshop: *Responsible Supply Chains and Networks: Challenges for Governance and Sustainability*
Stockholm, Sweden, 22-24 November 2012**

In this interactive workshop, we aim to take seriously the theoretical and empirical challenge laid down by environmental risks that flow around the earth. We aim to focus theoretically and empirically on novel supply chain and network initiatives, and the challenges they face, among public and private organizations to regulate the flows of products across multiple borders – territorial, temporal and cultural.

Keynote speakers:

- **Michele Micheletti:** Political consumerism and government as a responsible consumer
- **Arthur P.J. Mol:** Transparency in value chains
- **Stewart Lockie:** Private food standards and regulatory gaps: social and environmental (ir)responsibility in the Philippine export fruit industry
- **Stefano Ponte:** 'Roundtabling' global value chains? Governance, regulation and sustainability certification

Scientific and Organizing committee:

- Magnus Boström, Södertörn University, Stockholm.
- Anna Maria Jönsson, Södertörn University, Stockholm
- Mikael Klintman, Lund University, Sweden
- Stewart Lockie, The Australian National University,
- Arthur Mol, Wageningen University, the Netherlands.
- Peter Oosterveer, Wageningen University, The Netherlands,

Sponsorship:

- RC24
- The Swedish Research Council Formas
- The Research project Chemtex, led by Magnus Boström, see www.sh.se/chemtex

Deadline for submitting abstract is **May 31, 2012**, 400 words to Magnus Boström (magnus.bostrom@sh.se).

For further information on aims, topic, structure of workshop, key-notes, deadlines, etc, see: www.sh.se/responsible_supply_chains

For questions: contact magnus.bostrom@sh.se

Announcements (in alphabetical order)

Riley E. Dunlap, Oklahoma State University, has been elected a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. Dunlap was nominated for fellow status by APA's Division on Population and Environmental Psychology in recognition of his scholarship on environmental attitudes, beliefs and values.

Recent Member Books (in alphabetical order)

Michael Carolan, 2012. *Decentering Biotechnology: Assemblages Built and Assemblages Masked*. London: Ashgate.

Decentering Biotechnology explores the nature of technology, objects and patent law. Investigating the patenting of organic life and the manner in which artifacts of biotechnology are given their objective appearance, Carolan details the enrollment mechanisms that give biotechnology its momentum. Drawing on legal judgements and case studies, this fascinating book examines the nature of object-ification, as a thought and a thing, without which biotechnology, as it is done today, would not be possible. Unable to reject biotechnology per se, recognizing that such a rejection would essentialize the very objective categories shown to be manufactured, Carolan ultimately argues for doing biotechnology differently. A theoretically sophisticated analysis of the nature of objects and the role of technology as a form of life which shapes the social landscape, *Decentering Biotechnology* engages with questions of power, globalization, development, resistance, exclusion, and participation that arise from treating biological objects differently from conventional property forms. As such, it will appeal to social theorists, sociologists and philosophers, as well as scholars of law and science and technology studies.

[This title is also available as an ebook, ISBN 978-1-4094-1006-5](#)

For further information on this book, see

http://ashgate.com/default.aspx?page=637&calcTitle=1&title_id=9935&edition_id=13383

Lotsmart Fonjong (ed., 2012) *Issues in Women's Land Rights in Cameroon*. Cameroon: Langaa Research & Publishing CIG (Distributed by Africa Book Collective in the UK and US).

This book explores the customary, social, economic political and rights issues surrounding access, ownership and control over land from a gender perspective. It combines theory and practice from researchers, lawyers and judges, each with track records of working on women and rights concerns. The nexus between the reluctance to recognize and materialize women's right to

land, and the increasing feminization of poverty is undeniable. The problem assumes special acuity in an essentially agrarian context like Cameroon, where the problem is not so much the law as its manner of application. That this book delves into investigating the principal sources and reasons for this prevalent injustice is particularly welcome. As some of the analyses reveal, denying women their right to land acquisition or inheritance is sometimes contrary to established judicial precedents and even in total dissonance with the country's constitution. Traditional and cultural shibboleths associated with land acquisition and ownership that tend to stymie women's development and fulfilment, must be quickly shirked, for such retrograde excuses can no longer find comfort in the law, morality nor in "modern" traditional thinking. The trend, albeit timid, of appointing women to Land Consultative Boards and even as traditional authorities, can only be salutary. These are some positive practical steps that can translate the notion of equal rights into "equal power" over land for both sexes; otherwise "equality" in this context will remain an unattractive slogan....

For further information on this book, and how to get copies, see
<http://www.africanbookscollective.com/books/issues-in-womens-land-rights-in-cameroon>

Thomas Measham & Stewart Lockie (eds., 2012), *Risk and Social Theory in Environmental Management*, CSIRO Publishing.

Environmental management is no longer just about protecting pristine ecosystems and endangered species from anthropogenic harm; it is about calculating and managing the risks to human communities of rapid environmental and technological change. This book provides a solid foundation of the social theory underpinning the nature of risk, then presents a re-thinking of key concepts and methods in order to take more seriously the biophysical embeddedness of human society. It presents a rich set of case studies from around the world, drawing on the latest applied research conducted by leading research institutions. In so doing, the book identifies the tensions that arise from decision-making over risk and uncertainty in a contested policy environment, and provides crucial insights for addressing on-ground problems in an integrated way.

For further information on this book, see
<http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/6581.htm>

Gert Spaargaren, Peter Oosterveer and Anne Loeber (eds., 2012) *Food Practices in Transition: Changing Food Consumption, Retail and Production in the Age of Reflexive Modernity*, London: Routledge. (Series: [Routledge Studies in Sustainability Transitions](#))

This edited volume presents and reflects upon empirical evidence of 'sustainability'-induced and -related transition in food practices. The material collected in the various chapters contributes to

our understanding of the ways in which ideas and preferences, sociotechnological developments and changes in the governance of food interact and become visible in practices of consumption, retail and production.

For information on this book, see

<http://www.routledgejournalofmentalhealth.com/food-practices-in-transition-9780415880848>

Recent Member Articles, Special Issues & Conference Proceedings

Boström, Magnus; Natasja Börjeson, Michael Gilek, Anna Maria Jönsson, and Mikael Karlsson (2012). “Responsible procurement and complex product chains: the case of chemical risks in textiles.” *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* 55(1):95-111.

Special Issue: A Missing Pillar? Challenges in Theorizing and Practicing Social Sustainability. In *Sustainability: Science, Practice & Policy*, 8(1), 2012. **Guest Editor: Magnus Boström, Södertörn University, Sweden**

The special issue is accessible and downloadable here: <http://sspp.proquest.com/>. RC24 plays a big role here. Several RC24 members appear as authors, and many more have very kindly assisted in, for example, doing review work

Thank you!

Magnus Boström

“It is likely that prolonged suffering from human-induced hazards and dangerously increased inequality will lead to social strife, to profound physical and mental-health crises, to deepening violence and criminality, and to a whole ‘lost generation’.” --- Tim O’Riordan

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On social sustainability in a world of limits facing prolonged austerity

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Mikael Klintman, *Lund University, Sweden*

Tradeoffs and entanglements among sustainability dimensions: the case of accessibility as a missing pillar of sustainable mobility policies in Italy

Roberta Cucca & Enrico Maria Tacchi, *Politecnico di Milano, Italy*

Green social cooperatives in Italy: a practical way to cover the three pillars of sustainability?

Giorgio Osti, *University of Trieste, Italy*

Has social sustainability left the building? The recent conceptualization of “sustainability” in Danish buildings

Jesper Ole Jensen, Michael Søgaard Jørgensen, Morten Elle, & Erik Hagelskjær Lauridsen, *Danish Building Research Institute, Denmark*

Contention, participation, and mobilization in environmental assessment follow-up: the Itabira experience

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Book review perspectives

Understanding the Environment and Social Policy

by Tony Fitzpatrick (Editor). **Karin Bradley**, *Linköping University, Sweden*. **Henrike Rau**, *National University of Ireland, Ireland*. **Ylva Ugglå**, *Örebro University, Sweden*. *Rejoinder from author(s):* **Tony Fitzpatrick**, *Nottingham University, United Kingdom*

Briguglio, Michael, Maria Brown & Diana Aquilina (2012). “A Civil Society Perspective of Sustainable Energy Policy and Green Jobs in Malta as a Small EU State”. In *Green Jobs from a Small Scale Perspective – Case Studies from Malta*, edited by Saviour Rizzo and published by the Green European Foundation, in collaboration with Fondazzjoni Ceratonia.

The publication can be accessed at: <http://gef.eu/publication/green-jobs-from-a-small-state-perspective-case-studies-from-malta/>

Hard copies are available from Michael Briguglio at michael.briguglio@um.edu.mt.

Dietz, Thomas, Eugene A. Rosa, and Richard York (2012). “Environmentally Efficient Well-Being: Is There a Kuznets Curve?” *Journal of Applied Geography* 32: 21-28.

Fonjong, Lotsmart, Fombe, Lawrence & Sama-Lang, Irene (2012). “The paradox of gender discrimination in land ownership and women’s contribution to poverty reduction in Anglophone Cameroon.” *Geojournal* (77) 3:1-15.

Garcia, Ernest (2012) (in press). “Degrowth, the Past, the Future, and the Human Nature”, *Futures*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2012.03.015>

Knight, Kyle and Eugene A. Rosa (2012). “Household Dynamics and Fuelwood Consumption in Developing Countries: A Cross-National Analysis.” *Population and Environment* (forthcoming).

Larigauderie, Anne, Anne-Hélène Prieur-Richard, Georgina M. Mace, Mark Lonsdale, Harold A. Mooney, Lijbert Brussaard, Davod Cooper, Wolfgang Cramer, Peter Daszak, Sandra Diaz, Anantha Duriappah, Thomas Elmqvist, Daniel P. Faith, Louise E. Jackson, Conelia Krug, Paul W. Leadly, Philippe Le Prestre, Hiroyuki Matsuda, Margaret Palmer, Charles Perrings, Mirjam Pulleman, Belinda Reyers, Eugene A. Rosa, Robert J. Scholes, Eva Spehn, B.L. Turner II and Tetsukazu Yahara (2012). “Biodiversity and ecosystem services science for a sustainable planet: the DIVERSITAS vision for 2012-20.” *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 4:101-105.

Special Issue: “Ciencia, Participación y Sostenibilidad en los Conflictos Socio-Ecológicos” [“Science, Participation and Sustainability in Social-Ecological Conflicts”]. In *Arxius de Ciències Socials, Issue 25*, December 2011 [Social Sciences Files, in Spanish, English abstracts].
Editors: Mercedes Martínez-Iglesias & Joaquim Sempere.

Rosa, Eugene A. and Lee Clarke (2012). “Collective Hunch? Risk As the Real and the Elusive.” *Journal of Environmental Studies and Science* 2: 39-52.

Rosa, Eugene A. and Thomas Dietz (2012). “Human Drivers of National Greenhouse Gas Emissions.” *Nature Climate Change* (forthcoming).

Rosa, Eugene A., Thomas Dietz, Richard H. Moss, Scott Atran, and Susanne Moser (2012). “Risk and Sustainability: A Look at two Global Threats.” *Solutions: For a sustainable and desirable future* 3: 59-65.

York, Richard and Riley E. Dunlap (2012). "Environmental Sociology." Pp. 504-521 in G. Ritzer (ed.), *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Sociology*. Oxford, UK and Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

York, Richard and Eugene A. Rosa (2012). "Choking On Modernity: A Human Ecology of Air Pollution. *Social Problems* (forthcoming).

A note by Riley Dunlap:

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that a special issue of the Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences containing a symposium on the "Legacy of William R. Freudenburg" is now out, and that Springer has kindly provided open access to it for one month (so check it out now). The table of contents and link are given below.

Debra Davidson and I edited the symposium, and it consists largely of articles that stem from presentations made at the "Freudenfest" conference at UCSB back in November of 2010--less than two months before Bill Freudenburg's untimely death. While clearly I am not unbiased, I believe it consists of an extremely strong set of articles, and that anyone wishing to get a sense of Bill's wide-ranging and fundamental contributions to environmental/natural resources sociology and related areas will find them of interest. Most not only provide thorough reviews of Bill's work in selected areas, but also do an excellent job of demonstrating how his ideas can be further developed and fruitfully employed.

JESS is the journal of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, a rather new and highly interdisciplinary organization that Bill played a key role in founding. It is edited by political scientist Tony Rosenbaum, and has a large, multidisciplinary and international editorial board--including several environmental sociologists: Tom Dietz, Hisayoshi Mitsuda, Paul Mohai, Timmons Roberts, and myself.

You can peruse the four issues of Volume 1 from last year via the same link provided above to get a sense of the wide range of articles being published, and I'm confident that some of you will find JESS to be an appropriate outlet for your work.

Finally, I'd like to encourage you to consider joining AESS. Memberships fees are relatively modest and include a subscription to JESS. For information on AESS including membership, go to <http://www.aess.info/>

Bill regarded formation of AESS as one of his major accomplishments, and I personally hope to see more environmental sociologists joining it. (I'm looking forward to attending my first AESS meeting this summer.) It clearly offers an ideal means of exposing ourselves to inter- and multi-disciplinary perspectives on environmental matters.

Enjoy the symposium. I'm confident that Bill would be pleased with it, and I hope that his many fans will be as well.

Regards,

Riley E. Dunlap

Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Vol. 2, No. 1 (March 2012)

Open access available for one month (from March 30, 2012) at

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/p754733tj74q/>

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