



Environment  
and Society

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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Hello friends,

It has been a busy six months for us! I want to start by thanking all the organizers, presidors, presenters and attendees who helped to make our recent virtual conference, 'Navigating Uncertain Futures: Social Engagement and Transformative Change in Global Socio-Ecological Systems', a tremendous success. This was our very first collaborative effort with the Section on Environmental Sociology in the American Sociological Association, and also our first effort to hold a truly inclusive, international event, so our members from across the globe had an opportunity to participate, and we each had an opportunity to learn about the environmental sociology research taking place everywhere. Even with the enormous diversity of perspectives, standpoints, methods and case studies, it was immediately apparent by the range of presentations that environmental sociologists everywhere have set their sights on one central theme: defending the justice, integrity and wellbeing of peoples in the midst of the climate catastrophe. The conference included 11 regular sessions and 2 keynote sessions, delivered in three different time zones. Each session included 3-5 presentations, and attracted approximately 15-25 audience members. While we certainly had our fair share of technological issues, I thought the conference was a great experience overall and I am encouraged to plan for more virtual opportunities to engage in the future. Do you agree? If you participated, I'd love to hear your feedback.

We have also completed our submission process for **RC24 sessions at the World Congress of Sociology**, to be held in Melbourne from June 25 until July 1, 2023. Even though we will have 22 RC24 sessions, in addition to several joint sessions in collaboration with other Research Committees, Thematic Groups, and Working Groups, we were unable to accept all of the over 240 submissions we received. After much heated deliberation, the ISA has decided to provide a hybrid experience at this Congress, with some attendees participating in-person and others participating virtually. There are still some wrinkles to work out. First, it was decided that all in-person sessions must have at least 80% of presentations offered in-person, and below that threshold the entire session would be moved online. It is not entirely clear to me, however, how those online sessions will be delivered, particularly for those attendees who travel to Melbourne. In addition, Roundtable presentations are required to all be in-person, and therefore virtual sessions that did not make it into a regular session were rejected. As well, I am still unsure about the extent to which, and how, our virtual participants will be able to engage. I was supportive of the ISA's

decision to go hybrid nonetheless, and am hopeful that we can continue to improve upon our ability to support virtual participation, both for the sake of financially-constrained members, and for the sake of our planet.

For those of you who will be participating virtually, I will do everything I can to ensure your full participation. For those who plan to join us in Melbourne, we are working on identifying reasonably-priced housing, and making plans for our RC24 reception. Some financial support is still available, in the form of registration grants, and travel grants of US\$700, so if you are in need of financial assistance to support your Congress attendance, please let me know as soon as possible. Priority will be given to scholars in Category B and C countries, graduate students, research associates and retirees.

In other news, as my term and the terms of our other elected officials come to a close next year, **RC24's Nominations Committee is now in full swing preparing for our next elections.** We have several elected positions in our Board and Executive, including President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as six Board of Governor positions. We on the Nominations Committee, including Rolf Lidskog, our current Vice President and Chair of the Nominations Committee, myself as President of RC24, and RC24 member Ana María Vara, would like to ensure that we have a full slate of diverse candidates for these positions, and I encourage any of you who has an interest in becoming more involved in RC24 to consider running. If you are considering doing so, and would like to learn more about the duties involved in each of these positions, please reach out to Rolf Lidskog.

Sincerely Yours,  
Debra

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#### A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

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Dear RC24 members,

our December newsletter is always a great way to look back at the past year and to put together material covering the breadth and diversity of research and teaching activities that you are engaged in. Yet again, I read with great interest the submissions that reached me. They reflect a vibrant and active research community that works tirelessly to address current socio-environmental challenges, most notably climate change. **Many thanks to all RC24 members who contributed to this newsletter!**

The spectrum of publications covered in this newsletter evidently shows the sustained interest among members of our research community in critical social scientific approaches to society-environment relations. For example, the recently published **Handbook of Critical Environmental**

**Politics** includes significant contributions from RC24 members and showcases the current state of the art in this important field. Similarly, the *Environmental Sociology Best Paper and Early Career Prizes 2022* show how environmental sociologists help to advance key debates concerning society-environmental relations (please see below for details). For example, the question how societies view and use time and how this shapes and reflects their relationship with the environment remains a topical issue that clearly benefits from environmental sociology inputs. Similarly, environmental sociologists across the globe are engaged in efforts to better understand new forms of social inequality and environmental racism that stem from attempts to manage environmental problems such as climate change and energy scarcity.

Regarding the **upcoming Board and Executive elections** already mentioned in the President's Column above, I would also like to encourage members to put their names forward. Given the diversity of our membership, it would be excellent to receive a broad range of nominations for the different positions that reflect this.

Our next newsletter will be published in June 2023. **Please send me your contributions by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.** In addition to information about new publications and upcoming workshops and conferences, I would be very interested in receiving research notes, workshop summaries or news of awards received (max. 200 words).

I wish you a great start into the year 2023!

Henrike

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## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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### **XX ISA World Congress of Sociology 2023**

'Resurgent Authoritarianism: The Sociology of New Entanglements of Religions, Politics, and Economies'

Registration is now open and closes on 22 March, 2023. Further details in the President's Column above and [HERE](#).

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### **SCORAI-ERSCP-Conference 2023: Transforming Consumption-Production Systems Toward Just and Sustainable Futures**

July 5-8, 2023, Wageningen, The Netherlands

NB: The submission deadline for this conference has been extended until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. More information [HERE](#).

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### **Green Crimes and Ecojustice Conference 2023**

May 25-26, 2023, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Deadline for submission of papers: February 1, 2023

More information [HERE](#)

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**ESA RN12 mid-term and Energy and Society Network 6th International Joint Conference  
'Energy, Environment and Societies in Crises'**

September 6-8, 2023, Trento, Italy

Deadline for submission of papers: February 15, 2023

More information [HERE](#).

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**ICSD 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Development 2023**

**'Creating a unified foundation for sustainable development: Research, practice and education'**

September 6-7, 2023, Rome, Italy (hybrid)

Deadline for submission of papers and other contributions: March 10, 2023

More information [HERE](#).

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Please see also <https://conferenceindex.org/conferences/environmental-sociology> for additional conferences dedicated to environmental sociology.

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## PRIZES AND AWARDS

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### Environmental Sociology Best Paper and Early Career Prizes, 2022

The *Environmental Sociology Best Paper Prize* and the *Environmental Sociology Early Career Prize* have been established as biennial prizes awarded for articles published in *Environmental Sociology* that, in the opinion of the Editorial Board and International Advisory Board, make outstanding contributions to the field. Eligible articles are evaluated according to their originality and innovation, theoretical and/or empirical significance, quality of conceptual development, methodological rigour and potential for a lasting contribution to scholarship in environmental sociology.

This edition of the prizes recognizes articles published in 2020 and 2021.

I am pleased to announce the winners and runners up of the 2022 Best Paper and Early Career prizes as:

#### Environmental Sociology Best Paper Prize 2022: Winner

- Coline Ruwet (2021) 'Bringing time back in'. Towards a socioecological stratification of time. *Environmental Sociology*, 7:4, 294-304, [DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2021.1910454](https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2021.1910454).

Statement of the jury: ‘Coline Ruwet advances our ability to interrogate relationships between ‘natural’ and ‘social’ time through development of a unique conceptual framework. Ruwet builds on the work of environmental sociologists who have noted the interrelated, but at times conflicting, temporalities of socio-political and biophysical processes. Her framework distinguishes ontologies of time (what time is) from their epistemologies (how knowledge claims about time are made). The ‘epistemological quartet’ of conception, perception, imagination and planning thence draws attention to the importance of how time is abstracted, experienced, apprehended and manipulated. Exploring both the ontology and epistemology of time is critical, Ruwet argues, both to understand environmental threats and to inform societal responses. Her framework provides both an important theoretical intervention and a practical basis for interdisciplinary research.’

Environmental Sociology Best Paper Prize 2022: Runners up

- Wenxiu Li and Erica von Essen (2021) Guarding crops from monkey troops: farmer-monkey interaction near a nature reserve in Guangxi, China. *Environmental Sociology*, 7:1, 12-24, [DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2020.1811004](https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2020.1811004).
- Sancha Doxilly Medwinter (2021) Reproducing poverty and inequality in disaster: race, class, social capital, NGOs, and urban space in New York City after Superstorm Sandy. *Environmental Sociology*, 7:1, 1-11, [DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2020.1809054](https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2020.1809054).

**Environmental Sociology Early Career Prize 2022: Winner**

- Louise Seamster and Danielle Purifoy (2021) What is environmental racism for? Place-based harm and relational development. *Environmental Sociology*, 7:2, 110-121, [DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2020.1790331](https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2020.1790331).

Statement of the jury: ‘Louise Seamster and Danielle Purifoy make a vital contribution to the environmental justice and sociology literatures through articulation of the concept of ‘creative extraction.’ Embedded within creative extraction is a relational theorization of environmental racism operationalized through the racialized politics of place. Seamster and Purifoy utilize a case study of Montgomery County, Texas, to unpack the deployment of financial governance requirements to extend spatial control and transfer resources from predominantly Black communities to their white neighbours. In doing so, they go beyond the observation that Black communities in Montgomery lack access to sanitation, water and other infrastructure and explain the processes through which power is mobilized against them. ‘What is environmental racism for?’ is among the most widely read and cited papers from *Environmental Sociology* over the last three years.’

Environmental Sociology Early Career Prize 2022: Runners up

- Matt Comi (2020) The distributed farmer: rethinking US Midwestern precision agriculture techniques. *Environmental Sociology*, 6:4, 403-415, [DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2020.1794426](https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2020.1794426).

- Ofoegbu, C. and Ifejika Speranza, C. (2021) Making climate information useable for forest-based climate change interventions in South Africa. *Environmental Sociology*, 7:4, 279-293, DOI: [10.1080/23251042.2021.1904534](https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2021.1904534).

Please note that winning and shortlisted papers will be [available free access from the journal website](#) for a minimum period of twelve months.

I would like to congratulate all the authors recognized through these prizes and thank them for their outstanding contributions to the journal. I would also like to thank the Prizes Subcommittee (Çigdem Adem and Birgit Blättel-Mink) and all members of the Editorial and International Advisory Boards for their contributions to the awards process, and I would like to thank RC24 and our publisher, Routledge, for their support.

Please remember that all current financial members of RC24 are entitled to free individual electronic subscriptions to *Environmental Sociology*.

Distinguished Professor Stewart Lockie  
Editor, *Environmental Sociology*

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## RECENT MEMBER ACTIVITIES

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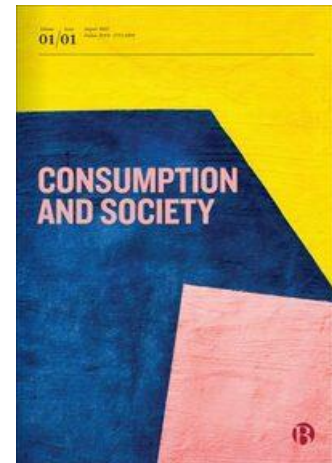
### RESEARCH NOTES

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#### ***Consumption and Society* – new journal established**

by Henrike Rau

Given the recent shift of attention in international climate policy and action towards demand-side measures, the continued relevance and significance of (un)sustainable consumption research cannot be overestimated. The launch of *Consumption and Society*, a new interdisciplinary journal whose editorial management board and editorial advisory board includes RC24 members, reflects this renewed interest in consumption topics. *Consumption and Society* publishes articles that advance understandings of consumption as a societal phenomenon, embedded in, and constitutive of, socio-economic, material and cultural configurations. The journal contributes to debates on contested aspects of consumption, such as environmental impacts, digitalisation, the shifting balance of collective versus private consumption, commodification and inequalities. More details [here](#).



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## PUBLICATIONS

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Aghlimoghadam, L., Salehi, S. & Dienel, H.-L. (2022) A Contribution to Social Acceptance of PV in an Oil-Rich Country: Reflections on Governmental Organisations in Iran. *Sustainability*, 14, 13477. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su142013477>

**E. Leonardi, L. Pellizzoni and V. Asara (Eds.) Handbook of Critical Environmental Politics. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.**

This timely publication **includes a range of contributions from RC24 members** and offers a comprehensive outlook on global environmental politics. It provides readers with an **up-to-date view of a field of ever-increasing academic and public significance**. Its critical perspective interrogates what is taken for granted in current institutions and social and power relations, highlighting the issues preventing meaningful change in the relationship between human societies and their biophysical underpinnings.

Social science scholars and students with an interest in the environment and climate change will find this Handbook particularly useful. It will also appeal to academics in other disciplines related to ecology and environmental politics, as well as politicians and practitioners involved in green transition policies.

A **complete table of contents** can be found [here](#).



Keller, M., Sahakian, M., & Hirt, L. F. (2022) Connecting the multi-level-perspective and social practice approach for sustainable transitions. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 44, 14-28. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2022.05.004>

Letourneau, A. and Davidson, D.J. (2022) Destabilizing farmer identities: A necessary but insufficient precursor to agricultural system transition. *Environmental Sociology*, 8(4): 459-470.

Lidskog, R. & Sundqvist, G. (2022) Lost in transformation: The Paris Agreement, the IPCC, and the quest for national transformative change. *Frontiers in Climate* 4: 906054. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2022.906054>

Lindsay, J., Lane, R., Raven, R. & Reynolds, D. (2022) Bread baking, food growing, and bicycle riding: practice memories and household consumption during the COVID-19 lockdowns in Melbourne. *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*, 18(1), 466-482. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2022.2088004>

Rau, H. & Edmondson, R. (2022) Responding to the environmental crisis: Culture, power and possibilities of change. *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*, 9:3, 259-272. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23254823.2022.2105598>

Romero-Lankao, P., Wilson, A. & Zimny-Schmitt, D. (2022) Inequality and the future of electric mobility in 36 US Cities: An innovative methodology and comparative assessment. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 91, 102760.

Sahakian, M., Wahlen, S., & Welch, D. (2022) (Un)sustainable consumption: a contested, compelling and critical field. *Consumption and Society*, 1(2): 244-254. <https://doi.org/10.1332/BYHL7310>

Salehi, S. & Pazokinejad, Z. (2022) Household energy consumption and its social determinants in Mazandaran. *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13511610.2022.2092076>

Stoddart, M.C.J. and Yang, Y. (2022) What are the roles of regional and local climate governance discourse and actors? Mediated climate change policy networks in Atlantic Canada. *Review of Policy Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12510>

Tye, M. R. et al. (2022) The food water energy nexus in an urban context: Connecting theory and practice for nexus governance. *Earth System Governance*, 12, 100143. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esg.2022.100143>

Van Neste, S. L., & Couture-Guillet, A. (2022) The urban politicization of fossil fuel infrastructure: Mediatization and resistance in energy landscapes. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 40(8), 1801-1818. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23996544221111657>

Wong, P. T., & Rau, H. (2023) Time of Use tariffs, childcare and everyday temporalities in the US and China: Evidence from time-use and sequence-network analysis. *Energy Policy*, 172, 113295. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2022.113295>

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## The RC24 Board 2018-2023

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- Previous Newsletters
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