



Environment
and Society

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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Hello Friends and Colleagues,

I have enjoyed working with session organizers to plan for our sessions at the World Forum of Sociology, coming up this July in Porto Alegre Brazil! There was an enormous number of abstract submissions of excellent quality, which is an indication of the strength and diversity of our RC24 membership. We did our best to accommodate all submissions. In order to do so, some abstracts were moved to different sessions, others were moved to Roundtables, and others are being held as alternates in regular sessions. Some of these alternates will be moved up into an oral presentation slot in the case of presenter cancellations, and the remainder will be moved to roundtables. For those of you who submitted an abstract, but have now realized you will not be able to join us, we will miss you (!) but please let either me or your session organizer know as soon as possible. This will greatly assist us in our final program scheduling.

We will have 20 regular sessions for RC24. Among these, we created one new session to replace the poster session because there were so few poster submissions (I will come back to that in a minute), and the topic of one other regular session was expanded considerably to accommodate more papers. In addition, we are involved in two additional regular sessions that are co-sponsored with other Research Committees or Working Groups, and one Common Session, which we are co-hosting with two other Research Committees. Common Sessions are placed in a prominent position in the ISA Program Schedule, and involves invited speakers. Our Common Session is titled "Climate Change and Collective Action Towards Societal Transition," and several of the panelists are RC24 members. Finally, we will have one Roundtable session with five tables. We will display the posters that were originally submitted to the now defunct poster session in the Roundtable session room. I would like to encourage others to bring additional posters of your research for display if you would like; although they will not be listed in the International Sociological Association Program schedule, others will still have the opportunity to learn about your work.

Pre-conference planning is moving forward, and I am very excited to be preparing for a very special pre-conference this year. The main pre-conference venue will be dedicated to researchers from Brazil, and other Latin American countries, and research done by colleagues on Latin America from other parts of the world. I will be contacting individual researchers who fit these criteria, and who have submitted abstracts to the Forum already, to invite you to participate in the pre-conference. I want to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to other RC24 members as well, who are

living in or working on research in Latin America. Our intention is to hold some sessions in English and some in Spanish, and attendance will be free for RC24 members.

In addition, we will be holding a special pre-conference workshop dedicated to the professional and personal development needs of our early career scholars (please see Upcoming Conferences section below for further details). Long-time RC24 member Dr. Catherine Mei Wong is taking the lead in organizing this session. If anyone is interested in assisting with planning and facilitating this session, please let us know by email, at debra.davidson@ualberta.ca or catherine.wongml@gmail.com. Updates on Forum and pre-conference planning will be shared by email, so please check your inboxes!

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Henrike Rau
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Dear RC24 members,

Preparations for the World Forum of Sociology in July 2020 in Porto Alegre are now well underway, with many RC24 members planning to travel to Brazil to showcase their important work on environment-society relations in a climate-constrained world. There will be many opportunities to exchange ideas with like-minded colleagues from all over the world. Undoubtedly, new links and research partnerships will be forged across the global community of environmental sociologists during the conference! Importantly, the World Forum will be an ideal occasion to highlight the central role of environmental sociology in understanding and addressing today's most pressing socio-environmental challenges.

At the same time, some members may currently be reflecting upon their participation in international conferences in 2020 and beyond, in light of considerable environmental costs including transport emissions. As reported in our RC24 Newsletter No. 54, significant efforts have already been made to 'green' the World Forum in key areas such as accommodation, catering, waste disposal and local transport. This mirrors efforts by environmental sociologists across the world to reduce the environmental costs of their work activities, including those related to presentations at international conferences. For example, initiatives are currently afoot in different countries to extend the use of communication technology to facilitate offsite participation in conferences by presenters who are either unable to attend in person or reluctant to do so because of environmental concerns. Perhaps such an option could be explored in the context of future ISA and RC24 gatherings.

Our next newsletter will be published in June 2020. Please send me your contributions by 15th May 2020. In addition to information about new publications and upcoming workshops and

conferences, I very much welcome research notes, workshop summaries or news of awards received (max. 200 words).

Last but not least - I wish you all a happy and successful year 2020!

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

RC24 Pre-Conference Workshop for Early-career Researchers @ ISA World Forum 2020, 14-18 July, Porto Alegre, Brazil

RC24 is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a special Pre-Conference Workshop for our Early-Career Researchers at the ISA Forum 2020 in Porto Alegre. The workshop will address some of the most pertinent challenges faced by researchers at the early stage of their academic career. Themes include:

- managing career uncertainties
- balancing personal life goals with career goals
- mental health issues from conducting research
- maintaining personal well-being

The goal of this workshop is to create a safe space where early-career researchers can share their own experiences, gain some insights from senior academics from different continents and cultures, and develop some basic and practical coping mechanisms going forward. The event will be a highly interactive, including a lot of group discussions, brain-storming exercises and group activities.

This workshop is organised by Dr. Catherine Wong and Prof. Debra Davidson. Updates will be posted on our RC24 accounts on Twitter [<https://twitter.com/isarc24?lang=en>] and Facebook [<https://www.facebook.com/isarc24/>], so follow us there or stay tuned via email.

"Shining a Light on Energy: 10 Years of the Lisbon Treaty", 17-18 June 2020, Warsaw

Deadline for abstracts: **15th January 2020**

<https://www.coleurope.eu/news/call-proposals-contribution-conference-shining-light-energy-10-years-lisbon-treaty-17-18-june>

"Transitions 2020: Ecological transitions in transactions and actions", 22-26 June 2020, Toulouse, France

Deadline for abstracts: **20th January 2020**

<https://transitions2020.sciencesconf.org/?forward-action=index&forward-controller=index&lang=en>

Fifth Energy and Society Conference, 8-10 September 2020, Trento, Italy

Deadline for abstracts: **31st January 2020**

<https://webmagazine.unitn.it/en/evento/sociologia/71352/fifth-energy-and-society-conference>

8th World Sustainability Forum, 14-17 September, Geneva, Switzerland

Deadline for abstracts: **1st March 2020**

<https://wsf-8.sciforum.net/>

International Conference on Sustainable Technology and Development, 22-25 August 2020, Shenzhen, China

Deadline for abstracts: **6th March 2020**

<https://www.elsevier.com/events/conferences/international-conference-on-sustainable-technology-and-development>

10th Asian Conference on Sustainability, Energy & the Environment (ACSEE2020), 5-8 November 2020, Tokyo, Japan

Deadline for abstracts: **15th June 2020** (early bird)

<https://acsee.iafor.org/call-for-papers/>

AWARDS

Riley Dunlap named “Highly Cited Researcher” by Web of Science Group

Riley Dunlap, Oklahoma State University, was named a “Highly Cited Researcher” for 2019 by the Web of Science Group. He is one of 204 researchers worldwide included in the “Social Sciences” category of highly cited researchers. Selection is based on citations to articles published between 2008 and 2018, and signifies having multiple articles ranked in the top 1% of social science articles in terms of citations. Congratulations to Riley Dunlap for this well deserved accolade.

Debra Davidson receives Killam Annual Professorship (2019-2020)

RC24 president Debra J. Davidson, University of Alberta, was awarded the Killam Annual Professorship. Established in 1991, the award is granted annually to faculty members in recognition of the quality of their scholarly activities such as teaching, research, publications, creative activities, presented papers, and supervision of graduate students. Congratulations to Debra Davidson on receiving this Professorship for her outstanding research and teaching contributions to the field of environmental sociology.

RECENT MEMBER ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS

Gray, B.J., Long, M.A., Gill, D.A., Dunlap, R.E. and Straub, A.M. (2019) Politics, Climate Change, and Earthquakes: Public Perceptions of Oil and Gas Impacts in Oklahoma. *Energy Research & Social Science* 58:101251. doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2019.101251

Gross, M. & Sonnberger, M. (2020) How the Diesel Engine became a 'Dirty' Actant: Compression Ignitions and Actor Networks of Blame. *Energy Research & Social Science* 61: Article 101359. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2019.101359>

Heinrichs, H. (2019) Artful sustainability governance—Foundational considerations on sensory-informed policymaking for sustainable development. *Sustainable Development*, <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2029>

Morena, E., Krause, D. and Stevis, D. (eds.)(2019) *Just Transitions: Social Justice in the Shift Towards a Low-Carbon World*. London: Pluto Press.

Written by academics and activists from around the globe, this unique edited collection is the first book entirely devoted to Just Transition. It draws on a range of perspectives from the global North and South to interrogate the overlaps, synergies and tensions between various understandings of the Just Transition approach.

Rau, H., Popp, M., Namberger, P. and Mögele, M. (2019) Short distance, big impact: The effects of intra-city workplace relocation on staff mobility practices. *Journal of Transport Geography*, No. 79. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2019.102483>

Rau, H., Moran, P., Manton, R., & Goggins, J. (2019). Changing Energy Cultures? Household Energy Use Before and After A Building Energy Efficiency Retrofit. *Sustainable Cities and Society*, 101983. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2210670719335243>

Sahakian, M. & Dobigny, L. (2019) From governing behaviour to transformative change: A typology of household energy initiatives in Switzerland. *Energy Policy* 129: 1261-1270.

Simpson, J. M., Dunlap, R.E. and Fullerton, A. (2019) The Treadmill of Information: Development of the Information Society and Carbon Dioxide Emissions. *Sociology of Development* 5: 381-409.

Xiao, C., Dunlap, R.E. and Hong, D. (2019) Ecological Worldview as the Central Component of Environmental Concern: Clarifying the Role of the NEP. *Society and Natural Resources*: 32:53-72.

Zentner, E., Kecinski, M., Letourneau, A. and Davidson, D.J. (2019) Ignoring Indigenous peoples—climate change, oil development, and Indigenous rights clash in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. *Climatic Change* 155(4): 533-544.

RESEARCH NOTES

ENERGISE concludes successfully

Henrike Rau, Department of Geography, LMU Munich, henrike.rau@lmu.de

After three years of intensive and fruitful cross-national collaboration, the EU-Horizon 2020 funded ENERGISE project came to a successful conclusion in November 2019. The results reveal the influence of culture on the link between everyday practices and domestic energy use. Moreover, ENERGISE explicitly recognises cultural change as a key ingredient in successful energy transitions, including the promotion of sufficiency-centred practices across key areas of domestic life such as heating and laundry. Please go to <http://www.energise-project.eu/publications> for a wide range of outputs, including a summary video that covers the project's goals, conceptual framework, methodological design and key results. Members of the ENERGISE team are currently preparing further publications and follow-on funding applications in the area of energy transitions.

Values, Consciousness and Environment in Research in India

Meenakshi Sinha Swami, Department of Economics, MSC, University of Delhi. India, meenakshi.sinhaswami@gmail.com

The ecovillage of Dayalbagh has had a modern education system since its inception a hundred years ago. This September, the Department of Consciousness Studies at the Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Dayalbagh, India, in collaboration with the University of Waterloo, Canada, held a conference on 'Dayalbagh Science of Consciousness 2019'. The university at Dayalbagh has undertaken multidisciplinary studies on the science of consciousness along with the University of Arizona, Tucson, USA also.

This has led to research exploration on a) Consciousness and environment both natural and social; b) Benefits of integration of the society around the universities; c). Service to the society; d). Engendering of qualities and values through education and social systems; e) Schrodinger's cheetah and consciousness; f) Creation of dimensions of consciousness

At the university at Dayalbagh extensive research has been carried on a) Dayalbagh as a community and environmental consciousness systems; b) Lessons from Dayalbagh way of life for zero emission lifestyle; c) Dayalbagh stages of consciousness and its impact; d) Creating conscious supermen at Dayalbagh through education, environment and community networking systems; e) Quantum physics and consciousness at Dayalbagh; f) Measuring consciousness scientifically and exploring and analyzing stages of consciousness; g) Integrating Eastern and Western Perspectives on consciousness.

Successful International Symposium on Environmental Sociology in East Asia (ISESEA)

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The 7th International Symposium on Environmental Sociology in East Asia (ISESEA), sponsored by ISA RC24, amongst others, was held from 26 to 28 October 2019 at Seoul National University in South Korea. Since 2008, ISESEA has been held biennially to provide a platform to discuss on environmental issues and sustainability transition, particularly from an East Asian perspective. The 7th ISESEA, titled Social Actions to Climate Change and Energy Transition in East Asia, opened two plenary sessions: Climate Actions and Climate Governance after Paris Agreement, and Environmental Sociology in East Asia. In addition, more than 70 researchers participated in 21 general sessions including Politics of Energy Transition in East Asia, Anti-nuclear Movements in East Asia. This conference helped us build a consensus that the comparative analysis of historical experiences shared by East Asian countries, such as export-led growth models, strong aspirations for economic growth, the legacy of authoritarianism and a weak civil society, is necessary to understand the politics of sustainability transition in East Asia. The 8th ISESEA will be held in China in the fall of 2021. We hope that more environmental sociologists, exploring the theoretical development of environmental sociology from a comparative historical perspective, will attend the next conference.

Advancing Research-led Teaching: A Climate Change Module for Introduction to Sociology Classes

Andrew Szasz, Department of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz,
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RC24 member Andrew Szasz, University of California, Santa Cruz, has developed a website that professors and instructors who teach Introductory course in sociology could use to add more sociology of climate change content to their courses. Andrew designed the website primarily for classes in the United States but he hopes that it contains elements that could be pulled out and used in lower-level Sociology courses taught elsewhere.

<https://szasz.sites.ucsc.edu/>

Jean-Paul Bozonnet (1948-2019)

Jean-Paul Bozonnet passed away on 25th of May 2019. After graduating in Sociology at the Grenoble University, he obtained a PhD on the imaginary of the mountain. In his thesis, published some years later¹, he scrutinized the myths of mountain through pictures and narratives, as well as contemporary advertising in various societies over centuries.

He then devoted his following research to imaginary of techniques, in the context of the very quick expansion of home micro-computing. A topic he abandoned at the beginning of the 1990s when he became head of a Master Degree Program in "Management of cultural projects". Thus he began to study cultural practices and cultural policies.



Photo: Pierre Bréchon



Jean-Paul Bozonnet (center) talking to Marja Ylönen (left) and Ryoichi Terada (right) during the ISA Yokohama Pre-Congress Conference in July 2014 (Photo: Saburo Horikawa)

From 2002 onwards, he became passionate about the sociology of environment. He analyzed the relationship of individuals to nature and ecological values with quantitative surveys, in particular the European Values Studies, actively participating in the research team supervising and analyzing these surveys in France. He highlighted the "great narrative" of developed societies: after a period when societies were centered on a God creating and dominating nature, then on man's domination, the "great narrative" has now become "ecocentric". In today's representations, nature is acknowledged as sacred; man must protect and worship it².

¹ Jean-Paul Bozonnet, *Des monts et des mythes. L'imaginaire social de la montagne*, Grenoble : Presses Universitaires de Grenoble, 1992.

² Bozonnet Jean-Paul, « Ecocentrism in Europe. A Narrative for a Post-Industrial and Post-Religious Conceptions of Nature », in Bréchon Pierre, Gonthier Frédéric (eds.), *European Values. Trends and Divides Over Thirty Years*, Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2017, p. 86-103.

As a teacher, he began his career of sociologist at the Agricultural Technology Institute (Mostaganem, Algeria) for two years. He then was lecturer in sociology at Grenoble University and finally at Sciences Po Grenoble (School of Political Studies) since 1992.

He was always available for students and was an excellent pedagogue, with the rare ability to explain concepts and methods in simple words. He was also very friendly with colleagues and the administrative staff, and never sought to showcase himself personally. He never got angry and was always positive and happy with his fate. In recent months, during his terrible illness, he said several times: "I had a very beautiful life". He was a model of resilience in adversity. He will miss us very much.

(Text: Pierre Bréchon, Sciences Po Grenoble, France)

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