



Environment
and Society

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Debra Davidson
University of Alberta
ddavidso@ualberta.ca

Dear Colleagues,

As I write this note, we are once again in the throes of multiple catastrophic extreme events around the globe caused at least in part by global warming, and I expect that many of you have been directly affected by current and recent floods, droughts, and extreme heat. Such events are stark reminders of the inequitable distribution of the harms caused by global warming, of our need to support each other, and of the crucial relevance of our scholarship as environmental sociologists. I appreciate your continued engagement with our Research Committee, and very much hope to have the opportunity to learn about the important work you are doing, at one of our upcoming conference events.

This first such opportunity is a virtual conference, to be held October 14-15 of this year. We have joined efforts with the American Sociological Association's Section on Environmental Sociology to hold an international, virtual conference titled **Navigating Uncertain Futures: Social Engagement and Transformative Change in Global Socio-Ecological Systems**. This event promises to be an exciting opportunity to share knowledge and network, from wherever you may be on the planet. There is no registration fee, but participants must be a member of either ISA's RC24, or ASA's Environmental Sociology Section. To learn more, please visit <http://navigating-uncertainty2022.com/>.

The second is our upcoming the 20th World Congress of Sociology, initially scheduled to take place this summer, but was postponed for one year due to the pandemic. The Congress theme is *Resurgent Authoritarianism: Sociology of New Entanglements of Religions, Politics, and Economies*. It will be held in Melbourne, Australia, from June 25-July 1, 2023.

Conference Sessions have now been finalized—thank you to everyone who proposed to organize a session with RC24! We have a great diversity of RC24 Sessions, and joint sessions in collaboration with other Research Committees. Of note, Congress will be delivered in hybrid format, for the first time. This means that, with the exception of Roundtables, sessions may include a combination of in-person and virtual presentations.

Abstract submission is now open, and will remain so until September 30, 24:00 GMT. Here are a few details of note for those interested in submitting a presentation abstract, and I hope this includes all of our RC24 members:

- There is a maximum of two abstracts per submitter
- Abstracts cannot be more than 300 words, and can be submitted in English, Spanish or French.
- You will be asked to indicate your preferred session. However, as we seek to accommodate as many presenters as possible, we may shift your presentation to a different session.
- You will also be asked to specify your preference for virtual or in-person presentation.
- Presenters are not required to be members in good standing, although the registration fee is lower for members.
- At least one listed author must register for the Congress by March 22, 2023, for both virtual and in-person presentations; all those who plan to attend in-person must register.

The ISA will once again offer several registration grants, and RC24 will supplement these, to encourage as many RC24 members to be able to participate as we can. Applications for financial aid can be sent to the RC24 President, at debra.davidson@ualberta.ca, until January 31, 2023. Preference will be given to members from Category B and C countries, students, and retired members.

We will be planning an off-site reception for RC24 members, and we are also looking into identifying lodging options for those with limited financial means. Stay tuned for updates in the coming months.

More information on Congress can be found [HERE](#).

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Henrike Rau
LMU Munich
henrike.rau@lmu.de

Dear RC24 members,

our newsletter offers many opportunities to showcase research and teaching activities in the field of environmental sociology, complementing efforts from across neighboring social science and humanities (sub)disciplines that share an interest in investigating the various facets of society-environment relations. For me, it is always exciting to see the flurry of activity that reflects our vibrant research community. Many thanks to all RC24 members who sent in their contributions to this newsletter!

Importantly, our newsletter also reflects the ‘zeitgeist’, including shifting social and political circumstances and their impact on how societies and their members view and use natural resources and other material and non-material aspects of the environment. It captures and preserves for posterity important developments in the field of environmental sociology that

respond to these societal transformations. For example, the list of publications in this newsletter evidently shows the continued interest in exploring the fallout of the Corona pandemic. In addition, a renewed interest in alternative energy systems and sources is clearly discernible, reflecting news of violent conflicts that are more or less directly related to questions of energy supply and demand (among other things). For example, the war in Ukraine has once again highlighted the risks and vulnerabilities associated with the existing global energy system. At the same time, the specter of rising energy prices has initiated many public and private debates about alternatives to oil, gas, coal and nuclear power. Environmental sociologists the world over have made important contributions to these debates through their research and publishing work and their active engagement in public sociology and teaching.

Our next newsletter will be published in December 2022. Please send me your contributions by 25th November 2022. 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).

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Population and Climate Change: The Defining Relationship of the 21st Century, Wittgenstein Centre Conference 2022

November 30 - December 2, 2022 in Vienna, Austria

The abstract submission deadline for this conference has passed but you may wish to attend. More information [HERE](#)

6th Energy and Society Conference: 'Societies under energy transitions and environmental crises'

October 5-7, 2022, Kaunas, Lithuania

The abstract submission deadline for this conference has passed but you may wish to attend. More information [here](#)

17th International Conference on Environmental Sociology

September 16-17, 2023 in Zurich, Switzerland

Deadline for submission of papers: August 31, 2022

<https://waset.org/environmental-sociology-conference-in-september-2023-in-zurich>

SCORAI-ERSCP-Wageningen conference 2023

July 5-8, 2023, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Deadline for submission of papers: Abstract submission opens on August 30, 2022, with a final deadline of November 28, 2022

https://scorai.net/scorai_erscp-wageningen-conference-2023/

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

RECENT MEMBER ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH NOTES

Establishment of Just Transition Research Centre

by Pradip Swarnakar

The Just Transition Research Centre was established at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India with the main objective of engaging grassroots stakeholders in the process of energy transition away from coal to make it inclusive and just. The centre's research and outreach activities are focused on investigating, leveraging and enhancing the potential of the trade unions for an effective representation of the coal workforce in the decision-making around energy transition. Visit: <https://www.iitk.ac.in/JTRC>

Launch of K.A.P.S. Disaster Hub

by Joy Semien

The K.A.P.S. Disaster Hub, an organizational networking platform for those working in disaster-related fields, has recently been launched. For further information see: <https://www.thekapsdisasterhub.com/>

Successful International Online Symposium: Comparative Study on Climate and Energy Policy in Japan and India

by Koichi Hasegawa and Pradip Swarnakar

The International Online Symposium: Comparative Study on Climate and Energy Policy in Japan and India was held on March 17, 2022. This event was the output of the collaborative research from 2019 by COMON Japan led by Prof. Kochi Hasegawa and the Indian research team led by Prof. Pradip Swarnakar, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. We focused on the policy network related to climate change and energy transition in both countries. India is the world's third-largest emitter of GHG with the second largest population of 1.38 billion. Japan is the fifth-largest emitter

of GHG following China, the US, India, and Russia. Both are regarded as major key players in decreasing GHG because they are strongly dependent on coal-fired power plants. Focusing on energy justice, just transition, and net-zero carbon declarations, this symposium provided updated information and discussions about the current status and challenges of climate and energy policy. It was financially supported by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). Did you miss the event? You can still watch all the presentations and discussions by Masako Konishi, Keiichi Satoh, Rajshri Shukla, Takashi Nakazawa, Saakshi Chauhan and Mudit Singh: <https://youtu.be/tlZ8GfFhEl4>. The presentation slides are also available at <https://bit.ly/3qEg91m>.

PUBLICATIONS

Adeosun, K. P., Greene, M., & Oosterveer, P. (2022) Urban daily lives and out-of-home food consumption among the urban poor in Nigeria: A practice-based approach. *Sustainable Production and Consumption*, 32: 479-491. <https://doi-org.emedien.ub.uni-muenchen.de/10.1016/j.spc.2022.04.024>

Boström, M. (2021). Social relations and challenges to consuming less in a mass consumption society. *Sociologisk Forskning*, 58(4): 383-406. <https://doi.org/10.37062/sf.58.22818>

Boström, M. (2022) Lifestyle transformation and reduced consumption: a transformative learning process. *Sozialpolitik.ch* Vol 1/2022, Article 1.2
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18753/2297-8224-186>

Davidson, D. J. (2022) Climate change sociology: Past contributions and future research needs. *PLOS Climate*, 1(7). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000055>

DiDonato, S. and Gareau, B.J. (2022) Be(e)coming Pollinators: Beekeeping and Perceptions of Environmentalism in Massachusetts. *PLoS One* 17(3): e0263281, <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0263281>

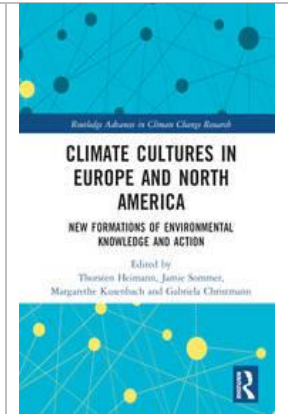
Goggins, G., Rau, H., Moran, P., Fahy, F., & Goggins, J. (2022) The role of culture in advancing sustainable energy policy and practice. *Energy Policy*, 167, 113055. <https://doi-org.emedien.ub.uni-muenchen.de/10.1016/j.enpol.2022.113055>

Heinrichs, H. (2022) Sustainable Statehood: Reflections on Critical (Pre-)Conditions, Requirements and Design Options. *Sustainability*, 14, 9461. <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/15/9461/pdf>

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>

Kessler, S. & Rau, H. (2022) Capturing climate-cultural diversity: A comparison of climate change debates in Germany. In T. Heimann, J. Sommer, M. Kusenbach & G. Christmann (eds.) *Climate Cultures in Europe and North America*. New York: Routledge, pp. 49-70.

This book chapter captures variations in German people's perceptions of climate change and climate action, linking them to divergent and potentially conflicting 'climate cultures'. Drawing on rich empirical data, it shows divergences between 'elite' climate cultures and climate cultures 'from below'. The study thus moves beyond much existing research on public attitudes and understanding of climate change that focuses solely on the expressed views of individuals.



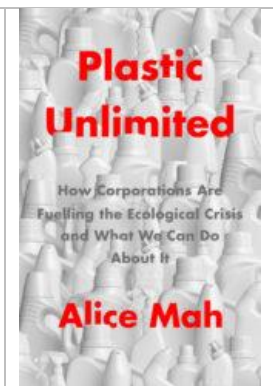
Letourneau, A. and Davidson, D. J. (2022) Destabilizing farmer identities: A necessary but insufficient precursor to agricultural system transition. *Environmental Sociology*, 14: 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2022.2064207>

Lidskog, R. & Rabe, L. 2022. Making climate risks governable in Swedish municipalities: crisis preparedness, technical measures, and public involvement. *Climate*, 10(7): 90. <https://doi.org/10.3390/cli10070090>

Lidskog, R. & Standring, A. (2022) COVID-19 and the environmental crises: Knowledge, social order and transformative change. In P.R. Brown & J.O. Zinn (eds.) *Covid-19 and the Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty. Studies of Social Phenomena and Social Theory Across 6 Continents*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 267-293. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-95167-2_11

Mah, A. (2022). *Plastic Unlimited*. Cambridge: Polity Press.


In this incisive book, sociologist Alice Mah reveals how petrochemical and plastics corporations have fought relentlessly to protect and expand plastic markets in the face of existential threats to business. From denying the toxic health effects of plastics to co-opting circular economy solutions to plastic waste and exploiting the opportunities offered up by the global pandemic, industry has deflected attention from the key problem: plastics production. The consequences of unfettered plastics growth are pernicious and highly unequal. We all have a part to play in reducing plastic consumption but we must tackle the problem at its root – the capitalist imperative for limitless growth. <https://www.politybooks.com/plastic-unlimited/>



Pellizzoni, L., & Centemeri, L. (2022) Tackling material dependency in sustainability transition: rationales and insights from the agriculture sector. *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*, 24(3): 355-366. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1523908X.2021.2022467>

Tàbara, J. D., Lieu, J., Zaman, R., Ismail, C., & Takama, T. (2022) On the discovery and enactment of positive socio-ecological tipping points: insights from energy systems interventions in Bangladesh and Indonesia. *Sustainability Science*, 17(2): 565-571.

Sahakian, M. (2022) 'More, bigger, better' household appliances: Contesting normativity in practices through emotions. *Journal of Consumer Culture*, 22(1): 21-39.

	<p>Semien, J., & Nance, E. (2022). <i>Hazard Mitigation Training for Vulnerable Communities: A KAPS (Knowledge, Attitude, Preparedness, Skills) Approach</i>. London: Routledge.</p> <p>This book is designed to educate vulnerable communities, emergency practitioners, and disaster researchers to increase the social and physical capacity of communities to mitigate and adapt to disaster impacts. With climate change escalating the intensity and range of disasters, we have entered an unprecedented time. The tools in this book allow researchers, practitioners, and community leaders to adopt new training techniques that are more engaging and effective, using a bottom-up framework to integrate knowledge, attitude, preparedness, and skills (K.A.P.S).</p> <p>https://www.routledge.com/Hazard-Mitigation-Training-for-Vulnerable-Communities-A-KAPS-Knowledge/Semien-Nance/p/book/9781032010700</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Stoddart, Mark C.J., and Cole Atlin (2022). Hydroelectricity, Environmental Governance, and Anti-Reflexivity: Lessons from Muskrat Falls. *Water*, 14(13): 1992.

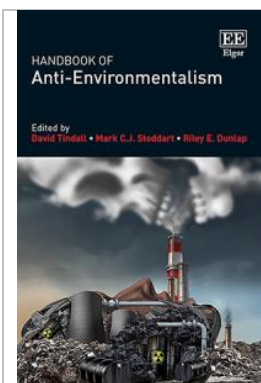
Stoddart, Mark C.J., Ásthildur E. Bernharðsdóttir, and Cole Atlin (2021) Financial Crisis, Governance, and Sustainable Island Futures: Comparing Iceland and Newfoundland and Labrador. *Small States and Territories*, 4(2): 285-304.

Shukla, R., & Swarnakar, P. (2022). Energy transition and dialectics: Tracing discursive resistance to coal through discourse coalition in India. *Globalizations*, 19(5), 1–16.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2022.2086735>

Shukla, R., & Swarnakar, P. (2022). Energy justice in post-Paris India: Unpacking consensus and conflict through storylines and discourse coalitions. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 91, 102687. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2022.102687>

Swarnakar, P., and Singh., M. (2022). Local governance in just energy transition: Towards a community-centric framework, *Sustainability*, 14(11), 6495. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14116495>

Swarnakar, P., Shukla, R., & Broadbent, J. (2022). Beliefs and networks: Mapping the Indian climate policy discourse surrounding the Paris climate change conference in 2015. *Environmental Communication*, 16(2), 145–162.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17524032.2021.1973528>



Tindall, David, Mark C.J. Stoddart, and Riley E. Dunlap (Eds.)(2022). *Handbook of Anti-Environmentalism*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

This thought-provoking collection captures the wide variety of anti-environmentalisms and offers an integrative research agenda for future work on the topic. Probing the ways in which groups have organized to oppose environmental movements and pro-environmental policies in recent decades, it examines those involved in these countermovements and studies their motivations and support systems.

<https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/handbook-of-anti-environmentalism-9781839100215.html>

WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE REPORTS

‘Ambivalences of Ecological Transformation: Perspectives from the Environmental Humanities’ - International Conference at Augsburg University

by Debra Davidson & Henrike Rau

RC24 president Debra Davidson recently gave an invited keynote presentation entitled ‘Getting to Zero: Interdisciplinarity, intersectionality and emotions in social responses to climate change’ at the University of Augsburg, Germany. Her keynote was the opening plenary session of the Ambivalences of Ecological Transformation: Perspectives from the Environmental Humanities Conference, which took place on 24-26 June 2022. The conference marked the first year of the successful collaboration between the University of Augsburg and LMU Munich to establish an International Doctorate Program ‘Rethinking Environment’. The program consists of 20 doctoral projects that investigate diverse aspects of the socio-ecological transformation. All projects are co-supervised by interdisciplinary teams from the two participating universities. RC24 secretary Henrike Rau is a member of the steering committee of the program and co-supervises projects on topics such as urban commoning practices in established neighbourhoods, participation of low-income and marginalised groups in sustainability projects, sustainable mobility education in schools and green political thought and ideology in the German political landscape.

<https://rethinking-environment-idk.de/magazine/international-conference-ambivalences-of-ecological-transformation/>

The RC24 Board 2018-2023

Executive:

Debra J. Davidson (President, Canada)

Rolf Lidskog (Vice president, Sweden)

Henrike Rau (Secretary, Germany)

Saburo Horikawa (Treasurer, Japan)

Board of Governors:

Lotsmart Fonjong (Cameroon)
Dayong Hong (China)
Sadegh Salehi (Iran)
Mark Stoddart (Canada)
Pradip Swarnakar (India)
Catherine Wong (Luxembourg)

Past-presidents:

Koichi Hasegawa (Japan)
Stewart Lockie (Australia)
Raymond Murphy (Canada)
Arthur Mol (the Netherlands)
Frederick Buttel (USA)
Riley Dunlap (USA)

Please consult the RC-24 Website www.isarc24.com for information about:

- How to become a member of the RC-24
- Previous Newsletters
- Environmental Sociology journal
- Activities
- Blog
- Governance of RC24
- and more