



Environment
and Society

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Jo Lindsay
Monash University, Australia
Jo.Lindsay@monash.edu

Dear members,
greetings from Melbourne (Naarm), Australia! We have been experiencing a rather wet summer this year but there has still been lots of opportunities to get out into nature. Still, 2023 was a year that broke records for climate change on earth – the hottest year on record resulting in heatwaves, droughts, fires and also increased storms and floods. It is perhaps a preview to what life will be like in a world that has warmed more than 1.5°C than pre-industrial levels. This seems increasingly likely as the United Nations climate summit (COP28) took some steps forward while leaving lots of opportunity for delay and a slow approach to moving away from fossil fuels in our energy systems. **Social research and social solutions - indeed the scholarship of RC24 members - is critically important in understanding the current moment and charting more positive pathways forward.**

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to new members who have recently joined RC24. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and I encourage you to contribute an update from your part of the world in future issues. A major outlet for scholarship is **our excellent journal Environmental Sociology**. I am delighted to advise that **all RC24 members are entitled to free access to this journal**. Warm congratulations to **best paper and early career prize winners and runners up** – formally announced later in the newsletter.

In 2023 we supported the **9th International Symposium on Environmental Sociology in East Asia (ISESEA-9)** (pronounced "I-C-C") held in Yokohama Japan 4-6 November 2023 which was by all accounts a tremendous success with 128 participants. The next symposium, ISESEA-10, will be held in Taipei in 2025. The Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology, one of the largest local associations for environmental sociology, hosted the event. On behalf of RC24 members I would like to extend our thoughts and warm wishes to our colleagues in Japan suffering the effects of the recent earthquake.

The RC24 board is working away in the background and our near-term priorities are to develop our social media presence and refresh our website – more on this soon. In between the ISA congresses and forums, we are also keen to develop smaller opportunities to network and exchange ideas. Please be in touch if you have an idea for a local or hybrid seminar you would like us to support or organise.

Very best wishes
Jo Lindsay
President RC24

References

Van Dijk, A. (2024) How 2023's record heat worsened droughts, floods and bushfires around the world, *The Conversation*.
Maslin, M., Parikh, P. and Chin-Yee, S. (2023) What were the key outcomes of COP28? *World Economic Forum*.

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Henrike Rau
LMU Munich
henrike.rau@lmu.de

Dear RC24 members,

In my role as RC24 secretary, I would also like to extend a warm welcome all new members who joined us in recent months. Please feel free to send contributions to our biannual newsletter, to share news about your research and teaching activities with RC24 members the world over. As usual, the contributions I received this time reflect the high-quality work of a very engaged and active international research community. **Many thanks to all RC24 members who contributed to this newsletter!**

Our next newsletter will be published in Juli 2024. Please send me your contributions by 15th June 2024. In addition to information about new publications and upcoming workshops and conferences, I would be very interested in receiving short research notes, workshop summaries or news of awards received (max. 200 words).

Best wishes,

Henrike

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

SCORAI Europe Conference 2025: Mainstreaming Sustainable Consumption

April 8-10, 2025, Lund, Sweden

This international conference is jointly organized by [SCORAI Europe](#), the [MISTRA Sustainable Consumption project](#) and the [EU 1.5° Lifestyles project](#). The conference will bring together 400-500 researchers and practitioners concerned with sustainable consumption to make progress on mainstreaming sustainable consumption.

A call for sessions is now open and closes on April 30, 2024. The call for papers opens in June 2024. Further details [here](#).

ICES 2025 – 19th International Conference on Environmental Sociology

September 16-17, 2025, Zurich, Switzerland

This international conference aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Environmental Sociology. It also offers an interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators in the fields of Environmental Sociology to discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and practical challenges. More information [here](#).

V ISA Forum of Sociology

July 7-11, 2025, Rabat, Morocco

More information will soon be available [here](#).

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

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Environmental Sociology Best Paper & 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).

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).

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).

C Ofoegbu and Chinwe Ifejika Speranza (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).

A citation summarizing each of the winning contributions is included below. Please note that winning and shortlisted papers will be available free access from the journal website (www.tandfonline.com/toc/rens20/current) 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*

Environmental Sociology Best Paper Prize 2022

Coline Ruwet

ICHEC Brussels Management School, UClouvain University, Belgium

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Coline-Ruwet>



“Bringing time back in’. Towards a socioecological stratification of time.”

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 Early Career Prize 2022

Louise Seamster

Sociology and African American Studies, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA

<https://law.uiowa.edu/people/louise-seamster>



Danielle Purifoy

Department of Geography, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

<https://www.daniellepurifoy.com/about>



“What is environmental racism for? Place-based harm and relational development.”

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, Seamster and Purifoy 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.

RECENT MEMBER ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH NOTES

Successful SCORAI-ERSCP Conference 2023 in Wageningen

by Henrike Rau

The 2023 SCORAI-ERSCP Conference entitled 'Transforming Consumption-Production Systems Toward Just and Sustainable Futures' took place from July 5 -7, 2023 in Wageningen, the Netherlands. Held back to back with the 11th International Conference on Industrial Ecology in Leiden, the gathering in Wageningen attracted **several hundred sustainability scholars** from all over the world. **The conference was officially opened by Prof. Arthur Mol, former RC24 president and current Rector Magnificus of Wageningen University.** In his opening address he highlighted to key role of the social sciences in developing international policies and practices that can tackle major challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

More details about the conference, including short summaries of key notes by Julia Steinberger, Lewis Akenji, Kersty Hobson and others can be found [here](#).

Joint Session on Accountability and Sustainable Transitions

by Rolf Lidskog

At the ISA World congress, RC24 organised a joint session with RC17 (organization), RC40 (agriculture and food) and TG04 (Risk and uncertainty) on the topic Accountability and Sustainable Transitions: Toward an Integrated Analysis of Sociopolitical and Ecological Risks.

Now a [Special issue on Accountability in the Anthropocene](#) (edited by Nadine Arnold & Steven Wolf) has been published in the journal *Environmental Policy and Governance* and includes some of the papers that were presented in the session.

Energy Citizenship in Europe: Latest Insights and Next Steps

by Henrike Rau and Marlyne Sahakian

In March 2024 more than 100 researchers, policy makers, NGO representatives and sustainable energy advocates took part in a conference in Brussels entitled "Energy Citizenship in the making". The conference covered innovative insights and tools from four EU-funded projects on how energy citizenship can contribute to an inclusive, democratic and sustainable Green New Deal: [EC²](#), [ENCLUDE](#), [EnergyProspects](#) and [Dialogues](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Brechin, S. R., & Lee, S. (2023). Will democracy survive climate change? *Sociological Forum*, 38(4): 1382-1392. <https://doi.org/10.1111/socf.12957>

Berg, M., & Lidskog, R. (2024). Global environmental assessments and transformative change: the role of epistemic infrastructures and the inclusion of social sciences. *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*, 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13511610.2024.2322642>

Chiffolleau, Y., Dourian, T., Enderli, G., Mattioni, D., Akermann, G., Loconto, A., ... & Desclaux, D. (2024). Reversing the trend of agrobiodiversity decline by co-developing food chains with consumers: A European survey for change. *Sustainable Production and Consumption*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spc.2024.02.032>

Fornillo, B. and Lampis, A. (2023) From the Lithium Triangle to the Latin American Quarry: The Shifting Geographies of De-fossilization. *The Extractive Industries and Society*, Vol. 15 (101326). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2023.101326>

Gellert, P. K., & D'Onofrio, S. (2024). Flex commodities and intertwining world-ecologies: Indonesian palm waste as an environmental fix in the New Zealand dairy industry. *Political Geography*, 108, 103038. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2023.103038>

Letourneau, A. Davidson, D., Karsgaard C. & Ivanova, D. (2023) Proud fathers and fossil fuels: Gendered identities and climate obstruction. *Environmental Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2023.2274271>

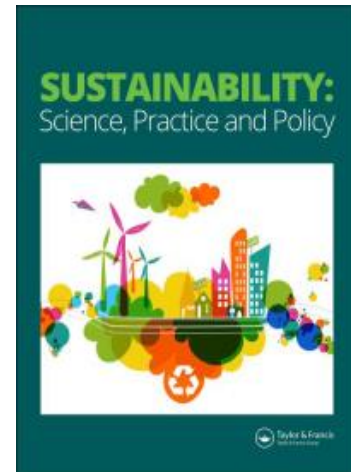
Lindsay, J., Reynolds, D. O., Arunachalam, D., Raven, R., & Lane, R. (2024). Household Sustainability Labour and the Gendering of Responsibility for Low Waste Living. *Sociology*, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00380385241231737>

Revisiting the Promises of Eco-Political Experimentation: Achievements, Appropriations, Limits

Special Issue of *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*

Eds. Margaret Haderer, Hauke Dannemann & Ingolfur Blühdorn

The promise of experimentation has been looming large in sustainability governance and environmental politics over the last decades. Iterative trial and error in real-life, participatory, local but also cross-jurisdictional experiments, it has been commonly suggested, are promising candidates for bringing about urgently needed, transformative change. Yet today, we are witnessing the re-emergence of calls for greater decisiveness in light of urgent crises, the de-facto re-strengthening of the state in tackling crises, and re-radicalized forms of eco-activism that regard protest and civil disobedience more or at least as important as the experimental re-building of everyday life. Has the promise of experimentation evaporated? This special issue assembles contributions that explore the achievements of eco-political experimentation but also blind spots and limits.



Oliver, E., Redondo-Sama, G., de Aguilera, A. L., & Burgues-Freitas, A. (2023). Research agenda to engage citizens in science through social media communicative observations. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 10(1): 1-4.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-023-01954-x>

Sonnberger, M., Bleicher, A. & Groß, M. (eds.)(2023) *Handbuch Umweltsoziologie*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

This handbook captures the state of the art of environmental sociology in German-speaking countries and beyond, addressing both theoretical and conceptual advancements and methodological innovations. It also covers current and promising future research on nature-society relations. The list of editors and contributors includes RC24 members from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

An ebook edition of this title is available. Further details can be found [here](#).



Stoddart, M. C., Bernharðsdóttir, Á. E., & Yang, Y. (2024). Regionalizing the Sustainable Development Goals for Island Societies: Lessons From Iceland and Newfoundland. *Island Studies Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.24043/001c.94616>

Telesiene, A., & Hadler, M. (2023). Dynamics and landscape of academic discourse on environmental attitudes and behaviors since the 1970s. *Frontiers in Sociology*, 8, 1136972. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2023.1136972>

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