



Environment
and Society

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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

Greetings from a very chilly Melbourne while many parts of the world are experiencing their hottest days ever. Increasing weather extremes are a tangible reminder of the importance of our intellectual work - to promote a sophisticated and deep understanding of our socio-environmental systems and work toward progressive adaptation and change.

It is a great honour and pleasure to take on the role of RC24 President for the 2023-2027 term. I would like to begin by sincerely **thanking the outgoing RC24 board** for their service, particularly for keeping our association going through the pandemic and for an extended term. Enormous thanks to our outgoing president Debra Davidson for her intellectual contribution to environmental sociology (as recognised by the Buttell award) but also for sustained work in creating opportunities, promoting inclusion and keeping us all connected. Thanks to Rolf Lidskog for excellent service as Vice President - forming and leading sub-committees and wrangling our website. Sincere thanks to outgoing treasurer Saburo Horikawa for keeping meticulous records, for dealing with the Japanese banking system on our behalf and for acting as our unofficial congress photographer. Warm thanks also to outgoing board members Dayong Hong, Sadegh Salehi and Pradip Swarnakar.

Special thanks to those who are staying on for another term. Thanks to Henrike Rau our excellent secretary for managing RC24 communications and writing and editing our newsletters. It is wonderful that Henrike has agreed to stay on the board for another term as secretary. Warm thanks to Catherine Wong and Mark Soddart for your work as board members and for stepping up to new roles in the board for the current term – Catherine as Vice President and Mark as treasurer. Thanks also to Lotsmart Fonjong for service on the board and for staying on for another term. A very warm welcome to new board members Hiromi Yamashita, Kerry Ard, Ajiang Chen, Josephine Dionisio and María Gabriela Merlinsky.

It was marvellous to have so many RC24 members in Melbourne and attending online at the long-anticipated **20th ISA World Congress**. Some 4700 Sociologists attended from around the globe. RC24 pre-conference events included a session run by Catherine Wong for early career scholars on protecting their mental health. Another well attended event was chaired by Stewart Lockie (editor in chief of *Environmental Sociology*) on Public Sociology and Scholarly Communication, sponsored by the journal publisher Taylor and Francis. As usual, the congress sessions went from

early in the morning till late at night, with the **22 RC24 sessions** among the most inspiring. Many of the sessions had a mix of in person and hybrid presenters which was great for including people who were unable to attend in person. In practice though, there were challenges and technical glitches which were frustrating but handled with grace and generosity by the presenters and audiences alike. The RC24 dinner was a lovely evening allowing us to have more relaxing conversations over pasta and a glass of wine.

The **RC24 business meeting** went off without a hitch and demonstrated the strong position we are in as a research committee – we have a leading journal *Environmental Sociology* providing impressive academic impact, we have a stable membership base, we have the upcoming ISA Forum and Congress enabling our meetings, and we have money in the bank! This means we are well placed to take a fresh look at our purpose, goals and activities for the next four years – to build on our strengths and try new initiatives.

We had our **first meeting with the new board** in late July which was a great opportunity to share ideas and we are now in the process of planning activities that will appeal to our broad membership base. We are exploring ideas for advancing environmental sociology, supporting and enhancing global dialogue and supporting career development for our members. We will keep you posted on opportunities for you to participate via the newsletter and mailing list in the coming months. I look forward to working with you all and please don't hesitate to email me with any suggestions you may have.

Very best wishes

Jo Lindsay

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Henrike Rau
LMU Munich
henrike.rau@lmu.de

Dear RC24 members,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who thought that I should stay on the RC 24 committee - I am delighted to have been re-elected to the position of RC24 secretary, and I very much look forward to continuing my active involvement in RC24 activities. I would also like to sincerely thank all outgoing RC24 board members - Debra Davidson, Rolf Lidskog, Saburo Horikawa, Dayong Hong, Sadegh Salehi and Pradip Swarnakar. It was an absolute pleasure working with you over the past 5 years and I wish you all the best for your future endeavours within ISA, RC24 and beyond! I'm particularly delighted to have received the news that our former president

Debra Davidson has been elected to the ISA Executive Committee 2023-2027. Congratulations Debra!

In my role as RC24 secretary, I will continue to look after our biannual newsletter for the next four years, a task that I very much enjoy. Our newsletters are always a great opportunity to showcase research and teaching activities that RC24 members are engaged in the world over. The contributions I received clearly reflect the broad-ranging and diverse work of a very enthusiastic and active international research community. **Many thanks to all RC24 members who contributed to this newsletter!**

Our next newsletter will be published in December 2023. **Please send me your contributions by 15th November 2023.** 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

35th International Geographical Congress 2024: Celebrating a World of Difference

August 24-30, 2024, Dublin, Ireland

This international conference explicitly addresses complex interactions between people, place and the natural world. Proposed themes include 'Transitioning to low-carbon economies and societies', 'Climate reconstruction, adaptation and mitigation', 'Transport, mobilities and spatial change' and 'Risk, resilience and sustainability'.

A call for sessions is now open and closes on September 9, 2023. The call for paper abstracts will open in October 2023 and close on Friday January 12th 2024. Further details [HERE](#).

16th ESA Conference 2024: Tension, Trust & Transformation

August 27-30, 2024, Porto, Portugal

More information [HERE](#)

2nd Swedish Climate Symposium: Climate Research: Science, Society, Responses

May 15-17, 2024, Norrköping, Sweden

A call for submissions will open in October 2023.

More information [HERE](#).

ICESEP 2024: 18th International Conference on Environmental Sociology and Environmental Problems

August 23-24, 2024, Budapest, Hungary

NB: The submission deadline for this conference has already passed. More information [HERE](#).

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

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Debra Davidson receives Frederick H. Buttel Award at ISA World Congress 2023



RC24 Vice President Rolf Lidskog presents RC24 President Debra Davidson with the Frederick H. Buttel Award 2023 at ISA World Congress 2023 in Melbourne. (Photo: Saburo Horikawa)

The Frederick H. Buttel International Award was established in 2005 to recognize and showcase outstanding contributions by individual scholars to the study of environment-society relations. Previous winners include Michael Redclift, Arthur Mol, Timmons Roberts and Matthias Groß.

Debra Davidson, winner of the 2023 Frederick H. Buttel International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology, is Professor of Environmental Sociology at the University of Alberta, Canada. She specialises in research on the socio-political dimensions of climate change, agrifood and energy systems, focusing on links between risk, equity and justice. Debra Davidson has received international recognition for her work on gender, emotions and environmental risk. Her work on metabolism and gender has been extremely important in advancing epistemological discussions in environmental sociology. Her publications record includes highly cited articles in leading journals such as *Society and Natural Resources*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *Environmental Sociology* and *Nature Climate Change* as well as books and edited collections with leading international publishers. Her co-edited book "Environment and society: Concepts and Challenges" is considered a key text in environmental sociology.

The Buttel Award Committee explicitly recognized her to be an outstanding senior sociologist with international reach and respect.

RECENT MEMBER ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH NOTES

Successful SCORAI-ERSCP Conference 2023 in Wageningen

by Henrike Rau

This year's joint 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 the 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](#).

Environmental Policy is Social Policy!

by Isidor Wallimann

Reflecting on his previous research on the interlinkages between environmental and social policy, RC24 lifetime member Prof. Isidor Wallimann offers important insights that could inform future social science work on this topic. 'The unity between environmental and social policy is significant, and to treat them as separate spheres, is highly problematic. Any separation comes at the cost of policy efficiency and at the expense of perverse effects. One policy domain may explicitly or implicitly counteract – or even outright "sabotage" – the other. Furthermore, to maintain them as the separate and uncoordinated policy fields they are today stands in the way of attaining social and environmental sustainability. It is even counterproductive to that goal. Sustainability – an often and highly acclaimed goal – would under these circumstances remain but rhetoric. The case is made, then, that social and environmental problems and their policy fields should best be envisioned, conceived and practiced in conjunction with each other. Thus, they become parts of one integrated policy field.' Interested readers may wish to consult the 2013 collection of articles edited by Prof. Wallimann.

Wallimann, I. (ed.)(2013) *Environmental Policy is Social Policy – Social Policy is Environmental Policy: Toward Sustainability Policy*. Springer

PUBLICATIONS

Fonjong, L. & Zama, R.N. (2023) Climate change, water availability, and the burden of rural women's triple role in Muyuka, Cameroon. *Global Environmental Change*, 82, 102709

Gustafsson, K. M. & Lidskog, R. (2023) Expertise for policy-relevant knowledge. IPBES's epistemic infrastructure and guidance to make environmental assessments. *Journal of Integrative Environmental Sciences*, 20(1), 2187844.

Joshi, B., & Swarnakar, P. (2023) How fair is our air? The injustice of procedure, distribution, and recognition within the discourse of air pollution in Delhi, India. *Environmental Sociology*, 9(2), 176-189.

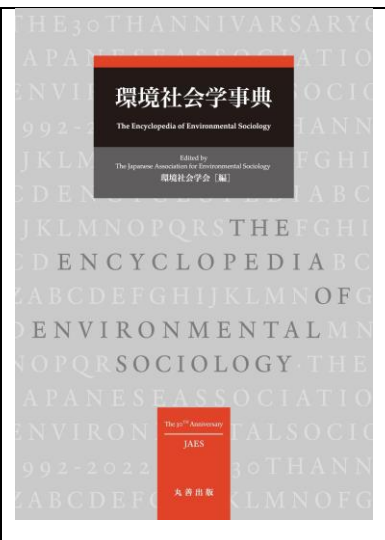
Karsgaard, C. & Davidson, D. (2023) Must we wait for youth to speak out before we listen? International youth perspectives and climate change education. *Educational Review*, 75(1), 74-92.

Malloy, J. T., Ashcraft, C. M., Kirshen, P., Safford, T. G., Aytur, S. A. & Rogers, S. H. (2022) Implementing just climate adaptation policy: An analysis of recognition, framing, and advocacy coalitions in Boston, USA. *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities*, 4, 928230.

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.

Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology (ed.) (2023) The Encyclopedia of Environmental Sociology. Tokyo: Maruzen (in Japanese).

This encyclopedia is a part of the 30th anniversary celebration of the Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology (JAES). More than 150 members of the JAES contributed to this 718-page collection of articles, spending 3 years to complete it. The result is the most comprehensive account of Japanese environmental sociology today, including coverage of historical milestones, major theoretical developments and linkages with the international research community.

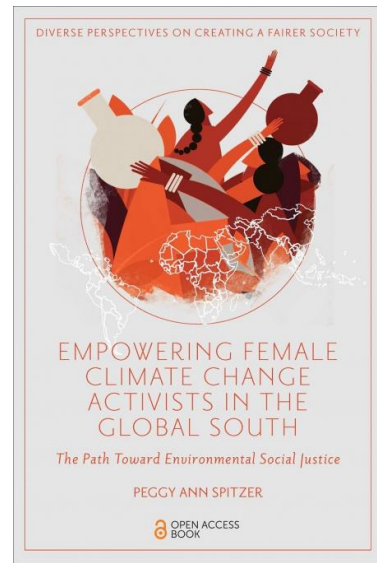


Salehi, S. & Pazokinejad, Z. (2022) Household energy consumption and its social determinants in Mazandaran. *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*, DOI: [10.1080/13511610.2022.2092076](https://doi.org/10.1080/13511610.2022.2092076)

Spitzer, P. (2023) Empowering Female Climate Change Activists in the Global South: The Path Toward Environmental Social Justice. Emerald Publishing Limited.

The COP27 climate change conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, made it clear that fighting global warming will require continuing commitment, cooperation, and collaborative action from multiple constituencies across the globe. Urging readers from the Global North to rethink their approaches and potential contributions to long-term change, *Empowering Female Climate Change Activists in the Global South* explains how women climate change leaders are confronting patriarchal structures to achieve social justice. Drawing on eighty-five original interviews, Peg Ann Spitzer examines the lived experiences of woman climate change activists in rural areas around the world. Suggesting ways in which successful climate change amelioration and adaptation led by women in the Global South may be replicated elsewhere, Spitzer also considers how NGOs and other organizations from the Global North can best contribute to facilitating positive changes in the communities where they work by focusing on empathetic cooperation.

The ebook edition of this title is Open Access, thanks to Knowledge Unlatched funding, and freely available to read online. Further details can be found [here](#).



Stackhouse, M., Ramos, H., Foster, K., & Stoddart, M. C. (2023) Perceptions of local environment change and ecological habitus. *Environmental Sociology*, 1-18.

Tàbara, J.D. (2023) Regenerative sustainability. A relational model of possibilities for the emergence of positive tipping points. *Environmental Sociology*, DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2023.2239538

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>

White, J. M. & Lidskog, R. (2023) Pluralism, paralysis, practice: making environmental knowledge usable. *Ecosystems and People*, 19(1), 2160822.

The RC24 Board 2023-2027

Executive:

Jo Lindsay (President, Australia)
Catherine Wong (Vice president, Singapore)
Henrike Rau (Secretary, Germany)
Mark Stoddart (Treasurer, Canada)

Board of Governors:

Kerry Ard (USA)
Ajiang Chen (China)
Josephine Dionisio (The Philippines)
Lotsmart Fonjong (Cameroon)
María Gabriela Merlinsky (Argentina)
Hiromi Yamashita (Japan)

Past-presidents:

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

Please consult the [RC24 Website](#) for information about:

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