

# ENVIRONMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

Number 63

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## NEWSLETTER OF THE SECTION ON ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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**Contributing Editors**

*Open for self-nominations*

## UNCOMMON FUTURES: THE RHETORIC AND REALITY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Donald Edward Davis  
Department of Sociology  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37849

### *COMMON FUTURES*: THE BRUNDTLAND COMMISSION REPORT

In the early 1980s, the growing pressure for some kind of concerted international action on global environmental degradation led the United Nations in 1983 to set up the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission). This commission, chaired by the prime minister of Norway, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, was framed by representatives from 21 countries from all regions of the world. The task of this commission was to: 1) study the critical environmental and development problems and formulate realistic proposals for addressing them; 2) suggest new forms of international cooperation intended to promote the changes needed to solve these problems; and 3) raise the awareness of individuals, activists, non-government organizations (NGOs), business enterprises, institutes and governments and to increase their readiness to take policy action. After three years, this group of leading scientists, senior civil servants and politicians (more than half from developing countries), submitted its final report to the 42nd General Assembly of the United Nations. An earlier version of the report, entitled *Our Common Future*, has affected development policy in most countries around the globe. Its recommendations have influenced the development agendas of collectives as small as rural cooperatives and NGOs and international organizations as large as the Organization for Economic Development (OECD) and the World Bank.

Not only has the report laid the groundwork for a new way of approaching development in the First and Third Worlds, it had also identified and documented the close connection between poverty, the development process, and environmental degradation.

By far the most far-reaching concept promoted by the Brundtland Commission is the notion of economic and environmental sustainability. The commission argues that most forms of development erode the environmental

resources upon which they are based. As the report itself notes, "economic growth always brings risk of environmental damage, as it puts increased pressure on environmental resources" (WCED 1987, p. 40). Because environmental degradation ultimately undermines economic development, the commission argues that all countries--rich and poor--must shift from growth economies to ones promoting "sustainable development." Sustainable development, for the Brundtland Commission, refers to all development paths that are environmentally benign or beneficial. According to the Commission, "sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (WCED 1987:43). In accomplishing this goal, sustainable development should promote "intergenerational responsibility" (Brundtland 1989).

### UNCOMMON FUTURES: BEYOND BRUNDTLAND?

In his assessment of the Brundtland Commission report as it applies to food security in Latin America, Michael Redclift (1989) noted that while many of the proposals of the Brundtland Commission are sensible and practical, most will be difficult to implement--at least in the near future. For a start, it is unlikely that transnational corporations who ultimately jeopardize sustainable development in the region can be forced to change their development practices and policies.

On the issue of land reform, which the Brundtland Commission advocates in its report's "equity" section, (p. 141), Redclift reminds us that "land redistribution has not been common in Latin America and grievances over the present distribution of land lie behind most rural solidarity movements" (1989:375). For land reform to be successful, a program of land redistribution would have to be integrated with already existing rural development

programs, which have, as the Commission itself acknowledges, many institutional requirements and pitfalls of their own (WCED 1987, p. 143). Redclift maintains that the beneficiaries of most integrated rural development programs in Latin America have not been the poorest farmers, but "those best able to exploit market opportunities" (Redclift 1987:374).

In his critique of development goals that gloss over the importance of poor people involvement, Richard Chambers has stated that development can be sustainable only if the priorities of the poor and most exploited are put first: "environment and development are for people, not people for environment and development" (1986:7). Chambers considers the rhetoric of sustainable development, as adopted by the Brundtland Commission and others, to be a part of a discourse that ignores the primary and more immediate needs of the poor. It is presumptuous for the First World to think that those living in abject poverty--who are concerned only with immediate survival needs--should give priority to environmental or economic sustainability. By putting emphasis on ecological considerations (such as sustainability), to the exclusion of others (the needs of the poor), there is a danger that sustainable development, by restricting the poor's use of natural resources, will become simply another instrument of first world oppression.

A similar and equally provocative critique of sustainable development is made by scholar Ivan Illich (1989), who lives in a small village on the slopes of the Sierra Madre near Mexico City. Illich believes that because the concept sustainable development belongs primarily to a development discourse, it ultimately seeks to make undeveloped countries into developed ones. For Illich, any discussion of development, sustainable or otherwise, leads us away from promoting and adopting "subsistence" economies toward ones that seek growth, change, and ultimately market expansion. For Illich, the answer is not sustainability but subsistence, which for him is simply living within the limits of basic human needs. The concept "sustainable development" is, in Illich's view, an oxymoron since 'sustainable' is the language of balance and limits and 'development' is the language of more" (1989:21). Illich is therefore not surprised

to find the Brundtland Commission--in the name of "green thinking"--supporting economic growth in all LDC countries (Brundtland 1987:43).

Illich is certainly not alone in his more radical criticism of sustainable development. A number of other thinkers (e.g. Shiva 1989, Court 1989) have pointed out many of the contradictions inherent in the concept and practice. Most of these scholars claim that the report does not go far enough in placing responsibility for alleviating these problems in the hands and hearts of Western nations. In practice, development projects are too often controlled by bilateral agencies whose employees are ignorant of local needs, institutions, and opportunities (During 1989).

#### DEVELOPMENT OR SUBSISTENCE?

In the last decade, sustainable development has become an important concept in development circles around the globe. A major theme behind the proposals of the Brundtland Commission report, sustainable development had influenced the policy decisions of both Third World co-operatives and international development organizations such as the World Bank. While the concept has more than a twenty-year history, it had been only in the last few years that the term has received widespread attention in international development circles. While we find some differences in how the term is used historically (and across organizations), there is consensus that the term, as presently defined, presents us with a new and radical way of discussing modern development goals.

In sum, the disagreement on the issue of sustainable development centers mostly around the issue of "right implementation." In practice, will sustainable development projects benefit the poor, the middle-class, or the rich? Ecodevelopers like Glaeser (Farvar & Glaeser 1979; Glaeser 1984), are quick to point out the many practical pitfalls of implementing sustainable development projects at the grassroots level. Robert Chambers (1986) argues that by placing too much emphasis on ecological concerns, sustainable development limits its ability to alleviate poverty among the Third World's poorest populations. Redclift

(1989), sees many possibilities in the Brundtland Commission report, but warns us of the many institutional and organizational obstacles in actually implementing a sustainable development agenda.

Others (e.g., Shiva 1989, Illich, 1989, Sachs, 1989) argue that sustainable development will ultimately have detrimental effect on the "subsistence" economies of the Third World. They instead call for the more active reconstruction of indigenous wisdom and for the preservation of traditional forms of social organization. They see inherent contradictions in the concept of development itself and see sustainable development as a western notion that ultimately benefits western nations. These critics view the Brundtland Commission report as a "top-down" document that wrongly uses Western standards to measure economic growth and poverty.

In one of the most comprehensive critiques of the Brundtland Commission report to date, Thijs de la Court (1990) argues that the goals of sustainable development should be recast in a more discerning theoretical framework. In order to create a much more root and branch alternative to the development model of the Brundtland Commission, Court (1990:135) offers six guiding principles that could help determine which development projects will truly promote environmental, economic, and cultural sustainability.

1.The principle of the **cultural and social integrity** of development: development must grow from within, and not be slapped on from the outside.

2.The **ecological** principle: development must be compatible with and restore diversity and relay on sustainable forms of resource use.

3.The **solidarity** principle: development must provide the basic necessities of life and secure living conditions for all people, promote equity, and avoid unequal exchange.

4.The **emancipation** principle: development must foster self-reliance, local control over resources, empowerment and participation by the underprivileged and marginalized, and opportunities for action people can feel is fulfilling.

5.The **non-violence** principle: development must be peaceful, both in the direct sense (the non-use of psychical violence) and in the structural sense (violence as embodied in the institutions of society).

6.The principle of **error friendliness**: development must allow for mistakes without endangering the integrity of the immediate ecosystem and resource base (Court 1990:136).

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## **1991 ASA ENVIRONMENTAL SESSIONS IN CINCINNATI**

### **1. Section Program**

The following are the two main sessions and the roundtables currently scheduled for the Cincinnati meetings. Some changes may occur between now and the final meeting schedule. Members interested in serving as presiders and discussants should contact Allan Schnaiberg as soon as possible.

#### **MAIN SESSION I: MULTIDIMENSIONAL EXPERIENCING OF HAZARDS**

"Workplace hazardous exposures and personality"  
Timmon Roberts, Johns Hopkins University

"Hazardous waste on television and in popular magazines."  
Andrew Szasz, Univ. California Santa Cruz

"Environmental activism & the intersection of race, class and gender: patterns in central Texas."  
Claire McAdams, Southwestern Univ.

"It's hard to keep a good town down: local recovery efforts in the aftermath of toxic contamination."  
Marilyn Aronoff & Valerie Gunter, Michigan State

#### **MAIN SESSION II: DIFFERENTIALS IN SOCIAL MOBILIZATION**

"Social differentiation and the war of the growth machines: a panel analysis."  
Craig R. Humphrey & Robert J. Wahl,  
Pennsylvania State University

"Revitalization: the effect of activism on the community surrounding the Tug Hill landfill site."  
Beth B. Degutis, Univ. of Tennessee

"Environmentalism among nation states."  
Thomas Dietz, George Mason Univ. & Linda Kalof, SUNY-Plattsburgh

"Ecological movement model: a theoretical framework."  
William Babiuch, Notre Dame

Discussant: Marvin E. Olsen, Michigan State University

#### **ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS**

##### **1: SEEING THE FOREST THROUGH THE TREES**

"Desertification and tropical deforestation: a comparative historical analysis."  
Thomas K. Rudel, Dept. of Human Ecology, Cook College, Rutgers Univ.

"Frontier development and its feasibility: the case of the Brazilian Amazon."  
Franklin Goza & Donald Sawyer, Bowling Green State U. & CEDEPLAR

"Rural poverty and control of forest degradation through forest sector employment: some theoretical observations."  
William Sunderlin, Cornell U.

##### **2: MOBILIZATION FOR ENERGY CHANGE**

"Public opinion about energy efficiency & renewable energy technologies."  
Barbara C. Farhar, Solar Energy Research Institute

"Solar energy technologies and soft path preferences."  
Dora Lodwick, Soc/Anthro, Miami Univ.

"The energy consumption turnaround & socioeconomic well-being in industrial societies in the 1980's."  
Marvin E. Olsen, Michigan State University

### **3: IS ENVIRONMENTALISM REGRESSIVE?**

"Recycling vs. remanufacturing: redistributive realities."  
Allan Schnaiberg, Northwestern Univ.

"Community Right to Know and the environment: reconceptualizing the law"  
Adam Weinberg, Northwestern Univ.

"Putting the (W)R.A.P.S on public participation: remedial action planning and working-class power in the Great Lakes"  
Kenneth Gould, St. Lawrence Univ.

### **4: DIFFERENTIATION IN ENERGY USAGE**

"Estimating the energy required to maintain social structure."  
Thomas S. Lough, Soc/Anthro, Kent State Univ.

"Class, consumption, and climate change."  
Loren Lutzenheimer, Washington State Univ.

### **5: INEQUALITIES IN RISKS/RESPONSES**

"The struggle against the poisoning of Harlan County's Dayhoit: fighting the good fight."  
Roy Silver, SE Community College, Univ. of Kentucky

"Disputes & dispute resolution in local environmental conflicts."  
Emilie Schmeidler, Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University

## **2. SESSION ON ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

Organizer: Carole L. Seyfrit, Mississippi State Univ.

Presider: Riley E. Dunlap, Washington State Univ.

"The intersection of technological & environmental constraints in the international aluminum industry." Stephen Bunker, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison

"Sociology & agroforestry in Haiti: a third world development success story." Paul D. Starr, The South-Eastern Consortium for International Development, & Auburn Un.

"The impact of a boom/bust economy on poverty." Sarah Brabant & Robert Gramling, Univ. of Southwestern Louisiana

"Who will leave? Oil, migration & Scottish island youth." Carole L. Seyfrit, Mississippi State Un. & Lawrence C. Hamilton, Univ. of New Hampshire

### **3. SPECIAL SESSION ON ENVIRONMENT & THE GRASSROOTS: THE DYNAMICS OF RACE, CLASS, & GENDER**

Organizer/Presider: Celene Krauss, Kean College of New Jersey

"Organizing against environmental racism." Robert D. Bullard, Univ. of California, Riverside

"Women & ecological crisis in India: Local roots of global issues." Brinda Rao, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz

"Made in the USA: Latino environmental discourses & their relation to mainstream environmentalism." Barbara D. Lynch, Cornell Univ.

"Community, class, and contamination: Toxic waste protests in Arkansas." Stella Capek, Hendrix College

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### ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY GROUP FORMED WITHIN ISA

A new organizational base for environmental sociology has just been created within the International Sociological Association, with the formation of a "Working Group on Environment and Society" at the recent ISA World Congress of Sociology in Madrid. The purpose of this brief notice is to provide information on the development of this new group, and to solicit support for it from those of you with international interests. But first we want to give a bit of background in the ISA and two other ISA groups of relevance to environmental sociology.

The ISA, which is worldwide in membership and governance, consists of numerous Research Committees and Working Groups which are organized around the many specialties within sociology (e.g., theory, social psychology, family work and occupations). Each Research Committee and Working group has a governing board of elected officers that formulates and promulgates policies, and they often hold conferences in between the World Congresses (held every four years) and issue publications. A crucial benefit for a specialty area that attains the status of a Research Committee is that it is allotted eight or nine sessions at each World Congress (Working Groups generally seem to have fewer sessions, although the precise number is not clear to us).

Many members of the ASA Section on Environment and Technology have actively participated in the ISA Working Group on Housing and the Built Environment, a group which has been quite active for several years in terms of organizing conferences and issuing publications (which just evolved into a Research Committee in Madrid). Some also belong to the Research Committee on Social Ecology (RC 24), although it is heavily oriented toward urban ecology and demography. While RC 24 has shown a growing interest in environmental issues (e.g., Riley Dunlap organized a session on "Social Impacts of Global Environmental Change" for RC 24 at the World Congress in Madrid), it

seems likely that environmental sociology will remain a minor focus of that committee.

Thus, the formation of an ISA Working Group on Environment and Society offers an excellent opportunity for environmental sociologists not specifically interested in the built environment to become active within the ISA. The new group was initiated by Gyorgy Szell of West Germany and August Gijswijt of the Netherlands. They formed an "Ad Hoc Group on Environmental Issues" (basically a mailing list of primarily European social scientists) prior to Madrid. The formation of such an *ad hoc* group was the first required step on the way to achieve research committee status (which must be granted by the ISA Executive Committee.) The next step is to meet the requirements (via membership size and distribution across nations) of a "Working Group". Presumably, after holding such status for two years, and upon approval of the ISA Executive Committee, a group is granted Research Committee Status. This automatically qualifies it for eight or nine sessions at each World Congress.

The Ad Hoc Group on Environmental Issues held a business meeting in Madrid, during which Szell informed those present that the group had met the requirements for becoming a Working Group (which will be its status for at least the next two years). After two years, that group will, hopefully, be granted Research Committee status.

There were two main issues for the meeting. First, after some discussion the name of the Working Group (and the eventual Research Committee) arrived at was "Working Group on Environment and Society". The second major issue with the election of officers and members of the board for the new group. Gyorgy Szell was elected Chairman, Manuel Castells of the University of Madrid, Vice-Chairman, and Denis Suclos of Paris, Secretary. Both of us were elected to the Board, as were Fred Buttel and Tom Dietz.

As noted above, we think the new Working Group promises to provide an excellent organizational base within the ISA for environmental sociologists, one which will nicely complement the Working Group on Housing and the Built Environment and the

Research Committee on Social Ecology. To maintain its current status, and eventually achieve Research Committee status, the group must attract several dozen members from a number of countries. We therefore urge those of you with international interests to consider joining ISA and the Working Group on Environment and Society.

Membership in the ISA requires the completion of a very brief application accompanied by a membership fee of \$25. Similarly, membership in the Working Group on Environment and Society requires the completion of a brief application, but--because it has yet to initiate a dues--no money need accompany the application. Rosa has ample copies of both application forms and would be pleased to provide them on request. For information on the Research Committee on Housing and the Built Environment, contact Willem Van Vliet (Dept. of Sociology, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309) and for information on the Research Committee on Social Ecology contact John Kasarda (Dept. of Sociology, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514).

**Gena Rosa & Riley Dunlap**

Department of Sociology  
Washington State University  
Pullman, WA 99164

### NEW PUBLICATIONS

#### *Advances In Human Ecology*, Volume 1

All the papers in this volume adopt a transdisciplinary attitude, and several contain explicit arguments in behalf of it. The first two papers illustrate their arguments by utilizing interspecific comparative methods that are employed for evolutionary analyses about forms of human sociality.

Alexandra Maryanski provides a detailed network analysis of data on the social bonds of contemporary Old World monkeys and apes; taking into account their patterns of dispersal (migration), so that she may inter social structural characters of the last ancestor common to apes and humans. Maryanski's conclusion is shocking for the received view

in contemporary social science theory: Human beings are not as social as we think we are. Richard Machalek likewise makes evolutionary comparisons, but between two phylogenetically-remote groups of social animals -- humans and ants. Wanting to know why just these and the other social insects, but not social animals much closer to humans, have ever evolved large societies, Machalek analyzes the conditions that promote evolutionary selection for macrosocieties.

Evolution figures significantly into the next two papers also, but now as a ground and vital center for metatheoretical arguments about the inherent transdisciplinarity of basic ecological ideas. William R. Catton, Jr., whose grist is ecological communities and divisions of labor, argues forcefully against the long standing tendency of sociological human ecology to divorce itself from general ecology. Jeffrey S. Wicken, by training a biochemist, ranges from Darwin, Kant, Marx, and Freud, and into thermodynamics, to trace the theme of ecological relationality and to situate it in perspective.

There follow two papers devoted, each in its turn, to a major concept often suggested to be essential for general human ecological theory. For Gerald L. Young the concept is hierarchy. Young surveys numerous connotations and interpretations the concept has come to have, reviews a variety of hierarchical organizational forms observed in nature, and illustrates the tendency to conceptually impose hierarchical forms in the organization of human experience. Young concludes that the understanding of hierarchies is, indeed, essential to human ecological theory. For C. Dyke the concept at issue is entropy. Thermodynamics has been seductive for the ecologically-minded for a long time, and there have been many interpretations of the Second Law. Dyke charts through this minefield a path along which all must venture to find entropy (and themselves) intact. He does so with respect to economic systems, which he takes to be dependent upon ecosystems.

Economic systems and their connections to ecological systems take center stage in the paper by R. Kerry Turner and

David W. Pearce. They suggest how the calculus of benefit-cost analysis can be modified to incorporate a rule that permits sustainable development and maintains intergenerational equity and environmental quality. The final paper, by Marvin E. Olsen, addresses one facet of the general relationship between sociophysical energy flows and the political economy and development of societies. Olsen analyzes comprehensive data for the industrialized nations in order to assess when energy consumption is and is not coupled with economic productivity and social well-being.

Lee Freese, Editor

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### Applied/Practice Directory

The ASA and the Society for Applied Sociology announce the availability of the 1991 Directory of *Graduate Programs in Applied Sociology & Sociological Practice*. This 48-page directory lists the details of 118 graduate programs that offer applied or practice components. It provides information that will be useful to both the students seeking applied or practice concentrations, and to departments interested in developing such components. The directory will be a useful addition to your departmental reference holdings and to your own private library. Copies are available [\$5.00] from:

ASA Teaching Services Program  
1711 N. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

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### On Radical Environmentalism

Riley Dunlap reports the availability of two recent publications on the "radical wing" of the environmental movement.

Christopher Manes, author of *Green Rage: Radical Environmentalism and the Unmaking of Civilization* [Little Brown, 1990], is completing a Ph.D. in English at

the University of Oregon and a law degree at the University of California.

Rik Scarce, who has just begun his doctoral work in environmental sociology at Washington State, has published a book entitled *Eco-Warriors: Understanding the Radical Environmental Movement* [Noble Press, 1990]. He has degrees in journalism and political science.

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### MEETINGS & SYMPOSIA

The fourth North American Symposium and Resource Management is scheduled to meet in Madison, Wisconsin on **May 17-20**. It will focus on the integration of social and biological sciences as they together address natural resource and environmental issues. For further information contact: Donald R. Field, Program Chair, School of Natural Resources, 1450 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706.

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An International Conference on Social, Psychosocial & Cultural Aspects of Safety in the Offshore Oil Industry will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada in **February 1992**. It is sponsored by the Offshore Oil Project of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, of Memorial University. A variety of topics related to offshore oil development will be included. Potential paper presenters and session organizers are being solicited, from both academic and non-academic participants. Comparative and policy-related research is especially welcomed. Contact:

Mark Shrimpton, Senior Research Fellow  
Offshore Oil Project, Inst. of Social &  
Economic Research  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
St. John's NFLD, Canada A1C 5S7  
PHONE: 709-737-3116  
FAX: 709-737-4000

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### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The ASA Teaching Resources Center is currently in the process of revising and updating *Environmental Sociology: A Collection of Course Syllabi*. Given the increasing interest in environmental issues and the public's ever-changing attitudes towards them, this collection is timely and will be very helpful in the development and refining of environmental sociology courses.

Individuals interested in submitting related course syllabi and supplemental materials (and a diskette copy in an IBM-compatible word-processing format, if possible), for inclusion in this collection should **send materials immediately** (because the original deadline has passed), to:

AnneMarie Scarisbrick-Hauser  
Assistant Director, Survey Research Center  
The University of Akron  
Akron, Ohio 44325-1904

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### NATIONAL INSTITUTES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: THE NETWORK

A national network of supporters of a proposal to establish the National Institutes for the Environment [NIE] has been developing in the past year and a half. The Committee for the NIE has four objectives:

1. environmental health should be treated as seriously as human health (through NIH);
2. NIE should establish mission-oriented research, between pure and applied tasks;
3. interdisciplinary integration should be promoted (natural and social sciences and engineering);
4. the government should investigate the possibility of a new agency or one under the auspices of a cabinet-level department, to deal with environmental issues.

A variety of statements in support and outline of these goals are available, through the Committee for the National Institutes for the Environment. They are eager for people to work on the various subcommittees,

including the **Institute of Human Environments**, the one that would most centrally involve our members. Contacts are:

Dr. Stephen P. Hubbell  
Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  
Princeton University  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
[609-256-6797; FAX 609-258-5323]

Dr. Henry F. Howe  
Biological Sciences (M/C 066)  
University of Illinois  
Box 4348  
Chicago, IL 60680  
[312-996-0666; FAX 312-996-2017]

Dr. David E. Blockstein, Director  
NIE Committee-Washington Office  
730 11th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-4521  
[202-628-4303; FAX 202-628-4311]

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### PUBLICATION OUTLETS

The *Journal of Applied Sociology* welcomes articles on social policy, applied research, social intervention, program evaluation and/or planning, and teaching. The journal is sponsored by the Society for Applied Sociology. Send manuscripts and questions to:

John S. Miller, Co-editor  
Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
2801 South University  
Little Rock, AK 72204-1099  
[501-569-3234; FAX 501-569-8775]

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Urs E. Gattiker welcomes submissions for volume 4 of his book series, *Technology Management in Organizations*, published by Sage Publications. As well, he edits a book series on Studies in Technological Innovation & Human Resources, which has a special issue on *Women and Technology* forthcoming. Finally, he edits a journal called

*Technology Studies*, for which he welcomes papers. Both journals are published by Walter de Gruyter. Contact him at:

Faculty of Management  
The University of Lethbridge  
4401 University Drive  
Lethbridge, Alberta  
Canada T1K 3M4  
[403-329-2630/2152; FAX 403-329-2038]

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### MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND NOTES

**Carole Seyfrit** [Mississippi State University] has been studying two groups of rural youth in Newfoundland, under a grant from the Institute of Social & Economic Research, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. The study attempts to evaluate youths' responses to a large oil platform site, in a comparative design. She has done some field work and presented a paper at ISER on "Adolescents and oil: social impacts of energy development on rural youth."

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**Donald Davis** [University of Tennessee] has published a second edition of his annotated bibliography, *Ecophilosophy: A Field Guide to the Literature* [San Pedro, CA: R & E Miles 1989]. He is currently collaborating with Jeremy Rifkin on his latest book, *Biosphere Politics: Redefining Personal, Cultural, and Environmental Security in the 21st Century* [forthcoming, May 1991, Crown Books].

He is also organizing an honors program roundtable on "environmental sociology" at the Cincinnati meetings.

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**J. Timmon Roberts**, in the graduate program in comparative international development at Johns Hopkins, is completing his thesis on community and family-level responses in an Amazon boomtown. The field work was done under a Fulbright Commission grant. He is also presenting some synthetic work linking psychological

factors to hazard research at the section's main session in Cincinnati.

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### SECTION BUSINESS

1. Nominations for the chair-elect of the section should be sent to Gary Williams, Social & Natural Resources Sections, Argonne National Laboratory, 9700 S. Cass Avenue, Argonne, IL 60439. Bill Freudenburg will be retiring, and Allan Schnaiberg succeeding him after the Cincinnati meetings.

2. Committee members to review **student papers** for this year's meetings are needed. Please contact Allan Schnaiberg if you are interested in reviewing these papers (about 4 or 5 so far, though Donald Davis may have more from his undergraduate honors session).

As well, Schnaiberg is looking for one or more faculty volunteers to serve as presider or discussant of a main session on hazardous wastes at the 1991 section meetings.

3. Articles for the Summer and Fall issues of this newsletter are welcomed, preferably submitted on computer disks.

TO: Members of the Environment and Technology Section, ASA  
FROM: Allan Schnaiberg, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University  
1810 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60208

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