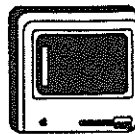


Environment, Technology, and Society



Newsletter of the Section on Environment and Technology
American Sociological Association

Winter 1992

Number 66

Testimony: Sociological Contributions to Environmental Research

Editor's Note: In the Fall of 1991 Congress requested that the National Research Council (NRC) undertake a study of the federal coordination, management and support of environmental research and training in the United States. In response to this request the Commission on Life Sciences formed a Committee on Environmental Research before which ASA Executive Officer Felice Levine was asked to testify regarding sociological contributions to environmental research. Several environmental sociologists were asked to respond to provide input to Dr. Levine's testimony. These included Penelope Canan, Marv Olsen, Bill Freudenburg, Carole Seyfrit, Allan Schnaiberg, Lorin Lutzenheiser, and Robert Gramling. Reprinted below is the text of Dr. Levine's testimony, presented at the Public Forum Committee on Environmental Research of the NRC on January 15, 1992. We plan to reprint all the input to this testimony as provided by the above members in subsequent editions of the Newsletter.

Testimony of the American Sociological Association
Presented at the Public Forum
Committee on Environmental Research
National Research Council
January 15, 1992

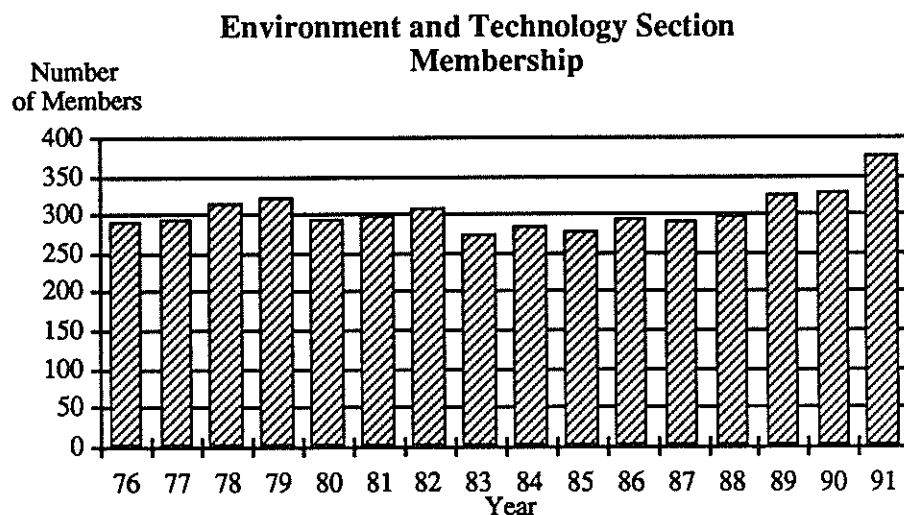
Thank you, Mr. Chairman and distinguished panel members, for the opportunity to present testimony before the Committee on Environmental Research. I share your concern about environmental issues and the importance of bringing the research community together to address them.

My name is Felice J. Levine, and I am the Executive Officer of the American Socio-

(continued on page 3)

Membership News

For many reasons membership growth is of critical importance to our Section. One of those reasons is the opportunity provided to us by the ASA to gain sessions at our annual meetings. Our Section has the opportunity to add one more session when we reach an annual membership level of 400 persons. As the chart below demonstrates, we are very close to that level now, having achieved steady growth over the past five years. We can achieve it with the addition of only 24 new members in 1992, assuming we do not drop any of our current members. As active members of our Section we should each make an effort to attract new members.



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Notes from the Editor

I received a phone call in December from Penelope Canan, our Chair-Elect, presenting me with an offer I didn't seem to be able to refuse. I have agreed to be the editor of our esteemed Section Newsletter, with the proviso that Penelope would be a close collaborator and helper. Actually, after some initial trepidation, I embrace this opportunity to shepherd what many in the ASA (and of course all of us Section members) believe is the best of the Section Newsletters. In the course of undertaking this task, I plan to contact many of our membership in person (or by phone) this year to talk about what interesting research and professional activities our members are involved in. I am planning for a regular column in the Newsletter that summarizes such Section activities in an effort to improve communication and networking among Section members. We also will look at linkages outside our Section. So don't be surprised if I call, and be forewarned that I will be looking for good material to include in the Newsletter. The tear-out sheet is still at the back of the Newsletter, so please continue to send in your ideas in that format at any time.

You will notice a new look to the Newsletter layout. A colleague here at Battelle, Paul Zakian, is helping me develop the design in Pagemaker™. We are looking for good ideas, so let me know what you think. Regarding materials that you may submit to me

for publication, I would prefer that you send electronic versions of text files via my internet E-Mail address:

C_Cluett@PNL.GOV

I work on a Mac in Word 5. If you send Mac Word files, please save them first as unformatted text files, then send via e-mail. If you use other word processing systems, let me know what kind of file you are sending, and we can translate them at this end. Where formatting is critical (tables, etc.), it would be helpful to FAX me a copy of what you want it to look like. Try to keep articles no longer than 2,500 words.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Allan Schnalberg on behalf of all the membership for the outstanding job he has done over the past several years in managing the Newsletter while at the same time chairing our Section.

Ideas and suggestions on ways to improve our Newsletter are eagerly solicited. I look forward to talking with many of you.

Chris Cluett, Editor

Environment, Technology and Society Newsletter

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Paul Zakian

Publication Schedule

This newsletter will be published quarterly. Please try to have materials for the next edition of the newsletter reach me by May 15, 1992.

ASA Meeting Plans

This year's ASA meetings take place at the David L. Lawrence Convention/Exposition Center in Pittsburgh, PA August 20-24, 1992. Our Section is assigned day #2 at the meetings, Friday 8/21/92, a day that also includes the Presidential Plenary, ASA Awards Ceremony and the Honorary Reception. Because of the crowded schedule, we will hold our Section Reception jointly with the Section on Community and Urban Sociology on Thursday, 8/20/92. We have a substantial overlap in membership and interest areas, and it should be a good way to get to know each other even better. The Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 8/20/92 at 5:30 pm, prior to the Joint Reception, at a place to be announced. Our two Section Sessions will be held on Friday, 8/21/92. As announced in the Fall 1991 newsletter these Sessions will have the following themes:

- I: The State and Environmental Policy-making: Conflicts and Accommodations
- II: The "Environmental Coalition": Centrifugal vs. Centripetal Forces
(See page 8 for details)

Our Business Meeting will follow immediately after the Roundtable Session, Friday afternoon, 8/21/92.

Testimony (continued from page 1)

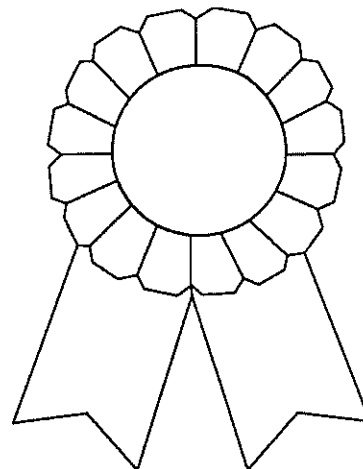
logical Association, a professional association of over 13,000 sociologists who are faculty, researchers, and practitioners. We have an active Section on Environmental Sociology and many of our members work in the area of environmental issues, science and technology, and community studies.

Today I draw on the work of my colleagues whose contributions to environmental research and policy highlight the centrality of human behavior. One of the most pressing needs in environmental research is to focus attention on understanding the human and institutional factors that are root causes of environmental problems. Also, human behavior shapes solutions to environmental damage.

We need to connect scientific discoveries about the environment with the human responses needed to make the discoveries work. For example, recycling is a feasible approach for some waste disposal, but it is a

Award Nominations

All Section members are invited to submit nominations for the 1993 "Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Sociology of Environment and Technology." The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals for outstanding service, innovation, or publication in environmental sociology or sociology of technology. Please submit your nominations (and supporting documentation) to **Penelope Canan**, Chair of the Awards Committee, University of Denver, Denver, CO 80208-0209.



human response that makes recycling work. Now that more people do recycle, we need more secondary uses (product development) for recycled materials. Another example of a technical solution stalled by human response is auto emissions. We know how to make strides to reduce emissions with cleaner fuels and more efficient cars, but consumer attitudes and buying habits must be understood and probably changed, to make use of these solutions.

The World Bank has invested billions of dollars in international development projects, many dealing with agriculture and environmental modifications (e.g., dams, deforestation, and roads). The Bank routinely uses sociologists and anthropologists as part of their planning teams to conduct social impact studies prior to beginning a project. The success of their projects in meeting development objectives has markedly increased as a result of this input, in tandem with data from engineers and agricultural experts. Social science has shown the significance of community leaders in decisionmaking, of community attitudes and resistance, of official and informal boundaries, of particular customs and habits that help or impede sound environmental practices.

Research Needs

With all the variety in human behavior, social scientists are able to conduct research and make useful generalizations. Let me proceed to give some examples of environmental research that needs immediate attention by social, biological, and natural science collaborators.

1. A most pressing issue is the control of toxic wastes, both in landfills and storage facilities. Wastes have an impact on agricultural activity and human

health. Social science research is needed on the impact of alternative regulatory regimes and the causes and consequences of different response strategies.

2. The diminishing water tables will have significant socioeconomic impact on our country. How limited water is claimed and distributed will shape our living patterns and quality of life. Social science research can advance our knowledge of how individuals, institutions, and even nations will adapt to and deal with this reality.
3. Deforestation through acid rainfall is another pressing environmental issue for forestry, marine production, and human health. Human dynamics and institutional actions are involved at every stage of the process and must be fully understood.
4. Patterns of migration, on an international scale, are shaped by environmental conditions (e.g., African drought, Kuwaiti oil fires, deforestation in the Amazon or Madagascar). Migration for these or more voluntary reasons puts pressure on the environment. Sociological research can illuminate these patterns.
5. Commercial development of the environment occurs in a sociopolitical context and these pressures must be systematically examined. For example, social science research can illuminate the trade-offs between short- and long-term economic gains and environmental and human costs in decision making about industrial development, site location of landfill or waste dumping projects, or the exploitation of certain global markets.

(continued on page 4)

Book Review

Sciulli, David. 1992. *Theory of Societal Constitutionalism: Foundations of a Non-Marxist Critical Theory*. Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press (Rose Monograph Series). ISBN: 0-521-41040-1.

The problem of social authoritarianism is commonplace in practice, and yet existing social theories fail to assist comparativists and other researchers in isolating this phenomenon. In the absence of a suitable conceptual framework, researchers treat manifestations of social authoritarianism simply as isolated instances of corporate crime or professional malpractice. Sciulli demonstrates, however, that when professions, corporations, and other private organizations exercise their collective power arbitrarily within a modern civil society, they are contributing to social authoritarianism—and not simply engaging in deviant or illegal behavior.

Whether social authoritarianism is increasing or decreasing across any given modern civil society—whether that of the United States of Japan, Mexico or Cuba, the Soviet Union or Poland, Iran or Zaire—is thereby revealed to be a distinctive, empirical issue, one independent of whether a nation-state's economy is market-based or its government is liberal-democratic. Given this issue's distinctiveness or irreducibility, Sciulli points out that American social scientists in particular, and Western social scientists in general, have no reason to assume that Western civil societies have necessarily institutionalized restraints on social authoritarianism, not, certainly, that non-Western civil societies have necessarily failed to do so. Instead, they have every reason to monitor, in both comparative and historical perspective, when such restraints are actually present within any civil society, and when they are absent or are being encroached against.

Testimony (continued from page 3)

6. Social science data can help to identify ways to make the economy environmentally sustainable. To reach such a goal, we will need alterations in our present industrial, distributional, transportation, and other systems. Community studies, for example, can provide input into the planning process about the interplay of political and economic dynamics in accomplishing change.
7. In the field of medicine, social science has been helpful in identifying why people do and do not comply with medical knowledge. Many health risks such as smoking are well documented and well known, and yet the risk-taking behavior continues. A majority of the American public have adopted an environmental perspective, but those beliefs and values have not been translated into lifestyles that actually benefit the environment, as my opening examples illustrated.
8. Social scientists can be helpful in understanding the environmental risks of different subpopulations. The impact of resource development and/or new technologies has different contours for women, youth, the elderly and so on.
9. International cooperation is one of the

most significant challenges for environmental integrity. Environmental damage transcends national boundaries, of course, but looking at the world community as context is important for other reasons. Whether formal government policies or cultural habits are the source, a country's resource use and population growth patterns must be understood in a cross-national context.

Suggestions for Change

These pressing environmental problems call for collaborative research. There are some impediments in the funding, structure, and organization of environmental research in the United States that limit the full contributions of social scientists. I suggest you focus in particular on the following issues:

1. Social scientists are underrepresented, and so, too, social science research, in the mission agencies that are central to work on the environment, namely the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Department of Energy. Social science receives more adequate support at the National Sci-

ence Foundation, where several new funding opportunities (e.g., Human Dimension of Global Environmental Change) are steps in the right direction. But resources at NSF need to be augmented and are not sufficient to compensate for the absence of funding elsewhere.

2. An insufficient emphasis on international responses to environmental problems and solutions constrains progress toward cross-national solutions. There must be adequate resources to internationalize social science capacity on these problems.
3. The funds available for social science research on the environment are very limited. It is important to be neither too glib nor too pessimistic about the potential contribution of the social sciences to the resolution of environmental problems. The usual tendency is to expect that nothing can be done—and hence to allocate so little funding for social science research as to make this expectation virtually a self-fulfilling prophecy. Social and human factors (both causes and consequences) are too important and too complex to receive minimal federal funding.
4. Resources are needed not only for research but for training. We face a challenge within our discipline to nurture the field of environmental sociology, to fund and train graduate students, to spotlight strong graduate programs, to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, and to have sufficient professional outlets for our colleagues to present their work. We know enough in social science about incentives, to realize that career paths will be pursued only if resources are available for training and research.
5. One element of all environmental protection policy development grants should be the social science projection of likely patterns of social, economic, and political adaptation or resistance to proposed policies and means of dealing with them in the implementation phase.
6. Environmental research and protection programs should devote some funds to documenting realities of implementing the policy outcomes, following legislation and executive implementation. In particular, impact and implementation across ethnic, racial, and economic subgroups needs to be systematically documented by social scientists, and fed into the policy process.

(continued on page 5)

Conclusion

To return to the point that started my presentation, there is a commonality that unites all of these examples, along with most of the other problems being brought to your attention today. At their core, many if not most "environmental" problems in fact involve the interface between human beings and the rest of the ecosystem. Sociological work that takes into account attitudes, cultural beliefs, community organization, political agendas and vested interests, population changes, and the measurement of social change can make the difference. Both in basic research and in the policy process, human behavior—of individuals, institutions, and groups—puts pressure on the environment and is part of any solution to environmental problems. Thank you for your time and your interest.

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Felice J. Levine, PhD, is the Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association. Prior to her work at ASA, she was the Director for the Law and Social Science Program at the National Science Foundation. She is the former President of the Law and Society Association. While at the National Science Foundation, Dr. Levine worked on the development of support for research on Human Dimensions of Global Change and also was a member of the U.S. Delegation on the Response Strategies Working Group of the InterGovernmental Panel on Climate Change (1989-90). Specifically, she worked on the development of implementation measures in the area of education and public information. In addition, she served on the Education Working Group of the U.S. Global Change Program (1989-91).

The American Sociological Association, founded in 1905, is the national professional association for sociologists. The current membership of 13,000 encompasses sociologists who are faculty members, researchers, practitioners, clinicians and students. The Association holds an annual meeting in August and publishes eight journals, a newsletter, an employment bulletin, and many other specialty publications on careers and teaching. The Association sponsors programs in Teaching Services, Professional Development, and Minority Affairs and launched a new Spivack Program in Social Policy and Social Research. The ASA is located at 1722 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Report of the Outgoing Chair

Bill Freudenburg

As we all know, professional organizations such as the Section on Environment and Technology are intrinsically dependent on the volunteer, labor-of-love contributions that all of us need to take our turns at providing. It is a rare privilege, however, to have had the opportunity to work with a group of people, or an intellectual undertaking, that is as rewarding and as promising as has been the case for the past two years with the Section on Environment and Technology. While I am happy to hand over the Chair's position to the capable hands of Allan Schnaiberg, it is a genuine pleasure to look back over two years of important accomplishments, by a number of very good people, and to thank them for the very important contributions they have made.

At the top of the list would have to be Carole Seyfrit, who together with Tom Hood has provided real leadership to our Membership Committee. Before Carole was appointed Chair of the Committee, the all-time record for Section membership stood at 321 members; that was twelve years ago, in November 1979. For the following nine years, the membership never again reached as high as 310. About the time when Carole became Membership Chair, however, roughly two years ago, the numbers started to climb upward. By the time of the official ASA cut-off date for 1991, we had established a new, all-time record membership level of 376—just two dozen shy of the magic "400" number that can give us an extra slot on the program. While any number of factors are likely to have played a role, including the intellectual vitality that we've all sensed at the Section's recent sessions, it is clear that Carole and Tom need to get at least some of the credit. Ours has been one of the fastest-growing Sections in the entire ASA—and the growth has taken place in spite of an increase in Section dues.

The Section budget is in good shape as well. Outgoing Chair Fred Buttell left us with an already-healthy balance of \$1868; due to the tight-wad tendencies of various Section officers, including Secretary-Treasurer Stan Black, we've been able to leave the balance in even better shape than it was

two years ago, with \$2166 in the bank at the time of this writing.

Some of the other highlights:

- Thanks in large part to the process started by former Chair Fred Buttell, the Section By-Laws have been completely updated, brought into the 1990s, and approved by the full Section membership;
- The idea of a Graduate Student Award, first proposed some four years ago by Fred Buttell and yours truly, and then approved by the Council and the broader membership, has resulted in several Certificates of Recognition and, as of the 1991 meeting, the first individual award;
- The collection of *Syllabi on Environmental Sociology* has been updated and republished by the ASA Teaching Resources Center, thanks to the work of William and Anne Marie Hauser—and is available to those who identify themselves as Section members for the reduced price of \$49.90 (the price for other ASA members is \$11.00, and for non-ASA members, it's available for \$13.50);
- The official Section brochure has been revised and professionally redesigned, thanks again in part to Carole Seyfrit and to graphics artist Karen Nelson;
- The Section name change, from Section on "Environmental Sociology" to "Section on Environment and Technology," has gone completely through all of the hoops;
- And finally, lest there be any remaining doubt about whether or not we have truly "arrived," our Section has now been in existence for longer than the majority of the other Sections of the ASA.

Just as importantly, there are signs of renewed as well as continued intellectual vigor within the Section, and within the environmental sociology community more broadly. There have also been signs of

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Current Events

CALL FOR PAPERS

The editors of *SOCIETY & NATURAL RESOURCES*, an international journal, are pleased to announce an important special series of refereed articles on natural resource dependent communities and persistent rural poverty in the United States. Each of the issues of *SOCIETY & NATURAL RESOURCES*, beginning in January 1993 and continuing in each of the four issues during that year, will feature two scholarly works on poverty in natural resource dependent communities. While the focus of a given manuscript does not necessarily have to be on the United States, the significance and implications of the work should focus on persistent rural poverty in resource dependent places in the United States. Since at least three of the eight contributions will be by members of the Working Group on Natural Resources and Persistent Rural Poverty, a subcommittee of the Rural Sociological Society's Task Force on Persistent Poverty in Rural America, the deadline for unsolicited papers will be after the first issue in the special series is in press. Thus, the deadline for submitting prospective articles for review is JANUARY 10, 1993. Please direct correspondence and manuscripts to Craig R. Humphrey, Special Series Editor, *SOCIETY & NATURAL RESOURCES*, 416 Oswald Tower, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, 16802.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers in the area of "Environmental Politics" are being solicited for a special issue of the *Journal of Political and Military Sociology*, co-edited by Penelope Canan and Marvin E. Olsen. The issue is expected to be published in early 1993. Papers dealing with any aspect of the politics of the environment (or the role of the military in such issues) are welcome. Please send two copies of your manuscript to Penelope Canan, Department of Sociology, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado 80208-0209 by September 1, 1992. The Journal charges a \$10 processing fee payable to JPMS. If enough papers of high quality are received, the collection will subsequently be published as a book.

**SOCIAL PROBLEMS:
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**
A Special Issue of *Social Problems*.
Judith A. Perrolle, Special Issue Editor

We are seeking manuscript submissions from a variety of theoretical, methodological, and disciplinary perspectives for a special issue

on the topic of environmental justice. Papers should make a contribution to the development of theory. We encourage papers that focus on issues of class, race, and gender, and inequality among communities, regions, and nations. Possible areas of focus include but are not limited to (1) the political economy of resource and energy use, (2) the distribution of undesirable land uses such as waste disposal facilities or technological hazards, (3) workplace and community environmental health, and (4) inequalities in social response to and regulation of environmental problems.

Papers should be submitted to:

Merry Morash, Editor
School of Criminal Justice
560 Baker Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

(517) 336-1998 / 355-2197

DEADLINE: March 15, 1991

Membership News

(continued from page 1)

Riley E. Dunlap, Washington State University, has recently published three articles dealing with public opinion on environmental issues:

"Trends in Public Opinion Toward Environmental Issues: 1965-1990," *Society and Natural Resources* 4 (July-September, 1991): 285-312;

"Public Opinion in the 1980s: Clear Consensus, Ambiguous Commitment," *Environment* 33 (October, 1991): 10-15, 32-37; and

"The Polls—Poll Trends: Environmental Problems and Protection," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 55 (Winter, 1991): 713-734 (with Rik Scarce).

Individuals who do not have access to these journals can obtain copies of the articles from Dunlap at the Departments of Sociology and Rural Sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4006.

Laurence L. Falk, Concordia College in Moorhead, has recently published the following with Duane Dahlberg:

"Perceptions of the Effects of Electro-Magnetic Fields: From Rural Dairies to Urban Homes," in *Confronting Environmental Challenges in a Changing World*, Pp. 231-245, John H. Baldwin (ed), North American Association for Environmental Education, Troy, Ohio, September, 1991.

Gene Rosa, Washington State University, recently presented the following paper with Thomas Dietz and Thomas Rosa:

"Global Environmental Impacts of Economic and Population Growth: The Case of CO₂ Concentration," at the annual meetings of the Society for Risk Analysis, Baltimore, MD, December, 1991.

Current Events

New Journals

Society and Natural Resources, an important international Journal for the conservation, preservation and management of natural resources. Contact: Taylor & Francis, Inc., 1900 Frost Road, Suite 101, Bristol, PA 19007-1598, USA. Phone: 800/821-8312 Fax: 215/785-5515. (see notice p. 6)

Perspectives in Energy, a new journal from the publishers of Environment and Planning. Moscow International Energy Club. Contact: Turpin Transactions Limited, Blackhorse Road, Letchworth, Herts SG6 1HN, UK. Phone: 0462/672555 Fax: 0462/480947.

South-North Centre for Environmental Policy Newsletter. Contact: School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG UK. Phone: 071-637-2388 x2602.

Program Announcements

Studies in Science, Technology, & Society Program, Division of Instrumentation and Resources, National Science Foundation. Proposal closing dates: February 1 and August 1. Contact: Proposal Processing Section, Announcement 91-109, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20550.

Human Dimensions of Global Change Research Opportunity, Division of Social and Economic Science at the National Science Foundation. Proposal by January 15 or August 15. Contact: Division of Social and Economic Science, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street NW, Room 336, Washington, DC 20550.

Meetings

The Third Annual International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference & Exposition, April 12-16, 1992, Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas. 1992 theme: *Promoting Understanding Through Education & Communication*. The conference will include the following topics of potential interest to Section members: Validation, Regulation and Public Acceptance; Institutional Impacts; Risk Perception; Social Impacts; Social Systems Plenary; Building a Global Science Education Program; Human Factors in Component Operations; Science Education and Public Awareness; Public Involvement in Technical Issues; and, Environmental Issues. For registration information, contact Convention Department, the American Society of Civil Engineers, 345 47th Street, New York, NY 10017.

IAIA'92 "Industrial and Third World Environmental Assessment: The Urgent Transition to Sustainability," The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment, August 19-22, 1992, at The World Bank, H Building Auditorium, Room B1-201, 600-19th Street, NW, Washington, DC. To register, write to: IAIA, P.O. Box 70, Bellhaven, NC 27810.

Social Research "Fourth North American Symposium on Society & Resource Management." Theme: Integrated Resource Management. May 17-20, 1992. Please submit paper and poster abstracts to: Donald Field, Program Chair, School of Natural Resources, 146 Agriculture Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706 Tel: 608/262-6968. Program/Registration Information: Mary Miron, Symposium Coordinator, School of Natural Resources, 147 Agriculture Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706. Tel: 608/262-6969.

"Eighth World Congress of Rural Sociology," Theme: Rural Sociology and the Changing World Order. August 11-16, 1992. The World Congress Program Committee Chair: Joseph J. Molnar, Auburn University, 202 Comer Hall, Auburn, AL 36849. Tel: 205/844-5615. Registration and Accommodations: World Congress/RSS, Pennsylvania State University, 306 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802. Tel: 814/865-8301.

"Rural Sociological Society," Theme: Rurality and the Global Environment. August 16-19, 1992. Program Committee Chairs: Thomas J. Hoban & Alton Thompson, North Carolina State University, P.O. Box 8107, Raleigh, NC 27695. Tel: 919/515-2670. Registration and Accommodations: World Congress/RSS, Pennsylvania State University, 306 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802. Tel: 814/865-8301.

The sixth meeting of the Society for Human Ecology will be held in Snowbird, Utah October 2-3, 1992. The deadline for submitting papers on "Human Ecology: Crossing Boundaries" is April 1, 1992, though late submissions are possible. Contact Scott D. Wright, FCS Dept., U of Utah, 227 AEB, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112 [FAX 801-581-3007; Phone 801-581-8750]

Current Events

Position Opening

From **Thomas Lyson**, chair, search committee, Cornell U., Dept of Rural Sociology, Warren Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-7801: There is an opening for an Assistant or Associate Professor who is an environmental sociologist. Closing date is May 1, 1992.

Publications

Kime, Robert E. 1992. *Wellness: Environment and Health*. Guilford, CN: Dushkin Publishing Group.

Taylor & Francis is publishing *American Environmentalism: The U.S. Environmental Movement, 1970-1990*, edited by **Riley E. Dunlap** and **Angela G. Mertig**, in April 1992. In addition to the editors' introduction, the volume includes chapters by **Mitchell**, et al. on national environmental organizations, **Freudenberg** and **Steinsapir** on grass-roots environmentalism, **Bullard** and **Wright** on environmentalism within minority communities, **Devall** on deep ecology and radical environmentalism, **Caldwell** on the globalization of environmentalism, **McCloskey** (Chairman of the Sierra Club) on an insider's perspective, and **Dunlap** on public opinion. The \$12.95 paperback is available from Taylor & Francis, 1101 Vermont Avenue, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20005.

ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SECTION PRELIMINARY ASA PROGRAM - 1992:

Main Sessions

- I: The State and "Environmental" Policy-making: Conflicts and Accommodations

Organizer: **Allan Schnaiberg**
 Presider: To be announced

Environmental Sociology and Global Environmental Change: A Critical Assessment
Frederick Buttel, U. Wisconsin & **Peter Taylor**, Science & Technology Studies, Cornell University

State-led Industrialization and the Control of Natural Resources: Origins of Indonesia's Log export Ban
David Sonnenfeld, University of California, Santa Cruz

Legitimizing Growth: The Role of the State in Environmental Remediation
Ken Gould, St. Lawrence University

Rent, Value and Extraction as Bases for Environmental Policymaking
Stephen C. Bunker, University of Wisconsin

Discussant: to be announced

- II: The "Environmental Coalition": Centrifugal vs..... Centripetal Forces

Organizer: **Allan Schnaiberg**
 Presider: To be announced

Women & Toxic Waste Protests: Race, Class & Gender as Resources of Resistance
Celee Krauss, Keane College

Regulating Urban Growth: Gains, Losses, and No Effect
Kee Warner and **Harvey Molotch**, University of California, Santa Barbara

Becoming an Environmental Activist: The Process of Transforming Everyday Life to Making History in the Hazardous Waste Movement
Hal Aronson, University of California, Santa Cruz

Ethnic Minority Environmental Activism in Britain: The Challenges of Developing an Environmental Justice Agenda
Dorceta Taylor, University of Toronto

Discussant: to be announced

Refereed Roundtable Sessions:

1. Environmental Conflicts

Losing the Environmental Battle but Winning the Legitimacy War: A Revisionist Analysis of "The Environmental Movement"
Allan Schnaiberg, Northwestern University; **Kenneth A. Gould**, St. Lawrence University; and **Adam S. Weinberg**, Northwestern University

2. Environmental Policies Reconsidered

Did TVA Make a Difference? Reforestation and Rural Transformation in the Tennessee Valley, 1935-1975
Thomas K. Rudel, Rutgers University

3. Third World Conflicts

Economic vs. Social Impact Criteria for International Project Assessment
Rabel J. Burdge, University of Illinois

The International Politics of National Parks
Karen O'Neill, University of California, Los Angeles

4. Benign Technological Models

Health, the Environment, and the Law: Toward a Sustainable Technology
Will Wright, University of Southern Colorado

Societal Contradictions and Industrial Crises
Paul Shrivastava, Management, Bucknell University

5. Social Location and Environmental Ideologies

Women and Toxic Waste Activism
Phil Brown and **Faith Ferguson**, Brown University

(continued on page 9)

Report: (continued from page 1)

increased cooperation across that broader community. As just one indicator, 1991 marked the first time in roughly a decade that all three of the major institutions for sociologists having environmental interests — our own Section on Environment and Technology, the Section on Environmental Problems of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the Natural Resources Research Group of the Rural Sociological Society—have jointly sponsored an event, the event being a field tour to the Fernald Nuclear Materials Feed Plant and the monthly meeting of Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH).

Within the Section, Riley Dunlap reports that the *Handbook on Environmental Sociology* will all be off at the publisher's office soon, with all but two chapters now being in-hand and essentially ready to go. At the national level, a committee of respected scientists has been pushing for the establishment of a National Institutes for the Environment, patterned after the extramural components of the National Institutes of Health, and at least to date, the committee has been extremely responsive in including social science as an integral part of the mission the NIE will be expected to perform. Even the idea of professional standards for social impact assessment—one that proved too much for a committee of our distinguished colleagues some decade and a half ago, but that helped indirectly to lead to the establishment of the original Section—is being tackled by an interdisciplinary committee that, finally, is starting to make some progress.

Perhaps most of all, however, there are less tangible signs all around us—in the attendance at Section-sponsored sessions, in the level of animation in the discussions taking place in the hallways as well as the meeting rooms, and in the excitement being generated by not one but two new journals, *Society and Natural Resources* and *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism*. Beyond that, a number of new books and articles are being published in other outlets, as well, including a number of “mainstream” sociological journals that have never previously shown much interest in matters environmental—all of these are very good signs indeed. It has been a very good time to have had the opportunity to serve the Section as its Chair; I look forward to even better times ahead.

PROGRAM: (continued from page 8)

The Pursuit of the Inedible: Cultural Politics, Nature, and the English Fox Hunt
Michael Bell, Forestry and Sociology, Yale University

6. Community Differentials in Environmental Perception

Racial Differences in the Perception of the Most Important Environmental Problems
Paul Mohai and Bunyan Bryant, School of Natural Resources, The University of Michigan

Ecological and Marxian Theory: Toward an Inevitable Synthesis
Marvin E. Olsen, Michigan State University

7. Stakes and Stake-holders in Local Growth

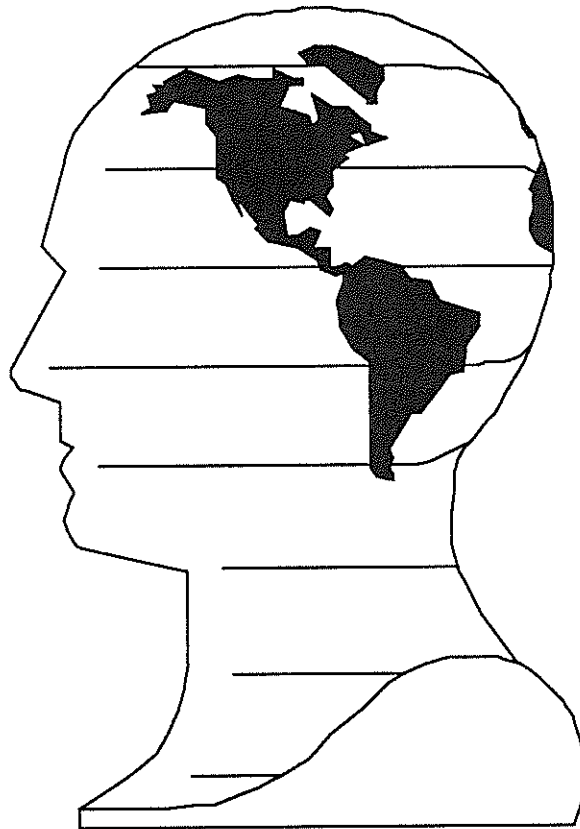
Growthism and Anti-Growthism: “Official” Views from New Jersey Municipalities
Judith Friedman, Rutgers University

Oil Development and Youth Aspirations in Newfoundland, 1991
Carole Seyfrit, Mississippi State University and Lawrence C. Hamilton, University of New Hampshire

8. Stakeholder Actions in Environmental Disputes

Why Citizens do not Participate in the Regulatory Process: The Sierra Club Swamp Squad
Adam S. Weinberg, Northwestern University

How Companies Negotiate Hazardous Substance Issues
Emilie Schmeidler, Rutgers University



Imagination is more important than knowledge.
Albert Einstein

TO: Members of the Environment and Technology Section, ASA

FROM: Chris Cluett, Battelle Seattle Research Center, 4000 NE 41st Street, Seattle, WA 98105-5428

PLEASE SEND THIS TEAR-OFF SHEET OR A COPY FOR INCLUSION IN FORTHCOMING EDITIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER. MANY THANKS.

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New literature you have published, or found especially helpful. Give full citations.

Forthcoming meetings and conferences. Calls for papers. Papers you have recently presented.

Activities of related social science environmental groups.

Name: _____

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