

Environment, Technology, and Society



Newsletter of the Section on Environment and Technology
American Sociological Association

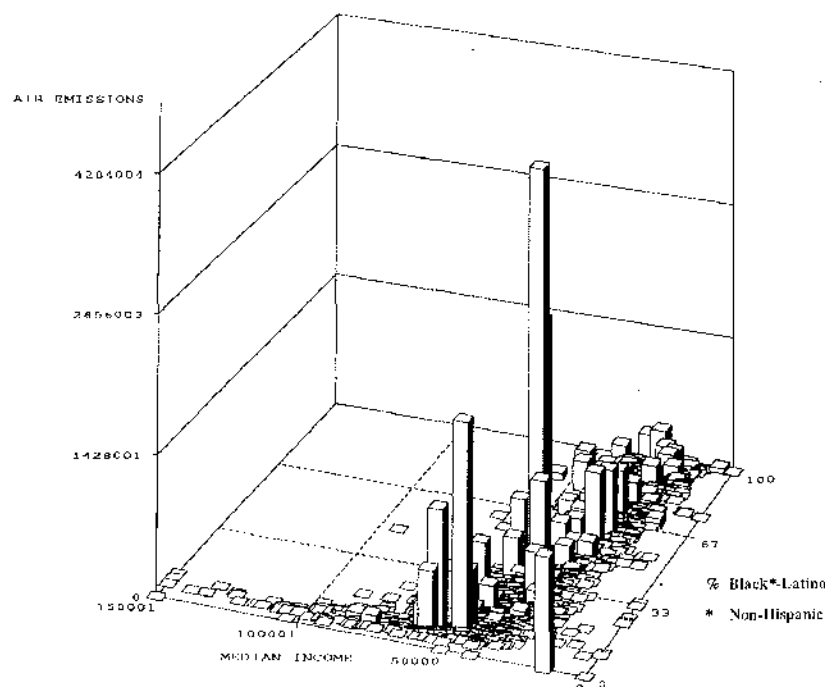
Winter 1994

Number 74

Air Emissions in Los Angeles County Census Tracts

Andrew Szasz and his colleagues examined the relationship between proximity to toxic releases and social class and race/ethnicity in selected Los Angeles counties. Their results were presented at the 1993 ASA meetings in Miami, and they suggest a strong class effect (measured in terms of median income) and a less apparent race/ethnicity effect, as shown in the accompanying graphic. Statistical analyses taking account of both class and race, however, find a significant effect due to race and that class appears to act as a proxy for race.

Andrew may be contacted at: <Szasz@cats.ucsc.edu> or (408) 459-3516.



THE GEC DEBATE: NOTES ON THEORIZING AND RESEARCHING THE ENVIRONMENT; OR, WHERE IS OUR NEWTON?

Steve Kroll-Smith and Shirley Laska
Department of Sociology
University of New Orleans

Many of us have paid close attention to the recent exchange between Professors Dunlap and Catton on one side and Professor Buttel on the other regarding the appropriate role of sociology in the controversy over global warming. We believe this interest stems not only from the reputa-

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Notes from the Editor

The 1994 edition of *State of the World* by Lester R. Brown, et al. is now available, the eleventh in an annual series of reports on the health of the planet, and it conveys a chilling message. This Worldwatch Institute Report on progress toward achieving a sustainable society contends that "...population growth, high rates of resource consumption, and poverty are driving the global economy toward ecological bankruptcy—a process that can only be reversed if their root causes are eliminated. We have filled up the planet's ecological space, and it will take reducing excessive consumption, redistributing wealth and resources, accelerating the development of more environmentally sustainable technologies, and slowing population growth to achieve a world in which all people may have a decent and secure life." In the opinion of the authors, "...we have surpassed the planet's carrying capacity. ... The roots of environmental damage run deep. Unless they are unearthed soon, we risk exceeding the planet's carrying capacity to such a degree that a future of economic and social decline will be impossible to avoid."

As members of the Section on Environment and Technology we are uniquely positioned to help address these central issues of environmental sustainability, carrying capacity, the distributional equity of scarce resources, and the complex relationships between society, technology, and environment. This report helps place our individual research activities in a global context [see Tom Dietz's article on the human dimensions of global environmental change], and challenges us to consider how, both as individuals and as a Section, we can make a difference. It can serve as a rich source of ideas for research for ourselves and our students, and it will stimulate us to think about how we might better direct our personal and collective energies in ways that might make some difference in the "bigger picture." The report is easy to read but its message is hard to ignore.

Environment, Technology and Society Newsletter

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Publication Schedule

The deadline for the Spring issue will be April 15, 1994. If it is possible for text items of any length to be submitted electronically, that greatly facilitates the newsletter production process. Use my Internet e-mail address: <cluett@battelle.org> Also, please contribute articles on current research that can be presented graphically on the front page.

GEC Debate (cont.)

GEC (continued from page 1)

tions of the discussants—certainly reason enough to pay attention to the exchange—but also from an awareness that this conversation is about something more than a sociology of global environmental change. Haunting the margins of this conversation is the epistemological difficulty sociologists face when they talk about the environment: nature is at once biological and living and invented in casual conversation, legal wrangling, political controversies and other social venues. The conflicting opinions of Buttel and Dunlap-Catton over the appropriate sociological interpretation of GEC express two contrasting strategies for addressing the ontological dilemma of an environment that is at once organic and social. For purposes of discussion we will call these two strategies, **sociology of the environment** and **environmental sociology**. Our inclination is to use these terms interchangeably when, in fact, they suggest two distinct approaches to the conceptualization of society and environment relationships. Moreover, a closer look at these two strategies points to a schism in our field between theoretical and empirical work.

Professor Buttel resolves the epistemological issue by arguing for an environment that is fabricated in talk, in negotiations, in social movements and complex organizations. In his conversation with Dunlap-Catton, Buttel acknowledges the physical foundation of the biosphere but situates the problem of global warming in a constructionist voice: "Global environmental change, which in the main is a biophysical reality, is nonetheless also a movement ideology and strategy, since there are a variety of ways in which the body of knowledge on these problems could have been popularized, codified into a coherent ideology and brought to bear in political struggles" (ET&S 1993:10). Professor Buttel's solution is to acknowledge the physical environment while calling for a research agenda based on its social fabrication. Fred's solution typifies what we are calling a sociology of the environment. This strategy insures that the organic environment is analytically silent, represented exclusively by the concepts of sociology.

The Dunlap-Catton solution to the dualistic identity of the environment is more provocative than Buttel's, but also more frustrating. They begin with the idea of the environment as pre-social, organic, and living, with real consequences for society: "some environmental conditions can have significant impacts on humans regardless of whether or not they are recognized as problematic" and complement it with the reciprocal idea that human activities produce changes in the environment: "human activities are producing unprecedented changes in the global ecosystem, and these changes in turn portend significant consequences for human societies" (Dunlap and Catton, ms. 1993). Dunlap and Catton address the dualistic identity of nature by arguing

The dialectical quality of environmental sociology sidesteps both naive materialism and its opposite, naive constructionism. Common sense suggests that it is a more inclusive strategy than sociology of the environment and, therefore, should be the standard we all aspire to.

that it is first a complex life form and second a representation. We would call this strategy environmental sociology. In this concept, environment modifies society both grammatically and theoretically. In contrast to a sociology of the environment that moves in one theoretical direction only, environmental sociology theorizes from the physical environment to society and from society to the environment.

The dialectical quality of environmental sociology sidesteps both naive materialism and its opposite, naive constructionism. Common sense suggests that it is a more inclusive strategy

than sociology of the environment and, therefore, should be the standard we all aspire to. After all, if our subject is both biological and social we should be interested in theory and research that recognizes its dual nature. Recent empirical work in medical sociology, for example, is recognizing the organic and cultural identities of the human body. The frustrating feature of environmental sociology, however, is the lack of middle range concepts that link our theoretical musings with empirical research. Where medical sociology is developing middle-range concepts such as embodiment and somatic techniques to account for the dual nature of the body in empirical work, environmental sociology currently has no bridging concepts. Therefore, while we are likely to theorize the environment as both natural and cultural (environmental sociology) we are apt to study it as if it were exclusively social (sociology of the environment). In the absence of suitable bridging concepts, it is simply easier at the moment to theorize human activities and institutions as parts of an explanatory field that include physical phenomena than it is to demonstrate empirically how biospheric processes generate some aspects of the social world.

Expressed in the Buttel and Dunlap-Catton debate, in short, are two intellectual strategies for resolving the epistemological dilemma of the environment that also represent a schism between our empirical and theoretical work: when we engage in concrete research we are likely to use a sociology of the environment; when we theorize, however, we are likely to use the more provocative voice of environmental sociology. A successful merger of our empirical and theoretical voices is probably some years away, though strategies for consolidation are now being attempted. The challenge is to find images that lead us to organic-social processes rather than ones that obscure them. As the debate over GEC continues we are prompted to ask: Where is our Newton? ∞

From My Corner by Penelope Canan

This is a busy time for Section Members involved in preparing for the ASA sessions for next August. I will be writing to people who submitted papers shortly, as soon as the panels and roundtables are finalized. My thanks to Section Members who are helping to put on the best possible program: Celene Krauss (Feminist Perspectives on Environment and Technology), Ken Gould (Linking Global, Regional, and Local Environmental Politics), Phil Brown (Health and the Environment), Dorceta Taylor (Institutional Change and the Environmental Future), and Kee Warner (all the open submissions on the Environment). Willem Van Vliet is chairing the Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award Committee, and Wendy Espeland and Fred Buttel have agreed to serve on the Distinguished Contribution Award Committee.

Thinking about the annual meetings in Los Angeles brings to mind several other topics: the Northridge earthquake on Martin Luther King Jr. Day; our financial situation; and plans to socialize as a Section. Concerning the earthquake, there may be some interest in meeting with scholars in California who focused their attention on the human dimensions of the earthquake. Please let one of the Council members know if you are interested or if you are such a scholar willing to share your observations.

Concerning our finances, we are running swiftly toward depletion.

Turns out that only about half of our 425 members are "full members." Full members pay \$10 and students pay \$5 for Section dues. Eight dollars of the full membership dues and all of the student dues go to support the production of ASA newsletters, including ours. That leaves only \$2 per full paying member contributing to our Section income, for a total annual income of about \$450 with our current membership profile. (The \$2 out of our Section dues are our only source of direct income. Out of these moneys we pay for award plaques, the Olsen Student Paper Award, extraordinary newsletter postage, special things like our \$200 assistance to Rik Scarce, and the annual meeting reception buffet/canapé costs.) It looks to me that upping the Olsen Student Paper Award from \$200 to \$400 last year may lead us to a zero balance in no time. In any event, we need to be creative. In the short run, I think we should be creative about our party in Los Angeles. Any "locals" with ideas for a get together, should give me a call or a zap on Internet. For sure next summer's party will be fairly informal; but I want to stress that I think getting together socially is a very important part of our community of scholars. (That doesn't mean that there has been a wild show of hands for a "meeting" on the slopes in the Rockies this Spring. Chris Cluett and I will have to report on the fabulous snow conditions when we next see you.)

So please think about our the financial future. Other sections are doing

so as well. Should we raise dues from the current \$10? (Other sections dues range from \$8 to \$13 per year.) Have a book sale? A raffle? Reduce the amount of the Olsen Student Paper Award? Find a benefactor? Get outside organizational support?

Another future item is the Spring elections. Ken Gould will be accepting nominations for the two Council positions that open up this year. Energetic people, please nominate yourselves.

We have two items of good news. First Rik Scarce was released from jail after more than 150 days. Besides the section membership, he thanks supporters in 36 states and 6 foreign countries.

And finally, the friends and colleagues of the late Robert Boguslaw have asked us to establish an award honoring him that would encourage/reward scholarship on "technology and humanism." The Section Council will discuss the actual form of the award and its administration. Carole Seyfrit chairs an ad hoc committee for this purpose and we will discuss this at both the Council Meeting and Business Meeting in August.

I'll be talking with many of you over the next month or so as I recruit facilitators for the roundtables. In Dr. King's spirit, peace. Penelope ∞

Call for Papers & Proposals

THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

The editorial staff of *The Environmental Professional* intends to publish a forthcoming issue devoted to critical analysis of international environmental problems, including the views and perspectives of authors from other countries. Papers can focus on theoretical as well as applied problems, including case studies of specific problems and regions. Examples of relevant topics include, but are not limited to:

- Analysis of the meanings of "environment" and "environmental problems"
- Strategies for international environmental planning and problem solving
- Transboundary environmental problems
- International environmental policies and laws
- Assessment of international environmental risks
- Research and perspectives on protection of biodiversity, the atmosphere, and terrestrial, marine, freshwater and agricultural resources, including the management and reduction of nuclear, toxic, and hazardous substances that pose threats to resources and to human health
- Perspectives on the relationships between population growth, the consumption of resources, environmental degradation, and human health
- The military and the environment: production and uses of chemicals, nuclear disarmament, biological and chemical weapons, environmental consequences of war
- the use and adequacy of science to solve international environmental problems
- Needs and promises for long-term ecological research
- Environmental assessment of international projects
- Application of principles of stress ecology
- Application of principles of integrated environmental management
- Linkages between the environment and development
- Education of international environmental professionals
- Improving communication between members of the international environmental community

- Critical analysis of the UNCED, including Agenda 21, the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Authoritative Statement of Forest Principles, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and suggestions for implementation
- Cultural diversity and ethical implications for the environment
- Professional practice guidelines for international environmental professionals
- Models and assessment methodologies for international environmental education
- Leadership influences in environmental protection of a country's natural resources

Manuscripts must conform to the journal's editorial style and guidelines. Prospective authors should send a letter indicating their intent to submit a manuscript, and a tentative title or abstract by April 1, 1994. Manuscripts should be submitted no later than September 1, 1994.

Dr. John Lemons, Editor
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This is a call for research paper proposals for the third in a ten-year series of international conferences of the Greening of Industry Network, *From Greening to Sustaining: Transformational Challenges for the Firm*, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, November 13-15, 1994. The purpose of this conference is to advance the quality, breadth and applicability of research on the greening of industry. We will accomplish this by providing researchers with a forum for interdisciplinary discussions and for dialogue with corporate officials, policy makers, investors, employees, labor unions, consumers, environmental groups and other citizens. The first two international conferences, held in the Netherlands and the United States, brought together existing theoretical and empirical research on industrial environmental behavior. This third conference will focus on

the concept of the firm and how the issue of sustainability is changing its identity, structure and societal role. In addition, this conference will broaden the scope of discussions and add the geographic and social setting of industry world-wide and the involvement of labor and local communities in the development of sustainability.

Proposals are due March 1, 1994, and we plan to announce the accepted proposals April 30, 1994. Contact the coordinator directly regarding acceptability of late proposals.

Conference Background: Business firms operate in a world of change. They are confronted with many challenges, such as rapidly evolving new technologies, shorter product life cycles, globalization, increasing competition and the need to reduce pollution and the consumption of resources substantially. To operate sustainably, companies need to make strategic choices and redesign their competencies. Working toward sustainability is not limited to internal company activities. It necessitates cooperation with social groups and institutions in understanding the functional requirements and values of natural systems and then tailoring human use to fit within them. The business community must join in new relationships and partnership opportunities with all traditional, emerging and not yet recognized stakeholders involved—including policy makers, investors, business coalitions, employees, suppliers, consumers, local communities and environmental groups.

The focus of the Conference is on the transformation of the cultures and structures of firms to reconcile competitive pressures and sustainability requirements in interaction with stakeholders. This conference will focus on identifying and understanding the opportunities that a changing world presents to industry and how to harness these opportunities. We will explore the conference theme in keynote addresses, plenary discussions, panel sessions and dialogue workshops. We will identify research needs and engage researchers, policy makers, environmental groups and industry and labor leaders in a

Call for Papers

debate on policies and actions to be taken by all stakeholders. And we will begin mapping out long-term visions of sustainability and ways of getting there.

Suggested Themes for Papers: We will organize a variety of concurrent workshops for research papers. We are considering the following themes and welcome additional proposals. Papers on small and medium-sized enterprises and covering sectors in addition to manufacturing such as service, agriculture and transport are encouraged as well.

- Social construction of concepts and visions of sustainability and the roles and adaptiveness of firms, including issues of human settlement, poverty, population and the role of women.
- Long-term historical reconstructions of how business firms and societies have developed and dealt with environmental issues.
- Issues and conflicts in the development of new, green technological systems — especially transport — and the embeddedness of company-based innovation in social structures.
- Involving local communities in the design of sustainable development, including information access, public participation and citizen-led technical change.
- Factoring environmental issues into the traditional systems of industrial relations and involving employees and their representatives in striving for sustainability.
- Creating and maintaining environmentally and socially sustainable employment.
- Transforming current competencies and technologies in traditional, polluting industries.
- Environmental policies of multinational corporations concerning labor costs, diffusion of cleaner technologies and environmental regulations in Eastern and Central Europe and newly industrializing countries.
- Corporate strategies and interactions around the design of environmental performance standards.
- Transforming the environmental performance of small and medium-sized firms, including changes in work processes.

Requirements for Paper Proposals: Individual research paper and workshop proposals should contain 600 to 1200 words. Workshop proposals should provide a description of the general workshop theme and include a minimum of two paper proposals from different research institutes. Paper proposals will be reviewed for selection by the Advisory Board of the Greening of Industry Network. Please send your proposals to:

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Greening of Industry Network
Unit for Technology Assessment
Technical University Denmark
2800 Lyngby, DENMARK
tel 45 42 88 2222, ext. 5903
fax 45 42 88 2014
email DTSFUJ@VM.UNJ-C.DK

We are thinking about organizing an *Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment*, open to all ideologies and academic as well as non-academic disciplines. We would like the conference to take place sometime in the Summer of 1995, most likely in Boston, MA. Participants may present a paper, organize and/or chair a session, and discuss a paper. All papers must be written at a layperson's level, will be expected to pass a peer review process, and some will be published in the conference proceedings. Awards may be given to outstanding papers.

If you are interested please request more information from:
<dkantar@eve.assumption.edu>
or, write to:

Dr. Demetri Kantarelis
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You are invited to present a paper either via computer or at a local face-to-face seminar between January and September 1994 for the *International Conference on*

Ecotechnology for Sustainable Development. To accommodate your area of expertise and interests, the general scope of topics of the Ecotechnology Conference is wide and will deal with many facets of human life and management of the natural environment. The conference will however give special focus on aspects related to the research, development and applications of environmentally and ecologically sound technologies and practices that contribute to sustainable development.

Theme 1: Unsustainable Technologies: This theme covers practices and technologies that are wasteful and which result in the depletion and degradation of natural resources, such as deforestation, salinization, desertification, etc. The scope also includes practices and by-products which cause or increase pollution of air, water and land. The objective of this section is to enable us to point our fingers at unsustainable technologies and to recommend improvements or to suggest and give greater focus on better and existing alternative technologies or practices.

Theme 2: Principles and History of Ecotechnology and Sustainable Development: This theme invites papers dealing with, for example, approaches and concepts on ecotechnology and sustainable development; and policies and strategies for accelerating eco-sustainable development and natural resource management. Religion, rituals and socio-economic factors can greatly influence people's concepts and practices in living in harmony with nature and sustainable development. Were ancient cultures sustainable - what remains and why they are disappearing?

Theme 3: Identification and Promotion of Specific Ecotechnologies and Practices: This theme will cover papers describing specific indigenous and modern technologies and practices that may be related to livelihood activities in agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry and forestry. They may deal with food (indigenous foods,

(continued on page 7)

Call for Papers

fermentations); energy and fuel (bioenergy and biofuels, solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, tidal, electro-chemical, hydro- electric, renewable energy); human and animal health (alternative and herbal medicine); pest control (e.g. microbial or plant pesticides), biofertilizers (e.g. composts, microbial inoculants, green manure); natural fibres; etc. Papers on non-agricultural technologies or natural resource conservation and management are also invited. These may include technologies for recycling or to maximise the use of resources and other alternative and appropriate technologies.

Theme 4: Integrated Ecotechnological Systems and Programs: This theme focuses on integrated systems which are used by tribes and villagers, rural inland communities, coastal and river communities, and in cities. It welcomes success stories and project descriptions for mixed and integrated farming systems, integrated pest control and resource management systems, etc. This section also covers descriptions of national, regional and international projects or programs related to ecotechnology and sustainable development.

ABSTRACT: An abstract should contain title of paper, names(s) of authors (first name, family name(s)), postal address(es) and email address, phone and fax nrs. The abstract (excluding title, names and addresses) should not more than 30 lines (75 characters per line). Abstracts may be submitted between Nov 1st 1993 and Aug 31, 1994. An early submission would however be appreciated to facilitate the planning of the conference.

Please send your abstract (ascii file) to: ET-PLAN@SEARN.SUNET.SE.

PAPER PRESENTATION: To present a paper at the computer conference, you should be able to receive and send e-mail. In very special situations, fax may be used. You are only required to check your email daily from the agreed date of your presentation for 2 weeks. Deadline for submission of full papers: 3 weeks before the agreed date of your presentation.

Please e-mail your paper to ETPLAN@SEARN.SUNET.SE. Full papers should be at least 250 lines and not more than 400 lines (max 75 characters per line, max 10 references with full title of publication).

LOCAL SEMINAR: If several abstracts are received from a city, a local face-to-face seminar may also be organized locally; you will be informed by the local organizer. Local seminars may also be organized to help participants who do not have e-mail. Please contact the Network Manager if you would like to volunteer to organize a local one-day or half-day seminar.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The mailing list ET-ANN (Announcements: Ecotechnology Conf. 1994) stores earlier announcements on the Conference.

To get these, email to LISTSERV@SEARN.SUNET.SE with message: GET ET-ANN LOG9309; GET ET-ANN LOG9310; GET ET-ANN LOG9311

To receive future announcements (scientific programs, location of seminars and workshops, etc), please join ET-ANN. Address your email to: listserv@searn.sunet.se and write the message: SUB ET-ANN <YOUR NAME>, <ORGANIZATION>; (name and organization should not be more than 38 characters)

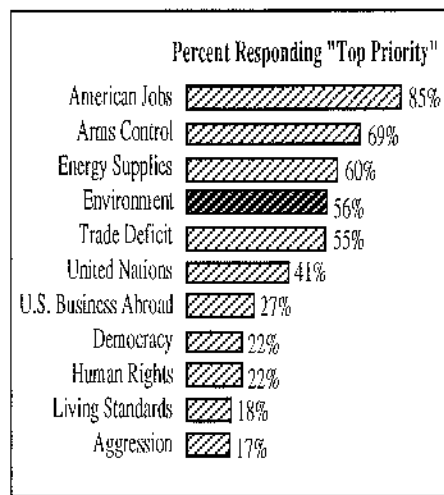
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Tom Beckley reports that the Canadian Forest Service and the Department of Rural Economy - University of Alberta are co-sponsoring a conference entitled *Forest Economics and the Environment II* in Banff, Alberta from October 12-15, 1994. Abstracts are due May 1st, 1994. Submissions in the area of forest sociology are encouraged. ∞

Current News

FOREIGN POLICY GOALS†

Princeton Survey Research Associates conducted a nationwide poll (N=2,000 adults), September 9-15, 1993, for the Times Mirror Center for the People & the Press. They asked the following question: "As I read a list of possible long-range foreign policy goals which the United States might have, tell me if you think they should have top priority, priority but not top priority, or no priority at all. Protecting the jobs of American workers. Preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Insuring adequate energy supplies for the U.S. Improving the global environment. Reducing our trade deficit with foreign countries. Strengthening the United Nations. Aiding the interests of U.S. business abroad. Promoting democracy in other nations. Promoting and defending human rights in other countries. Helping improve the living standards in developing nations. Protecting weaker nations against foreign aggression even if U.S. vital interests are not at stake." (Some items asked of 1/2 the sample.) ∞



†Presented in *The Polling Report*, November 29, 1993, p. 8.

Current Research

Alario, Margarita reports current research interests in the areas of environmental destruction, social asymmetry, and the public sphere.

Beckley, Tom (Northern Forestry Centre, 5320 – 122 St., Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA T6H 3S5) reports that he has been hired by the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) to do research on forest-dependent communities. He has three projects underway involving forest-dependence in aboriginal communities. These include an assessment of the utility of non-market valuation techniques in aboriginal communities, and assessment of co-management agreements in forestry in Saskatchewan and a survey of aboriginal forest use in a community in the Northwest Territories. As well, he is doing work on community forestry, and the social impacts of forest-dependence in forest manufacturing communities in the Prairie Provinces of Canada.

Broadbent, Jeff reports that he is initiating a cross-national research project on environmental policy decision-making, following the methods used in a labor policy research project comparing U.S., Japan and Germany. Contact Jeff if you are interested in this project at: <broad001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>

Buttel, Frederick H. 1993. *Environmental Sociology as Science and Social Movement*. *Environment, Technology, and Society*, Fall, #73: 10-11.

Dunlap, Riley E. and William R. Catton, Jr. 1993. *Struggling With Human Exemptionalism: The Rise, Decline and Revitalization of Environmental Sociology*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the ASA, Miami, Beach, August 1993.

Shrivastava, Paul reports that he will be in Japan from May 1994 to January 1995 studying environmental problems and policies under a Fulbright Award. He would like to hear from E&T members working on environment/technology/society relations in Japan.

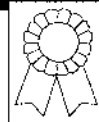
Szasz, Andrew and others at University of California at Santa Cruz are planning to study the closure/conversion of Fort Ord, a military base on Monterey Bay, just south of Santa Cruz. Part of the larger study will focus specifically on the cleanup of toxics at Fort Ord – the dump at the Fort has been designated a Superfund site. Andrew would like to hear from any section member currently engaged in studying (1) base closure/conversion; (2) community response to contaminated bases/military toxics. Also, references would be greatly appreciated. Contact Andrew at: 325 College Eight, UCSC, Santa Cruz, CA 95064; <szasz@cats.ucsc.edu>

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Paul Shrivastava reports that a network bulletin board on *Environmental Management* is now available by e-mail. The address is: <ONE-L@CLARKSON.EDU>. "ONE" stands for Organizations and the Natural Environment. This is a discussion group within the Academy of Management.

Awards

Congratulations to Penelope Canan, who has received a Presidential Award, "In recognition of and appreciation for service on the President's Ecosystem and Management Assessment Team, July 1, 1993."



Penelope Canan has notified the ASA that the Section on Environment and Technology has established the Robert Boguslaw Award for scholarly inquiry into the relationship between technology and humanistic values. Robert Boguslaw was a professor emeritus of Washington University, and he recently died of cancer. His friends and colleagues consider him to be an exceptional human being, and his life's work spanned social change, organizational behavior, and technology and humanism. His wish was to have the award support scholarship that "reflects the concerns and interests of ordinary people rather than those of established organizations and institutions. It should suggest non-stereotyped, innovative approaches for contending with the emergent situations confronting society. How do these approaches create conflicts of values and social concerns? To what extent do these values and concerns become subordinated to personal or organizational interests at the expense of more humanistic values? How can these approaches be improved." Penelope has asked **Carole Seyfrit** to chair the Boguslaw Award Committee. She has agreed to facilitate the discussion of the Section's Council as we discuss specific guidelines and procedures for the Award at our next meeting in Los Angeles in August. Then our recommendations will be reviewed and voted on immediately thereafter at the annual business meeting, and Carole will follow through as committee chair. We anticipate a subsequent "call for nominations" for this recognition and hope to make the initial award in 1995. ∞

NETWORK COMMITTEE REPORT

Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change: Developing a Research Agenda

By Thomas Dietz

Research on global environmental change remains a very high priority on the research agenda of the U.S. federal government, as well as governments throughout the developed and developing worlds. But until recently, the social sciences have not participated as full partners with physical and biological sciences. This is ironic since the global environmental changes of most concern to policy makers—climate change, loss of biodiversity and ozone depletion—are anthropogenic and may have very substantial consequences for humans.

The situation is changing as the social sciences articulate a research agenda that is compelling both to the larger scientific community and to those funding research. The National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Committee on Human Dimensions of Global Change plays an important role in the effort to shape and promulgate human dimensions research. The Committee was formed in 1989 with the support of the National Science Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the National Research Council Fund, and the U.S. Geological Survey. At that time the Committee was charged with assessing the state of the art in research on human dimensions of global change and offering a conceptual frame and research agenda for further work in the area.

Like most NRC Committees, membership was drawn from a variety of disciplines. The initial members were: Roger G. Barry, Meteorology, Colorado; Nancy Birdsall, Economics, The World Bank; William J. Cronon, History, Yale (Bill has since moved to Wisconsin); Pierre Crosson, Economics, Resources for the Future; Baruch Fischhoff, Psychology, Carnegie-Mellon; Harold K. Jacobson, Political Science, Michigan; Harold A. Mooney, Biology, Stanford; Robert McC. Netting, Anthropology, Arizona; William Nordhaus, Economics, Yale; Elliott Norse, Ecology, Center for Marine Conservation; Thomas C. Schelling, Economics and Political Science, Harvard (Tom has since moved to Maryland); Paul Stern (Study Director), Psychology, U.S. National Research Council; Billie L. Turner II, Geography, Clark; David Vogel, Political Science and Business, California Berkeley;

Edith Brown Weiss, Law, Georgetown and Oran R. Young (Chair), Political Science, Dartmouth. I am the only sociologist on the Committee.

The Committee's first report was a book published by National Academy Press in 1992: *Global Environmental Change: Understanding the Human Dimensions*. In the book we describe a framework that can be used to understand the so-called "driving forces" of global change and the human response to these changes, and review some of the relevant literature. We make a strong case for expanding on existing work in the environmental social sciences, and argue for methodological and theoretical pluralism. We also devoted considerable effort to delineating the institutional difficulties faced by researchers who wish to pursue interdisciplinary work. Finally, we note the lack of good social science input to the lead agencies conducting environmental research.

Reaction to the book has been very favorable. It is being translated into German and Portuguese, and is as widely read outside the U.S. as inside. Reviews have generally been favorable, although nearly everyone reading it feels their special interest was not given sufficient attention. In re-reading the book, I wish I had been able to do more justice to existing work in environmental sociology, and especially to critical theory. The work of a number of section members is cited, including Black, Buttel, Catton, Dunlap, Finsterbusch, Frey, Freudenburg, Heberlein, Jasper, Kroll-Smith, Machlis, Mazur, Meidinger, Mitchell, Morrison, Rosa, Rudel, Schnaiberg and Van Liere. But limits of space precluded including other good work or dealing with any single body of literature in detail. In addition, writing with such a large and distinguished group required many compromises—work of obvious importance to an environmental sociologist may seem irrelevant to someone from another discipline. And the Academy review process is an order of magnitude more stringent than that of any journal to which I've submitted. Still, I take pride in what we accomplished, even with its flaws. Those funding research who refer to GEC: UHD as a reference will be aware of a substantial body of good work in environ-

mental sociology. And this may be the first statement of the National Academy of Sciences that offers favorable citation to Habermas' work!

On more practical grounds, the report seems to have had some beneficial impacts on research policy. In May, 1992 I was the first social scientist asked to testify before the House on funding for the U.S. Global Change Research Program, and have a sense that social science research is being included in the general global change agenda. The Human Dimensions Program at NSF continues to grow. Social science is gaining legitimacy with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. All of these changes have many causes, but there is no doubt the work of the Committee on Human Dimensions of Global Change has had an important influence.

The Committee continues, but with a somewhat different charge. First, we have a rather general oversight responsibility for the components of the U.S. Global Change Research Program that involve Human Dimensions. Second, we serve as the U.S. national committee for the international Human Dimensions Program being undertaken by the International Social Science Council. Finally, we have been asked to work with the larger community of environmental social scientists to identify several high priority areas for focused funding. These are areas that would receive support beyond the money spent on investigator initiated projects at NSF and other federal agencies. This process of linked deliberation among the broad community, an NAS/NRC Committee and officials in federal agencies has been successful at identifying and supporting some very large programmatic efforts in the physical and biological sciences. We hope to create some parallel projects in the social sciences.

The Committee has had some turnover as appointments have expired. Barry, Birdsall, Cronon, Crosson, Netting, Nordhaus, Norse, Schelling, Turner, Vogel, Weiss and Mooney have left our ranks. We have been joined by Eric Barron, Meteorology, Penn State; Ralph Cicerone, California Irvine; Diana Liverman, Geography, Penn

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Publications

Alario, Margarita. 1993 (forthcoming). *Environmental Risks, Social Asymmetry, and Late Modernity*. Social Theory and Practice. 19(3).

Alario, Margarita. 1993 (forthcoming). *Environmental Policy Enactment Under the Military*. International Journal of Comparative Sociology. 34(1-2).

Beckley, Tom. Forthcoming dissertation. *Pulp, Paper, and Power: The Social and Political Consequences of Forest-dependence in a New England Mill Town*. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Department of Sociology.

Chew, Sing C. 1993. *Logs for Capital (The Timber Industry and Capitalist Enterprise in the 19th Century)*. Greenwood Press.

Dunlap, Riley E., Loren A. Lutzenhiser, and Eugene A. Rosa. 1993. *Understanding Environmental Problems: A Sociological Perspective*. in Beat Burgenmeier (ed.), Socio-Economic Approaches to the Environment. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, Inc.

Gilbert, Claire W., publisher of *Blazing Tattles*, is offering two complimentary "special" issues of *Blazing Tattles* to E&T Section members. They include *Gulf War Syndrome* which deals with environmental illness and is based on an interview with Alan S. Levine, M.D., who treated Gulf War veterans; and *Atmosphere and Air*, forthcoming, which will include material based on interviews with persons on the program of the winter meeting of The American Geophysical Union, research on air from the American Cancer Society, and more.

Send requests to *Blazing Tattles*, P.O. Box 620037, Redwood City, CA 94061-0037, or e-mail: <cgilbert@netcom.com>.

Hinman, George W., Eugene A. Roas, Randall Kleinhesselink, and Thomas Lowinger. 1993. *Perceptions of Nuclear and Other Risks in the U.S. and Japan*. Risk Analysis. Vol. 13, No. 4.

Jaeger, Carlo. 1993. *Culture Evolution of Rational Choice*. International Sociology. Vol. 8, No. 4. (December). Pp. 497-503.

Jaeger, Carlo. 1993. *Sustainable Regional Development: A Path for the Greenhouse Marathon*. In L. Freese (ed.) Advances in Human Ecology. Vol. 2. Pp. 163-190. Greenwich, Conn: JAI Press.

Jaeger, C., G. Dürrenberger, H. Kastenholtz, and B. Truffer. 1993. *Determinants of Environmental Action with Regard to Climatic Change*. Climatic Change. 23:193-211.

Jaeger, Carlo. 1993. *Integrating the Sciences in Research on Climatic Change*. Human Ecology: Crossing Boundaries. Sixth Conference of the Society for Human Ecology. Utah, October 2-4, 1992. Pp. 200-206.

Moran, Emilio. 1993. *Through Amazonian Eyes: The Human Ecology of Amazonian Populations*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press. Emilio is Professor of Anthropology and Professor of Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, and Director of the Anthropological Center for Training and Research on Global Environmental Change. He writes the following (from p. 31 of his book): "...this book presents native approaches to dealing with the diverse resources and habitat

characteristics of Amazonian environments. I will try to link native perception and forms of resource use with recent attempts to understand the ecology of the region through Western scientific methods. Emphasis is given to research based on native informants so that the native viewpoint emerges and is explained in terms familiar to Western science. This approach derives from the need to link native views on the use and conservation of nature with the specialized knowledge and sympathetic understanding of scientists who share a concern with the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development."

Shrivastava, Paul. 1994 (Forthcoming). *Organizational Sources of Industrial Crises*. Technological Forecasting and Social Change.

Shrivastava, Paul. 1994. *Ecocentric Management in Industrial Ecosystems*. Academy of Management Review.

Shrivastava, Paul. 1994. *Castrated Environment: Greening Organizational Science!* Organization Studies.

Szasz, Andrew. 1994 (expected). *EcoPopulism: Toxic Waste and the Movement for Environmental Justice*. University of Minnesota Press. Scheduled for publication in April.

J. Allen Williams, Jr. is guest editor of a special issue of *Great Plains Research: A Journal of Natural and Social Sciences* that is now available dealing entirely with environmental research. The issue is Vol. 3, No. 2. There are nine articles, including two articles by sociologists, **Mary C. Thompson** and **Joel Novek**. Also, sixteen books on environmental subjects are reviewed. Copies are available from The Center for Great Plains Studies, 1215 Oldfather Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0317. ∞

Network Committee (cont.)

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State; Estella Leopold, Ecology, Washington; Bonnie McCay, Anthropology, Rutgers; Ron Rindfuss, Demography, North Carolina; Vern Ruttan, Economics, Minnesota; Steve Sanderson, Geography, Florida; Rob Socolow, Industrial Ecology and Energy, Princeton; and Jim Sweeney, Economics, Stanford. Stern remains as Study Director, and Young continues as Chair.

I'll try to use this forum to keep you informed about the progress of the Committee and other developments regarding human dimensions of global change. On a related matter, let me encourage anyone interested in acquiring funding for your research to consider submitting proposals to the Human Dimensions of Global Change program at NSF. The program is working hard to be interdisciplinary and to give high priority to solid environmental social science. Sociology is being responsive by appointing, for the first time, an environmental sociologist (me) to the Sociology Panel that reviews all proposals for sociological research. A number of section members have been funded already, and I would like to see more proposals submitted by environmental sociologists. The pool of money is substantial—in this fiscal year NSF Human Dimensions funds, not counting money for economics research, will be greater than Sociology funds. In my experience, the review process is reasonably fair and balanced, even though rigorous. Projects from a broad diversity of methodological and theoretical orientations have been funded. Overall, the NSF program seems a good opportunity for environmental sociologists. ∞

Announcements

PAPERS PRESENTED

Chew, Sing C. 1993. *Sociology and Nature: Anthropocentrism, Ecocentrism and Beyond*. Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association Annual Meetings. June 1-4. Ottawa, Canada.

Chew, Sing C. 1993. *Wood, Environmental Imperatives, and Developmental Strategies: Challenges for Southeast Asia*. Presented at a Conference on Asia in the 1990s: Making and Meeting a New World. Queens University. October 29-31.

Grahame, Peter R. 1993. *Environment, Spectacle, and Talk: The Social Organization of Experience in Nature Tourism*. Presented at The Annual Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences. New Orleans, LA. (October).

Jaeger, Carlo. 1993. *Theoretical Perspectives on the Social Consequences of Climate Change*. Congress of the American Sociological Association (ASA). Miami, August 13-17.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Environmental Studies: Brown University seeks candidates for a tenured, endowed Associate Professorship in the Center for Environmental Studies, with a joint appointment in a related department, to teach problem-based environmental courses at the introductory and advanced levels and to direct a problem-driven research program on environmental issues of social concern. The ideal candidate has training in the social and natural sciences. We particularly invite invitations from women and minority candidates. Brown University is an equal opportunity/AA employer. Applications received by 15 March are guaranteed a full review. For a complete job description, contact **Harold Ward**, Box 1943, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912; 401- 863-3449 (Harold_Ward@Brown.Edu).

TO: Members of the Environment and Technology Section, ASA

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

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Names of Journals (for articles of E&T interest and opportunity for publication). Include editors, address, etc.

Name: _____

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