

Environment, Technology, and Society



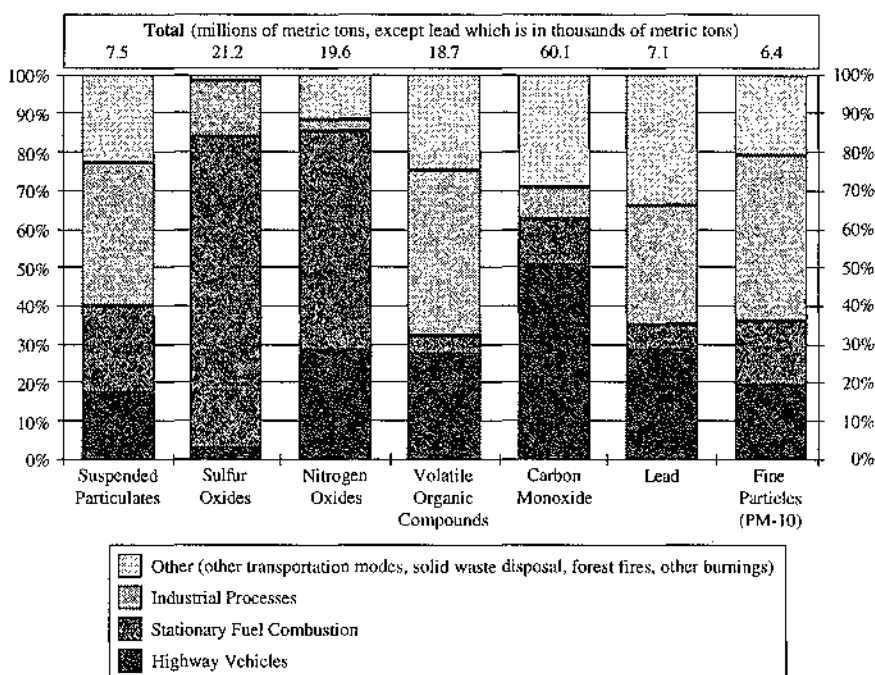
Newsletter of the Section on Environment and Technology
American Sociological Association

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U.S. Sources of Air Pollution, 1990

This chart is derived from data presented in: Gale Environmental Library. 1994. *Statistical Record of the Environment*. Second Edition. Compiled and Edited by Arsen J. Darnay. Detroit: Gale Research Inc. Table 9, P. 10. This compendium contains over 800 pages of environmental statistics on 16 different topics, including: air; water; land and land use; wildlife and habitat; energy; toxic substances; law; resource recovery; noise; technology; and others. Most of the data cover the late 1980s and the early 1990s, derived from over 150 national, state and other sources. In another table in this compendium, derived from EPA data, expenditures to maintain current levels of environmental quality by various media are shown for three time periods: 1981, 1987, and 2000. The data indicate that expenditures for air quality are expected to decline while those for drinking water, water quality, and solid waste are expected to continue to increase, "attributable largely to steady increases in Superfund program activities." (Table 622, P. 573) However, the recent changes in Congress would appear to cast some doubt on future Superfund support and hence these forecasts.



Improving the Study of Health and the Environment Through Linking Medical Sociology and Environmental Sociology

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This note is a revision of comments made as discussant at the "Health and the Environment" panel at the 1994 ASA Meetings, cosponsored by the Medical Sociology Section and the Environmental Sociology Section. The panel was designed to

(continued on page 3)

In This Issue

Improving the Study of Health and Environment Through Linking Medical Sociology	1-4
Editor's Notes	2
Meetings/Conferences	4-5
Current Research; Papers & Presentations	5
Publications; Position Announcements	6
Planned Environmental Sessions for 1995 Meetings	6
Call for Papers	7
Membership News	7-8

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Notes from the Editor

By now most of our Section's members are aware that the ASA has settled on a policy that limits all Sections to 24 pages of newsletter material per year that can be covered under the current dues structure. To put this in perspective, in 1994 our Section published 4 issues with a total of 52 pages. We are currently exploring options for how best to manage the flow of information without requiring that the Section pay for additional newsletter pages over the limit. With this issue, I am eliminating the last tear-off page to save space but please don't let that stand in the way of your sending in materials to the Editor. We may, for example, go for three issues of 8 pages each and rely much more heavily on electronic forms of communication, particularly our listserver that Timmons Roberts was instrumental in establishing at the University of Colorado. Information was included in my *Notes* from the last issue on subscribing. Briefly, you need to send a message to <listserv@csf.colorado.edu> with only the text: Sub ENVTECSOC YourFirstName YourLastName

We now have over 100 subscribers or about 25% of our membership (less perhaps, since some non-Section members also have subscribed). It is very important for every member with Internet access to subscribe because a significant amount of relevant, time-critical information is now carried on this listserver that *will not* be repeated in our reduced-size newsletter. Some examples of the many kinds of information that has already been exchanged among Section members on our listserver include: inquiries about research on forestry management and conflict resolution; sustainability, a cross-national database on food, and environmental sociology and geology; shared syllabi on environmental sociology; information sources available on the Internet such as "econet" and "conflictnet"; calls for papers; and meeting announcements. Another information source is EnviroNews (send a message to <listserv@envirolink.org> with the command <subscribe environews your-full-name> in the body of the message). You will receive information on breaking environmental news; legislative and executive action from WDC; environmental non-profit news; regional environmental news; environmental activism; and new studies and results.

With this issue I am trying an experiment. I am posting to the listserver an electronic copy of the newsletter, using software known as Adobe Acrobat v2.0. This new product from Adobe is designed to work with current desktop publishing programs to create 'electronic documents' that can be viewed using a computer. Adobe Acrobat is a cross-platform environment that allows users to view electronic documents on Windows, Macintosh, and UNIX platforms. The goal of Adobe Acrobat is to create electronic documents that will look on screen just as they would look on paper. The Acrobat system revolves around a "Reader" program that allows the user to view and print documents, make annotations, and copy and paste text and graphics to other documents. Other advantages to Acrobat documents are imbedded hypertext links, the ability to perform a key-word search of the text, and different levels of document security. The Acrobat system creates a portable document format (.pdf) file that can be distributed on disk or through e-mail. Acrobat 2.0 readers are available free, through Adobe's World Wide Web page at (www.adobe.com). There are no restrictions for the 2.0 versions of the Windows and Macintosh readers but some restrictions do apply for the 1.0 versions of the DOS and UNIX readers.

Please let me know if you are able to successfully "read" the electronic version of this issue (assuming I can successfully get it onto our network server), and offer any comments you may have on how this works. If it works well, it may offer us additional options for newsletter production in our Section.

Environment, Technology and Society Newsletter

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Publication Schedule

The deadline for the Spring/Summer issue will be July 1, 1995. 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.

Study of Health and the Environment (cont.)

(continued from page 1)

address environmentally-caused disease, the health effects of human-made disasters, social movements of affected people, and government and scientific response to these concerns. As well, the panel sought to bring together contributions from medical and environmental sociology in order to jointly develop a more complete approach to health and the environment. A show of hands by the approximately 40 people at the session demonstrated that roughly half were members of the Medical Sociology Section and half were members of the Environmental Sociology Section. Interestingly, only two people were members of both sections.

Virtually all, if not all, current efforts by community activists to deal with toxic hazards involve health. Indeed, this concern for health is what sets apart the new toxic waste movement and environmental justice movement from past environmental activism. This is the subject matter for a large number of environmental sociologists, and has become very significant in the public policy arena as well. In light of this, it is surprising how little effort has been made by sociologists to link health and the environment.

Many environmental sociologists who study community toxics activism are of course aware that these health concerns are central. But these sociologists do not necessarily put much emphasis on the specific details of environmental health effects. Nor do they usually link up citizen's health concerns with the rich fund of knowledge in medical sociology that helps explain such phenomena as lay perceptions of health and illness, patient explanatory models, lay-professional differences in health knowledge, social movements in health care, and the conflictive nature of medical diagnosis. Environmental sociologists have drawn on valuable theoretical traditions in their own field, and in the social movements field, and I certainly don't want to minimize these. But given that we are talking about the centrality of environmental health for environmental sociology, more attention is needed to epidemiologic and related health concerns, and connections are clearly needed with medical sociology.

In medical sociology, the situation is perhaps worse, since there are hardly any scholars taking up environmental health issues. A glance at the basic absence of environmental health articles in major journals in the field demonstrates the lack of attention here.

We need three things to move ahead.

- 1) A corps of scholars interested in pursuing the health-environment connection

- 2) Thinking about the common elements in medical sociology and environmental sociology, and using these for further theoretical development

- 3) New methods

1. Corps of scholars

One way to get a core of scholars is to show the existing links, as in the joint session on Health and the Environment at the ASA Meetings. We can also encourage our sections to pay attention to this linkage, such as with section chairs and newsletter editors. And we can also take risks by crossing over boundaries of subdisciplines, realizing that we are on the cusp of an important area. I am personally very pleased that several of the graduate students whom I am advising in dissertations are working on topics that link the two areas. I think that we need concerted efforts to help students develop such topics.

2. Thinking about the common elements in medical sociology and environmental sociology

There are a number of common elements in these two areas of sociology. It is imperative to identify them, in order to see commonalities and to use these as jumping off points for further theoretical development.

Uncertainty – In medical sociology, the uncertainty theme is very common, dealing with the various uncertainties in medical knowledge. In environmental sociology, there is considerable uncertainty about hazard measurements and about causal relationships between environmental factors and health outcomes.

Risk – Both fields are very concerned with the nature of risks, with who decides what risks are acceptable, and what is the proper balance between risks of personal safety and risks of societal benefit. This brings up the additional issue of how a society, or parts of a society, decide on what science and technology developments are appropriate and beneficial.

Lay-professional differences – The above elements of uncertainty and risk are clear examples of lay-professional differences. Other such differences involve the perception of the situation, what medical sociology would term illness experience as opposed to biomedical disease, and what environmental sociology would often see as the lay experience of hazards as opposed to the calculations of risk assessors.

Stigma – Many forms of illness result in social stigma, including mental illness, AIDS, and cancer. Disabling conditions, which medical sociology often examines, likewise are often stigmatized. So too are

contaminated communities the victims of stigma.

The importance of communities of various sorts – In contextualizing health and illness, medical sociology moves away from a bare epidemiological concern with people as units of analysis, and situates them in communities which are geographic, cultural, ethnic, and sometimes based on illness or condition. So much of the meaning of illness and how to treat it stems from social networks and social support, as well as from community norms. In environmental sociology, the community has been central, since it is the focus of how people experience technological and natural disasters, as well as routine environmental conditions. Case studies of community response to these crises are central to the way environmental sociology views the world.

Social movements – Both areas have shown the importance of social movements in defining illness and suffering, in providing remediation, and in struggling with government, establishment science, and corporations over the responsibility for illness and suffering. As well, social movements have expanded our knowledge base of such phenomena as environmental hazards, drug side effects, and unnecessary surgery.

Intersection with the sociology of science – Both subdisciplines share an important intersection with the sociology of science. This involves understanding the social biases of establishment science, biases inherent in scientific method, as well as biases caused by social structures such as corporate control. These fields have employed both political economic analyses and science-in-action approaches. Medical sociology has focused widely on the critique of the biomedical model, something very important for any work on health and the environment.

I am sure we could find more areas of overlap, but I present this preliminary list to show how much commonality there is.

3. New Methods

We are really at an early stage in being able to say much about health and the environment, and our greatest challenge now is probably the methodology. We do have health studies from specific toxic waste sites and from occupational exposures, which offer us a good amount of knowledge. But these are often done in crisis situations, involve very small numbers of people, and may involve very high concentrations of toxins. Further, they often take

(continued on page 4)

Study of Health and the Environment (cont.)

(continued from page 3)

quite a long time, and wind up being the subject of endless debate.

What we really need is more routine monitoring. One helpful feature would be the addition to regular national health surveys of questions on environmentally related illnesses. This will give us larger pictures of prevalence, which can be linked to databases of environmental variables. This will help get us away from mortality, since there are many important illnesses we need to look at in terms of morbidity. Another important thing would be toxic disease registries. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry now has one, but only for Superfund sites, and it requires individuals to specifically give permission to be included. These points on monitoring and registries are, of course, larger issues than individual researchers can deal with. They represent broader goals we should be pursuing for the future.

But at the present there is much we can do. We need to spend more time thinking about how to make clear connections between environmental variables and health out-

comes. We need to decide what are the best health outcomes, both in terms of data access and in terms of plausible connections to environmental quality. Choosing plausible connections will involve delving into medical literature and consulting with medical and public health researchers.

We need to decide what size geographical areas are most useful — presently studies range from census tracts to zip codes to cities to MSAs. We need to figure out how many area units are needed to best answer our questions. We need to get better measures of the characteristics of various geographic areas. Existing data sources give an unbelievably wide array of units of measurement for such items as toxic releases, type of releasing facilities, water quality, and air quality. As one example of measurement issues that require reformulation, we may note that recent research shows that air particles under 10 microns in diameter cause 50,000-60,000 deaths per year, yet regulatory practices deal only with larger particles. Data access is also difficult. From my own experience, extracting data from EPA is cumbersome, requiring tedious FOIA

requests and lengthy waits. Hence we may need to seek alternative sources of data and develop a collective data base.

We need to come up with creative models that study health outcomes in relation to a variety of inputs, including political structure, public participation, access to health services, economic factors, population density, racial/ethnic proportions, environmental quality, and access to the natural environment.

In addition to the quantification necessary for the above connections, we need more qualitative work on the experience of illness of people living in toxic areas. Case studies of toxic activism sometimes include this, but in a number of cases, researchers focus mainly or solely on the political elements. Some degree of standardization of interview schedules would help to make data comparable across sites.

One last suggestion is the idea of a working group, perhaps using e-mail, that could talk about the best kinds of data needed, where to get it, and how to analyze it.

Meetings/Conferences

An international conference on *Sustainable Forests: Global Challenges and Local Solutions* will be held 5/29 to 6/1, 1995 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. The conference will provide for an exchange of knowledge on sustainability aspects of the world's remaining natural forests, in light of demographic and economic changes. There will be a focus on concrete action toward sustainability of forest ecosystems at the local level. For information, contact: Thomas Bouman, Prince Albert Model Forest Assoc. Inc., Box 2406, Prince Albert, SK Canada S6V 7G3. Ph: 306-922-1944. Fx: 306-763-6456.

The Second International Workshop of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) Russian Chapter will be held July 16-20, 1995 in Pereslavl-Zalessky, Russia. The workshop title is *Socio-Ecological-Economic Systems: From Information to Simulation*, and the goal is to assess the state of Russian socio-environmental-economic conditions and help develop strategies for the future. Papers will be presented on such topics as:

controllability of regional systems; environment, institutions and society; ecological-economics modelling; social ecology; problems of sustainable development; indicators of sustainability; natural resource accounts; and information systems. For information contact: Paul Safonov, Ph: 095-334-9159, 966-4969; Fax: 095-420-2016, 334-9340.

A conference on *Who Owns America? Land and Resource Tenure Issues in a Changing Environment* will meet in Madison, Wisconsin, June 21-24, 1995 under the sponsorship of the University of Wisconsin Land Tenure Center's North American Program. The conference seeks to bring together the voices of policy makers, grassroots activists, academic researchers, and private citizens interested in tenure issues related to the ownership, management, and regulation of land and natural resources. The conference will focus on historical and contemporary tenure systems and their relation to a wide range of issues, including resource productivity and sustainability, political equality, environmental justice, wealth and income

distributions, minority and gender inequalities, land use regulation, and more. Activities will include paper presentation sessions, plenary theme addresses, round table discussions, poster sessions, video and film screenings, discussion panels, and a dinner reception. Proposals for papers, posters, and video/films or for organizing a session should be submitted by March 1, 1995 to the Program Chair: **Gene Summers**, North American Program, Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin, 1357 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53715; Tel. 608-262-3658; Fax: 608-262-2141; e-mail: <summers@soc.ssc.wisc.edu>

The Second International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences will include the following components: *Unity and Diversity in Arctic Societies*, May 28-June 1, 1995 in Rovaniemi, Finland, and a Special Session and Excursion on *Ethics of Eco- and Ethno-Tourism*, June 2-4, 1995 Kautokeino, Norway. The purpose of the Congress (held every three years) is to promote and stimulate international co-

(continued on page 5)

Meetings (cont.)

operation and to increase the participation of social scientists in national and international Arctic research. Sessions will include: self-determination in health issues, education, history, language, economic development, environmental management, Arctic environmental politics, global change, sustainable development, and social change. For more information contact: IASSA Secretariat, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, PO Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland email: <ltornber@roisrv.urova.fi>

The first annual *Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program* (SERDP) Symposium will be held April 12-14, 1995 at the Grand Hyatt Washington, Washington, DC. The focus will be on technology transfer and the program will include plenary sessions, technical sessions, and a poster/exhibit session in the six SERDP technology areas: Cleanup, Compliance, Conservation, Renewable Energy/Energy Conservation, Global Environmental Change, and Pollution Prevention. To receive further information contact Ann Maxwell 703/525-7975.

The sixth conference on *Computing for the Social Sciences*, CSS95, meets June 16-21, 1995, on the campus of the University of California at San Diego. The theme for the conference is: Changing Technology, Changing Society. This annual conference, which is the professional meeting for the Social Science Computing Association, provides a forum for discussion of topics in social science research in all areas, and on the impact of computers on society. For further information, contact the program chair: Albert Anderson; Ph: 313-998-7140; Fax: 313-998-7415; e-mail: <aafa@umich.edu>

Tom Dietz reports that the Society for Human Ecology will hold its Eighth International Conference October 19-22, 1995 at Granlibakken Conference Center at Lake Tahoe, California. The conference theme is *Livelihood and Liveability*. The Society is an international interdisciplinary professional society focused on human-environment interactions. Many members of the Section already participate in SHE meetings. For information, contact: Dr. Jancy Markee, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, Nevada 89557; Ph: 702-784-1674; Fax: 702-784-1142; e-mail: <nlmarkee@scs.unr.edu>

Current Research

Robert Cameron Mitchell has been conducting research and writing directed towards measuring the value of natural resources. Working with a team of economists and other social scientists, he has conducted contingent valuation surveys of the passive use value of the damages caused by the Exxon Valdez oil spill and, more recently, of the harm to natural resources caused by a large deposit of DDT and PCBs off the Los Angeles coast. This work has been done in support of court cases brought by the State of Alaska and the Federal Government, and it involves a variety of interesting environmental perception, survey methodological and economic theoretical issues.

Max J. Pfeffer and **Mayone Stycos** have begun work on a three year, USDA/National Research initiative funded longitudinal study of environmental attitudes, knowledge and behaviors in the New York City watersheds. This study takes advantage of a natural experiment in environmental management in rural watersheds that supply NYC. To maintain the Safe Drinking Water Act mandated level of environmental quality, NYC is encouraging roughly 60 towns and villages to adopt long-range community and individual behavioral modifications. In exchange for voluntary implementation of watershed protection measures, NYC promises funds for community infrastructure development and the easing of mandatory restrictions. This approach is viewed as a potential model for rural watershed protection and development.

Harry Potter offered comments to Dan Ryan, Dept. of Sociology, Yale University, on a gopher server in the social sciences (sociology, demography, and urban studies) that Dan is developing. Harry urged the inclusion of environmental sociology, community, and creative ways of handling the subject of research methods. For a copy of the tentative list of topic areas and an opportunity to comment or contribute ideas, contact Dan Ryan, Dept. of Sociology, Yale University, Box 208265, New Haven, CT 06520-8265; Ph: 203-432-3313.

Steve Kroll-Smith is writing a book on environmental illness, also called multiple chemical sensitivity. He is collecting illness-career stories from people who self-identify as environmentally ill or EI. If you are EI or know someone who is, please contact Kroll-Smith at the Department of Sociology, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70114 (504-368-4544).

David Sonnenfeld is writing his dissertation on environment and technology and the pulp and paper industries of Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. The title is: *Conflict, Cooperation & Innovation: A Social and Environmental History of Innovation in Environmental Technology in The Pulp and Paper Industries of Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand*. His working abstract was posted on our Section's listserv. For more information, contact David at: 408-459-8466; e-mail: <sonn@cats.ucsc.edu>

Papers & Presentations

Gould, Ken. 1994. *Transnational Problems, National Policy, and Local Mobilization: Environmental Remediation in the Great Lakes Basin*. Panel presentation at the Political Ecology Workshop, Michigan State University. (April).

Gould, Ken. 1994. *Sustainability and the State: Economic Transnationalization and Sustainable Development in the Rural Periphery*. Paper presented at the conference on The Politics of Sustainable Development: Theory, Policy, and Practice Within the European Union, University of Crete, Greece. (October).

Steve Kroll-Smith presented a Plenary Address at the 1994 Mid-South Sociology Meetings in Lafayette, LA. The title of his address was *Toxic Contamination and the Loss of Civility*.

Steve Couch presented a paper co-authored with Steve Kroll-Smith at the World Congress of Sociology in Bielenfeld, Germany, 1994. The paper is titled *Risk and Reflexive Sociology*.

Publications

Carson, Richard T. and Robert Cameron Mitchell. 1993. *The Benefits of National Water Quality Improvements: A Contingent Valuation Study.* *Water Resources Research.* 29(7): 2445-2454.

Carson, Richard T. and Robert Cameron Mitchell. n.d. *Contingent Valuation and the Legal Arena.* in Raymond J. Kopp and V. Kerry Smith (Eds). *Valuing Natural Assets: The Economics of Natural Resource Damage Assessment.* Washington, D.C.: Resources for the Future. Pp. 231-244.

Carson, Richard T. and Robert Cameron Mitchell. 1995. *Sequencing and Nesting in Contingent Valuation Surveys.* *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management.* (January).

Couch, Stephen R. and Steve Kroll-Smith. 1994. *Environmental Controversies: Interactional Resources and Rural Communities: Siting Versus Exposure Disputes.* *Rural Sociology.* 59(1): 25-44.

Mitchell, Robert Cameron and Richard T. Carson. (Forthcoming) *Current Issues in the Design, Administration, and Analysis of Contingent Valuation Surveys.* in P.O. Johansson, B. Kristrom, and K.G. Maler (Eds), *Current Issues in Environmental Economics.* Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Kroll-Smith, Steve and Stephen R. Couch. 1994. *Technological Hazards: Social Responses as Traumatic Stressors.* in John P. Wilson and Beverly Raphael (Eds.) *The International Handbook of Traumatic Stress Syndromes.* New York: Plenum Press. Pp.

Position Announcements

Faculty position for an Environmental Anthropologist: The Department of Anthropology, The School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) and the International Institute of the University of Michigan invite applicants for a nine-month tenure track or tenured position. The position will be 50% in the Anthropology Dept. and 50% in SNRE. We seek an anthropologist with established credentials in anthropological theory and research and a strong demonstrated interest in applications to pressing international natural resource and environmental problems. Primary research experience must be outside the United States. The position is to focus on such matters as the regional and local effects of global change on third world cultural groups, international efforts to merge conservation and development, ethno-ecologies, social and cultural causes of environmental degradation, and perhaps ethnographic methods of environmental data gathering. Applicants will be expected to teach 4 courses per year. At least three of these will be cross-listed between the Dept. of Anthropology and SNRE. Involvement with the International Institute will be expected. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, a letter stating interests, qualifications for the position, and names of three references to: Dr. Roy Rappaport, Co-chair search committee, University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, 1054 LS&A Bldg., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1382. The University of Michigan is an equal opportunity employer. Women and Minorities are encouraged to apply. Closing Date: March 1, 1995.

The College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville invites nominations for the Nancy Gore Hunger Chair of Excellence in Environmental Science. The Chairholder will be expected to develop and sustain a dynamic research program, and to be active at the national and international level as part of efforts by professional societies and research agencies to define scientific issues and planning the global environmental research agenda. The Chairholder will contribute to the education mission of the University at the undergraduate and graduate levels and will meet qualifications for tenure at the rank of Professor in one of the natural science, social science, or mathematics departments of the University with a specialization in an area of science relevant to global environmental studies. The Chairholder will have a significant reputation for contributions to our understanding of the Earth system. Letters of nomination and application should be directed to the Chair, Nancy Gore Hunger Chair of Excellence Search Committee, M-303 Walters Life Sciences, Knoxville, TN 37996-0830. Review of nominations will begin March 1, 1995 with the expectation that the Chairholder will be in place by August, 1996.

Planned Environmental Sessions for the 1995 ASA Meetings

Six sessions of interest to members of the Section on Environment and Technology, plus a slate of roundtables, are being planned for the forthcoming meetings in Washington, D.C. this fall. The following information is preliminary, and more details on plans for the papers and roundtable discussions will be announced on ENVTECSOC and in the next issue of E.T.&S.

The Social Construction of Global Regulatory Communities

Organizers: Penelope Canan and Nancy Reichman, University of Denver
 President: Penelope Canan
 Discussant: Errol Meidinger, SUNY-Buffalo

Sustainable Communities

Organizer: Eugene Rosa, Washington

State University

President: John Allen, University of Nebraska

Discussant: Loren Lutzenhiser, Washington State University

Population, Environment, and Development

Organizer: Eugene Rosa, Washington State University

President: Eugene Rosa, Washington State University

Discussant: Thomas Dietz, George Mason University

Global Problems, International Agreements Organizers: Eugene Rosa, Washington State University, and Nancy Reichman, University of Denver

President: Penelope Canan, University of Denver

Discussant: Nancy Reichman, University of Denver

New Environmental Paradigm: A Global Perspective

Organizer: Chris Cluett, Battelle Seattle Research Center

President: Chris Cluett, Battelle Seattle Research Center

Discussant: TBD

Environmental Justice

Organizer: Chris Cluett, Battelle Seattle Research Center

President: Chris Cluett, Battelle Seattle Research Center

Discussant: Denise Lach, Battelle Seattle Research Center

Call for Papers

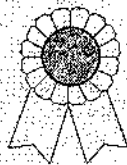
Gene Rosa, Secretary of Section K (Social, Economic, and Political Sciences) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), wishes to alert members of the Environment and Technology Section that now is the time to begin organizing symposia for the 8-13 February, 1996 annual meetings of AAAS, to be held in Baltimore, MD. All proposed symposia sessions are peer-reviewed and submitters will receive copies of reviewers' comments. The final deadline for submissions is 1 April 1995, but those submitting proposals by 15 December 1994 (a firm deadline) will be notified of a decision by the annual meetings office by the time of the 1995 annual meetings, 16-21 February 1995. Symposia must be submitted on a special AAAS form that can be obtained from the AMSIE '96 Program Committee, Office of Membership and Meetings, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1333 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, Tel: (202) 326-6450; FAX: (202) 289-4021. Some of the 1996 topics of relevance to the section are: "Global Change: Physical, Environmental, and Social Actions and Impacts;" "Science and Society;" "Public Health and Medicine;" "Science, Engineering, and Public Policy;" and "Environment, Food, and Natural Resources." Any section members thinking about submitting a proposal and who would like more information should contact Gene Rosa: Ph.: (509) 335-4621; Fax: (509) 335-6419; E-mail: <facrosa@wsuvm1.csc.wsu.edu>

Papers are invited for a conference dealing with ways that agriculture can offer environmental benefits, rather than simply reducing the damage it imposes on the environment. The goal of the conference is to foster a new kind of strategic thinking about agriculture based on "win-win" approaches that jointly serve both agricultural and environmental interests. Papers may be about research, field projects, general concepts, or legislative and policy issues. They may be descriptive, practice-oriented, theoretical, or empirical, and they may deal either with the U.S. or other parts of the world. Mail three copies of an abstract of 150 to 250 words by April 14, 1995 to: William Lockeretz, School of Nutrition, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155. Ph: 617-627-3223; Fax: 617-627-3887; e-mail: <wlockeretz@infonet.tufts.edu> Notification of acceptance of papers will be sent by May 26, 1995.

Papers are invited on the topic *Sustainability: Rural Development and Environmental Justice?* for a working group on environment at the European Society for Rural Sociology, Prague, Czech Republic, July 31 to Aug. 4, 1995. Submit abstracts by May 1, 1995, to **Maria Kousis**, Department of Sociology, University of Crete, Rethimno, 74100 Crete, Greece. Ph/Fax: 30-831-23692; e-mail: <kousis@zeus.cc.ucre.gr>

Membership News

Nominations for the Award for Distinguished Contributions



The Section on Environment and Technology seeks nominations for the 1996 Award for Distinguished Contributions to the sociology of Environment and Technology. According to our by-laws, "The purpose of this award shall be to recognize individuals for outstanding service, innovation, or publication in environmental sociology or sociology of technology. This is intended to be an expression of appreciation to be awarded when an individual is deemed extraordinarily meritorious by the Section. Letters of nomination should be sent to **Gene Rosa**, Department of Sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4020 by May 1, 1995.

Penelope Canan reports that as of Feb. 9, with 62% of the ASA's renewals having been processed, we have 262 members. Projecting out to the full count, we can anticipate approximately 420 E&T Section members this year.

Loren Lutzenheiser (E&T NIE Chair) circulated an update on the National Institute for the Environment via e-mail (*I have posted this to the listserv so that E&T members can access it in full-Ed.*). The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the NIE, contending that "American business needs the best scientific data available on a broad range of environmental problems, but federal environmental research is too often fragmented and ineffective. A National Institute for the Environment will provide a lasting mechanism to link credible science to sensible environmental decisions." The new Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, is one of 83 co-sponsors of

NIE legislation. The NIE will assess the state of knowledge on environmental issues, identify, prioritize, and fund policy-relevant research in the natural and social sciences, engineering and other disciplines through the award of peer-reviewed research grants. The NIE will communicate environmental information through an openly accessible electronic National Library for the Environment. Legislation is expected to be introduced early in 1995. Also contained in this message circulated by Loren is a notice that EPA announced plans for a new program of grants and fellowships for environmental research to be carried out by U.S. universities. The augmented grants program will fund research in the areas of ecosystems, environmental technologies, global change and socio-economic issues. One hundred fellowships will be awarded to provide two-year support for students in a doctoral program. For additional information, call the EPA Office of research and Development at 202-260-7473.

(continued on page 9)

Membership News

Loren Lutzenhiser sent the following message on our listserv: "Those of you who find OTA-style analysis (with all of its strengths and faults) preferable to 'letting the market assess technology' (always after the fact and often with disastrous consequences) might contact the Congressmen mentioned and any others who might be able to do some good. It will be outrageous if they get away with this. It'll make great sociology, but lousy environment and technology policy." Loren attached this message from Norman Vig of Carleton College:

In the eight weeks since the Senate Republican caucus announced that it planned to eliminate the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), things have not gotten better. The most recent reports indicate that there is a very good chance that they will go ahead with it unless they are persuaded otherwise in the next few weeks. The supporters of OTA in the Senate are just beginning to focus on it, but it is not a high priority item to say the least. In fact, *time is short* as the Appropriations Subcommittees on the Legislative Branch are about to begin hearings. I have received *urgent* pleas from people close to OTA to encourage all of us in the science policy community to fax letters to the two chairs of the subcommittees ASAP. Tell them that we as scholars and practitioners believe that OTA has done a good job and is critically important for rational policy making in the future. The fax addresses are as follows:

Rep. Ron Packard
Chair, Subcommittee on Appropriations for the Legislative Branch
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
FAX: 202-225-0134

Sen. Connie Mack
Chair, Subcommittee on Appropriations for the Legislative Branch
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
FAX: 202-224-8022

Paul Shrivastava has contributed the following information: The Academy of Management Board of Governors approved the creation of a new Interest Group on Organizations and the Natural Environment. The intellectual domain of this Interest

Group is research, teaching and practices regarding relationships of organizations and the natural environment. Major topics include: ecological sustainability; environmental philosophies and strategies; ecological performance; environmental entrepreneurship; environmental products and services industries; pollution control and prevention; waste minimization; industrial ecology; total quality environmental management; environmental auditing and information systems; managing human resources for sustainability; ecological crisis management; natural resources and systems management, protection and restoration; interactions of environmental stakeholders; environmental policies; environmental attitudes and decision-making; and international/comparative dimensions of these topics. ONE promotes holistic, integrative, and interdisciplinary analyses of these topics with all other disciplines and Academy units. For more information contact: Ken Cooper, Academy of Management, Ohio Northern University, P.O. Box 39, 300 South Union Street, Ada, OH 45810. You also may join the free ONE-L electronic network (one-l@clvm.clarkson.edu) to receive updates on this group. We are looking for program ideas for the 1995 Academy Meetings in Vancouver. You may place them on the ONE-L network or contact Paul Shrivastava at: 717-524-1821 or <shrivast@bucknell.edu>

The *Network Newsletter* is published by the Environmental and Societal Impacts Group, National Center for Atmospheric Research, P.O. Box 3000, Boulder, CO 80307-3000. It provides an international network for climate-related impacts. In Vol. 10, No. 1, October 1994, the following article appeared:

Implementation and Effectiveness of International Environmental Commitments

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) has launched a major three-year project with the aim of linking scholars from many disciplines and countries who are studying the implementation and effectiveness of environmental agreements, to conduct systematic and complementary research on these topics, and ultimately to provide fresh insights that will help policymakers create and implement

agreements that lead to a better environment. The project will sponsor major conferences, probably in 1995 and 1996, and is already applying research results to current policy concerns, such as the development of international institutions for managing climate change. For further information, please contact David Victor, Project Leader, IIASA, A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria; Ph.: (43)-2236-71521-278; Fax: (43)-2236-71313, and access by e-mail: <dgvector@iiasa.ac.at>

Find out how your representatives are addressing your environmental concerns. EcoNet has released the League of Conservation Voters' 1994 National Environmental Scorecard via the Internet. A clickable image map allows viewing by section of the country. The Environmental Scorecard rates House and Senate Representatives according to their voting records on critical environmental issues for the past year. You may also access the Scorecard via electronic mail at: <scorecard@econet.apc.org> The URL through Mosaic is: <http://www.econet.apc.org/icv/scorecard.html>

A report from the North American Institute (NAMI) published recently is now available on-line. In March of 1994 the North American Institute convened a meeting of over 25 environmental experts from Canada, Mexico and the United States, in Vancouver, British Columbia, in order to provide a forum for discussion of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and the early implementation of its initial workplan. This report is based on the contributions of the workshop participants—drawn

Poll Confirms Public Support for Environmental Protection

A recent poll conducted for the National Wildlife Federation surveyed 1,201 voters Dec. 1-4, and found that 60 percent believe environmental laws should be strengthened or maintained. A majority of Americans surveyed expressed support for strengthening safe drinking water laws (76%), opposed takings (56%), and supported the Endangered Species Act as written (57%). Only 20% of all Americans said environmental laws place an unfair burden on business and 17% said the laws should be weakened. For more information on the poll contact, The National Wildlife Federation, 1400 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036, 202-797-6800.