

# Environment, Technology, and Society



Newsletter of the Section on Environment and Technology  
American Sociological Association

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Number 72

## Update on the National Institute for the Environment Proposal

by  
Loren Lutzenhiser  
Chair, NIE Committee

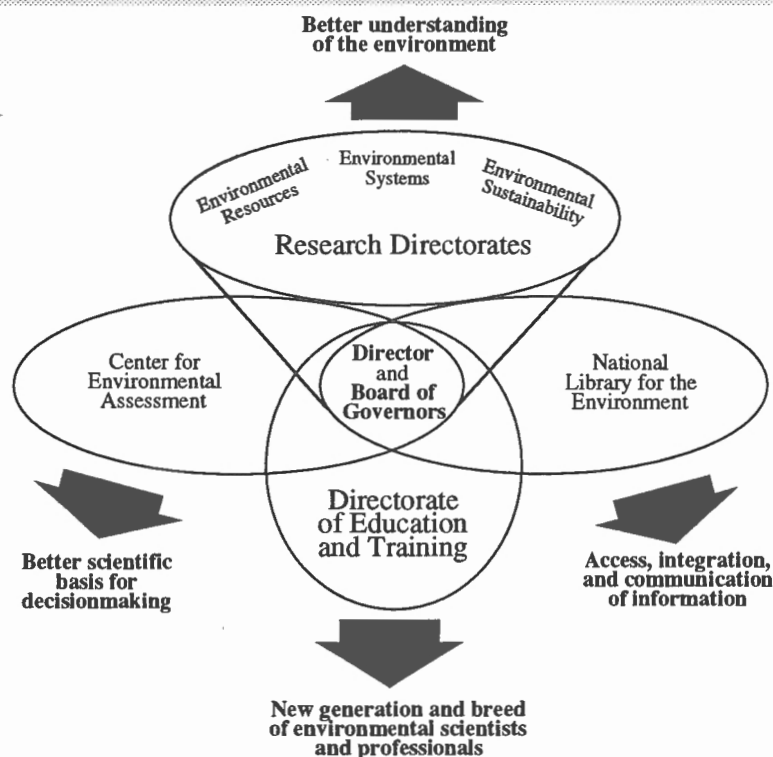
A federal National Institute for the Environment (NIE), modeled on the National Institutes of Health, is being proposed by environmental scientists and supporters to serve as a focal point for federal environmental research and education. Its prominent advocates in the academic community argue that the institute is needed to provide a better scientific basis for environmental decision-making. The NIE would supply needed information to decision-makers and citizens through (1) strategic research, (2) assessment of current environmental knowledge, (3) expansion of public access to environmental science and improved communication of scientific and technological findings, and (4) enhanced training of environmental researchers (CNIE 1993a). The Environment and Technology section has, since the outset, supported the NIE concept. The section has formally endorsed the proposal, and our section NIE Committee has been in place since 1991 to provide special liaison with the national organizing Committee for the NIE (CNIE).

### Problem-Focused Research

The National Institute for the Environment would concentrate its attention, and distribute its research funding, in a "problem-based and proactive" fashion; in other words, it would selectively focus on pressing and difficult environmental problems. The CNIE argues that in the past environmental research—whether investigator-initiated or federally-directed through NSF, EPA, DOE, USDA, NOAA, NASA, and a host of other agencies—has failed to adequately address a wide range of environmental problems that

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## National Institute for the Environment



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# Notes from the Editor

I have received a couple of interesting electronic mail messages recently that have got me thinking about the changes that are occurring in the communications industry and what this might mean to our Section, both for our internal information exchange and networking, and for environment and technology research.

The first message, dated June 1, 1993, was on the subject: *White House Internet Connection Goes Live*. The message said, in part: "Dear friends, part of our commitment to change is to keep the White House in step with today's changing technology. As we move ahead into the twenty-first century, we must have a government that can show the way and lead by example. Today, we are pleased to announce that for the first time in history, the White House will be connected to you via electronic mail. ... We will not be alone in this venture. Congress is also getting involved. ... A number of response-based programs which allow technology to help us read your message more effectively, and, eventually respond to you electronically in a timely fashion will be tried out as well. ... We eagerly anticipate the day when electronic mail from the public is an integral and normal part of the White House communications system." President Clinton <president@whitehouse.gov> and Vice President Gore <vice.president@whitehouse.gov>.

The second message was dated July 5, 1993 on the subject: *First Announcement/On-Line Congressional Hearing*. This message said, in part: "...the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance of the U.S. House of Representatives will hold the first Congressional Hearing ever held over a computer network [time TBD]... Chairman Markey has asked that this historic occasion demonstrate the potential and diversity of the global Internet. ... Some witnesses for

the hearing will testify remotely, sending audio and video over the Internet.... One of the primary points that we are hoping to demonstrate is the diversity and size of the Internet. We have therefore established an electronic mail address by which people on the Internet can communicate with the Subcommittee before and during the hearing: <congress@town.hall.org>. We encourage you to send your comments on what the role of government should be in the information age to this address. Your comments to this address will be made part of the public record of the hearing."

As we consider the impact of the new uses of the media, particularly during the past presidential election (talk shows, info-mercials, and the like), along with the remarkable diffusion of electronic mail, topical bulletin boards, satellite communications, and other modern forms of communication, we also should consider how our Section can use these capabilities more fully.

Our Section should take greater advantage of these emerging communications systems, in addition to staying on the leading edge of research to assess and anticipate their effects. I am exploring with the ASA how we can provide our membership with an up to date, complete listing of e-mail addresses of all E&T members who are on e-mail. If you have e-mail, send me a short note in order that I can record your e-mail address. I would ask readers to submit suggestions for the formation of one or more bulletin boards for the Section. Let me know what electronic information services you use or know of that would be of broad interest to the Section, such as reports of research opportunities, publications of interest, and the like. Let's at least keep pace with the Administration! I look forward to seeing many of you in Miami.

## Environment, Technology and Society Newsletter

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### Publication Schedule

The deadline for the Autumn issue will be October 15, 1993. 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 ideas for current research data that can be presented graphically on the front page.

# National Institute for the Environment

NIE (continued from page 1)

are inherently complex, poorly understood, and beyond the purview of individual disciplines. The current NIE proposal—which has evolved over the past year as a result of numerous suggestions from researchers and professional societies, including E&T section members and the ASA executive office—cites ozone depletion, deforestation, and environmental regulation as examples of such problems. Clearly global-scale environmental change, pollution, toxics management, resource depletion, and a host of other environmental problems also qualify. The emphasis in attacking these problems would be interdisciplinary science, including social science.

The CNIE argues that “What we don’t know about the environment can and does hurt us all the time,” and they point to the undesirable consequences of inappropriate regulation, excess litigation, and a lack of preventive action that follow from the present disorganization of federal environmental research. While planning for a cooperative relationship with existing federal agencies, the NIE proposal strongly indicts government-sponsored environmental science in the U.S. as seriously lacking in a number of areas, including: coherence, inclusiveness, long-range planning, assessment of knowledge of key environmental issues, quality, credibility, utility, communication, education/training, and funding. (CNIE 1993b)

## *Creating an Interdisciplinary Research Agenda*

The CNIE’s board membership and inventory of endorsers reads like a “Who’s Who” of natural science, with some representation from the social sciences. Their deep concern for the natural environment is explicit and clear, and they see chronic federal under-funding of environmental research as a central problem—e.g., pointing to the fact that the federal government “spends twice as much money to understand the health of our bodies as it does to understand the health of our natural and managed environmental systems that make life and health possible.” (CNIE 1993b p.4) Of particular interest to section members, is the fact that the NIE would support a broad socio-physical approach to environmental problems and interventions. Its supporters argue that “The type of environmental research we need is

problem-based not discipline- or media-based; it is intrinsically interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary, involving the physical, biological, and social sciences, as well as engineering and the humanities. It is anticipatory—identifying emerging issues and determining whether they are matters of large or small concern.” (CNIE 1993b p.4) The key part played by social processes in environmental change, and the importance of social analysis in environmental research, is noted throughout the proposal.

## *The NIE and Alternatives*

Even though the NIE proposal obviously incorporates the sorts of compromises necessary to mobilize both broad-based scientific support and the endorsements of environmental and business groups, it represents a significant departure from federal environmental business-as-usual. And, although it takes an accommodationist stance toward existing federal agencies, it strongly opposes fragmented, narrowly-disciplinary and short-term problem-driven research.

The NIE proposal is a good deal less drastic, however, than an alternative offered by a National Academy of Science (NAS) panel headed by former Cornell president Dale Corson. The NAS panel—funded by Congress through EPA, with supplemental funding from NSF, DOE and Interior—recently completed a comprehensive review of federal environmental research. The results of this review should be widely available by the time of the ASA meetings in August. At this writing, however, I am relying on comments about the report’s conclusions that Corson provided to the Chicago Tribune in late June. He calls the CNIE’s proposal “credible and effective,” but also one that would “... build a national institute ... on top of all the existing agencies, and that in some cases will duplicate existing research.” (Chicago Tribune 1993) Corson’s NAS panel favors a more radical transformation of the federal environmental research establishment, through the creation of a cabinet-level Department of the Environment. They have in mind something more than merely elevating the existing EPA to cabinet status—as proposed by a bill now before Congress. The new department would administer a wider range of regulatory, research and policy programs—programs that are now dispersed throughout the federal government.

Despite the fact that the CNIE is vigorously pursuing a different approach—its growing grass-roots lobbying efforts are directed by Henry Howe at the University of Illinois-Chicago Circle—the group has coordinated its planning with the NAS panel since the latter’s inception. Early NIE organizing, in fact, helped to stimulate the NAS study in 1991. The current NIE proposal reflects that coordination. It argues that, although the best option is one that establishes an NIE as a new independent agency, an acceptable alternative would incorporate the institute into a new Department of the Environment, “provided that the NIE is insulated from the short-term focus of a regulatory agency and is not constrained by other narrow missions.” (CNIE 1993b p.9)

## *NIE Legislation*

The NIE bill is expected to be introduced in the House by mid-summer, and in the Senate somewhat later. Environment and Technology section members (and other potential supporters, e.g., environmental science faculty at your institutions) who would like to actively support the NIE concept can join 5,000+ other scientist-supporters by becoming individual members of the CNIE. Membership is free and can be secured by writing to the CNIE at: 730 11th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001-4521 (phone: 202-628-4303, fax: 202-628-4311, e-mail: [ATBS@GWUVM.GWU.EDU](mailto:ATBS@GWUVM.GWU.EDU)).

Your grass-roots support can be usefully directed to federal representatives and senators. The proposal and supporting information (executive summary, brochure, press materials) have been packaged to make the NIE’s case readily understandable and relatively easy to present to potential backers. For example, it uses simple questions to summarize the NIE’s ambitious research agenda. NIE-sponsored research can be said to simply ask “What do we have?” (i.e., inventories, monitoring and characterization of *environmental resources*), “How does it work?” (i.e., understanding the socio-environmental mechanisms, processes and effects of *environmental systems*), and “How do we maintain it?” (i.e., developing strategies, technologies and solutions that enhance *environmental sustainability*).

Additional institutional support for the NIE concept would also be helpful, and both  
(continued on page 8)

# Report of the Outgoing Chair

## Towards a Grounded Environmental Sociology

by

Allan Schnaiberg

While I will be completing my term as chair of the Section at the Miami meetings, I don't plan to "retire" from the intellectual and social roles which our members can play in the arena of environmental problems. Indeed, since we have a tradition of a "one-term chair", I now feel freer to be quite explicit with section colleagues about my views of these roles.

In reflecting upon my four years as chair-elect and chair, I am both pleased and frustrated by what the section and "environmental sociology" has achieved. I am pleased because there were positive responses to the livelier debate and conflicts that appeared in our sessions last year in Pittsburgh, and frustrated because of the constricted intellectual discourse contained in most of the papers and books in environmental sociology.

What are the appropriate roles for an environmental sociologist? Much of our work in the last decade falls into the two categories eschewed by C. Wright Mills in *The Sociological Imagination* (1959): abstracted empiricism or grand theory. Our efforts often have been second-rate social descriptions about local or regional environmental attitudes and local movements struggling for solutions. Alternatively, we have offered "ecotopias" or policies for social utopias with little attention to the actual social structures in which people live.

We often argue that in the real world of scarce research grants and scarcer tenure awards, environmental sociology has to drift into one of these two "sinks". Whatever the real reasons, the resulting intellectual products and the processes by which we create them do influence the social selection and socialization of new environmental sociology graduate students. In this way, we reproduce our restricted intellectual world-views. Do we have other choices? If so, what might we choose to do to broaden our perspective?

An alternative model is one that I have adopted over the past two decades. It is being used by a number of young environmental sociologists, who are doing creative and exciting work. This year, Ken Gould and I have completed a new teaching and research book, *Environment & Society: The Enduring Conflict*. Our primary goal has been to offer a critical socialization about the institutional basis of environmental problems, for undergraduate and graduate students. In another effort to find an alternative intellectual role, I have put together the work of younger scholars, in a special issue on *Social Equity and Environmental Activism*, in *Qualitative Sociology*. There, I have sought to go beyond recent platitudes about environmental racism, to provide a more analytic perspective on this issue—one that I have been exploring for most of my years exploring environmental conflicts. And Ken Gould, Adam Weinberg and I are hard at work on another book, grounded in our empirical research on environmental mobilization.

All of these works have been done with little external funding. Moreover, they all attempt to expand our horizons, move beyond second-rate social journalism or second-rate ecological research, into the economic and political contexts for individual attitudes and small-group behavior.

Only in such ways will we move beyond our current status as a mere footnote in the major theoretical, empirical, and methodological discourses in sociological work.

Our efforts need to reach beyond the obvious so-called "environmental public" or "environmental movement". These efforts need to be grounded in institutional analysis of changes in: the economic organizations in the U.S. and the world economy; the regulatory structure of government; the culture of economic expansion and consumerism; and the changing opportunity structure for families, among others. We cannot afford to be only pawns of government agencies or environmental movements, since both these roles restrict much of our vision. Moreover, while social surveys and local participant observation are useful as part of our methodological inventory, we need to extend ourselves to deepen our archival, organizational, historical and comparative approaches to realistically assess the capacity of institutional structures to adapt to new environmental constraints.

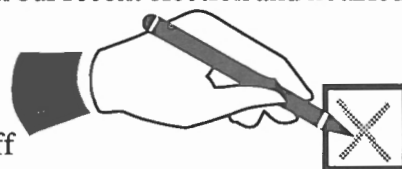
I realize that others are equally concerned. Many of us have grumbled about these sad and dangerous trends. I invite you to join me in reflecting on these issues at my roundtable on Sunday, and/or to attend the Tibbs session and others in which our younger colleagues promise to challenge all of us. ∞

## Results of the E&T Section Elections

Ken Gould has tabulated the ballots in our recent election and notified us of the following outcome:

Chair-elect: Gene Rosa

Council Members: Marilyn Aronoff  
Dorceta Taylor



These terms will begin as of the annual meeting in Miami. Penelope Canan will begin her two year term as Chair of the Section, the Chair-elect will serve a two year term, followed by another two years as Chair, and the new council members will each serve three year terms. Congratulations to our new officers.



# Perspectives

## The "Small is Beautiful" Notion, Not Technology, is Flawed<sup>†</sup>

by  
Ruth L. Love

Technology can be viewed through many lenses. From a moral lens, we ask whether a technology can be used for good, evil or both. Through the social lens, we ask if it can help integrate or alienate individuals and groups. Through the economic lens, we ask how it affects the structure of labor and consumption of goods and services. And looking through an all-encompassing lens we ask how it can improve or detract from the human condition.

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**...the failure lies with the lack of critical discussion of the "small is beautiful" philosophy of technology.**

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The failure of the "small is beautiful" technology movement is not that the rich have unexpectedly coopted small-scale technologies to maintain their way of life, in splendid isolation from crumbling infrastructures of the third world.<sup>1</sup> In some developing countries, the infrastructure is selectively maintained to allow the rich to be comfortable. Thus in South Africa, modern, reliable electric wires lining country roads lack feeder lines to hamlets in which blacks live. In Madagascar the spectacular landscape is dotted with wireless, defunct utility poles while the larger towns are served with micro-wave relays and local generation.

Rather, the failure lies with the lack of critical discussion of the "small is beautiful" philosophy of technology. After all, the same "small" technology helping the rich remain cloistered, in their personal fortresses is helping to restabilize the economy in Beirut.<sup>2</sup> Likewise, those Northwest loggers willing and able to invest in miniaturized logging equipment can now turn from clear-cutting old-growth forests to selective thinning of second-growth forests.<sup>3</sup>

A particular utopian vision – helping remote villages and small-scale farmers, reviving neighborhoods, dismantling large energy-producing bureaucracies and so forth – might supply much of the impetus for a new technological direction. But once that

technology exists, nothing but a lack of imagination and cleverness precludes its use for less than utopian purposes such as crime schemes based on automatic teller machines (ATMs).<sup>4</sup> Technology, after all, does away neither with the criminal classes nor with the desire of the affluent classes to preserve their status in life.

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**...visionaries are sometimes blind to the many practical and normative factors that might affect how a new technology is put to use.**

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It is no accident that persons who think of new approaches to technology dream of applications in the broadest, most glowing terms, capturing the very essence of our ideals of human betterment. This is so because an overwhelming sense of potency and power can arise from creating technologies for more effective mastery of our work and lives.

Yet the visionaries are sometimes blind to the many practical and normative factors that might affect how a new technology is put to use. At the same time, various social groups usually prove astonishingly creative in their particular adoption of a technology. Both radio and television were heralded as instruments for increasing the quality and availability of education but these visions were never fully realized, possibly because broadcast materials never gave a teacher enough control and flexibility to suit classroom situations (the flexibility of video tapes may change this). In contrast, with the advent of satellites, religious groups have been able to use television for forming congregations and raising funds on a scale that visionaries of the technology did not conceive. Likewise, the "small is beautiful" vision did not extend to modern-day prophets who would lead their bands of followers into the wilderness, taking with them the miniaturized comforts of home.

The same kinds of unanticipated patterns occur when one looks at technology through the eyes of its critics. A favorite line of criticism is that technologies separate people from each other, impeding social relations and a sense of community. Maybe, maybe not.

For every conversation that no longer occurs with bank clerks because of ATMs, there are probably other conversations occurring since ATMs are now found where people gather such as fairs, groceries and recreation spots. Communal watching of television has become a part of our social patterns. There are TV sets in bars, and at election return headquarters and super bowl parties. In Portland, the ultimate expression of communal watching occurred during the Forestry Summit Hearings when logging support groups organized a rally at Waterfront Park, which included a large tent with TV monitor for watching the proceedings.

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**In the complex world of today, any new or redesigned technology can be put to a myriad of uses by different groups, with different values, agendas and access to power and wealth.**

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Technology has been one of several profound shapers of social life ever since hoes and digging sticks were invented to allow for transformation from hunting/gathering societies to horticultural ones.

In the complex world of today, any new or redesigned technology can be put to a myriad of uses by different groups, with different values, agendas and access to power and wealth. That technologies are put to unanticipated, and not necessarily desirable, uses does not invalidate them.

<sup>†</sup> Originally published on the Op-Ed page of the *Oregonian*, June 2, 1993, Portland, Oregon. Ruth can be reached at: 3335 NW Luray Terrace, Portland, Oregon 97210, Ph. (503) 227-1879.

<sup>1</sup> B. Barber, *A High-Tech Idea Goes Awry*. Portland: *Oregonian*, May 21, 1993.

<sup>2</sup> C. Rosenberg, *Beirut Finds Peace But No Paradise*. Op. cit., May 21, 1993.

<sup>3</sup> J. Kadera, *To Survive, Logger Switches to Thinning in Tillamook Forest*. Op. cit., June 25, 1993.

<sup>4</sup> S. Trausch, *A High-Tech Idea Goes Awry*. Op. cit., May 21, 1993.

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# Current Events

## Membership News

**David Sonnenfeld**, doctoral candidate in environmental sociology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to conduct his dissertation research in Australia. He will examine the influence of environmental politics on resource and technology decisions in Australia's pulp and paper industry. Sonnenfeld will be based at the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, at the Australian National University, in Canberra.

**Barbara Farhar** is the point of contact for the *Social Science on Energy and Environment Network (SSEEN)*. This is an informal group of social scientists and other interested persons living and working in the Washington, D.C. area who began to come together for informal lunch time discussions in the summer of 1992. Participants come from DOE, EPA, OTA, NAS, NSF, PNL, ANL, and NREL. Some meetings have focused on the need for social science analysis in government policy making. Others have involved presentations on relevant ongoing analyses, such as the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board study on public trust and confidence. Still others involved lively discussions of issues, such as EMF. At its recent meeting in March 1993, the group decided to continue and expand the network.

The SSEEN network's functions are intended to provide:

- An informal forum for updating information on energy and environmental issues;
- A means to identify and share expertise and provide the opportunity for referral to experts in different areas;
- A venue for informal review of planned work and for presentations on completed work;
- A mechanism for familiarizing government officials with social science methods and analytical results;
- A place for brainstorming energy and environmental issues and the role social science might play in resolving them;
- A place where colleagues can interact on an informal yet professional basis.

The group recommended that colleagues from around the country be notified of SSEEN meetings so that they can participate when they come to Washington, D.C. Notices of SSEEN meetings will be sent by e-mail to everyone on the network with e-mail capability; for others, meeting notices will be mailed. Current attendees are asked to suggest names of colleagues to add to SSEEN's mailing list. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) will serve as the host institution and will schedule the meetings and notify the network. Mail or FAX comments to Barbara Farhar at 409-12th St., S.W., Suite 710, Washington, D.C. 22024; FAX (202) 484-1096. If you have e-mail, send a message with your e-mail address to: [bfarhar@seri.nrel.gov](mailto:bfarhar@seri.nrel.gov)

**Paul Shrivastava** writes that he is interested in studying environmental manage-

ment practices of Japanese companies. The Japanese approach to global environmental sustainability is different from the U.S. and European approach. Paul's project aims to develop an understanding of how Japanese corporations and government are cooperating to address environmental issues. A special issue of the *Industrial & Environmental Crisis Quarterly* focusing on Japan's environmental problems is being developed. ∞

## Position Announcement

**Rachel Kaplan**, Chair of the Search Committee for the School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan, is seeking applicants for a nine-month, tenure-track position in *Environmental Education* at the Assistant Professor level, to be filled by September 1994. The candidate must have a doctorate in the natural or social sciences or environmental education with demonstrated research interest and ability in promoting the conservation and management of the environment and the development of a sustainable society. A successful candidate would have substantive knowledge of a significant subset of environmental, earth and global-change biology, urban/rural environmental issues, environmental risks, sustainable communities, and other emerging environmental issues. Responsibilities include teaching a minimum of three courses annually, developing a strong conceptually-focused research program, directing interdisciplinary graduate research, and building ties with other programs and departments. Submit a cover letter, 1-2 page statement of teaching interests and research objectives, curriculum vitae (including publications), academic transcripts, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three persons able to evaluate your leadership, research, and teaching skills. to: Chair, Environmental Education Search Committee, School of Natural Resources and Environment, 3512 Dana Building, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1115; Ph. (313) 764-2550. e-mail: [Rachel.Kaplan@um.cc.umich.edu](mailto:Rachel.Kaplan@um.cc.umich.edu)

Phone or write for a more detailed description of this position. The closing date for applications is September 30, 1993. ∞

## Papers Presented

**Shipping Zhang** (McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario) has presented two papers: the first is titled *Environmental Rights and the Global Common Risk Community* at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association in a session on Social Structure and the Environment, June, 1993. The second paper is titled *Development Zone Fever in China* at the Fourth Annual Common Property Conference, International Association for the Study of Common Property, June, 1993.

**Lawrence Hamilton** (University of New Hampshire) and **Carole Seyfrit** (Old Dominion University) presented a paper on *Sex Ratios and Outmigration from Alaskan Villages* at the IX International Congress on Circumpolar Health, in Reykjavik, Iceland June 22, 1993. Proceedings from the conference will be published as a hard bound supplement to the journal *Arctic Medical Research*.

**Peter Grahame** (Bentley College) presented a paper in March 1993 titled *Environmental Publics and Guided Nature Experiences: The Case of Whale Watching* at the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction's Stone Symposium meetings in Knoxville, Tennessee. ∞

# Current Events

## Current Research

**Shipping Zhang** (McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario) reports that he is working on common property relations, the social construction of the global common risk community, theories on societal-environmental relations, and world system perspective on environmentalism. He has found Marvin E. Olsen, et al.'s 1992 book *Viewing the World Ecologically* particularly helpful.

**Peter Grahame** (Department of Behavioral Sciences, Bentley College, Waltham, MA 02154-4705) is currently conducting research on how environmental organizations communicate with the public. "The organizations which I study conduct field-based public programs that have an ecological focus. Field programs typically involve activities in which a concrete fit between the organization's mission and audience interests is worked out. I'm especially interested in exploring the ways in which different kinds of messages, discourse forms, and communication settings contribute to the cultivation of responsive publics. I have examined these dynamics concretely through the case of scientist-led whale watching cruises."

**Peter Fricke** reports on research data that are available on CD-ROM: The Department of Commerce is undertaking a pilot project of distributing economic, social and environmental data on CD-ROM. Contact the National Economic, Social, and Environmental Data Bank (NESE\*DB) at (202) 377-1986.

**Valerie Gunter** and **Shirley Laska**, both with the Department of Sociology and the Environmental Social Science Research Institute at the University of New Orleans, are developing a proposal to investigate several projects associated with a major federal coastal wetlands restoration initiative currently underway in Louisiana. One of the requests they have received from people associated with this project is to provide specific examples of sociologists' involvement with applied interventions in cases of environmental conflicts and/or resource decision making, and the particular outcomes of those interventions. In other words, they want to know how sociologists make a

positive difference. They would appreciate references to any work Section members have done or know of on this issue. They will compile the information contained in these references and make it available to interested Section members. References should be sent to: Valerie Gunter, Department of Sociology, 365 Liberal Arts, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70148. (E-mail: [VJGS08-jazz.ucc.uno.edu](mailto:VJGS08-jazz.ucc.uno.edu))

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## Environment and Technology Section History

The following is a listing of the annual section awards since the first award in 1983. The Award for Distinguished Contribution recognizes individuals for outstanding service, innovation, or publication.

- 1983 **C.P. Wolf**, the principal founder of the Section on Environmental Sociology and the "father of social impact assessment."
- 1984 **Allan Schnaiberg** for his book *The Environment: From Surplus to Scarcity*.
- 1985 No nominations. No award given.
- 1986 **William R. Catton, Jr.** and **Riley E. Dunlap**, who have played "a fundamental role in the development of environmental sociology both as scholars and professionals active in the Environmental Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association."
- 1987 **William Michelson** for his outstanding career in pursuing the study and theory of the built environment and urban sociology.
- 1988 **Adeline Levine**, "for her important work in the social fabric of community toxic waste," her book *Love Canal: Science, Politics, and People*, and her support of environmental sociology in both the ASA and the SSSP.
- 1989 **Denton Morrison**, "a pioneer of the field of environmental sociology with a record of sustained research productivity."
- 1990 **James F. Short, Jr.**, "in recognition of his unique intellectual contributions to the study of social risks of technology, and of his unflagging support of young socio-environmental scholars."
- 1991 **Kai T. Erikson**, "in recognition of his seminal work on the interaction between natural forces and man-made systems, leading to the emergence of the study of chronic technological disasters."
- 1992 **David L. Sills**, "in recognition of his efforts to create and sustain intellectual and political legitimacy in a variety of foundations and professional associations for serious environmental scholarship by sociologists..."
- 1993 **Marvin E. Olsen**, "in recognition of his intellectual and administrative leadership of environmental sociology, especially through his extensive theoretical and applied work on the relationships between social structure and environmental and energy systems. His combined macrostructural and microstructural insights have led to important new theoretical and empirical insights into contemporary environmental problems."
- 1994 To be announced at the 1993 annual meeting in Miami.

## Correction

The paper to be presented by **Hamilton** and **Seyfrit** at Roundtable #5 in Miami should be listed as: *Coming Out of the Country: Mining and Outmigration of Rural Alaska Youth*.



# Current Events

## Meetings and Presentations

**Aug. 7-8, 1993:** Interagency Symposium on Social Science in Natural Resource Management. Orlando, FL. Held in conjunction with the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, this Interagency Symposium will focus on the issues of property rights, co-management and sustainable development. Contact Dr. Geraldine Bowers, Environmental Coordination Staff, USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC 20090-6090. Ph. (202) 205-1022.

**Aug. 7-12, 1993:** Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society. Grosvenor Resort Hotel, Orlando, FL. Theme of the meeting is *Applying Science to Human and Community Development*. A special session will focus on social impact assessment guidelines. Contact Dr. Beau Beaulieu at (904) 392-1747.

**Aug. 17-23, 1993:** 7th International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies. Moscow, Russia. Sessions on whaling, and artisanal and subsistence fishing are planned. Contact Dr. Linda Ellana, Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775. Ph. (907) 474-6751.

**Aug. 28-Sept. 2, 1993:** 123rd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Jantzen Beach/Red Lion Hotel, Portland, OR. Theme is *Shared Responsibility for Shared Resources*. Contact AFS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814. Ph. (301) 897-8616.

**Feb. 24-28, 1994:** Mid-Term Meeting, Southern Division, American Fisheries Society. Memphis, TN. Seeking interdisciplinary approaches to fisheries issues and social and economic papers and session proposals. Contact Division President, Dr. J. Larry Wilson, Dept. for Fish and Wildlife, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37901-1071. Ph. (615) 974-7164.

**Aug. 28-Sept. 2, 1994:** 124th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Socioeconomics Section plans to organize several social and economic sessions. Contact Peter Fricke, NMFS (F/CM1), 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 with proposals for papers and/or sessions by Aug. 24, 1993.

## NIE (continued from page 3)

individuals and groups can plug into the CNIE's legislative organizing efforts through: Henry Howe, University of Illinois, Biological Sciences (M/C 066), Box 4348, Chicago, IL 60680 (phone: 312-413-0023, fax: 312-996-2017, e-mail: [U24223@UICVM.UIC.EDU](mailto:U24223@UICVM.UIC.EDU)).

The Environment and Technology section's NIE committee (at this point, myself and Bill Freudenburg) will continue to monitor the CNIE's activities, and report developments to you. We will also attempt to coordinate section support for the NIE initiative.

## References

Chicago Tribune. 1993 *Environmental Scientists Push for Research Reform*. Stevenson Swanson. (June 20) p.1.

CNIE. 1993a. *The Proposed National Institute for the Environment: Mission and Functions*. Washington, DC: Committee for the NIE.

CNIE. 1993b. *National Institute for the Environment: A Proposal*. Washington, DC: Committee for the NIE

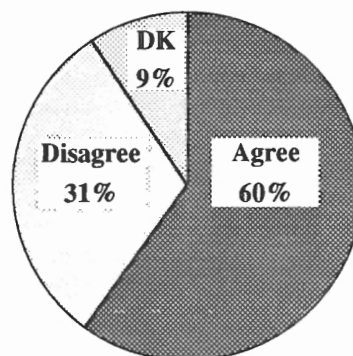
## Research Grant

**Bill Freudenburg** has just learned that the Departments of Rural Sociology and Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison have been awarded a five-year, half-million dollar Graduate Training Program Grant from the National Science Foundation. Tom Heberlein and Bill Freudenburg are the PI and Co-PI, respectively, and the program will draw heavily on the expertise of their Madison colleagues, including Warren Hagstrom, Pete Nowak, Jess Gilbert, Jack Kloppenburg, Jane Collins, Steve Bunker and Paul Lichterman. They will have several new graduate fellowships to offer, and report they will be looking for qualified candidates for their Ph.D. program, that focuses on the *Sociology of Science, Technology, Agriculture, Resources and the Environment*, or STARE. Bill has promised to supply more complete details for a future issue of *ET&S*, and to supply details or even blatant propaganda to anyone who would like to learn more. Just ask him about it, whether at the annual meeting in Miami or thereafter (Ph. 608-263-4893).

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## Jobs vs. the Environment

"Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? We must protect the environment even if it means jobs in your community are lost because of it."



Data published in *The Polling Report*, Vol. 9, No. 8, April 19, 1993, p. 8, and based on a CBS News/New York Times Poll, March 28-31, 1993. N=1,368 adults nationwide.



# Publications

**Allan Schnaiberg and Kenneth A. Gould's** new book, *Environment and Society: The Enduring Conflict* is forthcoming from St. Martin's Press in August 1993. Their social structural approach to environmental problems can be used as the core of a one-term course for upper division social science undergraduates and as an introduction for graduate students.

**Cylke, F. Kurt, Jr.** 1993. *The Environment*. Harper Collins: New York.

**Allan Schnaiberg** is editor of the Fall 1993 (September-October, Vol. 16, No. 3) special issue of *Qualitative Sociology*, entitled *Social Equity and Environmental Activism: Utopias, Dystopias and Incrementalism*, in which **Kenneth Gould**, **Adam Weinberg** and **Allan Schnaiberg** have the lead article on *Legitimizing Impotence: Pyrrhic Victories of the Modern Environmental Movement*. Other contributors include **Celene Krauss**, **Dorceta Taylor**, and **Wendy Espeland**. Advance orders for this special issue (at \$12 each) can be sent to: Order Dept., Human Sciences Press, 233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013-1578.

**Robert D. Bullard**, University of California, Riverside, has published a book titled *Confronting Environmental Racism: Voices from the Grassroots* (Boston: South End Press, 1993). This edited volume includes chapters by academics and activists, many of whom participated in the 1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit. People of color in urban and rural areas are the most likely victims of industrial dumping, toxic landfills, uranium mining, and dangerous waste incinerators. "Clearly," notes Benjamin Chavis, Jr. in his foreword, "all Americans do not have the same opportunities to breathe clean air, drink clean water, enjoy clean parks and playgrounds, or work in a clean, safe environment."

**Bullard, Robert D.** 1993. *Race and Environmental Justice in the United States*. *Yale Journal of International Law*. 18:319-331. (Winter)

**Bullard, Robert D.** 1993. *Waste and Racism: A Stacked Deck?* *Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy*. 8:29-35. (Spring)

**Bullard, Robert D.** 1993. *The Threat of Environmental Racism*. *Natural Resources & Environment*. 7:23-26; 55-56. (Winter)

**Bullard, Robert D.** 1993. *Examining the Evidence of Environmental Racism*. *Land Use Forum*. 2:6-11. (Winter)

**Bullard, Robert D.** 1993. *Reviewing the EPA's Draft Report on Environmental Equity*. *New Solutions*. 3:78-86. (Spring)

**Freese, Lee.** 1993. (Ed.) *Advances in Human Ecology*. Vol. 2. JAI Press.

**Donald R. Field** (School of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin) is co-editor of *Society and Natural Resources*. A special reduced rate subscription is available for this journal to participants at the 5th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management. Individuals can subscribe or renew for Vol. 7 (1994) for \$39 at the time they register for the Symposium. Beginning with Vol. 7, the journal will be published in six issues.

**Hamilton, Lawrence and Carole L. Seyfrit.** 1993. *Town-Village Contrasts in Alaskan Youth Aspirations*. *Arctic*. Vol. 46 (September).

**Hamilton, Lawrence and Carole L. Seyfrit.** 1993. *Interpreting Multinomial Logistic Regression*. *Stata Technical Bulletin*. 13 (May).

Gallup's *Health of the Planet* report, authored by **Riley E. Dunlap**, **George H. Gallup, Jr.** and **Alec M. Gallup**, is now available from the George H. Gallup International Institute, 47 Hulfish Street, Princeton, NJ 08542. Ph. (609) 921-6200. Academics and representatives of public interest groups can obtain copies at a discounted price of \$25.00. See *E,T&S*, Winter 1993, No. 70, for a discussion of this research.

**Dr. Peter Fricke** publishes an aperiodic information memorandum titled *From the Fisheries Anthropologist's Desk* for the use of social scientists and managers interested in marine fisheries research and policy issues. Its purposes are to provide an information exchange between social scientists, and to inform fishery managers of the latest and best available social science research and

publications. It includes position announcements, meeting information, call for papers and proposals, and other information focused primarily on fisheries issues. Contact Dr. Fricke for further details at: National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Office of Fisheries Conservation & Management (F/CM1), 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Selected publications cited in the most recent memorandum, which include informative abstracts, include the following:

**Apostle, Richard and Gene Barrett (eds.)** 1993. *Emptying Their Nets: Small Capital and Rural Industrialization in the Fishing Industry of Nova Scotia*. Downsview, Ontario: University of Toronto Press. 540pp, appendices.

**Boyd, Rick O. and Christopher M. Dewees.** 1992. *Putting Theory Into Practice: Individual Transferable Quotas in New Zealand's Fisheries*. *Society and Natural Resources*. 5:179-198.

California Sea Grant. 1992. *California Sea Grant and the Coastal Ocean Environment: A Summary Report*. LaJolla, CA: University of California Sea Grant College Program. 36pp.

Chesapeake Executive Council, Year 2020 Panel. 1988. *Population Growth and Management in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to the Year 2020: Summary Report*. Annapolis, MD: Chesapeake Bay Commission. 12pp.

**Creed, Carolyn F.** 1991. *Cutting Up the Pie: Private Moves and Public Debates in the Social Construction of a Fishery*. Ph.D. Dissertation. Graduate School, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

**Gale, Richard P.** 1990. *America's Coastal Communities: A Survey of Characteristics and Accomplishments*. Newport, OR: National Coastal Resources Research and Development Institute. Report No. NCRI-T-90-006. 134pp, appendices.

**Gatewood, John B.** 1992. *Ecology, Efficiency, Equity, and Competitiveness: Fisheries Management in the United States as a Model*. In Steven L. Goldman (ed.) (forthcoming)

(continued on page 10)

# Call for Papers

The American Sociologist (TAS) invites submissions for a special topical section on *Natural Resources and the Environment and Sociology*. In keeping with its editorial policies, TAS will consider papers that deal with either the discipline or the profession. Please submit manuscripts by 15 October 1993 to: Richard H. Hall, Editor, The American Sociologist, Department of Sociology, University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, NY 12222.

**Judith A. Howard, Barbara J. Fisman, and Joey Sprague** are editors of *The Gender Lens*, a new series of books, from Sage Publications and Pine Forge Press, directed toward demonstrating the importance of treating gender as a crucial sensitizing lens through which a wide spectrum of sociological phenomena must be seen. *Gender Focus* books will summarize the importance of gender for understanding specific subfields of sociology, and *Gender re-vision* books will analyze the gendered character of the conceptual organization of substantive subfields, as well as more general theoretical and methodological debates within sociology. The first volumes will be available in August 1995. Persons interested in authoring a book should contact Judith Howard at (206) 543-9885 for more information.

*The Industrial & Environmental Crisis Quarterly* is an international journal seeking papers on all aspects of environmental crises. The journal reports on crises that are caused by technological, economic, social or political factors and that lead to large-scale damage to individuals, organizations and communities, and their natural and social environments. Recent examples of such crises include the Bhopal disaster, Chernobyl nuclear accident, and the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The journal aims to be a vehicle for the communication of ideas, research results, and practical solutions among the key stakeholders of crises: communities, corporations, and government agencies. Since many diverse forms of crisis are experienced throughout the world, the journal is interdisciplinary, has international scope, and an international Editorial Board with both corporate and academic members. It is devoted to the improvement and development of the theory and practice of crisis management, and it publishes economic, sociological, psy-

chological, political and philosophical analyses of crises. Articles are refereed by peers before publication. Contact: **Paul Shrivastava**, Management Department, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Ph. (717) 524-1821; FAX (717) 524-1338.

The Fifth International Symposium on Society and Resource Management convenes June 7-10, 1994, at Colorado State University. The main focus is on improving the utility of social science for natural resource managers and policy makers. The goals are to provide a forum for dialogue among natural resource managers, policy makers and resource management scientists to:

- Increase understanding of the social aspects of today's high visibility natural resource management issues,
- Increase understanding of how the various social sciences can be used to enhance the effectiveness of natural resource decisions,
- Increase social scientists' awareness of natural resource issues, problems, and questions which may be better resolved by social science theory and data,
- Facilitate integration among different social and biological science approaches in dealing with natural resource problems,
- Examine how various institutional arrangements and management technologies effectively link social science and natural resource management, and
- Advance social science theory and methods as applied in natural resources.

Activities will include concurrent paper and poster sessions, plenary theme addresses, dialog sessions, field trips and receptions. Persons interested in presenting a paper or poster should submit an abstract no longer than two double-spaced pages to the program chair by Nov. 1, 1993. For registration information, contact: **Michael J. Manfredo**, Program Chair, Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Unit, College of Natural Resources, 245 Forestry, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523. FAX (303) 491-2255.

**Alvin W. Wolfe**, Professor of Anthropology, University of South Florida, is inviting papers on the subject of conflict resolution

and dispute settlement for the Key Symposium of the 1994 Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society, scheduled for April 27-30, 1994 in Atlanta. This symposium will focus on practical anthropological approaches and perspectives to conflict resolution, particularly the early identification of developing conflicts while they are still resolvable without violence. The organizers envisage fifteen papers to be presented at the Atlanta meetings and subsequently published in a volume of *SAS Proceedings*, University of Georgia Press. Contributions are invited from legal and political anthropology, economic anthropology, social network approaches, interpretive approaches, and cross-cultural studies. Conflicts may be addressed at several levels, including families and kinship, local neighborhoods and communities, intra-national and inter-national relations, and multinational and supranational systems. The symposium particularly seeks down-to-earth suggestions that derive from anthropological knowledge and practice. Send titles and abstracts (100 words) by November 30, 1993 to: **Alvin W. Wolfe**, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., SOC 107, Tampa, FL 33620. ∞

## Publications (continued from page 9)

coming) *Competitiveness and American Society*. Bethlehem, PA: Lehigh University Press.

**Hackett, Steven C.** 1992. *Heterogeneity and Provision of Governance for Common-Pool Resources*. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*. 4(3):325-342.

**Hilton, Rita M.** 1992. *Institutional Incentives for Resource Mobilization*. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*. 4(3):283-308.

**McKean, Margaret A.** 1992. *Success on the Commons: A Comparative Examination of Institutions for Common Property Resource Management*. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*. 4(3):247-281.

**Ostrom, Elinor.** 1992. *Community and the Endogenous Solution of Commons Problems*. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*. 4(3):343-351.

(continued on page 11)

# Research Note

**Tom W. Smith**, Director of the General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Center, reports (in part) the following on The International Social Survey Program:

The International Social Survey Program (ISSP) is a continuing, annual program of crossnational collaboration. It brings together preexisting, social science projects and coordinates research goals, thereby adding a crossnational perspective to the individual, national studies.

ISSP evolved from a bilateral collaboration between the Allgemeinen Bevölkerungsfragen der Sozialwissenschaften (ALLBUS) of the Zentrum fuer Umfragen, Methoden, und Analysen (ZUMA) in Mannheim, West Germany and the General Social Survey (GSS) of the National Opinion Research Center (NORC), University of Chicago. Both the ALLBUS and the GSS are replicating, time series studies. The ALLBUS has been conducted biennially since 1980 and the GSS annually (except for 1979 and 1981) since 1972. In 1982 ZUMA and the NORC devoted a small segment of the ALLBUS and GSS to a common set of questions on job values, important areas of life, abortion, and feminism. (A merged data set is available from the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research ICPSR, University of Michigan.) Again in 1984 collaboration was carried out, this time on class differences, equality, and the welfare state.

Meanwhile, in late 1983 Social and Community Planning Research (SCPR), London, which was starting a social indicators series called the British Social Attitudes Survey (BSA) similar to the ALLBUS and GSS, secured funds from the Nuffield Foundation to hold meetings to further international collaboration. Representatives from ZUMA, NORC, SCPR, and the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University organized TSSP in 1984 and agreed to 1) jointly develop topical modules dealing with important areas of social science, 2) field the modules as a fifteen-minute supplement to the regular national surveys (or a special survey if necessary), 3) include an extensive common core of background variables, and 4) make the data available to the social science community as soon as possible.

Each research organization funds all of its own costs. There are no central funds. The merging of the data into a crossnational data set is performed by the Zentralarchiv fuer Empirische Sozialforschung, University of Cologne.

Since 1984, ISSP has grown to 21 nations: the founding four—Germany, the United States, Great Britain, and Australia—plus Austria, Italy, Ireland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Israel, Norway, the Philippines, New Zealand, Russia, Japan, Bulgaria, Canada, and Czechoslovakia, Slovenia, Poland, and Sweden. In addition, East Germany was added to the German sample upon reunification. Several other nations have replicated particular modules (Yugoslavia, Poland, and Switzerland).

The annual topics for ISSP are developed over several years by a sub-committee and pretested in various countries. The annual plenary meeting of ISSP then adopts the final questionnaire. The ISSP researchers especially concentrate on developing the questions that are 1) meaningful and relevant to all countries and 2) can be expressed in an equivalent manner in all relevant languages. The questionnaire is originally drafted in British English and then translated to other languages using standard back translation procedures.

The themes covered in the ISSP module include: role of government; social support; social equality; family/gender roles; work orientation; role of government II; religion; and, social equality II. The ninth module in 1993 is on the environment. It includes an environmental knowledge scale along with attitudinal and behavioral measures. Future modules on ethnic conflict and intergroup relations and on a replication of the women and work module are under design.

ISSP marks several new departures in the area of crossnational research. First, the collaboration between organizations is not special or intermittent, but routine and continual. Second, while necessarily more circumscribed than collaboration dedicated solely to crossnational research on a single topic, ISSP makes crossnational research a basic part of the national research agenda of each participating country. Third, by combining a cross time with a crossnational

perspective, two powerful research designs are being used to study societal processes.

Data from the first six modules are presently available from the Zentralarchiv and various national archives such as Essex in Britain and ICPSR in the United States. The 1991 religion module will be available shortly, and the other modules will be released periodically as soon as the data can be processed.

Publications based on the ISSP are listed in a bibliography available from the Secretariat. Two collections of ISSP research are: 1) Roger Jowell, Sharon Witherspoon, and Lindsay Brook, eds., *British Social Attitudes: Special International Report*. (Aldershot: Gower, 1989), and 2) J.W. Becker, James A. Davis, Peter Ester, and Peter P. Mohler, eds., *Attitudes to Inequality and the Role of Government*. (Rijswijk, The Netherlands: Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau, 1990). For further details contact the ISSP secretariat, Peter Mohler, ZUMA, B2,1, D-6800, Mannheim, Germany, or Tom Smith, NORC, 115 East 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637; Ph. (312) 753-7500. Tom has a copy of the questionnaire being used for the environment module. ∞

## Publications (continued from page 10)

**Singleton, Sara and Michael Taylor.** 1992. *Common Property, Collective Action, and Community*. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*. 4(3):309-324.

**Taylor, C. Nicholas, C. Hobson Bryan and Colin G. Goodrich.** 1990. *Social Assessment: Theory, Process and Techniques*. Canterbury, New Zealand: Lincoln University, Centre for Resource Management (Studies in Resource Management No. 7). 218pp.

**Pratt, Jeremy.** 1994 (forthcoming). *Human Ecology: Lost Grail Found? A Critical Review of Programs to Address Human-Environment Relationships*. in L. Freese (ed.) *Advances in Human Ecology*, Vol. 3. Greenwich, CT: JAI Press. ∞

TO: Members of the Environment and Technology Section, ASA

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

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

*Your current research interest(s) you would like to share with others:*

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

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

*Activities of related social science environmental groups.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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