

# Environment, Technology and Society

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## Barack and Biofuels: The Honeymoon is Over

by Hannah Holleman and R. Jonna  
University of Oregon

From the statements of politicians and the larger environmental groups to the plethora of newly minted biodiesel bumper stickers, in the mainstream biofuels are still considered “clean energy” and a viable alternative to petrol. This is in spite of long-accumulating evidence of the social and ecological havoc wreaked by the industrial production of these fuels. In practice the policies supported by the Democrats and Republicans, promoting the expansion of biofuel production, in no way stipulate or enforce that the biofuels meeting set quotas are a result of ecologically or socially just practices. For this reason it is necessary for environmental sociologists to add a dissenting voice to the large chorus supporting biofuels by outlining the fundamental problems and providing much needed clarity to the discussion of large-scale liquid fuel production. As the Whitehouse changes hands and key incoming cabinet members appear unprepared to mount necessary policy changes with regards to biofuel production and expanding demand, we must speak out on the issue.

### Biofuels and the Incoming Administration

A headline from the *Hoosier Ag Today* aptly summarizes the policy direction of the incoming administration: “Obama Cabinet lining Up Behind Biofuels.” Two of the most important posts vis-à-vis biofuels, Agriculture Secretary and Energy Secretary, went to Tom Vilsack and Stephen Chu, two strong supporters of the expansion of biofuels. Both nominees emphasized so-called “next-generation” biofuels—those that are produced from “agricultural waste streams...lumber mill waste streams, and growing grasses that don't have to compete with prime agricultural land...” (Vilsack, Confirmation Hearing, January 14, 2009). However, Vilsack is also a strong supporter of the expansion of ethanol and questioned the connection between food price spikes and the increased portion of the corn yield diverted for ethanol production. Chu's research at Berkley National Energy Lab (a partner of BP) centers on the use of genetically modified bacteria and yeasts to convert simple sugars (“agricultural wastes” must first be converted to simple sugars) into gasoline alternatives.

A statement by Vilsack illustrates his distance from the social and economic reality of biofuel production: “Whether or not there's a linkage between our efforts to use some of our crops for fuel and rising food costs, we have to take an opportunity to address that, to educate people that there are many, many reasons food costs have gone up that are not necessarily related to biofuels,” Vilsack said (Ross 2009). While

Obama's own track record shows strong support for current and expanded biofuel production, the language of his recent official literature is cautious and vague. There is qualified support for biofuel production, emphasizing the need for further research and development to deal with acknowledged problems, but there is no effective stand on current biofuel production, or the large social and ecological impact that has already taken place. Given this, and his tapping of two new cabinet members with close ties to the biofuel industry, it seems likely that current policy will be extended and the consequences exacerbated if we do not mount external pressure.

### **Why biofuels?**

First of all, biofuels fall into a long line of proposed "technological fixes" to environmental problems. As opposed to the obviously needed mass conservation and restoration efforts, among other things, biofuels allow for unimpeded economic growth and the maintenance of current production and consumption patterns. Gonzalez (2005:344) cogently explains why "leading international business organizations seeking to curb anthropogenic climate change gases do not attempt to reform sprawled urban landscapes, but instead promote technological reforms that would allow sprawl to continue." This is because urban sprawl increases demand for durable goods, utilities, roads and further profit-making infrastructure. Also, as one reporter of these developments put it,

Speak to anyone in the corporate energy or agricultural sectors and they will probably go dewy-eyed about the technological "convergence" of energy, food, genetics - in fact, just about everything. In the biotechnology industry the atmosphere is reminiscent of the heady days of genetic modification, before the companies realised that consumers didn't want to eat "Frankenstein foods." Frankenstein fuels, however, might prove an easier sell. (Lynas 2006)

From this perspective, one can understand how biofuel could be attractive to business. If it can be cast as a "green" alternative to petrol, it is easier to convince us that massive structural change is unnecessary.

For politicians biofuels assuage the demands of big business and their lobbies, as well as the environmental concerns of voters. A laundry list of positive attributes is ascribed to biofuel. According to proponents, biofuel may: stop wars for oil; create energy independence from unstable regions like the

Middle East and politically inconvenient leaders like Chávez; reduce carbon emissions; facilitate economic growth and jobs; allow us to go on without major lifestyle or structural changes; help small farmers; bring "development" to Africa and other regions; etc. You can see why some would be very interested.

### **The Ecology of Biofuels**

Instead of green salvation, the vast expansion and intensification of crop production to satiate increasing demand for liquid fuels amidst declining supplies of oil opens the possibility of ecological calamity. "Globally, to produce an important amount of energy with biofuels will require a large amount of land—perhaps as much as is in rowcrop agriculture today. This will change the landscape of Earth, not just the United States, in a significant way." (Robertson et. al. 2008:50) The promises of next-generation biofuels do not overcome the problems associated here with the sheer scale of demand.

What binds all of the potential "biofuels" together—whether derived from sugar cane, corn, palm, soy, or 'waste' cellulose via perennials; and whether transformed into ethanol or biodiesel—is that they represent much deeper penetration of capital into ecological systems, leading inevitably to large scale fuel monocultures, as these represent the most profitable and controllable organization of biofuel production (whether these continue to compete with food production or not). In Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America, this has meant the conversion of vast tracts of rainforest, savannah, and other critical habitats into biofuel monocultures. Across the globe we see a huge expansion of genetically engineered plant varieties (since barriers related to unsafe human consumption are eliminated), the introduction of invasive species, and the further generalization of negative consequences associated with current industrial agriculture practices. These include air and water pollution (resulting from fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticide use), resource depletion (e.g. the draining of aquifers and the depletion of soils, to name only two), and the reduction of biodiversity. This reality obviously complicates many of the 'green' claims associated with the expansion of biofuels. On top of all this, net carbon emissions reductions have yet to be proven in light of the destruction of major carbon sinks such as forests and peatlands, not to mention the fossil fuel involved in biofuel production.

### **Even if biofuels were the Jolly Green Giant™ that would save us from *our* oil woes...**

What does this mean for the rest of the world? The quest for "energy independence" for the United States and other wealthy countries, so far, means the continued or accelerated confiscation of land and

intensification of plantation economies, especially in Southeast Asia, Latin America and Africa. Economic colonialism and ecological imperialism are part and parcel of the growth of the biofuel market. The results of this are tragic. Like the emaciated villagers in India who watched the trains of grain leave for Britain during the great famines of the late 1800s (Davis 2001), so do the displaced in the new biofuel producing regions of the world watch fields of sugarcane, palm oil, and jatropha grow as fast as food prices that put basic staples out of reach. One commentator put this aspect of the problem simply: "those who can afford to drive are richer than those who are in danger of starvation"(Sussman 2007).

According to World Bank Research, "70-75 percent [of the] increase in food commodities prices was due to biofuels and the related consequences of low grain stocks, large land use shifts, speculative activity and export bans" (Mitchell 2008). The IMF's Managing Director, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, explained the relationship between biofuels and inflation, and the effect this has on deepening the financial and food crises: "inflation may be back. This reflects both structural factors and cyclical factors including the importance taken by biofuels, for instance, during the last years. It is a key concern. Why? Because food prices, for instance, increased by 48 percent since the end of 2006 until now, which is a huge increase, and it may undermine all the gains we have obtained in reducing poverty" (IMF 2008). A United Nations expert calls the production of biofuel a "crime against humanity" and the UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee calls for a moratorium on support. These confirm much earlier observations and warnings by activist groups, scientists, NGO's, Castro, Chávez and others on the left, which were ignored at great cost to many, many people.

Hunger, inflation and land confiscation are just a few of the social injustices exacerbated by the industrial production of biofuels. All of the environmental consequences outlined above obviously have a major and unequally felt social impact. Deforestation, desertification, water pollution, urbanization, etc. all put lives at risk and lead to further economic instability. Furthermore, the nature and extent of the social consequences are most clear when one considers alternatives for all of the money being spent. In the name of biofuels, large "public-private" partnerships have developed across college campuses whereby public money and resources go into research and development while the results and profits derived are the private property of some of the world's largest corporations. This sucks money out of truly ecologically oriented research and basically continues to expand the privatization of formerly public resources, such as universities. As one

investment analyst wrote, "You can invest profitably in biofuel stocks, thanks to those helping hands from Uncle Sam" (Tanzer 2006: 66).

Many supporters of biofuel say we must invest in the future of so-called "next-generation" biofuels. However, even in "best-case" scenarios these biofuels remain a problem from an ecological and social justice perspective. A recent UN report finds that the next generation of biofuels

will create a market for far greater amounts of agricultural biomass, and promises to create higher-value co-products (and thus greater wealth generation). However, it will also require development of more capital intensive, complex production facilities, giving a further edge to large companies. Already, large investments are signaling the emergence of a new "bio-economy" in the coming decades." (Karlsson 2007: 24)

This signals further concentration of land and resources in the hands of the largest corporations. The consequences of this ongoing enclosure and land concentration for democratic decision-making with regards to resources used to meet basic human needs are long recognized and should at this point be obvious. So far, profit at the expense of people is a given under such circumstances.

### **So, what next?**

This is only a brief outline of the problems associated with current and expected increases in industrial biofuel production. Even so, these are reason enough to call for a moratorium on current industrial biofuel production and a re-direction of government funds, especially to programs meant to decrease overall energy demand. In recommending, at the least, that the new administration halt current government supports for biofuel production, we would be in line with many mainstream analysts and government bodies throughout the world. These include, but are not limited to: experts of the OECD, U.N., UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee, IMF, and the International Food Policy Research Institute. Being in line with these bodies, however, obviously isn't the point, as they are not representatives of the broader human community. The point is to advocate for a change that you know is long overdue if these folks are finally pointing it out. Our hope is that we will fight for the conditions under which a true ecological and social agenda can flourish. A policy change requiring a moratorium on industrial biofuel production is a necessary, if not sufficient, beginning.

## Doing Away with Career Dichotomies and Solving the Problem of Climate Change

by Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez, Ph.D.  
kehrhardt@aceee.org

I believe that our ability to contribute to a climate change solution is less dependent on whether we work on a university campus, in a government office building, or some other edifice, than it is on whether that building is energy-efficient and the people that we work with are taking much-needed actions to reduce their carbon footprints. What matters is policy and practice and our ability to influence them. And I have chosen a less traditional route in my efforts to achieve those ends. Currently, I work with a small, non-profit organization that provides policy research and advocacy to promote energy efficiency in the United States and elsewhere.

There is no doubt that I have chosen what most people would consider to be a non-traditional career path. The majority of people with Ph.D.s in Sociology are currently employed by educational institutions. According to data posted on the ASA website, as of 2003 approximately 75 percent of the more than 14,000 Ph.D.s in Sociology were currently employed by academic institutions, while a mere 6.5 percent were employed by private, for-profit organizations; 8.3 percent were employed by private, not-for-profit organizations; and just under 7 percent were employed by government organizations. Also noteworthy is the fact that when compared with other social scientists, Sociologists rely disproportionately on educational institutions for their employment. Whereas nearly 44 percent of all economists and 58 percent of all psychologists with doctoral degrees are employed outside of educational institutions, the figure for sociologists is a mere 25 percent.

Perhaps part of the reason is our fixation on the dichotomy itself: academic versus non-academic employment. I would argue for the need to facilitate both a greater appreciation for, and fluidity between, the different career options that might be chosen by folks with Ph.D.s in Sociology.

With regard to my own background, I decided to return to the world of non-profit policy research in Washington, DC after two years of teaching in a small liberal arts college. My biggest motivation was finding a way in which I could have a more direct impact on U.S. energy and climate change policy. My biggest fear was that I might never have the opportunity to return to a university setting. However over the past two years it has become increasingly clear that the fork in the road is simply unnecessary and often counterproductive. The reality is that there is room for

theory, data, problem solving and publications along both paths. The barriers are of our own making.

Earlier in my career, my research was primarily focused on understanding the social causes of deforestation, carbon dioxide emissions, and other environmental problems. More recently, however I began working with the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy to address a variety of social and behavioral issues associated with energy consumption, energy conservation, and climate change. It may not be surprising that the number of social scientists currently working on these issues in the private sector is woefully inadequate. Physicists, engineers, and economists predominate. Yet, if you're reading this article, chances are that you are already acutely aware that solving environmental problems isn't simply a function of inventing the right technology or applying the right economic policy. Fortunately, the advice of sociologists and other social scientists is increasingly being sought to help our nation and our world to avoid the worst consequences of global climate change.

In the past two years, my work has focused on five fronts:

1. working with economists and other social scientists to explore ways of integrating social and behavioral measures into energy policy models,
2. working with utilities and utility commissions to identify social and behavioral approaches to reducing energy consumption,
3. working with the private sector and others to study the impact of high-tech feedback devices for revealing household and commercial energy consumption patterns and empowering people to change their consumption patterns,
4. collaborating with the National Research Council and others to measure the scale of potential energy savings associated with social and behavioral changes, and
5. instituting an international conference on behavior, energy and climate change in which researchers, policymakers and practitioners can share their insights with the goal of accelerating our nation's transition to a low-carbon economy.

The next Behavior, Energy and Climate Change (BECC) conference will be held in November 2009 in Washington, D.C. We currently anticipate around 1000 participants to take part in the three day conference. A call for abstracts will be posted on the conference website ([www.BECCconference.org](http://www.BECCconference.org)) in the near future. The event is an ideal way to establish and expand networks across disciplinary boundaries and to break down some of the walls that currently support career dichotomies. Anyone who is doing work on the human dimensions of energy and climate change is invited and encouraged to attend.



## Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

### 2009 Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society Madison, Wisconsin.

The meetings will occur July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup> and the theme for 2009 is Climate Change and Societal Response: Livelihoods, Communities and the Environment. For those less familiar with the Rural Sociological Society or the character of the conference, please check out the 2008 program for some insight: <http://www.ruralsociology.org/annual-meeting/2008/program/sessions.html>. Academic research papers, posters and organized sessions related to the theme as well as other topical matters of interest to rural sociology and related social sciences are invited. Contributions from all social science disciplines with topical interest in matters related to the environment, agriculture, community, agriculture, food systems, development, etc. are welcome.

Go to <http://www.ruralsociology.us/> for more information about the 2009 conference and to find information about how to submit a paper/poster abstract. You will need to create a login account to submit an abstract (and please note due to the use of a new submission system for 2009 you will need to create an account even if you have created an account to submit for earlier meetings). Planning for the 2009 meetings is on-going, but here are some highlights:

--There will be a plenary address focusing on this year's theme of Climate Change and Societal Response and other thematic special panels and sessions are planned.

--Students are especially welcome at the meetings and a number of student-oriented social and professional development activities will take place. Be sure to check out the conference website for further details in the coming months.

--Pre-meeting activities will take place on Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, including some pre-meeting workshops and interest group sponsored field trips. These pre-meeting activities are generally open to anyone to participate as space is available and by registration. More detail about these activities will be available in late winter at <http://www.ruralsociology.us/>

--Several conference wide social activities are in the planning, including an evening of music and dancing and don't forget the world-famous Madison Farmers Market on Saturday morning.

Below are the important deadlines to keep in mind.

February 2: DEADLINE for submitting proposals for individual research papers or posters as well as for workshops and organized paper sessions or panels. The on-line submission system can be found at [www.ruralsociology.us](http://www.ruralsociology.us).

March 2: Volunteer by this date to be a session chair or discussant (to volunteer, e-mail [RSS2009@osu.edu](mailto:RSS2009@osu.edu)).

July 13: DEADLINE for uploading papers on the conference website and making papers available to session chairs or discussants.

A few additional notes regarding the types of submissions for which we are soliciting:

Abstract submissions for individual research papers will be considered for inclusion in a paper session allowing for 15-minute academic presentations. Thematically related paper proposals will be grouped appropriately by the program committee to create the sessions. Notification of the acceptance of individual papers will occur no later than March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Abstracts for posters will be considered for inclusion in a 2-hour poster session. The poster session will be the only scheduled conference activity during this 2 hour period to maximize interaction between presenters and conference attendees. All posters presented will be considered for awards, including an award for outstanding poster by a faculty and outstanding poster by a graduate student.

Proposals for workshops, organized paper sessions and panels will be considered for 75 or 90-minute sessions. Proposals for these activities will be reviewed by the program committee and notification of acceptance will occur no later than March 9<sup>th</sup>. Proposals are encouraged that address current or emerging topical research, teaching, extension, or policy matters. Organized paper sessions should be comprised of at least three papers and include geographically and intellectually diverse presenters.

Please direct questions to [RSS2009@osu.edu](mailto:RSS2009@osu.edu) and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Thank You,  
Jeff Sharp

2009 Rural Sociological Society Program Chair  
phone: (614)292-9410 e-mail: [RSS2009@osu.edu](mailto:RSS2009@osu.edu)

## Environmental Studies Association of Canada Call for Papers

The 2009 ESAC Conference will be held May 27-29 at Carleton University in Ottawa, hosted by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, as part of the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. We invite interested academics, graduate students, practitioners and activists to join us in exploring research and teaching related to environmental studies in Canada. Various formats will be considered, including: papers, roundtable discussions, film screenings, posters, audio-visual submissions, etc. We welcome proposals for joint sessions with other scholarly associations.

### Deadline for proposals: January 31, 2009.

Potential themes include (but are not limited to):

- Eco-pedagogy
- Sustainable food systems
- Environmental activism
- Political ecology
- Environmental conflict/peace
- Community engagement
- Conservation
- Environment & culture
- Ecological resilience
- Urban/rural sustainability
- Sustainable livelihoods
- Sustainable consumption
- Ecopoetics
- Religion & ecology
- Health & environment
- Sustainability & media

### To submit a proposal:

Send an abstract of no more than 250 words, plus title, list of participants, contact details and desired format to:

esac2009@gmail.com

Questions can be directed to:

Patricia Ballamingie, ESAC Conference Chair  
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies  
Carleton University

Tel.: (613) 520-2600, ext. 8566

E-mail: [esac2009@gmail.com](mailto:esac2009@gmail.com) The Environmental Studies Association of Canada (ESAC) is a learned society formed in 1993. ESAC is a non-profit, federally incorporated, bilingual organization open to members from across Canada and elsewhere. We welcome members from educational institutions, government agencies, non-profits and the private sector.

<http://thegreenpages.ca/esac/>

## Political Economy of the World-System XXXIVth Annual Conference Land Rights in the World-System

Florida Atlantic University  
Boca Raton and Davie, Florida  
May 6-8, 2010

At the 7th World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya activists from around the world gathered in the interest of global justice. A central theme of this meeting was struggles over land rights, both urban and rural. Joined together under one banner were organizations for urban housing, slum dwellers and farmers rights, and land for pastoralists. Yet in sociology, rural and urban have remained separate sub-disciplines. World-systems thought has approached both urban and rural questions historically and addressed them contemporaneously, yet less often brought urban and rural together in a single meeting. We suggest that the disintegration or at least the large changes in the capitalist world-system requires new ways of thinking about the struggles and demands for land and space and call for papers that qualify under the following sub-themes:

### Sub-Theme #1: Histories of Land Rights and Ownership

How have historical patterns of land acquisition and urbanization in specific world regions contributed to global inequalities? What are some of the significant struggles over land within and between nations or past empires that have current impact or that inform our contemporary condition? How are important features such as race and gender inscribed into the structure of ownership historically and at the macro-economic level? How do indebtedness and land ownership characterize the expansion of the capitalist world-system?

### Sub-Theme #2: Urban Livelihoods in the World-systems

When and where have impoverished urban populations been able to claim fairer rents and more public space in relation to global economic shifts and how has this relationship operated? In the global South slums are continuing to expand in size and in number, huge populations that dwell together do not have access to basic resources. How is this an outcome of state-capital relationships, labor and commodities schemes, or trade routes in the world-system? How and why do urban dwellers depend on informal housing and work locations for survival? Are opportunities for positive change in urbanization and

in the direction of gentrification in core cities presented by the recent real estate crises, global patterns of urban migration, and gendered shifts in the labor market?

#### Sub-Theme #3: Global Depeasantization and the Food Question

Under developmentalism and especially under neoliberalism, a massive number of people who were involved in agriculture with direct access to the production of their means of subsistence were expropriated and displaced. What were the historical processes involved in various forms of peasantization and depeasantization in the postwar period? What are the social and political implications of the global incorporation of formerly self-sufficient agricultural peoples into market relations? What were the processes involved in global commodification of food and global food regimes and with what social and political consequences? What are the future implications of social movements that claim food sovereignty, water rights, and indigenous rights?

What are the possible futures of agrarian movements against depeasantization, displacement and food insecurity?

#### Sub-Theme #4: Land Usage in the World-System

Whether it is cash crops, resource extraction, or tourism, intensified land usage has had far reaching negative impacts on both rural and urban populations. To the extent that cash crops and resource extraction have shaped socio-economic relations in the world-system, can the process be altered or reorganized for better environmental use and/or distribution of economic benefit? Many peripheral or semi-peripheral nations dependent on tourism have experienced great changes to their ownership structure and caused population displacement, others have gained some economic benefit from it. What is the systemic impact of tourism, past and present, as a form of land usage in the world-system?

Please submit proposals electronically to both Marina Karides (mkarides@fau.edu) and Farshad Araghi (araghi@fau.edu). Submissions should include a one-page proposal and full contact information for all authors by December 1, 2009. You will be notified by email by February 15, 2010 if your paper has been accepted and will receive details on accommodations and location for the conference.

**Nature and Culture**, a refereed interdisciplinary journal exploring the relationships of human activity with the natural world, invites submissions for a special issue on the viability of adaptive technologies in an era of global environmental change. The journal is a forum for the international community of scholars and practitioners to present, discuss, and evaluate critical issues and themes related to the historical and contemporary relationships that societies, civilizations, empires, regions, nation-states have with Nature.

We encourage contributions covering alternative energy sources (wind, waves, solar power, and alternative fuels) that address the viability of different energy systems for the reproduction of human societies. Papers that focus on the issue of the sustainability of these alternative energy systems are also welcomed. Completed manuscripts are due June 1, 2009, via email and should be formatted in accordance with Nature and Culture guidelines.

For further information contact:

Melanie Heyde, Managing Editor, Nature and Culture  
Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology  
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research  
Permoserstr. 15, 04318  
Leipzig, Germany  
E-mail: nature.culture@ufz.de,  
Phone: 49 (341) 2351746;  
Fax: 49 (341) 235 1836.

**A new journal, *Climate and Development***, is seeking submissions of research papers, review articles, case studies, viewpoints, book reviews and meeting reports that address issues at the interfaces of climate variability, climate change and climate policy with development needs, policy and practice. Contributions from and about developing countries are particularly encouraged; however, research on developed countries is welcome provided that the link between climate and development is the central theme.

Topics appropriate to *Climate & Development* include, but are not limited to:

- The vulnerability of communities to the combined impacts of climate change and non-climatic stresses
- Links between development and building capacity to respond to climate change
- The integration (mainstreaming) of climate policy adaptation and mitigation into sectoral planning and development policy

- Conflicts and synergies between mitigation, energy development and poverty
- The importance of climate and long-term weather forecasting for development
- Responsibilities of developing countries in a post-2012 climate policy regime
- The effects of climate change on meeting the Millennium Development Goals
- The implications for development of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, as well as all other existing or proposed policy frameworks
- Financing arrangements for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries
- Economic analysis of the effects of climate adaptation and mitigation on developing countries
- Traditional knowledge and local strategies for managing natural resources and coping with climate change
- Forest management and its relationship to mitigation, adaptation and development
- Adaptation, mitigation and the poor

... Additional information can be found at:  
<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=29957>

**Call for contributors:  
 International Environmental NGOs**

I'm organizing an anthology on environmental INGOs. I'm interested in finding authors to write chapters examining the history, process and progress of an environmental NGO active in some part of the less developed world during some period during the last 20 or so years. I'm looking for a combination of both UN recognized organizations and others that are less well known. I'm particularly interested in NGOs whose headquarters are not in the US or Western Europe although all submissions are welcome. Each contribution to the anthology will follow similar format (details will be provided later).

This is in the development stage only so I need is an expression of interest and willingness to commit after we received a contract from the publisher. If interested please send me a brief description of the NGO you wish to examine (including a few sentences about what they have been doing, where and why you think anyone might care) and a one page summary vita.

Send to Zachary Smith at [Zachary.Smith@nau.edu](mailto:Zachary.Smith@nau.edu)

**Call for editorial contributors to the Green Series,** a new electronic reference series for academic and public libraries addressing all aspects of environmental issues, including alternative energies, sustainability, politics, agriculture, and many other subjects that will comprise a 12-title set. Each title has approximately 150 articles (much like encyclopedia articles) on major themes, ranging from 1,000 to 4,000 words. We are starting the assignment process for articles for Volumes 4 -6 in the series with a deadline of May 1, 2009:

- Volume 4: Green Cities
- Volume 5: Green Business
- Volume 6: Green Consumerism

This comprehensive project will be published in stages by SAGE eReference and will be marketed to academic and public libraries as a digital, online product available to students via the library's electronic services. The Series Editor is Paul Robbins, Ph.D., University of Arizona, and the General Editor for Volumes 4 and 5 is Nevin Cohen, Ph.D., The New School, and General Editor for Volume 6 is Juliana Mansvelt, Ph.D., Massey University. Both the series editor and general editors will be reviewing each submission to the project.

If you are interested in contributing to this cutting-edge reference, it can be a notable publication addition to your CV/resume and broaden your publishing credits. SAGE Publications offers an honorarium ranging from SAGE book credits for smaller articles up to free access to the online product for contributions totaling 10,000 words or more per volume.

The list of available articles is already prepared, and as a next step we will e-mail you the Article List (Excel file) from which you can select topics that best fit your expertise and interests. Additionally, Style and Submission Guidelines will be provided that detail article specifications.

If you would like to contribute to building a truly outstanding reference with the Green Series, please contact me by the e-mail information below. Please provide a brief summary of your academic/publishing credentials in environmental issues.

Thanks very much.

Ellen Ingber  
 Author Manager  
 Golson Media  
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We would like to solicit your help to promote the summer course on **“Sustainable Human Development: From International Frameworks to Regional Policies”** among your colleagues, your graduate students, or any interested researchers.

Course Dates: July 6-17, 2009 with a distance learning phase from 10 March, 2009  
Location: Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary  
Course description <http://www.sun.ceu.hu/sustainable>

**Course Directors:**

Alexios Antypas, Central European University, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, Budapest, Hungary  
Andrey Ivanov, Human Development Advisor, UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre, Slovakia  
Mihail Peleah, Research Assistant, UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre, Slovakia

**Faculty:**

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Dafina Gercheva, Capacity Development Advisor, UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre, Slovakia  
Jaroslav Kling, UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre, PSPD: Poverty Reduction, Slovakia  
Michal Sedlacko, Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics Bratislava, Slovakia  
Tamara Steger, Programs Director of CEU Centre for Environmental Policy and Law, Budapest, Hungary  
Stephen Stec, Director of the International Law Program, Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Szentendre, Hungary  
Dan Dionisie, Anti-corruption Policy Specialist, UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre, Slovakia  
Maria Olshanskaya, Regional Technical Specialist for Climate Change, UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre, Slovakia

The course is the fourth edition of the summer courses conducted jointly by the Central European University and the United Nations Development Programme alongside with other Human Development (HD) /Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related activities being implemented or managed by UNDP. The course in 2009 will have an explicit policy focus and will bring together practitioners, mid- and high-level policy makers, academia, and civil society activists from countries in the region as well as experts on issues of HD and MDGs, both from UNDP, CEU and other European institutions.

Language of instruction: English

Tuition fee: EUR 500. Financial aid is available.

Application deadline: February 16, 2009

Online application (from mid-November):  
<http://www.sun.ceu.hu/apply>  
(Attachments to be sent to: [sun09-sustainable@ceu.hu](mailto:sun09-sustainable@ceu.hu))

Thank you for your kind assistance.

Eva Gedeon  
Executive Director

**A NEW SCIENCE OF VIRTUES**

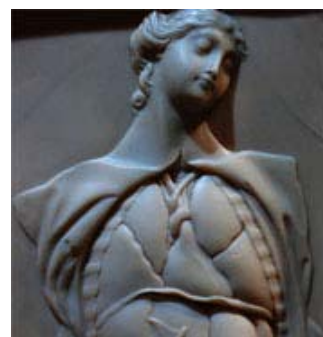
*In what ways might the humanities and the sciences cooperate to develop richer understandings of virtue for modern societies?*

The Arete Initiative at the University of Chicago is pleased to announce a new \$3 million research program on a New Science of Virtues. This is a multidisciplinary research initiative that seeks contributions from individuals and from teams of investigators working within the humanities and the sciences. We support highly original, scholarly projects that demonstrate promise of a distinctive contribution to virtue research and have the potential to begin a new field of interdisciplinary study.

**2010 RESEARCH GRANTS**

In 2010, about twenty (20), two-year research grants will be awarded ranging from \$50,000 to \$300,000. Scholars and scientists from around the world are invited to submit Letters of Intent (LOI) as entry into a research grant competition. For a description of the required Letter of Intent and more information about a New Science of Virtues, go to: [www.scienceofvirtues.org](http://www.scienceofvirtues.org) or contact us directly at [virtues@uchicago.edu](mailto:virtues@uchicago.edu).

Letter of Intent Deadline: March 2, 2009, 5:00pm Central Standard Time





### Call for Papers

#### *2nd German Environmental Sociology Summit*

## Reshaping Nature: Old Limits and New Possibilities

Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research, UFZ

Permoserstr. 15, 04318 Leipzig, Germany

November 5-7, 2009

Venue: <http://www.leipziger-kubus.ufz.de/>

The German Sociological Society's Section on Environmental Sociology and the Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology at the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ are pleased to announce the *Second German Environmental Sociology Summit* in Leipzig (Germany) from November 5-7, 2009.

Environmental sociologists have long called for the reduction of the impact of modern societies on ecosystems. More recently, new research in the ecological and technical sciences, augmented by public discourse about strategies for adapting to and mitigating ecological changes caused by humans (e.g., global warming), as well as natural catastrophes (e.g., earthquakes, tsunamis), have fostered sociological research on not only the risks but also the opportunities for the social design of environmental dynamics. In light of these debates, this conference will explore sociology's potential for helping to better understand the social possibilities and limits of the "shapability" of an ever-changing natural world.

The organizers of the *Second German Environmental Sociology Summit* invite papers that focus on the following subjects: new governance and policy prospects for adapting to climate change; the limits and possibilities of sustainably restoring and revitalizing industrially altered landscapes; new forms of sustainability, be it on the local, regional (e.g., consumption), or on the global (e.g., emissions trading) level; and education and learning to meet the challenges of sustainable development. Presentations that focus on the viability (incl. economic, aesthetic, or practical facets) of adaptive technologies involving alternate energy sources (wind, waves, solar power, and alternate fuels) are also especially welcome. Nevertheless the conference will not restrict papers to these subjects and is open to other original proposals.

Abstracts of no more than 300 words are due April 15, 2009 via email to Johanna Hilsberg at: [Johanna.hilsberg@ufz.de](mailto:Johanna.hilsberg@ufz.de). For further information contact Matthias Gross, Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Permoserstr. 15, 04318 Leipzig, Germany, Phone: 49 (341) 235 1746; Fax: 49 (341) 235 1836.

**Confirmed Speakers include:**

Andreas Diekmann (ETH Zürich, Switzerland), Raymond Murphy (University of Ottawa, Canada), Mercedes Pardo (University Carlos III Madrid, Spain), Eugene Rosa (Washington State University, USA), Gert Spaargaren (Wageningen University, Netherlands).

**Conference Venue**

The *Second Environmental Sociology Summit* will be held at KUBUS, the conference center of the *Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)* in Leipzig, Germany. KUBUS is a modern conference centre in Leipzig's "Science Park." Further information about KUBUS can be found at <http://www.leipziger-kubus.ufz.de/> (an English version is available).

**Conference Fees:**

Early bird (before August 1, 2009): 40 € (student with ID: 30€)

Regular (after August 1, 2009 and on-site registration): 50€ (student with ID: € 40)

**The City of Leipzig**

Leipzig is the largest city in the federal state of Saxony, Germany. Leipzig is noted for its rich tradition in music (e.g., Bach), culture, the origins of the German labor movement, the arts (e.g., the New Leipzig School), trade fairs, as well being the city that initiated the "peaceful revolution" in 1989. What is less known is that the city's southern suburbs border some of the largest human-induced landscape changes in European history, the redevelopment of large scale open cast brown coal mining pits into lake districts with an overall water surface of some 175 km<sup>2</sup> – a truly telling example of the limits and possibilities of the "shapability" of nature. More information on Leipzig can be found in Wikipedia:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leipzig>



# Master of Science in Human Ecology: Culture, Power & Sustainability

The program provides trans-disciplinary perspectives and analytical tools for communicating about problems of sustainability. It will help you understand the cultural and political dimensions of consumption and resource use, how perceptions of environment and economy differ in time and space, and how environmental problems are distributed globally. It will enhance your ability to:

- ✿ Understand how environmental problems are generated, interpreted, and negotiated in different cultural and historical contexts.
- ✿ Distinguish between natural, cultural, and political aspects of sustainability issues, and to discuss the relative significance of these aspects in specific contexts.
- ✿ Communicate across boundaries separating disciplines, cultural traditions, or business interests, politics, and social movements.

Graduates will be able to work in fields such as research, education, journalism, environmental management, and development aid.

#### **No tuition.**

FAFSA school code: G10067

#### **No application fee.**

Electronic application.

Basic admission requirements include:

Bachelor's degree, background in human ecology or related field, proficiency in English, see our website for more details.

Core courses include:

Culture, Economy, and Ecology; Theory of Science; Research Methods; Lifestyle, Consumption, and Identity; Political Ecology; see our website for more details.

#### CPS Advisory Board (partial list):

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Dr. *Mathis Wackernagel*, Executive Director, Global Footprint Network

Prof. *Richard Wilk*, Gender Studies and Anthropology, Indiana University

Prof. *Michael Williams*, School of Geography & the Environment, Oxford University

(please see our website for a complete list)

#### **Contact**

Human Ecology Division

E-mail: [cps@humecol.lu.se](mailto:cps@humecol.lu.se)

Phone: +46-46-222 86 90

[www.humecol.lu.se](http://www.humecol.lu.se)

Please see our website for detailed information about:

- ✿ electronic application site
- ✿ links to relevant websites
- ✿ and more

#### Core Faculty & Research Expertise:

*Alf Hornborg* (Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology, Uppsala University): cultural and political dimensions of human-environmental relations. Regions: Latin America and North America.

*Jason W. Moore* (Ph.D., Geography, UC, Berkeley): globalisation and environment, world environmental history, global development. Regions: Europe, the Americas.

*Pernille Gooch* (Ph.D., Social Anthropology, Lund University) political ecology, sustainable livelihoods, gender and environmental justice. Regions: South Asia.

*Thomas Malm* (Ph.D., Social Anthropology, Lund University): island studies, ethnoecology, biodiversity, political ecology. Regions: Oceania, Southeast Asia.

The M.Sc. Programme in Culture, Power, and Sustainability is housed in the Human Ecology Division, located in the Department of Social and Economic Geography at Lund University, Lund, Sweden.

Application period for Autumn 2009: Dec 1, 2008 – Jan 15, 2009





## Publications

### Books

#### **Anthropology and Climate Change From Encounters to Actions**

Susan A. Crate and Mark Nuttall, eds.  
<http://www.lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=163>

This benchmark text is the first to comprehensively review and assess anthropology's major contribution to the study of culture and climate change and the relationship between humans and the environment. It includes systematic reviews of research around the globe, innovative case studies that advance theoretical and methodological agendas, and provocative pieces that challenge scholars to take an activist role in addressing global warming.

"This book is a leap forward in our understanding of how societies around the globe perceive and adapt to climate change from the perspective of their own unique socio-cultural framework. It introduces concepts which advance the discussions of human adaptations to climate change from the realm of an esoteric intellectual debate about past societies, to one of pressing and immediate relevance for our modern world."

-Arlene Miller Rosen, UCL, author of *Civilizing Climate*

U.S. National Research Council. 2008. **Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making**. Thomas Dietz and Paul C Stern (editors). Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

### Journals

**The Journal of Environment & Development** --  
Table of Contents 1 December 2008; Vol. 17, No. 4

From the Bottom Up: Local and Subnational Climate Change Politics  
Miranda A. Schreurs

German Climate Change Policy: A Success Story With Some Flaws  
Helmut Weidner and Lutz Mez

Translating a Global Issue Into Local Priority: China's Local Government Response to Climate Change  
Ye Qi, Li Ma, Huanbo Zhang, and Huimin Li

California's Climate Change Policy: The Case of a

Subnational State Actor Tackling a Global Challenge  
Daniel A. Mazmanian, John Jurewitz, and Hal Nelson

Local Policies for Climate Change in Japan  
Noriko Sugiyama and Tsuneo Takeuchi

The current issues of the journal **Environmental History** is a theme issue on "Toxic Bodies/Toxic Environments" and features nine articles on toxic exposure and synthetic chemicals from sociological, historical, and public health perspectives.

The issue can be found at:  
<http://www.foresthistory.org/Publications/EH/>

Contents for Vol. 13, No.4 (October 2008)

Jody A Roberts and Nancy Langston. "Toxic Bodies/Toxic Environments: An Interdisciplinary Forum."

Michael Egan, "Toxic Knowledge: A Mercurial Fugue in Three Parts."

Scott Frickel. "On Missing New Orleans: Lost Knowledge and Knowledge Gaps in an Urban Hazardscape."

Linda Nash. "Purity and Danger: Historical Reflections on the Regulation of Environmental Pollutants."

Barbara Allen. "Environment, Health, and Missing Information."

Sarah A. Vogel. "From "The Dose Makes the Poison" to "The Timing Makes the Poison": Conceptualizing Risk in the Synthetic Age."

Frederick Rowe Davis. "Unraveling the Complexities of Joint Toxicity of Multiple Chemicals at the Tox Lab and the FDA."

Arthur Daemmrich. "Risk Frameworks and Biomonitoring: Distributed Regulation of Synthetic Chemicals in Humans."

Michelle Murphy. "Chemical Regimes of Living."

### Articles

Downey, Liam and Brian Hawkins. 2008. "Race, Income, and Environmental Inequality in the United States." *Sociological Perspectives*: 51(4): 759-781.

Downey, Liam, Summer DuBois, Brian Hawkins, and Shelli Walker. 2008 "Environmental Inequality in

Metropolitan America." *Organization & Environment* 21(3): 270-294.

Downey, Liam and Brian Hawkins. 2008. "Single-Mother Families and Air Pollution: A National Study." *Social Science Quarterly* 89:523-536.

Downey, Liam. 2007. "US Metropolitan-area Variation in Environmental Inequality Outcomes." *Urban Studies* 44:953-977.

Dunlap, Riley E. 2008. "Environmental Sociology." Pp. 93-95 in J. B. Callicott and R. Frodeman (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*, Vol. 1. Chicago: Macmillan Reference USA.

Dunlap, Riley E. 2008. "New Environmental Paradigm." Pp. 395-396 in J. B. Callicott and R. Frodeman (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*. Chicago: Macmillan Reference USA.

Dunlap, Riley E. 2008. "Environmental Sociology." Pp. 93-95 in J. B. Callicott and R. Frodeman (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*, Vol. 1. Chicago: Macmillan Reference USA.

Dunlap, Riley E. 2008. "New Environmental Paradigm." Pp. 395-396 in J. B. Callicott and R. Frodeman (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*, Vol. 2. Chicago: Macmillan Reference USA.

Dunlap, Riley E. 2008. "The NEP Scale: From Marginality to Worldwide Use." *Journal of Environmental Education* 40 (1):3-18.

Dunlap, Riley E. and Aaron M. McCright. 2008. "Social Movement Identity: Validating a Measure of Identification with the Environmental Movement." *Social Science Quarterly* 89:1045-1065.

Eivers, Horst-Dietrich, Matthias Gross and Harald Heinrichs. "The Diversity of Environmental Justice: Towards a European Approach". *European Societies*, Volume 10, Issue 5 December 2008, pages 835 – 856.

#### Abstract

By comparing the US environmental justice movement with recent European developments, this paper suggests an environmental justice framework which is based on the idea of environmental justice as a heterogeneous process rather than an analytical or

normative category. Using major debates on environmental justice particularly in the UK and Germany as a touchstone, eight dimensions of environmental justice are carved out and integrated into a processual model. It is discussed how environmental justice as a process may become robust enough to integrate and react to changing natural and social conditions.

Evans, Rhonda and Tamara Kay. "How Environmentalists "Greened" Trade Policy: Strategic Action and the Architecture of Field Overlap". *American Sociological Review*, Volume 73, Number 6, December 2008, pp. 970-991(22).

#### Abstract:

This article examines why and how environmental activists, despite considerable political weakness and disproportionately few resources, won substantive negotiating concessions that far outstripped labor achievements during NAFTA's negotiation. Despite a trade policy arena hostile to their demands, environmentalists gained official recognition for the legitimacy of their claims, obtained a seat at the negotiating table, turned a previously technocratic concern into a highly visible populist issue, and won an environmental side agreement stronger than its labor counterpart. We argue that this unexpected outcome is best explained by environmentalists' strategic use of mechanisms available at the intersection of multiple fields. While field theory mainly focuses on interactions within a particular field, we suggest that the structure of overlap between fields—the architecture of field overlap—creates unique points of leverage that render particular targets more vulnerable and certain strategies more effective for activists. We outline the mechanisms associated with the structure of field overlap—alliance brokerage, rulemaking, resource brokerage, and frame adaptation—that enable activists to strategically leverage advantages across fields to transform the political landscape.

McCright, Aaron M., and Riley E. Dunlap. 2008. "The Nature and Social Bases of Progressive Social Movement Ideology: Examining Public Opinion Toward Social Movements." *Sociological Quarterly* 49:825-848.

McCright, Aaron M., and Riley E. Dunlap. 2008. "Social Movement Identity and Belief Systems: An Examination of Beliefs About Environmental Problems Within the General Public." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 72:651-676.

McCright, Aaron M., and Riley E. Dunlap. 2008. "The Nature and Social Bases of Progressive Social Movement Ideology: Examining Public Opinion Toward Social Movements." *The Sociological Quarterly* 49:825-848.

McCright, Aaron M., and Riley, E. Dunlap. 2008. "Belief Systems and Social Movement Identity: An Examination of the Consistency of Beliefs About Environmental Problems Within the American Public." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 72(4): Forthcoming.

Ariel Salleh, 'Is Australia's Climate Policy Gender Literate?', *InSight* (Centre for Policy Development, Sydney), 13 June 2008: <[www.cpd.org](http://www.cpd.org)>

Ariel Salleh, 'Eco-socialism and "Ecological Civilization" in China', *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 2008, Vol. 19, No. 3, 122-128.

Ariel Salleh, 'The dystopia of technoscience: An ecofeminist critique of postmodern reason', *Futures*, 2008, Vol. 9, No. 3, 1-9.

Ariel Salleh, 'Climate Change - and the "Other Footprint": The Commoner, 2008, No. 13: [www.thecommoner.org.uk](http://www.thecommoner.org.uk)

Ariel Salleh, 'How the Ecological Footprint is Gendered: Implications for eco-socialist theory and praxis', *Green Leaf*, Ministry for Environment, Beijing, June 2008. (Mandarin).

Ariel Salleh 'The Ecofeminism/Deep Ecology Debate (1992)': <[www.umweltethik.at](http://www.umweltethik.at)> (German reprint 2008)

Ariel Salleh, Mary Mellor, Katharine Farrell, and Vandana Shiva, 'How Ecofeminists Use Complexity in Ecological Economics' in Katharine Farrell, Sybille van den Hove, and Tommaso Luzzati (eds.), *Beyond Reductionism: Interdisciplinarity in Ecological Economics?* London: Routledge, forthcoming 2009.

Ariel Salleh, 'Social Reproduction and Embodied Energy' in Kolya Abramsky et al (eds.), *Emancipating Energy: Transition Struggles for Decentralisation, Autonomy and Diversity*, London: AK Press, forthcoming 2009.

## Call for Newsletter Editor

The Environment and Technology section of the American Sociological Association (ASA) is seeking an editor for its newsletter. Articles in the newsletter provide information about the section, including committee, conference, and membership information. The newsletter also publishes brief articles in the areas of education, research, and practice.

### The Newsletter Editor will be responsible for:

- Writing, compiling, editing, and formatting electronic text for the Section's newsletter;
- Working closely with the council, soliciting articles from key members;
- Working with the Section's Publication Committee Chair, Secretary, President, and Webmaster to disseminate newsletters in a timely fashion;
- Attending the ASA Annual Conference, if possible

### The Newsletter Editor must:

- Have previous experience with editing;
- Be proficient in Microsoft Office or equivalent
- Be a member of the Section on Environment and Technology, preferably for several years or more.

Please submit, by email, a letter of interest, résumé, and writing sample to:

Michael S. Carolan  
Chair, Publications Committee  
[mcarolan@colostate.edu](mailto:mcarolan@colostate.edu)

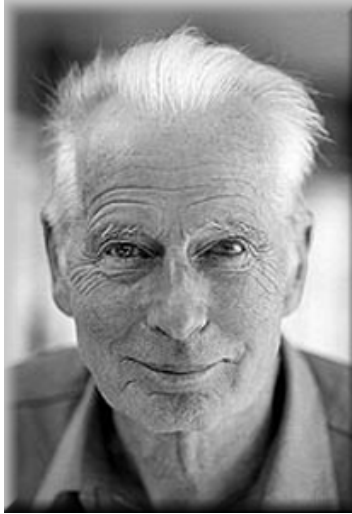
Application deadline: January 31, 2009.

## Member News

The National Academies announced provisional membership of four panels on climate change. Environmental sociologists are named to three out of four of the panels. Professor Loren Lutzenhiser, Portland State University, and former Chair of the ASA Section on Environment and Technology, is named as a member of the Panel on Limiting the Magnitude of Climate Change; Professor Tom Dietz, Michigan State University, recipient of the Distinguished Contribution Award from the ASA Section on Environment and Technology, is named as Vice-Chair of the Panel on Advancing the Science of Climate Change; and Professor Kathleen Tierney, University of Colorado at Boulder, is named as a member of the Panel on Informing Effective Decisions and Actions. URL: <http://americasclimatechoices.org/>

## Remembering Arne Naess (1912-2009)

by David Orton



“By and large, it is painful to think.” - Naess

“The movement is not mainly one of professional philosophers and other academic specialists, but of a large public in many countries and cultures.” - Naess

“The earth does not belong to humans.” - Naess

I never met personally Arne Naess, the Norwegian eco-philosopher, who, according to an Associated Press story, died on Monday January 12<sup>th</sup>. He was 96. I knew from a fairly recent contact from his wife, that he was in a nursing home and not very well. Naess – like a few others now dead, such as Aldo Leopold, Richard Sylvan, John Livingston, and Rudolf Bahro – profoundly influenced me with his ideas. His deep ecology writings helped orient my life as a green and environmental activist. His Earth-centered ideas and overall philosophy also influenced so many others. His life’s work and his death, will be thought about by those who have been inspired by him and now learn that he has returned to the Earth.

Social relativism, i.e. not taking a stand, was unacceptable to Naess in this age of post modernism and ecological destruction. He himself had seen the impact of fascism on Norway during the Second World War. He saw the deep ecology philosophy, with which his name has become associated, as completely anti-fascist in orientation. Speaking of “intrinsic value”, a basic component of this world view, Naess said: “This is squarely an *antifascist* position. It is incompatible with fascist racism and fascist nationalism, and also with the special ethical status accorded the (supreme) Leader.” (*Selected Works*, Volume Ten, p. 95.) Naess was an advocate of non violence but made it clear in his writings, that if a choice had to be made, he preferred violence over cowardice. He also saw that self-respect for an individual was important, before a principled non violent stand could be taken and the consequences accepted.

I had received a few personal letters and communications from him, about some essays which I had written and on various theoretical points/disputes which I had raised. These letters I have kept and treasure. Arne had an ability to bring out the positive in any clash of what could seem to be contending views. His unifying personal interactive style was very different from that of the late social ecologist Murray Bookchin, whose intellectual life was marked by many rancorous arguments, as Bookchin policed the interpretations of his works.

Naess came through in his writings not only as a deep thinker – and sometimes as an obscure writer – but also as someone who was gentle, humble, and yet mischievous and playful. He told us “that the front is long”, meaning, as I interpreted this, that there are many paths to a deep ecological consciousness; many battles for



participants to engage in; and that we should be tolerant and supportive of all those on the path to a new Earth consciousness – no matter the particular field of engagement. He also stressed, that for environmental activists, the views of opponents should be presented honestly and not distorted. We knew through many stories, that Arne, as well as a philosopher, was also an environmental activist, a boxer, and climbed mountains in Norway and around the world. He did much of his thinking and writing in isolation, at a self-built work hut high on a Norwegian mountain, where life's necessities: water, food, shelter, warmth, clean air and perhaps solitude – what he called in his philosophy human “vital needs” – came into much sharper focus. (Naess advocated decreasing the material standards of living in wealthy countries.) There was quite a mystique around him. On top of all this, he was part of a privileged Norwegian shipping family and thus born with a silver spoon in his mouth. Yet, for Naess, one had to walk the talk: “Ordinary people show a great deal of skepticism toward verbally declared values that are not expressed in the lifestyle of the propagandist.” (*Selected Works*, Volume Ten, p.110.)

Naess had a way of expressing deep insights which would remain with one long after reading them. He concluded one letter to me in December 1996, about an apparent dispute I had with him on what I saw as his inconsistent views on so-called sustainable development. He wrote: “Industrial societies cannot be reformed, green societies will not be industrial, but they may of course have industries. We probably have some real disagreements, but let us get rid of ‘pseudo-disagreements.’” An e-mail in 2000 commented positively about something I had written against wildlife biologists, who in the name of research, routinely subjected wildlife to various technological/electronic tracking devices, thus violating their species being and dignity: “Personally I believe that mysteries will not gradually disappear with increase of research efforts. If you throw light on an area, the boundary of darkness increases.”

Deep ecology, as conceived by Naess, made room theoretically for others to participate. A quotation which expresses this is in the 1993 book by David Rothenberg, *Conversations With Arne Naess: Is It Painful To Think?* (p. 98): “To be a great philosopher seems to imply that you think precisely, but do not explain all the consequences of your ideas. That’s what others will do if they have been inspired.”

In my own case I was inspired like so many others and came to critically adopt, and try to apply and propagate the deep ecology philosophy, starting in 1985. My involvement in forestry and wildlife struggles in the late 1970s and the early 1980s in British Columbia and Nova Scotia had brought me to a position which made me open to Naess and ready to critically embrace his ideas. This was quite some time after 1973, when Naess published his initial deep ecology synthesis, the now widely reprinted article “The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecology Movement: A Summary.” This article was based on a talk he had given a year earlier. It eventually was to transform itself into the eight-point Deep Ecology Platform, but how to change this Platform so it can evolve and yet keep its movement legitimacy remains unresolved. Giving support to this Platform, which calls for significant human population reductions, has come to identify the typical follower of deep ecology. Naess, “to provoke”, had called for a world population of 100 million people. (*Selected Works*, Volume Ten, p. 270.)

The distinction between “shallow” and “deep” ecology made by Naess, although perhaps an invidious comparison which some have called self-serving, nevertheless became a signature and part of the language of ecophilosophy and radical environmentalism. In fairness to Naess, he saw these two terms as “argumentation patterns” and not applied to people. (*Philosophical Dialogues: Arne Naess and the Progress of Ecophilosophy*, p. 444.) What is being called for in this age of ecology is that individuals need to define their “selves” as being part of the natural world. Naess defined the shallow ecology movement, which he says is more influential than the deep ecology movement, as “Fight against pollution and resource depletion. Central objective: the health and affluence of people in the developed countries.” The shallow approach takes for granted beliefs in technological optimism, economic growth, and scientific management and the continuation of existing industrial societies. Naess expressed it this way: “The supporters of shallow ecology think that reforming human relations toward nature can be done within the existing structure of society.” (*Selected Works*, Volume Ten, p. 16.)

Naess defined the “deep movement”, which seeks the transformation of industrial capitalist societies who have brought about the existing environmental crisis, by putting forward seven main points. The article is only a few pages long, but profound and showing the complexity of Naess. He pointed out that biological complexity required a corresponding social and cultural complexity. Outlined is an “anti-class posture” and how anti-pollution

devices can, because of increasing the “prices of life necessities” increase class differences. He stressed local autonomy and decentralization.

Fred Bender's 2003 book *The Culture Of Extinction: Toward A Philosophy Of Deep Ecology* said that Naess, in his initial 1972 formulation of shallow and deep ecology, put forward a very progressive non-dualistic approach, which is the one most compatible with ecology, where every aspect of Nature is interrelated – “all my relations” as traditionalist aboriginals say. Naess also presented in the original essay a sophisticated understanding of cultural diversity and a class and political consciousness. If this had been retained by Naess and other deep ecology academic writers in published writings, it would have blunted all that criticism of deep ecology, much of it emanating from social ecology – that deep ecology was just focused on Nature and had no view of society.

Some supporters of deep ecology (I am among them), believe that this philosophy has “stalled”. One example of this is perhaps the elimination of the section on deep ecology in the fourth edition (2004) of the undergraduate reader, *Environmental Philosophy: From Animal Rights to Radical Ecology*, senior editor Michael E. Zimmerman. This edition has totally dropped the section on Deep Ecology, edited by George Sessions, which was part of all previous editions. Naess, a European, had a positive yet critical attitude towards socialism in his writings. “It is still clear that some of the most valuable workers for ecological goals come from the socialist camps.” (*Ecology, community and lifestyle*, p.157.) Naess tried to combine revolution and reform: “The direction is revolutionary, the steps are reformatory.” (Volume Ten, *Selected Works*, p. 216.) Most of the academics in the universities who aligned themselves with deep ecology, however, came to terms with industrial capitalism. They did not see themselves as revolutionaries with a mandate to help usher in a NEW social formation as an alternative to industrial capitalism. The academy has tended to politically neutralize deep ecology.

The year 1973 not only marked the publication of the above seminal article by Naess, but it was a time which marked the opening of a deep crack in the paradigm of ruling ideas justifying the despoliation of the planet, and the start of a movement towards an Earth-centered ethics. Other essays and books which were published around that time included Richard Sylvan's (then Routley's) essay “Is There a Need for a New, an Environmental Ethic?”, Peter Singers “Animal Liberation” essay, and two important books: Christopher Stone's “Should Trees Have Standing? Toward Legal Rights For Natural Objects” and Donella Meadows et al “The Limits to Growth”.

Naess was pre-eminently a teacher. At 24 he had his Ph.D. in philosophy and by the age of 27 he was given the Norwegian University of Oslo's chair of philosophy. There he remained until resigning at age 57 in 1969 to become the brains and soul of the emerging world-wide radical environmental movement influenced by the philosophy of deep ecology. Naess said that “The main driving force of the Deep Ecology movement, as compared with the rest of the ecological movement, is that of identification and solidarity with all life.” The primacy of the natural world is considered an “intuition” by Naess and is not logically or philosophically derived. Naess would say that “Every living being has an equal right to live and flourish, in principle.” This is not to deny that our existence as humans involves killing living beings. Living beings for Naess included individual organisms, ecosystems, mountains, rivers, and the Earth itself. The most comprehensive published overview of the philosophical work of Naess (there are said to be over 700 published and unpublished papers), can be seen in the ten-volume *Selected Works Of Arne Naess* which was published in 2005. (See my “Critical Appreciation” at [http://home.ca.inter.net/~greenweb/Naess\\_Appreciation.html](http://home.ca.inter.net/~greenweb/Naess_Appreciation.html) )

Naess had a social harmony view of social change which seemed to stem from a position “that ultimately all life is one - so that the injury of one's opponent becomes also an injury to oneself.” (*Selected Works*, Volume Five, p. 26.) I think he was wrong on this social harmony perspective. The conflict model of social change, which has its roots in Marx and has been developed, among others, by fellow Norwegian Sigmund Kval y is far more appropriate for combating ecocide and social injustice. From a basic social harmony position, Naess derived rules of movement conduct for activists, of literally turning the other cheek for environmental campaigns which can seem bizarre, but also dangerous, for someone like myself: “It is a central norm of the Gandhian approach to ‘maximize contact with your opponent!’”; or “Do not exploit a weakness in the position of your opponent.”

The significance of Arne Naess, whatever the real or apparent contradictions, is that his non-human centered philosophy offers us a way forward out of the ecological and social mess that threatens to overwhelm all of humanity and wipe out many of the plants and animals which share the planet with us. It is unfortunate that environmental “stars” – for example, here in Canada David Suzuki, Elizabeth May and Alberta environmental

writer Andrew Nikiforuk, or in the United States, Al Gore – have nothing to say publicly about the importance of deep ecology, and why it is crucial that activists should study Arne Naess and apply his thinking to their work for ecological and social change.

A true defining star is not undermined by acknowledging those who have gone before and from whom we need to learn. Thus Naess acknowledged the importance of those who have gone before and influenced him, like Rachel Carson, Gandhi and Spinoza. (Carson's 1962 *Silent Spring* was, for Naess, the beginning of the international deep ecology movement, although he invented the name as well as provided the philosophical framework.)

Ultimately the significance of the life of Arne Naess is that his philosophy has presented a needed pathway for coming into a new, yet pre-industrial old, animistic and spiritual relationship to the Earth, which is respectful for all species and not just humans. This is the needed message for our time, that the Earth is not just a "resource" for humankind and corporations to exploit.

I would like to close by expressing my personal condolences to Arne's wife Kit-Fai Naess, as well as to the family and close friends. Arne Naess has impacted many lives and shown the necessary direction to significantly change societal consciousness away from human-centeredness and towards Earth-centeredness. Deep Ecology expresses what should be our relationship to the natural world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is a wonderful and lasting achievement for a person's life.

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