



# ESEE NEWS

*Newsletter of the European Society for Ecological Economics*

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ESEE News is published by the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE). Its purpose is to inform ESEE members of developments both within the Society and in other areas of potential interest. It is published four times a year and is sent free to ESEE members. The views expressed are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society as a whole.

The European Society for Ecological Economics is a not-for-profit organisation devoted to the development of theory and practice in ecological economics in Europe. Membership is open to all interested individuals working in Europe or in other areas on request. For membership details please contact the Secretariat.

## \*\*\* ISEE MONTREAL \*\*\*

The next ISEE International Conference is in Montreal, July 11-14, 2004. Booking are now open. See back page for further details.

## EURAB recommends extension of Social Sciences and Humanities within the European Research Area

In a recent report on the role of the social sciences and humanities in the ERA, EURAB the European Union Research Advisory Board makes nine separate recommendations for the consideration of the Commission.

EURAB begins its analysis by making it clear that strategic themes in social sciences and humanities should "in their own right" command a more prominent place in future Framework Programmes. These themes, the paper argues, are key in addressing social, economic and political issues and challenges facing the further construction of the European Union and its relations with the rest of the world.

Furthermore, EURAB also requests that the Commission measure the extent of actual involvement of social scientists in research projects in the natural sciences and engineering, as opposed to simply rhetorical reference to the importance of the "socio economic dimension". In order to facilitate this, the European Commission should increase the participation of social scientists and humanities scholars in

both the design stage (Advisory Groups) of the work programmes and in the evaluation process of FP6 Thematic Priorities 1 to 6.

In order to ensure the participation and involvement of social scientists, the European Commission should review the option of retaining smaller funding instruments to support projects in social sciences and the humanities. Furthermore, the European Commission should consider the creation of a new instrument, tentatively named "Research Innovation Spaces", where both early career and established researchers have the opportunity to cooperate for a limited period to explore innovative research directions and to widen their perspectives. Finally, EURAB recommend that the "Research Infrastructures" element of FP6 should make specific reference to the inclusion of the social sciences and the humanities within its remit, in order to raise its profile among this community.

The report is available from <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/eurab/pdf/recommendations8.pdf>

# COMMITTEES

*ESEE Administration  
and Society  
Development and  
Planning Matters*

## **ESEE Administrative Board Members 2003**

President: Clive Spash  
(c.spash@macaulay.ac.uk)

Vice-President: Arild Vatn  
(arild.vatn@ios.nlh.no)

Vice-President: Sigrid Stagl  
(sts@env.leeds.ac.uk)

Secretary: Wendy Kenyon  
(w.kenyon@macaulay.ac.uk)

Treasurer: Karen Refsgaard  
(karen.refsgaard@nilf.no)

Newsletter Editor: Ben Davies  
(b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk)

### **Standing Committee Chairs**

Research  
Fritz Hinterberger (Fritz@seri.at)

Conferences and Meetings:  
Sigrid Stagl (sts@env.leeds.ac.uk)

Publications and Publicity:  
Ben Davies (b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk)

Membership and External Affairs:  
Felix Rauschmayer  
(felix.rauschmayer@ufz.de)

### **Ordinary Members**

Claudia Carter  
(c.carter@macaulay.ac.uk)

Mario Giampietro  
(giampietro@inn.ingrm.it)

Sybille van den Hove  
(s.vandenhove@terra.es)

Jesus Ramos-Martin  
(jesusramosmartin@yahoo.es)

Tatiana Kluvankova-Oravska  
(tatiana@progeko.savba.sk)

## **ESEE Student Representative - Results of the Re-run Election 2003/04**

*Claudia Carter*

The good news is that we just reached quorate numbers in the re-run of elections for a student candidate to the ESEE Board: Welcome to **Vincent Moreau**. We wish him all the best for his term on the Board and plenty of opportunities to bring to fruition his interest and enthusiasm to contribute practical and progressive ideas for Ecological Economics and its teaching; as well as lend a listening ear to student members' concerns. Many thanks to Kate and Joao for also standing as candidates and we hope that the election results will not dampen your enthusiasm to contribute in other ways to ESEE activities.

### **Overview of Election Results**

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>% of cast votes</i>
Vincent MOREAU	50%
Kate FARRELL	42%
Joao Filipe DIAS RODRIGUES	8%

The bad news is that voting turnout amongst student members once again was very low and, in fact we had to extend the ballot period. My guess is that this is only partly due to 'voting apathy' amongst student members, and high mobility amongst the student population may play part. Therefore, I would like to remind all members to look up their registration details on the ISEE website and **to amend any changes in contact details**, as well as **check that details are complete** (e.g. e-mail address is very handy! – but we need an up-to-date one). Go to <http://www.ecoeco.org/Members/Members.html>, and log into the membership directory. You will need to type in your surname and ISEE membership number to view, and correct, your registered contact details.

In case you missed it...

## **ISEE Elections 2003 - Results**

President-Elect : **Joan Martinez-Alier**  
Board Members: **Jon Erickson, Pushpam  
Kumar, Wendy Proctor, Carlos Young**

They are joined on the ISEE Board by the President, Charles Perrings, and the Past-President, John Proops.

This Board will serve until December 2005, when Joan Martinez-Alier becomes President and a new Board is elected.

## **Hello... and Good-Bye**

*Claudia Carter*

Finally, the time has come when **Wendy Kenyon** will take over the tasks of ESEE secretary as her maternity leave finishes end of March. I will now take a back-seat and enjoy the happenings from an ordinary member's perspective...

## **Next ESEE Conference:**

**14th-17th June 2005,  
LISBON.**

## News from the Community Research and Development Service

# COMMISSION NEWS

### Greek-US reactor turns alcohol into hydrogen

Greek and US researchers have developed a reactor capable of producing hydrogen from ethanol.

The scientists, from the University of Patras and the University of Minnesota, believe that the reactor represents a major step towards a hydrogen economy. It can be employed in small fuel cells capable of generating enough hydrogen for 350 Watt-hours of electricity.

Hydrogen is burnt by fuel cells to produce electricity, the only by-product being water. However, a large proportion of the hydrogen used in fuel cells is produced from natural gas, meaning that the energy is not clean. Ethanol, in contrast, is readily available and could be an efficient store of renewable energy.

The team believes that the reactor is capable of producing five molecules of hydrogen for every molecule of ethanol once the process has been further developed. Electricity produced in this way would cost only € 0.03 per kilowatt-hour, according to the Greek-US partners, and the first applications could include small and remote portable devices.

### Access to journals rated most important by postdoc researchers

A survey by The Scientist has found that access to publications and journals is considered the most important attribute of a university by postdoctorate researchers. The journal received over 3,500 usable responses from the US, Canada and Western Europe to a questionnaire asking 'postdocs' to assess their working conditions and environments, and to indicate which factors are most important to them. In addition to access to publications and journals, high quality research tools and career preparation support were also rated very highly by respondents. A list of the top institutions both within and outside the US was created by taking the average score per institution for all factors. The UK dominates the list of the top 15 institutions outside the US, followed by the Netherlands, with seven and three institutions respectively. Sweden's Karolinska Institute is the only other European establishment to appear in the list, the other places being occupied by Canada.

For further information, please consult the

following web address:

[http://www.the-scientist.com/images/yr2004/pdfs/top15nonus\\_040216.pdf](http://www.the-scientist.com/images/yr2004/pdfs/top15nonus_040216.pdf)

### Nominations invited for Ludvig Holberg prize for outstanding scientific work

The Board of the Ludvig Holberg memorial fund is inviting nominations for an international prize for outstanding scientific work in the areas of social sciences, arts and humanities, and law and theology. The Holberg International Memorial Prize is named after the Norwegian/Danish scholar who held chairs of metaphysics and logic, Latin rhetoric and history at the University of Copenhagen in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The winner will receive around € 520,000, and will be selected by the Holberg Board following the recommendations of an academic committee.

The aim of the prize is to increase society's awareness of the value of research in the fields of social sciences, arts and humanities, and law and theology, as well as to recognise scholars who have made an important contribution to their academic field.

The Ludvig Holberg memorial fund will also award the Nils Klim prize to younger Nordic researchers working in the same fields. The winner of this prize will receive around € 29,000.

For further information, please contact: Bodil Kjelstrup. Tel: +47 55 58 69 92

E-mail: [bodil.kjelstrup@holberg.uib.no](mailto:bodil.kjelstrup@holberg.uib.no)

<http://www.holberg.uib.no>

### Handbook on writing competitive FP6 proposals

Hyperion Ltd has published a Research Managers' Handbook entitled 'How to write a competitive proposal for FP6 [the Sixth Framework Programme]'. Details can be found on <http://www.hyperion.ie>.

### Many 'organic' foods contain GM ingredients, claims study

A wide range of organic or health food products on sale in the UK contain traces of genetically modified (GM) ingredients, according to a study due to be published in April. Professor

Mark Partridge and Professor Denis Murphy, from the biotechnology unit at the University of Glamorgan, UK, tested 25 products containing soya using an EU approved method for detecting traces of GM ingredients. They found that 10 of the 25 samples tested positive for traces of GM ingredients, even though eight of the positive samples had been labelled 'GM free' or 'organic'. Four of the products that showed traces of GM were above the UK Soil Association's limit for organic food, including one vegetarian sausage mix which contained 0.7 per cent GM soya.

### New web service on renewable energy technologies and projects

The CADDET (Centre for the Analysis and Dissemination of Demonstrated Energy Technologies) initiative has launched a new web service comprising a one-stop-shop for information on sustainable energy technologies and projects.

CADDET brings together the countries participating in the International Energy Agency (all 15 EU Member States, two acceding countries, and others), and the European Commission. Its aim is to provide the latest information on innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies that have been applied in a commercial environment. The new site allows users to search products, specifying individual technologies, countries or market sectors.

To access the new web service, please visit: <http://www.caddet.org>

### Scientists show how pollution is changing the shape of Christmas trees

Research by scientists at Cambridge University, UK has found that Christmas trees are becoming shorter and fatter, and that the change is due to extra nitrogen in the air caused by pollution.

The traditional Christmas tree - wide at the bottom and tapered to a pointed top - is being replaced by a shorter but bushier tree. Dr David Hanke, who led a three year study into the phenomenon, has concluded that this is because nitrogen, present in the air due to pollution and acting as a fertiliser, is causing the trees to grow more branches.

# PROFILE

*A fire-side chat to a leading figure in Ecological Economics about life, the universe and everything*

*Professor Michael Common was born in Shepperton, Middlesex (an English county that ceased to exist about 30 years ago), where he spent most of his childhood. Over a long academic career he has worked in the Economics Department at Liverpool (as Assistant Lecturer), Southampton (Lecturer) and Stirling (Senior Lecturer). He subsequently moved to the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University (Senior Fellow), and the Department of Environmental Economics and Environmental Management at York, where he was Reader. Most recently he has been a Professor at the Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Strathclyde. He recently retired and lives in Port Bannatyne, Isle of Bute in Scotland, but still holds an Emeritus Professorship at the Graduate School of Environmental Studies.*

*What was your impression of your local environment when you were a child?*

In the 40s and 50s Shepperton was still just outside the London conurbation, and the local environment was semi-rural. There were farms and market gardens around where we lived and I walked to the village primary school through fields. Our recreation was largely outdoors and un-supervised. There were not many cars and we cycled a lot. I spent quite a lot of time on the river (Thames) in a canoe. It is my perception that there was much more insect life there then than anywhere in the UK now.

*Can you identify a point when you realised you wanted to work on environmental problems?*

1969/70 when I was at Southampton and had the next office to David Pearce. I 'discovered' Ecology, mainly I think as a result of the 1969 Reith lectures given by Frazer Darling. Then came *The Limits to Growth* and the like. We started a degree programme in Economics with Ecology in 1973 or 74.

*Who were the most influential writers for you when you were a student?*

J. M. Keynes, Carl Christ (an econometrician), J. K. Galbraith.

*Have your research interests changed since you first started working on environmental issues?*

Yes, and so has the world. Climate change was not a hot problem in the 1970s. The problem about fossil fuels was seen then as not having enough of them, not using too much of them. The tools as well as the perceived problems have changed. Chaos was not widely known about, and agent based modelling did not exist. There were no PCs in the early 1970s, and using a mainframe meant punching cards and submitting batch jobs for running overnight - modelling and data analysis were very different

then and it affected what people could and did do. For myself, I now think that understanding environmental issues requires looking at human culture in its entirety rather than focussing on economic activity. And that agent based modelling is a good way to do that.

*Which environmental problems concern you the most at the moment?*

Climate change and biodiversity loss.

*If you had a year off to do whatever you wanted, what would you spend it doing?*

I have retired so, in the sense that I think the question is put, I can do whatever I want. What I am doing is working on an introductory ecological economics textbook (with Sigrid Stagl), working on and sailing (in the summer) my boat, working on the house and garden. Ideally I would do less of the first kind of thing and more of the second. There are lots of books that I have still to get around to reading. I hope to learn more about computing and agent based modelling.

*Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the future? Has your view changed over time?*

It varies from day to day, but over time there is an increasing proportion of pessimistic days. Because our culture seems to be incapable of adequately addressing the most serious environmental problems. But some days progress in that direction still seems possible - Bush might get beaten in November and that might help, a little.

*What sort of local environmental problems are you faced with where you live now?*

The main beach is affected by agricultural runoff, and all the beaches get lots of litter, mainly from the sea. The waters round here are pretty

much fished out, apart from crustaceans. There are a few salmon farms. There is a proposal to build a marina in the bay on which this village is sited, which would somewhat spoil the view from my PC desk, affect the movement of the water in the bay, and may have some impact on the seabirds. An EIA is to be done. The town on the island suffers minor flooding at big high tides when there are strong east winds, and they are building a wall to deal with this. Apparently sea level rise will not affect us much as the land up here is still bouncing back after the ice age. The RUV (Freelanders, Shoguns, etc) situation is bad.

*What places (cities, regions, companies) have impressed you with their quality of their environmental management?*

This island is interesting. It is two hours from Glasgow and until the 1970s got lots of visitors from there. Outside of the town, Rothesay, there is virtually no tourist development. No caravan sites or holiday homes behind the beaches for example. Mainly, this is because the whole place, outside the town, is owned by the Marquis of Bute. The old Marquis, who died a few years ago, was conservative and not commercially minded. The new Marquis is a much more modern kind of fellow (he likes to be known as Johnny Bute) and things are beginning to change, which pleases quite a lot of the residents. A caravan site behind the beach would probably command majority support. More frequent and cheaper ferries would certainly get the vote, and lead to more tourist development, which I would not regard as good for this environment.

*Which figures from the past do you most admire (not just in the environmental field), and why?*

Joshua Slocum, who aged 51 was the first, in the 1890s, to sail around the world single handed, and wrote a very good book about it. John Maclean was a Glaswegian socialist who

# RESEARCH NOTES

## The UK Sustainable Development Research Network (SDRN)

*Kristina Dahlström*  
Research Fellow, Environment Group

The SDRN is supported by the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and aims to contribute to sustainable development in the United Kingdom by facilitating better use of evidence and research in policy making. The website has recently been redesigned and can be found at:

<http://www.sd-research.org.uk>.

Alongside an improved design, the site now features:

Expanded and updated information on the Network's activities and work programme;

Information on the SDRN Research and Evidence Reviews;

Upcoming events;

A continuously updated Guide to SD Research Centres and Evidence Providers;

Tips on how to use the SDR-Network Mailing;

Suggestions on how policymakers can benefit from Network membership;

Relevant Links and Contacts.

**If you have any news of new initiatives or reports please send them to the editor.**

## Centre for Environmental Policy and Governance founded at London School of Economics

*Eric Neumayer*

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has taken an important step towards promoting the inter-disciplinary study of the environment by founding a Centre for Environmental Policy and Governance (LSE Environment for short). The Centre is a response both to the growing salience of environmental issues on the policy agenda and to the call for a more co-ordinated approach to environmental research in the academic sphere.

The Centre will be drawing together research being done on environmental policy and governance across a broad range of the School's departments. Among other LSE centres and institutes there will be especially close links with BIOS (the new centre for the study of bioscience, biomedicine, biotechnology and society) and CARR (the Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation supported by the Economic and Social Research Council).

A number of key themes emerge from the diversity of research being conducted at the Centre. First and foremost, there is the recognition of the global nature of so many environmental problems, from climate change to deforestation and resource shortages, and the need for the conservation and environment concerns associated with Northern environmentalism to be linked to the

development and poverty-combating agendas of many Southern countries. Secondly, the Centre will forefront the need for a deeper and richer understanding of the role of scientific knowledge, and scientific uncertainty, within the environmental policy process. Recent and current environmental controversies such as the debate around global warming, the BSE outbreak in the UK, and GM crop trials have highlighted the ambiguous role of science, and public perceptions of science, in environmental issues. Some of the research currently being conducted at the Centre involves the relationship between everyday and expert knowledge in both framing and solving environmental problems. A third major thematic strand consists of the implementation processes surrounding environmental policy. Some particularly interesting research examines the way the public and local communities, and not just scientists and expert policy-makers, are centrally involved, across the globe, in generating policy solutions that command trust and respect, as well as being efficient and practicable.

As well as operating as a research centre, LSE Environment will also be organising a series of public events, seminars and workshops for research students. Consult the website [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/geographyAndEnvironment/CEPG/](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/geographyAndEnvironment/CEPG/) for more information as well as full details of these events together with information on current research projects.

Ecological economists who would like to spend some time at the Centre or who would like to get involved otherwise should contact the Centre's director, Prof. Yvonne Rydin ([y.rydin@lse.ac.uk](mailto:y.rydin@lse.ac.uk)).

went to prison several times for opposing the First World War - as a representative for lots of people all around the world who suffered for those kinds of principles.

*Do religious beliefs influence your life and work?*

Only in so far as other peoples' have shaped the culture I live in and hence affected the way I think and act. Bertrand Russell said something to the effect that the important thing is to realise that (the Christian) God does not exist, but go on behaving as if he did.

*Do you think of yourself as a rural or as a city person?*

I prefer now to live in a rural location by the sea.

*What kinds of music do you listen to?*

Spanish guitar music, jazz, classical.

*How do you relax at the weekend?*

For retired persons weekends are less different.

But most football matches happen then still. I watch Partick Thistle.

*Do you have a favourite motto or saying about the environment?*

Two. All flesh is grass. What goes around comes around.

*What is the best piece of advice you've been given?*

I cannot remember, so probably I did not follow it.

# RESEARCH NOTES

## German Research in 'Sustainability and Economics' (2000-2003)

Reimund Schwarze, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin)

The goal of this internet based research is to obtain a structured overview of research and research funding in the Federal Republic of Germany within the area of economic sustainability. All projects reviewed were from the general research area of sustainable development carried out in the time period 2000-2003 and were related to economics - either in the topic researched or in the methodology used. Research funded through federal ministries, federal research institutes, federal institutions, federal states and private foundations in Germany was considered in the review. Research undertaken at independent institutions such as universities and other research organisations as well as at private organisations and institutes was also considered. The projects researched were classified in six dimensions allowing a graphical position analysis. The following elements were considered:

- \* the type of institution providing funding (federal level, federal states, foundations, universities, non-university research, other funding sources),
- \* the dimension of sustainable development in keeping with the three-column concept (ecology/environment, economics, social aspects),
- \* research methodology (theoretical, empirical, policy orientated and integrated), the regional level (global, European, national, regional/local),
- \* the hierarchical sector classification (national economy, regional economy, industry/company level, households), classification of environmental projects (general environment, climate change, air quality excluding CO<sub>2</sub>, water, soil, energy, transport, biosphere including agriculture and forestry, waste/primary materials, noise).

Within the results, a data base containing 666 projects was created. The data base shows a

specific structure which reflects the sample selection. The federal government was the main body providing research funding with a share of 69% or 469 projects. The federal states supported 47 projects or a share of 7% of all projects. European projects must be considered to be underrepresented within the study. Projects relating to Europe but funded nationally were considered, but projects which were financed by European institutions, were not included within the study.

The main results of the survey are:

\* The sustainability research carried out in Germany is mainly in the area of applied economics. Pure theoretical or empirical studies were seldom seen, especially in the social dimension of sustainable development (shaded area in figure 1)

\* Questions relating to global responsibility for sustainable development are seldom researched at the household or industry/company level - for example "fair trade". Sustainable practice for smaller economic units such as firms or households (called "micro-sustainability") has not been the subject of

much research, especially in the areas of pure theoretical or empirical research

\* Environmental research has a dominant role within sustainable development research. Funded research took place in the areas of energy, climate change and conservation (including agriculture and forestry) but projects in the areas of noise, soil, water, air quality (excluding CO<sub>2</sub>) were seldom funded or carried out.

Further details on this survey and the general project "Sustainability and Economics" can be found at: [www.sustainabilityeconomics.de](http://www.sustainabilityeconomics.de).

### Workshops in 2004

Details of these can be found at: [http://www.sustainabilityeconomics.de/workshops\\_future.html](http://www.sustainabilityeconomics.de/workshops_future.html)

**"Sustainability and private households - between consumption and (re-) production"**

**"Innovation and Sustainability"**

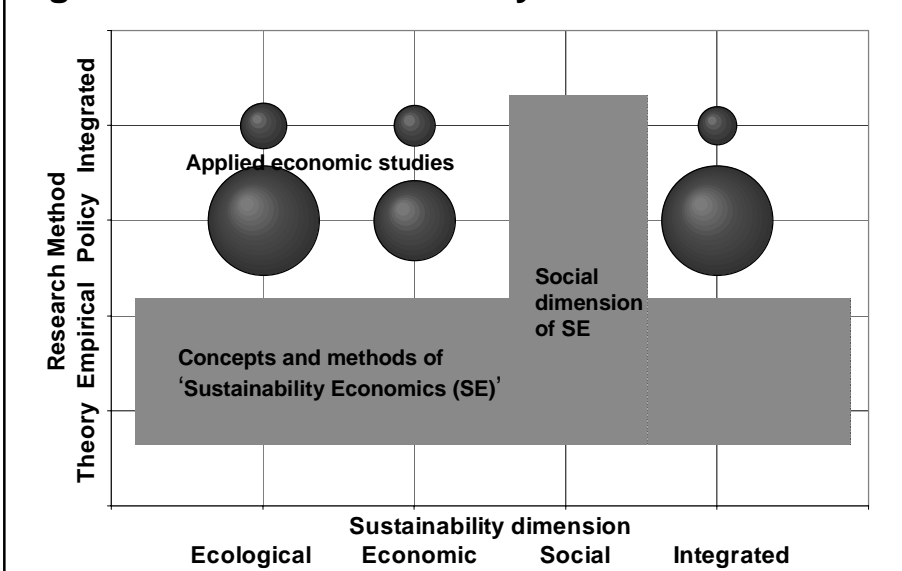
**"Sustainability and Uncertainty - Challenges for an Interdisciplinary Theory"**

**"Development and Sustainability - Challenges for Theory and Empirical Analysis"**

**"Sustainability Impact Assessment - Challenges for an Integrated Ecological-Economic Modelling"**

Explanation: The bulbs in fig. 1 indicate the relative share of projects. The bulb for integrated (i.e. economic, ecological and social) sustainable policy research, for example, depicts a share of 24 per cent or 158 projects.

**Fig. 1: German Sustainability Research 2000-2003**



## *Updates from SERI, the Sustainable Europe Research Institute*

# RESEARCH NOTES

### **Quo vadis MFA?**

SERI members gave several presentations at the conference 'Material Flow Analysis – Where do we go? Issues, Trends and Perspectives of Research for Sustainable Resource Use', at the Wuppertal Institute, in October last year.

The workshop was organized by ConAccount and the Wuppertal Institute in association with the International Society for Industrial Ecology (ISIE), the Scientific Committee of Problems for the Environment (SCOPE), and the initiative for a European Research Network for Sustainable Resource Management (ENSURE).

For more information and download of all papers and presentations visit <http://www.seri.at/quovadis>.

### **Joao Rodrigues, Stefan Giljum (2004): The accounting of indirect material requirements in material flow-based indicators. SERI Working Paper No. 3, January 2004**

One important question in the field of Material Flow Accounting (MFA) is the accounting of indirect material flows, via an appropriate indicator and computation methodology. Several indicators and computation methodologies are currently in use, which complicates the articulation and comparison between different empirical studies. In this paper we present an input-output model that puts different MFA indicators in a common framework. We present a methodology for the computation of MFA indicators that assigns indirect material requirements to economic flows and is valid at both the macro and the micro levels. We argue that our socio-economic methodology is superior to purely physical approaches because it avoids methodological problems connected with physical input-output

analysis, requires less problematic data acquisition and is theoretically more satisfying. From our model a new indicator arises, Total Material Production (TMP), a counterpoint to the familiar indicator of Total Material Consumption (TMC). TMC and TMP are the only indicators (of those discussed) that account for indirect material requirements and are additive.

The full paper is available at <http://www.seri.at/workingpapers/>

### **Friedrich Hinterberger, Stefan Giljum, Mark Hammer (2003): Material flow accounting and analysis (MFA). A valuable tool for analyses of society-nature interrelationships. Internet Encyclopaedia of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) and SERI Background Paper Nr. 2.**

This paper aims at summarising methodological foundations and the state of the art in the rapidly emerging field of material flow accounting and analysis (MFA).

It gives a short description of the method starting with the historical development, presenting a general model of economy-wide material flow analysis, illustrating indicators that can be derived from MFA accounts, and explaining methods for the calculation of so-called "ecological rucksacks". It then illustrates main areas of applications of MFA and describes the shortcomings of this method. Finally, selected empirical results taken from recently published MFA studies for the European Union are discussed and an outlook on possible extensions and future methodological development of the MFA approach is given.

The paper can be downloaded from [www.ecoeco.org/publica/encyc.htm](http://www.ecoeco.org/publica/encyc.htm) and [www.seri.at/backgroundpapers](http://www.seri.at/backgroundpapers)

### **New Project: Intelligent Cities (INTELCITIES)**

The project is concerned with advancing e-Governance at the city scale by focusing on a range of citizens' and business concerns about engagement with decision-making over the (re)generation and management of their local built environment.

SERI is taking part in the eGovernance workpackage and working (among other issues) on analysis and assessment of leading e-governance practices, strategies and policies of European cities and the e-readiness of urban governments and civil services for reform towards e-governance (reinventing government).

More information can be found here <http://www.seri.at/intelcities/>. If you have any questions please contact Doris Schnepf ([doris.schnepf@seri.at](mailto:doris.schnepf@seri.at))

### **New Project: Modelling Sustainable Development in Austria (Ansätze zur Modellierung einer nachhaltigen Entwicklung)**

Based on national and international experiences the project will formulate necessary criteria for an Austrian modelling framework for integrated sustainability analysis. Bearing in mind the formulated criteria will support future efforts in model building in Austria. In cooperation with the Austrian Institute for Economic Research (WIFO). see <http://www.seri.at/a-modell/>

### **Sustainable Kazakhstan**

Joachim Spangenberg carried out a project for UNDP, gathering the international experience and developing proposals for a national sustainability plan, council and indicators for the republic of Kazakhstan. For more information on that project please contact [Joachim.spangenberg@seri.de](mailto:Joachim.spangenberg@seri.de)

SERI is the first "virtual" research institute on sustainable development with associated researchers all over Europe. If you want to get more detailed information on the Institute and its members please visit our website: <http://www.seri.at>. The Sustainable Europe Research Institute, together with a supporting legal association, exists since September 1999 according to Austrian Law. The headquarters have been established in Vienna. We would like to invite you to participate in this undertaking.

### Commission pans Spanish water transfer plan

The European Commission's environment directorate has recommended provisionally withholding €1.26bn funding requested by Spain for its planned north-south water transfer project. A leaked report rejects government claims that the Ebro river basin can sustain the transfer, expresses "worries" about "exaggeration of benefits and systematic undervaluing of costs" and criticises the plan's environmental impact assessment. The Commission's competition directorate is understood also to have criticised aspects of the plan.

### Commission tables new EU groundwater directive

The European Commission has proposed a draft EU directive on the protection of groundwaters, designed to complement the broader 2000 water framework directive (WFD). It will require governments to establish threshold values - effectively limits - for a range of chemical pollutants by the end of 2005. The values are intended to support a review of groundwater cleanliness. But they could also trigger action in case of water quality deterioration.

Issued last year, the proposal attempts to plug a gap in the WFD after last minute disagreements prevented new groundwater provisions being included in that directive.

The Commission specifies threshold levels to be set by member states for nitrates and pesticides in groundwater in line with parallel EU water laws: 50 milligrams per litre for nitrates and 0.1 micrograms per litre for pesticidal active ingredients.

In addition, by 22 December 2005 member states must set national threshold levels for ammonium, arsenic, cadmium, chloride, lead, mercury, sulphate, trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene, plus any others they deem are posing a threat to groundwater. The levels may be set nationally, by river basin district or groundwater body.

The eventual aim, Commission officials say, is to determine whether harmonised EU limits can be set for any of the pollutants. In the meantime member states will have to monitor

News coverage is collected from the Environmental News Daily Service. What topics do you want to hear about? Email your thoughts to the editor, Ben Davies, on b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk.

# LOOK ROUND

Each issue we take a look round the continent to catch up on the latest environmental news.

## Water

pollution and take action if it exceeds 75% of the threshold values.

Separately, the Commission recommends adding a clause to the WFD requiring member states to "prevent or limit" indirect discharges of hazardous substances to groundwater by percolation through the soil. The move responds to NGO claims that a huge loophole would otherwise be created when the current groundwater directive, dating from 1980, is repealed under the WFD in 2013.

### Surge in Norwegian oil industry pollution

Acute pollution caused by Norway's offshore oil and gas industry last year was the highest since records began in 1997, the national coastal administration, Kystverket, has reported. The volume of discharges and emissions totalled 1,788 cubic metres, up 244 per cent since 2002. Of 196 recorded incidents, just over a fifth were attributed to faulty or malfunctioning valves; all were 'mainly the result of human error'. Under a Norwegian government target, the industry is supposed to achieve zero discharges of eco-toxic substances by 2005.

### Court slams Irish failure on nitrates pollution

The European court of justice has issued a comprehensive condemnation of Ireland's efforts to apply EU rules on controlling nitrate pollution. In a judgement released in March in a case brought by the European Commission, it said Dublin had failed to identify polluted waters and nitrate vulnerable zones, and had not established action and monitoring programmes required by the 1991 law. Environment minister Martin Cullen said Ireland had 'significantly advanced' its

implementation of the nitrates directive since the case was opened.

### Slovenian pollution tax cuts spark row

Slovenia's government has provoked outrage among environmental groups by slashing industrial wastewater tax payable by the country's largest water polluters after one threatened to close a plant and sack workers.

Under the cabinet decision, wastewater tax has been capped at a discharge level of 20,000 pollution units per year. Five firms that emit more than this will see a collective STo195m (€0.8m) cut in tax. Paper firm Vipap Videm Krsko, which currently discharges 600,000 pollution units, will benefit most.

Vipap had threatened to close part of its plant, with the loss of 250 jobs, if its wastewater tax bill was not lowered. The government calculated that this would cost it STo135m in total tax revenues in 2005 and appears to have decided it would be better to safeguard the jobs while foregoing a slightly larger amount by capping wastewater tax payments.

### Alternative road de-icer passes green test

Tests carried out in Finland have shown that potassium formate can be used instead of common salt (sodium chloride) to de-ice roads in the winter, protecting groundwater from contamination by harmful sodium and chlorine. The tests revealed that potassium formate easily breaks down into harmless components in the soil. The Finnish trials are the first to test the



# D EUROPE

launched after a serious chemical pollution incident in 1987 achieved 70-100 per cent cuts in inputs of 40 priority hazardous substances, compared with a target reduction of 50 per cent. Nearly all native fish species have been restored, including a breeding salmon population. Agricultural pollution remains a problem though. A new action programme, Rhine 2020, was adopted in 2001.

## North and Baltic Sea environment 'still at risk'

Despite reductions in some kinds of pollution, the environment of the North and Baltic seas remains at risk, Germany's advisory council on the environment (SRU) has told the government in February. 'Fundamental structural changes' in important economic sectors are required to ensure long-term protection, it warns.

Key issues the council focuses on include eutrophication due to land-based discharges of nutrients, mainly by agriculture. Unless the EU's common agricultural policy is reformed to end subsidy of intensive farming, then a target of effectively ending man-made marine eutrophication by 2010 agreed by parties to the Ospar convention on protection of the north-east Atlantic 'will certainly be missed'.

The council also voices concern over relaxation of the EU's proposed Reach chemicals policy and EU governments' decision to transfer lead responsibility on the dossier from the environment to the competitiveness council. The Ospar convention's target of zero emissions of hazardous substances by 2020 could 'be missed entirely' as a result, it warns.

Environmental improvements in EU fisheries policy are rated more highly by the council, as are steps taken in Europe to phase out single-hulled oil tankers. However, the council warns of 'rapidly increasing local encroachments' from marine mining, dumping of dredged materials, pipelines, cable channels, mariculture, tourism and offshore wind farms.

## EU industrial pollution register published

Europe's first industrial pollution register, Eper, has been published in February, marking a 'landmark event' in public provision of environmental information, in the words of European Environment Agency (EEA) chief Jacqueline McGlade.

The register is supposed to report about 90 per cent of point source pollution by Europe's largest and most polluting industrial facilities, ranging from power stations and oil refineries to intensive livestock rearing facilities.

effect of a European Commission suggestion to limit phosphates to 1 per cent of detergent volume rather than ban them entirely. There are 'significant examples' of eutrophication being solved only through the elimination of STPP, it points out.

It warns that even this will not halt eutrophication in some cases, but says alternative ways of reducing phosphate loads, such as changes in farming practices, are 'complex' and 'partial'. In some urban situations removing STPP is the only solution.

Zeolites, the main alternative to phosphates, are given a clean bill of health by the scientists, who also offer one glimmer of hope for those wanting to see phosphates escape restriction. A mass switch from chemical to biological treatment in EU sewage plants could see the phosphate recycled in fertiliser, it says.

## German state promises end to sludge spreading

The German state of Baden-Württemberg has renewed a pledge to stop the spreading of sewage sludge on farmland in a bid to reduce soil contamination risks. The environment ministry says scientific data released at a conference last September confirm that "a large number of organic pollutants with ecotoxicological or hormone-disrupting effects cause concern". Meanwhile the state's food ministry is launching a quality label to be awarded only for products grown without sludge as fertiliser.

## Rhine's green renaissance welcomed

Members of the International commission for the protection of the Rhine (IKSR) welcomed enormous environmental improvements over the last 25 years at the organisation's annual meeting last year. By 2000, an action plan

chemical as an alternative to salt for de-icing roads. Though it costs about 15 times more than salt, Finnish environmental authorities are expected to recommend its use in areas with sensitive groundwaters.

## Farming 'the biggest threat' to Europe's water

A briefing on the status of European freshwater resources released by the European environment agency (EEA) last November reports improvements in river and lake quality, but "little or no progress in combating some types of pollution or overuse", especially in agriculture. Nitrate and pesticide pollution, together with excessive water withdrawals for irrigation, energy use and tourism, represent the biggest challenge, the EEA states. The agency's remarks echo concerns raised by environmental group WWF in a recent survey of European water policies.

## Scientists hint at EU phosphate detergent curbs

The EU's scientific toxicology committee (CSTEE) has issued a detailed opinion on the eutrophication effects of phosphate detergents. It argues in favour of market restrictions on the chief phosphate compound, STPP.

The committee's report recommends a combined approach of 'significant to complete reduction' of STPP in household detergents and more rigorous implementation of EU sewage treatment rules. This is necessary at least for some areas of the EU, it says.

The committee says it cannot predict the

entel news. This issue we review some developments in water management.

## Issues

# RESEARCH NOTES

## IÖW research news

Jan Nill

More details on these projects can be found at <http://www.ioew.de>

**David Hitchens, Mary Trainor, Jens Clausen, Samarthia Thankappan, Bruna de Marchi, (2003): Small and Medium Sized Companies in Europe. Environmental Performance, Competitiveness and Management: International EU Case Studies. Springer: Berlin Heidelberg New York, 236 pp, EURO 99.95, ISBN 3540401474**

The environmental performance of SMEs (Small and Medium sized Enterprises) is an area of major policy concern. *SMEs in Europe* reports on factors influencing the environmental performance of SMEs across four European countries: the UK, Ireland, Germany and Italy. While there are a range of factors which are expected to influence the take up of clean technology, this book focuses on three key hypotheses, namely firm competitiveness, culture and use and availability of information and advice. The book is unique as it is based on in-depth interviews conducted in 300 SMEs and an additional postal survey with more than 800 replies.

**Rüdiger Haum, Ulrich Petschow, (2003): Lead markets for environmental technologies: The case of the particulate filter for Diesel passenger cars. IÖW discussion paper no. 59/03, Berlin. 34 pp, Preis: EURO 5. Download: [www.ioew.de](http://www.ioew.de)**

Technologies which reduce the level of pollutants in the exhaust fumes of diesel vehicles are a key factor in enabling future emissions ceilings to be satisfied. In principle,

a reduction of pollution by automobiles is achieved by way of politically prescribed ceilings and adherence to these based on advanced vehicle engineering. The diffusion of such technology, however, is not simply a matter of the interplay of political regulation and response by carmakers. It is a complex process contingent on and shaped by a variety of factors. This case study uses the example of introduction of the particulate filter for diesel vehicles on the German market to examine how emissions ceilings come about as well as the technological development strategies employed by carmakers to meet those ceilings.

**Steinfeldt, Michael (Ed.) (2003): Nanotechnology and Sustainability. Prospective Assessment of a Future Key Technology. With contributions by Ulrich Petschow, Prof Arnim von Gleich and Dr Silvia Diabaté. IÖW publication series No. 167/03., 50pp, EURO 11.50, ISBN: 3-932092-68-6**

This paper presents the current state of knowledge within our project - funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research - dealing with the effects of the production and application of nanotechnological products on sustainability. It also considers suggestions made at an experts' workshop held in Berlin on the 16th of January 2003. This publication is rather intended to contribute to the ongoing discussion on the innovation analysis and technical assessment of nanotechnologies than to be a final project report. The various contributions deal with different aspects of prospective technology assessment in the field of nanotechnology. Topics include: guiding principles as an aid to orientation and a means of shaping technologies; the "characterization of technologies" as both a generalized approach towards technology assessment and a conceptual framework for assessing actual nanotechnology applications. We review the state of the art concerning the safety of nanotechnology and its impact on the environment and health; a contribution on the toxicology of nanoparticles is also included.

## Discussion on the precautionary principle: a rational response to complexity, uncertainty and ambiguity

Speaking at a European Parliament event, precautionary principle expert Professor Ortwin Renn told participants that policy makers and scientists should use one of five risk management regimes to deal with scientific risk. He presented the results of EU funded research on the precautionary principle, which has been the subject of debate since the publication of a Commission communication on the concept in 2000.

In the communication, the precautionary principle is described as applicable 'where preliminary objective scientific evaluation indicates that there are reasonable grounds for concern that the potentially dangerous effects on the environment, human, animal or plant health may be inconsistent with the high level of protection chosen for the Community.'

Five risk management regimes should be applied according to the degree and type of risk, said Professor Renn. Routine risk management should be employed when dealing with mundane risks, while risk-based management is more appropriate for complex and sophisticated risks where a high degree of modelling may be necessary (for example, industrial plants with hazardous material, infectious diseases). When a risk involves a high level of uncertainty (new epidemics, green biotechnology, BSE), precaution-based management is desirable, and where the risk is highly controversial (genetic engineering, biochips for human implementation), policy makers should turn to discourse-based management. Finally, when dealing with eminent danger, 'prevention' was described by Professor Renn as being the correct approach.

Professor Renn also underlined that the reason for a perceived risk should dictate the strategy employed to assess it. Risks can be divided into three broad categories, he claimed: those caused by complexity, uncertainty and ambiguity. Complexity can lead to risk when the cause and effect are not immediately visible, while uncertainty caused by varying results, errors and ignorance also leads to the perception of risk. Ambiguity, meanwhile, 'is not about the unintended, but the intended result,' said Professor Renn. Citing the debate on stem cell research, he claimed that 'it's not about not knowing; it's a moral, ethical issue.'

Professor Renn claimed that public confidence can be increased in three ways: increased transparency, two-way communication and participation.

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2000/com2000\\_0001en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2000/com2000_0001en01.pdf)

## Envisat data pours cold water on ozone layer recovery theory

New data provided by Envisat, the European Space Agency's Earth observation satellite, has revealed that the hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica is at a near record size, dashing hopes of a speedy recovery. The ozone hole reached its record size of around 30 million square kilometres in 2000. However, measurements taken in 2002 revealed that it had shrunk by some 40 per cent in two years, and had even split in two, sparking theories that the ozone layer was rapidly repairing itself. The latest data, generated by the Belgian institute for space aeronomy, shows that the two holes have again become one, currently covering an area of some 26 million square kilometres, and that the hole is unlikely to split in two.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Information Service

A new web-based Strategic Environmental Assessment Information Service, [www.sea-info.net](http://www.sea-info.net), has been launched, supported by TRL's Centre for Sustainability (C4S). With the SEA Directive due to become law in EU Member States in July of this year, the site provides a gateway to the latest authoritative information on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Aimed primarily at plan/programme authorities and others involved in applying the requirements of the Directive, the site contains a wealth of information organised on a sector by sector basis to which the SEA is being applied (ie spatial planning, transport, minerals, waste, water, energy). Much will be happening during 2004 to develop SEA practice and so [www.sea-info.net](http://www.sea-info.net) will be a key point of reference to keep up to date with relevant information. The site contains information on current legislation, guidance and details of on-going initiatives and research, as well as the latest news, events, newsletters and UK/international links. For those less than familiar with SEA, the "What is SEA?" pages will be a useful starting point.

## Report: GM Food - Evaluating the Farm Scale Trials

The 'GM Food - Evaluating the Farm Scale Trials' report was published in the UK Environmental Audit Committee's Second Report, HC 90, in March. Copies can be obtained from government outlets and from the Parliamentary Bookshop, 12 Bridge Street, Parliament Square, London SW1A 2JX (020 7219 3890) by quoting House of Commons No. 90. The text of the Report is also available on the Committee's Internet homepage: [www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/environmental\\_audit\\_committee.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/environmental_audit_committee.cfm).

# COMMISSION NEWS

## Communicating Biodiversity

'Communicating Biodiversity', by Joy Hyvarinen, reports on the event jointly organised by the RIIA and RSPB in December 2003. The purpose of the meeting, convened in advance of the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological

Diversity (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9-20 February 2004), was to consider how biodiversity specialists can strengthen the ways in which they communicate through media and to the public.

To download a copy of the report, go to this link: <http://www.riia.org/pdf/research/sdp/MediaBDec03.pdf>.

## First large scale release of nanotechnology product into the environment provokes concern

An international action group has expressed its concern following the largest environmental release to date of a product created using nanotechnology. A solution intended to prevent erosion has been sprayed in autumn last year on 1,400 acres of Taos Pueblo Native Indian land in the US after a fire destroyed 5,000 acres in an area which is considered sacred by the First Nations community. The fire left the mountainside exposed to erosion and threatened the community's water source.

Aerosolised and dropped from helicopters, the product causes silicate particles to self-assemble in the presence of water, forming a crystal matrix. This acts as a mulch, preventing erosion while allowing seeds that have been added to the mix to establish themselves in the soil.

The ETC (Erosion, Technology and Concentration) group are concerned that a novel nanotechnology product has been released into the environment without any investigation into potential consequences. The group uses the opportunity to once again call for 'an inclusive social debate on nanotechnology' and 'conscientious regulation'.

'ETC Group is concerned that [...] commercialisation is taking place below the radar of regulatory agencies because the novelty in nanotechnology lies in its scale, not necessarily in the often conventional substances it uses. Materials exhibit unique and sometimes unpredictable behaviour when they are reduced to the nano-scale, even while the chemical composition remains unchanged,' reads a new communication from the action group.

While the debate is perhaps getting underway more slowly than the ETC group may prefer, policy makers in Europe have now begun to request further investigation into the possible side effects of nanotechnology. The European Parliament's industry, external trade, research and energy committee has called for a study on the need for new regulations on nanotechnology, while the same subject is to be discussed by the UK's parliamentary scientific committee in November.

At EU level, a number of research projects on the safety of nanotechnology are already being funded by the European Commission, while projects in this field under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) will also address the aspect of safety.

The NANOSAFE project assesses the risks involved in the production, handling and use of nanoparticles in industrial processes and products, as well as in consumer products. The results are expected to indicate risks to workers and consumers, and to recommend regulatory measures and codes of practice.

Other projects are assessing the effectiveness of skin as a barrier to the ultra fine particles sometimes used in body care products and household cleaning products, and the identification and significance of nanoparticles of an exogenous nature in pathological processes.

The ETC group is working with partners to draw up an international convention for the evaluation of new technologies, which it hopes to put before the United Nations in 2004. For further information on the ETC group, please visit: <http://www.etcgroup.org> For nanotechnology see: <http://www.cordis.lu/nanotechnology/home.html>

# JOBS

*Please note that closing dates may change and you should check for updates.*

## **Associate: Climate, Energy and Pollution Program World Resources Institute, Washington, DC**

The Climate, Energy and Pollution program at WRI is seeking an Associate to work on international climate policy issues. The successful candidate will have a broad understanding of environment, finance, and development issues from an economics and institutional perspective. Under the direction of the Director of the Climate, Energy and Pollution Program, the Associate will undertake research, policy analysis, project management and fundraising on climate change policy. The Associate will work with a team of WRI staff dedicated to developing an environmentally sound and economically efficient international climate policy architecture.

Candidates should have: a Masters or Ph.D. in economics, international relations, or a related field, as well as five to eight years of relevant professional experience. A sound understanding of and demonstrated interest in the international climate change negotiations (Kyoto Protocol and UNFCCC) and market-based regulatory systems (emissions trading, CDM). Excellent qualitative research skills as well as strong quantitative skills, including the ability to undertake statistical analysis and understand climate and/or economic modeling. An interest and experience working with environmental data, especially greenhouse gas emissions and other climate-relevant data. Strong organizational skills, excellent English-language written and oral communication skills, and a demonstrated ability to work effectively in teams and to assert initiative and leadership when appropriate.

Salary is negotiable depending upon experience and skills. WRI offers a generous, comprehensive benefits package.

For more details, see <http://joblist.wri.org/job.cfm?jid=55>

## **Senior Researcher, Socio-Economics and Sustainable Rural Development, The Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen**

A highly motivated individual is sought to develop research projects in the area of sustainable rural development. The successful candidate would be expected to work on sustainable rural development within the Scottish context but with the potential for drawing out lessons of national and international significance. Graduate and post-graduate degrees in a relevant specialist area of economics, environmental management, human geography or sociology and good understanding of a range of socio-economic tools and methods are essential. You will have a track record in working on interdisciplinary research projects, report writing, publishing, winning research grant applications and project management. Starting salary will depend upon qualifications and experience within the range £32,700 - £38,500 per annum. Pensionable appointment. Further particulars and application forms can be obtained from Personnel (stating Reference Number of the post), The Macaulay Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen, AB15 8QH Tel 01224-498200, Fax 01224-311556, e-mail [Personnel@macaulay.ac.uk](mailto:Personnel@macaulay.ac.uk). Web Site <http://www.macaulay.ac.uk>

## **Tutorship in Environmental Policy and Politics, University of East Anglia**

The School wishes to appoint a full-time tutor for a period of 21 months, from October 2004 to June 2006, to cover the teaching and administration commitments of Dr Andrew Jordan, who has won a Philip Leverhulme Prize Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust. Candidates should already possess or be close to completing a PhD in a relevant discipline. The main teaching

duties will involve both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in environmental politics, environmental social sciences and social science research methods. Additional responsibilities will include student advising and directing the School's ERASMUS student exchange programme. Informal enquiries regarding this post may be made to Andrew Jordan, [a.jordan@uea.ac.uk](mailto:a.jordan@uea.ac.uk). Salary will be £21,125 per annum (under review). An application form should be obtained from the Personnel Office, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ (Internet: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/personnel/jobs/> or e-mail: [personnel@uea.ac.uk](mailto:personnel@uea.ac.uk) or answer phone: 01603 593493). Please quote reference OR157. Interviews are expected in early May 2004.

## **Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Environmental Policy and Management University of Birmingham**

Senior Lecturer: £35,251-£39,958/Lecturer £22,191 - £33,679

The School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences seeks to appoint a Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Environmental Policy and Management. We encourage applicants from fields that complement our research interests. In this context applications from people with interests in any of the following are invited: Environmental policy and management; environmental governance; processes and tools of environmental decision-making; risk management; societal responses to environmental change; business and sustainable development; economics of the environment. The post has arisen due to the additional investment in these important and buoyant areas of the School's research and teaching portfolio. Two new Lecturers in Environment have recently been appointed and will join early in 2004. These people have political ecology and risk decision-making and deliberative processes interests. The third appointment will complement these and existing interests and assist with the further development of our environmental policy and management activities.

The post is available immediately, although we recognise that the successful candidate is unlikely to be able to commence before summer 2004. Applicants are referred to the School web site [www.ges.bham.ac.uk](http://www.ges.bham.ac.uk) for further information. Potential applicants are encouraged to make informal enquiries and to discuss the positions with Professor Judith Petts 0121 414 8143 ([j.i.petts@bham.ac.uk](mailto:j.i.petts@bham.ac.uk)). Completed application forms should be submitted to: The Director of Personnel Services, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT.

## Technonatures II, Oxford University

Department of Geography and the Environment,  
University of Oxford,  
Thursday June 24th 2004:  
Environments, Technologies and Spaces  
in the 21st Century.

The aims of the technonatures symposia are to create spaces for interdisciplinary conversations between the various critical theoretical traditions which now populate sociology, geography, anthropology and technology studies (e.g: eco/post Marxism, post structuralism and actor network theory; critical ecological modernism, cyborg feminism and political ecology). Technonatures aims to generate an on-going discussion on how we could move and expand debates about 'the environment' beyond ecocentrism and high modernist framings; it seeks to imagine 'spaces of hope' in unpromising times and anticipate and support a new critical politics of technonatures. Costs (lunch, tea/coffee and programme) £20 waged; £5 unwaged/postgraduate. To secure a place at the symposium/obtain further details contact Damian White, Dept of Sociology, and Anthropology, James Madison University, Sheldon Hall, MSC 7501 Harrisonburg, Virginia, 22801 USA [whitedf@jmu.edu](mailto:whitedf@jmu.edu) or Chris Wilbert, Dept of Planning, Anglia Polytechnic University, Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SQ.

# CONFERENCES

## ESF workshop on Carbon and Energy

The European Science Foundation (ESF) is pleased to announce a Call for applications for a new joint initiative of the ESF Standing Committees for Life, Environmental and Earth Sciences (LESC) and the Social Sciences (SCSS). This will take the form of a workshop, to be held in Stockholm over two days between 25-28 August 2004. The central aim of the workshop will be to assess the possible pathways to a low carbon pathway in terms of indicating the advantages for ecological resilience, lower damage and adaptation costs, and a fresh approach to a low carbon community "citizenship" and will give key scientists in the field, policy makers, as well as young scientists with an important contribution, the possibility to discuss their views. The workshop is expected to lead to a major initiative in the area of Carbon and Energy.

FURTHER INFORMATION:  
<http://www.esf.org/carbon>

## Brussels Climate Change Conference

The second annual "Brussels Climate Change Conference" will be held at the Hotel Amigo on 11 and 12 May. The conference, endorsed by the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), will take stock of recent EU and international developments. After a review of EU policies, it will examine the approaches and policies of the EU's main trading partners such as the US, Japan, Canada or Australia. This will contain an evaluation of the emerging carbon markets, including overall size, liquidity, price levels. For the full programme and the speakers' list please visit the conference website: <http://www.euconferences.com/fraclimate04.htm> or contact Mark Kinloch, [mark.kinloch@euconferences.com](mailto:mark.kinloch@euconferences.com), +44 1495 300012.

FOR ISEE 2004 IN MONTREAL VISIT:  
[www.iseemontreal2004.com](http://www.iseemontreal2004.com)

# BOOKS

Please note that the details of books listed here are provided by the publisher.

## Ecological Economics: Principles and Applications

*Herman E Daly and Joshua Farley*  
Island Press. Hardback. £26.95  
ISBN: 1559633123. 454 pages.

Conventional economics is increasingly criticized for failing to reflect the value of clean air and water, species diversity, and social and

generational equity. By excluding biophysical and social reality from its analyses and equations, conventional economics seems ill-suited to address problems in a world characterized by increasing human impacts and decreasing natural resources. *Ecological Economics* is an introductory-level textbook for an emerging paradigm that addresses this fundamental flaw in conventional economics. The book defines a revolutionary

"transdiscipline" that incorporates insights from the biological, physical, and social sciences, and it offers a pedagogically complete examination of this exciting new field. The book provides students with a foundation in traditional neoclassical economic thought, but places that foundation within a new interdisciplinary framework that embraces the linkages among economic growth, environmental degradation, and social inequity. Introducing the three core issues that are the focus of the new transdiscipline -- scale, distribution, and efficiency -- the book is guided by the fundamental question, often assumed but rarely spoken in traditional texts: What is really important to us? After explaining the key roles played by the earth's biotic and abiotic resources in sustaining life, the text is then organized around the main fields in traditional economics: microeconomics, macroeconomics, and international economics. The book also considers policy implications of this thinking.

# CALENDAR EVENTS

## April

### April 1-4, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

ENCOS 2004: First European Networks Conference on Sustainability in Practice.

*Berlin, Germany.*

<http://www.ENCOS2004.net>

### April 1-3, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Eco-Efficiency for Sustainability: Quantified Methods for Decision-Making.

*Leiden, The Netherlands.*

Organised by EBARA Corporation and Leiden University.

<http://eco-efficiency-conf.otg/>

### April 2-4, 2004

International Conference on Ethics and Environmental Policies: 'Business Style and Sustainable Development'.

*Kiev, Ukraine.*

Email: [info@fondazioneanza.it](mailto:info@fondazioneanza.it)

### April 15-18, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Annual Meeting of the European Public Choice Society (EPCS)

*Berlin, Germany.*

Organised by DIW Berlin.

<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/veranstaltungen/epcs/>

### April 24-26

Fifth International Conference on Environmental Problems in Coastal Regions.

*Alicante, Spain.*

Wessex Institute of Technology and University of Alicante, Spain.

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/coastalenvironment04/index/html>

### April 28-30, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Bridging the Gap: Information for Action - Mobilising Knowledge for a Better Environment.

*Dublin, Ireland.*

Organised by the European Environment Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland.

<http://www.bridgingthegap.ie/>

## May

### May 10-14, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Second World Conference and Technology Exhibition on Biomass for Energy, Industry and Climate Protection.

*Rome, Italy.*

Organised by ETA-Firenze and WIP-Munich.

<http://www.conference-biomass.com/>

### May 11-12, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Ethical Corporation Europe 2004: 'What's the Point of Corporate Responsibility'.

*London, UK.*

Organised by Ethical Corporation Magazine.

<http://www.ethicalcorp.com/europe2004/>

### May 12-14, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

*Bilbao, Spain.*

Organised by IHOBE.

<http://www.erscp2004.net/>

### May 19-21, 2004

Urban Transport 2004.

Tenth International Conference on Urban Transport and the Environment in the 21st Century.

*Dresden, Germany.*

<http://www.wesex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/urbantransport04/index.html>

### May 30-31, 2004

Second World Renewable Energy Forum: Global Benefits and Policies.

*Bonn, Germany.*

Organised by World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE).

<http://www.world-council-for-renewable-energy.org/conevents/conevents.html>

### May 30-June 2, 2004

Ecological Truth Ekolst' 04.

*Bor, Serbia, Yugoslavia.*

Organised by Technical Faculty, University of Belgrade.

<http://www.eko04.tf.bor.ac.yu>

## June

### June 1-5, 2004

World Bioenergy 2004: Taking You from Know-How to Show-how.

*Jonkoping, Sweden.*

Organised by Swedish Bioenergy Association. (SVEBIO).

<http://www.elmia.se/worldbioenergy/>

### June 14-15, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Towards Sustainable Futures: Tools and Strategies.

*Tampere, Finland.*

Organised by Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, Finland Futures Research Centre and Finland Future Academy.

<http://www.tukkk.fi/tutu/seminar2004>

### June 18-20, 2003

Second Conference on International Corporate Responsibility.

*Amsterdam, The Netherlands.*

Carnegie Bosch Institute for Applied Studies in International Management.

<http://web.gsia.cmu.edu/icr/>

### June 25-27, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Local Currencies in the 21st Century: Understanding Money, Building Local Economies, and Renewing Communities.

*Annondale-on-Hudson, New York.*

Organised by EF Schumacher Society.

<http://www.localcurrency.org/info.html>

### June 25-28, 2004

International Conference: Nature, Science and Social Movements.

*Mytilene, Lesbos, Greece.*

Organised by Dept. of Sociology, University of the Aegean.

<http://www.aegen.gr/sociology/Anakinosis/nature/nature.htm>

### June 27-July 1, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

World Water and Environmental Resources Congress 2004. 'Critical Transitions in Water

# CALENDAR EVENTS

and Environmental Resources Management: Understanding the Past - Shaping the Future'.  
*Salt Lake City, Utah.*

Organised by American Society of Civil Engineers.

<http://www.asce.org/conferences/ewri2004/>

## June 27-July 2, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

First World Congress of Agroforestry: Working Together for Sustainable Land Use Systems.

*Orlando, Florida, USA.*

Organised by University of Florida IFAS.

<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/wca/>

## July

### July 11-14, 2004

**ISEE Eighth Biennial Conference.**

*Montreal, Canada.*

<http://www.ecologicaeconomics.org/conf/conf.htm>

### July 14-16, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

'History of Work' Contemporary British History Summer Conference.

*London, UK.*

Organised by Centre for Contemporary British History, School of Advanced Study, University of London.

Email info: Virginia.Preston@sas.ac.uk

### July 25-30, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

XI World Congress of Rural Sociology: Globalisation, Risks and Resistance.

*Trondheim, Norway.*

Organised by the International Rural Sociology Association.

<http://www.irsa-world.org/XI/index.html>

### July 26-31, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

International Conference on Water Security for Future Generations.

*Changchun, Jilin Province, China.*

Organised by Northeast Institute of Geography and Agricultural Ecology, CAS.

<http://www.neigae.ac.cn/conference/20030227htm>

## August

### August 1-4, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

American Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting 2004  
*Denver, Colorado.*

<http://www.aaea.org/meeting/aaea/2004/>

### 25-28 August, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Workshop on Carbon and Energy.

*Stockholm, Sweden.*

Initiative of the European Science Foundation (ESF) Standing Committees for Life, Environmental and Earth Sciences (LESC) and the Social Sciences (SCSS).

<http://www.esf.org/>

## September

### September 8-10, 2004

Culture and Impact 2004. International Conference on the Impact of Technology on Culture and Norms.

*Cadiz, Spain.*

Universities of Bergen and Cadiz.

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/culture04/index.html>

### September 16-18, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Eighth Luso-Afro-Brazilian Congress of Social Sciences: 'The Social Question in the New Millennium'.

*Coimbra, Portugal.*

Organised by Centro de Estudos Socias, University of Coimbra.

<http://www.ces.uc.pt/lab2004>

### September 17-18, 2004

Environmental Economics: Institutions, Competition, Rationality.

*Wuppertal, Germany.*

Organised by International Network for Economics Research (INFER).

<http://www.infer.info>

## October

### October 20-24, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Agro Environ 2004: The Role of Multi-Purpose Agriculture in Sustaining Global Environment.

*Udine, Italy.*

[http://www.dpvta.uniud.it/agroenv/home\\_page.htm#coord](http://www.dpvta.uniud.it/agroenv/home_page.htm#coord)

## November

### November 8-10, 2004 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Leading Edge Sustainability 2004.

Sustainability in Water Limited Environments.

*Sydney, Australia.*

Organised by International Water Association.

<http://www.LES2004.iwa-conferences.org>

**2005 2005 2005 2005**

## June

### June 12-14th, 2005 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

**ESEE Biennial Conference**

**Lisbon, Portugal. Details to follow.**

Please forward conference details to the editor at:  
[b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk](mailto:b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk)

# Take Note

## ISEE Montreal 2004

### News from the conference

ISEE 2004 is now only four months away. All the ingredients to make it a great conference are getting together. 500 proposals for communications or posters and numerous special sessions have been submitted and the Scientific committee is working hard!

More partners are now on board and have joined the early partners like Concordia University, UQAM and Environment Canada. They are the International Development Research Center (IDRC), the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, ICI Environment, and IEPF, the Institute for Energy and Environment of the Francophonie. Some more are in the process of joining and it is still time to have your institution or one you are working with get involved.

In addition to some 500 submitted papers or abstracts the scientific committee has approved 20 symposia or roundtable discussions. Topics to be covered in the general symposia include Biodiversity; Ecosystem Health; Consumption and the Environment; Environmental and Economic Accounting; Governance for Sustainable Development; Ecosystem Complexity and Uncertainty. Regional symposia include the economics of Biodiversity in South Asia; Sustainable Consumption: North America; Energy and Economic Development In China and India; and European Frontiers. There will also be roundtable discussions on the Films of Hayao Miyazaki; Ideology, Democracy and Governance; and Governance, Global Economic Integration and Immigration.

For more news, visit [www.iseemontreal2004.com](http://www.iseemontreal2004.com) regularly!

Montreal is great in the summer, we hope to see you in great numbers here for ISEE 2004.

*The organising committee*

**A reminder: the early bird fees are valid until April 30.... do not procrastinate.....**

### World Commission Report on Social Aspect of Globalisation

The European Commission has welcomed a report by the World Commission (set up in 2002 by the International Labour Organisation) which examines steps towards globalisation which may be more socially inclusive and equitable. The Commission contributes to the work of the World Commission and will examine the report in detail, looking for implications to its own policies internally and externally. In May 2004 the European Commission is due to present a communication on this subject.

The report itself advocates more inclusive dialogue and a comprehensive approach to

globalisation covering social, economic and environmental factors. The report supports regional integration and highlights the importance of awareness of social implications as a key factor in making globalisation fairer, and creating opportunities for all. Other areas of focus include the role of the state, effective governance at all levels and sustainable development.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Information on the contributions of the European Commission to the World Commission are available at:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/wcsdg/consulta/brussels/index.htm>

World Commission website and report, available at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/wcsdg/index.htm>

## Food for Thought: Past Greats

We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are.

*Anais Nin*

He who opens a school door, closes a prison.

*Victor Hugo*

Society has always seemed to demand a little more from human beings than it will get in practice.

*George Orwell*

Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage - to move in the opposite direction.

*E. F. Schumacker*

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

*Confucius*

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

*William Butler Yeats*

Life must be understood backwards. But it must be lived forwards.

*Soren Kierkegaard*

There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew.

*Marshall McLuhan*

ESEE Secretariat,  
c/o Charlene Nash,  
Socio-Economic Research Programme,  
The Macaulay Institute,  
Craigiebuckler,  
Aberdeen, AB15 8QH

Tel: +44 1224 498200 ext. 2335

Fax: +44 1224 311556

Email: [secretary@euroecolecon.org](mailto:secretary@euroecolecon.org)

<http://www.euroecolecon.org/>