



Newsletter of the European Society for Ecological Economics

# ESEE NEWS

2007

## ESEE FOR THE 10 YEARS TO COME

Note from ESEE President

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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 once or twice 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.

First of all I take the opportunity to welcome those of our membership who will attend the 7th biannual conference of ESEE in Leipzig June 5-8. Due to the excellent work so far undertaken by the organizers, I believe it will be a very successful event. Now it is up to us as participants to use the opportunities well. My personal experience is that these conferences may make quite a difference. Having attended all conferences of ESEE since the first one in Versailles in 1996, they all stand out as very important for my own development. I believe that many others share this experience.

In 2006 ESEE was 10 years. We will utilize the opportunity to mark the occasion at Leipzig. In this number of the newsletter you will moreover find notes from some of the people who have played a distinct role in forming and running the ecological economics movement from its very beginning marking this event.

What do I then hope for ESEE for the 10 years to come? I hope we will have grown in strength and are able to make an impact on world policy choices and on the focus in academia. I hope we have a much larger membership – still as enthusiastic as those of today – but larger in numbers. I especially hope that we have managed to involve more people from Eastern Europe. I hope we have increased our financial basis so that together with increased membership we are able to arrange smaller events with a more specific focus than the biannual conferences. I hope we have strengthened our ties not least to our neighbouring societies – i.e., RSEE and ASEE. I hope we have avoided destructive internal debates over what ecological economics is about, while we have been engaging in many that are productive. Tough or not, debates should be open and forward oriented. Certainly, my hope is that by the weight of the argument, the 'European way' of doing ecological economics has by then been established as the key to ecological economics.

Much of our success as a society lies in the development of our thinking. I hope we are able to continue the high quality work people are doing within systems analysis/matter flows and socio-economic metabolism, on uncertainty and ignorance, and on valuation. I hope we are able to come even further concerning interdisciplinary work, especially studies combining natural and social sciences. I also want to see some development concerning how we apply so-

cio-economic perspectives in both theoretical and applied studies. In relation to the latter I hope to see substantial progress in two interrelated areas. They are a) work on individual behaviour and social choice and b) work on institutions for a sustainable future.

Concerning the first issue, a lot of interesting studies are done which demonstrate a much more complex way of understanding human behaviour and choice than has been typical for orthodox economic theory. It fits quite nicely to many of the ideas discussed among ecological economists and should open up a whole range of opportunities for developing alternative models to the standard one of maximizing individual utility. Especially the role of and conditions for cooperative behaviour is in my mind crucial. It is important to understand this better for analyses of everything from consumer behaviour, reactions to uncertainty and ignorance, via peoples' responses to various policies up to the study of policy choices themselves. Several ecological economists have been engaged in this, but we should put much more effort into it in the future. This is a field where our competencies could really add a lot.

The second issue concerns the largest issues of all – that of governance. It includes in a way all fields of ecological economics. Nevertheless, a dominant aspect is that of institutional structures and how these influence choice. Again I think ecological economists have the capacities needed to really produce important inputs to the urgent needs for change. We can and we should help.

There are many aspects related to this. As I see it, the present governance system is not able to handle the upcoming increasing problems humanity is facing with environmental degradation, increased competition over resources, growing inequalities and stagnating well-being among even the rich despite quite strong economic growth. The issue of climate change is a very good illustration showing how these problems may most probably end in oppressive solutions and a divided world instead of a world where we acknowledge that a fair and competent use of resources is a must if we want to secure descent living conditions for all, current and future generations. It should also give ecological economists a chance to 'make our case'. Hence, we need to put even more efforts into developing ideas that support a long run transition of economic institutions that are a) more sensitive to the dynamics of environmental resources, b) much more reflexive and c) less dependent on growth among the rich countries. No small business, but one that is worthy of a true ecological economist.

Arild Vatn

# SOCIETY BUSINESS

ESEE Administration  
and Society Develop-  
ment and Planning  
Matters

## ESEE Administrative Board Members 2007

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## **International Cooperation within the New Research Framework Programme of the EU**

The European Society for Ecological Economics is building up a database of research groups in Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia in order to foster international cooperation and research in ecological economics within the 7th framework programme of the European Union ([http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)).

Anyone interested in co-operation can fill out a form directly at the ESEE website (<http://www.euroecolecon.org/fp7.htm>). The aim of this form is to gather information about your research interests. By consulting the database, research groups with similar interest may establish contact with you and start the development of joint proposals to be submitted to the European Commission. On the website you also find a list of people already registered in the database.

## **Elections at ISEE**

The next election of the ISEE board and the president elect will take place in the fall of 2007. The final date for proposals is the 1st of June. The election announcement will be given in late July or early August.

See more at [www.ecoeco.org](http://www.ecoeco.org)!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

July  
August  
September  
2008

## JULY

### July 3-5, 2007

The European Slave Trade: Character, Causes, Challenges  
Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland  
Organised by Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin  
<http://www.europeanslavery.com>

### July 3-6, 2007

Turning Diversity into Prosperity  
Amsterdam, North Holland, Netherlands  
Organised by: Common Ground / SEBA  
<http://diversity-conference.com> or  
[www.diversityweek2007.com](http://www.diversityweek2007.com)

### July 3-6, 2007

ANZSEE Conference 2007 Re-inventing Sustainability: A climate for change  
Australis Noosa Lakes  
Organised by: ANZSEE  
[http://www.anzsee.org/2007conference/conference\\_pageholder.asp](http://www.anzsee.org/2007conference/conference_pageholder.asp)

### July 4-7, 2007

APFA 6 - Applications of Physics in Financial Analysis Conference  
Lisbon, Portugal  
Organised by Department of Quantitative Methods, IBS - ISCTE Business School, ISCTE (Instituto Superior de Ciências de Trabalho e da Empresa) Lisbon  
<http://apfa6.dmq.eg.iscte.pt>

### July 5-7, 2007

2007 Annual ESHET Meeting Strasbourg: Justice in Economic Thought.  
Strasbourg, France  
Organised by ESHET - European Society for the History of Economic Thought  
<http://www.eshet.net/>

### July 8-10, 2007

6th iHEA World Congress  
Copenhagen, Denmark  
Organised by IHEA - International Health Economics Association <http://healthconomics.org/conferences/2007/07/08/explorations-in-health.html>

### July 11-13, 2007

EcoMod 2007: Policy Modeling  
Organised by EcoMod  
<http://www.ecomod.org/>

### July 15-17 2007

The Corporate Responsibility Research Conference 2007  
Leeds, UK  
Organised by: University of Leeds  
<http://www.crrconference.org/>

### July 26-28, 2007

CANSEE 2007: Sustaining Communities and Development in the Face of Environmental Challenges  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Organised by: Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE)  
[http://www.ecoeco.org/Documents/CANSEE\\_2007\\_First\\_Call\\_for\\_Papers\\_Oct\\_1.pdf](http://www.ecoeco.org/Documents/CANSEE_2007_First_Call_for_Papers_Oct_1.pdf)

## AUGUST

### August 5-8, 2007

Second International Conference on Environmental Planning and Management  
Berlin, Germany  
Organised by: Technical University of Berlin  
<http://www.urbenvironcongress.com>

### August 12-18, 2007

World Water Week in Stockholm 2007: Progress and Prospects on Water - Striving for Sustainability in a Changing World  
Stockholm, Sweden  
Organised by: Stockholm International Water Institute, SIWI.  
<http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

### August 29-31, 2007

Sustainability and quality of life  
London, UK  
Organised by: Royal Geographical Society  
<http://www.rgs.org/>

## SEPTEMBER

### September 5-7, 2007

Sixth International Conference on Ecosystems and Sustainable Development  
Coimbra, Portugal  
Organised by: Wessex Institute of Technology, UK, The University of Coimbra, Portugal  
The University of Siena, Italy  
<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2007/eco07/index.html>

### September 5-7, 2007

10th International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology  
Cos Island, Greece  
Organised by: Global Network for Environmental Science and Technology (Global NEST) and University of the Aegean  
<http://www.gnest.org/cest>

### September 6, 2007

Conservation and Development for the Developing World; Africa in the Spotlight  
Kampala, Uganda  
Organised by: Centre for Conservation and Development Alternatives  
<http://www.conferencealerts.com/seconf.mv?q=ca1ai8hs>

### September 8-15, 2007

Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research (DISCCRS) III Symposium  
Hawaii, USA  
Organised by DISCCRS  
<http://www.aslo.org/phd/discrsposter.pdf>

### September 9-12, 2007

22nd Annual WaterReuse Symposium  
Tampa, Florida, United States  
Organised by: WaterReuse Association, American Water Works Association, Water Environment Federation  
<http://www.watereuse.org/>

### September 10-13, 2007

Climate Change and Desertification: Monitoring, Modelling and Forecasting  
Wengen, Switzerland  
Organised by: Joint Research Centre (EC), University of Geneva  
<http://www.unige.ch/climate/Workshops/wengen07.html#61>

### September 12-14, 2007

Sustainable City Development 2007  
Malmö, Sweden

Organised by: City of Malmö  
<http://www.malmo.se/sustainablecity>

### September 12-14, 2007

Energy2020  
Fuschl/See, Austria  
Organised by: Verbund Austria  
<http://www.energy2020.at/>

### September 25-26, 2007

Toward a Sustainable Future  
Calcutta, India  
Organised by: Ecoseminar 2003 Association  
<http://www.geocities.com/ecoseminar2003association>

## OCTOBER

### October 9-10, 2007

The 3rd Annual European Energy Policy Conference 2007  
Brussels, Belgium  
Organised by: Epsilon, CEPS  
<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=455c0ca8-3464-4a45-9181-2c24fb62ff74>

### October 10-12, 2007

European Meeting Point - Energy for Development 2007  
Beja, Alentejo, Portugal  
Organised by: Research Group on Energy and Sustainable Development - IDMEC - IST  
<http://www.energyanddevelopment-2007.net/pages/.php>

### October 18-20, 2007

The Eighth Global Conference on Environmental Taxation  
Munich, Germany  
<http://www.worldcotax.org/>

### October 24-26, 2007

1st Environmental Management Accounting Network (EMAN) Global Conference South Africa 2007  
Pretoria, South Africa  
Organised by: Tshwane University of Technology, South African National Cleaner Production Centre and Environmental Management Accounting Network (EMAN) Africa  
<http://www.eman-africa.com>

## NOVEMBER

### November 1-2, 2007

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS, Focus on Africa  
Delft, Netherlands  
Organised by: Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands  
<http://www.lustrum.tudelft.nl/symposium>

## OUTLOOK 2008

### August 7-11, 2008

ISEE 2008 10th Biennial Conference APPLYING ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Organised by ISEE, ASEE, UNEP  
<http://www.ecoeco.org>

# NEWS

## FROM SOCIETY & MEMBERS

Conference  
Summer School  
Meeting  
Prize

This newsletter is distributed at the Leipzig conference and sent to the ESEE members by snail mail. For those of you attending the conference: Welcome to the 7th international conference!

**ESEE 2007**  
**Integrating Natural and Social Sciences for Sustainability**  
5-8th June 2007, UFZ - Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig, Germany.

The European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE), in co-operation with the German associations for ecological economics VÖÖ and VÖW, invite you to meet in Leipzig for the 7th international conference. The conference will explore contemporary scientific approaches for putting the concept of Sustainable Development into research and into practice, and it will focus on

bridging natural and social sciences. It will address sustainability topics such as loss of biodiversity, human vulnerability to global change and water problems on all geographical and institutional levels. The conference aims to contribute to a better understanding of societal and natural processes and their interaction by integrating scientific methodologies to overcome the shortcomings of disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches. Impediments to inter- and transdisciplinary research will be examined and new research concepts for sustainability identified. In „plenary“, „parallel“ and „poster sessions“ the following sustainability topics will be addressed during the conference:

- Biodiversity: conflicts and management
- Global, regional and local water problems
- Climate change: vulnerability, mitigation and adaptation
- Sustainable use of landscapes

- Sustainable cities
- Environment and development: growth, globalisation and environmental degradation
- Sustainable management of living systems
- Industrial ecology: managing product life cycles and material flows
- Managing contaminated sites
- Technological change for sustainability
- Others

Contributions to these topics are given in four different kinds of sessions:

- a) Symposia
- b) Core sessions
- c) Short paper sessions
- d) Poster sessions

For more information visit the conference website: <http://www.esee2007.ufz.de>

### Second THEMES Summer School at Institute for Forecasting, Slovak Academy of Sciences

by Tatiana Kluvankova-Oravska

We are pleased to announce that the second of four Marie Currie summer schools will open on June 18th, 2007. The School titled „Institutional Analyses of Sustainability Problems“ is coordinated by the Institute for Forecasting Slovak Academy of Sciences and will take place in the Congress Centre Academia, Stará Lesná located in the Vysoké Tatry (High Tatras) - the largest Slovak national park. The 40 participants selected from the total number of 180 eligible applications will come from many different European countries and also from India, USA, Australia, Tunisia, Azerbaijan and others.

Several scholars with outstanding reputation in the field of institutional and ecological economics accepted our invitation to come. Among them are Professor Elinor Ostrom, Indiana University, David W. Bromley, University of Wisconsin Madison and Arild Vatn, Norwegian University of Life

Sciences (coordinator of Themes). They will contribute by key note lectures, simulation game as well as joint talks, where three scholars will meet on conversation about the meaning and role of institutions in economics and politics. Arild Vatn, Dan Bromley and Felix Rauschmayer, UFZ - Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig, Germany, ESEE board member and key note speaker of Themes school 3 will lecture on complexity and institutions, providing links to other THEMES events.

The International Human Dimension for Global Environmental Change (IHDP) will contribute to the program by a two days workshop coordinated by the core project: Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IDGEC) with the contributions of Professor Oran Young, chair of IHDP Scientific Committee, Elinor Ostrom, Sebastian Oberthür and Bernd Siebenhüner (workshop coordinator). The IHDP thematic work-

shop will focus on the link between insight in the theory of institutions and its application in adapting and mitigation to global environmental change. The core idea will be analysing the roles that social institutions play in global environmental change as determinants of human-environmental interactions.

The relation of institutions to policy will be approached by the second workshop. Professor Söderbaum of Mälardalen University Sweden will lecture on the perspective of actors in institutional change process for sustainability. New dimensions of institutions for environmental governance will be offered by Jouni Paavola from University of Leeds, UK. Main in-house contribution from the Institute for Forecasting will concentrate on biodiversity governance and institutional changes in transition countries of central and Eastern European countries, where current

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## FROM SOCIETY & MEMBERS

decision-making is still affected by post-socialist relations, such as inefficient institutional design, leading to non-robust governance and over-exploitation of natural resources and treating common property as open-access made by T. Kluvankova Oravska. It will be followed by a keynote lecture of professor Maria Kozova from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University Bratislava on institutional changes and strategic planning in biodiversity demonstrated on High Tatras National Park. Veronika Chobotova from IF SAS will on the base of the IAD Framework (developed by Elinor Ostrom) analyse the current situation of tourism development in the Slovenský Raj National Park. Public presentation of Na-

tional Park managers and excursions to High Tatras to observe ecological and social consequences of catastrophic wind blow in 2004 will offer real life confrontation with the emerging issues.

Thematic presentations from the CEE region will follow. It includes the keynote lecture of Professor Jirina Jilkova from Economic University Prague on institutional aspects of flood prevention in CEE region. Livia Bizikova IF SAS, Andrej Udovc University of Ljubljana; Ilona Banaszak Humboldt University of Berlin will present results of the EU 5th FMP project: "Integrated Development of Agricultural and Rural Institutions in CEECs, IDARI" (QLK5-CT-2002-02718).

In order to link theoretical knowledge to real policy issues and enhance learning processes, several practical exercises and simulations will be organised by Peter Sauer from the University of Economics Prague, Czech Republic with contribution from Nicolas Kosoy Autonomous University Barcelona and A. Udovc. The full version of the programme and sessions can be downloaded from the THEMES home page [www.umb.no/research/themes](http://www.umb.no/research/themes).

### First Meeting on Ecological Economics Teaching

FIRST MEETING ON ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS TEACHING CARMONA, SEVILLE, SPAIN (15th- 17th of March 2007)

by Esther Velazquez Alonso

#### Background

The First Meeting on Ecological Economics in Spain took place in Ronda (Málaga) in the spring of 2006. In this meeting, a group worked on EE and reflected upon the necessity of discussing about EE in general, and EE teaching in particular. So, they put forward two future meetings: one of them, for a small working group only, was to be celebrated in Carmona, in March 2007, with the objective to discuss EE teaching, while the other will be held in Valladolid in February 2008.

The First Meeting in EE Teaching was thus organized and took place in Carmona (Seville) on March 15th-17th 2007, supported by the Head Office of Environmental Education of the Andalusian Regional Government. The specific goal was to discuss EE teaching problems in a small working group, in order to present a proposal of actions to improve the teaching of EE in Spain.

This small group was integrated by 16 people from different Spanish universities: La Laguna University (Tenerife, Canary Islands), the Au-

tonomous University of Barcelona, the University of Barcelona, the University of Navarra, the University of Valencia, the University of Córdoba, the University of Seville and Pablo de Olavide University (Seville).

#### Working Plan

In order to work effectively, the programs of the subjects taught by the representatives who attended the meeting were asked in advance. Programs were grouped in two different categories:

1. EE subjects, both on graduate and post-graduate courses, taught in the Faculties of Economics and the Faculties of Environmental Sciences.

The subjects taught (we only considered the subjects imparted by the participants in the meeting) in the Faculties of Economics were: Natural Resources Economy (Autonomous University of Barcelona), Natural Resources Economy and Environment (La Laguna University), Ecological Economics (La Laguna University).

In the Faculties of Environmental Sciences the followings subjects were taught in post-graduate courses: The Economy Approach (University of Seville), Methods and Techniques of Regional Analysis (University of Seville), Macroeconomic Analysis and Environmental Problems (Autonomous University of Barcelona), Eco-

logical Economics and Environmental Policy (University of Barcelona).

These subjects were taught in the Faculties of Environmental Sciences: Applied Economy (University of Barcelona), Growth, Economy and Environment (Pablo de Olavide University), Water Economy (Pablo de Olavide University), Economy Applied to the Environment (Pablo de Olavide University).

2. Subjects focusing neither on the environment nor on natural resources, but which incorporate the EE perspective, all of them taught in the Faculties of Economics (grade or post-graduate courses): Environmental Policy in the EU (University of Valencia), The Landscapes of the European Integration and Environmental Policies (University of Valencia), International Economy History (University of Navarra), Regional Economy (La Laguna University), Regional and Urban Economy (University of Seville), Economy and Landscape (University of Seville), Food Processing Systems in Globalization (University of Seville).

#### Reflections and Conclusions

A wide consensus was achieved on the main contents of an EE programme for Economy students. This programme should include the followings issues: 1) Knowledge of Ecosystems:

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basic knowledge on Ecology, Thermodynamic Laws, Physic Flows; 2) The Economy like an open system; 3) Indicators of physic flows; 4) The Precautionary Principle as a guide to make decisions; 5) Environmental policies, participation and quality in making decisions about environmental questions.

EE programmes in graduate studies are, in most cases optional subjects taught to students with a broad knowledge on traditional economy.

On the EE subjects taught in Faculties of Environmental Sciences the following conclusion was reached: in most cases, the students have little education about economy. When subjects on natural resources are included in the curriculum, they are usually taught from a conventional perspective on economy. On the other hand, there is a great consensus regarding the contents of optional subjects (Water Economy, Growth, Development and Environment).

The main discussion was focused on the contents of the subject "Introduction to Economy" in those cases when there is not an economy subject in the curriculum. This debate is not only limited to the Faculties of Environmental Sciences but also to other studies such as Agricultural Sciences, Labour Sciences, etc., where this subject is imparted by a specialist other than an economist and with strong time restrictions. This is a situation on which students are not familiarized with economic concepts (like supply, demand, production, value added, etc.) and time is too limited to explain the different theories and their applications. The working group at the meeting did not reach any specific conclusion about this

situation but its members became aware of the problem and declared their interest in continuing the work on the contents of an "Introduction to Economy" for non-economists from an EE perspective.

Finally, the discussion concerning the incorporation of the EE perspective in subjects on economy imparted in the Faculties of Economics and not directly linked to natural resources mainly focused on two issues. First of all, the necessity to incorporate the biophysical aspects to conventional economy with the goal of making the orthodox programmes contents "look green". The growing demand of resources and energy, the physical support of the economy and its destructive consequences are aspects traditionally invisible to conventional analysis and at the same time essential elements for EE.

Secondly, the need to explain the causes that instigate the movement of the current economical system and the relationship between monetary, biophysical and socio-cultural aspects was expressed. In this context, institutional factors grow in importance and play a central role.

### Tasks

The following tasks to be done in the near future were brought up.

- 1) To prepare a document collecting the reflections and conclusions reached at the Meeting to be issued together with the programmes received.
- 2) To identify more people interested in EE in Spain and coordinate those teachers in different Spanish universities who are incorporating the EE perspective into their programmes or have an interest in doing it.

- 3) To invite those who are interested to send their programmes in order to continue this initial work.

- 4) To prepare a particular session about teaching for the next meeting in Valladolid.

- 5) To broaden the EE scope also through specialized courses and university extension courses. A First Summer Course on EE was offered to be imparted in "Pablo de Olavide University's Summer School" (Pablo de Olavide University's Summer School) in 2008.

- 6) To create a meeting space in order to exchange experiences on EE teaching through regular workshops, meetings and courses.

- 7) To spread this work on different levels (International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE), European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE), Spanish Association for Natural Resources and the Environment (AERNA), etc.).

- 8) To make this group's work visible in the Internet (through a website or something similar), at the same time creating an instrument to allow the exchange of ideas, documents, papers, videos, etc.

- 9) To analyze the key aspects of the new Spanish Law on the University in order to integrate EE in the new curricula.

- 10) To create a movement that should have an impact on the Spanish University Policy in order to incorporate EE into the university curricula, always in the EU context. This movement could start with a manifest signed by university teachers and sent to the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of the Environment.

### First Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen Prize - Call for nominations

Call for nominations for the First Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen Prize offered by the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). US\$25,000 are given to a young scholar under 35 years of age, 2008 for outstanding qualification in in ecological economics or a related field. Applicants should submit a curriculum

vitae, a short statement of research interests (700 words or fewer), and a paper either published or accepted in the journal Ecological Economics. See also [http://www.ecoeco.org/pdf/2007\\_G-R\\_prize\\_poster\\_final.pdf](http://www.ecoeco.org/pdf/2007_G-R_prize_poster_final.pdf)



# HOT TOPIC

## The concept of sustainability and sustainable communities

by John Bryden<sup>1</sup> and Karen Refsgaard

The definitions of sustainability by the Post-Brundtland Commission tend to stress the holistic nature of the concept (economic, social, cultural, and environmental) and its inter-generational dimensions. Thus all of these dimensions must be 'sustained' over time and through generations, but also intra-generational equity is present: particular groups within society should not be 'privileged' over others in terms of access to, use of, or exposure to adverse consequences from, environmental, economic, social or cultural processes. The spatial or territorial scales to be considered encompass everything from the local to the global and we are supposed not to 'export' our unsustainable processes to others, and vice versa. Finally, there is some recognition that sustainability is not a 'fixed' thing to be captured by measuring 'footprints' or 'carrying capacity', however useful these tools might be in specific situations. Sustainability can be changed by technology and innovation.

The impacts of climate change in particular have recently added the idea that 'sustainable communities' should be able to withstand 'shocks' such as those arising from 'natural' disasters, or external policy changes. Beyond these rather general and essentially value-based framework understandings or conditions it has been hard to progress to greater precision.

This is because for some a sustainable community (or whatever scale) is a kind of new Utopia, while for others it is a more pragmatic question of identifying what is going wrong with the world in terms of economy, society, culture and environment and understanding the processes that produce undesirable outcomes over time. In turn, that understanding allows us to think how to change the processes to avoid

'unwanted outcomes' and promote desired ones<sup>2</sup> (Brox, 2006). In the end, we all have our own views of what is 'sustainable' over time, and what is not, even in our own personal lives. Nevertheless, there seems to be some emerging agreement that 'un-sustainability' may be linked to the processes that separate people in the richer countries from particular aspects of nature, society, culture, economy and place<sup>3</sup>. These are:

Separation and alienation of people from "nature" – that people's ethical values have largely been shaped by ideas of dominating (the rest of) 'nature' and the needs of people being prioritized as well as the fact that much of what is valued in 'nature' is 'public goods' which are subject to over-exploitation in modern institutional conditions.

The separation, alienation and distancing of people from the "state" – Increasing controls and legislation, centralisation of services and a globalised economy implying lack of control and 'disempowerment' and through that resulting in demoralised community lacking local instruments to deal with the challenges for the future.

The separation and alienation of people from production and "work" – implying that people are increasingly removed from the experience and consequences of direct production as well as rural economies becoming more 'open' and dependent on external markets.

The separation of people, community and work from "place" – the increased mobility among people in work and leisure which decreases the strong community structures, cultural ties and interdependencies that once existed.

At the same time, however, there are communities that have managed to achieve better connectedness in all of these areas, and we tend to describe these as 'more sustainable'. In this respect the experience of the Swedish Strategy for Sustainable

development, and their experimental sustainable communities programme, is interesting<sup>4</sup>.

This raises the question of how citizens might recognize more – or less – economically, socially, culturally and environmentally sustainable communities?

Therefore the challenges for achieving sustainable communities are related to getting people to be involved and to be in charge to get into action. That implies linking people to place, involving people in governance and participation in management of the nature both in their work and in their leisure activities and to facilitate for these issues in future policies impacting on this. There are policy implications, which space prevents us from elaborating here and which we will consider in another place!

<sup>1</sup>This piece is based on Bryden's chapter on Rural Community Life in Twenty-First Century Scotland for the forthcoming book on Scottish Life and Society: A Compendium of Scottish Ethnology, Volume 2., edited by Sandy Fenton of the Scottish Centre for Ethnography, Edinburgh. For quotations please refer to this book.

<sup>2</sup>Brox, Ottar (2006). The political economy of rural development. Modernisation without centralisation? Eburon, Delft, NL.

<sup>3</sup>Giddens, A., (1990) The Consequences of Modernity. Stanford University Press, Stanford. Bryden, J (1994) Towards Sustainable Rural Communities. The University of Guelph, Canada.

<sup>4</sup>See [www.sweden.se/upload/Sweden\\_se/english/publications/RK/PDF/RK%20Sustainable%20development.pdf](http://www.sweden.se/upload/Sweden_se/english/publications/RK/PDF/RK%20Sustainable%20development.pdf)

# FIRE-SIDE CHAT

This time we could win two leading figures in Ecological Economics for a fire-side chat!

**Fred Luks** was born in Westerstede (Lower Saxony, Germany) and spent the first two decades of his life there. He left to study in Hamburg and Hawaii (UH Manoa, Honolulu). His research on sustainable development led him to spend some time in New York (NYU), California (UC Berkeley), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) and Austria (Vienna). He has worked in education and research, notably as manager of a project on the economic construction of ecological reality. He is chairman of the Association for Ecological Economics (Germany, Austria, Switzerland – VÖÖ).

**Sybille van den Hove** was born in Belgium in 1964. She lives in Barcelona with her husband and two daughters. She studied high energy physics at the University of Louvain in Belgium then went to work in a small high-tech company for 4 years, where she was the marketing and sales manager. Next, she did a Masters degree in environmental and natural resources economics at La Sorbonne University in Paris and a PhD in economics at the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin en Yvelines. She is the director of a small research company (Median) and an associated researcher at the Institute for Environmental Sciences and Technology (ICTA) of the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

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

*Fred: Green, lots of animals and machines – I grew up on a farm in Lower Saxony.*

Sybille: From the age of 8 to 12, we lived in communities as my parents were experimenting with hippie ideas back then in the '70s. So the social environment was great, like a big family with lots of kids living together (we were about 20 children). The physical environment was nice too as we were in a very nice neighbourhood in Brussels close to the Forêt de Soignes and we shared a big garden for the community. On most weekends we'd go to the countryside and I'd play in the woods for hours. I was extremely lucky.

## Can you identify a point when you realized you wanted to work on environmental problems?

Sybille: As a child I was always saddened to see pollution and destruction of nature. But I only started thinking about working on environmental problems when I decided to leave my job in business and to go back to the University. I wanted to work either in organisational behaviour (OB) to change the way people are treated in business, or on environmental issues. During an interview with the sociologist Michel Crozier, he told me that it was a very bad time to go into OB as, according to him, I would not be able to experiment with implementing innovative and more ethical human resource management in business; rather, he told me, my main job would be to lay people off... So I went for the environmental field and decided to do a master in environment and natural resources economics as it seemed to me that the

economic system was at the heart of the problems.

*Fred: No. But probably it was after reading something about steady-state or limits to growth.*

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

*Fred: Boulding, Daly, Georgescu-Roegen (which is not to say that I understood everything these gentlemen had to say).*

Sybille: Hard to be exhaustive here and hard to remember if I read them as a student. Just a few ideas: Richard Feynman, René Passet, Ilya Prigogine, Karl Popper, Jurgen Habermas, John Dryzek, Erica Jong, Funtowicz and Ravetz, René Goscinny, and so many others.

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

Sybille: Yes, they are shifting but there's always a link between them. To make it short, I shifted from working mostly on climate change and on negotiation and stakeholder participation, to focussing mostly on biodiversity change and science-policy interfaces.

*Fred: Yes. From "Development and Environment" and "Growth/Steady-State" via "Rhetoric" and "Discourse" to "Scarcity" and "Meta-Economics" – i.e., a critique of economics, the unquestioned assumptions of economic constructions of reality and its impact on policy and society.*

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

Sybille: The ones which are irreversible: climate change, biodiversity loss, radioactive contamination, GMO- and nano-contamination...

*Fred: Environmental problems are societal problems. Thus, the still dominant preoccupation with growth and the dominance of economically inspired constructions of reality are on the top of my list of "problems" – and the question how changes become problems in the first place.*

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

*Fred: Traveling around the world with my family.*

Sybille: Rock climbing, around the world.

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

*Fred: It depends. And, yes, it has changed often.*

Sybille: Optimistic. I think there is no option but to be optimistic, otherwise the process of living becomes miserable... and it does not help in any way. Also optimism was passed on to me by my grand-father who survived two years in a Nazi concentration camp (Dachau) only armed with optimism and (as he used to tell us) lot's of luck... and I guess a very good physical condition.

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

Sybille: Lack of environmental awareness...which translates into over-consumption, SUVs, bad (or inexistent)

# ISEE 2008



The African Society For Ecological Economics (ASEE)



## ISEE 2008

7-11 August 2008  
Nairobi / Kenya

The ISEE is pleased to announce that its 10th Biennial Conference has been scheduled for August 7-11, 2008 in Nairobi Kenya.

The conference, „ISEE2008 NAIROBI: APPLYING ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY“ is a joint undertaking by the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE), African Society for Ecological Economics (ASEE) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Joan Martinez Alier, President of ISEE and Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP are pleased to confirm the venue for Nairobi event, which will be held in UNEP conference facilities. Principal organizers of the conference are Peter May, ISEE President-Elect, Kevin Urama, President, ASEE and Anantha Duraiappah, Chief, Analysis and Emerging Issues Unit, UNEP.

For more information go to:  
[www.ecoeco.org](http://www.ecoeco.org)

waste and water management...

*Fred: Cars! Noise (including people talking in the cinema when the film has already started)!*

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

Sybille: My mother, and many women of her generation. Because they made it possible for their daughters to become what they wanted.

*Fred: Friedrich Nietzsche – great thinker. Joseph Alois Schumpeter – great economist. Willy Brandt – great politician. Elvis Presley – great.*

**How do you relax at the weekend?**

*Fred: That's confidential.*

Sybille: I go climbing, I spend time with my husband and daughters, I play the piano, I see my friends...

**Do you have a favorite motto or saying about the environment or sustainable development?**

*Fred: Ecology is political because nature cannot tell us what to do.*

Sybille: If I do, I don't remember it.

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

Sybille: So many... Be optimistic and trust your luck. If you want to stay close to childhood, have children. If someone you love has psychological pro-

blems, protect yourself because that person will (unwillingly and unconsciously) tend to drag you down with her/him and that will not help anybody. Free yourself from the dominant social pressures that tend to prevent you making the choices which make you happy... Actually I have received so many best pieces of advice I cannot list them here.

*Fred: "The main interest in life and work is to become someone else that you were not in the beginning. If you knew when you began a book what you would say at the end, do you think that you would have the courage to write it? What is true for writing and for a love relationship is true also for life. The game is worthwhile insofar as we don't know what will be the end." (Michel Foucault)*

# 10 YEARS OF ESEE

Ecological Economists  
give their view of 10  
years ESEE

## Peter Söderbaum My view of 10 years of ESEE

*Peter Söderbaum was born in the North of Sweden and now lives in Uppsala, and is professor emeritus in Ecological Economics from Mälardalen University. He took his first degree in economics, business management, statistics and political science at Uppsala University and later worked at the Departments of Economics and Business Studies there. In 1974 he moved to SLU, the Swedish agricultural university, as a lecturer in natural resource economics. Since 1995 he has been at Mälardalen University engaged in its Ecological Economics programmes.*

Starting in Paris 1996, ESEE has become institutionalized as an important player (or set of players) in the international ecological economics community. We have been radical in advocating sustainable development but perhaps not radical enough.

One of the exciting moments that I like to remember is from the Canary Islands conference when a professor from DIW (Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung), Berlin, on behalf of the German Ministry of Education and Research asked for a 'sustainability economics' since actors in the mentioned ministry regarded neoclassical economics as inadequate for the purpose. A series of workshops were organized and some of us ecological economists were invited.

Economics is always political economics. Arguments in favour of a specific interpretation of Sustainable Development are ideological and political arguments. Neoclassical economics is specific in scientific as well as ideological terms and the same is true of a specific version of ecological economics. The combined science and ideology of neoclassical economics cannot be expected to work for all purposes. This suggests that there is a role for other kinds of economics based on other ideological orientations.

My hope for the next 10 years of ESEE-activities is that this political

aspect of economics will be better understood and that members of the European Society will see themselves as political actors in a democratic society. In this role, the preaching of correct values and optimal solutions has to be downplayed while the illumination of specific options in relation to competing ideological orientations becomes a key consideration.

Having participated in three of the conferences of the Russian Society for Ecological Economics (Saratov 1999, Lake Baikal 2003, St Petersburg 2005) I like here also to point to the close relationship between RSEE and ESEE. A second challenge for the future is therefore how we can interact with members of RSEE in mutually beneficial activities. A lot of work remains to be done in their part of Europe as well as ours.

**Peter Söderbaum**, professor emeritus, ecological economics, Mälardalen University, Västerås, Sweden.  
[peter.soderbaum@mdh.se](mailto:peter.soderbaum@mdh.se)

## Joan Martinez-Alier European roots and world relevance of Ecological Economics

*Joan Martinez Alier was born in Barcelona, Spain, where he subsequently grew up. He first studied Economics and Law at the University of Barcelona, and went on to take his doctorate in Economics at UAB. Thereafter his research included several years as a Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford, and Visiting Professorships at the Free University of Berlin (1980-81), Stanford University (1989) and Yale University (1999-2000). In 1991 he published 'Ecological Economics', which remains one of the seminal works in modern ecological economics; his most recent text, 'The Environmentalism of the Poor', was published in 2003. He is currently President of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE), a Member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency, and Professor in the Department of Economics and Economic History at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.*

The earlier ecological economists had some European roots. Kenneth Boulding was British by birth and by his education in Oxford. Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen was born in Costanza, Romania in 1906, obtained his doctorate in statistics in Paris in the late 1920s, then moved to London, then to Harvard in the USA, then back to Romania, and finally to the USA in 1948 - a truly European life and destiny. Karl William Kapp was born in Koenigsberg in Prussia in 1910, did his doctorate in Geneva in the early 1930s, moved to New York, and many years after the war and travels in India and other countries, became a professor in Basel. We know the tragedies of Europe. In the ESEE we enjoy today's Europe. I noticed in Lisbon two years ago that there is a joie de vivre in our meetings.

From its beginning in meetings in Paris and Versailles in the early 1990s, the ESEE has always functioned as if the European Research Area of which the authorities in Brussels speak today, was already a reality. We have been funded by European money in our own research activities. Beyond this, there is a real European spirit

# 10 YEARS OF ESEE

## Ecological Economists give their view of 10 years ESEE

in ESEE, not only because Europe today is so much better than in the past but also because there has been European inspiration if not decisive leadership in climate change policy, and in the development of environmental indicators (such as material flows). However, on nuclear issues and world biodiversity, Europe is so far incapable of getting its act together.

The ESEE is doing well, combining physical, economic and social perspectives in the study of the human ecology of our industrial countries. The very rapid economic growth of India and China (not foreseen by many of us) will change many things in the world. There is a race between the growing use of resources (and sinks) and the promises (and uncertain threats) of technological change.

We must analyse situations at the world scale. Europe is sometimes but not always the most important actor, and moreover it is often divided. We must take the positions outside the mainstream seriously, for instance we must consider the recent calls in France and elsewhere for „une décroissance soutenable“ in the rich countries.

We must not necessarily follow the timid European proposals in the world negotiations on climate change but we must instead give consideration to the policy of Contraction, Convergence and Compensation. We must not close our eyes to the loss of biodiversity in the world, and how it will be increased by the misguided European policy in biofuels.

Our research is policy relevant, it can have many different users. We work with total liberty or at least we should. Our theories and findings are available to other researchers and to university students (our main clients) but also to governments and civil society organizations everywhere in the world.

**Joan Martinez-Alier**, Professor at the Department of Economics and Economic History at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

[joan.martinez.alier@uab.es](mailto:joan.martinez.alier@uab.es)

### Friedrich Hinterberger My view of 10 years ESEE

*Friedrich Hinterberger is founding president of SERI and has great experience in the research of ecological economics, both in national and international projects, including their coordination. His domains include economic aspects of resource use and policy-oriented analysis of the environment-competitiveness inter-linkages as well as quality of life research. He has published on Environmental and Ecological Economics as well as on Social Policy.*

I have been a member of ESEE from its very beginnings. The idea to form a European branch of ISEE had been developed by a group around Jan van der Straaten. Its foundation at the inaugural conference in Versailles in 1996 was decided at a programmatic workshop on "Socio-ecological Economics" I had organized together with Inge Ropke, Michael Jacobs and Jan van der Straaten in Wuppertal in 1995. Some 30 ecological economists from all over Europe attended and welcomed the offer by Sylvie Faucheux and Martin O'Connor to host the inaugural conference. This was the conceptional basis for a European Society of Ecological Economics as part of the ISEE.

It is great to see what has happened ever since. I am especially grateful to the three presidents of ESEE for their hard work and great success in developing the Society through occasionally not so easy waters: Sylvie Faucheux, Clive Spash and Arild Vatn. Without their and their teams' immense efforts, ESEE would not have survived its 10th anniversary. Of course, a living society keeps alive only when it is built on a broad basis of supporters. It is thus good to see every election period to bring about a new list of very capable candidates for ESEE officers.

Of course, ESEE's highlights were the (almost) bi-annually held conferences in Geneva (1998), Wien (2000), Lisboa (2005) and now Leipzig, as well as the 2000 ISEE conference in Tunisia which was organized

with considerable support from the European Society. I am also grateful for the efforts of all local organizers and their teams.

With all its activities, ESEE has made important contributions to constructing a sound theoretical and empirical basis for sustainability policies in Europe. In order to fulfill its commitments for global sustainable development, Europe has to reduce its natural resource imports and related negative environmental impacts in other world regions and to contribute towards a more equitable world-wide distribution of the gains from globalization. ESEE has been playing an important role in developing further the main concepts that underlie these policies.

I am convinced that another interesting and successful decade of joint activities is lying ahead of us!

**Friedrich Hinterberger**, President of SERI, Vienna.  
[fritz.hinterberger@seri.at](mailto:fritz.hinterberger@seri.at)

# EDUCATION



## European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ECEEE) 2007 Summer Study: Saving energy-Just do it! (4-9 June 2007, Cote d'Azur, France)

The 8th ECEEE Summer Study will provide policy-makers, researchers, activists and professionals with the most recent insight in energy efficiency thinking and practices.

Papers at the Summer Study will be presented and discussed during nine thematic panels. Each panel has one or two panel leaders, recognised experts in their fields, to select abstracts, help authors develop high-quality papers, organise and animate the debate during the Summer Study.

The nine thematic panels are:

- Panel 1: The Foundations of a future energy policy (Longer term strategies)
- Panel 2: Strategies and general policies (Current and planned policies and initiatives)
- Panel 3: Local and regional activities (Close to the action)
- Panel 4: Monitoring and evaluation (Reality or illusions – how can we tell?)
- Panel 5: Energy efficient buildings
- Panel 6: Products and appliances
- Panel 7: Making industries more energy efficient: cutting the high cost of energy
- Panel 8: Transport and mobility
- Panel 9: Dynamics of consumption

For more information, please contact:

eceee 2007 Summer Study

The conference managers

c/o ICE

Phone: +33 1 4922 0064

Fax: +33 1 4922 0066

Email: [summerstudy@eceee.org](mailto:summerstudy@eceee.org) or visit [http://www.eceee.org/summer\\_study/](http://www.eceee.org/summer_study/)



## ALTER-Net Summer School 2007 „Trends in Biodiversity: European Ecosystems and Policy“ (1-13 September, 2007, Peyresq, France)

The summer school will be held at Peyresq, Alpes de Haute-Provence, France and is administered by the Potsdam Institute

for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Germany.

### Conveners:

Wolfgang Cramer, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany; Rik Leemans, University of Wageningen, Netherlands; Dagmar Schröter, Umweltbundesamt, Vienna, Austria and Clark University, Worcester, USA Sabine Lütke-meier, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany.

### Set-up of the Summer School:

The ALTER-Net EU Network of Excellence will organize its second summer school from 1st to 13th September 2007 in Peyresq, Alpes de Haute-Provence, France. The topic this year is „Trends in Biodiversity: Ecosystems and Policy“. The school is a unique opportunity to explore this important issue with 32 like-minded post-graduate students and young scientists mostly from Europe. About 22 speakers will give presentations on this subject in the morning and late afternoon. In the afternoon working groups will apply what they have learned in their case studies study with different themes.

### The Summer School Objectives:

The ALTER-Net Summer School will contribute to durable integration and spread of excellence within and beyond the network, with a view to promote interdisciplinary approaches. The 2007 Summer School will focus on:

- \* Biodiversity in Europe - state of the art;
- \* Monitoring and assessment;
- \* Modelling and scale issues;
- \* Sociological modeling;
- \* Resilience of systems and communities (social and natural);
- \* Policy analysis and processes;
- \* Discourse analysis;
- \* Linking biodiversity research with policy and the public.

Details can be found at <http://www.pik-potsdam.de/alter-net/> or on the ALTER-Net website, [www.alter-net.info](http://www.alter-net.info)

## ALTER-Net Training Course "An Introduction to Ecological-economic Modelling for Designing and Evaluating Biodiversity Conservation Policies and Strategies" 16-22 September 2007, Bad Schandau (Nationalpark Sächsische Schweiz, Germany)

The course offers an introduction into the main ecological and economic concepts of conservation as well as ecological-economic modelling. Emphasis is placed on both lectures and active teamwork on gi-

## Summer Schools, Trainings, Programmes

ven manageable modelling projects.

The intended topics of the schedule include: a) (Brief) Introduction to basic economics and basic ecology; b) Introduction to conservation biology and conservation economics; c) Ecological, economic and ecological-economic modelling: potential and pitfalls; d) Lectures and practical work.

Contact for registration:

Dr. Martin Drechsler

phone: ++49-341-235-2039

fax: ++49-341-235-3500

For more information visit: <http://www.ufz.de/index.php?de=3488>



## EASY-ECO Krakow Training (5-14 September 2007) The Sendzimir Foundation, Poland)

The EASY-ECO Krakow Training is the fourth in the EASY-ECO 2005-2007 series of trainings and conferences, providing possibility for young researchers to enhance their knowledge and competences in different forms of evaluation and impact assessment of sustainability, and to collect practical experiences from case studies. The training will be hosted by the Sendzimir Foundation in Poland and will take place from 5 to 14 Sept 2007. The event location will be the Polish Academy of Sciences conference centre in Krakow, Poland (only 15 km from the major city of Krakow).

The overall effect of EASY-ECO will be to strengthen European sustainability at all levels and to provide a stimulating educational programme for young people working in the sustainability evaluation field. For further details on the aims of the training, or for further information concerning administrative details (e.g. bookings, accommodation), please contact:

Tomasz Bergier

Tel.: +48126342914

Fax: +48126330717

e-mail: [tbergier@agh.edu.pl](mailto:tbergier@agh.edu.pl)

for more information: [www.easy-eco.eu](http://www.easy-eco.eu)

## Postgraduate Programme (Master of Science) Coastal Management for the Mediterranean. 2008.

This is a inter-university postgraduate programme where four public universities of the Mediterranean and one UNEP centre are participating (Cairo University,

# EDUCATION / JOBS

## Summer Schools, Trainings, Programmes Job Openings

Egypt; University Ca' Foscari, Italy; University of Split, Croatia; PAC/RAC, Croatia, University Pablo de Olavide, Spain) funded under the TEMPUS Programme. It offers a flexible distance e-learning Programme; the pre-inscription will be open shortly. Applicants should possess one of the following: a degree in appropriate subject or combination of subjects (Environmental Sciences or Engineering, Geography, Oceanography, Chemistry, Biology).

For more information visit: <http://www.educom-med.org/course/CourseWeb.htm>

### Call for applications: Marie Curie Training Course on Resource Property (24-25 September, Romania)

The Institute of Agricultural Economics, Bucharest, and Humboldt University, Berlin organize a training course on resource property to take place in Sinaia, Romania, on 24-29 September 2007. The course will review key concepts in property theory and introduce applications in various fields, including agriculture, forestry, water management, and biodiversity conservation. Participants will also receive guidance on how to develop concrete proposals for research on property in agriculture and the natural resource sector. The invited lecturers are Dr. Stefan Dorondel (Romanian Academy of Sciences), Dr. Ivan Penov (Agricultural University Plovdiv), Dr. Mara Rusu (Institute of Agricultural Economics, Bucharest), and Thomas Sikor (Ph.D., Humboldt University, Berlin). Participants should have a background in the social sciences, preference being given to junior researchers enrolled in postgraduate and doctoral programs. They are eligible for full funding under the Marie Curie Program if they have completed their first university degree within the past four years.

The deadline for applications is June 15th, 2007. Applications need to include a short CV and a one-page proposal for research on property in agriculture or the natural resource sector. Please send applications and inquiries to Ms. Sandra Polsfuhs at the Junior Research Group on Postsocialist Land Relations, Luisenstr. 56, 10117 Berlin, Fax.: +49-30-2093-6427, Email: [polsfuhs@hotmail.com](mailto:polsfuhs@hotmail.com). For further information please visit <http://mace-events.org/mace/mace.html>.

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### Social Scientist – Resource Use Transitions

CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems is seeking an innovative social scientist to contribute to the development of social systems analysis. He or she will explore the capacities of social sciences to contribute their skills to the interdisciplinary endeavour of sustainability science and will contribute to develop a coherent theoretical and methodological framework to describe and to understand the dynamics of fast changing socio-ecological systems across various levels of scale and in various social formations in Australia and the Pacific. We are searching for a systems oriented analysis of the social system and of the co-evolutionary dynamic between social and

ecological systems that will guide our empirical research for identifying intervention points for a sustainability transition. The successful applicant will have a sound conceptual knowledge of social systems, of the fundamental character of society-nature interaction, the notion of cultural evolution and co-evolution. He or she will be able to work with communities, regions and the policy sector in Australia and the Pacific, and to work as part of an interdisciplinary team.

Closing date for applications is June 10, 2007. For further details please visit [www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au) (careers/positions vacant/reference number 2007/146) or contact: Dr Heinz Schandl, (02) 6242 1673, [heinz.schandl@csiro.au](mailto:heinz.schandl@csiro.au)

### RESOLVE (ESRC Research Group on Lifestyles Values and Environment) is offering 5 PhDs:

- PhD in Carbon Footprinting
- PhD in Psychology of Energy Behaviours
- PhD in Sociology of Lifestyles
- PhD in Lifestyle Scenarios
- PhD in Energy/Carbon Governance

These awards are open to UK residents, or EU residents who have lived in the UK for over three years. Candidates should hold a relevant first degree and

have completed, or be in the process of completing, a relevant masters degree. Maintenance grants for ESRC studentships are currently worth £12,300 per annum (2006-07) and do not attract income tax or NI.

Interested candidates can find an application pack at [www.surrey.ac.uk/resolve](http://www.surrey.ac.uk/resolve) or by contacting Wendy Day ([w.day@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:w.day@surrey.ac.uk)). Completed applications should be returned by Thursday 14th June 2007.

### Environmental Economist (Natural Hazards)

NIWA, Hamilton, New Zealand

NIWA is a leading environmental research and consultancy institute and a key provider of atmospheric, freshwater and marine research in New Zealand. This is an exciting opportunity to undertake applied research on the economic consequences of natural hazard events, primarily relating to weather, climate and coastal related hazards. It will involve leading, developing and integrating a broad range of economic analytical techniques within our natural hazard research programme and consultancy work, and where required in other environmental areas within NIWA, such as related to climate change and energy, resource use and management, and environment impact assessment.

Our ideal candidate will have at least 5 years research and consultancy experience in at least one or more of the following areas: risk analysis; loss modelling; cost/benefit analysis; non-market valuation; environmental, natural resources or agricultural economics. Knowledge of the New Zealand economic sectors and the insurance and re-insurance industry would be beneficial. You must have the ability to work within, and project manage a multi-disciplinary team, have clear and concise communication skills, be conscientious and have the ability to interact and communicate positively with a wide range of people.

A position description, online applications and further information about NIWA can be found at [www.niwa.co.nz/careers](http://www.niwa.co.nz/careers). Applications close 5.00pm 22 June 2007.

# PUBLICATIONS

Vatn, A. (2007). **Institutions and the Environment**. Cheltenham, Edward Elgar. 496 pp. Paper back version of the 2005 hard cover edition.

The book develops an institutional response to the core issues raised in public policy making and develops a distinct understanding of the role of institutions, not least in the study of environmental problems. It questions: how are conflicting interests shaped and taken into account in policy making? How should they be accounted for? What motivates the behaviour of firms and individuals, and how is it possible to change these motivations to produce the favoured common outcomes? The author addresses these questions by integrating elements from classical institutional economics, neoclassical economics, sociology and ecological economics. He argues that public policy in general, and environmental policy in particular, are best examined from an institutional perspective. In this way, the author presents a distinct and consistent alternative to standard neoclassical economics for students and scholars who are interested in an institutional understanding of environmental policy making. The book is written in a clear and accessible style with boxes and figures to help explain the issues and, as such, would be an ideal alternative or supplement to the standard environmental economics texts.

Order at: [http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/bookentry\\_main.lasso?id=2826](http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/bookentry_main.lasso?id=2826)

Van den Bergh, J., Faber, A., Idenburg, A., Oosterhuis F. (2007). **Evolutionary Economics and Environmental Policy: Survival of the Greenest**, Edward Elgar Publ., Cheltenham.

This study offers a unique evolutionary economics perspective on energy and innovation policies in the wider context of a social-technical transition to sustainable development. The book opens with a brief overview of evolutionary economics and an analysis of general environmental policy implications of evolutionary economics. In addition, it applies the developed evolutionary-economic framework to critically examine current Dutch environmental and innovation policies and policy documents, and to systematically evaluate three specific energy technologies, namely fuel cells, nuclear fusion and photovoltaic cells. The study results in a number of very specific policy recommendations, which to some extent conflict with current policy advice and practice.

The book can be ordered at [http://www.e-elgar-environment.com/Bookentry\\_main.lasso?id=12511](http://www.e-elgar-environment.com/Bookentry_main.lasso?id=12511)

Deutsch, L., Gräslund, S., Folke, C., Trollell, M., Huitric, M., Kautsky, N., Lebel, L. (2007). **Feeding aquaculture growth through globalization: Exploitation of marine ecosystems for fishmeal**. *Global Environmental Change*, Vol. 17, Iss. 2, 238-249 pp.

Like other animal production systems, aquaculture has developed into a highly globalized trade-dependent industry. A major part of aquaculture technology requires fishmeal to produce the feed for farmed species. By tracing and mapping patterns of trade flows globally for fishmeal we show the aquaculture industry's increasing use of marine ecosystems worldwide. We provide an in-depth analysis of the growth decades (1980--2000) of salmon farming in Norway and shrimp farming in Thailand. Both countries, initially net exporters of fishmeal, increased the number of import source nations of fishmeal, peaking in the mid-1990s. Thailand started locally and expanded into sources from all over the globe, including stocks from the North Sea through imports from Denmark, while Norway predominantly relied on northern region source nations to feed farmed salmon. In 2000, both have two geographically alternate sources of fishmeal supply: the combination of Chile and Peru in South America, and a regional complement. We find that fishmeal trade for aquaculture is not an issue of using ecosystems of the South for production in the North, but of trade between nations with industrialized fisheries linked to productive marine ecosystems. We discuss the expansion of marine ecosystem appropriation for the global aquaculture industry and observed shifts in the trade of fishmeal between marine areas over time. Globalization, through information technology and transport systems, has made it possible to rapidly switch between marine areas for fishmeal supply in economically connected food producing systems. But the stretching of the production chain from local to global and the ability to switch between marine areas worldwide seem to undermine the industry's incentives to respond to changes in the capacity of ecosystems to supply fish. For example, trade information does not reveal the species of fish that the fishmeal is made of much less its origins and there is lack of feedback between economic performance and impacts on marine ecosystem services. Responding to environmental feedback is essential to avoid the trap of mining the marine resources on which the aquaculture industry depends. There are grounds to suggest the need for some global rules and institutions that create incentives for seafood markets to account for ecosystem support and capacity.

Download at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2006.08.004>

Pyakuryal, B., Sainju, R.S. (2007). **Nepal's Conflict: A Micro Impact Analysis on Economy**, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The book is based on the impact analysis as a case study of Nepal's decade-long conflict with the financial support from Asia Foundation/USAID. The issues for micro-level impacts were especially service delivery, local economic growth and marginal livelihoods. The book contains projected macroeconomic scenario under continuing conflict and peace.

Two books have been recently published by IWA as a result of the ADVISOR project. The references are:

**Integrated Evaluation for Sustainable River Basin Governance- ADVISOR**

Editor(s): Nuno Videira, Giorgos Kallis, Paula Antunes and Rui Santos

Publication Date: 2007.

**Integrated Deliberative Decision Processes for Water Resources Planning and Evaluation**

Editor(s): Giorgos Kallis, Nuno Videira, Paula Antunes and Rui Santos

Publication Date: 2007.

Abstract and ordering information are available in: <http://www.iwapublishing.com/>

Inge Røpke has made a collection of her papers on consumption: „**Consumption and environment - ecological economic perspectives**“, 2006, 193 pages. It is available from the author as a pdf-file, email: [ir@ipl.dtu.dk](mailto:ir@ipl.dtu.dk).

A new report is now available from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) entitled „**Valuing the Environment in Small Islands - An Environmental Economics Toolkit**“. It is available at <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4065>. The purpose of this toolkit is to demonstrate how to estimate the economic value of the benefits that the environment provides to people in small islands, and incorporate these values into decisions. It is designed to be accessible and user-friendly for stakeholders without previous experience in this area.

The toolkit was developed in collaboration with a group of pioneering partners in Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat. These UK Overseas Territories plan to undertake environmental valuation studies over the next few years, but have no, or only limited, knowledge of environ-

# PUBLICATIONS

mental economics. Although a large number of guides already exist on aspects of environmental valuation, none of these references specifically focus on the issues and needs of small islands. The toolkit was developed to address this gap.

We are grateful for support for this work from the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) of the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development.

Paper copies can be requested from:

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**Kronenberg, J. (2007), *Ecological Economics and Industrial Ecology: a Case Study of the Integrated Product Policy of the European Union*, London and New York: Routledge.**

Research into how products are made, how they are used, what happens to them at the end of their useful lives and the environmental impact of each of these phases is the basis of product-oriented environmental policies and specifically the Integrated Product Policy (IPP) of the European Union. This book offers a new way of looking at environmental policy, concentrating on the conceptual background of ecological economics and industrial ecology.

In this topical and critical review, Jakub Kronenberg offers both an introduction to the relationship between ecological economics and industrial ecology and a selection of recommendations for a product-oriented environmental policy, based on his detailed case study of the IPP. This holistic approach to economy-environment interactions contributes greatly to the development of a consistent body of knowledge regarding sustainable development.

This book will be of interest to academics and policy makers alike, specifically those engaged with the concepts surrounding sustainable development and the rationale for more restrictive environmental policies.

*Jakub Kronenberg is Lecturer in the Department of International Economics at the University of Lodz, Poland.*

**Soma, K. (2006). *Natura economica in environmental valuation*. *Environmental Values*, vol. 15, issue 1, pp 31-50**

Cost-benefit analysis is widely acknowledged to be an appropriate tool for pro-

viding advice to policy makers on the optimal use and management of natural resources. However, a great deal of research has indicated that the assumptions made in cost-benefit analysis concerning the natural environment diverge from real world observations.

In this paper I discuss these observed divergences. To do so, I introduce the concept of *Natura economica*. *Natura economica* is the environment as it is understood in economic analysis in general, and cost-benefit analysis in particular, namely as a bundle of commodities with potential market value.

I argue that if this understanding of nature and its value is very different from what is generally observed, it reduces the value of the resulting policy recommendations. I then suggest four questions that policy makers should ask when they evaluate their choice of appraisal methods. If the answer is 'yes' to all of them, then cost-benefit analysis can provide valid information. However, if the answer to any of these questions is 'no', other methods, such as multicriteria analysis and participatory processes, should be considered in order to arrive at better-founded policy recommendations.

Link to download:

[http://docstore.ingenta.com/cgi-bin/ds\\_deliver/1/u/d/ISIS/37753572.1/whp/ev/2006/00000015/00000001/art00002/CA9B70894D1B166118008448731523B08904E8E6B.pdf?link=http://www.ingenta-connect.com/error/delivery&format=pdf](http://docstore.ingenta.com/cgi-bin/ds_deliver/1/u/d/ISIS/37753572.1/whp/ev/2006/00000015/00000001/art00002/CA9B70894D1B166118008448731523B08904E8E6B.pdf?link=http://www.ingenta-connect.com/error/delivery&format=pdf)

**Kledal, P. R., QIAO Y. H., Egelyng H., Halberg N., Yunguan, X. (2007). *Organic food & farming in China*. In Willer, H. & Y., Minou, Eds. (2007) *The World of Organic Agriculture - Statistics and Emerging Trends 2007*. International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), DE-Bonn and Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, FiBL, CH-Frick**

**Egelyng, H., Jensen, H.H. (2006). *Towards a global research programme for organic farming*. Book Chapter (11). In: N. Halberg, H.F. Alrøe, M.T. Knudsen and E.S. Kristensen. *Global Development of Organic Agriculture: Challenges and Promises*. CABI. [http://www.cabi.org/bk\\_BookDisplay.asp?PID=1937](http://www.cabi.org/bk_BookDisplay.asp?PID=1937).**

**Kontoleon, A., Pascual, U., Swanson, T. (2007). *Biodiversity Economics. Principles, Methods and Applications*. London/ Cambridge.**

Human induced biodiversity loss is greater now than at any time in human history,

with extinctions occurring at rates hundreds of times higher than background extinction levels. The field of biodiversity economics analyses the socio-economic causes of and solutions to biodiversity loss by combining the disciplines of economics, ecology and biology. This field has shown a remarkable degree of transformation over the past four decades and now incorporates the analysis of the entire diversity of biological resources within the living world. Biodiversity Economics presents a series of papers that show how bio-economic analysis can be applied to the examination and evaluation of the problem of various forms of biodiversity loss. Containing state-of-the-art bio-economic research by some of the leading practitioners in the field, this volume will be an essential research tool to those working on biodiversity issues in the academic, policy and private sectors.

- Provides comprehensive coverage of all areas of biodiversity economics
- Contains contributions from many of the most respected figures in the field
- Can be used as a reference manual or handbook

## **SOMETHING DIFFERENT**

*Thomas Legendre (a member of the US-SEE) published recently a novel called "The Burning" published by Little Brown in 2006.*

"The Burning" features a main character who becomes an ecological economist, as well as numerous quotes and discussions of Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen's work. In fact, the novel's epigraph (quotation immediately after the title page) comes from "The Entropy Law and the Economic Process."

Stephen Amidon has said of this novel in the *New Statesman*, "Combining a radical critique of neoclassical economics with a story of marital strife might not seem a promising recipe for a first novel. It is a measure of Thomas Legendre's skill that he manages to make this strange hybrid work in *The Burning*, a novel that mixes a spirited challenge to our faith in economic growth with a full-blooded tale of infidelity and romantic redemption...". According to Bernardo Aguilar-Gonzalez, Tom has provided for Ecological Economics a wonderful service: the translation of our theories into language for the people in a work of fiction. This may be one of those valuable cultural wedges that stand between great theories and effective socioecological change.

# TAKE NOTE

## Food for Thought

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

compiled by  
Esther Velazquez Alonso

It is still surprising how Goethe (1749-1832), centuries ago, defined a way of understanding the world that we could today identify with some of the principles of Ecological Economics. We collect here some of this author's quotations on which the previous reflection can be appreciated.

What is it that everybody speaks of liberality and wants to prevent the others from thinking and expressing their own way?

#### On Nature's Interactions

In living Nature nothing occurs that is not related with the whole (...) and the question is: how can we find the relation between those phenomena, those events?

Theory itself is useful for nothing, except for its capacity to convince us of the interrelation of phenomena. The day will come when intelligent students will totally discard mechanistic and atomist concessions in favour of a vision of all phenomena as dynamic and chemical processes.

#### On Observation

And those individual observations are (...) all the more valuable the lesser the observer's professional attachment to a particular field of Science (...). As soon as someone affiliates to a specific and strict scientific creed, all prejudice-ridden observation disappears (...). In an orchestral performance, a professional musician can hear every instrument and each individual sound, whereas someone unfamiliar with this art feels enveloped by the massive effect of the whole. Someone whose only intention is enjoyment sees in a green or flowered meadow just a pleasant view, while the botanist's eye discovers the infinite details of the most diverse plants and herbs (...) and thus in Science we find people who neither see nor hear, by virtue of studying and formulating hypotheses.

The phenomenon is not independent of the observer, more likely it is gobbled up by him and entangled in his individuality.

He who has a phenomenon before his eyes usually thinks further; he who has just heard it told thinks nothing.

#### On Hypotheses

No hypothesis can claim to be valuable as long as it does not gather many phenomena under one concept.

Hypotheses are lullabies with which the master sends his disciples to sleep.

Hypotheses are scaffolding erected before the building and removed once the building is ready. They are indispensable for the worker; but the scaffolding must not be confused with the building.

#### On Quantification and Mathematics

I accept that Mathematics are the most sublime and useful of all sciences, as long as they are applied in their right space (...). As if things in reality only existed if they could be mathematically demonstrated.

Mathematical formulae can be applied very comfortably and happily in many cases, but every time something clumsy and stiff remains in them, and we soon perceive their insufficiency, because even in elementary cases we realize the presence of what is immeasurable.

The big task would be to expel mathematical-philosophical theories from those areas of Physics which, instead of promoting it, impede knowledge, and on which mathematical treatment has found such a perverted application, due to the characteristic unilaterality of the development of recent scientific education.

*From: Naydler, Jeremy (Eds.) (2002). „Goethe y la Ciencia“. Siruela, Madrid.*

Editorial: This newsletter was edited and created by SERI (Johannes Frühmann, Fritz Hinterberger, Ines Omann, Stefanie Schabhüttl, Andrea Stocker)



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