



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 that are 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.

TunISEE 2002 all set to make a splash in March - book now!

Exciting times are ahead with the TunISEE 2002 conference just a month away. From March 6-9, Sousse, Tunisia will play host to the ISEE's biennial gathering, bringing ecological economists from around the world to the shores of the Mediterranean. More than 250 papers are scheduled in addition to semi-plenaries on a wide range of topics. The location promises a rich cultural exchange and will lend a special focus to scheduled sessions on water resources, tourism and regional agriculture.

If you have not already registered for the conference please do so as soon as possible - Don't delay! The full conference programme is now available on the conference website and payments can be made on-line or by fax with credit card. Sousse is well served by Monastir airport which is only a few miles from the conference venue at the splendid Riadh Palms Hotel. For all details see:

<http://www.ecoleconeurope.org/ISWEEtunisia2002.html>

Elections bring in new faces to Board and support the new Constitution

Three new members were elected to the Administrative Board of the ESEE by postal vote in December, together with the re-election of long-standing member Mario Giampietro. Jesus Ramos Martin, a doctoral student at Barcelona, was elected as Student Representative with 23 votes (representing 45 per cent of the student membership). Sigrid Stagl, newly appointed lecturer at Leeds University, was elected with 51 votes (22 per cent) and Felix Rauschmayer, researcher at the Centre for Environmental Research, Leipsiz, was elected with 47 votes (21 per cent). Their elections will help to strengthen the board and they are warmly welcomed.

Voting to accept the new constitution of the ESEE took place at the same time as Board elections and all of those voting - 61 members (accounting for 27 per cent of the

membership eligible to vote) - were in favour of adopting the new constitution. While there were no votes against the proposed changes, (which were predominantly to bring the Society into line as an association under UK law following the move of the Secretariat from France to the UK, and to coordinate with the ISEE constitution), currently a vote of thirty per cent of the membership ought to be received in order to make changes to the constitution.

After discussion, and recognizing that there were no votes against adoption of the new constitution, the ESEE Board proposes to adopt the new constitution subject to no objections now being raised by the membership. It is proposed therefore that if no objections are received by March 1, 2002, then the new constitution shall be adopted. If

COMMITTEES

Developments in ESEE Administration and Committee Work

ESEE 2001 Administrative Board Members

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Student Representative
Jesus Ramos-Martin

A warm welcome to the Society's new Board Members, Jesus Ramos Martin (Student Rep), Sigrid Stagl, and Felix Rauschmayer.

And congratulations to John Proops (Keele, UK) who became President of ISEE as of January 1, 2002. We look forward to the continued development of ESEE, and its relations with ISEE, in the period ahead.

Comment: Building Theory within Ecological Economics - A Way Forward?

Can ecological economics become a field for active and creative theory building? Is it possible for us to find a road between on the one side a highly abstract theory that is closed in its axioms, and on the other side a collection of engaged, but 'mere story tellers'? I both hope and believe so. In this last comment originating on the basis of some observations at the Cambridge Frontiers Conference last summer, I would like to sketch some ideas.

The main focus for ecological economics research should be foremost on choices - both what determines choices, and what consequences those choices will have under various contexts. While economic theory is normally built on an idea of context independent rationality, our research programme should aim at understanding how the structure of various contexts and choice situations influences what it is reasonable to do. Here we will certainly have to mix insights from economics, sociology, culture theory and ecology, among others, to study the specific challenges that choices within the realm of the environment present to us.

At one level this is rather simple. A basic framework for accumulating insights could be based on the following elements characterizing any choice situation:

- * the character of the problem;
- * the character of the choice situation, and
- * the characteristics of those making choices.

Certainly, our focus will be on environmental problems, exactly those that pose the greatest challenges for choice, since the issues are enormously complex and rationality is so strongly dependent on the situation. It is here that ecological economists have their comparative advantage: the ability to understand the characteristics of the

problems and choice situations well. We like to explore these features and capture heterogeneity. This is opposed to those who like to use the same concepts and problem descriptions across all contexts - e.g., understanding every situation really as a market transaction. Thus, in the ecological economics perspective, choice situations are heterogeneous and are furthermore assumed to evoke different logics or rationalities amongst those choosing.

To structure this further, we need to start by developing a common way to describe or categorize problems, choice situations and actors. Important dimensions would have to cover the types of complexities involved, the types of institutions existing, the types of values involved etc. In this way we could develop a structure that is open enough to explicitly cover different logics, but still closed enough to make comparisons and accumulation possible. I believe it is very important - at least at this stage - to get a better understanding of what shapes human values, and to be able to produce good empirical research supporting the development of alternative tools for supporting choice.

I do not believe all researchers within ecological economics can find themselves satisfied working with environmental choices as described above. Certainly, there is more to the story. Still, I do believe this is an area that is important enough to engage many of us together.

Do we produce action from this? Do we change the world? Maybe, not directly. What I am talking about is foremost an academic endeavour. Still, by understanding choices better, and by being able to break the hegemony of certain choice theories - not least orthodox economics - we should be able

*News from the
Community Research and
Development
Service*

COMMISSION NEWS

EU-funded project launches latest transport innovation - driverless taxis

An innovative type of driverless taxi which runs on tracks, developed under the EU-funded project EDICT (Evaluation and Demonstration of Innovative City Transport), has been launched in Cardiff, UK. Named ULTra (urban light transport), the vehicles were developed by Professor Lowson of Bristol University. Cardiff City Council is funding detailed studies on the use of ULTra with a view the system becoming operational in 2003.

The ULTra cars are designed to carry four persons and have a gross weight of 800 kg. The cars will be able to carry passengers non-stop to any station on the network on rails, either raised or at ground level. The system offers a reduction in energy consumption, emissions and traffic congestion compared with existing forms of transport, at a capital cost which may approach only one third of conventional light rail. Studies also suggest that the cost of mature systems can be recovered from fares. As most transport accidents are caused by driver error, ULTra also offers higher levels of reliability and safety.

For further information on ULTra, see: <http://www.atsltd.co.uk>

Ice team records Antarctica temperature rise in last 170,000 years

Recent data obtained by a team of 22 scientists working on the EU project EPICA (European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica) has shown that the Antarctic is 10 degrees Celsius warmer than 170,000 years ago.

The scientists are involved in a seven year project using the climate record obtained from ice to investigate the relationship between the chemistry of the atmosphere and climate changes over the past 500,000 years, particularly the effects of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides.

Early in January the team drilled through 2002 metres of ice at Dome Concordia, high on East Antarctica's plateau. A specially created laboratory on the ice allowed scientists to analyse past climate shifts within hours of the drilling, instead of sending samples back to laboratories in Europe and waiting for results.

For further information, see:

<http://www.antarctica.ac.uk>

Report on EU atmospheric research highlights increase in 'mini' ozone holes

An assessment report on European research into the stratosphere has concluded that the occurrence of mini ozone holes over Europe is on the increase.

The increase in the frequency of ozone 'mini-holes' over Europe is linked in the report to climatic changes and atmospheric circulation in the north Atlantic and Europe. The report also reveals conflicting trends for two of the gases responsible for ozone depletion - bromine, which is on the increase, and chlorine, which is expected to reach pre-ozone hole levels in around 50 years time.

Approval has recently been given to 12 new EU research projects on ozone, UV radiation and aviation impacts, worth E19.4 million.

For further information, please contact: Georgios Amanatidis Environment and Sustainable Development programme Research DG Tel: +32-2-2958815. E-mail: georgios.amanatidis@cec.eu.int or see: <http://www.ozone-sec.ch.cam.ac.uk>

Agriculture Council adopts European Food Safety Authority

On 21 January the EU Agriculture Council agreed legislation putting in place a new Europe-wide food safety system, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Ministers also adopted a new regulatory framework for EU food law.

The regulation adopted at the Agriculture Council sets out the guiding principles of EU food legislation. A key element of this guidance is the responsibility of food and feed companies to ensure that only safe food and feed is placed on the market, as well as rules imposing the traceability of all foodstuffs, animal feed and food ingredients and procedures for developing food law and dealing with food emergencies. The regulations will also set up a rapid alert system by integrating information on contaminated feed into the existing rapid alert system for food.

For further information see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/efa/index_en.html

Calls made for research programme into

impact of cloning on animal health

Professor Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Institute in Scotland, one of the scientists responsible for Dolly the cloned sheep, has called for a research programme to establish the impact of cloning on animal health, following the revelation that Dolly has arthritis at just five and a half years old.

Professor Wilmut said that the condition may have arisen because of genetic defects caused by the cloning process, although there is no evidence to prove this. News of Dolly's condition came just two days after an offshoot company of the Roslin Institute, PPL, announced that it had produced five pig clones with organs which are unlikely to be rejected by human donor recipients due to the deactivation of the specific gene which causes humans to reject pig organs.

Shares in PPL have fallen since the announcement of Dolly's arthritis, seeing a drop of 17 per cent during early trading on 4 January. Shares rose significantly earlier in the week however, when PPL announced the birth of the cloned piglets, with prices rising by 46 per cent.

European Parliament rejects move to ban human cloning

In November the European Parliament rejected a move to ban human cloning in the EU by 316 votes to 37. Italian MEP Francesco Fiori, who moved the failed resolution, called for new legislation. The move follows an intensification of the debate over human cloning following the announcement by US company Advanced Cell Technology that they have successfully cloned an early-stage human embryo.

During the debate, a split emerged between MEPs who support research into therapeutic cloning and those who totally oppose the use of human embryos for research purposes. Some scientists want to use therapeutic cloning to produce embryos which can be used to harvest stem cells, a potential source of cures for diseases such as multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's.

Candidate State Cyprus has introduced a hasty ban on human cloning, which was approved just 30 minutes after being presented in the country's Parliament to stop one of its doctors from producing a human clone. Meanwhile, the UK is rushing through legislation which will ban reproductive

PROFILE

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

Arild Vatn, ESEE Vice-President, was born and grew up in Inderøy, a rural municipality on a peninsula in Norway's Trondheim Fjord, once described as the Capri of Norway! After obtaining his PhD in 1983, he spent 10 years working as researcher and research coordinator for several Norwegian research programmes funded by the Norwegian Research Council. In 1993 he moved to a new position as Associate Professor at the Agricultural University of Norway and soon afterwards took on his current post as full professor in environmental sciences at the same university. He lives with his family in Ski, a small town 30 km outside Oslo.

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

I grew up in an area with lots of forests and agricultural land. Nearest by the farm where I was borne, there was a small lake and creek where I fished a lot. I liked to go skiing - and could normally do this every year from December til mid April. Marvellous! About the time I left my home to study, we observed heavy degradation of the water quality of both the lake and the small river. This was an effect of agricultural pollution, and may explain - at least partly - my interest for this issue as researcher.

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

My interest in the topic appeared rather early - that is, around the age of 15. When I chose to study at the Agricultural University in my early twenties, it was partly motivated by the same interest. It was really only some 15 years ago that I got the opportunity to start working in the field, though.

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

Oh - this is a long list. I believe Joan Robinson, Kenneth Boulding and Karl Polanyi come high on the list. I also read a lot within the literature of 'underdevelopment' - e.g., Andre Gunder Frank, Johan Galtung etc. Being a student of the 1970s I also read my Marx and certainly Marcuse and Habermas. One of my professors - Sigmund Borgan - also made an important impact on my personal development.

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

Not really. Well, I have gotten the possibility to broaden my engagement - but the basic issue is still with the institutional questions.

Which environmental problems concern you the most at the moment?

I still do research on pollution from agriculture. I also do some work on biodiversity, landscape issues, and I am starting to get engaged in the research on genetically modified organisms. My main interest is still with rationality and behaviour, certainly relating this to the environmental area of study.

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

Get a book on 'Institutions and the Environment' finished. Then I have a huge pile of unread books - I think I would just hide at my cabin for a while. Finally, I would engage in trying to set up a European Summer school in ecological economics.

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

Gandhi.

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

I am realistic! With the type of uncertainties we are facing ahead, I believe there are good reasons for being a bit pessimistic. The problems are mainly related to a decreasing interest in making the necessary institutional changes. It seems like problems must be very visible before there is enough pressure to get any processes going. This does not give the best odds for the environment. But, never give up.

Do religious beliefs influence your life and work?

No - but I do listen often to 'church music'.

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

Traffic related problems, land use conflicts, a weak policy on waste, and very low engagement in environmental issues in a region with a booming economy.

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

Actually, I am rather impressed by the Swedes.

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

I am still rural...

What kinds of music do you listen to?

Different kinds, but I like classical music the best. Favourites are many. I have recently had a period listening to much baroque music - the old masters were good.

How do you relax at the weekend?

Skiing if possible, or maybe fishing in the Oslo fjord. Hopefully with family or friends. I like to walk in the forest too. I have also been doing a lot of construction work over the years - repairing an old house. Still, I also do a lot of job related work in the weekends. It is often necessary to get piles away from my desk...

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

Don't forget from where you come.

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

My mother: Listen to your heart.

TunISEE 2002

Advance details relating to the programme of the International Society Conference, TunISEE 2002.

TunISEE2002 is nearly here and the finishing touches are being put to a wide-ranging programme showing the full diversity of methodologies and outlooks within the ISEE. Here is a taster of what is on offer over the four days. For the full programme with details of parallel paper sessions, visit the TunISEE website: <http://www.ecoleconeurope.org/ISWEEtunisia2002.html>

Keynotes A		Keynotes C	
<p><i>A1 - Ecological Political Economy</i> (President: Mick Common) Bina Agrawal (India) Jean Martinez-Alier (Spain) Jean-Piere Reveret (Canada)</p>	<p><i>A2 - Pan-African Symposium on Energy, Tecnology and Development</i> (President: tbc) Youba Sokona (Senegal) Olivier Rasoldier (Madagascar) Hassinw Dimassi (Tunisia)</p>	<p><i>C1 - Knowledge Systems and Integrative Perspectives</i> (President: Silvio Funtowitz) Per Sorup (EC-JRC, Seville) Anil Gupta (India) + one tbc</p>	<p><i>C2 - Institutions and Politital Sustainability</i> (President: Joachim Spangenberg) Beat Burgenmeier (Switz) Nejib Belaied (Tunisia) Peter Soderbaum (Sweden)</p>
Keynotes B		Keynotes D	
<p><i>B1 - Ecological Economics: Regional Perspectives</i> (President: Richard Noorgard) Panel Discussion (speakers from regional societies)</p>	<p><i>B2 - Safeguarding Ecological Resources</i> (President: Cornelia Nauen) Charles Perrings (UK) Patrice Cayre (France) Round Table: Economics and Governance of Fisheries</p>	<p><i>D1 - Development Strategies and Climate Politics</i> (President: Samir Allal) Moncef ben Abdalhah (Tunsia) Mohan Munasinghe (W Bank) Frank Convery (Ireland) Round Table: Technology,</p>	<p><i>D2 - Deliberative Processes for Governance</i> (President: Arild Vatn) Bruna De Marchi (Italy) Nils Roling (Netherlands) John O'Neill (UK) Round Table: Moot on Governance & Globalisation</p>

Parallel Paper Sessions: Themes

Round I	Natural Patrimony, Cultures and Environmental	Water Resources Accounting	Technology, Waste and Pollution	Sustainability Studies in European Regions	Environmental Space, Economic Development,	Enviromental Policy Instruments I	Energy Systems Economics	Economics, Ecological And Political Globalisation	Water Multi-Criteria Analyses & Stakeholder
Round II	Common Property & Co-Management: International	Environmental Accounting Systems and Applications	Economic Systems Dynamics and Technology	Sustainability Studies from Around the World	Ideas, Epistemologies and Institutions of Ecological	Enviromental Policy Instruments II	Energy and Development	Globalisation	Social Learning on Environmental Issues with ICT
Round III	Patrimony and Environmental Governance: International	Sustainability Indicators and Greened National	Input-Output Modelling Analyses	Brazil Forest Sector Analyses	Ecological Economics: The Social Dimension	Integrated Indicators for Economic and Environmental	Primary Resources and Environment: Brazilian Sector	Tourism and Environment: Corsica and Island	Multi-media Demonstrations for Social Learning on
Round IV	Complexity: Social and Scientific Dimensions	Evaluation Concepts and Methodology	Evolution and Actor Behaviour: relevance to	Rebound Effects, Global Development and the Digital	What is Distinctive about Ecological	Modelling Methods and Applications for	Water Sector Economics	Tourism and Environment	Models, Role Games and Negotiations: Some
Round V	Intergated Assessment Studies in a Perspective of	Social Psychology and Economics in	Evolution, Actor, Behaviour and Innovation:	Agricultural Systems Performance and Indicators	Sources and Challenges for Ecological Economics	Empirical Valuation: Perspectives from Tunisia	Climate Policy: International Equity Issues	Interational Trade and Environment I	Models, Role Games and Negotiations: Methodological
Round VI	Institutions for Water Resources Governance	Empirical Environmental Valuation Studies from the	Evolutionary Political Economy and Ecology	Regionl Agricultural Political Economy	Social and Institutional Dimensions of Sustainable	Sraffian Ecological Economics	Climate Policy: Technical and Institutional Aspects	Interational Trade and Environment II	Institutional Arrangements for Environmental

In Brief

Proops takes the helm!

ISEE President-Elect John Proops took over officially as ISEE President on January 1 2002. His views on the challenges ahead for the Society will be appearing in the ISEE Newsletter soon, so keep an eye open!

English Nature calls on Commission to 'think twice' about GM oilseed rape

The UK government agency English Nature has called on the European Commission to 'think twice' before authorising the use of genetically modified (GM) oilseed rape in the EU, following a study which shows that they can lead to the development of nuisance weeds. A study on GM herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape crops in Canada has revealed that their planting can lead to a process called 'gene stacking,' where genes from separate GM varieties accumulate in plants that grow from seed spilled at harvest (volunteer plants). This can result in cross-pollination between the different varieties of crop and the creation of plants with accumulated genetic traits from different GM varieties.

For further information see:

<http://www.english-nature.org.uk>

EU/Canada and USA research co-operation

Official agreements have been signed between the EC, Canada and the United States to provide co-operation programmes in the area of higher and vocational education and training. Projects that will be supported will be student-focused rather than oriented towards research collaboration between partners. Three types of actions will be supported: consortia implementation projects, consortia preparatory projects and complementary measures.

Calls for proposals close on April 1 2002.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/ec-usa/usa.html>

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/canada/canada.html>

Progress on GMOs expected at Barcelona summit

EU and US officials are reported to be hopeful that the de facto moratorium on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) will be tackled at the Barcelona European Council in March. US Undersecretary of

LOOK ROUND

Each issue we pick up national environmental news from around Europe. This week

France

Phillipe Rouchfort, visiting student at the University of Cambridge, leafs through the environmental world according to *Le Monde*.

Food and farming have been key issues in the French media throughout the last year. At the forefront of public awareness is the Robin Hood figure of Jose Bove, the radical farmer and leader of the Confederation Paysanne who gained notoriety for 'disassembling' a Macdonald's restaurant two years ago in a protest against globalisation of food supplies. Bove has been in and out of court following anti-GM protests in which trials for GM crop were damaged at more than ten locations. Police in riot gear stood guard at some sites but protests were peaceful. The attacks come in the wake of publication of the location of trial sites following a court ruling in March last year that the location of sites was public information.

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin condemned the protests but they have widespread public support. French biotechnology firm Biogemma also filed a lawsuit last September against protestors, adding that around 20 per cent of its trial sites had been damaged in protest actions. Recently Bove himself was sentenced to six months in jail for his part in hacking down modified rice plants, but he walked free from court as he elected to challenge the ruling in the country's highest appeals court, the Cour de Cassation. Meanwhile in July the food safety agency (AFSSA) announced it had found small traces of GM crops, which can only be planted experimentally at present, in conventional crops.

On a more positive note, the government announced in October the creation of a new organic food agency, the 'Agence Bio'. The move is part of the longer term goal of reaching one million organically farmed hectares by 2005; the current total is 370,000 h - just 1.3 per cent of France's total farmed area - but has already doubled from two years ago.

Turning to power issues, nuclear has

received much press attention due to the reprocessing shipments between France and Germany re-commenced early last year. The shipments between the countries were suspended in 1998. Smaller numbers of protestors were in evidence on the French side of the border compared to the large protests in Germany, although there were several delays and police had to remove four protestors at Caen, who had chained themselves to the rails. Meanwhile the public nuclear processing agency Cogema won a cybersquatting case against Greenpeace International, enabling them to have the pressure group evicted from a site bearing the agency's domain name which it claimed was tarnishing its reputation with 'systematic denigrations'. Over 75 per cent of France's energy needs come from nuclear power.

The energy watchdog CRE warned that energy prices will rise significantly following the setting of high guaranteed prices for wind-generated power. The country currently has very little wind power, and the high prices are intended to help kick-start the sector. The cost of subsidising the entire renewables programme will come to 3 or 4 centimes per kilowatt/hour by 2010.

Climatic conditions were noticeable in many respects last year. Paris experienced worrying levels of smog in June, leading to strictly enforced speed limits, with similar measures in Rouen, Strasbourg and Avignon. Exceptionally abundant snowfalls were an environmental bonus for the country's hydroelectricity producers however, with full reservoirs leading to record output levels accounting for 20 per cent of total energy production. But severe flooding in the Somme valley recreated World War One conditions, with the water remaining for weeks in some areas.

On a political front, the Greens have been on a rocky road and ended last year fearful of a calamity at this year's elections. The party was split over the re-opening of the Mont Blanc tunnel, closed since a fire in 1998, and the choice of former Moaist Alain Lipietz as presidential candidate divided voters when Lipietz appeared to be sympathetic to Corsican nationalists jailed as terrorists. The party's support was in danger of declining as low as 3 per cent at the end of the year, with

ND EUROPE

France and Iceland make the headlines.

Iceland

Larus Arnason, researcher at University College London, has a whale of a time looking

Whales have been making waves in Icelandic papers over the past year. In early July Iceland decided to re-join the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which it left in 1992 in protest that the Commission had become an anti-whaling body. Iceland used to kill around 400 whales a year between 1948 and 1985, but last killed a whale in 1989, while the IWC imposed a moratorium on all commercial whaling in 1986.

Following a heated debate however, Icelandic membership was put on hold due to its refusal to sign up to a ban on commercial whaling. Of 38 voting nations, 19 voted to condemn Iceland's position, 3 abstained and 16 refused to participate calling the proposed suspension illegal. In increasingly angry exchanges Greenpeace accused Japan of buying votes with promises of development aid, and Iceland called the move illegal and one which it would ignore. The UK and USA remain the strongest opponents to a resumption of commercial whaling, with the UK banning Norwegian research ships from its 200 mile territorial waters in June to protest against the export of whale products from Norway to Japan.

Meanwhile a report from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), *Whales in the Wild*, suggested that whale watching had become a billion dollar business that outstripped the potential profits from commercial whaling. It estimated that in Iceland the number of watchers rose from 100 in 1990 to 44,000 in 2000. Despite this interest the IWC failed last July to secure a new whale sanctuary in the South Pacific along side the two current in the Indian and Southern Oceans. Although 20 countries were in favor this was below the three-quarters majority needed.

Declining cod stocks are a cause for concern with overfishing seen as a chief cause. The Icelandic economy is strongly linked to

fisheries with marine products accounting for over 60 per cent of merchandise exports and around 10 per cent of the workforce employed in the fishing industry. Recent landings have been estimated at 45 per cent of the fishable stock, as opposed to the target 25 per cent limit; the current stock was wildly over-estimated last year and this has led to the current over-limit catch.

Back on dry land, the imagination of planners has been captured by the prospect of Iceland leading the world with the hydrogen economy. Once considered a topic for cranks, the country is now embracing Bragi Arnason as 'Professor Hydrogen' and initiated a series of multi-million dollar collaborations to assess the possibilities of converting to hydrogen fuel sources. The country already leads the world in renewable energy, with 99 per cent of domestic energy produced from geo-thermal and hydroelectric sources. With only one per cent of the country's estimated geo-thermal capacity at present utilised, there is a sense that the future could be made here.

But problems remain. At the end of last year the government finally approved construction of a giant hydroelectric plant in a wilderness area of East Iceland. The proposed plant would be the biggest in Iceland at 700 megawatts, affecting 11 rivers and creating a 57 mile reservoir. The energy from the plant seems likely to be absorbed by a planned aluminium smelter with a 400,000 ton capacity, a further fear of environmentalists. Pop singer Bjork has added her voice to protests, claiming that the smelter project, a joint venture with Norwegian company Norsk Hydro, will not be to Iceland's benefit.

Recently studies have confirmed that one of the country's tourist attractions, the giant Vatnajökull glacier, is shrinking due to a warmer climate. The glacier is the largest in Europe and covers 8000 square kilometres, nearly 8 per cent of Iceland's land area. If melting of the ice sheet increases, it could lead to severe flooding of the sparsely populated eastern part of the country.

Finally, back to whales. Or rather, one whale, called Willy. Keiko, the orca star who jumps to freedom in the film 'Free Willy', is facing a race against time to adjust to life in the real world after 21 years of captivity. He was captured in the Atlantic at two years old and

In Brief

France approves 10-year plan for research jobs

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin has approved a 10-year plan for scientific employment in France's public research organisations. The plan foresees the creation of 1000 new jobs by 2005, and breaks two current dogmas: the yearly budget cycle and the declining influences of the state. France is expecting a wave of research retirements in the next decade and the plan is intended to secure research capacity and improve the attractiveness of the research profession.

New technology sees rise in EU recycling rate

New technology has assisted in raising recycling rates in the EU, putting the paper industry on course for meeting its target of 56 per cent by 2005, according to the Recycling Director at CEPI (Confederation of European Paper Industries). The current recycling rate is 49.8 per cent in Europe, a figure 1.1 percentage points above the corresponding figure for 1999. Increased investment in new production, improvement in the collection infrastructure and increased recyclability have all contributed, with further improving the collection infrastructure likely to be the most challenging area for future development.

EU-funded hydrogen buses to be introduced in nine European cities

The European Commission has awarded 18.5 million euro to nine European cities for the introduction of hydrogen and fuel cell buses. The nine cities (Amsterdam, Barcelona, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Porto, Hamburg, Stockholm and Stuttgart) will use the buses from 2003.

moved to an Icelandic aquarium. As a result, he has not socialised with other orcas and scientists are now trying to integrate him into a nearby orca pod. Although he swims out to the other whales he returns to his handlers' boats at the end of the day, and the team fear the pod will soon migrate to follow the herring shoals, leaving him behind. Their budget is not endless, and tension is rising that they may not be able to lure Keiko back to the wild, despite reducing his food supply to encourage him to hunt. Jeff Foster, operations director with Ocean Futures organisation, described Keiko's predicament as 'something of a shy

BOOKS

*The Origins of Ecological Economics:
The Bioeconomics of Georgescu-
Roegen*

(Routledge Research in Environmental
Economics 1)

Kozo Mayumi

July 2001

Hardcover: 55 UKP (0415235235)

Routledge, London

Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen deserves to be called the father of ecological economics. This book connects Georgescu-Roegen's earlier work such as consumer choice theory and a critique of the Leontief dynamic model, with his ambitious attempt to reformulate the economic process as "bioeconomics", a theoretical alternative to neoclassical economics.

Contents:

1. Introduction

2. Foundations of Consumer Choice Theory for Environmental Valuation in View of Georgescu-Roegen's Contribution
3. Conditions for Balanced Sustained Growth of the Open Leontief Dynamic Model and Investigation on a Leontief Dynamic Model with Two Delays
4. Information, Pseudo Measures and Entropy: An Elaboration on Georgescu-Roegen's Critique
5. A Critical Appraisal of Two Entropy Theoretical Approaches to Resources and Environmental Problems: Georgescu-Roegen and Tsuchida
6. Embodied Energy Analysis, Sraffa's Analysis, Georgescu-Roegen's Flow-Fund Model and Viability of Solar Technology
7. Land: Achilles Heel of Ecology and Economy
8. Environment and North-South Trade: Another View
9. Modeling Relation, Hierarchical Systems,

*The Daily Globe: Environmental
Change, the Public and the Media*

Joe Smith (ed)

2000

Softback: 14.95 UKP

ISBN: 1 85383 664 8

Earthscan, London

The Daily Globe represents the state of knowledge about media treatment and public understanding of key environmental issues around the world, incorporating a wealth of expertise and insight from distinguished journalists, politicians, researchers and environmentalists. The book offers practical examples of successful new forms of collaboration and communication and lays the foundation for effective future strategies aimed at informing public debate on the choices and challenges presented by global environmental change.

Contents

- Part 1. Global environmental change, the public and the media
- Part 2. Reporting global environmental change
- Part 3. Understanding environment, the public and the media
- Part 4. Making the environmental news

*Land, Law and the Environment:
Mythical Land, Legal Boundaries*

Allen Abramson and Dimitrios

Theodossopoulos (eds)

December 2000

Softback: 15.99 (0 7453 1570 4)

Hardback 45.00 (0 7453 1575 5)

Pluto Press, London

Anthropologists have traditionally viewed land as a resource, emphasising its ecological setting, its technical transformation and legal appropriation. Recent debates, however, have begun to introduce a more cultural perspective.

Contributors to this volume take issue with the 'idealist' approach in which land and landscape - place and space - are read as purely subjective and ultimately poetic. The authors focus on post-colonial legacies in land law, contemporary disputes and land claims surrounding ancestral lands, conservation issues and road protests. They explore the dialectical interplay of these relations in a diverse range of geographical and cultural settings, in Western and Eastern Europe, West Africa, the Carribean, Australia and the Pacific, India and Indonesia. Ten chapters. 232 pages.

*Economics, Ethics and Environmental
Policy: Contested Choices*

**Daniel W. Bromley and Jouni
Paavola (eds.)**

Blackwell, March 2002

Paperback: £ 19.99 ISBN: 0631229698

Hardcover: £ 60.00 ISBN: 063122968X

The book's sixteen chapters by distinguished philosophers and economists from both Europe and North America offer a comprehensive analysis of the ethical problems associated with basing environmental policy on economic analysis, and ways to overcome these problems.

The volume has practical relevance because policy recommendations and choices based on economic analysis are often contested by critics. This book takes their criticism seriously. It seeks to clarify and defend the ethical foundations of environmental economics and examines what lessons environmental economics should draw from the criticism. As a result, the volume improves our understanding of the ethical foundations and implications of economic analysis of environmental problems and policy. The contribution is all the more important because the problem has not been extensively studied.

Contents

- Part I: Introduction.
- Part II: Economics, Ethics and Policy Choices
- Part III: Ethical Concerns and Policy Goals
- Part IV: Ethical Dimensions of Policy Consequences
- Part V: Ethics in Action: Empirical Analyses
- Part VI: Conclusions.

Further details on-line: <http://>

*Ecological Modernisation Around the
World: Perspectives and Critical
Debates*

Arthur Mol and David Sonnenfeld (eds)

July 2000

Softback: 17.50 UKP (07146 8113 X)

Frank Cass, London

At the core of ecological modernisation lies the insight that modern societies are in principle capable of dealing with their environmental crises. This volume brings together various studies on the penetration of ecological modernisation practices around the globe.

Contents

- Part 1. Introduction
- Part 2. Theoretical Perspectives
- Part 3. Case Studies from Around the World

*Research news from
ESEE members around
the world*

RESEARCH NOTES

International workshop
**PROTECTING NATURE ON PRIVATE
LAND - FROM CONFLICTS TO
AGREEMENTS**
12 - 15 June 2002
Lahti, Finland.

The workshop will be interdisciplinary and it is intended for conservation biologists, environmental economists, environmental policy researchers, as well as other scientists working in the field of nature protection. Information on themes and program, instructions for submission of abstracts, and a registration form can be found at the following website:
http://www.efi.fi/events/2002/Protecting_Nature

Please notice that the deadline for abstracts is February 15!

On behalf of the organisers - University of Helsinki and European Forest Institute (EFI) - welcome to the workshop.
Päivi Tikka, PhD
Department of Limnology and Environmental Protection
P.O.Box 62
00014 University of Helsinki

Research report
Revealing the Value of Nature

English Nature are publishing, on 28 January 2002, a report called Revealing the Value of Nature. We are used to describing the scientific value of species and habitats but we need also to explain how natural areas provide important benefits to society, many of which go unrecognised until they are lost. This is what this report is about. It details the ways in which nature provides a resource for us to appreciate, a reservoir of information for us to tap into, products for us to harvest sustainably, and ecosystem services such as flood protection and pollution control. The report is based on an international literature, but focusses on case study examples from England. It shows just how nature conservation contributes to our quality of life. The report is based on the work of de Groot, Costanza and others who have categorised ecosystem services. We have adapted these categorisations to fit the characteristics of England's wildlife and geology. Rather than attempting monetary valuations, we have simply illustrated these categories with case studies. The report is available free from English Nature. To get a copy, telephone English Nature on 0044 1733

International Conference
**Governance and Sustainability - New
Challenges for Government,
Companies and Civil Society**
October 21-22, 2002
Bonn, Germany

Progress towards sustainability is a difficult political task which must involve other societal actors beyond government. This conference will highlight driving forces, organisation, gender aspects, problems and limits, institutions as well as practical examples of governance in different spheres of society and on local, regional, national and international levels. State of the art research as well as views of governments, companies, and civil society will be presented.

Organised by: Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW, Berlin, Germany) in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (Berlin), Center of International Cooperation (Bonn).

Contact: governance@ioew.de

**News from the Australia New Zealand
Society for Ecological Economics**

Wendy Proctor
Secretary, ANZSEE

New ANZSEECOMMITTEE

At the end of 2001 the Australia New Zealand Society for Ecological Economics elected new office bearers and committee members.

President - Philip Sutton
Vice President - Mark Diesendorf
Treasurer - David Stern
Secretary - Wendy Proctor
Committee members

Mike Young
Rosemary James
Padma Lal
Terry A'Hearn

NZ representative: Nigel Jollands

ANZSEE 2002 conference

The conference is being planned for 1-3 July 2002 in Sydney, with abstracts by the end of January. Details will be posted on the ANZ-SEE web site soon! See: <http://cres.anu.edu.au/~dstern/anzsee/ANZSEE.html>

Lessons Drawn From Using the Precautionary Principle

On 10 January 2002, the European Environment Agency (EEA) presented a new report on how the precautionary principle has been used in policy making during the past century. The precautionary principle is one of the guiding principles of EU environmental policy enshrined in the EU Treaty. Its role is to guide decision making in cases where there is uncertainty or ignorance of potential risks. The use of the precautionary principle is not defined in the Treaty. The Commission issued a communication on the application of the principle in February 2000. However, not until now has there been an evaluation of case studies on how the precautionary principle has been used, or not.

The EEA report examines 14 case studies, from Europe and the United States. The conclusions drawn from the report clearly state that inaction, or late action by regulators can have costly and dangerous effects on both human health and the environment. The lessons learned, and the recommendations made, are for example:

- *Respond actively to ignorance, uncertainty and risk in policy making.
- *Avoid allowing regulatory authorities to be captured by vested interests
- *Avoid allowing one substance to monopolise the market (e.g. asbestos, CFCs)
- *Follow-up early warnings

The report and its individual chapters can be downloaded from the EEA web site at <http://reports.eea.eu.int/> Printed copies are also available on request.

CALENDAR EVENTS

February

February 11-15, 2002

2002 Ocean Science Meeting.

Honolulu, Hawaii.

Organised by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO).

March

March 3-8, 2002

Environmental Flows for River Systems.

Cape Town, South Africa.

An international conference on assessment and implementation.

<http://www.southernwaters.co.za>

March 6-9, 2002

TunISEE 2002. The Seventh Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics. Environment and Development.

Sousse, Tunisia.

<http://www.ecoleconeurope.org/ISEEtunisia2002.html>

March 13-15, 2002

Urban Transport and the Environment 2002.

Eighth International Conference on Urban

Transport and the Environment.

Seville, Spain.

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/ut02/>

March 13-15, 2002 (**NEW**)

World Congress of Computers in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.

Sponsored by the Society for Engineering in Agricultural, Food and Biological Systems (ASAE).

<http://www.asae.org/meetings/computer01/index.html>

March 14-16, 2002

'Nature In and Nature Of Multi Criteria Decision Aid'. 55th Workshop of the European Working Group 'Multicriteria Aid for Decisions'.

Leipzig, Germany.

Bilingual Workshop (English-French)

organised by Martin Drechsler

(martind@pinus.oesa.ufz.de) and Felix

Rauschmayer (rauschma@alok.ufz.de).

<http://www.inescc.pt/~ewgmca/>

March 21-22, 2002 (**NEW**)

Outlook 2002: A New Era for Agriculture.

London, UK

Organised by AgraNet, focussing on

European food and agricultural industry.

<http://agra-net.com/NASApp/cs>

March 25-29, 2002

The Seventh International Coastal Symposium.

Templepatrick, Northern Ireland.

Hosted by the Coastal Research Group of

the School of Environmental Studies,

University of Ulster.

<http://www.science.ulst.ac.uk/ics2002/>

April

April 16-19, 2002 (**NEW**)

International Conference on Medicinal Plants, Indigenous Knowledge and Benefit Sharing.

The Hague, Netherlands.

A parallel session of the COP-6 of the CBD.

<http://www.conserveafrica.org>

May

May 21-25, 2002

The International Children's Conference on the Environment.

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

In cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme.

June

June 2-7, 2002

Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environmental Systems.

Dubrovnik, Croatia.

<http://powerlab.fsb.hr/Dubrivnik2002>

June 6-11, 2002

Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People.

Linkages Between Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and Human Health.

Washington, DC.

Organised by the International Society for Ecosystem Health.

www.ecosystemhealth.com/hehp

June 12-15, 2002 (**NEW**)

Protecting Nature on Private Lands - From Conflicts to Agreements.

Lahti, Finland.

International Workshop organised by the University of Helsinki and European Forest Institute.

email: paivi.tikka@helsinki.fi

http://www.efi.fi/events/2002/Protecting_Nature

June 13-16, 2002 (**NEW**)

'The City in a Garden: Producing and Consuming Food in the New Millenium' *Chicago, USA.*

Joint Annual Meeting: Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) and Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS).

<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhaynes/afhrs/2002call.html>

June 17-21, 2002

12th European Conference and Technology Exhibition on Biomass for Energy, Industry and Climate Protection.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Organised by ETA Florence and WIP-Munich.

http://www.wip-munich.de/conferences/biomass/amsterdam_2002/amsterdam.html

June 25-30, 2002

Third International Conference of Critical Geography.

Bekescsaba, Hungary.

Programme details from Conference

Secretary: 3rd.iccg@durham.ac.uk.

<http://econgog.misc.hit-u.ac.jp/icgg>

CALENDAR EVENTS

July

July 1-3, 2002

Tenth International Conference on Modelling and Management of Air Pollution. *Segovia, Spain.*
<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/air02/>

July 1-3, 2002

Renewable Energy Expo 2002. *Cologne, Germany.*
 In association with the World Renewable Energy Congress.
<http://www.renewenergy.com/page.cfm>

July 3-5, 2002

The Sustainable City 2002. Second International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability. *Segovia, Spain.*
<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/urs02/>

July 3-5, 2002 (**NEW**)

Second international Congress on 'Environment and Identity in the Mediterranean' *University of Corsica, Corsica.*
 Wide-ranging conference on social, economic and scientific themes.
http://www.univ-corse.fr/actu/identite_medit.htm

July 4-8, 2002

1st World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition. *Berlin, Germany.*
 Organised by the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA).
<http://www.world-wind-conference.org/>

July 8-10, 2002

Celtic Water in a European Framework: Pointing the Way to Quality. Venue:tbc.
 Information from Professor Con Connane, email: conleth.cunnane@nuigalway.ie

July 9-12, 2002

The Institute of Australian Geographers Conference 2002. *Canberra, Australia.*
 Preliminary details from Dr Richard Baker: Richard.Baker@anu.edu.au

August

August 19-22, 2002 (**NEW**)

IIFET 2002: Fisheries in the Global Economy. *Wellington, New Zealand.*
 Organised in association with Deloitte, Touche, Tohmatsu.
<http://www.deloitte.co.nz/>

August 20-22, 2002 (**NEW**)

Fourth Conference of the Asian Society for Agricultural Economists (ASAE): 'New Challenges facing Asian Agriculture under Globalisation' *Kedah, Malaysia.*
 Organised by Institute for Economic Research (INSPEK) and Malaysian Agricultural Economics Association (PETA).
<http://202.184.25.3/confasae2002/home.htm>

August 21-28, 2002 (**NEW**)

IFOAM 2002 Organic World Congress. 'Cultivating Communities'. *Victoria, BC, Canada.*
 Organised by Canadian Organic Growers for International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
<http://www.cog.ca/ifoam2002/index.htm>

August 26-September 4 (**NEW**)

World Summit on Sustainable Development. UN Conference *Johannesburg, South Africa.*
<http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>

September

September 2-4, 2002

Brownfields 2002. International Conference on Prevention, Assessment, Rehabilitation and Development of Brownfield Sites. *Cadiz, Spain.*
<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/brownfields02/>

September 4-6, 2002

Waste Management 2002. International Conference on Waste Management and the Environment. *Cadiz, Spain.*
<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/brownfields02/>

September 15-19, 2002 (**NEW**)

Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture for Dry Areas for the Second Millennium. *Shijiazhuang, Hebei, China.*
 Organised by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
<http://res2.agr.ca/lethbridge/hebei/confindex.htm>

September 19-23, 2002

International Year of Mountains 2002 Conference on GIS and RS in Mountain Environment Research. *Krakow, Poland.*
 Email: confe2002@environmount.uj.edu.pl
<http://www.enviromount.uj.edu.pl>

October

October 21-22, 2002 (**NEW**)

International Conference 'Governance and Sustainability - New Challenges for Government, Companies and Civil Society' *Bonn, Germany.*
 Organised by: Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW, Berlin, Germany) in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (Berlin), Center of International Cooperation (Bonn).
<http://www.ioew.de/governance>

Do you know of any events or conferences that should be listed here? If so, please contact the Editor, Ben Davies, on

Take Note

Linguistic issues in ESEE

The ESEE is not the only multilingual regional chapter of ISEE, but we are the chapter with the highest linguistic diversity. Are we dealing with this effectively? There are conferences and working groups on the German-speaking level, organised by VÖÖ as well as by VÖW. But what activities exist in other countries? Is there any need to be linked together more strongly? And how should we aim to communicate with each other?

Our diversity is a strength but also a challenge. Anyone interested the issue of multi-lingual developments is warmly invited to contact Felix Rauschmayer (rauschma@alok.ufz.de) in German, English, French, basic Spanish or Portuguese.

Science and Society initiative shows Germans have the best sense of humour

Laughlab, the world's largest experiment into the psychology of humour, which was undertaken as part of the UK government's 'Science year' initiative, has found that Germans found the jokes included in the experiment the funniest.

The Science year initiative is designed to bring science closer to young people. The Laughlab experiment, which was devised by Dr Richard Wiseman of the University of Hertfordshire in collaboration with the British association for the advancement of science (BA), involved feedback from 100,000 people in more than 70 countries on over 10,000 jokes.

A website has been monitoring feedback on jokes since September 2001 and Laughlab has published its first set of results. Sue Hordijkeno of the BA claims that the experiment has important lessons. 'Laughlab looks to be the most far reaching psychology experiment ever. What we have seen over the last three months really demonstrates the increasing influence of the Internet as a powerful communication tool.'

Laughlab aimed to find out what differences exist between sexes in humour, whether computers can tell jokes as well as humans and examine national differences between respondents, amongst other issues.

The results show that men prefer jokes which involve aggression, putting women down and sexual innuendo. A good example cited by LaughLab is the following:

A man comes home and shouts to his wife: 'Pack your bags sweetheart - I've just won the lottery. She replies: 'Wonderful. Should I pack for the beach or the mountains?' He says: 'I don't care - just pack your bags and shove off!'

Not surprisingly, women disliked this type of joke. Instead, they showed a clear preference for jokes which involved a play on words. An example is the following:

A man walks into a bar with a piece of tarmac under his arm. He says to the barman: 'A pint for me and one for the road.'

Dr Wiseman claimed that the results gave important indicators. 'Males use humour to appear superior to others, while women are more linguistically skilled and prefer puns,' he said.

In terms of nationality, the top 10 nations (those who found jokes the funniest) were the following: Germany, France, Belgium, Australia, Finland, Sweden, UK, Norway, New Zealand, USA and Canada - showing six out of the top seven countries being EU Member States. Germany came highest due to the fact that it had the highest number of respondents qualifying the jokes as 'very funny'.

The funniest joke so far, which was found to be the funniest by 47 per cent of respondents, is the following.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson go camping. They pitch their tent under the stars and fall asleep. In the middle of the night, Holmes wakes Watson up. 'Watson,' he says 'look up at the stars and tell me what you deduce.' Watson replies: 'I see millions of stars, and as there are millions of stars some of them may have planets and some of those planets may be like Earth, so there may be life out there.' Holmes replies: 'Watson, you idiot, someone has stolen our tent!'

For further information, and to participate in the experiment, please consult the following web address:
<http://www.laughlab.co.uk>

Food for Thought: Wendell Berry (1934 -)

'Heroic works are meant to be (among other things) instructive and inspiring to ordinary people in ordinary life, and they are, grandly and deeply so. But there are two issues that they are precluded by their nature from raising: the issue of lifelong devotion and perseverance in unheroic tasks, and the issue of good workmanship or 'right livelihood'.

It can be argued that until fairly recently there was simply no need for attention to such matters, for there existed yeoman or peasant or artisanal classes, whose birthright was the fundamental skill of earthkeeping...But probably the most revolutionary accomplishment of the industrial revolution was to destroy the traditional livelihoods and so break down the cultural lineage of those classes.

The industrial revolution has held in contempt not only the 'obsolete skills' of those classes, but the concern for quality, for responsible workmanship and good work that supported those skills. For the principle of good work it substituted a secularized version of the heroic tradition: the ambition to be a 'pioneer' of science or technology, to make a 'breakthrough' that will 'save the world' from some 'crisis', which by now is usually the result of some previous 'breakthrough'...

The most necessary thing in agriculture, is not to invent new technologies or methods, not to achieve 'breakthroughs', but to determine what technologies and methods are appropriate to specific people, places and needs, and to apply them correctly...To use knowledge and tools in a particular place with good long term results is not heroic. It is a small action, but more complex and difficult, more skillful and responsible, more whole and enduring than most grand actions.

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