



ESEE News

Newsletter of the European Society for Ecological Economics

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

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

Tenerife conference excites international crowd

The second of two ESEE FRONTIERS 'mini-conferences' took place in Los Realejos/Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Spain, from 12th to 15th February 2003. Similar to FRONTIERS 1 (Cambridge, UK, July 2001), the meeting was designed to create an interactive forum of young and established researchers (59:61) with plenty of time to share and discuss recent work, and to plan working together on research and educational proposals. The 120 delegates attending spanned 24 different nationalities and the networking extended well beyond citizens/residents of the European Union and Associated States, including researchers from India, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, Brazil and Venezuela.

The conference scientific programme started with a pre-conference guest lecture by Andrew Stirling from the University of Sussex (UK) on 'Complexity, Precaution and Diversity: Opportunities for Policy Engagement' which set the scene for the conference extremely well and sparked great interest and debate.

The four main themes of the conference were: (i) Environmental Planning; Scientific-Political Decision Processes; (ii) Environmental Management. Applying the Strong Sustainability Concept; (iii) Innovative Forms of Education and Cooperation; and (iv) Developing and Testing

Tools. Each day started with a *plenary keynote speech* by a well-established researcher in the field (two on the first day) on one of the themes. Then the participants split into three groups attending *parallel sessions* that focused on sub-themes of the four main themes. Paper presentations were limited to 20-25 minutes followed by 30-45 minutes for discussion. The specific sub-themes were: Participatory Decision Processes (3 sessions); Multicriteria Analysis, Stakeholders and Participation (3); Business and Sustainability (2); Material Flow Analysis and Consumption (2); Sustainability Indicators (2); Ecologic and Economic Models (1); Processes of Valuation (1); Climate Change (1); Environmental Kuznets Curves (1); Tourism and Consumption (1); and Agri-environment Schemes (1).

A third format used was *focused group discussions* where papers were circulated in advance and contributors only presented a brief summary of their main arguments, so that topics were subjected to more in-depth discussion and debate. The topics addressed were: Strong Sustainability; Education; Food Miles; Sustainable Science; Climate Change; and Multi-Criteria Mapping. Research posters were

displayed throughout the four days, providing a focus for discussion and queries during refreshment breaks. In addition there was a

Miss the conference? Why not watch it on TV!

Videos of the keynote speakers at the Frontiers 2 conference can now be watched on-line. The video format used is RealMedia which needs a fast connection (broadband) for best results. Visit:

<http://www.sustainability.tv/video/frontiers2/>

continued on back page

COMMITTEES

*ESEE Administration
and Society
Development and
Planning Matters*

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Results of the 2003 ESEE Board Election

Claudia Carter (outgoing ESEE Secretary)

One of our concerns in ecological economics research is that of governance. It is therefore interesting to look at our own Society and how we are doing. In my term as ESEE secretary I have been involved in the administration of three elections, and the 2003 one has had by far the highest number of candidates standing. This is a great development and reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of members to become, or stay, involved in developing and administering activities in the area of ecological economics. So, a BIG Thank-you is due to all those who stood for a post in the recent ESEE Board elections. Thank you also to those who cast their votes in the election. For one reason or another, the turnout this time was not high, as just under 30 per cent of ballot cards were returned from fully paid members by the closing date (56 in total); but that makes us quorate on that part of the election. Unfortunately, the election result for the post of student representative was not quorate (at least 20 per cent), as only 11 per cent of registered student members returned their ballot card on time. We will now re-run the election after the summer break. Please check the item on student elections on the back page of this issue.

Results

Category:	Candidate	% of casted votes
President:	Clive SPASH	94%
Vice-Presidents:	Arild VATN Sigrid STAGL	88% 82%
Ordinary Members:	Ben DAVIES Sybille VAN DEN HOVE Karen REFSGAARD Friedrich HINTERBERGER Jesus RAMOS-MARTIN Tatiana KLUVANKOVA-ORAVSKA Wendy KENYON	70% 66% 59% 55% 54% 48% 45%
	Olivier PETIT Eva FRIMAN Jouni PAAVOLA Paul SAFONOV	43% 41% 38% 30%

Comings and Goings

A warm welcome to new members of the Board, namely Sybille, Karen, Tatiana and Wendy. Those who have been re-elected are Clive, Arild, Sigrid (in new capacity as Vice-President), Ben, Fritz and Jesus (change in capacity from Student Representative to Ordinary Member). Continuing Ordinary Members of the Board (until 2004) are Felix Rauschmayer and Mario Giampietro. Caroline Sullivan, Irmi Seidl, Jorg Kohn and myself decided not to stand this time round, but some of us will continue to contribute to the Society in other ways.

Outlook

The past years have been busy and innovative (new constitution, different formats of conferences, new ways to organise and share Board activities) and there is plenty more on the agenda to maintain the Society as a fruitful way of interacting and learning. Over the next few weeks, the new Board will discuss the allocation of specific responsibilities and more on this will be reported in the next issue of ESEE News.

News from the Community Research and Development Service

COMMISSION NEWS

Hybrid vehicles may remain 'greener' than hydrogen cars until 2020

A recent study has concluded that hydrogen powered cars will not perform better than hybrid diesel-electric vehicles in terms of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions until after 2020. The work was carried out by researchers from the laboratory for energy and the environment at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who predicted the progress of a variety of engine and fuel technologies by 2020 based on intense research, but not allowing for major 'breakthroughs'.

Their final assessment is that, in the short term, aggressive research on a hybrid car with a diesel engine will yield the most environmentally friendly results. This is due to the fact that currently, converting hydrocarbons into hydrogen for fuel uses substantial amounts of energy and emits greenhouse gases.

<http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/tt/2003/mar05/hydrogen.html>

Fuel cell technology could halve power station CO2 emissions

Research carried out by the environmental group WWF and Fuel Cell Europe (FCEu) has shown that carbon dioxide emissions from European fossil fuel power generation could be halved if fuel cells were used to supply electricity and heat. The two groups are now calling on the European Commission to remove regulatory and institutional barriers to the commercial introduction of fuel cells.

The research outlined in the report was the first independent analysis of the environmental benefits of fuel cell technology. To see the full report, visit:

<http://www.panda.org/epo>

Parliament vote clears the way for new GMO authorisations

The European Parliament has voted to approve two draft regulations on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), opening the way for new authorisations of GM products in the EU. The two pieces of draft legislation, one covering GM food and feed, and the other covering the traceability and labelling of GMOs, were approved by MEPs at the second reading stage during a Parliament plenary session in

Strasbourg on 2 July. The proposals aim to establish clear guidelines governing the authorisation procedures, labelling requirements and traceability throughout the production cycle for all products containing GMOs.

In approving the proposals, MEPs adopted a limited number of amendments aimed at tightening authorisation and labelling requirements. One amendment was aimed at setting the maximum threshold for the presence of adventitious (or technically unavoidable) GMOs in conventional food at 0.9 per cent, well above the Parliament's original recommendation of 0.5 per cent.

On the issue of labelling, Parliament introduced an amendment that would require producers to provide accurate descriptions of mixtures of GMOs in a single product, rather than a simple 'declaration of use' proposed by Council in its common position.

A further amendment states that 'measures should be taken to ensure the coexistence of GM production and non GM production'. The amendment also specifies that the technical details of coexistence should be decided by means of the comitology procedure.

Citizens help Commission assess pollution in European cities

'Air quality laws can only be truly effective if they are understood and endorsed by those they are meant to protect - European citizens,' said the EU Commissioner for Research, Philippe Busquin, as he presented the first results of the PEOPLE project (population exposure to air pollutants in Europe) on 30 June in Brussels.

Launched on 22 October 2002, the PEOPLE project selected over 125 citizens from Brussels to participate in the first one-day pilot experiment to assess levels of exposure to benzene, a carcinogenic compound that is associated with an increased risk of developing leukaemia. Benzene is also considered a good indicator for the presence of other pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter.

Each participant wore a sensor for 12 hours. Measurements were then taken for 24 hours in a wide range of indoor locations and outdoor locations, such as shops, bars, schools, public transport and offices.

Previously, stationary measurement instruments had been used to measure the levels of pollution in towns and cities. As Mr Busquin

explained, the experiment is the first of its kind, bringing as it does the citizen into the process of air quality evaluation.

The readings from the sensors revealed that on the day in question, except for areas of dense traffic, external pollution levels in Brussels complied with the yearly limit value of five micrograms per cubic meter. In terms of indoor pollution levels, the highest levels of concentration were found inside cars, as well as places where tobacco smoke may be present. The lowest concentrations were noted in schools and offices.

In the absence of smoking, the mode of transport was the main factor affecting personal exposure. However, the most surprising and perhaps worrying results were those taken from the houses of citizens, where benzene concentrations were seen to be twice that of the city background air, with a median value of nearly seven micrograms per cubic meter.

<http://www.people-pt.net/eindex.html>

Report questions standardised models of public participation in science policy

An interim report on civil society's role in governing the European Research Area (ERA) concludes that rather than documenting a specific set of public participatory processes, the Commission should promote a pool of context-sensitive methodologies to be used as required.

'Governance of the ERA: the role of civil society' was produced for the European Commission by the Institute for Organisational Communication (IFOK), and sought to classify and compare different types of civil society participation in science and technology based policy making. The interim report formed the basis of an international conference on the same subject held on 12 and 13 June in Brussels. The report suggested that the EU's primary role should be in 'initiating and disseminating' successful models of participation.

IFOK will produce a final report by August 2003, which will focus more strongly on the identification of useful practices and the conditions necessary to encourage a culture of consultation within research policy making and the ERA.

For further information, see the following web address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/index_en.html

PROFILE

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

Sigrid Stagl was born in Vienna and grew up in a rural area near the Czech border with Austria. She took her first degree in the Vienna School of Economics and Business Administration before studying for her PhD in Ecological Economics at the well-known Rensselaer Polytechnic University in Troy, New York, where she subsequently worked as a teaching assistant. She returned briefly as a Lecturer to her old Department of Economics in Vienna, before starting her current job as a Lecturer in Ecological Economic in the School of the Environment, University of Leeds, UK. She lives in London and has just been elected as one of the ESEE's two Vice Presidents.

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

Nature all around - living from and within nature. However, this nature was mostly unsustainably managed agricultural land and spruce plantations. Only later I experienced the difference to a more diverse natural environment when hiking through old-growth forests. Later while writing my PhD thesis I worked as a volunteer on a Community Supported Agriculture Farm in Upstate New York. While working in the fields of this organically producing farm, which applied the intercropping technique, I experienced how diverse and highly productive a piece of land can be. What a difference!

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

Karl Polanyi who taught me a critical view of the role of the economy on our societies. Thorstein Veblen and writers building on his work who emphasise the role of social institutions and the idea that economics could be an evolutionary science. In particular it was Geoffrey Hodgson, whose 1988 book *Economics and Institutions* I read while I was an economics student. Reading that was a real eye-opener for me. Pointing to the many hidden assumptions has greatly influenced my thinking during my studies and thereafter. I ended up reading the book three times. Alain Lipietz and other regulation economists reminded me that power relations are completely hidden in most economic analysis. Last but not least Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen got me thinking about absolute biophysical limits in economics.

Which environmental problems concern you the most at the moment?

First, unsustainable water use: access to water will probably be one of the very big environmental conflicts in the future. Second, the environmental pressures arising from the rapid changes in lifestyles in Central and Eastern

European countries and even more so in China and India. The problem arises in particular since this development happens in combination with the inability of people in OECD countries to see the need for an equally rapid transition towards more sustainable lifestyles. Third, the low adoption of renewable energy technologies in the UK. Last but not least, my environmentally inconsistent lifestyle (cycling, buying electricity from renewable energy provider, avoiding and recycling waste, but having a massive ecological footprint due to international air travel).

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

First half year: travelling as far as I can on my bicycle – and a ferry, given that I live on an island now. Making many stops and meeting people. Good fiction in the luggage.

Second half year: doing readings in the British Library – what an eldorado!

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

Optimistic – despite better knowledge after reading various environmental reports. Not sure where this optimism comes from, but in combination with a sound dose of concern about current trends, it keeps me going in what I am doing.

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

Air pollution, lack of proper recycling facilities, noise pollution.

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

Amsterdam, Groningen, Copenhagen and some German cities for their bicycle cultures. Vienna for its promotion of repair services, the

development of an eco-business plan, the avoidance of chemical pesticides in city parks and the general promotion of greener public purchasing.

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

Rachel Carson for her scientific work and her steadfastness against the establishment.

Vandana Shiva for her work on environmental impacts in the South.

Hannah Arendt for laying the base of the current discussion about the meaning of work and how we should organise our productive activities.

J.K. Rowling for making the best of a severely delayed train ride between London and Manchester in which she came up with the idea for the seven Harry Potter books.

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

Still trying to balance my childhood and youth experiences in a remote rural area near the 'Iron Curtain', I live now in a big city and do enjoy it. What will be in 20 years? I don't know yet – ask me then.

What kinds of music do you listen to?

Fado, Jazz, Blues, African Drums; Schubert; Broadloan (a unique combination of modern and folk music).

How do you relax at the weekend?

Go for a run; visit a modern dance performance in Saddler's Wells; hanging out on Hempstead Heath; read newspapers in a coffeehouse; hiking in the Yorkshire Dales and occasionally in the Austrian Alps.

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

Do what you are passionate about; this will enable you to do a really good job.

RESEARCH NOTES

International Degree Course on Environmental and Cultural Tourism Resource Management

[www.uclan.ac.uk/host/
ecotourism/co-intecotour.htm](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/host/ecotourism/co-intecotour.htm)

This Degree Course is managed jointly
by five European Universities:

- University of L'Aquila, Italy,
- University of Central Lancashire,
Preston, U.K.,
- Université de Franche Comté,
Besançon, France
- Universidad de Extremadura, Caceres,
Spain, and
- Universidad de Almeria, Spain.

The course aims at educating and training
students to gain employment in the
international Ecotourism industry. It
examines the social and ecological impacts
of tourism and ecotourism, and offers
students the opportunity to develop
advanced language skills. The first and
third years of the course are based at the
home university. In year two students can
opt to study with any of the partner
universities abroad. Most of the teaching
is in English.

Throughout the course, students will
be able to observe and assess ecotourism
initiatives by participating in fieldtrips
organised by partner universities in Italy,
France, Spain, U.K., Kenya and Canada.
Students who successfully complete the
International Degree Course will be
awarded a double degree.

**The Ibero-American Congress on
Development and the Environment
'Local Challenges in the Face of
Globalisation' held in Quito,
Ecuador, 11-12 April, 2003, was a
great success, and has led to the
establishment of the Ibero-American
Network for Ecological Economics.**

**The Network is now planning to
launch an electronic peer-reviewed
journal via the ISEE website: The
Ibero-American Journal of Ecological
Economics, with papers in both
Spanish and Portuguese.**

**For details of the congress see:
<http://www.cidma2002.org>**

New Research Project on Forest Biodiversity

Jürgen Meyerhoff

The overall aim of the project "Forest
conversion: Ecological and socio-economic
assessment of biodiversity" is to assess the
value of different levels of biodiversity in
forests. As markets fail to value environmental
services and to regulate their use, it is important
to develop appropriate valuation methods to
assist policy makers in identifying priorities
and evaluation trade-offs. The Convention on
Biological Diversity (CBD), for example,
recognizes that "economic valuation of
biodiversity and biological resources is an
important tool for well targeted and calibrated
economic incentive measures". However, the
use of economic valuation methods is far from
being free of problems, especially when such a
complex and abstract good as biodiversity is
the subject of the valuation process.

In order to deal with these problems, the
estimation will be conducted by an
interdisciplinary research team which consists
of biologists, economists, forest scientists, and

sociologists. Combining these different
disciplines should allow basing the benefit
estimation on an appropriate description of
different levels of forest diversity and shed light
on what people really value when they express
their preferences for biodiversity.

The project is part of the research initiative
"BioTeam: Integrative and Application-
Oriented Model Projects" ([http://www.biolog-
online.info](http://www.biolog-online.info)) from the Federal Ministry of
Education and Research in Germany. It aims at
developing activity concepts and
implementation recommendations for the
sustainable use of biological resources in
selected project regions on the basis of
interdisciplinary research. In this context,
economic, ecological, social, cultural and
aesthetic benchmarks and criteria are defined
for the assessment of biological diversity. As
part of the cooperation with partner countries,
special emphasis is placed on structuring a fair
distribution of benefits.

Information about the research project:
Jürgen Meyerhoff,
TU Berlin, meyerhoff@imup.tu.berlin
[http://www.tu-berlin.de/fak7/ilup/fg-hartje/
forschung/BioTEAM-en/index.shtml](http://www.tu-berlin.de/fak7/ilup/fg-hartje/forschung/BioTEAM-en/index.shtml)

Southeast Asia in Transition: Social transitions, environmental impacts, and policies for sustainable development

Southeast Asia in Transition has been an EU
FP5 INCO-DEV research activity involving
researchers from Thailand, the Philippines,
Laos and Vietnam as well as from Europe (IFF-
Social Ecology, CML Leiden, Institute for Food
and Nutrition Studies, Rome and Autonomous
University of Barcelona). The joint research
assessed future sustainable pathways of
development for the four SEAN countries.

After three years of on-site research on the
national level and in local villages the project
offers a wide array of results relating information
on socio-economic development and
environmental pressures in a multi-criteria
framework. A final workshop held in Vienna,
Austria in June this year served to relate project
results to policy requirements to better
understand the effects of existing development
policy plans on the environment, the social
situation and the economy and to assess

different policies with regard to their effects on
the various dimensions involved in the analysis.

A main outcome of the project will be four
comprehensive country reports addressing
environmental pressures related to socio-
economic activities in terms of material and
energy consumption, human appropriation of
net primary production of plants and changing
land use patterns. These trends are related to
economic and social indicators using a multi-
criteria analysis framework.

Country reports for Thailand, the
Philippines, Laos and Vietnam will be available
in January 2004. For further information
contact Heinz Schandl ([heinz.schandl@
univie.ac.at](mailto:heinz.schandl@univie.ac.at)) or Clemens Grünbühel from IFF-
Social Ecology, ([clemens.grunbuehel@
univie.ac.at](mailto:clemens.grunbuehel@univie.ac.at)); or visit the projects web-site:

<http://www.seatrans.net>

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RESEARCH NOTES

Research Programme Report

Sustainability and Economics

Reimund Schwarze
DIW Berlin

The German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) is carrying out a research project on 'Sustainability and Economics', funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. This survey project consists of several workshops on economic and related sciences approaches to sustainable development and a questionnaire on 'Economics and Sustainable Development'. The first three workshops in 2003 were on "Intergenerational Justice and Sustainability" (15 & 16 May), 'International Institutions for Sustainability' (12 & 13 June), and 'Measuring Sustainability' (3 & 4 July). Follow up-workshops will take place in November 2003 and December 2004.

The project is motivated by the observation of a scientific divide in economics. One indicator of this divide is the fact that the concept of sustainable development is still being ignored by many mainstream neoclassical economists. As an alternative line of research the Ecological Economics movement has formed. The survey project thus aims to identify concepts that may bridge the gap between economic approaches (e.g. neoclassical economics, ecological economics, evolutionary economics) and provide a multi-dimensional mindset to overcome the current constellation of 'schools of thought'. It also aims to identify promising lines of economic research in this field beyond the competing approaches of neoclassical and Ecological Economics (e.g. fiscal sustainability).

The project is based on an integrative concept, which we have labelled "Sustainability Economics". The key features of the Sustainability Economics concept are:

- A comprehensive approach encompassing the ecological, economic and social dimensions of sustainability.
- the development of economic methods and concepts that deal with problems of sustainability.
- a strengthening of policy-orientated economic approaches for sustainability.
- an integration of sustainability concepts of general economics (such as sustainable finance) into the environmental economics SD debate.
- an identification of 'bridges' between different economic 'schools of thought' by means of studying integration and disintegration processes in general science and exploring interdisciplinary approaches.

The proceedings from all workshops of this research project including the questionnaire results will be published and made available at our website www.sustainableeconomics.de in 2003 and 2004.

New study: Ways towards Sustainability in the EU beyond the Spring European Summit 2003

SERI completed its project for the Austrian environment ministry on the further development of (and link between) the European Sustainability strategy, Lisbon (structural indicator reporting) and Cardiff (environmental integration) processes with a special look at the role of structural and sustainability indicators. This study explores possible strategies for the Austrian position at the next EU-Environmental Council meeting. One aim is to improve the integration process of sustainability into all sectoral policies.

Download at: www.seri.at/spring2003 <<http://www.seri.at/spring2003>>

Workshop

Sustainable Development Criteria for Forestry Projects Operating under Carbon Markets Mexico City, 23 July, 2003

The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, in cooperation with the Instituto Nacional de Ecología, Mexico, organised this one-day workshop focused on criteria for assessment of 'Clean Development Mechanism' (CDM) projects.

Following morning presentations, parallel afternoon sessions considered criteria from business, academia, NGO and government perspectives.

For further details contact Esteve Corbera: Corbera-elizalde@uea.ac.uk

Colleagues would like to send warmest congratulations to Professor Dr Stepan Gensiruk from the Ukraine for his 80th birthday. Following 60 years of work for the protection and sustainable use of the environment, much under difficult conditions in the former USSR, he gained the Ukrainian National Award in Science and Technology (1998), and is also a Laureate of the Golden Award of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (2000).

Conference Report

National Sustainability Strategies: Perspectives of Implementation and Further Steps, 22 – 24 May 2003.

Heidelberg, Germany.

Bernd Siebenhuener, Fred Luks, Jan Nill

In the past decade, most industrialized countries have adopted national sustainability strategies, but the implementation process of most of these strategies has now reached a critical stage. To discuss this process with a particular view on Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the European Union, the German Association for Ecological Economic Research (VÖW) and the German Association for Ecological Economics (VÖÖ) organized a 3-day conference in Heidelberg in May.

The conference gathered 70 participants and was co-organized by the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE). It addressed the following key questions:

- What could be achieved through sustainability strategies?
- Which lessons could be learned?
- Where are deficits in the existing strategies?
- In which respect should they be developed further?

The outcomes of the conference have been summarized in a document entitled 'Heidelberger Erklärung' which can be downloaded at www.voew.de and www.voeye.de. It contains a number of precise suggestions how to implement the strategy in Germany and focuses on neglected issues such as the problem of economic growth, the challenges for the education systems and the systematic integration of gender aspects.

The Revolution in Welfare Economics and its Implications for Environmental Valuation and Policy

John Gowdy

This paper brings together two programs of research in order to contribute to the growing body of work on alternatives to standard welfare-based approaches to environmental valuation and policy. The first is the theoretical literature undermining the "new welfare economics." The second is the growing body of work on endogenous preferences. Both these research programs point to the necessity of interpersonal comparisons in welfare economics. This paper focuses on (1) the theoretical flaws in the calculation and use of Potential Pareto Improvements as a policy guide, (2) the "filtering" of expressed preferences through the axioms of consumer choice, and (3) the role of endogenous preferences in a reformulation of environmental valuation and environmental policy.

Copies of John Gowdy's revised *Frontiers* 2 paper, now accepted for publication in *Land Economics*, can be obtained from the author: gowdyj@rpi.edu

John M. Gowdy

Department of Economics, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA

RESEARCH NOTES

ISEE 2004 Conference

The ISEE 2004 conference will be held in Montreal on July 11-14, 2004. The conference title is: 'Challenging Boundaries: Economics, Ecology and Governance'. It will explore the scientific basis for the modelling, regulation and management of international and interdisciplinary problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss. It will examine the many boundaries - between disciplines, between ecosystems and political entities - that structure our approach to such environmental problems, and will assess the impact these boundaries have on both science and governance.

The conference has two organisers: Frank Muller of Concordia University and Jean-Pierre Revéret of the Université du Québec à Montréal. They are supported by a committee comprising Charles Perrings, University of York, York, (Chair); Katrina Brown, University of East Anglia, Norwich; Kanchan Chopra, Institute of Economics Growth, Delhi; Tony Friend, Ottawa; John Gowdy, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy NY; Dick Norgaard, University of California, Berkeley; and Peter Victor, York University, Toronto.

The conference is to be held at the Palais des Congrès, Montreal. It will comprise plenary sessions, parallel sessions, poster sessions and special sessions. The parallel sessions will comprise contributed papers plus invited or contributed symposia. The special sessions may take a variety of forms including round-table discussions, panel sessions and tutorials.

Workshop on 'Incentive Politics in the First 10 Years of the Convention on Biodiversity'

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force in 1993, after having been signed by 157 states at the Rio Summit. The Convention put into practice a very ambitious and comprehensive approach, which encompasses not only conservation of biological diversity, but also the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. The implementation of the latter in particular has emerged recently as a hot topic of debate that calls for innovative solutions including novel institutional arrangements to reward biodiversity conservation. Developing a 'regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources' appears to be the next major step in implementing the CBD, as stated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

An expert workshop was organized on this theme by Bernd Siebenhuener (University of Oldenburg) and Udo Simonis (Science Centre Berlin for Social Science Research, WZB). The aims were twofold: firstly, to discuss the performance of the CBD as an institution that developed dynamically over time to balance a

variety of expectations while pursuing the ultimate goal of the conservation of biological diversity; and secondly, to analyse the different propositions of institutional framings for the future conservation and use of biodiversity and related incentive structures within such a regime.

The workshop was held 17-19 July 2003 at the Science Centre Berlin and it is part of the Integrated Project 'Collective Learning as a Contribution to Reflexive Governance' of the European Union's 5th Framework Programme. Co-organisers were Tom Dedeurdewaere (Centre for Philosophy of Law of the Catholic University of Louvain) and Eric Brousseau (Université de Paris X) (A second workshop will follow in February 2004 in Louvain-la-Neuve on intellectual property rights). The event brought together experts from the South and the North, from the policy world, from science and from business as well as from different academic disciplines such as economics, political science, management studies, chemistry and biology.

Dissatisfaction with current legal provisions and the highly unbalanced levels of protection of intellectual property rights at the different stages of the invention process between the local communities and the pharmaceutical companies was one issue identified by many workshop participants.

The programme and the background paper to the workshop can be found at:

www.cpdr.ucl.ac.be.

For more details contact:

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Check out the latest issue (No. 20) of the Post-Autistic Economics Network on-line journal for an article by Robert Costanza:

http://www.btinternet.com/~pae_news/join.htm

Charles K. Wilber

Ethics In Economic Theory

- Robert Costanza

Ecological Economics is Post-Autistic

- Olivier Vaury

Is GDP a good measure of economic progress?

- Alan Shipman

Economics: The Disappearing Science?

- Sashi Sivramkrishna

Towards a Post-Autistic Managerial Economics

- Jorge Buzaglo

Capabilities: From Spinoza to Sen and Beyond. Part I : Spinoza's Theory of Capabilities

Danes prepare for new Kyoto spending spree

Denmark is planning to buy at least DKr200m (€27m) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) quotas and credits abroad next year in addition to about DKr130m-worth already earmarked for 2003, Politiken newspaper reports.

The transactions are consistent with a controversial climate strategy issued by the government earlier this year. This concluded that exploiting the Kyoto protocol's flexible mechanisms by buying up carbon emissions quotas and credits abroad was the most economic way to meet Denmark's official target of a 21% cut in greenhouse gases.

Citing provisions in next year's draft budget, Politiken says that the purchase of Russian CO₂ credits in particular, plus funding for climate projects in Russia and eastern Europe under the protocol's joint implementation mechanism, account for most of the expenditures.

Critics of the government's strategy, led by former environment minister Svend Auken, claim that the deals violate the spirit of Kyoto, which is aimed primarily at encouraging industrialised countries to reduce their own emissions.

Austria rejects German-style pack deposits

The Austrian government has dismissed opposition calls to follow Germany's lead and introduce deposits on disposable drinks containers to promote refillables.

The environment ministry said that the German example clearly showed that deposits were the wrong solution, since they had no clear environmental benefits and raised both costs and confusion among consumers. It estimated that introducing such deposits would cost €255m annually, or around €15 per Austrian household.

Though riddled with problems, the German government's deposits, which took effect on 1 January, have achieved the main objective of raising reliance on refillables. This has prompted Austrian opposition parties, notably the Social Democrats, to demand a similar system in Austria.

For its part, the ministry stressed that a 2000 agreement with the drinks industry, which set voluntary targets for the recycling of one-way drinks containers, had greatly encouraged the practice.

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

LOOK ROUND

Each issue we take a stroll round the continent to catch up on the latest environmental

Conflicting EU green taxation trends revealed

EU statistical agency Eurostat has reported 'first signs' of a European 'green tax shift'. But its latest statistical overview also shows possibly more powerful trends towards marginalisation of environmental taxation despite a commitment in the EU's sixth environmental action programme to promote their use.

According to Eurostat, total environmental taxes in the EU-15 countries virtually stabilised in 2001, at €237.7bn, after growing continuously for at least 20 years. The main reason was stagnation in energy taxes, which account for the lion's share of all environmental taxes. An important factor could be tax cuts and freezes introduced after road fuel tax protests swept Europe in 2000.

Environmental taxes as a proportion of all taxes fell in 2001 from 6.6 per cent to 6.5 per cent. Environmental taxes as a share of GDP fell from 2.8 per cent to 2.7 per cent. Both shares were down for the second year running and both reached their lowest levels since 1992. The data further suggest a falling importance for green taxes.

As Eurostat stresses, trends in such shares depend on many economic factors, including overall economic growth rates and general tax policies. It shows that labour taxes' share of all taxes fell significantly between 1995 and 1999 while environmental taxes' share was stable, effectively producing a relative, or 'green' tax shift from labour to the environment in that period.

However, due to economic slowdown the share of labour taxes rose again in 2001 to 45.5%. "A similar pattern is so far not discernable for environmental taxes", whose share of all taxation continued to fall, Eurostat admits. On this measure, there was actually what one could call a "brown" tax shift in 2001, even though half of EU countries now have formal environmental tax reform programmes.

Economic I

UK opens European emissions trading debate

The UK kicked off a Europe-wide debate in August over how to carve up emissions allowances between companies due to come under the nearly finalised EU carbon emissions trading directive. Britain's environment ministry is consulting on how to produce a national allowance allocation plan.

In Britain about 2,000 installations, including power stations, oil refineries and heavy industrial plants and accounting for about half of national carbon dioxide emissions, will be involved in the first phase of the EU scheme from 2005-2007. National plans for allocating allowances across industry sectors and for individual plants are required from all 25 member states and accession countries by the end of March next year.

By this autumn at the latest the UK and other countries face the tricky challenge of setting national emissions caps for the scheme within which allocation plans must operate. These will affect the price of emission allowances across the whole of Europe.

In Britain, business is urging a cap set in line with the country's official Kyoto obligation of a 12.5% cut in 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by 2008-12, equating to 8-9% of CO₂ emissions. In this case the UK would likely become a net seller of allowances as the target is widely predicted to be met.

However, environmental groups are urging the government to align the cap with its national target of a 20% cut in CO₂ by 2010. In this case Britain could well fall short and UK firms are likely to find themselves bidding for allowances, pushing up their price across Europe.

ND EUROPE

l news. This issue we review some developments in economic instruments.

Instruments

Finland facing resource consumption challenge

A comprehensive review of sustainable development in Finland has noted progress in decoupling pressure on the environment from economic growth, thanks to reductions in industrial pollution.

But decoupling growth from the consumption of energy and material resources is proving more problematic due to Finland's industrial structure, with the forest industries and metal engineering remaining important in spite of growth in the high-tech sector.

About half of Finland's high rate of total material consumption per capita (almost 100 tonnes per annum, including hidden flows) goes on exports from these energy and material intensive sectors, an environment ministry spokesman noted.

The review urges Finland's new government to implement a long-promised ecological tax reform, and calls for the increased use of renewable energy sources. It criticises environmentally negative trends in the Helsinki metropolitan area. Greenhouse gas emissions from traffic continue to rise, and there are also problems with urban air quality due to particle emissions from vehicles, it points out.

Problems with eutrophication have again been highlighted this summer in Finland, with many beaches closed due to toxic algal blooms. The review notes that action is being taken, but stresses the need for wide-ranging and long-term measures to combat eutrophication in the Baltic Sea.

Tourist tax and water sway Spanish voters

A question mark is hanging over the Balearic islands' tourism ecotax following a surprise victory for the right-wing Popular party in the regional elections in May. The party had promised to scrap the tax in an election campaign dominated by a crisis in the islands' tourist industry. Meanwhile, the Popular party (which forms Spain's national government) suffered big defeats in Aragon, the principal water donor region under the government's controversial hydrological plan, while winning comfortably in Mediterranean regions meant to be the main water recipients.

Catalonia introduces Spain's first landfill tax

The Catalan parliament last week approved a tax on municipal waste dumping. From January, landfill operators will have to pay €10 per tonne of waste accepted. The tax is expected to raise €13.5m in its first year. According to Jordi Macarro of the Catalan waste executive the tax "has no precedent in Spain". "It's initial objective", he said is to reduce landfilling to just 31% of municipal waste arisings by 2006. The regional government of Spain's capital, Madrid, is expected to introduce a similar initiative shortly.

Irish tax to target gum, fast food packs

Irish environment minister Martin Cullen has announced plans to introduce a tax targeting chewing gum, polystyrene fast food packaging and cashpoint receipts littering the streets. "My plan is to end polystyrene," he said. "If

companies are slow in doing so, I will use a levy to bring about the changeover." The plans follow the introduction of a similar levy on plastic carrier bags last year, with the revenue ringfenced for an environmental fund worth €5m in 2003. Detailed proposals will be put before the Irish cabinet this autumn.

London congestion charge rated a success

The world's most ambitious urban road pricing scheme has got off to a successful start, according to London's transport authority. Since its launch in February, the UK capital's congestion charge has reduced traffic by one-fifth.

The effect of the UK£5 (€7.30) daily charge for entering a central zone has been greater than expected - the transport authority originally forecast traffic cuts in the order of 10-15%. On the other hand expected revenue - most of it earmarked for improving public transport - is now also likely to come in below predictions of UK£130m per year.

Transport for London's Michele Dix welcomed the figures as "a good early result". But she warned against drawing firm conclusions for several more months to give time for traffic patterns to adjust to the charge.

MEPs 'give birth to EU carbon economy'

MEPs have backed a compromise agreement to create an EU climate emission trading regime. Voting in Strasbourg, the European parliament approved at second reading an agreement worked out with the council of ministers.

"With this scheme the carbon economy is born in the EU," rapporteur MEP Jorge Moreira da Silva said after the vote. The agreement was vital for EU credibility on climate and would keep up pressure on Russia to ratify the Kyoto protocol, he said.

The European Commission called the vote a "breakthrough both for climate change and emissions trading", adding that the move meant the biggest emission trading scheme in the world would be a reality from 2005.

Climate campaigners were more guarded: in a joint statement Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, WWF, CAN Europe and British bird-protection group the RSPB called the deal a "significant step forward". The scheme "begins to give substance to Europe's progressive words on climate change," they said. But they warned that forthcoming plans to link it with the Kyoto protocol's project-based mechanisms could "severely undermine" its effectiveness if poorly handled.

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continued from page 3

New Gateway to the European Research Area

A new gateway for developments in the European Research Area (ERA) was launched in May on CORDIS, the European Commission's research and innovation information portal. The service represents a comprehensive online resource, featuring ongoing ERA activities and providing easy access to most of the ERA information available on the Web. It offers the latest news and views on key issues for making ERA a reality and represents an open platform for stakeholders' involvement in the ongoing debate. See: www.cordis.lu/era/

Madrid takes delivery of the first CUTE hydrogen powered bus

The first operational hydrogen fuel cell bus delivered as part of the clean urban transport for Europe (CUTE) project was unveiled in Madrid on 5 May. The 52 million euro CUTE project, supported by 18.5 million euro in EU funding, aims to demonstrate an effective and emission-free public transportation system, as well as the accompanying hydrogen fuel infrastructure.

After Madrid, buses will also appear in London, Porto, Luxembourg, Hamburg, Barcelona, Stuttgart, Stockholm and Amsterdam. Each city will operate three buses, and develop facilities for producing hydrogen and refuelling the vehicles.

For further information, please consult the following web address:

<http://www.fuel-cell-bus-club.com/>

EU project creates vision of sustainable households in the cities of tomorrow

By 2040, many people will be working from home several days a week, and when planning their holidays, will be limited to a certain number of 'air miles' per year to reflect the true environmental cost of air travel, according to the participants for an EU project aimed at promoting sustainable consumption.

ToolSust aims to promote the involvement of stakeholders in the development and implementation of tools for sustainable households in the cities of tomorrow, and is

funded under the 'energy, environment and sustainable development' section of the Fifth Framework Programme. The project involves citizens in five European cities: Fredrikstad, Norway; Groningen, the Netherlands; Padua, Italy; Guildford, UK; and Stockholm, Sweden.

The project ultimately aims to identify goals, and develop and test various tools for sustainable consumption that can be implemented into daily life. In order to achieve this, the consortium partners in each of the five cities are surveying various stakeholders, including citizens and public authorities, to find out which environmental problems they perceive to be most serious, and what the possible solutions might be.

The results of the Guildford survey show that residents believe that recycling and household energy conservation are the most pressing environmental concerns, while public authorities see traffic and transport as the main problem. The main obstacles cited as impediments to adopting sustainable technologies or practices include high prices, lack of availability, lack of information, and uncertainties over quality.

For further information, see the following web address:

<http://www.toolsust.org>

European scientists make breakthrough in nuclear waste disposal

A consortium of UK and German researchers has successfully transformed the radioactive isotope Iodine-129, a major waste product from nuclear power generation, into the safer isotope Iodine-128, using laboratory lasers.

The scientists from the University of Strathclyde, Imperial College London, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, ITU Karlsruhe and the University of Jena are the first to ever successfully transmute an isotope, and have published their findings in the *Journal of Physics*.

Iodine-129 has a half-life (the amount of time it takes for half the atoms in a given sample to decay) of 15.7 million years, so currently it is encased in glass and buried deep underground. Iodine-128, however, has a half-life of just 25 minutes and can be safely handled and disposed of in under an hour.

Professor Ken Ledingham, from the University of Strathclyde, said: 'The discovery [...] shows for the first time that we can transmute radioactive isotopes using lasers.

Now we need to scale up our methods so that we can deal with the sort of volumes likely to be produced by the nuclear power industry in the future. Using lasers is a relatively cheap and very efficient way of disposing of nuclear waste.'

The consortium also believes that their method will facilitate production of the isotopes needed for PET scanners, used in hospitals and research. Currently these isotopes are created in huge machines called cyclotrons, but the team believe that manufacture using lasers will be a practical reality within five years.

Europe announces more nano creations

As discussions regarding the potential applications of nanotechnology become more frequent, research results from around Europe are bringing some of these possibilities to life. German researchers have announced their development of a nanofilter capable of removing toxins from blood, while a UK-Italian partnership has succeeded in building the first nanomotor.

The nanofilter, made from hollow fibre membranes, removes specific toxins from blood quickly. The pores in the walls of the hollow fibres, themselves only nanometres thick, allow only contaminated blood plasma through.

Chemists from the universities of Edinburgh and Bologna have meanwhile created the first molecular motor. The machine is around one billion times smaller than a car's motor, and was developed using hydrogen bonds.

Two bonds were threaded onto a loop one millionth of a millimetre across. The small rings were made to move around the big ring by illuminating them with light of different wavelengths, fuelling chemical reactions that break hydrogen bonds. The presence of each small ring allows the other to move in only one direction, and when both rings move in that direction, a light-driven directional rotary motor is created.

New research shows evidence of a growing digital divide in Europe

A new study of broadband penetration rates in Europe suggests that by 2008, the proportion of homes with high speed Internet access could vary from 5 per cent in Greece to 45 per cent in Norway.

The figures were compiled by Forrester Research, who concluded in their report that: 'Europe's broadband riches will be unevenly split along a clear north/south divide.' By 2008, Forrester predicts that 30 per cent of all homes in Europe will have broadband.

Lars Godell, a senior analyst at Forrester, said: 'Scandinavia and the Netherlands will dominate the ratings; German-speaking Europe, Belgium, Finland, and the UK will form a second tier; and Southern Europe and Ireland will

continue to lag.'

The difference in broadband proliferation between the first and second tier countries is due to lower overall online penetration rates and higher subscription charges for broadband, according to Forrester. Over 40 per cent of homes in the first tier countries are expected to enjoy high speed access by 2008, compared with between 25 and 30 per cent in second tier nations.

Mr Godell describes the lower rates of broadband penetration in Southern Europe and Ireland as: 'unsurprising, given these countries' lower overall levels of Internet usage.' Levels of access by 2008 in these countries are expected to range from 5 per cent in Greece to 24 per cent in Italy.

UK launches inquiry into peer review of scientific results

Scientists, journalists and the public have until 26 September to tell the UK's Royal Society how peer review of scientific results can be improved.

The feedback is invited as part of an inquiry by the Royal Society, the UK's national academy of sciences, into the ways in which research results are made public. The inquiry has been prompted by a number of controversies surrounding how and when scientists communicate their research results to the public, and whether scientists should check each other's work before it is published. To access the call for evidence, visit:

<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/framer.asp?page=/news/comm.htm>

New scientific journals aim to promote the free dissemination of knowledge

A coalition of researchers unhappy with the cost of subscriptions to scientific journals has decided to set up a 'public library of science', a new range of online publications freely available to all. The group of researchers led by Dr Harold Varmus, the former Director of the US national institutes of health, has become concerned about the effect of high subscriptions on the dissemination of knowledge.

In October, the public library of science will publish the first editions of PLoS Biology and PLoS Medicine, which will be made freely available on the Internet with the aim of creating a free flow of data and results. The cost of producing the journals will be met by charging a small fee to the organisations and institutions that financed the research.

For further information, see:

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

CORDIS launches FP6 science and society service

A new service dedicated to 'science and society' in Europe has been launched by

COMMISSION NEWS

CORDIS, the Commission's research and development information service.

Under FP6, EU funding is aimed at developing structural links between institutions and organisations seeking to intensify the dialogue between the scientific community and society at large.

The new service provides a link to the science and society work programme, and a step-by-step guide to participating in FP6, including answers to frequently asked questions and a list of science and society national contact points (NCPs). Users are also able to locate potential partners for research projects, browse forthcoming events in the relevant field and keep up to date on the latest science and society news.

<http://www.cordis.lu/science-society>

UK report launches public debate on nanotechnology

While some in the research community believe that nanotechnology will be the key

technology for the 21st century, a discussion on the subject, involving both policymakers and society has yet to take place. A new UK report represents one of the first steps towards a public debate. It addresses both the hype surrounding nanotechnology and the concerns that many have regarding the impact of the science.

The report, 'The social and economic challenges of nanotechnology', has been prepared by the UK's economic and social research council, and brings together three academics from the social science and natural science disciplines.

Three areas are highlighted as central to the debate on nanotechnology:

- the governance of technological change;
- social learning and the evaluation of risk and opportunity under uncertainty;
- the role of new technology in ameliorating or accentuating inequity and economic divides.

To see the full report, please visit:

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/esrccontent/downloaddocs/nanotechnology.pdf>

Attitudes of Europeans towards the Environment

European Environment Commissioner, Margot Wallstrom has presented the results of a Eurobarometer Survey entitled "The attitudes of Europeans towards the environment." The results, which reflect the views of 16,000 EU citizens who were polled last autumn, show that while environmental issues remain top of their list of priority issues, opinions have evolved with regards to the main causes of pollution and what action should be taken. Attitudes in Member States have subtly changed too since the last such survey was published in 1999.

When asked to indicate which causes of environmental degradation most worried them, 50% of respondents said that nuclear disasters ranked highest on their list of concerns; 45% said that industrial disasters most worried them. More traditionally perceived problems, like air pollution, natural disasters, water pollution and the elimination of tropical rainforests, were quoted by between 41% and 44% of respondents. One interesting development since the 1999 survey is that Greece is now the most concerned Member State, while the Netherlands is the least concerned.

On the key issue of what can be done, opinions among Europeans are equally divided. 50% of respondents said they believed that their actions could help reverse current environmental trends, while 50% felt that their actions would make no difference. However, 65% of Europeans said that their actions could have an impact if others were similarly committed to taking action.

In general terms, 44% of those polled said they were pessimistic about the future, while 45% expressed optimism that changing behaviour patterns could bring positive results.

When it comes to what course of action should be taken, 48% expressed a preference for stricter regulations and tougher enforcement, while 45% saw better information, increased environmental awareness and greater involvement in the decision-making process as the best way to achieve results. 40% of respondents believed that better enforcement of existing legislation is the key.

Significantly, 33% of Europeans now see the EU as the best level for taking decisions about protecting the environment. In comparison, 30% said that they thought national governments were best placed for decision-making and 27% opted for local government level.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/barometer/index.htm>

BOOKS

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

Natural Resource Accounting and Economic Development

Charles Perrings and Jeff Vincent (eds)

Edward Elgar, Cheltenham. June 2003.
ISBN: 1840649240 (HB). 59.95 UKP.
288 pages

In this work, some of the world's leading scholars in environmental economics explore the theoretical and empirical problems to be solved if policy makers are to develop accounts to capture the sustainability of economic development. The development indicators that have been used since the 1950s and before, GDP and GNP, fail to record the change in the value of a nation's natural or environmental capital. The contributors to this volume consider why this is so, and what is required of genuine

sustainability measures. They include both theoretical papers on the identification of sustainability measures in optimizing and non-optimizing economies, and empirical applications of the theory of green accounting to different sectors in developing countries. The extensive introduction surveys the state of the art on natural resource accounting for economic development.

Contributors

G.B. Asheim, J.B. Aune, R.W. Bailey, J. Blihnaut, K.A. Brekke, E.H. Bulte, R.D. Cairns, R. Clarke, P. Dasgupta, G. A. Davis, C. A. Ferraz do Amaral, G.S. Haripriya, R. Hassan, R.D.Horan, J. Hrubovcak, V. Iversen, G.-M. Lange, K.-G. Maler, D.J. Moore, C. Perrings, R. Seroa do Motta, J.S. Shortle, J.R. Vincent, M.L. Weitzman.

JOBS

Professorship in Business Management/Economics, specifically Ecological Economics.

Mälardalen University, the Department of Economics and Informatics.

Reference number 2003-370.

Ecological Economics has existed at Mälardalen University, Västerås, since 1995 with an undergraduate programme in Ecological Economics. Courses are given mainly in Swedish, but increasingly also in English. Post-

graduate education and research has an increasing role with a group of some 10 researchers and PhD students.

Ecological Economics is understood as 'economics for sustainable development'. It is characterized by interdisciplinary approaches and pluralism. Education and research in this field can be seen as an attempt to meet the global challenge of sustainable development.

Qualifications: Scientific and educational experience will both be considered. Active participation in public debate is a merit. Publications in the fields of environment and development should be listed in submissions.

The above description of the professorship is a shortened version. More information is available through the Head of Department, Göran Bryding 4621-101463, goran.bryding@mdh.se, or Professor Peter Söderbaum 4621- 101493, peter.soderbaum@mdh.se.

General information about Mälardalen University is available at www.mdh.se

Applications should be submitted no later than October 15, 2003.

International Symposium 1 – 4 December 2003 House of World Cultures/Berlin

Sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity A challenge for society

<http://www.biodiversity-symposium.de>

Organised by:

Event organizer
PT-DLR Umweltforschung
Projektträger des BMBF
Godesberger Allee 119
D-53175 Bonn
Tel.: ++49 228 8199611/Fax: ++49 228 8199640
Email: meltem.cosar@dlr.de

At national and international levels, no strategies exist that help resolve the conflict between conserving biological diversity and, simultaneously, using diversity in a sustainable manner. With signing of the international "UN Convention on Biological Diversity" (CBD), Germany has taken it upon itself to develop such strategies and action plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. These strategies will be based on interdisciplinary research and purvey a long-term vision.

At the symposium four funding initiatives of the BMBF are to be presented and discussed. The symposium is intended to intensify the dialog between decision-makers, users and scientists, and to foster national and international research cooperation. Representatives of more than ten partner countries will be attending.

The opening day of the event is aimed particularly at journalists, representatives of public and private institutions, and the interested broader public. Political decision-makers and representatives of international organizations are expected to attend. The subsequent days of the symposium, and especially the workshops, are set aside primarily for the presentation of results and for scientific debate.

Venue

House of World Cultures
John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10
10557 Berlin
<http://www.hkw.de>

Please send details of relevant jobs, both within and outside Europe, to the Editor.

**WORLD SYSTEM
HISTORY AND GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
CHANGE**

**September 19-22, 2003,
Human Ecology Division,
Lund University, Sweden**

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

A central goal of the symposium is to use recent progress in environmental history, world systems theory, and other relevant fields to pursue an integrated framework for understanding the relations between ecosystems and world systems over time. The aim is to bring together key scholars from the social, historical, geographical and environmental sciences in an effort to broaden our view of the ecological dimension of global, economic processes in a long-term, historical perspective. Priority will be given to scholars from the human and natural sciences who have applied broadly synthetic approaches to the interface between social and natural systems in time and space. It is hoped that the symposium will facilitate an overview of the ecological prerequisites and repercussions of successive, global patterns of production and trade during the past three millennia. In integrating historical, social science perspectives on global, economic systems and studies of long-term, biogeophysical changes such as those traced by the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the symposium will contribute to filling a vacuum in the international research community. An important goal is to encourage communication and cooperation between researchers devoted primarily to the historical study of societal and economic processes, on the one hand, and those devoted to anthropogenic environmental transformations, on the other. Even if the number of participants from each academic community is limited, it is the hope of the organizing committee that this conference will establish important new links and networks for future communication.

Symposium secretariat:
Human Ecology Division
Lund University

Email:
christian.isendahl@humecol.lu.se

CONFERENCES

Short Course on Industrial Ecology

October 23-31, 2003

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

The Catalan thematic network on Industrial Ecology, coordinated by ICTA (Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals at the Autonomous University of Barcelona) will be offering a course in Industrial Ecology October 23-31, 2003. This course will be open to everyone, geared mainly towards students (especially those doing Ph.D. programs) and professionals from many fields: law, economics, business, public health, natural resources, ecology, and engineering. This course is a great opportunity to gain a comprehensive and integrated view of the relationship between the industrial economy (social sciences) and the biosphere (natural sciences), and how we can achieve a transition from the existing unsustainable system to a viable industrial ecosystem.

This course will be an introduction to the origin of Industrial Ecology as a multidisciplinary field, as well as its methods, tools, and strategies aiming to recreate our industrial system in such a way that it can be sustainable and in harmony with the rest of the natural ecosystem. Besides this theoretical overview, emphasis will be put on how Industrial Ecology is applied to some specific industrial systems in Catalunya and the rest of Spain. During the 16-hour intensive course, the attendees will meet two world-renowned researchers in the field, Dr. Suren Erkman (ICAST, Sweden) and Dr. Robert Ayres (CMER, Fontainebleau, France), as well as faculty members and other Ph.D. students currently doing research in IE. The structure will be the following:

- Oct 23 (16:00-20:00)** Introduction (Gara Villalba, PhD.): the goals and key concepts of IE, historical development, strategies, tools and methods. (2 hours)
Material Flow Analysis applied to Spain and Catalunya (Catalan XT Industrial Ecology. (2 hours)
- Oct 24 (16:00-20:00)** Case Studies (Catalan XT Industrial Ecology, UdG, UAB, UPC)
Material flow analysis applied to nitrogen in Girona. (1 hour)
Strategic planification of an eco-park in Santa Perpetua, Catalunya. (1 hour)
Applying Industrial Ecology to the paper and the leather industry. (1hour)
- Oct 30 (16:00-20:00)** Guest speaker Suren Erkman. IE strategy for the maturation of the industrial system (dematerialization); Eco-industrial development, a new strategy for industrial estates. (4 hours)
- Oct 31 (16:00-20:00)** Guest speaker Robert Ayres. Methodology, data collection, exergy; current research in the link between economic growth, resource (i.e. energy) consumption, and dematerialization; Q&A. (4 hours)

Fees:

Students: free with student ID card. Others: 30€ registration fee (20€ before 20 Sept).

Location of course:

Edifici B
Campus de la UAB
08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del V.)

More information:

Xavier.Gabarrell@uab.es
Villalba@material.qui.ub.es

Organized by XT Ecologia Industrial:

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)
Universitat de Girona (UdG)
Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV)
Universitat de Barcelona (UB)

WEBSITE: <https://cesar.uab.es>

CALENDAR EVENTS

September

September 1-4, 2003

9th IWA International Conference on Large Wastewater Treatment Plants
Prague, Czech Republic.
<http://www.ace-cr.cz/indexang.htm>

September 1-13, 2003

Puzzle Solving for Policy.
EU Advanced Summer Course in Integrated Assessment Methodology.
Maastricht, The Netherlands.
International Centre for Integrative Studies (ICIS), Maastricht University.
<http://icis.unimaas.nl>

September 3-6, 2003 (**NEW**)

2nd International Conference of the European Society for Environmental History Dealing with Diversity
Prague, Czech Republic.
<http://natur.cuni.cz/ICESEH2003>

September 4-5, 2003

Sustainable Management in Action. Towards a Stakeholder Approach.
Geneva, Switzerland.
Centre for Human Ecology and Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva and Association for the Promotion of Sustainable Management, Luusanne.
<http://www.smia03.org/>

September 16-18, 2003 (**NEW**)

RESSG Annual Conference: 'Cultural Turns, Rural Turns: critical (re)appraisals'.
Newcastle, UK.
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/afrd/>

September 21-28, 2003 (**NEW**)

XII World Forestry Congress.
Québec City, Canada.
<http://www.wfc2003.org/#http://> <http://www.wfc2003.org>

September 30-October 4, 2003 (**NEW**)

Pan-European Sustainable Energy Seminar.
Machynthleth, Wales.

Organised by INFORSE-Europe and Centre for Alternative Technology, Wales.
<http://www.inforse.org?europe/seminar.htm>

October

October 5-9, 2003 (**NEW**)

XI World Water Congress-Water Resources Management in the 21st Century.
Madrid, Spain.
http://www.cedex.es/iwracongress2003/en/hoja2_en.htm

October 6-8, 2003 (**NEW**)

Fourth International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment in the Agri-food sector
Horsens, Denmark.
http://www.lcafood.dk/lca_conf/

October 13-17, 2003

Natural Forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe: Values and Utilisation
Transcarpathia, Ukraine
Swiz Federal Research Institute (WSL) and Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Rakhiv, Ukraine
http://www.wsl.ch/forest/waldman/rakhiv_2003/

October 16-17, 2003 (**NEW**)

GREEN POWER 4: Sustainable Energy Development for Improved Quality of Life. International Conference.
New Delhi, India.
<http://www.indiacore.com/Conf/9-oct2003-cpu-green-power/>

October 16-19, 2003 (**NEW**)

Fifth CANSEE Biennial Conference. 'Sustainability: Are We Making Genuine Progress?'
Jasper National Park, Alberta.
Canadian Society for Ecological Economics.
<http://www.cansee.org/>

October 22-23, 2003 (**NEW**)

'Globalisation, localisation and tropical forest management in the 21st Century'.
Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Organised by Amsterdam Research Institute for Global Issues and Development Studies.
<http://www.fmg.uva.nl/agids/globalisation/index.html>

October 30-November 2, 2003 (**NEW**)

Twenty-second Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies.
San Diego, California, USA.
<http://www.utoronto.ca/utopia/meetings.html>

November

November 5-6, 2003 (**NEW**)

European Food Supply Chains '03.
Brussels, Belgium.
Organised by Ethical Corporation On-line.
<http://www.ethicalcorp.com/foodsupplyconference/html>

December

December 1-4, 2003 (**NEW**)

International Symposium. Sustainable Use and Conservation of Biological Diversity: A Challenge for Society.
Berlin, Germany.
Organised by PT-DLR Umweltforschung.
<http://www.biodiversity-symposium.de>

December 1-5, 2003 (**NEW**)

Rio03: World Climate and Energy Event.
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
In combination with Latin American Renewable Energy Fair (LAREF).
<http://www.rio3.com>

December 18-20, 2003 (**NEW**)

Third Biennial Conference Indian Society for Ecological Economics. Biodiversity and Quality of Life.
Kolkata, India.
<http://indev.nic.in/insee/>

CALENDAR EVENTS

2004 2004 2004 2004

January

January 19-21, 2004 (NEW**)**

European Conference for Renewable Energy:
Intelligent Policy Options.

Berlin, Germany.

Organised by European Commission.

<http://www.eufores.org/summary.htm>

February

March

March 2-6, 2004 (NEW**)**

Species at Risk 2004: Pathways to Recovery.
Victoria, BC, Canada.

<http://www.speciesatrisk2004.ca/index.html>

April

April 2-4, 2004 (NEW**)**

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

Kiev, Ukraine.

Email: info@fondazioneanza.it

April 24-26 (NEW**)**

Fifth International Conference on
Environmental Problems in Coastal Regions.

Alicante, Spain.

Wessex Institute of Technology and University
of Alicante, Spain.

[http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/
coastalenvironment04/index/html](http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/coastalenvironment04/index/html)

May

May 19-21, 2004 (NEW**)**

Urban Transport 2004.

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

Dresden, Germany.

[http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/
urbantransport04/index.html](http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/urbantransport04/index.html)

May 30-31, 2004 (NEW**)**

Second World Renewable Energy Forum:
Global Benefits and Policies.

Bonn, Germany.

Organised by World Council for Renewable
Energy (WCRE).

[http://www.world-council-for-renewable-
energy.org/conevents/conevents.html](http://www.world-council-for-renewable-energy.org/conevents/conevents.html)

June

June 1-5, 2004 (NEW**)**

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

Jonkoping, Sweden.

Organised by Swedish Bioenergy Association.
(SVEBIO).

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

June 18-20, 2003 (NEW**)**

Second Conference on International Corporate
Responsibility.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Carnegie Bosch Institute for Applied Studies
in International Management.

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

June 25-28 (NEW**)**

International Conference: Nature, Science and
Social Movements.

Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece.

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

[http://www.aegen.gr/sociology/Anakinosis/
nature/nature.htm](http://www.aegen.gr/sociology/Anakinosis/nature/nature.htm)

July

July 11-14, 2004 (NEW**)**

ISEE Eighth Biennial Conference.

Montreal, Canada.

[http://www.ecologicaleconomics.org/conf/
conf.htm](http://www.ecologicaleconomics.org/conf/conf.htm)

August

September

September 8-10, 2004 (NEW**)**

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

Cadiz, Spain.

Universities of Bergen and Cadiz.

[http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/
culture04/index.html](http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/culture04/index.html)

Do you know of forthcoming
conferences and workshops in
related areas? Please forward
details (preferably with a
website) to the editor at:
b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk

Take Note

STUDENTS ALERT! Re-Run of ELECTIONS

The number of votes received in the election of a dedicated student representative on the ESEE Board was not quorate and hence the election has to be re-run. The plan is to mail out ballot papers for the election on September 22 and to have votes returned to the ESEE secretariat by October 31.

Please note that we only have a record of 'registered' student members, i.e. those who are enrolled at least half time in higher education at University and have joined the ESEE/ISEE for free. 'Active student members' are defined in the constitution as those individuals who are enrolled at least half time in higher education who pay an annual subscription to the ESEE/ISEE. Unfortunately, the ISEE/ESEE registration form and database does currently not show whether a fully paid member happens to be a student, so we have no record to separate out that type of membership. We will raise this issue with the ISEE secretariat in order to improve the registration process. However, in the meantime:

IF YOU ARE A FULLY PAID-UP MEMBER BUT STILL HAVE STUDENT STATUS PLEASE E-MAIL c.carter@macaulay.ac.uk OR secretary@euroecolecon.org **WITH YOUR FULL NAME AND CURRENT POSTAL CONTACT DETAILS** so that you can be included in the election mailing.

ALSO: IF YOU KNOW OF A COLLEAGUE WHO IS A STUDENT MEMBER (PAID OR UNPAID) BUT RECENTLY HAS CHANGED ADDRESS (AND HENCE MAY NOT RECEIVE ESEE MAILINGS, PLEASE CONTACT c.carter@macaulay.ac.uk OR secretary@euroecolecon.org **WITH THE FULL NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS, SO THAT OUR RECORDS CAN BE UPDATED**

For further details refer to the ESEE website: <http://www.euroecolecon.org/>

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special poster session with three simultaneous guided tours where authors formally summarised their contribution to delegates, so that each poster was given due attention. One roundtable about 'Developing a Practical Ecological Economics' formed the closing plenary. The discussion was opened to the floor and many participants voiced their ideas and impressions reflecting on conference contributions. Issues discussed included links to theory; what is distinctive about an ecological economics approach to practical issues; what methods are on offer that could be defined as typical for ecological economics; and the relation between the ecological economics approach and specific economic instruments. Also, some visions of how research should proceed in the future were given.

Issues of theoretic foundations, scientific method and appropriate areas of research which were raised at FRONTIERS 1 were addressed very well in the work presented at FRONTIERS 2. The focus on public/stakeholder participation methodologies and

practice was considered by many participants as extremely timely, important and interesting - and a good link between theoretical science and application. Contributions that explored multi-criteria and participatory approaches, and specifically their combined use, provided a scientific highlight. Many of the contributors are leaders in the field and it was stimulating to have them all together at FRONTIERS 2. As in FRONTIERS 1 the format of the conference received very positive feedback, succeeding in stimulating interaction between and amongst young and established researchers during sessions and breaks and fostering a sense of community among ecological economics researchers.

Abstracts and papers of the keynote speeches, parallel sessions, focused group discussion sessions and poster sessions can be found on the FRONTIERS website.

Website address : <http://www.euroecolecon.org/frontiers>

Food for Thought: Past Greats

Nature teaches more than she preaches.
There are no sermons in stones. It is easier
to get a spark out of a stone than a moral.

John Burroughs

In the depth of winter I finally learned
that there was in me an invincible summer.

Albert Camus

In some mysterious way woods have never
seemed to me to be static things. In
physical terms, I move through them; yet
in metaphysical ones, they seem to move
through me.

John Fowles

None are more hopelessly enslaved than
those who falsely believe they are free.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells
you it's going to be a butterfly.

R. Buckminster Fuller

Never measure the height of a mountain
until you have reached the top. Then you
will see how low it was.

Dag Hammarskjöld

Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing,
wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating;
there is really no such thing as bad
weather, only different kinds of good
weather.

John Ruskin

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