

# *Abstracts*

## 6th Nordic Conference on Environmental Social Sciences (NESS)

June 12-14 2003, Turku /Åbo, Finland



Topics:  
SCALES, LIMITS AND BORDERS  
PROBLEMS IN POLITICAL ECOLOGY

# Keynote speakers

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## Schor, Juliet

### Politicizing Sustainability: Why Achieving Ecological Balance Requires Economic and Geo-Political Transformation

Boston College

#### **Abstract**

In this talk I will situate the discourse on sustainability within two other political movements—the peace movement and its quest to reign in U.S. imperial designs and the anti-globalization movement. I will argue that maintaining resource-intensive lifestyles, such as that of the US, and to a lesser extent Western Europe, will increasingly require repressive economic, political, and military policies around the globe. This is because environmental constraints will intensify in coming decades, bringing conflict in their wake. Furthermore, growing demands for a more egalitarian global distribution of income, will also confront ecological constraints. I will discuss projections for energy use, economic growth, and resource use (such as those of the Bush Administration), and argue that they are not compatible with democratic global relations or more equity in global incomes. I will argue that technological solutions to unsustainable resource use are inadequate, and that environmentalists must join with peace and economic justice movements if they are to achieve their goals.

**Riley E. Dunlap**

## **Killing Kyoto: The American Conservative Movement's Impact on U.S. Climate Change Policy**

Department of Social and Political Sciences  
Åbo Akademi University

### **Abstract**

The American Conservative Movement mobilized to oppose U.S. ratification of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The effort was spearheaded by leading Conservative Think Tanks which enlisted sympathetic “skeptical scientists” as experts to counter the claims of mainstream climate scientists. The Senate’s failure to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and the Bush Administrations’ continued opposition to it reveal the Conservative Movement’s success in re-framing global warming as non-problematic and its potent influence on policy-making in America.

## Building Institutions for Urban Sustainability

Dept. of Geography & Environment  
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

### **Abstract**

All commentators agree that urban areas have a contribution to make to sustainable development, whether cities are seen as potential 'sustainability heroes' or, more modestly, the aim is to reduce their ecological footprint. This paper seeks to develop an analytic framework for understanding the task of generating and embedding institutional arrangements that will deliver the sustainability policy goal at the urban level. It explores the concepts of 'ecological governance', specifying the multi-dimensional nature of ecological governance processes and ecological governance institutions. The issue of scale is then applied, providing further insight into the dynamics of institution-building at the urban level and, a rather different problem, for urban sustainability.

## Limits to Growth and Limits to Politics: a story of perplexity

Department of Political Science  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

### Abstract

In perspective, it now seems that the idea of “limits to growth”, which was originally a rather simple economic and ecological argument, was quite a cultural and psychological shock. Western societies had been based, especially since 1946, on the idea of progress. Economic success and technological and scientific progress were supposed to play the role of comfort, as if the Western societies were telling themselves that the horrific events of WW II and the evil of Nazism were now over: a new man is developing. Progress meant that all these millions who got killed, died for a cause: their death, so to speak, paved the way to a new era.

Thus people in the Western world were sure that history is moving in a good direction and that human beings could control their fate and their future. People felt secure. Even events like the Korea War, the Cuba Crisis, and other violent clashes did not undermine this confidence. Then came the Club of Rome and the Limits to Growth theory and gave this sense of optimism a shake. Human beings were not able to control their future, the theory claimed, and were actually to re-think their assumptions about affluence and abundance.

To this shock Western societies reacted in three different manners. I shall criticize those three and suggest that a fourth is a better way of relating to the “Limits to Growth” theory. First, the three manners are:

#### 1. Denial

In many other cases when human beings are faced with irritating and shocking information, they choose the strategy of denial. They simply turn a blind eye to this new information. Many politicians have chosen this way to face the “Limits to Growth” theory. I shall criticize this approach as completely irrational.

#### 2. Over-reacting.

A second very common mode of reaction in such cases is to over-react. This could go hand in hand with a sense of hysteria, great pessimism, and profound anxiety. Several Green movements (e.g. “Back to Nature”, “Voluntary Simplicity”) have taken this way. I criticize this approach as a non-realistic answer, basing my claim on the debate between Jonathon Porritt, ex founder of Friends of the Earth, with these movements.

#### 3. Globalization

Globalization is a well known phenomenon. It can be explained at least partly as evolving from a sense of a need to overcome limits. Liberals have understood that the Limits to Growth theory is serious and valid. However, one way to overcome these “new” problems, they thought, would be to dramatically and drastically change our economy by shifting to globalization. I criticize this by showing that it does not answer the main issues deriving from the Limits to Growth theory.

I conclude by suggesting that all three strategies are too hasty. A fourth strategy would be to let politics return to the economic and ecological implications of the Limits to Growth, and face its cultural and psychological implications with other means. Politics should understand its other limits: that it can and should deal with institutional arrangements, not with curing

anxiety and other cultural shocks. I should add that in order to prove my thesis I shall show slides, pictures, advertisements, relate to films and literature from the different periods of time. I shall compare, for example, advertisements in the journal National Geographic, to show the shift from the optimism of progress to a very pessimistic attitude. Comparing these with advertisements in the Times will reveal the “denial” ideology, and so on.

## **Climate Change and Globalization in the Arctic: Compressing Time and Space?**

University of Lapland

### **Abstract**

Globalization theorists argue that our understanding of space and time is changing rapidly and fundamentally: these two dimensions of our world are being compressed. The transformation of the qualities of time and space forces us to change how we represent the world to ourselves. Climate change as a scientific, social, political and cultural issue is embedded in a complicated set of spatial and temporal relations. The present research studies the representation of and changes in temporal and spatial relations in climate change discourse as reflected in maps, political documents and newspaper articles. The analysis suggests that these relations and representations are asymmetrical and conflicting. Most globalization discourses assume that the path towards a globalized world is a strictly linear one. In the Arctic, there is a sense in much of the climate literature that the end of an era has come, a development bringing with it the threat that what we know as the Arctic - something unique and special - will disappear from the world as global warming occurs, never to be replaced. One way to unlock the unidimensionality of the debate on globalization is to take the temporal dimension more seriously. A simplistic, materialistic and reductionist understanding of time in international environmental politics does not cohere with the multitude of temporal and spatial relationships found in the different discourses dealing with climate change in the Arctic.

## Working group sessions (WG 1-6 )

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**WG 1: Global ecological justice.** Coordinators: *Oluf Langhelle*, Rogaland Research, Stavanger & *Markku Oksanen*, University of Turku

**WG 2: Limits to growth today.** Coordinators: *Jan Otto Andersson*, Åbo Akademi University, & *Inge Røpke*, Technical University of Denmark

**WG 3: Multilevel environmental governance.** Coordinators: *Katarina Eckerberg*, Umeå University, & *Marko Joas*, Åbo Akademi University

**WG 4: Global environmentalism, national policies.** Coordinator: *Annamari Konttinen*, University of Turku

**WG 5: Political ecology in history.** Coordinator: *Timo Myllyntaus*, University of Turku

**WG 2: Johannesburg: a first anniversary.** Coordinators: *William M. Lafferty*, University of Oslo & *Markku Wilenius*, The Turku School of Economics and Business Administration.



# Abstracts

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**Ahonen, Sanna**

**Lifestyles in greening society - A narrative perspective to ordinary consumption**

WG 4

Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki

## **Abstract**

Based on narrative research my paper argues that increasing environmental awareness and ‘reflexive modernisation’ (Beck, Giddens) influence lifestyles in high consumption societies. Environmental issues may cause changes in the actual behaviour of a person or at least they question the behaviour. I picture this kind of societal phenomenon, the re-evaluation of lifestyles in greening society, by narrative interviews of urban family members.

I have analysed these biographies with lifestyle bias of quite ordinary middle-class, middle-age city-dwellers to whom environmental issues might be part of their ‘life policy’ (Giddens), but hardly form the ‘primary identity’ (Castells). I want to explore feelings, views and practices that might be quite commonly shared in Finnish culture.

My research seeks to advance, both the social scientific literature surrounding environmental policy of everyday life and scholarly accounts of contemporary lifestyles. I approach everyday life through four levels: personal (identity), family (household management), social (norms and interpretations on normality) and cultural (Finnish way of life) levels.

I’m interested in lifestyles from the environmental perspective including both the attitudinal and the practical levels, as well as all the contradictions between them. The scientific and societal significance of the research is to gain information from the micro level about the possibilities and obstacles for adopting a more environmentally sustainable lifestyle in urban area.

## **Andersson, Jan Otto**

### **International trade as a device for extending, but also blurring, the limits to growth**

WG 2

Åbo Akademi University, Department of Economics and Statistics

#### **Abstract**

International trade has been a central device for extending economic activity without breaking the ecological limits of a given country. Isolated communities run a greater risk of overusing some critical resource. Thanks to trade global resources can be used in more efficient way. The first part of the paper explores the relationships between economic growth, international trade and ecological sustainability. However, international trade also obscures the relations between ecological limits and economic growth. Those consuming economic goods may live far away from the sites of exploitation and production. When trade is registered primarily in terms of money equivalent exchange in monetary terms may conceal a non-equivalent exchange in ecological terms. Furthermore trade may cause overexploitation of local resources or damage global common goods. The second part of the paper analysis such possibilities and the consequences for sustainability. The third part presents results from calculations of Finnish trade with different parts of the world in terms of ecological footprints. How is a country like Finland linked to the global exchange of “ecological space”?

## Andresen, Steinar & Gulbrandsen, Lars Harald

### From Stockholm to Johannesburg and beyond: The Effectiveness of Global Mega-Conferences on Environment and Development

WG 6

University of Oslo

#### **Abstract**

To be blunt, these conferences have no point if they do not have a positive impact on the environment and/or development. This touches upon the crucial methodological question on how we *measure* their *effectiveness*. Various indicators will be discussed and it is concluded that consistency and explicitness is important. The effects of these conferences are long-term, indirect and often difficult to trace. However, the Stockholm Conference had a significant impact in terms of agenda setting and institution-building. The 1992 Rio Conference was less of a mile-stone, but it also spurred significant institution building, but implementation has been weak on key points. It is still premature to measure the effect of Johannesburg. So far we only know the (soft) decisions taken – not their potential impact. One observation is, however, reasonably clear; the significance of these conferences are being reduced over time. The explanation is simple. For one thing the (previous) agenda setting function is less important as most of these problems are now well known; implementation and action is more important than agenda setting. Secondly, the number of other relevant international and global fora has expanded tremendously. Therefore, ‘reproduction’ rather than innovation tends to take place. This is *not* to say that these conferences have lost their meaning. Positive aspects are noted, but it is also imperative to discuss alternative approaches – in light of the relationship between resources used and output produced.

## **Sustainable Development in Iceland – Perceptions and Prospects**

WG 4.

Ethical Research Institute, University of Iceland

### **Abstract**

In this paper I will mainly deal with the preliminary results of a new (February-March 2003) public survey on environmentalism carried out in Iceland. The survey is part of an ongoing multi-disciplinary project titled “The Foundations of Sustainable Development in Iceland”, which is conducted by historians, philosophers and social and natural scientists. Sustainable Development has been the official basis for environmental policy in Iceland (as in most of the Western world) for the last decade but little is known about how the public perceives this ideology nor how (well) it is understood. A small pilot poll carried out nationwide in 2002 indicated that the Icelandic public knew rather little about Sustainable Development, given that 50% of the respondents claimed that they had not even heard of the concept. The survey is intended to fill in, at least partially, this information gap by investigating public attitudes, knowledge and behaviors concerning environmental and developmental issues in Iceland, especially as these relate to Sustainable Development. The survey also includes instruments to measure nationalism and attitudes concerning the current state of democracy and democratic development in Iceland, both of which can be seen to be very important in contemporary environmental debates in Iceland.

### **Abstract**

In a lesser developed country, mostly the least developed ones, the struggle for survival predominates care and concern for environmental sustainability. Common people in these countries continuously seek to meet their bare needs first and are mostly left with no option to be *choosy*. Besides, because of widespread illiteracy and poverty, they consume whatever they get.

Globalization and free market economy have further spiraled the survival test for these people. Though these have opened up new vistas of opportunities for national economic development but the beneficiaries are the rich and *nouveau riche* groups.

The market system in these countries are also being complicated with the advent of globalization and enforcement of free market economy. Commodities are now travelling thousands of miles to reach the local market and producers remain totally unknown, untraced and unobligated to consumers. Such a situation accompanied by aggressive promotional activities of the companies, normally the big multinationals, are changing the consumption habits and attitudes of the people too. This is not only whipping the small purchasing power of the consumers but playing down much of moral, social and environmental standards as well stimulating a reign of bad governance infested with increased corruption. To these people, chances of bailing out of the vicious cycle of poverty with greater accessibility to drinking water, basic health care, small permanent shelter and fundamental education seem to be moving further away. This would obviously berserk any effort for better upkeep of the environment, whether at local or global level.

**Bantjes, Rod**

## **Regionalization and Environmental Governance: Atlantic Canada and New England**

WG 3

Sociology & Anthropology, St. Francis Xavier University

### **Abstract**

(The North American case may provide an interesting counterpoint to Baltic examples).

This paper analyses the spatial reconfigurations of environmental governance in the north Atlantic region of North America. In Canada, the national state is implicated in “reterritorialization” in a number of ways including: 1) devolving environmental governance to civil society through various strategies of “self-governance,” 2) promoting “bioregional” co-operation that cuts across (and potentially undercuts) provincial jurisdiction, 3) promoting cross-border economic integration through NAFTA. Atlantic provinces (Canada), states (USA) and business interests favour economic (and to a lesser degree policy) integration along the lines of Ohmae’s “region-state” – an “intentional” regionalization of capital. Environmental social movements are province-based, but generally support centralization of environmental policy at the national level. However, they increasingly engage in trans-local alliances and actions that follow the market logic of consumer activism. The result is a set of parallel and competing regionalizations that are “disembedded,” dynamic and spatially ambiguous.

**Bantjes, Rod**

## The Geography of “Global” Representation in Johannesburg

WG 6

Sociology & Anthropology, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS

### **Abstract**

This abstract is intended for session 6. Johannesburg: a First Anniversary. In the abstract I emphasize my theoretical approach. However the paper will have substantial empirical content.

Using the WSSD as a specific case, I explore the idea of the international summit as a spatial locale for “enacting the global.” Taking theoretical inspiration from Bourdieu and Durkheim, I consider the role of “representation” in the making concrete of abstract sociations such as the “international community” or “global civil society.” Within this framework I am interested in two types of representation: the performative construction of a “social body” or bodies and the more fraught process of the construction of voice, the “speaking for” a social constituency. The organization of space (and temporal organization of program) within the summit city creates a “stage” (or set of stages) for this performative activity. This staging, with its internal geography of boundaries, titles to space and exclusions, helps to shape and define the performance. From this perspective a summit can be assessed in part as an “end in itself” rather than in terms of measurable policy outcomes. Applied to the WSSD this type of analysis still reveals shortcomings of what was meant to be a pivotal global event.

## **Ben-Dor, Ilanit**

The experience of individual farm settlers in the Negev desert of Israel within the framework of policy dictated by public institutions.

WG 4

Department of Man in the Desert, Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

### **Abstract**

This study will focus on the ways individual farm settlers in Ramat-Negev practice their daily life in an atmosphere of power relations between political and public institutes.

“The wine road”, the name the area council called the agricultural grapes farms project, started on 1992. It had two goals: One was to block the illegal settling of the semi-nomads Bedouins; Another was to draw more tourism to the area.

There are 11 settlements, out of the 35 planned to appear in two years. Most of the farms consists of one family.

The project was stopped in 1999 by the supreme court, due to the petition of the green organizations which resist to this kind of settlement from political and environmental reasons. At the end of the trial, the continuation of the process was approved, in condition that it will be legal. I will involve this trial as one tool of resistance in the power relation struggle.

In reference to the aspects that I mention, my questions will be: 1. How do power relations between all the involved bodies demonstrate themselves in practice? 2. How did the settlers expectations become realized in the framework of these struggles? To answer this questions I am using anthropological research methods.

I will show that eventually the resistance driven by the ecological bodies, helped the continuation of the project by directing it to a better planed form, acknowledged by the legal system. It seems like a positive result, from which all the sides involved benefits.



## **Bending, Tim\* & Rosendo, Sergio\*\***

### **Forest Policy and the Global Portrayal of Forest-Dwellers: Understanding the Role of Environmentalist Discourses in Brazil and Malaysia.**

WG 4

\*School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, \*\*Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE), University of East Anglia

#### **Abstract**

Environmental outcomes depend on the construction of discourses on the environment and on human interactions with it as a source of legitimisation and influence over national policies. Linking the struggles of forest-dwellers to issues of deforestation and biodiversity loss is a well-known example of such discursive strategies. This paper examines interactions between international environmental NGOs and rubber-tappers in Brazil and indigenous peoples in Malaysia. It examines the role of these interactions in the critique and formulation of national policies on conservation, land rights and forestry.

Many studies criticise the romanticism of these discourses, which often portray forest peoples as “natural conservationists”. They depict them as products of “Western” environmentalism imposing meanings “from above” onto grassroots movements, occluding grassroots realities in the process. The effect of this critique, however, is often to de-legitimise global activities supporting local movements and certain national policies.

Using empirical cases, the paper provides a more nuanced reading of the production of environmentalist discourses by grassroots and international actors. The case studies show grassroots actors employing, and thereby reproducing, environmentalist idioms as part of their own strategy for influencing policy. The resulting portrayals should not be declared illegitimate but read as an expression of the interests and intentions of such actors, albeit adapted to a particular geo-political context and mediating discourse. In this way we can seek to understand the environmentalist promotion of certain policies without undermining that process, whilst paying greater attention to the messages grassroots movements wish to get across.

## **Blowers, Andrew**

### **Environmental Equity over Space and Time: The Problem of Siting Radioactive Waste Facilities**

WG 1

Open University, UK

#### **Abstract**

Radioactive waste presents risks which extends over space and over long time scales. Nevertheless the risk is uneven being highly concentrated in those communities which host radioactive waste facilities. For this reason proposals for new facilities are resisted by coalitions of protest. On the other hand, there is emerging evidence of success in siting nuclear waste repositories in Finland, the United States and other countries.

The proposed sites are all in peripheral areas which either have an existing nuclear industry or are economically or environmentally disadvantaged. In some cases, such as Yucca Mountain in the United States, they are in places that have become politically isolated. But locational disadvantage appears to be a necessary though not sufficient criterion. A successful siting policy also depends on such criteria as, a willingness to volunteer, the provision of incentives or compensation, the possession of a local veto and the possibility of retrievability..

The evidence suggests some interesting developments society's response to ecological problems, including new forms of political participation, the revival of representative democracy at the local level and the recognition of the rights of future generations. Above all successful siting strategies will need to be built on principles of equity and environmental justice.

The paper will be illustrated by examples drawn from a variety of countries.

## From Brussels to Reality – Implementation of Strategic Environmental Assessment in Germany

WG 3

Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy- Transport Division

### **Abstract**

The recent approach to environmental governance in the European Union is to encourage the integration of environmental concerns into sector policies. A way to realize this is procedural regulation, like the Strategic Environmental assessment (SEA) directive, which is aiming to involve environmental information and reinforce environmental interests in the decision-making process. But the multilevel nature of European policies is often not taken into account. Finally, the success of SEA depends on the implementation on national level.

The paper focuses on the SEA discussion in Germany, referring to examples from the transport sector. A successful implementation of SEA in German transport planning requires several modifications of planning procedures like scenarios or goal systems and the introduction of monitoring and public participation. But due to the need for joint-decision-making between federal and *Länder* governments strong decision-rules and veto rights are established in the implementation process.

Multilevel decision-making enables actors to push their interests on different levels. While actors like the Federal Ministry of Environment were successful on European level, it is much harder to push SEA against the contradicting position of the Federal Transport Ministry. Thus, if European regulation is too open, a weak implementation of SEA is more likely than changes in the planning system. Environmental actors have to reflect such problems and develop strategies for effective implementation of European policies. The paper is going to contribute to this debate by discussing possible approaches in the transport sector.

## The organisation of organic food standardisation in Sweden and the USA

WG 3

\*SCORE (Stockholm Centre for Organizational Research), \*\*Dept. of sociology Lund University

### **Abstract**

Organic food standardisation with labelling is an increasingly important strategy for dealing with consumer concerns about environment, health, and the political structure of food production. It is an example of a new kind of environmental governance involving both sub-national (NGOs) and supra-national (e.g., the EU) units, which cooperate in novel ways. However, there are broad variations in how this consumer-oriented strategy is debated and introduced in different countries.

In this paper we seek to identify factors that facilitate or complicate food labelling. Empirically, we compare standardization processes in Sweden with those in the USA. Standardisation for organic food/agriculture is carried out in both countries, but in different ways. In Sweden, a private organization (KRAV) - consisting of NGOs, associations for conventional and organic farmers, and the food industry - has been rather successful in promoting organic food labelling as an eco-label. KRAV has developed a complementary position vis-à-vis the state and EU-regulatory framework. In the USA, the Federal Government controls standardisation. The Government frames the label as a “marketing label,” and rejects the idea that organic food production would have relative advantages to the environment, health or food quality. This framing is separate from the ones created by organic constituencies, leading to deeper controversies than in Sweden.

In order to explain differences in labelling characteristics, we focus on background factors, such as political culture, pre-regulatory arrangements, and organizational landscape. While such factors influence the possibilities for standardization, it is also important to add a process-oriented perspective that includes the strategies, interactions, and framings of different actors, organizations and coalitions.

The Socialistic roots of the organic movement in the 1970s Denmark

WG 5

Institut of History, University of Copenhagen

**Abstract**

No historians in Denmark have previously found the interest in finding out how, why and by whom the Danish organic movement developed. No thorough research on this subject has been carried out so far. It is assumed that the organic movement sprang from a given *zeitgeist* of the 1960s and 1970s, which also fostered the student revolt, the anti-atomic movement and the idea of living in communities. Supposedly it was in the wake of this *zeitgeist* the youth re-discovered the biodynamic methods of farming and put it into a new framework. However, this is much too simple an explanation. This paper will look at the socialistic root of the organic movement. More than anything else, it was a group of young people of which many were members of the Danish Communist Party, who began the political network and loose-knit organisation from where the later organic association sprang. The group called themselves the Agricultural-group (Jordbrugsgruppen) and had there first meeting in 1975. Looking closely at the development of this group it becomes clear that there was much more than environmental concern behind the development of the non-biodynamic organic farming-methods and the organic association in Denmark. The environmental concern was there but behind it all lay a deep-felt urge to change the world and to correct the errors of the industrialised and capitalised state.

**Castro, José Esteban**

## The long-term development of a socio-ecological regime: the case of water control in the Basin of Mexico

WG 5

School of Geography and the Environment, Centre for International Development (QEH), and Centre for Mexican Studies University of Oxford

### **Abstract**

This paper examines the intertwining between environmental and anthropogenic processes in the Basin of Mexico in a long-term perspective. In particular, it explores how human-led hydrogeological transformations have burdened successive generations of Mexicans with an ever-spiraling mortgage to repay in relation to the material and social investments needed to sustain human control over water resources. The paper argues that the current conditions for water management in the Valley of Mexico are largely the result of socio-historic development. This statement applies particularly to the last five centuries, although human intervention on the Valley's water systems can be traced back well before the Christian era. In this long period the hydrogeological systems of the basin were irreversibly transformed with far-reaching consequences not only within the basin's boundaries, but also in the interrelations between the basin's systems and those outside the Valley. Also, we provide evidence about the interconnections between human activities directed at harnessing water resources in the basin and some aspects of the process of state formation. We also analyze the multi-dimensionality of the social struggles that have punctuated the development of the basin's waterscape during the last five centuries, which have also become interwoven with the particular configurations characterizing the development of citizenship rights in the country.

**Chan, Cheong-Kuen Alex**

**On Private Sectors' Perceptions of Cross-Border Environmental Risks  
in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta Region:  
Do Border and Scale Matter?**

WG 5

Department of Geography, University of Hong Kong

**Abstract**

The emergence of a highly integrated regional economy in Hong Kong and its neighboring jurisdictions in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region, southern China, seems not only to have intensified the debate on its socioeconomic and environmental implications at various spatial scales (city-level, regional, national), but also appears to have helped highlight the theoretical as well as policy relevance of concepts like “border” and “scale” in helping social scientists arrive at a better understanding of the institutional barriers within the private sector to contributing toward the urban sustainability agenda. This paper attempts to show why and how these concepts could be instrumental in analyzing the private sector’s perceptions of cross-border environmental risks, such as pollution in the region’s water bodies and urban solid waste management issues in Hong Kong and the PRD region. Preliminary data from the author’s fieldwork research (semi-structured interviews with business executives) will be presented in a hope of providing some insight into the spatial dynamics of corporate environmentalism in one of the world’s most populous and economically thriving borderlands.

## **Christensen, Erik**

The paradigm of Ecological Economy seen in a rhetorical perspective.

WG 2

Associate Professor, Aalborg University, Department of Economics, Politics and Public Administration

### **Abstract**

The development of the discipline of ecological economy, where the american economist Herman E. Daly has been a pioneer, can be seen as a paradigmshift in relation to the neo-classical theory. A paradigmshift is connected with a change in the root metaphors in the economic science. Metaphors in scientific theories have an rhetorical effect. The paper will analyse and discuss the metaphors and narratives, which can be found in Herman Dalys paradigm.



## Dematerialisation, Time Allocation and the Service Economy

WG 2

Department of Economics / University of Trieste / Trieste / Italy

### **Abstract**

The paper to be presented investigates an economic model of the service economy, i.e. of a style of producing and consuming, which substitutes physical output and physical consumption with knowledge and human capital based services.

The service economy has already been suggested by many authors (in particular W. Stahel) as a useful instrument to promote the dematerialisation of the economy and a more sustainable style of production and consumption. Of course, the service economy can be studied making use of different approaches and methodologies, as behavioural analysis, every day's life studies, social psychology, sociology, etc. The present paper attempts to investigate only one out of many possible contributions to the study of the service economy: the contribution of economic theory and economic modelling.

The paper makes use of a model of economic dynamics and endogenous growth, based on the accumulation of human capital. In this framework I investigate the role of human capital and knowledge-based services in determining the materials intensity, and therefore the environmental impacts of consumption. The model to be presented generates a stylised structural dynamics of the economy: a phase of growing materials throughput is superseded by a phase of dematerialisation and service-intensive consumption. It is assumed, that consumption is a time-requiring activity, and that knowledge-based services play an important role in shaping the material requirements of consumption. The accumulation of human capital can therefore enable consumers to substitute service-time for commodities as the economy develops. In this way, both the allocation of time and the material intensity of the life-process is endogenously determined in a dynamic model of economic development.

**Cohen, Maurie J.**

## Sustainable Consumption Politics in the United States

WG 2

Graduate Program in Environmental Policy Studies, New Jersey Institute of Technology

### **Abstract**

While several European countries have begun to endorse sustainable consumption in both the formulation and implementation of environmental policy, the United States has not evidenced any inclination to move in this direction. The prior Clinton administration launched the President's Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and this advisory body issued several notable reports, parts of which touched vaguely on the relationship between material consumption and environmental quality. However, with the election of President George Bush the PCSD was disbanded and its work has had little long-term impact on American environmental policymaking. Despite these developments in official circles, there are indications that grassroots activists are fostering a politics of sustainable consumption in the United States. This novel mode of political expression—inchoate though it may be at the present time—is actually comprised of several distinct streams. This paper describes these nascent efforts and relates them to more familiar activities within the consumer and environmental movements. The conclusion offers some reflections on the future prospects of this new politics of consumption and assesses its potential impact on formal policymaking processes.

**Daugbjerg, Carsten\* & Pedersen, Anders Branth\*\***

## **New Policy Ideas and National Institutions: Implementing the Idea of Green Taxation in Scandinavian Agriculture and Industry**

WG 4

\*(Contact person), Institut for Statskundskab, Aarhus Universitet, \*\*Danmarks Miljøundersøgelser, Kalø, Afdeling for Systemanalyse

### **Abstract**

In the past decade or so, green taxation has become a widespread tool in pollution control in Europe. This new type of state intervention is based on an idea developed by environmental economists and diffused internationally through various channels of information exchange. We argue that the idea itself does not inform us about the way in which green taxation is designed because national institutions influence power relations, which in turn influence the actual design of green tax schemes. Thus, national institutions are the intervening variables which explain why an internationally diffused policy idea is implemented differently in various national settings. The paper undertakes a comparison pesticide taxation and CO<sub>2</sub>-taxation in Denmark, Norway and Sweden to test the theoretical argument.

## Dawson, Graham

### Justice, reason and virtue in ecological ethics: Kantian and Aristotelian perspectives on global ecological justice in climate change policy

WG 1

Faculty of Social Sciences, The Open University, Walton Hall

#### Abstract

The paper advocates an account of global ecological justice as an environmental virtue. The aim is to challenge the view that it is willingness to pay (that is, willingness to bear the costs of climate change abatement) rather than justice or fairness that makes agreements on climate change policy effective (Victor, 1999).

Modern ethical theory assumes that justice and virtue are antagonistic approaches to ethics, the former being universalist while the latter is particularist. So global ecological justice is an abstract principle of obligation, far removed from the agent-based terms of environmental virtue ethics.

An alternative approach is a constructive account of practical reasoning based on Kant, which returns to the traditional view that justice is itself a virtue (O'Neill, 1996). Justice can be derived as a virtue from considerations of principles that all in the relevant domain can follow. These include an injunction against indirect injury, which enables global ecological justice to be interpreted as an environmental virtue.

This constructive account of global ecological justice undermines the claim that willingness to pay determines the effectiveness of global climate change negotiations. In a two-party domain, X's willingness to pay is conditioned by X's perception of what Y is paying, and some notion of the relative fairness of the two burdens. So willingness to pay cannot be assessed without presupposing an account of global ecological justice, in particular an account of justice or fairness in the distribution of the costs of climate change abatement. (243 words)

Victor, D.G. (1999) 'The Regulation of Greenhouse gases: Does fairness Matter?', in Toth, F.L. (ed.) *Fair Weather? Equity Concerns in Climate Change*, London, Earthscan Publications Ltd. O'Neill, O. (1996) *Towards justice and virtue: A constructive account of practical reasoning*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

## **Donner-Amnell, Jakob**

### **Sustainability or adaptability?**

### **Explaining the Finnish transformation 1987-2003**

WG 1

Department of Social Policy, University of Joensuu

#### **Abstract**

Only a decade ago, Finland experienced a severe crisis, which did not restrict itself to the economy. The capability of the country and its resource-intensive industrial base to cope with the environmental challenges of the market and the international community was also seriously questioned by many. But Finnish development took another route. It is appropriate to call it at least a partial transformation of Finland, as the economy is clearly stronger and more based on knowledge and technology. Finland has in recent years managed very well in some international comparisons measuring economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and human development.

But how has such an unlikely development been possible, which factors and actors made it happen? Can Finland today really be considered a nation showing strong modernisation capacity (Jänicke) by consciously striking a proper balance between economical, social, and environmental goals? Or is the Finnish success in some fields more explained by good luck and great capacity to adapt to political, technological, and environmental demands? Is sustainable development interpreted as a technical or a political/moral challenge?

These are the questions I deal with in my paper. Empirically, I base my conclusions on studies on governmental programmes and measures, changes in the structure and the strategy of the industry, and public debate in Finland during 1987-2003. I also try to compare the choices and trends in Finland with those of some other small nations in Europe.

### How can target-group-specific strategies contribute to the promotion of sustainable consumption patterns? A German example

WG 2

Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE)

#### Abstract

Strategies for sustainable consumption have not been aimed at specific groups of consumers so far, but have rather been communicated in an undifferentiated manner, ignoring the situation and attitudes of different groups of people. Although, in the meantime it is a wide-spread conviction that it is necessary to differentiate between different target groups, there is still a lack of knowledge as to the answers to several important questions:

- What opportunities does the differentiation of target groups present for the promotion of sustainable consumption?
- Where are enabling and hindering factors for sustainable consumption within different target groups?
- What should target-group-specific strategies for sustainable consumption look like?

The paper will present results of a study commissioned by the German Federal Environment Agency entitled „Household Exploration of the Conditions, Opportunities and Limitations Pertaining to Sustainable Consumption Behaviour”.

Based on qualitative interviews about consumption orientations in 100 carefully preselected German households, 10 different „consumer types” were identified for Germany. The consumption orientations (e.g. convenience, quality orientation, price orientation) of these „consumer types” as well as the social situation of the households (number of persons, education, income and time resources) show different opportunities or barriers for the acceptance of sustainable consumption strategies.

According to similar consumption orientations the ten „consumer types” were combined to form four key target groups:

- environmentally oriented groups
- groups of people who can't cope (underprivileged)
- groups of ambivalent traditionals
- privileged groups.

For these groups, strategies for sustainable consumption were developed and finally being tested in group discussions with members of the respective target group.

The paper will present the four target groups and enabling and hindering factors for sustainable consumption in these groups. Some exemplary target-group-specific strategies to promote sustainable consumption are shown.

Moreover, some general results of the study are outlined. Among them are the following:

- The differentiation of target groups is able to show a clear potential for further development of sustainable consumption offers within different „consumer types”.

- A wide-spread rejection of products or service offers named „eco” or „bio” and distrust as to their liability could be discerned in the interviews, although general orientations were not altogether anti-eco. Thus, in communication strategies, the generalised and unspecific use of the label „eco” should be avoided.
- Instead, strategies for sustainable consumption should target at consumption orientations of specific groups and try to build „motivational alliances” with consumption orientations such as quality orientation, health orientation, social orientation etc. to promote sustainable consumption offers.

The results of this study are based on the German situation, but the approach of identifying target-group-specific strategies is also of importance beyond national borders and depicts important steps towards more sustainable consumption patterns. In Germany, the identified target-groups were used as a basis for more target-group-oriented offers in consumer and environment advice.

Preliminary title: Efficiency, justice and international trade

WG 1

Åbo Akademi University

**Abstract**

The efficiency-free-trade ideology with a minimum of regulation is the absolute dominating ideology of trade today. It is, however, also quite widely recognized that such a (non-)policy might have adverse effect on the use of the commons, income equality and utilisation of nature. We may say that there is a contradiction between free trade and the achievement of sustainable development (defined in a relatively strong sense, of course), because the market (at least ideally) manages to do allocation, but has no clue of scale.

In the paper different concepts of justice (commutative, productive and distributive justice) and their potential relevance are discussed as necessary corrective principles to the free-market principle.



## **Farrell, Katharine**

### **An Exploration of the Relationships between Bureaucracy, Technocracy, Democracy, Public Consultation and Legitimacy in Environmental Governance**

WG 3

Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research, Queen's University of Belfast

#### **Abstract**

It is broadly agreed that, because of complexity of subject, environmental research requires contributions from many academic disciplines; it is proposed in this paper that there may be benefit in applying this principle to developing new conceptions of environmental governance.

It will be argued in this paper that economically and ecologically sustainable, democratically legitimate and politically practicable governance structures, capable of making good decisions well, may be identifiable through a reconceptualisation of representation that embraces extra-electoral governance relationships, which have evolved between bureaucracy and civil society.

At the European Union (EU) level, treaties and the Real Politik of supra-state governance have led to strong autonomy of policy formulation within the Directorates General (DG). In Northern Ireland (NI), because of an unstable history of elected representation, bureaucratic institutions have accrued similar autonomy. Using a critical political ecology theory based on the cognitive psychology theory of Multiple Intelligences (MI), this paper will compare ongoing public consultation efforts undertaken by the EU DG Environment and the Department of the Environment NI, exploring the relationships between bureaucratic, and civil society authorities at both supra and sub-state levels within the EU, considering the democratic legitimacy of such public consultation efforts at each of the two levels *and* the authoritative relationships between the two levels.

This comparison will be placed within the broader context of the proposed "Functioning of the Institutions" emerging from the European Convention and will present some preliminary suggestions regarding how representation based on MI might look at EU and Member State levels.

## Global Drivers and Restraints for Sustainable Consumption

WG 2

Faculty of Int. Relations, University of Munich

### **Abstract**

The paper determines whether and how globalization affects the sustainability of household consumption in industrialized countries. Its focus of inquiry arises from the existence of a tremendous gap between references to the influence of globalization on sustainable consumption in political and academic discussions on the one side and empirical evidence on the reality and strength of such an influence on the other. The paper highlights facets of the relationship between globalization and the sustainability of household consumption, and discusses the potential of selected indicators to assess the strength of the relationship. The specific focus of inquiry is on the three consumption clusters food, mobility, and energy.

The paper reviews the discussion and research evidence on the link between globalization and sustainable household consumption from the sustainable consumption and globalization perspectives identifying both the relevant determinants of the sustainability of consumption in the three consumption clusters and the core elements of globalization. It reviews indicators for the sustainability of consumption in the three consumption areas and discusses potential approaches to empirically determining the extent and role of the elements of globalization.

The analysis shows that many of the consumption areas identified as most in need of improvement are those most strongly influenced by globalization. In consequence, political and social decision-makers need to “think global” when designing policies for sustainable consumption. The elements of globalization cannot be controlled and modified by one government. Multilateral if not global strategies that directly address those elements are needed. Targeting the influence of globalization on the sustainability of food, mobility, and energy consumption thus goes beyond the influence of national and local policies for sustainable household consumption and creates a completely new set of political challenges for sustainable consumption policies.

The paper concludes with a short delineation of core research areas future studies need to address in order to illuminate the influence of globalization on the sustainability of food, mobility, and energy consumption.

## **Furman, Eeva & Hildén, Mikael**

### **Linking Asia and Europe - an analytical look at the enhancement of public participation in the Asia Europe meeting process**

WG 3

Finnish Environment Institute, Research programme for Environmental Policy

#### **Abstract**

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) represents a political effort to increase the contacts between Asia and Europe. The ASEM has sought to initiate activities in many fields, environmental protection being one of them. In the process responsible high level officials recognised that public participation is a central aspect of environmental protection. Thus ASEM initiated, under the umbrella of the Asia Europe Environmental Technology Centre, a project aiming at supporting the development of the role of public participation in environmental issues. Our paper is based on the material collected in this project and includes comparative material on the development of public participation in Asian and European members of the ASEM. In addition we explore the position and role of the project itself in the processes aiming at enhancing public participation.

The basic analysis demonstrates considerable differences between countries and regions with respect to public participation as part of environmental governance. Finding common ground in an international process is therefore difficult, but due to pressures from different directions, active interest and will to develop participation can be documented. Some of the pressures arise from efforts to deepen democratic principles whereas other are based in concepts of partnership, general demands on governance and even indirectly from business interests in e.g. globalisation processes. This provides a basis for the UN and in particular its regional organisations ECE and ESCAP to develop international policies and eventually also international agreements supporting public participation as demonstrated by the Aarhus Convention of the ECE.

**Marketing Approaches to the Promotion of Eco-labelling Schemes:  
Conceptual Foundation and Implications for Communication Strategies**

WG 2

Chemnitz University of Technology, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Department of Marketing

**Abstract**

It is widely accepted that well-established national or international ecolabels (such as Germany's Blue Angel, the Nordic Swan label of the Scandinavian countries or the European Union's Flower label) are important instruments of an Integrated Product Policy (IPP; Rubik, 2000) and for the promotion of sustainable consumption patterns (e.g., OECD, 2002; Umweltbundesamt 2002).

Consequently, in recent years, a growing number of studies on the topic of ecolabelling has been published (e.g., Rubik & Scholl, 2002; Scholl, 1999; EPA, 1998; Schwar, 1999; Landmann, 1998; IÖW, 1997; Morris, 1997; OECD, 1997). These studies, however, are mainly dealing with aspects of the *design* of national or international eco-labelling schemes. The perspective of consumer behaviour research has not yet gained sufficient attention (e.g., Bech-Larsen & Grunert, 2001; Brockmann & Hemmelskamp, 1995; Rubik, 1995; Hansen & Kull, 1994). Especially the perspective of the promotion of ecolabels by marketing techniques is even more concerned about that (Gaus & Zanger, 2002a; Eberle, 2001).

In this paper the authors will present the further development of concepts which have been results of a recently finished research project on behalf of the German Federal Environmental Agency (Umweltbundesamt) with the aim of creating a new communication strategy for the German Blue Angel ecolabel (Gaus & Zanger, 2002a). On the basis of a critical reflection on the state of the art of present research in the economic and social sciences on the success factors and the impact of ecolabels we suggest an innovative perspective which understands ecolabels as brands (understood in a subjective, consumer-oriented way; see e.g., Meffert, Burmann & Koers, 2002; Esch, 1998; Chernatony & Riley, 1998; Keller, 1998) (Gaus & Zanger, forthcoming 2003, 2002a). These reflections are on the one hand a basis to gain a systematic and holistic understanding of an ecolabel which can be a valuable instrument for the design of marketing action (e.g., techniques like market segmentation or the use of the "4 Ps") for the promotion of ecolabels. On the other hand an even more important result of these reflections is the suggestion of a theoretical foundation of the above mentioned "brand" perspective by linking consumers' perceptions of ecolabels with elements of means-end chain models (Reynolds & Olson, 2001; Grunert, Beckmann & Sørensen, 2001; Grunert & Grunert, 1995; Grunert, 1990; Reynolds & Gutman, 1988; Gutman, 1982). These models connect cognitive images of market offers and the self concept of individuals and can therefore give answers to the question, *why* a specific offer is attractive for an individual consumer (Gaus, 2000; Peter & Olson, 1996; Walker & Olson, 1991).

As will have to be shown, these reflections on a (subjective) brand perspective on ecolabels also offer an elegant possibility to use results from life-style research in environmental sociology (Empacher, Götz & Schultz, 2002; Umweltbundesamt, 1997) as a basis of marketing

strategies. Following our conception, the “brand” (i.e., an ecolabel) or its communication to the target groups thereby connect the (objective) “product worlds” (the product groups or more accurately “Bedürfnisfelder” the ecolabel covers) and the “Alltagswelten” (“everyday worlds”) of groups of consumers which are represented by their consumption styles. Consumption styles can, for example, be monitored by using indicators for consumers’ social situation, behavioural orientations like attitudes and values, as well as patterns of the actual consumer *behaviour* (Gaus & Zanger, 2002b; Gaus, 2001).

According to our “brand” perspective, we understand an ecolabel as a representation of consumers’ sensual perceptions as well as of its perceived characteristics, related utilities, emotions and values which are stored in the memory as cognitive structures (i.e., contents of memory, seen from a learning theory perspective).

Finally, the example of the creation of a new communication strategy for the German Blue Angel is used to illustrate our point of view that the theoretical and conceptual considerations of this paper hold valuable potentials for developing and promoting national and international ecolabels and thereby also for the promotion of sustainable consumption patterns.

**The Flemish region and international environmental decision-making processes: coping with multi-level governance in the environmental policy field**

WG 3

CEEPS - Centre of Expertise for Environmental Policy Sciences, University of Antwerp - Belgium

**Abstract**

This paper explores how Flanders - a constitutional region within the federal state Belgium - copes with both multilateral and EU environmental policy processes. This will be studied through the glasses of the “multi-level governance” concept (MLG). The MLG model states that nation-states increasingly ‘share’ their power with higher and lower political levels as a result of processes of internationalisation and subnationalisation. As a result MLG implies that different policy levels are structurally interdependent.

We investigate the consequences of this interdependence for the participation of Flemish environmental officials in the multilateral and EU decision-making processes and in the rather complex Belgian ‘intergovernmental’ coordination processes. With regard to the structural interdependence among policy levels Belgium is a unique case as a result of the specific features of its federalism, like the complex and extensive division of competencies, the fact that federal and regional policy levels are on equal terms, etc. We ask ourselves if this has an impact on the kind of influencing strategies that Flanders develops.

Next to the general involvement of Flanders in international decision-making, this paper examines the way Flanders copes with different kinds of international dossiers. As a part of a small state, Flanders does not have the resources to manage all dossiers on an equal footing. That is why the prioritisation of environmental dossiers (and its relation with the different kinds of influencing strategies) gets a lot of attention in this paper.

**Consumerism, hedonism, and the need for self-restraint.**

WG 2

Political Science, Leiden

**Abstract**

**Summary:**The fundamental dilemma of sustainable development is that on a world scale there are persistent environmental problems (e.g. climate change by the emission of greenhouse gasses, a deterioration of nature areas and biodiversity, pollution of water, air and ground by chemical substances), while Western liberal democracies still continue to assume that these problems can be solved by a strategy of purely technological innovations that will not infringe upon the citizens' free choice to consume and their comfortable and convenient lifestyles. However, in this paper it is argued that the degradation of nature and environmental pollution are inherent to our materialist culture and are related to the hedonistic, acquisitive values of modern mass consumer society. The basic thesis of the paper is that individuals will inevitably have to simplify their lifestyles so that in the future our environment can be protected effectively. Moderation and self-restraint are necessary conditions for the conservation of nature, to avoid waste, and to maintain the earth's carrying capacity. Yet an ecologically sound society does not imply a minimal standard of living or extremely sober and ascetic lifestyles. The author argues that it may be more wise to search critically for an almost Aristotelian "golden mean" between excess consumerism and complete austerity. [The author teaches political theory and legal theory at the University of Leiden. He has published extensively on green politics and green political theory, both in Dutch and in English. His English books include *Democracy and Green Political Thought* (together with Brian Doherty, Routledge 1996), *Ecological Utopias: Envisioning the Sustainable Society* (International Books 1999), and *The End of Over-consumption* (International Books 2003)].

**Electricity consumption understood by user–technology relations**

WG 2

Danish Building and Urban research

**Abstract**

Other studies have showed that household's electricity consumption depends on the socio-economics of the residents. However we also know that households from similar socio-economic groups can have big variations in consumption pattern. In the paper it is argued that these differences relates to the number and the use of technologies in everyday life, and for this reason we take a closer look at the relation between user and technology. The paper is based on both quantitative and qualitative studies, including 500 questionnaires and 10 in depth interviews. The analyses will distinguishes between:

- kitchen technology
- clothes washing and drying
- media
- lighting

It will be showed that there are big differences between how residents relates to these different types of technology both in questions of acquisition and in questions of use. Furthermore there are also big differences in the relation to the technology from one household to another in spite of similarities in the households socio-econic background. Some of the differences between households are related to differences in environmental concern however other differences relates to differences in behaviour which is not at all related to the residents concern for energy or environment. In the interpretation of the empirical material theories of "Domestication of technologies" are used as well as thoughts from anthropological and sociological consumer theories are included. In the conclusions it is discussed how these studies on micro level of how people interact with their everyday life technology can comment on consumer policy for a more sustainable consumption.



## The use of indicators in environmental integration

### WG 3

National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark  
Currently at: Roskilde University

#### **Abstract**

Both demand for and supply of indicators in environmental policy making is growing. But how are indicators actually used, and to what extent do they have any impact on environmental policies and decision making? Indicators and indicator-based reporting can for instance be depicted as instruments in a rational planning and evaluation approach, where policy makers make the appropriate choices of measures, based on what the indicators tell them about the evolution of key problems and the success and failures of previous policies. In this view it may be justified to expect rather limited impact and utility of indicators, since much of the literature on policy evaluation and planning has shown that instrumentally-rational utilization of information in policy making in general has been very limited. However, indicators may also be perceived otherwise, e.g. as elements in a tentative (re)-institutionalisation of environmental policy making, especially as indicators become embedded in wider frameworks that may encompass features such as cross-sectoral epistemic communities, dedicated monitoring organisations, regular reporting schemes, benchmarking exercises, etc.

The possible 'institutional' effects may take on further dimensions when indicators are developed and applied within multi-level policy frameworks such as the European Union. Environmental indicators are used extensively in the EU, both for general state-of-the-environment reporting and not least as a key element in the Cardiff process, which aims to help integrate environmental protection into the various community policy areas. Among the most advanced examples is the so-called Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism (TERM), which has been set up by the European Environment Agency (EEA) to monitor integration of environmental protection in the transport sector in Europe.

The presentation will set out various ways in which environmental indicators can be conceived as elements in policy making, underscoring the institutional frameworks and procedures through which they connect to or are disconnected from policy making. The TERM system will be used as an exemplar to explore and illustrate the institutional indicator/policy linkages in a multi-level context. The paper is a first step in a research project that will later undertake more detailed empirical case studies of indicators used for transport and environment policy making.

## **Gundersen, Frode**

Between community tradition, modern forestry and modern environmental management - Local institutions and the management of common property in the mountain region and forestry regions in the Southern Norway in the 1990's.

WG 3

Institute for economics and social science, Norwegian Agricultural University

### **Abstract**

The theme of the paper is to present empirical results from the research project "local institutions and the management of outfields" is a social scientific project within a research-program; (The outfield program) from the Norwegian Council of Research, NFR. Our project is a study of the local institutions of the state and parish commons in the period 1991 to 1999.

1) The project had focus on decision-making in the local institutions and their communications with interest-groups and institutions within and outside the local community.

The paper will present some important characteristics by the history of the commons in Norway, the complexity of rights and the local institutions connected to the commons.

In both mountain areas and forestry areas in Southern Norway two types of commons are important institutions and are closely linked to the rural character of these local societies.

2) The paper will examine a) how members of local institutions with responsibility for the management of mountain areas behave when they are under pressure from both environmental authorities to implement national environmental objectives and from different local economic actors to develop the agriculture or the local tourism. b) how members of the local institutions with responsibility of forest areas behave when they came under pressure to modernise the forestry and behave like an ordinary timber and sawmill company.

3) These institutions are both traditional and modern. The paper will discuss general questions concerning the study of local institutions managing natural resources with special focus on tradition and modernity. The paper will argue that the perspectives used in the studies of common property based on a rational choice model must be extended with interpretation of human action emphasising the institutional character of the production and reproduction of meaning in complex social settings. The study has to come close to the history of the community and to the history of the institution, the history of use of the territory, the social conventions of different types of use of the territory.

**Coming into the watershed? The river basin approach in bioregionalism and the EU Water Framework Directive**

WG 4

Department of Political Science, University of Umeå

**Abstract**

Apart from substantive goals, the green movement has developed a range of different ideas on what forms of governance would be amenable to a sustainable society. One such idea advocated by bioregionalists is that administrative and political territories should be realigned to ecological features in the landscape – social organisation should take the natural context into consideration. Whereas this idea has been much contested among green political theorists, some of its rationale is evoked in contemporary ‘mainstream’ environmental policy-making, notably in the concept of river basin management. In the European Union, the river basin approach is currently to be implemented as the guiding principle of the new Water Framework Directive. This paper is concerned with two different questions: Why does the river basin approach seem attractive to actors at the European and local levels? What different interpretations of the concept are made in the translation from general principle to institutional arrangements and practice? The empirical study is carried out in the Laholm Bay Area, a part of Southwestern Sweden with a long history of eutrophication and acidification, problems that have not been easy to manage within current administrative structures. Analysing the river basin approach as both a radical green idea and an idea that is operative in efforts at changing existing policy structures enables a discussion of green strategies for social change. What happens when ‘radical’ ideas are adopted in ‘mainstream’ policy-making – is their radical potential diluted or could radical change occur through policy-making at the margin?

**Johannesburg: a first anniversary  
“Germany after Johannesburg – a sustainable perspective?”**

WG 6

Research Centre Jülich, Programme Group Systems Analysis and Technology  
Evaluation (STE)

**Abstract**

The World Summit of Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg reaffirmed sustainable development as a crucial element for the future of the world and a keystone of the international agenda. The Governments agreed to and reaffirmed a wide range of concrete commitments and targets for action to achieve more effective implementation of sustainable development objectives.

The Federal Government of Germany adopted the national sustainability strategy “Perspectives for Germany” in 2002 to implement sustainable development targets as orientation and guideline for all national and social participants. The national sustainability strategy is seen by the Government as an instrument to fulfill the objectives of the World Summit.

The national sustainability strategy defines sustainable development on the basis of the following four corner points: Generation Justice, Quality of Life, Social Co-operation and International Responsibility. The corner points of the sustainability strategy include 21 indicators and sustainability goals to measure sustainability.

The paper describes the philosophy of the German sustainability concept and explains the sustainability indicators chosen by the German government. Additionally it examines if the German sustainability strategy is compatible with the objectives of the WSSD documented in the plan of implementation and in the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development. The paper examines also if the chosen indicators are suitable to measure sustainability and if the sustainability goals of the concept are sufficient to realize a sustainable development in Germany. Therefore, based on the chosen individual indicators it will be examined if Germany fulfills its own sustainability targets and thereby accomplishing the objectives of Johannesburg for a sustainability pathway.

## **The Dugnad: A Study of Sustainable Consumption in Norway**

WG 2

Department of Sociology and Political Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

### **Abstract**

Debates on sustainable development and ecological modernization have drawn attention to potentials for win-win-solutions in the production of goods and services. The paper explores potentials for win-win-solutions at the consumption level. This is done through an investigation of potentials for changing norms for being a “good” (successful, responsible) consumer in Norway. The potential change in norms is presented as a change from getting as much comfort, experiences, goods and services as possible out of one’s purchasing power (a household perspective) towards choices that balance the household perspective with a concern not to use one’s purchasing power at the expense of the environment or other people’s welfare (global responsiveness).

In the paper “limits to a guilty conscience” is linked to the Norwegian “dugnad tradition”. This tradition means that everybody is supposed to contribute with his or her time and work to the common good. From a dugnad perspective the global struggle for sustainable development is a global dugnad. The presentation of the “dugnad culture” builds on findings from qualitative interviews with 28 Norwegians from the whole range of political parties. The interviews dealt with attitudes to consumption and distribution in today’s world and the most important finding was the discovery of *Homo politicus norvegicus* – the ideal typical dugnad leader.

The paper provides some discussion on whether an apparent potential for changing norms towards globally responsible consumption is due to specific traits in Norwegian political culture or whether similar discursive resources might be expected to be readily available within other political cultures as well. There seem to be reasons to assume that a global resource sharing perspective on sustainable development might release win-win possibilities for rich consumers all over the world. They would have to give up some consumption privileges, but they would in return get a better “earth citizen conscience”. Another suggested reason for assuming that a sustainable world society is politically possible, is that rich consumers and voters eventually have self-interest in a stable and peaceful world society.

## Utopian Thought and Sustainable Development

WG 5

Departement of Water and Environmental Studies, University of Linköping

### **Abstract**

This paper directs its focus on the role and function of utopian thought in discourse and practice for sustainable development in Sweden and internationally. Utopian thought is an indispensable driving-force in politics at large, and not the least in the on-going project of sustainable development. It is however also evident that the project of sustainable development contains not one, but a multitude of utopias and utopian thought. The multitude of diverging and often also conflicting utopias, and the varying qualities of different kinds of utopian thought, is here assumed to be crucial explanations to the controversies and other difficulties that emerge when the ambitions for sustainability are to be implemented in practice, i.e when words are to be turned into action.

The aim of this paper is to prepare theoretically for a planned empirical analysis of different *types* and *forms* of utopian thought that has been generated in connection with sustainable development projects, undertaken in order *to investigate its different potentials and practical suitability*.

A typology of different kinds of utopian thought will be elaborated, based on distinctions such as inclusive-fragmentary and abstract-concrete. Not only the types, but also the forms within which the utopian thought is presented are manifold. It is both visual and verbal, more or less metaphorical, more or less symbolic and it is presented through very different media: pamphlets, epic books, programs, pictures, models, film, virtual simulations, maps, ecovillages, exhibitions etc. The practical suitability and shortcomings of the different types and forms of utopian thought will also be discussed, as well as the role of utopian thought in the politics of sustainable development in general.

## Environmental justice and uncertainty

WG 1

University of Turku, Department of Political Science

### **Abstract**

This article focuses on the question of how gains and burdens related to environment should be distributed to different global actors. In particular, it is asked how uncertainty, or ignorance, influences considerations of environmental justice. While ignorance and uncertainty are commonly seen to have negative consequences, in questions of justice this is not necessarily the case. This article focuses on three notions of uncertainty: the Rawlsian veil of ignorance, the veil of uncertainty and the veil of scientific uncertainty. According to Rawls, a veil of ignorance generates impartial choices in a hypothetical original position. Rawls's veil is perfect, i.e. parties behind the veil have no knowledge on their personal characteristics. A veil of uncertainty, in turn, is not perfect, the negotiating parties know something of their own positions but not for certain. In this paper, it is asked, first, whether ignorance or uncertainty enhances environmental justice. In the case of the veil of ignorance, questions of justice between and within generations are distinguished. Second, the consequences of each of these veils are explored. The types of environmental agreements based on these notions are presented. It is argued that the Rawlsian veil can be used to justify solutions that preserve the environment. However, the Rawlsian veil is not necessarily seen as the best justification. The notions of the veil of uncertainty and scientific uncertainty have similar consequences as the Rawlsian veil. However, these notions are also somewhat vague and do not distinguish between different principles.

**Sustainable Consumption policies and political practises in the UK**

WG 2

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Birmingham

**Abstract**

Different scales of governance have been implicit to UK environmental policy of the past decade. In particular, the issue of sustainable consumption has focussed differentially on the individual, the home and the community. Beginning with the former Conservative government (1979-1997), this paper considers the meanings and social relations underlying both their sustainable consumption policies, and their programmes that aimed to build 'sustainable communities around the UK. Here, the individual as a consumer and as an 'environmental citizen' were central to policy constructs, focussing on the scale of the household. The current Labour government has inherited some of these approaches but has also reinterpreted the focus and meanings of their policies, implicated different sets of ecological and social relations. Here, the spatial focus of sustainable consumption has changed and the concept of 'sustainable communities' has come to the fore. This paper considers the implications of the policies being forwarded under these headings for environmental governance into the future.



## Ecological Footprints and Sustainable Urban Form

WG 6

Western Norway Research Institute

### **Abstract**

In this paper we present the results from a four years research project (1997-2001) named "Housing as a basis for sustainable Consumption". The overall aim in the project is to get more empirical and theoretical knowledge about the connection between physical urban planning and household consumption. This knowledge performs a platform for discussing principles and practises for sustainable urban development.

The project is based on two main assumptions. First, it is suggested that the large and fast growing environmental damages due to private consumption in the households is a major challenge to achieve sustainable development. Second, a large part of this consumption is influenced by our physical living situation, that is the way we form and locate our houses. This is true for energy use for heating and technical appliances, transport and even a considerable amount of equipment that is needed for operation, redecoration and maintenance. Regarding transport, we have included both everyday travels and leisure time journeys. While everyday travels like getting to work, doing shopping and bringing children to school are strongly influenced by the households living situation, this might be the case also for travels in the leisure time.

Based on two large surveys in the Norwegian towns Greater Oslo and Førde we have collected data on housing related consumption from 537 households. We have used *Ecological Footprints* as an analytical tool to analyse the environmental consequences of this consumption. The ecological footprint analyses suggest that sustainable urban development point at *decentralized concentration*. This implies relatively small cities with high density and short distances between houses and public and private services.

## Coastal zone management as multilevel governance

WG 3

Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research

### **Abstract**

The county municipalities in Norway are given an increasingly important role in sustainable coastal zone management, through their responsibility for the co-ordination of different actors and interest through regional coastal zone planning. The responsibility for managing resources and activities in the coastal zone are fragmented. Regional planning is supposed to contribute to a co-ordination of activities between municipalities, central government agencies and private actors. Regional plans vary in to what extent they emphasis steering through government or governance. A role as an entrepreneur or facilitator for regional partnership is in line with the new role the county municipalities is supposed to play by the central government, a role as an agent for regional development. This indicates a shift from steering based on hierarchical authority towards governance through regional partnership.

## **Häyrynen, Nina Johanna**

### **Heal the polluted Baltic Sea – Developing the water sector of St. Petersburg in multilateral co-operation**

WG 3

Graduate School for Russian and East European Studies, Department of Regional Studies and Environmental Policy

#### **Abstract**

The Baltic Sea is one of the most polluted seas in the world. The city of St. Petersburg forms the biggest problem: At the moment one third of its sewages is discharged to the Gulf of Finland without any treatment, because there are not enough waste water treatment plants in St. Petersburg. Since the year 2000, serious multilateral effort among 13 financiers, including donor states and investment banks, has been made to agree on a project that aims at completing the South West wastewater treatment plant that would considerably alleviate the problem. The planned project is the biggest environmental project ever carried out in Europe, with the total costs of some 160 million euros.

Based on my doctoral research, my paper describes the problems of water sector in St. Petersburg and how bilateral co-operation between the Finnish Ministry of the environment and water and sewage utility of St. Petersburg, started in 1991, has during the 1990s extended to the co-operation of 13 counterparts. In the post-socialist world these kind of new environmental regimes have become possible and their existence is very important, considering that at the moment Russia is not able to solve its huge environmental problems without western aid.

**The everyday life -context of increasing energy demands: time-use and the 'technology' of everyday life**

WG 2

Helsinki School of Economics

**Abstract**

Sustainable consumption is appearing on the conceptual map of the environmental debate. Yet the concept remains elusive; on the one hand it risks being reduced to an extension of eco-efficient production and on the other hand it is easily interpreted as a straight-forward call for reducing the level of consumption or focusing on the 'real' needs of human beings. This paper conceptualises sustainable consumption through a critique of eco-efficiency. It claims that sustainable consumption could be regarded as such an alternative and mutually exclusive view on consumption activities, which emphasises the intrinsic value and subjective meaning of consumption activities instead of the instrumental and functional view of eco-efficiency. Consequently, the paper also proposes that consumption activities should be analysed not in terms of their efficiency towards a function or goal, but only in terms of the required inputs. Hence, the unit of the presented analysis is the resource intensity of the time-use in various consumption activities. In addition to a normative call for a consumer point of view, it is also argued that a time-use approach is better able to expound on how the changes in consumption take place and what is the everyday life -context of economic growth. The paper presents an empirical analysis of the changes in the patterns of consumption in Finland from 1990 to 1998. Firstly, the paper addresses the changes in the average energy-intensity of selected consumption activities. Secondly, the paper introduces a decomposition analysis of the aggregate change of the energy requirements of private consumption in Finland. It is shown that while demographic changes tend to increase energy consumption, the changes in everyday life contribute in two ways: during the 1990's Finns have come to use their time in less energy-intensive activities, but simultaneously the raising energy intensities of these activities have contributed to an increase in the energy requirements.

## Sustainability strategies and the localisation of food.

### WG 3

\*University of Tampere, Department of Regional Studies and Environmental Policy,

\*\*University of Jyväskylä, School of Business and Economics

\*\*\*University of Jyväskylä, Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, Contact person

#### **Abstract**

Local food is carrying an indefinite meaning “good for sustainability” in public and policy discussions. This is an important notion – though it has not been studied in any depth yet. Local food system can be defined as a changing domain, where diverse interests and various demands are crossing. However, it is not self-evident which groups and interests are the most active and powerful in the cultural formulation of local food. It is not well known either what kind of (competing) cultural meanings are associated with local food and with food production and consumption in localities. It is also unclear whether the ideas on local food do feature in local sustainability thinking. Overall, local connections between food policy, rural livelihood and environmental policy are strong.

This paper addresses the topic of political and cultural essence of local food systems in Finland. It focuses on dynamics between main local actors and networks, which are promoting interests of local food. It also aims to clarify institutional boundaries in the local food system. Further, we discuss results provided by the case study accomplished in the Jyväskylä region, where thematic interviews were collected among local food producers.

## **Urban Hybridisation and Peri-Urban Regions in Large Third World Cities**

WG 2

\*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, Unit of Social Policy,

\*\*Department of Regional Studies and Environmental Policy, University of Tampere

\*\*\*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, Unit of Social Policy

### **Abstract**

Modes of urban hybridisation offer a fruitful approach to contemporary urban development debate of sustainable development. Concepts such as semi-urban and peri-urban living environment have been widely used, but often based on the differentiation on the conventional dichotomies such as 'rural and urban' or 'traditional and modern'. Therefore, our aim is to focus on the rising modes of urban hybridises that tend to balance between 'traditional' and modern' social realities and resources, including basic infrastructure and services on the community level. There can be found numerous features reflecting (urban) hybridity, such as the rise of informal cities and their variegated structures; city morphologies that combine indigenous and 'alien' elements; the emergence of new spatial patterns that have borderzones as 'centers of gravity'; mixed economies; and, the emergence of new organisational forms and urban environmental practices.

Observations from African and Asian countries are presented (Cairo, Delhi and Lagos) and interpreted in the light of identified urban hybridises. Issues of interest include questions such as what are the daily routines of livelihood and sanitation in a shantytown, e.g., how the sanitation systems, e.g., avoidance of dirt and the "order of things" are organised in the community, and how the perceptions on social and concrete basic infrastructure communicate with the mixed and hybrid urban culture. Results imply e.g. that urban and rural features of everyday life may be combined in flexible and creative ways. This adds to the basic livelihood resources in peri-urban regions and low-income housing areas.

**Karkinen, Katri**

## The Social Implications of Fur Farming in Finland

WG 1

University of Joensuu, department of social politics

### **Abstract**

Fur farming in Finland is an important sector of agriculture. In this paper, the fur farming in Eastern Finland is described together with the controversy that surrounds the fur farming. This controversy is highly polarised, with little opportunity for a political middle ground between the fur farmers and the animal rights activists. The latter's main statements against fur farming include universal and global aims such as "animal rights" and "animal freedom". A farmer can easily neglect such statements in his/her daily routine of animal care because his/her focus is in a continuous production. The author attempts to evaluate the fur farming in the context of sustainable agriculture.

## Kern, Kristine

### Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region by National, International, and Transnational Governance

WG 3

Social Science Research Center Berlin, Research Unit "Civil Society and Transnational Networks"

#### Abstract

Sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region depends on different forms of governance: First, national governance is crucial for national environmental policy and national sustainability strategies. While some countries in the Baltic Sea Region, for instance Sweden, are considered as pioneers from an international comparative perspective, there are also countries, such as Poland, that lag behind European standards. Second, international cooperation and international regimes have played an important role since the 1970s. The most prominent example for international environmental governance in the Baltic Sea Region is the Helsinki Convention/Commission. Third, new forms of transnational governance have been developed in the Baltic Sea Region, especially since the late 1980s and the end of the cold war. Transnational network organizations between subnational governments (e.g., the Union of the Baltic Cities) or civil society actors (e.g., the Coalition Clean Baltic) are a relatively new phenomenon. However, the dynamic development in the Baltic Sea Region seems to be stronger than in other parts of Europe. As the Baltic Sea can be considered as a link between EU member states and the accession countries in Eastern Europe, these trends are very important for the enlargement of the European Union. The paper will ask for the relations and interdependences between national, international, and transnational forms of governance.

Thus, three models of governance in the Baltic Sea Region are discussed: First, the traditional forms of intergovernmental and international cooperation are analyzed ("governance by nation states"). While nation states are still the main actors, transnational network organizations, like the Union of the Baltic Cities or the Coalition Clean Baltic, are not directly involved in decision-making. However, in recent years such organizations got at least an observer status, i.e. they can present their views although decision-making is still restricted to representatives of nation states. For this model the governance mode is self-organization between nation states, combined with (hierarchical) implementation strategies within nation states. The success of this model depends on national governance that leads to changes at the local level that are needed to solve environmental problems. As typical example for this governance model the case of the Helsinki Convention is discussed.

Second, in the Baltic Sea Region new forms of international policy networks ("governance with nation states") can be observed. They are characterized by an increasing importance of transnational network organizations because within global or international policy networks governmental, non-governmental, and subnational actors play similar roles as all these actor types are involved in decision-making. The mode of governance has also changed, because this kind of self-organization encompasses different combinations of national, European, subnational, or non-governmental actors. In multi-level systems a change of decision-making structures results in a different implementation model. Implementation is not re-



stricted to national regulation, but depends also on initiatives of subnational and non-governmental actors. Two case studies are discussed as examples for this governance type: (1) Baltic 21, a regional Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region, and (2) tripartite contracts, that aim at sustainable development in specific regions and involve European, national, and regional/local actors.

Third, the emergence of transnational networks in the Baltic Sea region supports new forms of governance that are not related to international cooperation of nation states (“governance without nation states”). Decision-making is transferred to networks of NGOs or subnational governments. This mode of governance can be characterized as self-organization of such actors, often combined with the development of new governance arrangements at the national level. Within networks of cities and regions the implementation of internal decisions depends on internal network governance. As hierarchy can not be applied as internal governance mode, new governance instruments have been developed. Benchmarking and twinning strategies have been most important in this respect. In the paper, the Union of the Baltic Cities will be discussed as an example. The members of this city network chose sustainable development as one of the main goals of the organization.

In the final chapter these three modes of governance – (1) governance by nation states, (2) governance with nation states, and (3) governance without nation states – are compared. How effective are these (new) forms of multi-level governance? Are there differences regarding the legitimacy of decision-making and implementation? It can be concluded that national governance is still important for sustainable development, but new forms of governance arrangements occur, consisting of different combinations of international, European, national, subnational, and non-governmental actors. Transnational networks organization, such as city networks or NGO networks, have become more important within the last years. They are not only involved in European or national governance arrangements, but have also developed new instruments of internal network governance.

**Keskitalo, E. Carina H.**

## Multi-level stakeholder assessments: the case of the Barents region

WG 3

Department of Social Studies, University of Lapland

### **Abstract**

Stakeholder studies in the environmental area focus on identifying those who will be impacted by long-term global change in a region or locality, and their abilities to adapt to or mitigate change. As stakeholders exist at international as well as regional and local levels, stakeholder studies pose specific problems when it comes to levels of analysis. This paper attempts to conceptualise the ability to cope with change in terms of communication between horizontal and vertical levels of organisation. Main assumptions are that institutionalised communication represents a potential for responding to and thereby for mitigating or adapting to change. The paper discusses the broad array of stakeholders that can be identified for the Barents region, and how communication (and communication gaps) between these can be conceptualised. Especially, the paper focuses on the differences in framings and conceptualisations among stakeholders, and the specific difficulties of institutionalised interaction in peripheral regions.

## **Sustainability implementation evaluation in light of Partnership Initiatives**

WG 6

Helsinki University of Technology

### **Abstract**

In 1993 Finnish government established national sustainable development committee and since it has been lead by prime minister. Committee's term has ended in December 2002 and a evaluation process of committee's work and influence in Finnish society has been done side by side with Johannesburg WSSD process and national implementing strategy, especially for sustainable production and consumption patterns.

During Johannesburg process new framework for partnership initiatives was created to ensure involvement of major groups (and their resources) in implementing phase. The major outcome of WSSD is implementation of decade old Agenda 21 from Rio summit.

Paper will discuss status of partnership initiatives in regard how evaluation and steering process is established nationally in Finland and in EU and UN in Council of Sustainable Development. In Bali prepcom guidelines for partnership initiatives were introduced and later on they were accepted as part of WSSD agreement. Paper will focus on major groups empowerment process for implementing WSSD results – is partnership concept seen as opportunity in business, and science&technology community and in local government? Does it have clear enough guidelines, is national focal point needed, how seed-corn funding is organized to get things started?

Paper will be based on two case studies CETISA and Renewable Energy. In CETISA case being institutional capacity building for innovations for sustainable development aspects will be goal/impact defining, how need driven work can be ensured, transforming attitudes from donor/recipient to partnership. As Renewable Energy case has business partners involved aspects will be how in praxis win-win situation can be found and is there conflict in opportunity timeframe between business and institutional partners.

## Korhonen, Kaisa

### Impact of Biodiversity Conservation on *Local People* – A Case Study from Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar

WG 1

Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki

#### **Abstract**

Political ecology emphasises roles of different actors and their social relations, for example when defining power over natural resources. My paper will present a case from Ranomafana National Park (RNP), Madagascar. RNP was established as an integrated conservation and development project where development components were seen to justify biodiversity conservation over local people's lost right to use forest resources. In this case study I want to show how different actors as well as their social relations and unequal distribution of power between actors have shaped the way how the forest and local people in Ranomafana are constructed. Especially I will focus on the concept of "*local people*" and how they and their lives have been effected by biodiversity conservation. Local people have been the targets of conservation and development activities but the benefits and justifications of the project have been seen in different ways by different actors such as local authorities, local elite, NGOs and ordinary farmers (in different groups) who all contest their interest and control over natural resources.

## **Kotilainen, Juha**

### **Scales of transformation and the politics of nature in the Russian forest industry**

WG 4

University of Joensuu, Karelian Institute

#### **Abstract**

In recent years, the Russian economy and its forest industrial sector have been recovering from the crisis of the 1990s. New investments have been made and new arrangements in ownership patterns occur constantly. In Russia, the utilisation of natural resources has been extensive, but lack of connections has also left large areas untouched by the forest industry. These areas have also been claimed to have global significance. This situation raises important questions about the prospects of the Russian forest industry in terms of its environmental performance and policies. It is obvious that there is and there will be variation inside the forest industry in that country in how it deals with the environmental question.

In this paper I will review and evaluate the recent discussions on the concept of scale in human geography. I will then investigate the transformations of the forest industry in Russia during the last decade. I will point out the importance of understanding the rescaling of this field of industry as well as the consequences these rescaling processes have for the politics of nature. Through local case studies, I will explore how environmental politics are intermingled with development policies. In short, the paper deals with the question: What will the future of the forest industry in Russia look like from the environmental perspective?

## A theory of justice, economic growth and global climate change

WG 1

University of Helsinki

### **Abstract**

John Rawls Theory of Justice has been criticised as a factual defense of inequality. I claim that we end up in a quite different end result if we take the thought process, described in the original position, properly through.

One common argumentation is, that the taxation is so tight, that it takes away the incentives to work and would thus decrease the total tax revenue. In that way easing of the taxation would increase the tax revenue and thus improve the possibilities to maintain our welfare state. In that way easing of the taxation could be justified using the second principle, which says, that social and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that they are to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged.

There it at least three problems with this argumentation:

- 1) Lowering tax rates does not always bring in more revenue.
- 2) Economic growth does not necessarily decrease social problems, even though increased tax revenues could be used for income transfers or social services.
- 3) It does not take into account external effects (like greenhouse emissions) of economic growth.

After going through these arguments, I claim, that the second principle that would be formulated behind the veil of ignorance would not focus solely on economic inequalities, but with also include the concepts environmental space and the affiliated equity principle.

## Ecological concerns, liberal justice and sustainable development

WG 1

Department of Social and Moral Philosophy, University of Helsinki

### **Abstract**

What is the relationship between sustainable development and liberal justice? Liberalism is said to have difficulties with including environmental issues into its framework and therefore being incompatible with sustainable development. But sustainable development is usually divided into three dimensions: in addition of ecological sustainability, also economical and social sustainabilities are taken into consideration. I argue that environment is secured in liberal theory, while the other aspects are harder to defend by liberal justice.

Protecting environment and maintaining its integrity are essential for well-being of individuals as well as the whole society. Therefore, ecological concerns can be seen as one of the basic ‘freedoms’ or a precondition for human well-being in liberal theory and as such, legitimate for public intervention if threatened. Environment is instrumentally valuable in the political, public level of society. In this sense it can also be understood in the framework of sustainable development.

The problem concerning liberalism and sustainable development seems not to be sustaining environment but other dimensions of sustainable development. Extending far beyond environmental concerns, the core idea of sustainable development is social continuity or social sustainability (social justice, as Langhelle points out)—the idea that our way of life, societies, values, cultures and overall human flourishing should sustain indefinitely (future generations) and be equally distributed among present generations. These primary goals of sustainable development are hard to reconcile with liberal principles of justice: liberal justice says very little about intra- and intergenerational justice.

The main issue in this paper is the relationship of liberalism and ecological concerns but I will outline briefly also the possibility of intergenerational and global justice in liberal theory and motivational moral assumptions on which concerns of future and present poor are usually based.

**Sustainable Development and Climate Change – Distributional Challenges and Possible Ways Forward**

WG 1

\*Rogaland Research

\*\*Department of Politics, Sheffield University

**Abstract**

The concept of sustainable development and the problem of climate change were put on the international agenda almost at the same time. Both attracted international attention in the mid-1980s. The report from the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) *Our Common Future* was launched in 1987, and in 1988 the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organisation established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to review scientific knowledge in this area. The WCED rapidly led the United Nations, governments and organisations to embrace sustainable development as a development goal. The result of IPCC's First Assessment Report in 1990 was sufficiently worrying to prompt the opening of formal international negotiations to draft a climate change agreement. This article explores the following connections between sustainable development and climate change:

Sustainable development, we argue, contains within it an idea of social justice. Not a complete theory, but those elements related to global environment and development challenges. This includes the basic needs of the poor and that these needs of future generations must be considered in environment and development decision-making. We argue that these are the elements of justice that should first and foremost be considered in relation to climate change. The climate change treaty already recognises the need for justice (equity) in approaching climate change. Sustainable development is already included in its provisions and the Marakesh accords already recognize the principle of convergence of national per capita carbon emissions.

Our argument is that SD as a global norm gives us a basic framework to approach climate change and understand what a 'just' international approach would look like. (needs of the current generation (with priority to urgent needs of the poor); needs of future generations; also participation. The last point covers the procedural element. Such justice covers relations among states (but also more, in terms of relations between states and peoples).

What we explore in this article is *how this global norm already reflected in climate change treaties could be pushed forward in terms of - distributing emissions; compensations for mitigation; and procedural justice*. However, even if we agree on the principles of distribution, there are different ideas of what needs to be done economically to ensure sustainable development, in our case, how emissions should be reduced. Therefore, we discuss different economic conceptions of 'sustainability', the strategies they prescribe, their policy implications for climate change in relation to the distributional principles explored.

Climate change is a long-term problem, but decisions made in the next two or three decades could have a dramatic impact on rates and levels of warming experienced during the remainder of the twenty-first century. Equity suggests that those who have created a problem should take responsibility to deal with it. If one considers historical emissions patterns the



overwhelming responsibility of the industrialised countries is even clearer. On the other hand, equity also suggests that those best able to take remedial action should do so. Again, the wealthy countries of the North are better placed to curb their emissions than the poorer countries of the South. Finally, there is the question of what the long-term target should be and which principles should distribute future emissions among countries.

## **Larsen, Flemming**

### **Worst Case scenario of the Kyoto Protocol – and a possible solution?**

WG 6

Department of Law, University of Southern Denmark

#### **Abstract**

The paper includes a critical overview of the biggest loopholes in the present version of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC). In particular it includes comments on the enforcement rules and compliance rules as well as comments on the lack of regulation against “free riding” and the trade of “hot air”. The second half of the paper presents an alternative strategy to the Protocol (focussing exclusively though on the energy aspects) – suggesting a possible regulation based on voluntary measures combined with the strict target that all fossil fuel and nuclear power must be phased out during a thirty year period.

With this paper my aim is to hopefully intensify discussions on how to improve the regulation that deals with protection against climate change, specifically with a view to the role of the US and other reluctant parties.

## **Residental Energy Behaviour: Does generation matter?**

WG 2

Department of Sociology, Lund University

### **Abstract**

Experiences early in life strongly shape values, attitudes and behaviour and serve as reference points ever after. Those who grew up in a society where resources are scarce may behave differently in an affluent society than those who got used to affluence even as children. This hypothesis was tested among 600 households in a major Swedish city who responded to questions about energy related behaviour and environmental attitudes. The households belonged to different generations, or age groups, lived in flats or detached houses and the questions were about energy use in their dwellings. On fourth of the total energy in Sweden is delivered to households for heating and appliances. Household electricity use is increasing.

The results show that there are no differences in environmental attitudes between generations. Generally, the concern with climate change is high and both young and old think it is important to conserve energy. However, energy related behaviour differed between age groups. The young people preferred higher temperatures indoors than the old ones, they liked showering better than bathing, they often used electric kettles for heating water because it was faster than other alternatives and they seldom rinsed the plates in warm water before putting them in the dish washer. The old people bathed more often than the young ones, their refrigerators and freezers were older but they valued energy efficiency higher. The old people showed more acceptances for lowering indoor temperature, they put lids on cooking pots more often and they more often aired clothes instead of washing them. All these behaviours impact electricity use and the demand for space heating and hot water. Some behaviour common among the young generation are favourable for energy efficiency, others are not.

Scenarios of energy futures should take such differences in behaviour between generations into account. They should also be considered in policymaking, when planning information campaigns and when designing other policy instruments.

**Linnér, Björn-Ola\* & Selin, Henrik\*\***

## **The Thirty Year Quest for Sustainability: The Legacy of the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment**

WG 6

\*Department of Water and Environmental Studies, Linköping University

\*\*Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### **Abstract**

The 2002 UN World Summit on Sustainable Development is an important benchmark in a thirty year long process that started with the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm. Despite the major importance of the 1972 Stockholm conference acknowledged by both practitioners and scholars as a catalyst for global cooperation on environment and development and stimulating domestic actions, no major in-depth study has been made of the conference. In an ongoing multi-year research project we seek to do this. Using results from the project, the paper examines the background to, holding of, and short-term and long-term impacts of the Stockholm conference on the thirty year long process for reaching global sustainable development. In doing so, the paper studies the history behind the conference, actors and issues that dominated the conference, and the major events and actions that followed in the aftermath of the conference.

## **Ecological Modernization and Logistics – a Case Study**

WG 2

Department of Sociology and Political Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

### **Abstract**

The paper compares the logistics systems of two Norwegian companies (HÅG and Elkem). It investigates to what degree and in what ways HÅG and Elkem have adapted their logistics systems to the ideas of ecological modernization. HÅG is a major producer of office chairs to the European market and is known for its focus on “green logistics”. Elkem is a producer of metals for the world market and is highlighting the environmental quality of its products.

Based on interviews and review of company documents, it is concluded that HÅG to a larger extent than Elkem see a proactive attitude to the environment as an opportunity for improved profits. HÅG introduced “green logistics” in the first place in order to reduce costs and increase its competitiveness compared to other office chair producers. Faced with serious economic problems in the beginning of the 1990s, HÅG successfully converted to Just-in-Time and green logistics in order to survive. While the most important competitors of HÅG are located in industrialized countries, Elkem faces increasingly competition from producers located to low-cost developing countries. Elkem and the processing industry in general, have worked against national regulations towards emissions of greenhouse gases due to the argument of carbon leakage. HÅG on the other hand, is only to a minor degree affected by national environmental regulations.

The paper illustrates that the concept of sustainable development is adapted to a company’s product portfolio, market situation and logistics circumstances. Neither of the case companies sees the mantra of present logistics theories, Just-in-Time, to be in conflict with a sustainable development.

## **Integrating Swedish Water Resource Management – An Multi-Level Governance Trilemma**

WG 3

Department of Political Science, Göteborg University

### **Abstract**

Sweden's efforts to implement the EU Water Framework Directive takes place amidst three interrelated processes. First, there is the already ongoing work to set in motion the process of implementing the country's 15 National Environmental Quality Objectives (NEQO's). Several of these objectives are directly concerned with water, e.g., "Zero Eutrophication, Flourishing Lakes and Streams, Good-Quality Groundwater, A Balanced Marine Environment, Flourishing Coastal Areas and Archipelagos", and "Thriving Wetlands". Second, whereas the organization and process of implementing these NEQO's is thoroughly based on existing "politico-administrative" levels, the Directive requires a new, "natural" basin and catchment approach. Third, the NEQO process must be adjusted to both the implementation of the EU Directive and the changes in the Swedish Environmental Code to that Directive in order to have any binding character.

This paper addresses the Multi-Level Governance problems involved in adjusting these three phenomena in order to ensure an effective implementation of integrated water Resource Management. The analysis is done with special reference to how the Swedish efforts to accommodate this "trilemma" affect the opportunities for building and maintaining self-regulatory water management institutions at the lowest "natural", i.e., sub-catchment level. The assessment particularly addresses issues of integrating such "superlocal" alternatives within the larger system of multi-level water resource governance, seen from the viewpoints of effectiveness, participation, and legitimacy.

The study is part of the Strategic Water Research Programme – (VASTRA [www.vastra.org](http://www.vastra.org)) – financed by the Swedish Fund for Strategic Environmental Research – MISTRA ([www.mistra-research.se](http://www.mistra-research.se)).

## **Dilemmas of Facilitation of Citizen Participation in Sustainable Development**

Department of Policy Analysis, National Environmental Research Institute Denmark

### **Abstract**

Nearly everybody concerned with sustainable development emphasise the importance of citizen participation in the quest for sustainable development. However, it is interpreted in different ways and approached with different strategies and methods. Even though there are good reasons for attacking top-down approaches, this paper will argue that environmental sociologists sticks into a too simplified model, when they turn this criticism of top-down into an idealisation of bottom-up. Based on examples from the Danish context the importance of new kinds of social agencies will be stressed, especially those who – as facilitating third parties – tries to mediate between top and bottom. Their position as organisers of participatory processes makes it important to identify their characteristics, different conceptions and approaches as well as the qualities and risks in relation to democracy and sustainable development. As a contribution this paper will describe four dilemmas that these kinds of facilitating change agents have to cope with and that might be adequate for identification of qualitative differences. The dilemmas are: 1) Professionalism versus engagement, 2) Popular appeal versus commitment to the complexities of sustainable development, 3) “Environment centredness” versus cultural orientation, 4) Local settings versus global scope.

## **Marshall, Joan**

### **Defining Maritime Boundaries: Questions of environment, international politics, and local communities**

WG 3

McGill School of Environment, Macdonald Campus - McGill University

#### **Abstract**

This paper examines an unresolved boundary dispute in the Gulf of Maine, between the United States and Canada, in an area known as the AGrey Zone@. In the context of a juridically weak framework of principles for determining international maritime boundaries, the paper examines the case of a small fishing community caught between conflicting national interests. Left unresolved with the 1984 ICJ decision defining the AHague Line@, this dispute is made more problematic because of ambiguous objectives and conflicting agendas between national governments, between state and community levels, and within the community itself. In addition, there is no agreement on the nature of the delimitation problem, as one of a linear boundary, or as a new zone demarcating an area of marine and resource management. Governments have to recognize that maritime boundaries have a significant role to play in resource management (Townsend-Gault, 1997), and that the Grey Zone problem needs to be seen as a resource issue, not a boundary dispute. For fishermen on both sides of the border, who fish under different regulatory regimes, settlement of this problem is crucial to their livelihoods and way of life.



**Drawing the line between international and national – state sovereignty and the climate regime**

WG 6

University of Turku

**Abstract**

The role of the concept of state sovereignty in international law has diminished due to the increase of regulation and the growing significance of non-state actors at an international level. The development of environmental law has accelerated, in which international and national legal systems interact and where principles emphasising the general interests of humankind, e.g. sustainable development, common concern of humankind and the precautionary principle, have entered the stage. However, independent states still play significant and vital roles in the development of international law, although their roles and impacts have changed.

The implementation of greenhouse gas abatement commitments may take place on national, regional or international levels. Under the UNFCCC regime, national measures are primarily left to national discretion. This means that states are internationally responsible for reaching the targets, but by what means this takes place is not mandated internationally. The same applies to regional implementation, of which the EU “Bubble” is currently the only example. In these circumstances, the principle of state sovereignty still seems to be alive, well and significant.

A traditional interpretation of sovereignty has still been apparent in the negotiations at the COPs to the UNFCCC. In accordance with the prevailing interpretation of the principle of sovereignty, in which states are free to reject or to agree to treaty obligations, to adhere to international organisations, or to submit conflicts to international tribunals, no state is required to make explicitly defined commitments.

**Mineur, Eva**

**To approach the role of sustainability indicators - 'ecological' rationales and governing structures**

No 100 WG 3

Department of Political Science, Umeå University

**Abstract**

What can be observed in society today is that the use of and trust in sustainability indicators are continuously becoming more and more widespread within different sectors and at different levels of society. They are developed to meet the need of measuring the sustainable state of the society and can be seen as a meeting point between science and politics in a discourse where they frame the problems and envisage solutions. But there is no single definition of what role they should play in environmental politics. This paper will focus on a theoretical approach to understand the role of local sustainability indicators in a political context. Two different frameworks are presented to approach the role(s) of the local indicators in the process of making policies out of politics. The first framework consist of two contrasting 'ecological' rationales showing to what extent the local authorities have adapted their work to the governmental request of a sustainability transformation at local level. This framework will provide a clue to the profile of the indicators by focusing on what the sustainability indicators in fact measures and how they grasp the sustainable development. The second framework concerns governing structures and to what extent the local indicators have been developed in a governance influenced context as oppose to a more traditional governmental context. By analysing the governing structure in the municipality the political and administrative context in which the indicators operate as well as the actors involved will be mapped out and frame their role from another angle. This paper argues that this combination of theoretical frameworks will provide an understanding of what role sustainability indicators can play in local politics. Is it even possible to argue that the politics of sustainable development is played out in sustainability indicators?

## Research Funding as an Agency for Environmental Policy

WG 4

Department of Water and Environmental Studies, Linköping University

### **Abstract**

In recent years the system for funding environmental research in Sweden has been fundamentally reorganised. This paper studies the aims of key research foundations that are funding research on environment and sustainable development. It also studies the transition from environmental research to sustainable development research and how this change of focus effects the borders of research fields. These aims are analysed in relation to the development of national as well as international environmental policy, in order to discuss to what extent the research funding system is an agency for accomplishing environmental policy goals.

The study will focus on three specific sets of issues.

- Criteria for defining and delimiting *environmental research* and *research on sustainable development* in government directives and documents of research foundations.
- Mandates, organisational and financial means, and priorities of research foundations in relation to environmental research
- The role of the research funding system as an agency for environmental policy.

This paper is based on results from an ongoing multi-year research project on the development of the present system for funding of environmental research in Sweden.

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## Ecological Footprint Concept in the Analysis of International Trade

WG 2

Åbo Akademi University, Department of Economics and Statistics

### **Abstract**

Living in a finite world, where the scope of economic activity is growing, suggests that we should be aware of the magnitude of our economic system in relation to the surrounding natural system. The paper discusses one of the biophysical measurement devices of economy, the ecological footprint concept and its applications. The concept is praised by many for its easy communicativeness, but on the other hand its theoretical background has been questioned. The first part of the paper briefly outlines the characteristics of the ecological footprint concept and explores the criticism presented in literature. The second part presents one possible application of the concept, the case of modelling international trade. We explore the advantages and disadvantages of the concept by analysing the Finnish foreign trade in terms of ecological footprints.

## Democracy and natureprotection

### WG 3

\*Department for Environmental and social studies, Roskilde University (DK)

\*\*Pedagogic Department, Roskilde University (DK)

#### **Abstract**

The paper deals with conditions for development of a concept of located participatory environmental regulation. It is a core thesis of the project that the participation of citizens in planning of natureprotection gains a new quality if the environmental planning is integrated with the planning of the social and cultural development of the local community in question.

In the paper we present results and conclusions deriving from an action research project – located in a rural region of Denmark (Halkær Aadal). In the actions research project we made experiments with two different forms of dialogue processes:

1. the future crating workshop in which citizens in a social utopian proces formulated ideas and initiatives for “naturepreservation and local development”. The dialogues in the future creating workshop is as well a social learning proces as an initial step to democratic planning.

2. the researchworkshop, in which local citizens starts a dialogue with experts and authorities at different levels. In the dialogues the conventional relation between citizens and experts/authorities was twisted arraound: the experts should assist the local citizens in operationalisation and implementation of the ideas.

The results from the action research proces were promising: the methods used i the participation processes resultated in a pratical empowerment and in untraditional ideas to combine cammunity development and naturepreservation. We discuss the results in relation to other methods of participation – and especially we draw attention to the social learning aspects of the experiments.

## International goals and national strategies for sustainable development: The case of Norway

WG 6

Programme for research and documentation for a sustainable Society (ProSus),  
Centre for development and the environment, University of Oslo

### **Abstract**

At the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, governments agreed to adopt Agenda 21 as an action plan and blueprint for implementing sustainable development. Chapter 8 of Agenda 21 calls for the preparation of national strategies for sustainable development (NSSD) and deals specifically with the process and outline of such a strategy. In 1997, the UN General Assembly Special Session set a target date of 2002 for all countries to have introduced such strategies. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg the importance of NSSD was reiterated and resulted in government commitment to implement their national strategies by 2005.

According to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) framework-set on indicators for NSSD, the focus should be placed on a “*strategic and participatory process of analysis, debate, capacity strengthening, planning and action towards sustainable development*” and improve the integration of social and environmental objectives into key economic development processes. Norway initiated its work on a NSSD in October 2001 and the final document was presented in August 2002, two weeks before the WSSD took place. This process was highly criticised by the NGO community and other stakeholders. Nevertheless, the Government adopted the strategy and presented it to the UN.

This paper will examine the process of the development of a NSSD in Norway and evaluate the final document based on the criteria provided by the UNCSD. The paper intends to provide answers to such questions as; has the development of a NSSD been conducted in accordance with the guidelines provided by the UNCSD? How does the strategy deal with the issue of sectoral integration of sustainable development in Norway? What role did the NGO-community play in this process? The empirical data will be based on authors participation, newspaper articles and relevant documents as well as interviews with some of the main actors.

## Agenda 21 and multilevel governance

WG 3

CEFOS (Centrum för Forskning om Offentlig Sektor)

### **Abstract**

Agenda 21 was a historical achievement. Never before had a political document been agreed upon at such a high political level, and the way had been thoroughly prepared by intense negotiation and pre-meetings around the world. This was also one of the early documents conceptualizing the new, multidimensional way of addressing severe and complex problems that is marking the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The novelty was, that instead of lining out political solutions for a single country or region, with no correspondence to institutions at other political levels, the document of Agenda 21 and the following work that succeeded designed new methods to work in social systems at multiple levels.

This article aims to discuss the institutional specifics which were set up at the levels of the UN, in Europe, and at national as well as at the local municipal level in the case of Sweden. After follows a critical discussion of how these multiple levels communicates, and how the levels are being steered today. The theoretical basis is institutional theory in combination with communicative theory. The article closes with a number of suggestions of how these institutional systems could be strengthened if higher degrees of efficiency should be achieved.

## **Pant, Rita & Sammer, Katharina**

Labelling as a convenient strategy and instrument for sustainable consumption?

Casestudy: Chances and risks: the implementation of the Max Havelaar label for textiles and clothes in Switzerland

WG 2

Institute for Economy and the Environment (IWÖ)/University of St.Gallen (CH)

### **Abstract**

Can labelling be a convenient strategy and an instrument for sustainable consumption? The problem about sustainable products is that sustainable attributes cannot be verified by the consumer (credence attributes of products). Sellers may exploit the situation of asymmetric information and sell low-quality products while pretending to offer high-quality ones. Hence consumers are generally sceptical of marketers' claims concerning credence attributes of products. Economic theory suggests, that mandatory labeling requirements are best suited to alleviate problems of asymmetric information. But even if labels are a possible solution to the problem of asymmetric information, the success of a label respectively the commercialisation of sustainable products in a specific market is not ensured. In this paper the factors of success for a sustainability label shall be figured out. One of these factors for success, the costs and benefits of consumers and businesses of a sustainability label will be analysed in detail in looking at the swiss foundation Max Havelaar. The Max Havelaar Foundation (Fair Trade) plans to implement a sustainability label for textiles and clothes. Therefore the analysis will consider the special market conditions of the (Swiss) clothes and textiles markets. If the benefits of consumers and businesses outweigh the costs of the consumption respectively the application of a sustainability label the way for the promotion of sustainable consumption will be eased



## **Refining consumption modelling – distinguishing volume and quality choices**

WG 2

Government Institute of Economic Research (VATT)

### **Abstract**

In the late eighties and nineties a wave of studies emerged in which one way or the other natural resource use was linked to the consumer or to a consumption perspective. Especially in the fields of energy use and transport applications can be found (Schipper, 1989; Fujime, 1994; Vringer and Blok, 1995; Weber and Perrels, 2000), though attempts for a wider scope exist as well (Jalas, 2002). In recent years the sustainability discussions are dominated by climate policy related issues. However, as climate policies move from preparation to implementation and the need for linkage with other sustainability policy issues becomes more evident and concrete, the attention for the micro-level starts to revive (e.g. Hertwich, 2002; OECD 2002). Also the Johannesburg summit and the UNEP programme on sustainable consumption support this revival.

In order to be able to realise the transition towards sustainable consumption it does not suffice to offer ever more sustainable products and services, households will have to make changes in their purchase decisions and in a broader sense also in their lifestyles. To incite the desired kind of changes in purchase decisions and lifestyles one needs to understand how households operate. In addition one needs to know how the relevant markets work with respect to enabling/facilitating the changes in purchases and lifestyles. There is however still a sizeable methodological gap between what we can do today in terms of modelling household behaviour and what is needed.

For economists modelling of consumption has been often equated with consumption (expenditure) functions, perhaps complemented with models of ownership of durables. However from a sustainability point of view, we do not only want to know whether people will buy more or less of a good, but also for example to what extent they exchange volume for quality, and to what extent ready-to-consume alternatives (including outsourcing) are substituting for semi-finished goods or raw materials. The latter issue needs in fact also inclusion of time use aspects and skill levels.

Even though the ultimate objective in VATT is the construction of linked consumption (expenditure) modules and time use modules, the present paper will concentrate on the features of the consumption modules, as they are constructed in the framework of the Finnish Academy project AESOPUS regarding nitrogen and phosphorus flows in Finland and man made impacts on those. The special feature of the model, also to be discussed in the paper, is the distinction between volume and quality responses in consumption (purchase) behaviour, whereas to some extent also the impact of time pressure on product choice is discussed. Next to estimation results also some indications for the environmental impacts will be included, whereas the prospects for linking up with time use modelling will be briefly touched upon.

## National Forest Programme bringing together the global and local objectives: stake and other principles for participation

WG 6

\*Department of Forest Economics, University of Helsinki

\*\*Department of Social and Moral Philosophy, University of Helsinki

### **Abstract**

Since the UNCED in 1992, National Forest Programmes (NFP) has been widely acknowledged as a means to implement internationally agreed upon sustainability principles. However, national forest programmes are prepared and implemented in national political, social and ecological contexts which vary significantly between countries. Finland has a long tradition of “forest programming”, starting from the 1950’s, which has contributed to the institutions and culture of preparing such programmes. These programmes have traditionally been prepared in governmentally facilitated committees and working groups in close collaboration with interest groups and representatives of research and expertise.

Stakeholders have a stake in the policy issue in question. In political theory, stake can be defined through property rights or through the right to not suffer damage as a consequence of the policy decision at hand. However, other, to some extent stronger, grounds for rights to participate in decision-making exist in the international environmental context. The Rio declaration demands participation of all concerned citizens. Demands for procedural citizen rights and public awareness were obvious expectations behind Finland’s National Forest Programme 2010. The Programme has received favourable attention in international scientific and policy discourse. However, at the same time, disapproval and frustration with the decision-making process remains among environmental NGO representatives in Finland.

Based on written statements and reported material, we make a systematic qualitative analysis of the National Forest Programme process and the representation of different principles for participation in the preparation and implementation of the programme. This provides us a basis for discussing the role of NFPs in the environmental discourse and decision-making at different levels: local through international as well as the increasing appeals to adjust national and regionally targeted policies to comply with international commitments.

## **Public Participation – A Means for Achieving Ecological Sustainability and Social Justice in Natural Resource Planning ?**

WG 1

Department of Social Policy, University of Joensuu

### **Abstract**

Environmental problems have made the just use of natural resources increasingly complicated. The causes of many environmental problems are at times simultaneously causes of injustice; yet it must be recognised that ecological and social goals are often in contradiction. Today's pluralist and liberal values make it difficult to find universal criteria for acceptable solutions as to how natural resources should be managed, both ecologically and socially. As a result, it has been widely proposed that instead of looking for universal answer to the *Who gets what* -question, we should focus on developing just procedures for decision making and try to answer the question *How is it decided, who gets what*. This has resulted in the development of more participatory approaches to natural resource planning both in theory and in practice.

This paper critically discusses the emphasis on procedural justice in the framework of Finnish forest conflicts and participatory forest planning in public forests. It aims to show that focusing only on procedural justice is not likely to help us solve environmental conflicts in a just and ecologically sound way. Instead, we need to look at both the process as well as content of the decision. Also the past use of the resource, and its impacts on both nature as well different groups of people need to be taken into account.

## Rajotte, Alain

### Science, expertise and environmental policy: a socio-political perspective

WG 5

School of Business and Economics, University of Jyväskylä

#### **Abstract**

This paper looks at the role of science and expertise in environmental policymaking. The literature indicates that expert knowledge plays a limited role, and that it is related to the normative tension induced by interests and values in dispute inherent to the policymaking process. The policy-science mismatch is further seen to be the concern of the pervasive positivism that serves chiefly the power in place. Through a case study of the controversy surrounding policies targeting chlorine bleaching in the pulp and paper industry, the scientific dispute among jurisdictions is connected to differing views over the appropriate relationship between scientific facts and the precautionary principle. It is argued that the issue is not so much substantive, but procedural and political. While counter expertise appears to break the chlorine connection and to incriminate natural wood constituents in effluents, the Swedish policy has still proven beneficial because it furthers the closure of mill effluent. Thus, it illustrates a case of *bad* science turning into good policy, suggesting that the variables of environmental decision-making are complex and multivariate. Through the examination of different causal linkages between structural interests and local contexts among competing countries, the paper shows that knowledge authentication can be seen as socially constructed, while still acknowledging objective grounds for criticism and corrective.

## Forms of Democracy in Finnish Forest Policy

WG 3

Department of Forest Economy, University of Helsinki

### **Abstract**

The Finnish forest policy was reformed in the 1990's from the Finnish traditional corporate policy-making towards a multi-stakeholder process, including environmental NGO's and representatives of social issues. The purpose has been to enhance democracy and sustain legitimacy of the forest policy. Legitimacy is, however, not only dependent of the principles of decision-making used in national policy but also democracy within organisations involved.

The goal of this study is to identify various forms of democratic structures within and between the formal and informal actors in different levels of the Finnish forest policy system. The analysis uses both primary and secondary empirical data. The study puts special emphasis on the structures of decision-making within the stakeholder organisations. The representatives of the land owners, forest industry and environmental NGO's have their unique democratic structures, though safeguarded and limited in the Associations Act. Democratic structures exist also in the formal administration (regional Forestry Development Centres) as well as in the semi-formal implementing organisations (Forest Management Associations).

The study suggest that citizens' participation to national policy-making through organisations with democratic structures will be the most unambiguous policy structure, inhibiting the overload of policy system as well as guaranteeing a mandate for the political claims. However, all interest groups are not effectively organised and sometimes there are no competing organisations but only one alternative available. The study discusses also the different channels offered /open for citizens' initiations and availability of information.

## A Theoretical Approach to the Concept of Sustainable Consumption

WG 2

University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim (Germany)  
Department of Consumer Theory and Consumer Policy

### **Abstract**

The paper looks at the theoretical foundations of the concept of sustainable consumption. In a first part, an eight level approach for a systematic conceptualization of the sustainable consumption debate is proposed. This eight level approach contains: (1) terms, (2) concept, (3) areas, (4) guidelines, (5) rules, (6) goals, (7) operationalization, and (8) implementation of sustainable consumption. The first level “terms” deals with the meaning and theoretical foundations of terms such as fairness, development, rights and duties, strong, weak, and intermediate sustainability. The second level “concept” introduces an integrated model of sustainable consumption and pleads for a systematic integration of the dimension of cultural sustainability in the debate. The remaining six levels are presented accordingly. Applications such as ethical investment and eco-efficient product use are used for illustration.

In a second part, the paper looks at existing mainstream and heterodox economic theories and asks where a theory of sustainable consumption would best be anchored. This question is discussed on the base of a scheme which contains the three key elements of consumption - (1) the consuming actor (motives, preferences, rationality etc.), (2) behaviour and consumption process (habits, context effects etc.), (3) consumption structure (characteristics of goods, socio-economic-cultural influences, power relations, distribution systems etc.). How these elements are defined and perceived in the different theoretical approaches is important. If, for instance, preferences are perceived as “non est disputandum” as in Gary Becker’s New Home Economics, there is neither room nor need for a communication-induced change in preference towards more sustainable lifestyles. The author comes to the conclusion that a theory of sustainable consumption would best be embedded in an ecological economics framework. Finally, elements of a possible theoretical approach are proposed.

## **Reitan, Marit**

### **Professionalism, bureaucracy and legitimacy: the role of the parliament in nature conservation policy in Norway**

WG 3

Department of Sociology and Political Science

#### **Abstract**

The question to be raised in this paper concerns the role of the political level in policy development within nature conservation policies, and in particular its relationship with the professional

bureaucracy. Seen from a historical perspective, nature conservation has been perceived as a policy field driven by an urban elite, identified with professionalism and the natural sciences. More generally, nature

conservation has been a policy area characterised by the development of enabling acts leaving a considerable amount of discretion for environmental ministries and professional agencies, and thus making the question about legitimacy particularly important. The case to be presented is the policy of nature conservation in Norway. The empirical analysis is focused on policy decisions and discussions in the

Parliament during the last decade, and the main question concerns the roles that have been played by the political parties in relation to the Ministry and the professional bureaucracy. Which issues have been

brought to the fore, and which political constellations have been dominating? More generally, have the politicians behaved proactively or reactively? The more general theoretical question to be discussed

concerns the relationship between bureaucracy, professional knowledge and politicization and the conditions under which environmental issues become the target of political conflicts on the national political agenda.

## The pre-history of modern ecological economics

WG 2

IPL / Innovation and Sustainability, Technical University of Denmark

### **Abstract**

The purpose of this paper is to provide a historical perspective for the discussion about ecological economics as a special field of research. The study is inspired by other studies of the emergence of new research areas carried out by sociologists and historians of science. These studies point out issues that are important to elucidate, emphasizing the need to include both cognitive and social factors, both macro trends and the role of individuals. The ‘empirical’ basis for the paper is a combination of literature studies and interviews with a number of key researchers from the field.

The point of departure for the story is chosen to be the emergence of the new environmental agenda in the 1960s and the different discourses related to this agenda. Second, the scientific development in relation to ecology in the 1950s and 60s is introduced, especially the emergence of systems ecology that was instrumental in bringing about the new social discourses. Third, it is outlined how the environmental challenge was met by economics in the 1960s, emphasizing the contributions that later became foundational for ecological economics. Fourth, some general trends in the 1970s and 80s in relation to systems ecology, environmental economics and energy studies, as well as the meta-theoretic development in relation to systems theory, are outlined briefly. Important for the history of ecological economics is the concentration of environmental economics on valuation issues and the design of policy instruments – and the very low priority given to materials balances and scale issues. During this period the personal relationships are formed that lead to the concept ecological economics and to the formal establishment of the International Society for Ecological Economics. Some of these relationships and meetings are outlined in section five. The paper ends up with a brief discussion of the first statements concerning the new field of research.



**Is avoiding time shortage a feasible drive towards sustainable consumption?**

WG 2

KTH, Stockholm

**Abstract**

Ecological sustainability will require changes in our ways of life and consumption patterns. But even if people are concerned about the state of the environment, this appears to be an insufficient drive to change travel patterns and other environmentally crucial elements of daily life. Structural changes are needed to this end but also individual changes based on strong commitments to other ways of life.

To be viable, new ways of life must be viewed upon as more attractive than the present ones. Many people do, indeed, express a strong discontent with time shortage in their present ways of life. Our double hypotheses are

- that some people have a strong incentive to change their way of life to avoid time shortage
- that they will mainly implement such changes which result in a lower environmental impact.

Thus if concern about the environment is not a sufficient drive, the time factor might become the lever of change. The result would be a double dividend: a more satisfactory life situation and a better environment.

In order to explore these hypotheses this paper will look into the issue of time shortage related to other relevant concepts and map and scrutinize behavioural changes aimed at relieving the time shortage.

Evidently all human beings have an equal amount of time available during e.g. a week. But the *experienced* time shortage, i.e. difficulties in managing everything one has/wants to do within this period, varies among individuals. The concept of “time shortage” will be discussed in relation to actual time-use, perceived stress, activities viewed as time savers versus time killers, concepts like “life balance” and “time wealth” and the demands for paid work time caused by specific consumption patterns.

In order to identify changes relevant to avoid time shortage, we will review the popular self-help literature in the field. This is especially abundant in the USA but we will also look for comparable European examples. These suggested changes will be analysed and categorised in terms of possible effects on experienced time shortage as well as likely environmental effects. Obviously not all time saving strategies are beneficial for the environment (i.e. flying to Finland instead of using train and ship!).

Finally we intend to return to our initial hypotheses and discuss the prospects of achieving changes. What coping strategies are relevant and/or likely to be employed? Can we identify motives for and against changes in a change theory perspective? What constraints are involved in terms of e.g. employment conditions and financial situation?

## Exploring everyday life in households for a sustainable society

WG 2

Department of Home Economics, Göteborg University

### **Abstract**

In their important task to sustain life for their members, households are major actors in the ecosystem. It is becoming increasingly recognised that their collaboration is necessary for the development of a sustainable society. The purpose of this paper is to report and discuss experience from approaches and methods used in household research related to environmental behaviour in the Department of Home Economics, Göteborg University. Most of the research has been carried out during the last decade. Themes have been purchase behaviour; food habits and waste management; food habits and electricity consumption and food habits and environmental impact. Our principal methodological approach has been to combine self-reported data, through assessment techniques and informal interviews, with calculation of environmental impact. By doing so we focused on the interaction between family members and the interconnectiveness of the household and other environmental systems.

The insight accumulated so far is that a qualitative and explorative approach is most relevant. Central in our work is to explore how household practices are undertaken in relation to the everyday social context. A qualitative approach is particularly useful in understanding perception, motives, meanings, values, goals and processes. We also use quantitative methods employed for measuring behaviour outcomes, which is often neglected in environmental behaviour research but is most important in order to be able to prioritise in formulating environmental policy. Moreover, our research approach is both action-oriented and participatory.

Our research reveals that households are active resource managers. Every family develops a set of rules to guide its members' actions. In households, there are dynamic continuous processes of negotiating, calculating and balancing in order to fulfil the everyday needs of household members. Each household develops its unique way - for the household, rational strategies - in response to the demands of everyday life. Establishing new habits as well as maintaining existing ones is based on previous decisions and positions taken. The patterns of actions are a result of the interaction between household members and possibilities and limitations of their surroundings. These dynamic processes would not have been possible to capture just studying individuals apart from their household environment nor using models based on causal linear relationships.

There is a strong need to generate knowledge and understanding about resource management processes in the household. This involves the analysis of social organisation. It includes the study of the interface of technology, social change and the households' demands and habits. Most importantly, it includes the study of the household as an ecological system and how it connects with the vulnerable global ecosystem. Limiting the study just to inputs and outputs will, however, still keep us in the dark and on the straight road to environmental collapse. Of crucial importance and of great urgency are to develop tools in order to explore these hidden research domains. The new insights we will gain will make important and essential contributions to the greening of society.

In conclusion, I argue that sustainable consumption does depend upon changing lifestyles, but not in the sense that lifestyles can be changed, or in the sense that lifestyle commitments somehow engender patterns of resource consumption. Instead, such patterns follow from changing ways of life - that is from ways of life that are subject to a constant process of social, technical and cultural co-evolution. Taken to heart, this observation is of some significance for environmental policy for it implies a major reorientation of effort and a rather radical reconceptualisation of the relation between sustainability, everyday life and consumption.

**Meanings of Environmental Concern and Sustainability for Estonian rural people**

WG 4

**Abstract**

This research was originally initiative of Estonian WWF, as they presented their radical vision of sustainability on discussions over national sustainability strategies and were interested of public feedback. Managers and experts on social sphere often see such scenarios as too destructive shock for economy and society. 20 interviewed rural entrepreneurs and officials of local government from different regions revealed unexpectedly strong support to such scenarios despite of conflict with their short-term profits.

In interviews two conflicting fields were mostly used to describe sustainable development: 1) current liberal market is perceived to rise antagonism between sustainability in monetary terms as opposed to sustainability of natural (and social) resources - though entrepreneurs itself perceive threat to environment they feel forced for unsustainable management; 2) rural life is often used as example of “true sustainable development” - urbanism and industrialism are perceived as main problems for sustainability on the national level, though current sustainability of rural life is related to lack of resources and “real sustainability” is perceived as expensive technological project.

Here we see lifestyle itself as political question, with conflicts over different strategies of welfare, land use and market regulations. I propose that in Estonian case localised sustainability scenarios would reveal political cleavage not between economy vs. sustainability as traditionally expected, but rather between different (rural and urban?) lifestyles. Promoting environmental concern or idea of sustainable development would in this context interpreted rather as political tool in struggle over necessary preconditions (land use and market regulations) for deserved lifestyle, which itself can be highly actualized motive for decisions and even political identity.

## The Rebound Effect and Technological Development

WG 2

SIFO, Norway

### **Abstract**

It is generally assumed that the technological development of consumer articles in the later years have resulted in eco-efficiency gains. That each manufactured product uses less energy per service provided, than what they did prior to this. An example would be washing machines: they use less water, less energy and less detergents per washing cycle today, than what they did 10 years ago.

Despite of this trend, we see that society's aggregated use of resources is ever increasing. Much of this is ascribed to the "rebound" or "take-back" effect. These notions refer to the reduction of cost through improvement of the energy efficiency, which tend to increase consumption. In other words, eco-efficiency gains are offset by growth in consumption. An example would be measures that are taken to reduce heat losses through home isolation. They often result in less than anticipated energy savings. The householders tend to spend part of their savings on increasing the indoor temperature.

This paper will look into a more indirect type of rebound effect. The increase in society's use of petrol and diesel is often ascribed to the increased use of the car; more people travel more kilometers. Our demand for transport seems limitless. We report here empirical data that there hardly have been any increase in the fuelefficiency during the past 20 years, and even a decrease, when looking at the car manufacturers complete model ranges. We will also present interesting trends and findings on the world's most sold car model.

How can this be explained? The potential gains of the increased eco-efficiency of cars are not only offset by increased direct consumption, i.e. cars are driven more, but also through indirect consumption: New demands for comfort and safety devices, boost energy demand.

The data suggest that the environmental problems associated with traffic, cannot be solved through technological innovation and development alone. To curb the damages caused by traffic, we have to curb traffic itself.

This is not to say that technology has no role in solving the problems and avoiding the damages. One of the great engineering advances of the last century was the "three-way" catalyst. This greatly reduced the problem with some of the more troublesome components of exhaust. But the emission of greenhouses gases is not affect by this, and the troublesome components have not entirely disappeared. In addition there is the adverse effects of particulates from both exhaust and tires, the noise from traffic and the increasing areas being buried under asphalt or concrete.

**Environmental Taxation Policy**

**- Scale, limits and borders at national and international level**

WG 3

Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki

**Abstract**

Topical environmental problems, like climate change, challenge environmental politics and, particularly policy instruments. Unanimity on policy goals, e.g. ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, is not enough. There is an urgent need for effective and feasible policy instruments, both at national and international level. Environmental taxes have been playing an increasing role in environmental policies of EU member states over the last decade. Even if there has not been any progress in the harmonisation of energy taxes at EU-level, in every single EU member states environmental taxes have been introduced. In many countries, like in Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, the UK, Germany, and to some degree in Finland, also environmental tax reforms have been adopted. OECD has identified environmental tax reforms as a key framework condition especially for sustainable development.

In my presentation, I'll analyse environmental taxation policy at national and international level, namely at EU-level. The purpose of the analysis is to evaluate national environmental taxation policy in international context from three points of view: scale, limits and borders. Firstly, the scale varies from global problems and international agreements through EU-level to national decision-making of tax legislation. Many international NGOs, like European Environmental Bureau, have worked hard to promote environmental taxes and environmental tax reforms. National governments have still remained crucial actors in designing and implementing environmental taxes, as there is not harmonisation of energy taxes at EU-level, yet. Thus, taxation policy is made under the pressure of different, often conflicting policy goals at national level. How to balance between different policy goals and different scales?

Secondly, scales are linked to limits and borders. The absence of development of environmental tax legislation at one level leads easily to the lack of progress at the other level, as well. For example, in some Member States EU-level agreement is seen as a precondition for further development of energy tax legislation at national level. In addition to the actual choice of the policy instrument, the design and the implementation of instrument are in the very crucial position with regard to the fulfilment of theoretical advantages of it in practice. For example, improvements of the steering affect of environmental taxes are often submitted by other policy goals, like international competitiveness, in the decision-making of tax legislation. Also, the deadlock at EU-level pushes ETR countries to maintain generous tax exemptions or rebates for energy intensive economic sectors, thus limiting ETR in its primary objective, namely environmental protection.

All in all, in my presentation I'll focus on the development of decision-making level in environmental policy. How the role and possibilities of national decision-making is changed through EU-legislation – or the lack of it?

## Global Environmentalism and Sustainable Forestry in Russia

WG 4

Center for Independent Social Research in Russia

### **Abstract**

This paper analyzes how transnational environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOS), such as Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), have gained a role in the forest policy and forest use in Russia and cleared themselves a space and legitimation as both super and sub state actors ‘balancing’ the domestic pressures of expansive resource extraction. In Russia, Greenpeace proceeds in forest conservation by promoting the establishment of specially protected old growth forests. It cooperates with the Social Ecological Union (SEU), the Center for Biodiversity Conservation (CBC), and the Nature Protection Corps, which together form the Forest Club coordinating the mapping and assessing of old growth forests. WWF Russia aims at preserving the biodiversity and old growth forests of the taiga by e.g. introducing and applying the forest certification system developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and by further integrating Russia into the timber markets of Europe and Asia.

The paper is based on five case studies:

- Greenpeace project in designating specially protected areas in Karelia
- Greenpeace project on designation of specially protected areas in Apatiti and Murmansk,
- WWF model forest project in Strugy Krasnie, Pskov oblast,
- WWF model forest Priluzie, Syktyvkar oblast, Komi Republic,
- WWF sponsored project aiming to monitor and stop illegal logging in the Dalnerechinsk area,

The descriptions of the ‘cases’ will finally end in comparing the experiences from the projects and assessing their successes and failures. The summarising questions are focused on the practices of multiscale co-managing: How the ENGOS have built their contacts to local people, entrepreneurs, and governments? How the local actors have located themselves in relation to the environmentalists from abroad?

## Global benefits, local costs - Motives for Finnish wind power policy

WG 4

Department of Limnology and Environmental Protection, University of Helsinki

### **Abstract**

Wind power is currently the fastest growing electricity production form in the world. This is largely the result of effective national wind power policies. The motivations to support or oppose wind power can be discussed on three levels: global, national, and local. On the global level there are environmental benefits, most importantly the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but also economic possibilities in the form of the rapidly growing global market for wind turbines.

On the national level there are national emission reduction goals to be fulfilled, as well as the possibility to increase the proportion of renewable and domestic energy sources. Very important are also the economic benefits, in the form of business and employment opportunities.

On the local level there are environmental costs, especially the impact on scenery. There may be local economic benefits, in the form of employment and investment opportunities. In the absence of such economic opportunities, also the environmental impact is often perceived in a more negative light, and this links the economic and environmental impacts together. The attitude towards wind energy among the environmentalists and policy-makers depends on whether they emphasise global or local issues.

This paper discusses in detail these economic and environmental benefits and costs of wind power at different levels, as well as the pressures they present to policy-makers. The findings are mainly based on interviews of different actors in the Finnish wind power sector, conducted in 2002.



**Vogt, Henri**

## Possibilities of global governance in the age of globalisation

WG 6

The Finnish Institute of International Affairs

### **Abstract**

Assessing the effects of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the whole process involved, a central question arises: To what extent can this kind of an event, directed from above, effect global developments – and through what mechanisms? In other words, what possibilities has such an attempt of global governance to remove global problems, and to create new willingness and ability in the world to help remove them? Or on a more general level: Can political decisions in the age of globalisation on the whole shape the course of events in this world, or does globalisation in fact lead to a new state of anarchy and non-control? The paper seeks to answer these questions through three different concepts, namely power, mutual understanding, and hope.

## Society, systems and ecological objectives

WG 4

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

### **Abstract**

The purpose of the paper is to give a systematic overview and analysis of problems in connection with the work to implement the national environmental objectives of Sweden, in order to throw some light on obstacles to ecological sustainability. The thrust of the paper is to identify problems rather than solve them. The basic approach of the paper is systems analysis, including Luhmannian concepts such as communication and resonance.

A point of departure for the analysis is that management by objectives has been introduced as a principle of governance for the entire Swedish government administration, which implies that the government sector can be understood as a goal-oriented decision system. However, a number of problems have appeared. *Firstly*, the objectives of the various government activities differ widely between themselves. Thus, some objectives such as full employment and economic growth are handled by the government itself, while others either concern specific activities handled by individual agencies or encompass most or all government activities. Examples of the latter are objectives concerning the environment, and equality between the sexes. A final group of objectives are so-called procedural objectives such as efficiency, transparency, and legality all of which concern how activities should be performed. *Secondly*, the environmental objectives are poorly structured, as some deal with emissions, others with various states of the environment, and others again with the use of natural resources. *Thirdly*, and as a consequence of these two factors, it is difficult to identify in a systematic way the potential conflicts and synergies between different government goals, including the environmental objectives. However, a systematic overview results in the hypothesis that goal conflicts are mainly caused by increases in the volume of various activities (measured in physical or monetary terms) while synergies between goals rather result from activities being implemented in a more efficient way. Very little research has so far been done so far to throw any light on the hypothesis. It is proposed that the hypothesis be tested in concrete, individual cases rather than by abstract macro analyses.

## Wissenburg, Marcel

### The mismatch between sustainability, global justice and the environment: reconceptualisation and options for reconciliation

WG 1

Political Theory & Philosophy, NSM/School of Public Affairs, University of Nijmegen

#### Abstract

Global and ecological justice, often accompanied by sustainability or sustainable growth as their ‘practical’ incarnations, are buzzwords. Particularly in circles of politicians, diplomats and policy makers, this foursome dominates discussions of international relations and aid and international environmental politics. I argue that the four are not only contingently rather than necessarily related (a point made before by others) – but also that bringing any two of them together in one context constitutes a category failure: the fallacy of reducing two different ontological realms to one (cf. ‘is implies ought’ or ‘the smell of success’). I shall make two suggestions. On the one hand, I argue that the moral demands of three of these concepts (sustainable growth, sustainability and international justice) can be satisfied without contradiction or incompatibility if they are (‘categorically’) correctly redefined – if, for instance, international justice can be seen to include ‘higher’ natural duties than justice, if a distinction is made between retribution and redistribution, and if supply-side solutions to questions of justice are allowed. On the other hand, I argue that this three-dimensional model of ‘social sustainability’, broadly construed, remains anthropocentric, and that the obligations to which it gives rise *prima facie* outweigh any obligations we may have in terms of (a redefined) ‘ecological justice’. In layman’s terms: food comes first, then morality. I end by discussing classical arguments to reconcile society and ecology, and suggest a more promising way forward: a liberal principle requiring ‘a maximum set of life environments compatible with a similar set for others’.

**Zingerli, Claudia**

**Colliding Understandings of Biodiversity Conservation in Vietnam:  
Global Claims, National Interests and Local Struggles**

WG 4

School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia

**Abstract**

The global discourse of biodiversity conservation has contributed to a growing awareness about the protection of biodiversity-rich environments. It tends to lack, however, of discursive reflexivity and misses out on the contested understandings of biodiversity conservation at the international, national and local policy levels. This paper makes a case for thinking about conservation as a socioculturally and politically sensitive issue. It draws on an empirical study conducted in Vietnam, a country which experienced a tremendous strengthening of its international significance regarding biodiversity during the last decade. The paper shows how the inflow of international development agencies and the global community of conservationists have changed the environmental policy context and the rules of the game in some particularly biodiversity-rich localities. A political ecology approach is used to identify the various policy actors, their agendas and their understandings of biodiversity conservation. The paper concludes by criticising the coercive claims of the global environmental discourse and its consequences for nation-states and local communities.

*Keywords:* Political ecology; Environmental discourse; Biodiversity conservation; Vietnam

## **Zvirgzdgrauds, Jens**

### **Lessons of implementation for the development of governance: the case of EU policy transfer to Latvia – sustainability in the water sector**

WG 4

Dept of Political Science, University of Latvia

#### **Abstract**

This paper examines how policy implementation in the water sector in Latvia has been influenced by the idea of sustainable development.

The central case selected represents a value conflict between a national investment programme in wastewater treatment in the Daugava river basin towns and plans of building a pulp mill (cellulose factory) on the same river. The classical issue of local growth vs. global sustainability in the given case is in part dealt with from the point of process evaluation.

The approach is historical institutionalism plus ideas. Key concepts are path dependency and learning. The method is basically discourse analysis.

It is examined to what extent the idea of sustainability has induced policy change and become reflected in institutional arrangements that affect implementation in the water sector in Latvia. The study is set against the background of legitimacy and accountability deficit typical of states in the process of consolidation. The pivotal role of the state in the policy subsystem is seen in the light of its rooted administrative culture patterns characterised by low level of reach and responsiveness.

It is argued that the deficient implementation capacity might be enhanced by institutionalising empowering relationships within an enlarged policy network of stakeholders in order to enable real public participation to which Latvia has subscribed inter alia by ratifying the Aarhus convention. The potential of implementation success by means of adaptive policy learning is also explored.

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