



EDITORIAL

Arild Vatn
President of ESEE

Dear ESEE members and others!

This editorial is about the internal life of ESEE and the work of the board. No exposures of plots, 'I am sorry' there are non to tell about. So, this is just a report about ordinary, plain work. As you may know, the board counts 15 members engaged in four sub-committees – 'Conferences & Meetings', 'Publication and Publicity', 'Education' and 'Fund Raising and Membership'. Certainly, we have all our jobs and various other responsibilities to take care of. Hence, heading an organization like ESEE, sometimes gives the feeling that one barely gets the wheels to turn around about as slowly as last year. On the other hand, there are also some sign of progress that we are quite happy for. The present number of our Newsletter illustrates four of them.

First, we can in this Newsletter announce the launching of a new journal which is adopted by ESEE. The name of the journal will be 'Environmental Policy & Governance' (EPG). The board has for long discussed the need for establishing more outlets for ecological economics research. We have not felt that we had the capacity to do this on our own. Last fall an opportunity was offered as plans were launched to redirect the journal 'European Environment'. ESEE was invited by the owners – Wiley-Blackwell and ERP Environment Ltd. – to participate in developing the new journal. The editor-in-chief will be Andy Gouldson and Felix Rauschmayer (member of ESEE board) will be one of the editors. Five ESEE nominees will be on the editorial board. We hope the journal will be a great success and that you all will utilize this new opportunity. On-line access to the journal will be offered to all participants of future ESEE conferences for the in-between conference periods.

Second, we have now established a system of country contacts – thanks a lot to the efforts of Jouni Paavola. Altogether 25 countries have such a representative. This is an important step forward as we hope it will help establish more local engagement, increase membership and make it over time possible also to arrange regional events. Some countries lack contacts. If you are from one of these, you might want to get involved yourself, or you might know somebody else you would like to propose. Just contact us.

Third, the 3rd THEMES summer school has been successfully completed early June. It was run by Paula Antunes and her team at The New University of Lisbon. 40 students from all over the world – with a clear dominance from Europe though – got the chance to discuss core topics around environmental appraisal and policy formulation with high class lecturers. We are happy that we have been able to establish and run this series, and I hope this will increase engagement among young scholars in developing ecological economics.

Last, but not least, we can invite two new student members to the board: Charlotte Da Cunha and Albert Merino Saum. This is the first time we have 2 student members of the board. I am sure this will strengthen student engagement in the years to come. I will also like to thank Vincent Moreau – the former student member – for his engagement in the 3 (+) years he has served as member of the board

While the ESEE conference is not a new development, I am happy that we can now also invite you all to participate in the 8th international ESEE conference in Ljubljana, June 29-July 2, 2009. It will be organized by Andrej Udovc and his team. I invite you to start thinking about sessions you would like to organize respectively presentations you would like to make. In this Newsletter you will also find an invitation to host the 9th ESEE conference in 2011. We hope several teams will enter this 'race', so we can get also this wheel turning.

And for those of you going to Nairobi, see you there!

contents

President's Editorial	1
Society Business	2
New ESEE Country Contact	3
Society News	4
ESEE 2009	5
News from Society & Members	7
Upcoming Events	14
Publications	15

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

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

SOCIETY BUSINESS
 SOCIETY BUSINESS
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SOCIETY BUSINESS

business matters, society development and planning issues

ESEE BOARD ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN AUTUMN



The term of office of Jouni Paavola and Felix Rauschmayer as board members of the ESEE ends this year. The society will therefore hold elections in the autumn. We hope Jouni and Felix will be willing to stand again. A formal call for nominations will be emailed to members later in the year, but if you are interested in standing for election to the ESEE board, please contact me or any other member of the board and we will provide further information. Being on the ESEE board provides an opportunity to influence the direction of the Society and Ecological Economics in Europe, with the added bonus of getting to know and working with a great bunch of people!

CHANGE TO THE CONSTITUTION



The ESEE constitution currently requires elections to be held by postal ballot. However, this is costly in terms of time and money, and we would like to amend the constitution so that elections can be conducted using a secure and anonymous method via email or the internet. Along with the elections, we will ask members to vote for a change to the constitution so that we can use this more efficient method for elections in future.

Please do use your vote in the ballot. Both votes significantly affect the future and the efficient running of the ESEE.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me.

Wendy Kenyon

ESEE Secretary, w.kenyon@macaulay.ac.uk

ESEE administrative members 2008

executive board

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Charlotte Da Cunha
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NEW ESEE COUNTRY CONTACT NETWORK LAUNCHED!

The ESEE is proud to announce a new Country Contact Network to facilitate the transfer of information between the membership and the Board of ESEE. Country Contacts have been nominated by the Board of ESEE for a three year term in the first instance to the following 25 countries:

Austria
Katharina Kowalski
katharina.kowalski@lebensministerium.at

Germany
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United Kingdom
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France
Olivier Petit
opetitfr@yahoo.fr

The new Country Contacts will:

- Provide the first port of call to present and prospective ESEE members in their countries;
- Promote ESEE membership in their country;
- Provide and channel news, announcements and other information to ESEE Newsletter;
- Represent the membership in a country towards the Board.

The ESEE will:

- Facilitate and foster collaboration among the members through the Country Contacts;
- Seek consultation and advice of country contacts and membership in their countries in matters where geographic representation is important, such as preparation for elections;
- Use the Country Contact network for fact-finding and dissemination
- Support national activities and events of members in different countries on the basis of requests from national contacts by adopting, marketing and publicising them.

The board of ESEE is happy to consider proposals regarding the appointment of Country Contacts for additional countries.

Jouni Paavola

SOCIETY NEWS
 SOCIETY NEWS
 SOCIETY NEWS
 SOCIETY NEWS
 SOCIETY NEWS
 SOCIETY NEWS
 SOCIETY NEWS

SOCIETY NEWS

students representatives on ESEE board

WELCOME TO ALBERT AND CHARLOTTE



In May 2008 a ballot was held and two new student representatives have been elected: Charlotte Da Cunha and Albert Merino Saum, both PhD students at the Centre for Economics and Ethics for the Environment and Development (C3ED) at the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ).

Welcome to you both.

Charlotte Da Cunha **Albert Merino Saum**
 charlotte.da-cunha@c3ed.uvsq.fr Albert.Merino-Saum@uvsq.fr

Charlotte Da Cunha is currently a Ph.D candidate, in economic science, at the Centre of Economy and Ethics for Environment and Development (C3ED); a mixed research unit between the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ) and the Institute of Research and Development (IRD). She is working on the integrated management of biodiversity in the Ile-de-France region through a multi-stakeholders approach. This work takes place in the context of the FRAGILE project, where C3ED is the coordinator of the project with responsibilities to establish ways to structure the interfaces between science and society. She envisions her contribution to the ESEE in relaying the student point of view, with a focus on student networking to raise student representativity in the ESEE. Another objective is to help students with integration into the ecological economic field. It is important that students have access to advice from other students and researchers to write articles and to define their publication policy.



Albert is a PhD student in Ecological Economics at the Centre for Economics and Ethics of the Environment and Development (C3ED). Right now, he is working on an integrated analysis of wildfire risk in the Mediterranean forests (before his PhD, he worked as forest-fire fighter in Spain during four summers). He has a background in Law and Economics, and his main research fields are: risk governance, fire economics, participative processes and multi-criteria analysis. His supervisor is Professor Martin O'Connor. Albert also works part-time in the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences of the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ) as Assistant Lecturer in Economics.

As student representative, he would like to work on strengthening and developing networks between the young researchers interested in Ecological Economics. This could be done, for instance, by regularly repeating initiatives like the student camp held in Leipzig before the last ESEE conference, or also by fostering mobility among students of different institutes working on Sustainability and Ecological Economics (at the Master level as well as during PhD research). He is also willing to explore other opportunities for student interaction such as web-forums and informal encounters...



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ESEE 2009

conference

8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS



CALL FOR PAPERS

TRANSFORMATION, INNOVATION AND ADAPTATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY INTEGRATING NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
29 June to 2 July 2009



This conference offers the opportunity to engage into a critical evaluation of the present and future research agenda of Ecological Economics. Global environmental problems have risen to the top of the international political agenda and there is growing demand for analyses that help understanding inter-coupled social, technological and environmental systems and formulating urgent policy actions. The relevant systems are typically open, dynamic and often indeterminate in their behaviour. This introduces challenges concerning the quality of knowledge and the tools and methods suitable for understanding system changes. These problems are further compounded where governance interventions are framed differently under contending social values and interests and shaped by the exercise of cultural, political and economic power.

Although it is generally accepted that natural and social systems are inter-coupled, both are mostly analyzed in terms of purely internal disciplinary models. Social systems are often studied in isolation from the surrounding environment, whereas for natural systems it is common that a large number of intercon-

nections and variables is analysed, while the role of humans is described by a single actor model seeing people mainly as creators of disturbances. Ecological economics approaches to these challenges seek to bridge this gap and overcome the theoretical and methodological barriers. This requires developing strategies for understanding and engaging with the complexity, interdependence and co-evolutionary dynamics of socio-ecological systems.

The conference aims to contribute to a better understanding of societal and natural processes and their interaction by integrating various scientific methodologies and approaches – that is empirical work, modelling, governance and policy research or philosophical and methodological studies. Paying attention to this point of departure, and focusing on challenges associated with global and regional environmental governance issues, particularly but not exclusively the challenges facing the enlarged European Union and the Central and Eastern European countries (CEEC), this conference will cover a series of broad themes.

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8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS THEMES



A. Dynamics

- A1. Coevolution of production and consumption
- A2. Growth, de-growth and environmental degradation
- A3. Evolution, innovation and socio-ecological transitions
- A4. Technological change, industrial ecology and sustainable resource use
- A5. Behavioural change and the environment
- A6. Institutions and ecosystem dynamics

B. Environmental Governance

- B1. Economic globalisation and its challenges for the environment
- B2. Multi-level Governance
- B3. Institutions
- B4. Food prices and equity
- B5. Payments for ecological services

C. Energy and Climate Change

- C1. Climate mitigation strategies
- C2. Adaptation to climate change
- C3. World oil price, peak oil and the revival of coal
- C4. Renewable energy and energy savings

D. Natural Resources use

- D1. Biodiversity and ecosystem services: conflicts, management and cooperation
- D2. Sustainable use of landscapes
- D3. Sustainable rural development
- D4. Food and Agriculture
- D5. Strategies for enhancing systems' resilience and adaptability
- D6. Sustainable use of water resources

E. Environment and Development

- E1. Development strategies and environmental impacts
- E2. Combined social and environmental resilience
- E3. Development and access to natural resources
- E4. Global markets and food security

F. Heterodox Economics and the Environment

- F1. Macroeconomic approaches to sustainability
- F2. The role of markets in the transitions to sustainability
- F3. The role of financial markets in transition to sustainability

G. Social Dimension of Sustainability

- G1. Quality of life
- G2. Social well-being
- G3. Sustainable consumption and well-being

H. Other

For detailed descriptions of each theme please see the conference site
<http://www.bf.uni-lj.si/agronomija/o-oddajku/katedre-in-druge-org-enote/za-agramo-ekonomiko/esee-2009-conference.html>

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- › Ilona Banaszak
- › Violeta Dirimanova
- › Majda Cernic Istenic
- › Franc Kramaric Vesna Milicic
- › Martin Pavlovic
- › Anton Perpar,
- › Romina Rodela
- › Leo Seserko
- › Andrej Udovc
- › Lidija Zadnik Stirn
- › Jana Zurc

KEY DATES

deadline open call sessions	15 Oct 2008
other sessions and paper abstracts	30 Nov 2008
information for authors	26 Jan 2009
registration from	26 Jan 2009
early registration	14 Apr 2009

HOSTING ORGANISATION



The Biotechnical Faculty is a member of the University of Ljubljana. The fundamental mission of the Biotechnical Faculty is to provide university level, advanced professional, and postgraduate education, as well as to carry out scientific research and technical and consulting work concerning the sciences of living nature (biology, microbiology) as well as agriculture, forestry and fisheries (forestry, animal husbandry, agronomy) and the related production technologies (wood technology, food technology, biotechnology). The common denominator of all academic and scientific disciplines at the Biotechnical Faculty is natural resources (soil, physical space, flora, fauna, and water).

With a variety of educational and research programmes, the Biotechnical Faculty facilitates and encourages interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary cooperation in education as well as the integral research of the developmental problems that are increasingly multilayered and intertwined with the interests of various professions. Thereby it must ensure in all scientific disciplines and study programmes high-quality and internationally recognised scientific and professional connections, openness, and recognition, based on excellence.



The city of Ljubljana



This conference is jointly organised by the [European Society for Ecological Economics](#) in collaboration with [University of Ljubljana](#).

Conference Venue: <http://www.bf.uni-lj.si>
Conference Secretariat: esee.2009@bf.uni-lj.si or esee@bf.uni-lj.si

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO Ljubljana!

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NEWS FROM SOCIETY & MEMBERS

CALL FOR ESEE 2011 CONFERENCE ORGANISERS



ESEE holds conference biennially. These conferences normally attract 350-450 social and natural scientists. Last year we met in Leipzig, and Prof. Andrej Udovc and his team are currently busy organising next year's meeting in Ljubljana. For 2011 and 2013 we are now looking for individuals / groups who might be interested in applying for organising a conference in either of these years. Organising a conference is an opportunity to highlight the profile of a research group (or several groups in a country). Don't worry, if you don't have experience in organising big academic events. ESEE offers advice based on past experience and key points have been summarised in a conference handbook. But we need somebody with enthusiasm for the field and for bringing people together.

**If you are interested, please ring
Sigrid Stagl at ++ 44 -1273-872784 or s.stagl@sussex.ac.uk.**

We look forward to hearing from you!

2008 ANAEE WORKSHOP



SCIENTIFIC STAKES IN CONTINENTAL BIOSPHERE SCIENCES

WHICH RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES DO WE NEED TO FACE THEM?

We invite you to the 2008 ANAEE Workshop (ANAEE: ANalysis and Experimentation on Ecosystems) in Paris from 2nd to 4th September 2008. ANAEE is a design project of the European Community.

The main Objective of the Workshop is to define which types of experimental infrastructures are needed in Europe for the European Scientific community on Continental Ecosystem to best address the environmental social need of the coming decades.

ANAEE Workshop Objectives:

- to develop a scientific vision for the needs in integrated infrastructure for research in continental ecosystems.
- to have a large brainstorming discussion for the type of future research infrastructure necessary to develop in Europe

NEW JOURNAL AFFILIATED WITH ESEE



Environmental Policy and Governance Call for Papers from ESEE members

Environmental Policy and Governance is an international, inter-disciplinary journal that has recently affiliated with the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE). Launched in 1991 as European Environment, the journal will re-launch in 2009 with a mission to advance interdisciplinary environmental research and its use to support novel solutions in environmental policy and governance and to build the understanding of environmental issues not only by drawing upon and contributing to the environmental social sciences, but also by linking the social and natural sciences.

The editors of the journal invite all ESEE members to submit papers to be considered for publication. All manuscripts and special issues will be reviewed by an international panel of referees, with an aim of returning constructive comments on submitted manuscripts in a timely way. The editorial strategy and the review processes of Environmental Policy and Governance are guided by an active editorial board consisting of leading academics from different regions and disciplines and that includes 5 ESEE members, with Felix Rauschmayer serving as an associate editor of the journal.

For information on paper submissions please contact the Editor of EPG - Andy Gouldson at the University of Leeds (a.gouldson@see.leeds.ac.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you!

- to present and discuss the ANAEE concept as one example of research infrastructure
- to identify the main integrated research infrastructure already existing on the different types of ecosystems across Europe
- to develop the interactions between ANAEE and other EU Infrastructures as LIFEWATCH and ICOS for complementary approaches.

The deadline for sending your contribution is the 10th August 2008.

More information on:
https://colloque.inra.fr/anaee_workshop_2008

NEWS
NEWS
NEWS
NEWS
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NEWS

NEWS FROM SOCIETY & MEMBERS

THEMES SUMMER SCHOOL – LISBON 2008



From May 26th to June 6th 2008 the New University of Lisbon, lead by Paula Antunes, hosted the third THEMES Summer School on Methods and Tools for Environmental Appraisal and Policy Formulation.

THEMES is a series of four Marie Curie Summer Schools, financed by the Conferences and Training Courses Action under FP6. The schools are

focused on Emerging Theories and Methods in Sustainability Research where perspectives from ecological economics form an important basis for the series.

The Lisbon School was organised as a combination of theoretical lectures and hands-on exercises and debates.

It was organised in close cooperation with the Knowledge Assessment Methodologies Sector, European Commission Joint Research Centre (Ispra) and the Department of Economics at the Universidad de La Laguna (Tenerife, Spain). Topics addressed in the school included: Preferences, values and beliefs; Principles and concepts for participation and deliberation; Tools for public and stakeholder participation in environmental decision making; Multicriteria evaluation – integrating different points of view, uncertainty, complexity; Appraisal methods as value articulating institutions; Science – society interfaces in policy formulation.

The fourth THEMES Summer School on Integrated Analysis of Complex, Adaptive Systems will be organised by Andy Stirling and Sigrid Stagl from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom, 15-26 June 2009. Applications will be open from November 14, 2008 till January 31, 2009.

More information: [http:// www.umb.no/research/themes/](http://www.umb.no/research/themes/)
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Ecological Economics and Environmental Management Group
Faculty of Sciences and Technology
New University of Lisbon



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NEWS FROM SOCIETY & MEMBERS



THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON "ECONOMIC DEGROWTH FOR SOCIAL EQUITY AND ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY",

IN PARIS ON APRIL 18-19, 2008,
HAS ESTABLISHED A FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION
BY KEALAN GELL, FRANCOIS SCHNEIDER, INES OMANN

"Degrowth is a slogan which puts into question the consensus need of our society for growth, including growth of THE economic production. Degrowth also refers to a concrete and voluntary process toward a just and sustainable society". The conference was supported by the European Society for Ecological Economics, who consider the economy in terms of physical laws and social priorities, rather than solely traditional monetary value.

In the past four years, degrowth, or "décroissance" in French, has suddenly become a significant cultural and political movement in Europe. In March 2004, the term was nearly unknown, when a newspaper called "Décroissance" began distributing 45,000 copies bimonthly. This was followed by a number of websites, marches between French cities, and several more publications in France, Italy and now The Steady Stater in the USA. Mainstream media such as Le Monde and TGV Magazine and various TV and radio stations who have further publicized the economic degrowth movement. Objectors to economic growth have brought motions before major French political parties and now there is even a political Degrowth Party, founded in Lyon in 2006.

Despite decades of colossal backlash against the ideas of Ecological Economics, in 2007, the EU and OECD held a conference exploring "Beyond GDP, for indicators of progress, true wealth and well being".

In April, 2008, the Economic Degrowth conference saw social and environmental justice activists, academics and local, EU and UN politicians form plans for how to advocate degrowth, and who to target. The conference was widely viewed as a great success, with 140 researchers from 30 countries both from the industrialised west and the south. Prestigious institutions in the realms of economics, social sciences and environmental studies were represented.

Among the themes discussed were: new indicators, the rebound effect, perspectives from the south, degrowth versus steady state, degrowth of consumption, degrowth of production, relocalization, redistribution of wealth, status of the economic players, social change and change of economic institution; all within the framework of how to make degrowth a contributor to equity, sustainability and improved quality of life. Various round table and forums and workshops took place to develop solutions and common understanding on the issues involved.

Thus, "degrowth" has become an international concept and this word has been established as the translation of the original "décroissance" and "decrescita". Other translations of the term are emerging in numerous languages.

This encounter has opened the door to new solutions and a true change of paradigm in the context of today's economic, social and environmental crises around the world.

A participant reports...

We arrived in Paris on the night of the 17 of April, to a lively evening reception with a wide variety of characters talking psychology, climate change, business, agriculture, etc, all with the common belief that the economy is too big and we need some degrowth. The 150 attendees of conference were mostly researchers and activists from developed countries. One of the conference organizers, Fabrice Flipo

summarizes the possible routes for supporters to arrive at degrowth, which include:

- (1) The cultural argument of Serge Latouche: De-growth is about reopening the inventiveness and creativity of an imagination blocked up by economism, developmentalism and progressivism.
- (2) For global equity and democracy there must be upper limits on wealth (Herman Daly). Developed countries should leave room for those that benefit the most from growth (Peter Victor). Presenters from India and South America described successful local movements resisting western "development," such as resource depletion, pollution and economic slavery (Joan Martinez-Alier, Singh Supiya).
- (3) The ecological argument stems from the valuation and respect for the living. Is the extinction of mammals, plants and animals, worth the increases in economic production?
- (4) "A spiritual inner revolution of non-violent and deliberate action, along the lines of Ghandi's precepts, is the only way of restoring progress which is no longer that of the blind forces of technology" (Flipo). Psychologists presented evidence that growth does not bring happiness in developed countries (Sam Thompson), but that aspirations of material riches are hard to shake (Astrid Matthey).
- (5) Long term economic stability may be realized by reducing size and complexity, thus increasing redundancy, resilience, traceability and forecasting (Louchet and Deltorn). Even traditional cost-benefit analysis reveals economic growth is not favourable (Sardar Islam). Economists argue that employment and welfare levels will increase, through intentional degrowth, compared to forced growth (Victor and Huetting).
- (6) The most common and popular is the resource argument. Criticism of intentional, eternal growth in resource depletion was around long before global food shortages and peak oil. Steady state economics were promoted by John Stuart Mill in 1848 and Herman Daly in 1977 and degrowth by Roefie Huetting in 1974 and Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, who explained the economic significance of the entropy law in 1971. The entropy law states that in a closed system, useful energy always declines. New technologies generally fuel the rebound effect so more people can consume faster.

In a contained system, communities of species without limits grow until they have caused too much damage to the systems that support them and experience widespread conflict and death. Our understanding of this phenomenon, along with our spectacular political and technical abilities leaves the future wide open to the possibility of society and commerce maturing from growth to find sustainability.

Kealan Gell

For further information have a look at the web site of the conference:
<http://events.it-sudparis.eu/degrowthconference/en/>
or contact: contact@degrowth.net

The proceedings of the Degrowth Conference can now be downloaded

Follow the links on the site www.degrowth.net

NEWS
NEWS
NEWS
NEWS
NEWS
NEWS
NEWS

NEWS FROM SOCIETY & MEMBERS

NEW INITIATIVE FOR ASSESSING THE ECONOMICS OF BIODIVERSITY



'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' – TEEB – is an initiative to draw attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity and the costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. The G8+5 Environmental Ministers initiated TEEB in Potsdam in 2007. Various EU governments and the European Commission provided funding for this study, which was a cooperative effort of institutes mainly from Europe, India and the Americas. Pavan Sukhdev, the study leader, presented a report of Phase I of TEEB at the 9th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in May 2008 in Bonn. The Advisory Board also counted Joan Martinez-Alier and Peter May amongst its members.

The report provides the first steps towards a general framework for the evaluation of biodiversity loss and conservation (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/>). It also acknowledges that major scientific challenges still remain. The second phase of TEEB, starting in autumn 2008, aims to address and solve some of these challenges.

TEEB seeks to show that economics can be a powerful



instrument in biodiversity policy, both by supporting decision processes and by forging discourse. The legitimate and effective use of economic instruments in biodiversity conservation, however, depends on their appropriate application and interpretation. Various end-users may benefit from a synthesis of existing knowledge on the economics of biodiversity: policy makers at the global, national and local level, entrepreneurs as well as consumers. A broad impact of TEEB will be ensured by providing each end-user group with specific briefs and toolkits.

How to get involved!

In Phase II, TEEB seeks to synthesize the scattered ecological-economic expertise on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. Main topics include the following:

- refining classifications and the biophysical assessment of ecosystem services
- developing approaches to deal with uncertainty and risk in biodiversity
- suggesting preferred valuation techniques for different contexts
- assessing net economic consequences of policies and policy inaction exploring the possibilities for disaggregating analysis and policy information

In all of these topics, input from ESEE members will prove essential and is therefore most welcome! During the following months several calls for evidence will be communicated at conferences and various mailing lists. We will keep you informed through the ESEE newsletter as well!

Heidi Wittmer and Felix Rauschmayer

UFZ – Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research



TOWARDS BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION KNOWLEDGE AND ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS RESEARCH



CEECEC (Civil Society Engagement with Ecological Economics) is a European Commission FP7 funded project that commenced with its kick off meeting in April 2008, parallel to the Paris De-Growth conference, and runs until 2010. It is coordinated by Prof. Joan Martinez Alier, and involves 6 research partners: ICTA-UAB (Barcelona), ULB (Brussels), Ecoman (Lisbon), IFF-UKL (Klagenfurt), SERI (Vienna) and GEPAMA (Buenos aires), and 8 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): Centre for Science and Environment (India), Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (Cameroon), Acción Ecológica (Ecuador), Endemit (Serbia), A Sud - Ecologia e Cooperazione (Italy), Vlaams Overleg Duurzame Ontwikkeling, (Belgium, Flanders), SUNCE (Croatia), Instituto Rede Brasileira Agroflorestal (Brazil)

The main objective of the project is to enable to engage CSOs in and lead collaborative research with ecological economists. The overall focus is not on theory but on case study learning, whereby CSOs and academics will identify and explore key issues for research in areas such as water management, mining, energy, forestry and agriculture, based on CSOs needs and interests. The end result will be online materials and a handbook in several languages explaining the principles, the tools and the methods of Ecological Economics for CSOs and the general public.

A workshop to be held at this year's Biennial ISEE conference in Nairobi will present CEECEC's work to date, including a review of some of the case studies under development. Also, the special participation of members of African CSOs such as the Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (Cameroon) and the East African Wild Life Society (Kenya) will allow an open debate around the potential collaboration areas for EE in the Region. Another workshop is planned for the upcoming ESEE conference in 2009 in Ljubljana.

For more information: www.ceecec.net

NEWS FROM SOCIETY & MEMBERS

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON *ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS AND 'HETERODOXIES'*: *THE PATHS TO A SOCIO-ECONOMY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT* 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR HETERODOX ECONOMICS CAMBRIDGE (UK), 4TH- 6TH JULY 2008



Ali Douai (University of Bordeaux, ESEE member) and Andrew Mearman (University of Bristol, AHE member) have organized within the annual AHE conference a workshop designed to bring together leading socio-ecological economists and advocates of various heterodox strands (classical Marxism, institutionalisms, post-Keynesianism, social economics). The aim was to encourage and develop a research agenda for an inclusive and integrative socio-economic perspective on sustainability issues.

Two broad areas of research were given priority through five sessions: (1) an in-depth study of human-nature relationships in a socio-historical perspective; (2) the crossroad between social equity (solidarity) and environmental concerns (responsibility).

The rationale for this initiative was, broadly speaking, two-fold. Firstly, the socio-economic perspective within EE has successfully dealt with important structural weakness of neoclassical economics, e.g. plural value articulation, institutional contingency of human values. Related core standpoints include insights from institutionalisms and are in many respects consistent with those of various heterodox strands. Secondly, classical and more recent heterodox schools are producing more consistent frameworks for the analysis of sustainability issues and their basics could be fruitful for investigating substantive issues that need more in-depth scrutiny, e.g. the meaning and the role of the commodity, economic value and money in our socio-historic period, the role of power relationships, mechanisms of institutional genesis, reproduction and change, production dynamics, the operation of the socio-economic system as a whole, etc.

Several interpretative frameworks have been suggested and discussed for future work on the pre-cited areas of research. Insights derived from *Critical realism* (B. Akbulut & C. Soyulu), *Régulation theory* (A. Douai & M. Montalban) and *Convention economics* (F.D. Vivien & V. Boisvert; C.

Cazals) have been advanced, along with Söderbaum's concept of *ideological orientations*, to support the view that all human-nature relationships refer, firstly and decisively, to relations between humans themselves. Accordingly, concepts of power, political arenas, social regulations, conventions, norms, etc. need to come to the fore of analytical understanding of environmental conflicts, production dynamics, institutional change, etc.

Furthermore, it has been expected that the previous socio-economic program would produce conceptual and methodological tools which are at the crossroad of intra-generational and intergenerational concerns. Two themes have been considered: (1) consumption dynamics and the social construction of use-values (theories of practice – I. Røpke; Veblen/Kyrk insights – M. Starr; post-materialism – B. Özkaynak & F. Adaman); (2) the socio-economic adjustments needed to meet environmental goals (reductions of social inequalities – A. Meunié and M. Clément, work-time reduction, sustainable de-growth – E. Berr; J. Martinez-Alier).

Given the ambitious scope of this initiative and the diversity of the strands involved, it would be premature and excessive to infer from this picture all relevant research areas and all particular synergies and trade-offs between such different strands. All contributors agreed that the meeting was successful in building the first bridges between them and that the movement must go on. As a call to action to the heterodox community to begin to pull together a coherent perspective on sustainability, this initiative is intrinsically open to all.

Ali Douai

For more information please visit

http://www.anglia.ac.uk/ruskin/en/home/faculties/aibs/conferences/conference_2.html

and the page of the Facebook group

"Socio-economy of sustainable development"

NEWS FROM SOCIETY & MEMBERS

News from Ukraine



On April 29 2008, the Department of the Economy of Ukraine, of Lviv National University named after Ivan Franko, together with the Ukrainian Scientific Association of Physical Economics named after S. Podolynsky (its major concepts are close to those of Ecological Economics) held a Round Table – the Workshop - devoted to 15th anniversary of the Department of the Economy of Ukraine which is currently led by Professor Lydia Hryniv.

The Ukrainian and international top level academics, representatives of government bodies and self-government local authorities, leaders of public organizations and non-government institutions attended this session. The major aim of the Workshop was to discuss theoretical, methodological, scientific and applied aspects of the development of the Ukrainian scientific school of Physical Economics and to examine possibilities of applying of the paradigms of this school for the creation of new models to achieve a more sustainable development of the Economy of Ukraine, of Lviv National University named after Ivan Franko, together with the Ukrainian Scientific Association of Physical Economics named after S. Podolynsky (its major concepts are close to those of Ecological Economics) held a Round Table – the Workshop - devoted to 15th anniversary of the Department of the Economy of Ukraine which is currently led by Professor Lydia Hryniv.

The Ukrainian and international top level academics, representatives of government bodies and self-government local authorities, leaders of public organizations and non-government institutions attended this session. The major aim of the Workshop was to discuss theoretical, methodological, scientific and applied aspects of the development of the Ukrainian scientific school of Physical Economics and to examine possibilities of applying of the paradigms of this school for the creation of new models to achieve a more sustainable development of Human-Environmental inter-relationships at a global scale. Recommendations from this Round Table were forwarded for consideration of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and to the Cabinet of Ministers. It is planned that relevant documents from this session will also be submitted to the Presidium of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine, to government bodies and major stakeholders.

Collaborative project: Examine the impacts of institutional reforms on economic and environmental performances in Ukraine's agriculture with respect to land abandonment

The goal of recently completed scoping project "Examine the impacts of institutional reforms on economic and environmental performances in Ukraine's agriculture with respect to land abandonment" supported by the Royal Society of Edinburgh was to develop initial knowledge on how to link institutions and capabilities with sustainable land use practices for currently abandoned lands in Ukraine and to find out appropriate socio-economic mechanisms to facilitate multi-functional use of the abandoned lands, under simultaneous maintenance of the sustainable rural development. We examined socio-economic opportunities and challenges existing in rural areas in Ukraine, gained knowledge, and exchanged experience concerning possible land use management scenarios, including of forestry development on the abandoned lands. We are grateful for the support of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and this project is seen as a starting phase of international research partnership for which the National Agricultural University (Director, Prof Lakyda) and Ukrainian National Forestry University (Dr Soloviy) are considered as focal points for Ukraine. Our purpose now is to develop the established collaboration further and to advance scientific ideas and methodologies by the exchanging of expertise between specialists from different countries, including from Ukraine and Britain, and by providing of ecological economics solutions of land use problems existing in Europe and beyond.

Maria Nijnik
Senior Research Scientist
The Macaulay Institute
Craigiebuckler
Aberdeen, AB 15 8QH
Scotland, the UK
m.nijnik@macaulay.ac.uk

Entrance hall to the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute. (From L to R) Professor Richard Aspinall Chief Executive, Professor Petro Lakyda the Director of the Institute of Forestry and Landscape Architecture of the National Agricultural University of Ukraine, Dr Maria Nijnik Senior Researcher of the Macaulay Institute and project leader, Dr Soloviy from the Institute of Ecological Economics of the Ukrainian National Forestry University and Dr Richard Birnie the Macaulay Institute Head of Communications and Outreach.



NEWS FROM SOCIETY & MEMBERS

Spanish Network of Ecological Economics



The **Spanish Network of Ecological Economic** (www.EcoEcoEs.es) will celebrate at the University Pablo de Olavide in Carmona, from September 15-19, 2008, the summer course: "Is a different economy possible? Ecological Economics: Conceptual aspects and applications".

Summary of the course: At EcoEcoEs we have detected that there is an important lack of diffusion of Ecological Economics (EE) ideas in Spain. This is specially worrisome among college students, because official programs in Economics and Environmental economics are basically based on neoclassical tenets and do not incorporate other frameworks. In this regard, the course tries to contribute to cover EE aspects considering the following goals:

- Offer students a basic theoretical and conceptual framework in EE.
- Present and discuss some applied EE work on the management of water, energy and agro-ecosystems.
- Critically think and debate on some of theoretical concepts that we will try to apply on a field trip to the natural surroundings.
- Project a film on socio-environmental problems linking it to the ideas discussed in preceding lectures.

This is a 30 hours course mainly directed to last year college students and, in general, to all people interested in Ecological Economics.

More information:
Centro Cultural Olavide en Carmona. Casa Palacio de los Briones.
C/ Ramón y Cajal, 15. 41410-Carmona. SEVILLA.
Tlf. 954.144.355.
E-mail: olavideencamona@admon.upo.es

Spanish Network of Ecological Economics ECOECOES Universidad Pablo de Olavide Dpto. Economía, Met. Cuan. e Hª Económica Ctra. de Utrera, km.1 41013 Sevilla

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Department of Economics at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research UFZ, Leipzig, Germany invites applications for one/two 27-months scientist(s) (either 2 PhD students or 1 postdoc) starting October 1, 2008, with the following tasks:

- Analysis of governance structures in the water sectors of Mongolia and/or Ukraine;
- Comparison of alternative institutional arrangements; Development of integrative policy scenarios.

We expect a Master degree in economics or social sciences with experiences in institutional or ecological economics or policy analyses and a strong interest in interdisciplinary research. Russian language skills, experiences in the water sector and/or prior contact with Mongolia or Ukraine are of added advantage.

For further details please see <http://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=11426> or contact Dr. Ines Dombrowsky at ines.dombrowsky@ufz.de (after Aug. 21, 2008).

CENSE Centre for Environmental and Sustainability Research ECOMAN GROUP New University of Lisbon

Applications are invited for a post-doctoral research fellow, with at least 3-years post-doctoral experience to work in the Centre for Environmental and Sustainability Research (CENSE), Faculty of Sciences and Technology, New University of Lisbon. Applications are open for a post-doctoral researcher to work in one of the following areas:

- Ecological economics, to develop research in the ECOMAN Centre, focusing on participation in the design of environmental policy instruments and transitions for sustainable development;
- Study of electro-remediation to remove selected contaminants from soils, sludges and other porous matrices;
- Long term energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions scenarios and integration in air quality and climate modeling.

The selected candidate will collaborate with on-going projects within the selected line of research, but is also expected to develop and propose new research projects in collaboration with CENSE staff members and other researchers and cooperate in other activities within the research group, namely teaching, organization of conferences/seminars and PhD students supervision.

Applicants should send a complete CV, as well as a motivation letter and two reference letters by e-mail to Paula Antunes: mpa@fct.unl.pt. An interview may be required prior to selection.

The acceptance of the application and subsequent contract is dependent on the "Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia" final decision.

Further information on: <http://www.eracareers.pt/opportunities/index.aspx?task=global&jobId=10085&lang=pt>

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SEPTEMBER

01- 03 SEPTEMBER . 2008

Building Resilience: Responses to a Turbulent World
 Location: St. Anne's College, Oxford University, UK
 Conference chair: Dr. Joanne Tippet, University of Manchester
 Organization: UK Systems Society
<http://www.ukss.org.uk/>

01- 04 SEPTEMBER . 2008

13th IWRA World Water Congress - Global Changes and Water Resources: Confronting the Expanding and Diversifying Pressures
 Location: Montpellier, France
 Organization: International Water Resources Association (IWRA)
<http://wwc2008.msem.univ-montp2.fr/>

05 - 08 SEPTEMBER . 2008

First ISA Forum of Sociology
 Sociological Research and Public Debate
 Location: Barcelona, Spain
 Organization: International Sociological Association
 Thematic Group on Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty
http://www.isa-sociology.org/barcelona_2008/tg04.htm

08 - 12 SEPTEMBER . 2008

6th European Conference on Ecological Restoration Towards a Sustainable Future for European Ecosystems
 Organization: Society for Ecological Restoration Europe
 Location: Ghent, Belgium
<http://www.ser2008.be/default.html>

11 SEPTEMBER . 2008

SDRN Annual Conference - Sustainable Development: New Issues, New Challenges
 Organization: Sustainable Development Research Network
 Location: RSA, London UK
<http://www.sd-research.org.uk>

22 - 25 SEPTEMBER . 2008

Society for Risk Analysis Europe Conference 2008
 Organization: Society for Risk Analysis Europe
 Location: Valencia, Spain
<http://www.esrel2008.com/>

28 SEPTEMBER - 02 OCTOBER . 2008

Pathways to Success 2008 Conference: Integrating Human Dimensions into Fisheries and Wildlife Management
 Location: Estes Park, YMCA of the Rockies, Colorado, USA
 Conference chairs: Mike Manfredo - Colorado State University; Jerry Vaske - Colorado State University
<http://welcome.warnercnr.colostate.edu/nrrt/hdfw/index.html>

OCTOBER

05 - 14 OCTOBER . 2008

The IUCN World Conservation Congress
 Location: Barcelona
 Organization: Ministry for Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, Spanish Government, Department of Environment and Housing of Catalonia, the City Council of Barcelona and the Provincial Government de Barcelona
http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/index.cfm

12-15 OCTOBER . 2008

IHDP 2008 International Human Dimensions Workshop
 Connected to the 7th Open Meeting - "Social Challenges of Global Change"
 Location: New Delhi, India
 Organization: IHDP International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change
<http://www.ihdp.unu.edu/>

NOVEMBER

05 - 09 NOVEMBER . 2008

Society of American Foresters Annual Convention - Forestry in a Climate of Change
 Location: Reno, Nevada, USA
 Organization: Society of American Foresters
<http://www.safconvention.org/natcon-08>

05 - 10 NOVEMBER . 2008

ESF-FMSH Entre-Sciences Conference in Interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences
 New Methodologies and Interdisciplinary Approaches in Global Change Research
 A French EU Presidency Event
 Location: Centre IGESA, Island of Porquerolles, Hyères, France
 Chair: Joël Guiot, CEREGE/ECCOREV, FR
 Vice-Chair: Sylvie Thoron, GREQAM, FR
www.esf.org/conferences/08284

08 NOVEMBER . 2008

Development Studies Association Annual Conference
 Organization: Development Studies Association
 Location: Westminster, London
<http://www.devstud.org.uk/conference.htm>

17 - 19 NOVEMBER . 2008

Final NeWater Conference 2008
 Adaptive Integrated Water Resources Management under Uncertainty - Results from the NeWater Project
 Location: Seville, Spain
 Organization: University of Osnabrueck, Institute of Environmental Systems Research
 Ilke Borowski & Britta Kastens - NeWater project managers - contact@newater.info
<http://www.newater.info>

DECEMBER

01- 12 DECEMBER . 2008

United Nations Climate Change Conference
 Location: Poznan, Poland
 Organization: UNFCCC
<http://unfccc.int/meetings/items/2654.php>

07 - 10 DECEMBER . 2008

Society for Risk Analysis 2008 Annual Meeting - Risk Analysis: The Science and the Art
 Location: Boston, USA
 Organization: Society for Risk Analysis
http://www.sra.org/events_2008_meeting.php

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Risk Governance: Coping with Uncertainty in a Complex World



Ortwin Renn

This book, for the first time, brings together and updates the groundbreaking work of renowned risk theorist and researcher Ortwin Renn, integrating the major disciplinary concepts of risk in the social, engineering and natural sciences. *'Risk Governance* is a tour de force. Every risk manager, every risk analyst, every risk researcher must read this book - it is the demarcation point for all further advances in risk policy and risk research.' *Thomas Dietz, Director, Environmental Science and Policy Program, Michigan State University, USA.*

<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=230>

Social Multi-Criteria Evaluation for a Sustainable Economy



Giuseppe Munda

This is a hugely important work that looks at the need to bring together differing scientific languages, with the aim of propelling forward the cause of sustainability. One of the main novelties of this book is its establishment of a clear relationship between social and public choice on one hand and multiple criteria decision analysis on the other.

This relationship leads to the new concept of Social Multi-Criteria Evaluation (SMCE). SMCE is proposed as a policy framework to integrate different scientific languages, for example, when concerns about civil society and future generations have to be considered along with policy imperatives and market conditions.

This can have beneficial consequences, not only for economic prosperity, but also when dealing with the difficult sustainability problems of our millennium.

The methodological foundations of SMCE rest on concepts from fields such as economics, complex systems theory and philosophy.

From a mathematical point of view, social choice is used to improve the axiomatic consistency of multi-criterion algorithms. The treatment of technical uncertainty (both stochastic and fuzzy) is also explored in depth.

<http://www.springer.com/business/operations+research/book/978-3-540-73702-5>

PARTNERSHIPS FOR EMPOWERMENT: Participatory Research for Community Based Natural Resource Management



Edited by Carl Wilmsen, William Elmendorf, Larry Fisher, Jacquelyn Ross, Brinda Sarathy and Gail Wells

'This text (is) sorely needed.'
*Kathleen Martin, assistant professor of ethnic studies,
 California Polytechnic State University*

Sustainable management of forests and other natural resources is often crucially based on understanding the needs and realities of local communities. The key to this community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) is the generation of accurate knowledge, for which participatory research is emerging as the most effective tool. This book analyses the current state of the art of participatory research in CBNRM.

<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=4830>

RECONCILING HUMAN EXISTENCE WITH ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY: Science, Ethics, Economics and Law



Edited by Laura Westra, Klaus Bosselmann and Richard Westra,
 with foreword by David Suzuki

'An ecological master plan that shows how we can not only survive but also flourish.'
*James P. Sterba,
 President of the American Philosophical Association, Central Division*

Written and edited by members of the Global Ecological Integrity Group - an international collection of the world's most respected authorities in the area - this book considers the extent to which human rights (such as the rights to food, energy, health, clean air or water) can be reconciled with the principles of ecological integrity. The issue is approached from a variety of economic, legal, ethical and ecological standpoints.

<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=4359>

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Poisoned for Pennies: The Economics of Toxics and Precaution



Frank Ackerman
Island Press, 2008

“Cost-benefit analysis” is a term that is used so frequently we rarely stop to think about it. But relying on it can lead to some dubious conclusions, as Frank Ackerman points out in this eye-opening book. Inventing dollar values for human life and health, endangered species, and fragile ecosystems does not guide us to better policies. Cost-benefit analysis, as practiced today, could have led to damming the Grand Canyon for hydroelectric power, leaving lead in gasoline, and other absurd and harmful decisions.

In clear, understandable language, Ackerman describes an alternative, precautionary approach to making decisions under uncertainty. Once a mere theory, the precautionary

principle has now been applied in practice through the European Union’s REACH protocol. Citing major studies, many of which he has directed, he shows that the precautionary approach has not only worked, but has been relatively cheap. *Poisoned for Pennies* shows how the misuse of cost-benefit analysis is impeding efforts to clean up and protect our environment, especially in the case of toxic chemicals. According to Ackerman, conservatives—in elected office, in state and federal regulatory agencies, and in businesses of every size—have argued repeatedly that environmental clean-up and protection are simply too expensive. But as he proves, that is untrue in case after case. The book ranges from psychological research to risk analysis to the benefits of aggressive pesticide regulation, and from mad cow disease to vinyl siding. You can’t afford not to read it.

Selected chapters are co-authored by Rachel Massey, Elizabeth A. Stanton, Lisa Heinzerling, Anne-Sofie Andersson, Wendy Johnnecke, and Brian Roach. Most chapters are based on research conducted at GDAE during 2003-2007.

http://www.islandpress.org/bookstore/details.php?prod_id=1262

Rationality and the Environment: Decision-making in Environmental Politics and Assessment



Bo Elling

Rationality and the Environment uniquely examines the work of environmental sociologists and philosophers in order to lay the foundation between environmental politics and management and the emerging field of environmental philosophy. It should be required reading for anybody with both a general and professional interest in environmental management.’

Niels West, Research Professor and Professor Emeritus, Department of Marine Affairs, University of Rhode Island

<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=1419>

More Population, Nature, and What Women Want



Robert Engelman

In the capital of Ghana, a teenager nicknamed “Condom Sister” trolls the streets to educate other young people about contraception. Her work and her own aspirations point to a remarkable shift not only in the West African nation, where just a few decades ago women had nearly seven children on average, but around the globe. While world population continues to grow, family size keeps dropping in countries as diverse as Switzerland and South Africa.

The phenomenon has some lamenting the imminent extinction of humanity, while others warn that our numbers will soon outgrow the planet’s resources. Robert Engelman offers a decidedly different vision—one that celebrates women’s widespread desire for smaller families. Mothers aren’t seeking more children, he argues, but more for their children. If they’re able to realize their intentions, we just might suffer less climate change, hunger, and disease, not to mention sky-high housing costs and infuriating traffic jams.

In *More*, Engelman shows that this three-way dance between population, women’s autonomy, and the natural world is as old as humanity itself. He traces pivotal developments in our history that set population—and society—on its current trajectory, from hominids’ first steps on two feet to the persecution of “witches” in Europe to the creation of modern contraception. Both personal and sweeping, *More* explores how population growth has shaped modern civilization—and humanity as we know it. The result is a mind-stretching exploration of parenthood, sex, and culture through the ages. Yet for all its fascinating historical detail, *More* is primarily about the choices we face today. Whether society supports women to have children when and only when they choose to will not only shape their lives, but the world all our children will inherit.

For more information, visit www.morethebook.org

New book

UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABILITY ECONOMICS, TOWARDS PLURALISM IN ECONOMICS

Peter Söderbaum

to be published Sept. 2008 by Earthscan, London