



University of Newcastle

Sociology of the environment SOC 3067

Semester 2, 2008-09



**CARNIVAL**  
OF  
**CLIMATE CHAOS**

people & planet

Be part of the UK student movement's largest ever event on climate change.

In association with Stop Climate Chaos, I Count, and part of Shared Planet 2006

Local info

**SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER**

Start 12 noon Mallet Street  
Opposite University of London Union.

Finish 2pm,  
Trafalgar Square for  
**I Count** mass event

Neutral Tubs:  
Russell Square,  
Canton Square, Warren Street.

More information  
[peopleandplanet.org/November4](http://peopleandplanet.org/November4)  
[www.stopclimatechaos.org](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org)  
[www.icount.org.uk](http://www.icount.org.uk)

The poster features a central illustration of a classical statue on a pedestal, with a large, pink, multi-lobed flower-like structure growing from the top of the statue. The background is white with black text and some small logos.

# **Sociology**

## **University of Newcastle**

**Semester 2, 2008-09**

### **Sociology of the environment**

### **SOC 3067**

Module leader: Prof José Esteban Castro  
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Teaching Assistant: Mr Youba Raj Luintel  
E-mail:

Credits: 20

## Schedule

<b>Lectures</b>	<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>10 in total</b>	Weeks 29-35 and 40-42, see programme in page 6  Wednesdays, 11am-1pm	Daysh Building Room 2.5
<b>Seminars (5 in total)</b>          <b>(see Seminar Programme in page 22 )</b>	Weeks 30-34, see programme in page 22	
	<b>GROUP 1:</b>  Mondays 2-3 pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37
	<b>GROUP 2:</b>  Mondays 3-4 pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37
	<b>GROUP 3:</b>  Tuesdays 2-3 pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11
	<b>GROUP 4:</b>  Tuesdays 3-4 pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11

### **Aims and objectives**

Environmental problems such as global climate change, global warming, deforestation, desertification, the intensification of extreme events (hurricanes, floods, heat waves, etc.), the pollution of air, water and soil by human activities, or the impact of water-related problems on human health constitute some of the most difficult challenges facing human society in the Twentieth-first Century. What role can sociologists play in addressing these challenges? What are the contributions made by sociologists to the environmental debate? And how does sociology help in practical terms? What progress has sociology made in contributing to the production of scientific knowledge about the environment? These are examples of some of the questions that we plan to explore and debate in this module.

SOC3067 has been designed to provide a balanced introduction to key social theory debates about environmental problems complemented with empirical examples derived from recent and ongoing research at the international level. The link between theory and empirical evidence will be further developed in the seminar sessions.

The module will address the foundations for the study of environmental problems in the main sociological traditions (how different sociological traditions have addressed environmental issues). It will also explore the relationship between sociology and other social sciences in the interdisciplinary study of environmental problems.

Among other topics we will explore the roots of sociological thinking about the environment in the classical sociologists and in the main currents of twentieth-century sociology; agency and structure; the realism/constructivism debate; sociology and the interdisciplinary study of environmental conflicts (political ecology; social movements); the relationship between social justice and environmental justice; environmental citizenship and governance; globalization and the environment; the interrelation between environmental and social change in a long-term perspective (e.g. the evolution of socio-ecological regimes; environment and development).

By the end of the module students should have acquired an understanding of key theoretical and policy debates and of the main competing approaches in the sociology of the environment. They should also develop an understanding of the role played by sociological theory in the increasingly interdisciplinary field of environmental studies, and have a clearer picture of the opportunities for research and professional work in relation to the environment open to sociology students after graduation.

**A note on the reading list:** we may add more materials later on, especially for the seminars.

### **Module Assessment**

The module will be assessed by two pieces of work: an Analytical Exercise (2000 words) and 1 Essay (2000 words).

The assignments have to be submitted electronically through the Turnitin system, see final page of this module outline.

Deadline for Analytical Exercise: 13 March 2009 12 noon

Deadline for Essay: 8 May 2009 12 noon

**See the “Assessment Guidelines” in page 24.**

**Lecture programme**

Date and time: Wednesdays 11am-1pm      Venue: Daysh Building Room 2.5

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	4 February 2009	Introduction. Sociology and the environment: mapping the debate
2	11 February 2009	The environment in pre-sociological and classical thinkers
3	18 February 2009	The environment in 20th century sociology
4	25 February 2009	The realism/constructivism debate
5	4 March 2009	The agency/structure debate
6	11 March 2009	Ecological distribution conflicts
7	18 March 2009	Environmental governance and citizenship
EASTER BREAK		
8	22 April 2009	Environment and development I: theoretical debates
9	29 April 2009	Environment and development II: experiences from developing countries
10	6 May 2009	Towards the emergence of a new socio-ecological regime?

**Key readings**

Dunlap, R. E., F. H. Buttel, P. Dickens and A. Gijswijt (eds.). 2002. *Sociological Theory and the Environment. Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights*. Lanham, Boulder, New York and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield.

**Suggested background readings**

Barry, J. 1999. *Environment and Social Theory*. London: Routledge.

Beck, U. 1992. *Risk Society. Towards a New Modernity*. London: Sage.

Bookchin, M. 1996. *The Philosophy of Social Ecology. Essays on Dialectical Naturalism*. Montreal, New York, and London: Black Rose Books.

Braun, B. and N. Castree (eds.) (2002), *Remaking Reality: Nature at the Millennium*. New York and London: Routledge.

Dickens, P. 2004. *Society and Nature. Changing our Environment, Changing Ourselves*. Cambridge, Polity.

Dickens, P. 1992. *Society and Nature. Towards a Green Social Theory*. New York and London: Harvester Wheatsheaf, pp. 18-59.

Eder, K. 1996. *The Social Construction of Nature*. London: Sage.

Goldblatt, D. 1996. *Social Theory and the Environment*. Boulder, Co.: Westview Press.

Goldman, M. (ed.). 1998. *Privatizing Nature: Political Struggles for the Global Commons*. London: Pluto.

Guha, R., and J. Martínez-Alier. 1997. *Varieties of Environmentalism. Essays North and South*, London: Earthscan.

Hannigan, J. 1995. *Environmental Sociology: A Social Constructivist Perspective*. London: Routledge.

Hajer, M. 1995. *The Politics of Environmental Discourse. Ecological Modernization and the Policy Process*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Harvey, D. 1996. *Justice, Nature and the Geography of Difference*, New York: Blackwell.

Irwin, A. 2001. *Sociology and the Environment. A Critical Introduction to Society, Nature and Knowledge*, Cambridge: Polity Press.

- Martínez-Alier, J. 2002. *The Environmentalism of the Poor. A Study of Ecological Conflicts and Valuation*, Cheltenham and Northampton: Edward Elgar.
- McNeill, J. 2000. *Something new under the Sun. An Environmental History of the Twentieth Century*. London: Penguin.
- Murphy, R. 1997. *Sociology and Nature. Social Action in Context*. Boulder, Co.: Westview.
- Murphy, R. 1994. *Rationality and Nature. A Sociological Inquiry into a Changing Relationship*, Boulder, CO.: Westview Press.
- O'Connor, J. 1998. *Natural Causes. Essays in Ecological Marxism*, New York: Guilford Press.
- Peet, R., and M. Watts. 2004 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). *Liberation Ecologies. Environment, Development, Social Movements*. London and New York: Routledge. ISBN 0415 312361
- Redclift, M. and T. Benton (eds.) (1994). *Social Theory and the Global Environment*. London: Routledge.
- Redclift, M. and G. Woodgate (eds.). 1997. *The International Handbook of Environmental Sociology*. Cheltenham and Northampton, MA.: Edward Elgar.
- Schnaiber, A., and K. a. Gould, 1994, *Environment and Society. The Enduring Conflict*, New York: St Martin's Press.
- Sutton, Ph. 2004. *Nature, Environment and Society*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave-Macmillan.
- Yearley, S. 2005. *Cultures of Environmentalism. Empirical Studies in Environmental Sociology*, Houndmills: Palgrave.

**See also articles in the following journals**

(These journals are available through Newcastle University's Library. Some are exclusively dedicated to environmental issues while others publish individual articles on environmental problems):

American Journal of Sociology  
Annual Review of Sociology  
Capitalism, Nature, Socialism  
Contemporary Sociology  
Ecology and Society  
Environment and Behavior  
Environment and Planning A, C, D  
Environment and Urbanization  
Environment, Development and Sustainability



Environmental Politics  
Futures  
Geoforum  
Global Environmental Change  
Global Environmental Politics  
International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food  
International Journal of Urban and Regional Research  
Journal of Environment & Development  
Organization & Environment  
Regional Environmental Change  
Rural Sociology  
Social Science Quarterly  
Social Forces  
Social Problems  
Society & Natural Resources  
Sociological Forum  
Sociological Quarterly  
Sociological Spectrum  
Theory and Society  
Urban Studies

See also the following journals:

Environmental Values

Human Ecology (<http://maxweber.hunter.cuny.edu/anthro/ecology.html>)

Journal of Political Ecology: Case Studies in History and Society  
(<http://jpe.library.arizona.edu/>)

Sociology

**Class 1 – 4 February 2009**

**Introduction. Sociology and ecological processes: mapping the field**

Main reading for this class:

Benton, T. and M. Redclift. 1994. Introduction. In: Michael Redclift and Ted Benton (eds.). *Social Theory and the Global Environment*. London: Routledge, pp. 1-27.

Barry, J. 1999. *Environment and Social Theory*. London: Routledge. Chapters 1, 'Nature', 'environment' and social theory (pp. 6-32); Chapter 2, The role of the environment historically within social theory (pp. 33- 50).

Complementary reading:

Goldblatt, D. 1996. Introduction: Social theory, environmental degradation and environmental politics. In: *Social Theory and the Environment*. Boulder, Co.: Westview Press, pp. 1-13.

Hannigan, J. A. 1995. Environmental sociology: issues and theoretical approaches. In: *Environmental Sociology*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 5-31.

**Class 2 – 11 February 2009**

**The environment in pre-sociological and classical thinkers**

Main reading for this class:

Buttel, F.H. 2002. Environmental sociology and the classical sociological tradition: some observations on current controversies. In: R. E. Dunlap, F. H. Buttel, P. Dickens and A. Gijswijt (eds.). *Sociological Theory and the Environment. Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights*. Lanham, Boulder, New York and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 35-50.

Redclift, M. and G. Woodgate. 1994. Sociology and the environment. Discordant discourse? In: Michael Redclift and Ted Benton (eds.). *Social Theory and the Global Environment*. London: Routledge, pp. 51-66.

Complementary reading:

Benton, T. 1989. Marxism and natural limits - an ecological critique and reconstruction. In: *New Left Review* (178): 51-86.

Catton Jr., W. R. 2002. Has the Durkheim legacy misled sociology? In: R. E. Dunlap, F. H. Buttel, P. Dickens and A. Gijswijt (eds.). *Sociological Theory and the Environment. Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights*. Lanham, Boulder, New York and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 90-115.

Clark, J. 2001. Contributions to the critique of Political Ecology. In: *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, (12)3: 29-36.

Dickens, P. 2002. A Green Marxism? Labor Processes, Alienation, and the Division of Labor. In: R. E. Dunlap, F. H. Buttel, P. Dickens and A. Gijswijt (eds.). *Sociological Theory and the Environment. Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights*. Lanham, Boulder, New York and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 51-72.

Dickens, P. 1992. People, nature and social theory, in *Society and Nature. Towards a Green Social Theory*. New York and London: Harvester Wheatsheaf, pp. 18-59.

Foster, J. B. 1999. Marx's Theory of Metabolic Rift: Classical Foundations for Environmental Sociology. In: *American Journal of Sociology* 105(2): 366-405.

Murphy, R. 2002. Ecological materialism and the sociology of Max Weber. In: R. E. Dunlap, F. H. Buttel, P. Dickens and A. Gijswijt (eds.). *Sociological Theory and the Environment. Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights*. Lanham, Boulder, New York and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 73-89.

Murphy, R. 1997. Sociology as if nature did not matter: an ecological critique. In *Sociology and Nature. Social Action in Context*. Boulder, Co.: Westview, pp. 3-19.

**Class 3 – 18 February 2009**

**The environment in 20th century sociology**

Main reading for this class:

Dunlap, R. 2002. Paradigms, theories, and environmental sociology. In: R. E. Dunlap, F. H. Buttel, P. Dickens and A. Gijswijt (eds.). *Sociological Theory and the Environment. Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights*. Lanham, Boulder, New York and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 329-50.

Goldman, M., and R. A. Schurman. 2000. Closing the 'Great Divide': New Social Theory on Society and Nature. *Annual Review of Sociology* 26: 563-584.

Complementary reading:

Buttel, F. H. 2000. Ecological modernization as social theory. *Geoforum* (31)1: 57-65.

Buttel, F. H. 1987. New directions in environmental sociology. In: *Annual Review of Sociology* (13):465-88.

Cohen, M. 1997. Risk society and ecological modernisation: alternative visions for post-industrial nations. In: *Futures*, 29(2): 105-19.

Dickens, P. 2004. Introduction: Society, nature and enlightenment. In: *Society and Nature. Changing our Environment, Changing Ourselves*. Cambridge, Polity, pp. 1-28.

Fisher, D. and W. R. Freudenburg. 2001. Ecological modernization and its critics: assessing the past and looking toward the future. *Society and Natural Resources* (14)8: 701-9.

Freudenburg, W., R., S. Frickel, and R. Gramling. 1995. Beyond the nature/society divide: learning to think about a mountain. In: *Sociological Forum* (10)3: 361-92.

Latour, B. 1998. To modernise or ecologise? That is the question. In: B. Braun and N. Castree eds., *Remaking Reality: Nature at the Millenium*, London: Routledge, pp. 221-42.

Mol, A. P. J. 2006. From environmental sociologies to environmental sociology? A comparison of U.S. and European environmental sociology. *Organization & Environment*, Vol. 19 No. 1, pp. 5-27.

Papadakis, E. 2002. Social theory and the environment: a systems-theoretical perspective. In: R. E. Dunlap, F. H. Buttel, P. Dickens and A. Gijswijt (eds.). *Sociological Theory and the Environment. Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights*. Lanham, Boulder, New York and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 119-143.

Yearley, S.. 1991. *The Green Case: a Sociology of Environmental Issues, Arguments, and Politics*. London: Harper Collins.

**Class 4 – 25 February 2009**

**The realism/constructivism debate**

Main reading for this class:

Burningham, K., and G. Cooper. 1999. Being constructive: social constructionism and the environment. In: *Sociology* 33(2): 297-316.

Woodgate, G., and M. Redclift. 1998. From a sociology of nature to environmental sociology: beyond social construction. In: *Environmental Values* (7)1: 3-24.

Complementary reading:

Benton, T. 1994. Biology and social theory in the environmental debate. In: M. Redclift and T. Benton (eds.), *Social Theory and the Global Environment*. London: Routledge, pp. 28-50.

Carolan, M. S. 2005. Society, biology, and ecology. Bringing nature back into sociology's disciplinary narrative through critical realism, *Organization & Environment*. Vol. 18 No. 4, pp. 393-421.

Castree, N., and B. Braun. 1998. The construction of nature and the nature of construction: analytical and political tools for building survivable futures. In: B. Braun and N. Castree (eds.), *Remaking Reality: Nature at the Millennium*. New York and London: Routledge, pp. 1-42.

Demeritt, D. 1998. Science, social construction and nature. In: B. Braun and N. Castree (eds.), *Remaking Reality: Nature at the Millennium*. New York and London: Routledge, pp.173-93.

Eder, K. 1996. The theoretical construction of nature: a critique of naturalistic theories of evolution. In: *The Social Construction of Nature*. London: Sage, pp. 7-32.

Hannigan, J. 1995. Social construction of environmental problems. In: *Environmental sociology: A Social Constructivist Perspective*. London: Routledge, pp. 32-57.

Irwin, A. 2001. Society, nature, knowledge: co-constructing the social and the natural. In: *Sociology and the Environment. A Critical Introduction to Society, Nature and Knowledge*, Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 161-187.

Murphy, R. 1997. The sociological construction of science without nature. In: *Sociology and Nature. Social Action in Context*. Boulder, Co.: Westview, pp. 21-38.

Velody, I., and R. Williams (eds.). 1998. *The Politics of Constructionism*. London: Sage.

Yearley, S. 2002. The social construction of environmental problems: a theoretical review and some not-very-Herculean labors. In: R. E. Dunlap, F. H. Buttel, P. Dickens and A. Gijswijt (eds.). *Sociological Theory and the Environment. Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights*. Lanham, Boulder, New York and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 274-85.

**Class 5 – 4 March 2009**

**The agency-structure debate**

Main reading for this class:

Wehling, P. 2002. Dynamic constellations of the individual, society and nature: critical theory and environmental sociology. In: R. E. Dunlap, F. H. Buttel, P. Dickens and A. Gijswijt (eds.). *Sociological Theory and the Environment. Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights*. Lanham, Boulder, New York and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 144-66.

Sutton, P. 2004. Environment, self and society. In: *Nature, Environment and Society*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave-Macmillan, pp. 173-84.

Complementary reading:

Beck, U. 1992. Individualization, institutionalization, and standardization: life situations and biographical patterns. In: *Risk Society. Towards a New Modernity*. London: Sage, pp. 127-38.

Brechin, S. R., and W. Kempton. 1997. Beyond postmaterialist values: national versus individual explanations of global environmentalism. *Social Science Quarterly* (78)1: 16-25.

Dickens, P. 2004. Consumption, the environment and human identity. In: *Society and Nature. Changing our Environment, Changing Ourselves*. Cambridge, Polity, pp. 119-147.

Goudsblom, J. 1994. *Fire and Civilization*, London: Penguin.

Murdoch, J. 2001. Ecologising sociology: actor-network theory, co-construction and the problem of human exemptionalism. In: *Sociology* (35)1: 111-33.

Murphy, R. 1994. *Rationality and Nature. A Sociological Inquiry into a Changing Relationship*, Boulder, CO.: Westview Press.

O'Connor, J. 1998. *Natural Causes. Essays in Ecological Marxism*, New York: Guilford Press.

Schmidt, C. 1993. On economization and ecologization as civilizing processes. In: *Environmental Values*, 2, pp. 33-46.

Taylor, P. J. 1999. Mapping complex social-natural relationships: cases from Mexico and Africa. In: F. Fischer and M. A. Hajer, *Living with Nature. Environmental Politics as Cultural Discourse*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 121-34.

**Class 6 – 11 March 2009**

**Ecological distribution conflicts**

Main reading for this class:

Guha, R., and J. Martínez-Alier. 1997. From political economy to political ecology. In: *Varieties of Environmentalism. Essays North and South*, London: Earthscan, pp. 22-45.

Jackson, C. 1994. Gender analysis and environmentalisms. In: M. Redclift and T. Benton (eds.). *Social Theory and the Global Environment*. London: Routledge, pp. 113-49.

Complementary reading:

Awumbila, M., and J. Henshall Momsen. 1995. Gender and the environment. Women's time use as a measure of environmental change. *Global Environmental Change* (5)4: 337-46.

Camacho, D. E. (ed.). 1998. *Environmental Injustices, Political Struggles. Race, Class, and the Environment*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Castells, M. 2004 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). The greening of the self: the environmental movement. In: *The Power of Identity. Volume II of The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture*. Malden Ma., Oxford, and Carlton: Blackwell, pp. 168-191.

Dickens, P. 2004. Society, nature, and new social movements. In: *Society and Nature. Changing our Environment, Changing Ourselves*. Cambridge, Polity, pp. 238-252.

Goldman, M. (ed.). 1998. *Privatizing Nature: Political Struggles for the Global Commons*. London: Pluto.

Gould, K. A., D. N. Pellow, and A. Schnaiberg. 2004. Interrogating the treadmill of production. Everything you wanted to know about the treadmill but were afraid to ask. *Organization & Environment*, Vol. 17 No. 3, pp. 296-316.

Gould, K. A., A. Schnaiberg, and A. S. Weimberg. 1996. *Local Environmental Struggles. Citizen Activism in the Treadmill of Production*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Guha, R., and J. Martínez-Alier. 1997. *Varieties of Environmentalism. Essays North and South*, London: Earthscan (chapters 1, 3-7).

Harvey, D. 1996. *Justice, Nature and the Geography of Difference*, New York: Blackwell.

Martínez-Alier, J. 2002. *The Environmentalism of the Poor. A Study of Ecological Conflicts and Valuation*, Cheltenham and Northampton: Edward Elgar (especially chapters 4-9).

Sperber, I. 2003. Alienation in the environmental movement: regressive tendencies in the struggle for environmental justice. In: *Capitalism Nature Socialism* (14)3: 1-43.

Sutton, Ph. 2004. The development of environmental movements. In: *Nature, Environment and Society*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave-Macmillan, pp. 28-54.

Yearley, S. 2005. *Cultures of Environmentalism. Empirical Studies in Environmental Sociology*, Houndmills: Palgrave.

Yearly, S. 1994. Social movements and environmental change. In: M. Redclift and T. Benton (eds.), *Social Theory and the Global Environment*. London: Routledge, pp. 150-68.



**Class 7 – 18 March 2009**

**Environmental governance and citizenship**

Main reading for this class:

Brand, U. and Ch. Görg. 2001. The regulation of the market and the transformation of the societal relationships with nature. In: *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, (12)4: 67-94.

Dickens, P. 2004. Society, nature and citizenship. In: *Society and Nature. Changing our Environment, Changing Ourselves*. Cambridge, Polity, pp. 208-237.

Complementary reading:

Castro, J. E. 2006. *Water, Power, and Citizenship. Social Struggles in the Basin of Mexico*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave-Macmillan,

Doyle, T. and D. McEachern. 1998. *Environment and Politics*. London: Routledge.

Eckersley, R. (ed). 1996. *Markets, the State and the Environment: Towards Integration*, Basingstoke: Macmillan.

Fischer, F., and M. Black. 1995. *Greening Environmental Policy. The Politics of a Sustainable Future*. London: Paul Chapman.

Frankenfeld, Ph. 1992. Technological citizenship: a normative framework for risk studies. In: *Science, Technology and Human Values* (17): 459-84.

Glasbergen, P. (ed.). 1998. *Co-operative Environmental Governance. Public-Private Agreements as a Policy Strategy*. London: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Goldman, M. 2001. Constructing an environmental state: eco-governmentality and other transnational practices of a 'green' World Bank. In: *Social Problems* (48)4: 499-523.

Hanf, K. and A.Jansen (eds.). 1998. *Governance and Environment in Western Europe. Politics, Policy and Administration*. Harlow: Addison Wesley Longman.

Lafferty, W., and J. Meadowcroft (eds). 1996. *Democracy and Environment: Problems and Prospects*, London: Edward Elgar.

Newby, H. 1996. Citizenship in a green world: global commons and human stewardship. In: M. Bulmer and A. Rees (eds.), *Citizenship Today. The Contemporary Relevance of T. H. Marshall*, London: UCL Press, pp. 209-21.

Paterson, M.. 1999. Interpreting trends in global environmental governance. In: *International Affairs* (75)4: 793-802.

Steenbergen, B. van. 1994. Towards a global ecological citizen. In: *The Condition of Citizenship*. London: SAGE, pp. 141-152.

# EASTER BREAK

**Class 8 – 22 April 2009**

**Environment and development I: theoretical debates**

Main reading for this class:

Peet, R., and M. Watts. 1993. Introduction: development theory and environment in an age of market triumphalism. In: *Economic Geography* (69)3: 227-53.

Timmons, R. J. and P. E. Grimes. 2002. World-system theory and the environment: toward a new synthesis. In: R. E. Dunlap, F. H. Buttel, P. Dickens and A. Gijswijt (eds.). *Sociological Theory and the Environment. Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights*. Lanham, Boulder, New York and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 167-94.

Complementary reading:

Harvey, D. 1999. The environment of justice. In: F. Fischer and M. A. Hajer, *Living with Nature. Environmental Politics as Cultural Discourse*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 153-85.

Irwin, A. 2001. *Sociology and the Environment. A Critical Introduction to Society, Nature and Knowledge*, Cambridge: Polity Press.

O'Connor, J. 1998. *Natural Causes. Essays in Ecological Marxism*, New York: Guilford Press.

Peet, R. 1999. *Theories of Development*. New York and London: The Guilford Press.

Redclift, M. 1995 (reprint). *Sustainable Development. Exploring the Contradictions*. London and New York: Routledge.

Sachs, W. (ed.). 1993. *Global Ecology. A New Arena of Political Conflict*. London and New Jersey: Zed Books.

Schnaiber, A., and K. a. Gould, 1994, *Environment and Society. The Enduring Conflict*, New York: St Martin's Press.

**Class 9 – 29 April 2009**

**Environment and development II: experiences from developing countries**

Main reading for this class:

Bunker, S. G. 1984. Modes of extraction, unequal exchange, and the progressive underdevelopment of an extreme periphery: the Brazilian Amazon, 1600-1980. In: *American Journal of Sociology* 89(5): 1017-64.

Castro, J. E. 2004. Urban water and the politics of citizenship: the case of the Mexico City Metropolitan Area (1980s-1990s). In: *Environment and Planning A* (36)2: 327-46.

Complementary reading:

Adams, W. M. 2001 (second edition). *Green Development. Environment and Sustainability in the Third World*. London: Routledge.

Camacho, D. E. (ed.). 1998. *Environmental Injustices, Political Struggles. Race, Class, and the Environment*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Goldman, M. (ed.). 1998. *Privatizing Nature: Political Struggles for the Global Commons*. London: Pluto.

Guha, R., and J. Martínez-Alier. 1997. *Varieties of Environmentalism. Essays North and South*, London: Earthscan.

Laurie, N., Radcliffe, S. and R. Andolina. 2002: The new excluded 'indigenous'?: The implications of multi-ethnic policies for water reform in Bolivia. In R. Seider (ed.), *Multiculturalism in Latin America. Indigenous Rights, Diversity and Democracy*, Houndmills, Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, pp. 252-276.

Martínez-Alier, J. 2002. *The Environmentalism of the Poor. A Study of Ecological Conflicts and Valuation*, Cheltenham and Northampton: Edward Elgar.

McGranahan, G., P. Jacobi, J. Songsore, Ch. Surjadi, and M. Kjellén. 2001. *The Citizens at Risk. From Urban Sanitation to Sustainable Cities*, London: Earthscan.

Peet, R., and M. Watts. 2004 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). *Liberation Ecologies. Environment, development, Social Movements*. London and New York: Routledge.

Swyngedouw, E. 2004. *Social Power and the Urbanization of Water. Flows of Power*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Class 10 – 6 May 2009**

**Towards the emergence of a new socio-ecological regime?**

Main reading for this class:

Beck, U. 1999. World risk society as cosmopolitan society? Ecological questions in a framework of manufactured uncertainties. In: *World Risk Society*. Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 19-47.

Sklair, L. 1994. Global sociology and global environmental change. In: M. Redclift and T. Benton (eds.), *Social Theory and the Global Environment*. London: Routledge, pp. 205-227.

Complementary reading:

Dickens, P. 2004. Industrial change, the network society and human identity. In: *Society and Nature. Changing our Environment, Changing Ourselves*. Cambridge, Polity, pp. 148-174.

De Vries, B., and J. Goudsblom. 2002. *Mappae Mundi. Humans and their Habitats in a Long-Term Socio-Ecological Perspective. Myths, Maps, and Models*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.

Eder, K. 1996. The modern politics of nature. Part III in: *The Social Construction of Nature. A Sociology of Ecological Enlightenment*. London: Sage, pp. 162-231.

Meyer, J. W., D. J. Frank, A. Hironaka, E. Schofer, and N. Brandon Tuma. 1997. The structuring of a world environmental regime, 1870-1990. In: *International Organization* (51) 4: 623-51.

Murphy, R. 1994. *Rationality and Nature. A Sociological Inquiry into a Changing Relationship*, Boulder, CO.: Westview Press.

Sachs, W.. 1999. Sustainable development and the crisis of nature: on the political anatomy of an Oxymoron. In: F. Fischer and M. A. Hajer, *Living with Nature. Environmental Politics as Cultural Discourse*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 23-41.

**Seminar programme**

<b>Seminar</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>1</b>	1	9 February, 2-3pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37	<b>Capitalist development and its ecological limits</b>
	2	9 February, 3-4pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37	
	3	10 February, 2-3pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11	
	4	10 February, 3-4pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11	
<b>2</b>	1	16 February, 2-3pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37	<b>The “social construction” of the environment</b>
	2	16 February, 3-4pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37	
	3	17 February, 2-3pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11	
	4	17 February, 3-4pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11	

<b>Seminar</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>3</b>	1	23 February, 2-3pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37	<b>Environmental struggles</b>
	2	23 February, 3-4pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37	
	3	24 February, 2-3pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11	
	4	24 February, 3-4pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11	
<b>4</b>	1	2 March, 2-3pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37	<b>“Sustainable development”</b>
	2	2 March, 3-4pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37	
	3	3 March, 2-3pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11	
	4	3 March, 3-4pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11	
<b>5</b>	1	9 March, 2-3pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37	<b>Environmental governance and global climate change</b>
	2	9 March, 3-4pm	King George VI Building Room 2.37	
	3	10 March, 2-3pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11	
	4	10 March, 3-4pm	Daysh Building Room 5.11	

**Assessment Guidelines**

**NOTE: THESE ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES ARE PROVISIONAL**

Assessment 1: the analytical exercise

The analytical exercise will consist in a 2000-word paper developing a critical comparative analysis of arguments put forward by sociologists about a theoretical or empirical problem related to the environment. The students will work on 2-3 articles or book chapters choosing one of the 4 options from the list below.

The exercise consists in identifying and developing an analysis of

- a) the main assumptions, hypothesis/es, or claims put forward by the authors
- b) their key concepts
- c) the internal coherence of their arguments
- d) the plausibility of their arguments to describe/explain the problem being discussed
- e) the applicability of the arguments to a wider set of problems
- f) other relevant aspects identified by the student.

This will be a comparative exercise, looking at the pros and cons of how different sociologists approach a particular environmental event or process. What is the main question or problem being addressed in the texts? What are the key concepts deployed by the authors to construct their argument? What are the main theoretical traditions the can be identified in the authors' approach? What are the main points of agreement and disagreement between the authors? How plausible their arguments are? Dou you agree or disagree with them? Why?

The paper should be structured with:

- 1) a brief introduction (100-150 words)
- 2) the comparative analysis, which can be divided in 5 sections corresponding to points a-e as described above
- 3) a brief conclusion summarizing your main findings (maximum 200 words).

Deadline for the Analytical Exercise: 13 March 2009 12 noon

**Options for the Analytical Exercise:**

To be announced

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Assessment 2: the essay

This is a 2000-word paper to be submitted in standard essay format (include word count). It should draw on theoretical and empirical materials seen in the module. However, it is recommended that the students make their own research for suitable texts and materials (including documents, press reports, web resources, etc.), reflecting topics of their own interest even if they have not been addressed in the module. These materials should reflect a sociological approach to the chosen topic (if in doubt, consult the module leader). You can choose both historical and contemporary empirical examples from the UK or from other countries.

The essay must include a proper introduction and conclusion, and a reference list of works cited in the text. For advice on essay writing, including referencing, please check the relevant library's web pages: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/teaching/stan/>. The quality of the essay structure and referencing will be taken into account in evaluating the essays. Please, refer to the document "Referencing: a guide for students submitting work in sociology", which can be found in the Sociology degree programmes handbooks (accessible via Blackboard).

You will have to submit a brief essay plan (150-200 words) indicating the topic chosen and discuss it in advance with the module leader. The essay plan should contain:

- 1) 1-2 key questions or problems that you will address in the paper
- 2) a reference to the main authors that you have already identified for your essay

Optional (as you may want to write your essay just on theoretical aspects):

- 3) an empirical example that you will use to develop the analysis (for instance: the social impact of the recent floods in the UK, the implementation of recycling policies in your city, the debate over a new generation of nuclear facilities in the UK, or cases of social struggle for environmental justice in Africa, the US, or Latin America, among many others that you can choose from the literature).

The deadlines are indicated below. We will further discuss these guidelines in the lectures if required.

Deadline for essay plan: 18 March 2009

**Deadline for essay:** 8 May 2009 12 noon

**IMPORTANT:** The provisional marks for any assessed component of a module are distributed with comments using a standard form. The standard practice is for marks and feedback sheets to be distributed through the GPS office within 4 term time weeks of submission deadlines. You will be emailed by the GPS Office when marks for the specific modules are available.

### **Submission of Assessment Work**

You will have to submit it in electronic format using the Turnitin software. Below you can find the instructions.

### **How to use TurnitinUK**

Newcastle University is committed to encouraging good academic conduct and fair assessment. To these ends, the University subscribes to TurnitinUK (the JISC Plagiarism Detection Service). This software permits academic staff to carry out comparisons of students' work with that of other students and with other print and electronic sources.

The School of Geography, Politics and Sociology requires that all written assessments are uploaded to TurnitinUK so that we can attempt to ensure that no student gains an unfair advantage over another by plagiarising someone else's work, submitting the same work for more than one assessment or by purchasing or downloading assessments over the internet.

This document aims to provide a step-by-step guide to using TurnitinUK. In the instructions you will practice by using a dummy module. All the information which you require to submit your work in real modules will be provided in the relevant module guides.

### **Using TurnitinUK**

You can find TurnitinUK online at [www.submit.ac.uk](http://www.submit.ac.uk). A comprehensive Student User Guide can be found at [https://submit.ac.uk/usage\\_jisc/tiuk\\_student\\_guide.pdf](https://submit.ac.uk/usage_jisc/tiuk_student_guide.pdf)

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