



Human Dimensions of Global Change Specialty Group Newsletter *Spring 2003*

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HDGC – Specialty Group Website:

<http://www.essc.psu.edu/hdgc/>

Important AAG Annual Meeting information:

New Orleans Meeting March 5-9, 2003
HDGC Field Trip March 8-9, 2003

Editorial: Human Dimensions Activism

All right, here goes. I work, as you recall, for the Union of Concerned Scientists, an environmental advocacy group, one that prides itself on its 30-plus-year history of effective advocacy while having its roots firmly grounded in sound science. Most of my work is related to science rather than advocacy or policy. Since my ascendancy to the chair of this specialty group, maybe you already wondered, maybe you were afraid this would happen: I'd start asking you to be more out, more outspoken, heck, in the streets, or on Capitol Hill advocating for global change-related issues. Well, in fact, some of you have asked me to speak to this issue: the uneasy link between science and advocacy. Where is the line? Is there anything HDGC scientists *can* do (other than their research), or anything they *should* do in the world of politics? Here are a few answers:

1. ***Rethinking the Human Dimensions research agenda.*** Huh? Yes. (And you thought the first thing I'd give you were the phone numbers of your Senators and House Representatives.) No, instead, I think we have some big introspective thinking to do. What are we focusing on in our research? Do we agree on our most critical research needs, or should we refocus? Are we using the theoretical and empirical insights from other, more critical corners of the geographic discipline to inform our assumptions about the world, and the future? Maybe more importantly, are we thinking critically enough – in other words, *with* our political glasses *on* – in identifying important processes and interactions that will determine degrees of vulnerability, severity of impacts, and response capacity. In the 1970s leftist political economists and social critics began pointing out a hole in the collective scientific thinking about risk; issues of poverty, hunger, and deprivation that result from economic exploitation had been overlooked in our research and evaluation. That brought us an increasingly sophisticated understanding and continued research focus on vulnerability. We still have that kind of gap in our logic; in fact, maybe they're inevitable because of particular culturally paradigmatic ways of thinking. But what I'm suggesting is that we keep our eyes open for our omissions. It remains unfortunate that the insights and approaches from political ecology, for example, happen largely outside mainstream climate/global change research. I can tell you, the recently released draft of the federal government's 10-year global change research plan does not contain any reference to those insights, and I don't recall seeing any citations in the 2001 IPCC assessment of Working Group 2 (Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation). I greatly look forward to a panel of young HDGC scholars at the Annual Meetings – people relatively recently out of graduate school, early in their careers – who will present and discuss some forward-looking ideas to freshen up, enliven, and maybe make more critical and politically astute the human dimensions research agenda for the next decade. Come and join this discussion!
2. ***Publicly voicing scientifically informed concerns about wrong-headed political agendas.*** This next idea gets us out of our own circles and outside the familiar territory of “doing science.” For example, here we sit (albeit most of us smugly apart from it) in a world being brutalized by oil wars, drug wars, ethnic wars, class wars, and religious wars, in a world being deeply transformed and rendered less controllable at the local and regional scales as a result of economic globalization and its enabling international institutions, in a world that is frantically interconnected and increasingly disempowering to many individuals, and yet we have national governments – the US being the “leading” bad example – that bank on the ability to cope with climate and related global changes. Frankly, I don't hear it coming from us geographers (or anyone else) nearly loudly enough that all these “other global changes” not only co-determine degrees of vulnerability, but also significantly affect our coping abilities. I don't see the soft landing ahead of us that some political leaders assume, even in the rich, well-endowed countries on Earth. How well do you think agriculture in Colombia will do under climate change, going repeatedly through defoliation with seriously toxic chemicals? With millions of men standing ready to go to war, who will plow the fields in North Korea to help avert more hunger? Or closer to home, with the financially successful exerting increasing political control over coastal areas, which adaptation options do you think will be accepted there as the oceans rise? With water wars – a common term used by insiders already – waging in our western states, how neighborly do you think we'll be in sharing dwindling resources? I believe it is not beyond the call of duty for scientists to inform their political leaders, agency staff, and local resource managers that we cannot solely rely on a happy sailing into our

- adaptation future. We have the knowledge and the experience to tell a more truthful story; we must speak our minds loudly, much more loudly, and effectively, so it will be heard.
3. ***Supporting advocacy groups with expertise.*** Ah, and you thought you'd have to do the advocating yourself...or alone. No, there are professional advocates and organizers, some of them very good at what they do. I suggest you split the work: you do what you do best, and they do what they do best, but do it in collaboration. Advocates – such as UCS, but others as well (Environmental Defense, NRDC, WWF, and so on) need scientists to support their work. They need solid science (What's the state of the art?); they need help interpreting new scientific developments (What does it mean? What are the ramifications?); they need feedback and peer review of position statements (Is the issue portrayed fairly? Does a statement go too far, not far enough?). In addition, they need credible backing of their positions (and scientists typically have an in-built endowment with credibility); and they need credible and trusted spokespeople in appropriate settings and situations (for press briefings and conferences, hill briefings, releases of reports, and more). And I don't have to tell you that they need money, too. Or: Did you ever wish you had a way of getting your latest research out into the world in a visible manner? Advocacy groups have something to offer in this regard. Interestingly enough, the benefits of such a collaboration are mutual. Advocacy groups increase their influence through enhanced credibility — a vital currency to have — thus they may be more effective in pushing for policy change. And scientists are afforded an opportunity to let their passion and expertise be immediately useful. It's a channel for important scientific insights to be aired in public action arenas, not just between the pages of the journals that give us stature in the academic world. If you want to consider getting involved, I'll be shameless: send UCS an email at ssi@ucsusa.org; that will get you to our Sound Science Initiative, a project designed precisely to foster the science-advocacy collaboration, without putting any pressure on you to do anything you don't feel comfortable doing. I promise you benefits like periodic information updates, trainings, helpful primers on media work and policy work that make the occasional response to an action alert a very sweet deal.

So maybe the notion of leaving the relative comfort zones of classroom and research environment is unnerving. I'm not one to minimize or dismiss that, or to pressure you into anything you don't want to do. But please consider this: Will we continue to be right or relevant in scientific matters, not to mention in political matters, if we do not critically review whether we're researching the right set of issues and processes? Can we truly call ourselves experts on the “human dimensions” (messy people-to-people kind of stuff) if we don't engage with “those people” in some way or another? Are we listening to and acting on behalf of our own scientific conclusions about urgency and criticality if we don't support agents of change to work for the world we'd rather see unfolding?

I look forward to your thoughts and responses.

Susi Moser
HDGC Specialty Group Chair

In Honor of Jeanne X. Kasperson

As you all know, our friend and colleague Jeanne X. Kasperson passed away in August 2003. Many obituaries have been written and given in eloquent words (e.g., by Bob Kates at the funeral, in the AAG Newsletter, or in the Risk Newsletter). I would simply like to remind everyone who feels so moved that they can continue to honor Jeanne in practical ways by supporting the legacy of her work. A fund in her name has been set up at Clark University that will be used to endow the library, which she so diligently built over the years (formerly George Perkins Marsh Library, now Jeanne X. Kasperson Research Library). Please send donations made out to Clark University to: University Advancement, Clark University, 950 Main St., Worcester, MA 01610-1477. Dedication ceremonies for the Jeanne X. Kasperson Research Library will be held from 1 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at Clark University. The program promises to be moving and interesting and reflective of the breadth and depth that so characterized Jeanne. All of you – near and far – who can attend, please save this date to celebrate this remarkable library and its founder, the late Jeanne X. Kasperson.

AAG Annual Meeting in New Orleans

HDGC-Relevant Programming

Our Specialty Group is well represented at this year's annual meeting. I have compiled the sessions we are co-sponsoring, other sessions of interest to our group, and several program items of general interest.

Because that list is substantial, the relevant program items are located separately from this newsletter at: <http://www.essc.psu.edu/hdgc/AAG-NewOrleansProgram.htm>

Business Meeting

Please note in particular that our **HDGC Specialty Group Business Meeting** is scheduled for **Thursday, March 6, from 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Important issues will be on the agenda, including, but not limited to:

- Plans for the 2003 Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions Community in Montreal (October 2003) (see call for papers below)
- Student support for travel to various international conferences
- Budget update
- 2004 AAG Centennial Meeting plans
- And much more!

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND!

Field Trip

Our field trip to coastal Louisiana under the leadership of Shea Penland (University of New Orleans) is set for Saturday and Sunday March 8-9. More information will be forthcoming separately. Stay tuned. It's on!

Conferences, Call for Papers, and Student Travel Funds

Editorial note: *Information about the HDGC Open Meeting is more extensive so as to give you some advance opportunity to think of possible sessions, papers, and other proposals for our discussion at the Specialty Group meeting in The Big Easy. Begin brainstorming now!*

The **2003 Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community** will be held on **October 16-18, 2003 in Montreal, Canada**. The local host is the McGill School of the Environment, and the meeting itself will take place at the Wyndham Hotel. The overall theme of the Open Meeting is "**Taking Stock and Moving Forward**." The program will include a set of plenary speakers addressing key questions concerning past progress and future directions in human dimensions research. The Program Committee also invites submission of focused "stock-taking" panels to review progress in particular areas of human dimensions research such as land use/land cover change, integrated assessment, population, environmental security, industrial transformation, institutions, and environmental economics. Proposals for individual research papers are also welcome. These may be on any area within the broad Human Dimensions research agenda. Poster sessions will also be held.

The 2003 Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community **abstract submission & registration** pages are now available at:

<http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/openmeeting/>

Note that the **deadline for abstract submission is March 31, 2003**. Notifications will be sent by June 9. The **deadline for early registration is July 7**. **Applications for scholarships are due June 16**. Note that there will be a limited number of scholarships for developing country and young researchers, so participants are encouraged to identify alternative funding sources.

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Shanghai conference: Graduate Student Travel Funding for Urban Environmental Conference

A Human Dimensions of Global Change Specialty Group endorsed conference entitled *Urban Dimensions of Environmental Change: Science, Exposures, Policies, and Technologies* will be held from June 3-6, 2003 in Shanghai, CHINA. **Funds to partially defray the cost of travel for doctoral students** presenting research papers at the conference are **now available**.

The Conference examines the causes, impacts, and responses to environmental change in the world's major cities and urban areas. Relating to both the science and the management of urban environmental change, topics for the conference include policy, regulation, technology, impact adaptation, mitigation, and remediation. The Conference addresses specific questions regarding contemporary urban environmental management, such as a) the need for integrated management structures that address the complexity, multiplicity and interlocking nature of environmental problems in urban areas; (b) the implications of new and emerging environmental stresses such as global climate change; and (c) the need for increased stakeholder involvement in urban political discourse. A second set of issues discussed include how do current processes of urban environmental change and management intersect with issues of vulnerability, sustainability, and equity, all three of which are emerging as crucial issues in both the developed and the developing worlds?

Up to \$1,000 per student will be available for travel to Shanghai. Interested individuals should contact the Conference Coordinator Maria Clark at UDEEC@mail.montclair.edu. Students will be asked to **submit an abstract for the conference, statement of interest, and vita**. **Deadline for submission is April 1st, 2003**. All applicants must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident. Funds are being made available from the National Science Foundation.

For more information about the Conference please go the website:

<http://www.montclair.edu/globaled/shanghai>. East China Normal University (in Shanghai) and Montclair State University (in New Jersey) will co-host the Conference.

A three-week **Summer Institute on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment** Applications will be held at Indiana University from May 19 through June 6, 2003. The Institute will offer **intensive training in theory and methods addressing the Human Dimensions of Global Change (HDGC)**, including techniques of remote sensing and GIS, survey approaches, forest ecology, and institutional factors with respect to questions of land-use/land-cover change. Faculty, graduate students, and mid-career professionals may apply. The Summer Institute is offered by the Center for the Study of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change (CIPEC) through funding from the National Science Foundation. **Deadline for receipt of applications is February 15, 2003**. For further information, see http://www.cipec.org/training/summer_institute/.

Summer 2003 Youth Encounters on Sustainability (Y.E.S.) – PLEASE FORWARD TO STUDENTS

<http://sustsci.harvard.edu/events.htm#yes03>

Can the generation which will inherit the 21st century begin to repair the damages caused by the inhabitants of the 20th? Can young people begin to move our society towards the ideals of justice, equity, and sustainability? Do we need a technological revolution or a change in our consumption patterns?

This summer the Alliance for Global Sustainability (AGS) is bringing together students from around the world to address these challenges in two Youth Encounters on Sustainability (Y.E.S.) in Braunwald, Switzerland; Session 1 will be 12-26 July and Session 2 will be 9-23 August. Upper-level undergraduate and graduate students from all fields will focus on developing ideas for how Agenda 21 can be implemented worldwide and to address ways in which the next generation of industrial and governmental leaders can play a more significant role in the challenging issues of sustainable development. Y.E.S. aims to combine elements of an academic seminar and a great outdoor experience, where under the lead of an international team of faculty and staff, students participate in: a forum to discuss the role of science, industry, and public institutions in the frame of sustainable development; a "values and responsibility" component which addresses the challenges of how to affect the behavior of individuals and societies; lectures and workshops on the environment and sustainable development in the context of "Agenda 21" in its global and local orientation; a unique opportunity for close collaboration with an international multicultural and multidisciplinary group of peers on a small group project; a "field experience" in the form of excursions unique to the Swiss location which demonstrate how to put an environmental ethic into practice; "trust building" activities among the participants; the opportunity to offer feedback and suggestions with regard to future planning; and the opportunity for various outdoor and mountain sport activities and excursions. The deadline for applications is 28 February 2003.

And selected other conferences:

*August 4-22, 2003: Advanced Institute on **Urbanization, Emissions, and the Global Carbon Cycle**, Boulder, Colorado. See:

http://www.start.org/Projects/Training%20Institutes/Institute2_Urban_Carbon.html.

*August 13-16, 2003: International Colloquium Series on Land Use/Cover Change Science and Applications: Studying **Land Use Effects in Coastal Zones with Remote Sensing and GIS**, Kemer/Antalya, Turkey. See: <http://www.ins.itu.edu.tr/rslucoat1/>.

*September 19-22, 2003: Conference on **World System History and Global Environmental Change**, Lund, Sweden. See: www.humecol.lu.se/woshglec.

*November 16-19, 2003: **Young Scientists 1st International Global Change Conference**, Trieste, Italy. See: http://www.start.org/Fellowships/YS_Conference.html.

Come one, come all! -- CIESIN Reception at the AAG Annual Meeting

Editorial Note: Food is always good from these folks so come on down to the reception! And just think how much better it will be in the Paris of North America...!

CIESIN will host a reception at the AAG Annual Meeting to encourage geographer's active participation in the Open Meeting, and to publicize the Population-Environment Research Network's forthcoming cyberseminar on deforestation.

Date: Thursday, March 6

Time: 7 pm - 8 pm

Location: Hyatt Regency New Orleans, Kenilworth room

Conference Abstracts now available

The **Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research** is pleased to announce that the Proceedings of the 2001 Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change "**Global Environmental Change and the Nation State**" are now available online.

Contributions include an article by German Environment Minister Juergen Trittin, in which he argues for international user fees on global commons such as air or water, and for the creation of a world environment organisation [<http://www.glogov.org/publications/bc2001/trittin.pdf>] or [<http://www.fu-berlin.de/ffu/akumwelt/bc2001/files/trittin.pdf>]

In addition, the Proceedings include a peer-reviewed selection of the 50 best papers presented at the 2001 Berlin Conference, which was attended by 166 researchers from 28 countries. The complete table of contents and all individual contributions are now available at [<http://www.glogov.org/publications/bc2001/index.html>] or [<http://www.fu-berlin.de/ffu/akumwelt/bc2001/download.htm>]

The 2001 Berlin Conference "Global Environmental Change and the Nation State", held 7-8 December 2001, was endorsed by the Institutional Dimensions core project of the International Human Dimensions Programme of Global Environmental Change. It was attended by researchers from a variety of perspectives, including international relations, environmental policy, international law, economics, environmental sociology, and others.

Core themes of the conference include

- The Influence of International Institutions on Nation States: Theoretical Outlines and Country Studies
- Globalising Environmental Policies Through Nation States: Horizontal Diffusion of Policies and Technologies
- Rethinking National Sovereignty and Global Environmental Change
- When Global is Local: Global Versus National Instrument Choice
- The Nation State in Regional Integration Organisations: The Experience of the European Union
- Global Governance by Non-State Actors?
- Nation States and World Markets

Among other contributions, the conference proceedings include the following plenary presentations:

"The Role of the Nation State in International Environmental Policy"

By Jürgen Trittin

[URL: <http://www.glogov.org/publications/bc2001/trittin.pdf>]

"Global Environmental Change and the Nation State: The Scope of the Challenge"

By Frank Biermann

[URL: <http://www.glogov.org/publications/bc2001/biermann.pdf>]

"Of Course International Institutions Matter: But When and How?"

Ronald B. Mitchell

[URL: <http://www.glogov.org/publications/bc2001/mitchell.pdf>]

"No Withering Away of the Nation State: Ten Theses on Environmental Policy"

Martin Jänicke

[URL: <http://www.glogov.org/publications/bc2001/jaenicke1.pdf>]

"Global Environmental Change and the Nation State: Perspectives of International Law"

Peter H. Sand

[URL: <http://www.glogov.org/publications/bc2001/sand.pdf>]

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Institutional Updates

The IDGEC International Project Office moved!

New IDGEC International Project Office Coordinates: The IDGEC IPO was hosted by Dartmouth College but has relocated and is now hosted by the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Our new coordinates are: IDGEC International Project Office 4526 Bren Hall Bren School of Environmental Science and Management University of California, Santa Barbara Santa Barbara, CA 93106-5131 USA Email: IDGEC@bren.ucsb.edu web: <http://www2.bren.ucsb.edu/~idgcec>

IGU Task Force on Vulnerability Seeking New Leader

Tom Downing is moving from the University of Oxford to the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). While demanding in time, they are enjoying an expanded portfolio of research projects (for instance a training course on climate vulnerability and adaptation) and close links throughout the SEI network.

The SEI has a Risk and Vulnerability Programme, coordinated by Roger Kasperson and Kirstin Dow in Stockholm. The SEI is developing a new web site, VulnerabilityNet.org, which will accomplish many of the networking aims of the IGU Task Force on Vulnerability Tom chaired until now (email lists, discussion forums, document hotel, briefing notes, etc.). Look for an invitation to join the V-net site soon.

Tom no longer feels capable of adequately chairing the Task Force given his new responsibilities, but together with his SEI colleagues feels strongly that it has a continuing role within Geography and that this can best be accomplished with leadership from within the mainstream of the discipline. The IGU and ICSU provide some support and the Task Force designation can be helpful in raising further funds. Tom and SEI colleagues will continue to be supportive and the V-Net site could be incorporated in the Task Force plans and activities.

Thus the **search is on for anyone interested in taking over the leadership of the IGU Task Force on Vulnerability**. Send Tom a short expressing your interest and/or any questions at:

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Member News

From Jimmie Eflin, former HDGSG Director (who will not attend this year's annual meetings due to other obligations) – *please note requests for feedback and ideas below:*

1. We received approval of the addition of a new course, Sociopolitical Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (NREM 309/509) to the Ball State curriculum, and the course will be offered for the first time in Spring 2004. *I would appreciate contributions of ideas (readings, websites, etc.) for inclusion in the course.*

2. The American Fisheries Society requires that students who join its ranks complete a course in "human dimensions." A course at Ball State that is part of our Clustered Minors in Environmentally Sustainable Practices that meets this requirement is entitled "Creating a Sustainable Future;" this semester, five of the 19 students enrolled are taking it for 'human dimensions' purposes, and their 'fearless leader' (Professor Tom Lauer) will be giving a guest lecture on sustainability of global fisheries.

3. I am the proud (!) recipient of an AT&T Foundation Industrial Ecology Fellowship for this year (with my BSU colleague Amy Sheaffer) to pair a campus-oriented research project with an experimental course for women and other under-represented students in the environmental sciences, bringing the metaphor of 'industrial ecology' into the introductory environmental sciences curriculum. While our focus will be on the 'institutional ecology' of an institution of higher education (namely, Ball State), students will learn about industrial ecology principles and their role within human dimensions of global change.

For further information contact him at:

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Data/Information Resources

More news from CIESIN:

Under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Task Group on Scenarios for Climate Impact Assessment (TGCIA), SEDAC has developed a new set of disaggregated population and income projections (population and GDP through 2100).

<http://sres.ciesin.columbia.edu/tgcia/>

CIESIN and the Wildlife Conservation Society's Human Footprint and Last of the Wild data sets are available for downloading in GIS formats. More information about the project can be obtained at:

http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/wild_areas/

Two new CIESIN Thematic Guides have recently been released on the topics of "Land-Use and Land-Cover Change" and "Social Science Applications of Remote Sensing." These join the guide to "Global Population Projections," released earlier this year.

http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu:9080/tg/guide_main.jsp

And Last But Not Least: Renew Your Membership in HDGCSG

Next time you pay your AAG membership dues, please remember to renew your Human Dimensions Specialty Group membership as well. Hey, it's a bargain – you get lost for no more than last time around. And what's more: everyone's small fee adds up to send students to important conferences, adds up to stage interesting events, support field trips – whatever we decide. Thank you!

February 2003