



**Human Dimensions of  
Global Change  
Specialty Group Newsletter  
*Summer 2002***

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***Important AAG Annual Meeting deadlines and information:***

Paper abstracts due	30 September 2002
Illustrated paper abstracts due	30 September 2002
Poster presentation abstracts due	30 September 2002
Nystrom Award paper submission deadline	31 August 2002

For submission information, how to organize sessions, and abstract instructions see the June 2002 AAG Newsletter, pp. 1, 4-5

## Editorial: The *Other* Human Dimension

It is my honor and great pleasure to take the Chair's baton from Bill Solecki who so ably and generously lead our specialty group for the past two years plus. Generously, in particular, as he agreed – with your active support or at least kind acceptance – to stay on a while longer until my return from sabbatical. Thank you, Bill! And thank you also to Jimmi Eflin who steps down as director and welcome to Jennifer De Hart (new director) and Kirstin Dow (new secretary-treasurer). I look forward to working with you all!

As a human dimensions geographer currently working outside academia or government, I think I may use this space in the future for some musings on what we “out there” do, what we may need from those of you in colleges and universities, and also what we may have to offer back to researchers and educators. But in this first editorial, I decided to offer something else entirely, risk to speak a whole different language – the language of one who's just returned from “doing nothing” (yes, these are big, fat quotation marks).

You see, my sabbatical was not what we generally understand to be sabbaticals – for one, non-governmental organizations like my employer – the Union of Concerned Scientists – don't typically offer an in-built time of renewal (though I am happy to report that as a result of my trail blazing, the organization is now considering to make extended leaves part of the regular benefits package). In the eyes of an environmental NGO, the world is burning in too many places and there are hardly enough of us as it is to contain the flames! But UCS eventually did allow it.

But this was also not the kind of sabbatical that allows you, or where you are expected, to write those long-overdue journal articles or book chapters, and to restock your coffers with new research treasures: fresh data from the field.

No, this was – in my preferred spelling - a true sabbathical, a Sabbath time, a time to STOP doing. The last time before these 6 months away that I felt a true sense of rest was in 1987. Add to that the 60-80-hour weeks for way to long last summer and fall, and a few other personal challenges, and burn-out had left me worn down, ineffective, and very unhappy. Sound familiar? - Oh, I bet! My experience is far from unique. When was the last time you had a sabbathical? (And if this feels uncomfortably personal, both to hear and to react to, then that's an important thing to notice, isn't it? – but please read on!)

So, I had six months off to take care of myself. Of course, one of the lessons to learn was that there is something fundamentally wrong with trying to do something good for the world while killing ourselves in the process. So, for a while, I didn't do anything for the world. Well ... maybe. I learned to smile again! And I recreated the “container” inside me that now can take in again, that can give out again. And I think I'm going to be a better communicator, educator, and researcher again, now that I have space to listen, to receive what's being offered, and to react with a bit more reason and resolve, now that I'm no longer raw to the bone. In short, I feel more generous again with what I can offer back to the world.

On my refrigerator at home I have a saying that reads, “Don't just do something,” the Buddha said, “Stand there!” That sentence had had many meanings over the years. But it came back to mind, one foggy March afternoon, when I was walking the dog on the rocky shores of Maine (where I spent a good part of my sabbatical). And I thought: yes, we need to return to the places that inspired us to do our work – geography, global change, ecology, human dimensions... - and NOT do anything in those places for once, but just STAND THERE. To listen again to the sea pounding the rocks, or – as may be your case – the wind gathering in the forests, the stones cracking in desert heat, the streams washing down mountains, or even throngs of people rolling like waves through the canyons of our cities. Whatever your source of inspiration: stand there! Put yourself in the picture and feel that human dimensions of your work.

For me, it turns out, in that 6-month “standstill,” I learned a lot about vulnerability, the impacts of pressure on an already stressed system, the ability and dynamics of recovery, and the many ways to prevent foreseeable, and adapt to inevitable, changes.

So, next time you have a sabbatical, or – heck! – why not right now, during the summer break, or next Sunday – I suggest you grant yourself a little time in your favorite place and not do a thing. Just stand there. As the poet Wallace Stegner has said, “it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.” Have a great summer. And may we all return to a new semester, a new stretch in our work, (and yes, AAG abstracts...) renewed and refreshed!

Yours truly, Susi Moser

# Minutes of Specialty Group Meeting in Los Angeles

Wednesday, March 19, 2002. Los Angeles, California

Bill Solecki, Chairperson

1. Tom Baerwald informed members that there is likely to be a Biocomplexity grant competition at NSF in 2002, but that the deadline is likely to be in October or November, earlier than in the past. There will be three months notice of the deadline, but the more successful teams tend to start organizing before the formal announcement is released.
2. Treasurer's Report indicates that there is \$1,311.32 in the bank account as of Feb. 1, 2002 and Solecki reports that approximately \$800 in memberships will be transferred to the SG from the central AAG office. Last year's expenses included stipends for speakers at the NYC meeting and 2 student travel awards for the Rio Human Dimensions Conference.
3. Web site – the Human Dimensions web site is out of date, but Brent Yarnal at Penn State has offered to revitalize and reactivate it in conjunction with other projects.
4. Membership – Our membership has increased to about 200 people.
5. Report on Chairs meeting – announcements from the central office include
  - a. The timing of dues payments will be changed over the coming year so that payments will be dispersed throughout the year
  - b. Annals is looking for submissions on the GIS and physical geography sections especially
  - c. Please add to the AAG timeline posted by the exhibit hall
  - d. Looking for submissions for 100 geographic ideas to save the planet activity for the Centennial
6. Diana Liverman will be circulating the Geography in America chapter among members soon
7. Elections –
  - a. Jennifer DeHart was unanimously elected As a Director
  - b. Kirstin Dow was similarly elected Secretary/treasurer
8. Discussion of annual meeting in New Orleans
  - a. SG will organize sessions on mitigation and on sustainability science
  - b. Solecki will distribute a call for papers for these sessions among the SG members
  - c. Another session suggestion was – Where will the HDGEC go over the next 10 years?
  - d. Field trip in New Orleans – HDSG will try to coordinate with Hazards and other SG on shared interests
9. George Clark asked members to consider sending copies of gray papers on HDGEC to him as he is responsible for building the collection at the Harvard Library

Respectfully submitted by Kirstin Dow 3/28/02

## Member News

This is a space I would love to fill with actual content – tell us what you're up to, what new projects you're launching, what exciting results emerge from your research, what you've published, what grants you've received, what you're maybe thinking of doing but want to bounce around with someone smart.... Why? So we get to know each other, know what's cooking in our intellectual community, can connect the dots between our disparate research activities and create a sense of working together. Send your ideas and input to [smoser@ucsusa.org](mailto:smoser@ucsusa.org) – I will include them in the next newsletter. And if you need something passed around more quickly, I can do that as well. Thanks!

## Annual Meeting - New Orleans, March 5-9, 2003: Emerging Plans

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** If you plan to attend the Annual Meetings, make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Mardi Gras will just be over as we descend on the town. Especially if you want to partake in the wild festivities in our host city, I hope you have made your plans already!

At the SG meeting in Los Angeles, several ideas were discussed:

(1) Paper session on *mitigation* – please come forward with papers and someone to coordinate the session into a coherent unit.

(2) Paper session on *sustainability science* – again, please come forward with papers and someone to coordinate the session into a coherent unit.

(3) Discussion session on where the *HDGEC* may go *over the next 10 years* – I will coordinate this session, and will contact individuals for contributions. If you would like to participate, please feel free to contact me. I may not know that you are burning to contribute!

(4) *Field trips in and around New Orleans* - most likely planned for Saturday. I'm currently coordinating potential field sites and topics with folks from the Hazards SG and experts located in New Orleans as we have many joint interests. Hazards Specialty Group members agreed to request that all of their papers not be placed on Saturday's schedule, and we can try the same to give us the opportunity for a joint field trip. I am also exploring a second field trip option organized by the Coastal Specialty Group - specifically focused on wetland and sea-level rise issues. Stay tuned, but if you are interested in participating in these field trips send your session proposal or papers in with the request to stay away from Saturday. The reason for the Saturday choice (instead of the day before the meeting program starts) is Fat Tuesday, when it is virtually impossible to find hotel room in town.

If you have additional ideas for coordinated sessions, please let me know; I can spread your call for papers to HDGCSG members. Remember that our bylaws ask that all sessions be co-sponsored by other specialty group sessions, so contact SG chairs as soon as possible. You can find out who they are at the AAG website at: <http://www.aag.org/> (click on Specialty Groups). Co-sponsorship enhances attendance – so it's worth the effort!

If you have HDGC-related papers and are looking for a home in a coordinated session, please send me your information – I can spread the word to other HDGCSG members or session coordinators.

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## Other Conferences of Interest / Call for Papers

THESE JUST HAPPENED:

3-14 June

Third International Human Dimensions Workshop: *Human Dimensions of Urbanization and the Transition to Sustainability*. Bonn, Germany. For more information see <http://www.ihdp.uni-bonn.de/calendar.html#June02>

6-7 June

***The Humane Metropolis: People and Nature in the 21st Century City*** (In honor of William H. Whyte). Organized by: The Ecological Cities Project; University of Massachusetts, Amherst; and the Environmental Conservation Education Program, New York University. Sponsored by: The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. New York, New York: June 6-7, 2002. For further information contact: Ecological Cities Project, c/o Department of Geosciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003-5820; (413) 577-6060; fax: (413) 545-1200; e-mail: [ecologicalcities@cas.umass.edu](mailto:ecologicalcities@cas.umass.edu); WWW: <http://www.umass.edu/ecologicalcities>.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

22-26 July

***Third International Conference on Water Resources and Environment Research*** (ICWRER) Subtitle: Water Quantity & Quality Aspects in Modelling and Management of Ecosystems. Dresden, Germany. For more information see: <http://www.tu-dresden.de/fghhihm/hydrologie.html>

12-15 August

***12th Stockholm Water Symposium: Balancing Competing Water Uses - Present Status and New Prospects***. Stockholm, Sweden. For more information see: <http://www.siwi.org>

12-15 August

***The Fifth International Eco-city Conference***. Shenzhen, China. For more information see <http://www.rcees.ac.cn>, <http://www.icsu-scope.org.cn>

2-11 September

***2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +10)***. Johannesburg, South Africa. This meeting will involve hundreds of sessions, many of interest to the HDGC community. Contact: Johannesburg Summit Secretariat, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-2220, New York, NY 10017; e-mail: [dsd@un.org](mailto:dsd@un.org); WWW: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>.

16-20 September

***International Workshop on Regional Integrated Assessment of Climate Impacts II*** Ciocco, Castelvechio Pascoli, Italy. For more information go to: <http://jisao.washington.edu/PNWimpacts/RIAworkshop/> or contact: Dr. Philip Mote at [philip@atmos.washington.edu](mailto:philip@atmos.washington.edu)

16-18 September

***4th International Conference on Environmental Problems in Coastal Regions***. Rhodes, Greece. Contact: Gabriella Cossutta, Conference Secretariat, Coastal Environment 2002, Wessex Institute of Technology, Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7AA, UK; tel: 44-238-029-3223; fax: 44-238-029-2853; e-mail: [gcossutta@wessex.ac.uk](mailto:gcossutta@wessex.ac.uk); WWW: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/coastal02/>.

29 September - 3 October

International symposium: "***Land use, nature conservation, and the stability of rainforest margins in southeast Asia.***" Bogor, Indonesia. For more information see the STORMA homepage: <http://www.storma.de>

8-10 October

***"Mountains: Sources of Water, Sources of Knowledge"***. For more information see <http://www.montagne2002.ch/AIMFR/Projets/iukb1.htm>

29 October - 4 November

***Bishkek Global Mountain Summit***. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. For more information contact: [andrewvf@mail.ru](mailto:andrewvf@mail.ru)

31 October - 2 November

International Conference; ***Regional Cycles: Regional Economy towards Sustainability***. Leipzig, Germany. For further information regarding the programme and the conference registration, please contact: ICLEI's International Training Center, email: [euregia-conference@iclei-europe.org](mailto:euregia-conference@iclei-europe.org)

20-22 November

***International Conference on Impacts of Population, Consumption and International Trade on Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Resources in the Pacific Rim***. Seoul, Korea. For further information contact (in the US): Prof. Vlad M. Kaczynski, tel. (425) 483-2968, [vkaczynski@msn.com](mailto:vkaczynski@msn.com), [vkaczyn@u.washington.edu](mailto:vkaczyn@u.washington.edu). Or: Prof. Dave L. Fluharty, tel. (206) 685-2518, [fluharty@u.washington.edu](mailto:fluharty@u.washington.edu). Or: Prof. Marc Hershman, tel. (206) 543-7004, [hershman@u.washington.edu](mailto:hershman@u.washington.edu)

For more HDGC-related conferences, see e.g. <http://www.ihdp.uni-bonn.de/calendar.html>

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### 2002 BERLIN CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: "*Knowledge for the Sustainability Transition: The Challenge for Social Science*"

Berlin, 6-7 December 2002

The Environmental Policy and Global Change Section of the German Political Science Association (DVPW) invites papers for the 2002 Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, to be held in Berlin on 6-7 December 2002. This year's discussions will address the theme "Knowledge for the Sustainability Transition: The Challenge for Social Science". The 2002 Berlin Conference has been endorsed by the Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change core project of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), and is organised by the Global Governance Project of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) in co-operation with the Environmental Policy Research Unit of the Free University of Berlin.

Plenary speakers include Rajendra Pachauri, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Oran Young, chair of the IHDP Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change project; and John Schellnhuber, director of PIK and research director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.

#### WHAT DO WE KNOW?

The global environmental crisis--from stratospheric ozone depletion to local water pollution--serves to emphasize anew the role of knowledge in political decision-making. Many observers view the existing knowledge base as insufficient for a world-wide transition to sustainability. But how can we do better? Do we need new kinds of knowledge or new ways to generate knowledge, for instance through a fundamental overhaul of the way we conduct scientific research? How could social and scientific institutions be designed, and possibly reformed, to generate sustainability-relevant knowledge? And what are the effects of the current knowledge base, and the ways it is generated and distributed, on societal decision-making on environmental protection? Within this general framework, we invite papers for the 2002 Berlin Conference on one of three sets of questions:

#### KNOWLEDGE FOR SUSTAINABILITY: THREE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

First, we invite papers that conceptualise the knowledge base for the sustainability transition as something that is affected by political decision-making. We seek papers, in particular, that analyse ways in which national and international politics and institutions influence the way sustainability knowledge is generated, distributed and used by actors. Papers could address, for example, ways in which political systems influence scientific research for the sustainability transition, including policies that shape the development and safe use of new technologies both harmful and beneficial to the sustainability

transition. We also invite papers that examine the distribution and utilisation of knowledge, from scientific information to technical expertise, and that seek to explain the role of political institutions and political and societal actors in these knowledge-generation processes.

Second, and interrelated with the first point, we invite papers that view knowledge as a factor that affects and influences political decision-making. It has long been argued that not only power and interests, but also ideas, discourses or belief systems influence the outcome of political decision-making. We thus solicit papers that present cutting-edge research on these questions and that analyse, in particular, the ways in which existing knowledge--from scientific information to more general ideas, discourses or belief systems--affects the ways in which political actors respond to the global environmental crisis. Are there dominant discourses and ideas that prevent us from reaching a more sustainable development? Does 'science' and modern technology in itself lead to unsustainable development paths--and how can democratic political institutions manage to live with, for example, the Genie of modern nuclear and molecular technologies?

Third, we invite papers from fellow social scientists that respond to the challenges raised by recent thinkers who have argued for fundamental changes in the way science is conducted--thinkers who have put forward integrative concepts such as 'earth system analysis', 'syndromes of global change' or 'sustainability science'. It has been maintained, for example, that a new 'sustainability science' must bridge the local-global divide and must include interdisciplinary research that is concerned with multiple scales and multiple actors--how would this affect social science, for example the divide between scholars of international relations and comparative environmental politics? Also, it has been suggested that a sustainability science would require joint efforts of experts and stakeholders from a variety of regions and backgrounds: does the current practice of stakeholder involvement live up to the requirements of sustainability science? In a similar vein, new initiatives strive to better integrate colleagues from developing countries and to build-up independent research capacities in the South--how will this affect the way social science is conducted in the North? Sustainability science, finally, is envisaged as inherently problem-driven in a way that defines academic puzzles from the practitioners' side, not from the autonomous theory-building research process. How would this affect social science? We welcome innovative and (self-)critical papers on these questions, and hope to stir up debate within the social science community. In addition, we intend to provide some open space during the conference to engage in informal debate among participants on these broader questions.

#### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The 2002 Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change is the second of its kind in Germany. The last meeting--the 2001 Berlin Conference--gathered 166 participants from 28 countries for a two-day discussion on the role of the nation state in global environmental change. While the Berlin Conferences are organised by the German Political Science Association, we seek dialogue with colleagues from other fields of social science as well as related expertise from natural and integrative sciences, and welcome representatives of these disciplines too.

The conference will be held in English. Prospective paper-givers should send an abstract of their paper of less than 200 words (including name, affiliation and full address of presenters) in the body of an e-mail (no e-mail attachments, please) to the conference office at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research ([berlin-conference@pik-potsdam.de](mailto:berlin-conference@pik-potsdam.de)). We also invite the submission of full panels of not more than three presenters, in particular panels that represent different geographic, disciplinary or theoretical backgrounds, or different stages in career development. Pre-registration is required.

#### DEADLINES

The deadline for submissions is 31 July 2002. All paper and panel submissions will be reviewed before being accepted for the conference programme. We will send out decisions on acceptance of papers by 14 August 2002. We expect all presenters to e-mail the final version of their paper by 29 November. Full papers submitted earlier will be posted on our web site to initiate early discussion.

#### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are making all efforts to ensure funding to reimburse the travel costs of paper presenters. For the 2001 Berlin Conference, generous donor support allowed us to reimburse parts of the travel costs of many non-German participants.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the 2002 Berlin Conference will be posted at [www.environmental-policy.de](http://www.environmental-policy.de). For questions or suggestions, please contact

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\* Sabine Campe, Manager, 2002 Berlin Conference ([sabine.campe@pik-potsdam.de](mailto:sabine.campe@pik-potsdam.de)).

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