RHODES UNIVERSITY

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**HONOURS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY**

Lecturer

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1st Term: 2013

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**INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to this first term course on environmental sociology. This course follows on from the undergraduate course. Also, the conceptual tools learned so far are relevant here. Hence, it is imperative that you incorporate the theoretical frameworks and concepts studied.

Environmental sociology seeks to explore the relationshipbetween society/human beings, their social organization and the natural environment. Environmental sociology recognises the inextricable link between humans and their natural environment. It calls for the urgent need to reconcile humanity with its natural environment. It goes beyond technical and scientific issues to the social roots of the ecological crisis. It is an undeniable fact that our ecological footprint is at odds with the quest to achieve sustainable development. One of the basic premises of environmental sociology is that we cannot satisfactorily understand environmental problems/issues, let alone hope for a solution, without a basic understanding of the wider context within which they occur.

Environmental sociology has developed several theories since the 1970s. Each of these perspectives represents an attempt to explain the nature of the human-environmental interface: why these occur and under what circumstances. We revisit the foundational theories as well as explore various subsequent theoretical perspectives that have been used to analyse and explain societal-environmental interactions.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

A general learning outcome is for you as a student to demonstrate that you have read widely, understood, synthesised the information and structured your arguments accordingly. This should be clearly evident in all the written work. **CREATIVITY and ORIGINALITY** are encouraged.

**At the end of the module students should:**

* have an understanding of environmental issues from a sociological perspective
* understand the various attempts to conceptualise, define and theorise the human-environmental interface
* have developed an independent critical capacity to evaluate these different conflicting, yet sometimes, overlapping strands of thought
* be able to critically analyze selected case studies

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**GENERAL**

Attendance of the seminars is a key DP requirement. Please be punctual!!!

There are two **seminars** every week.Seminars will be held on Tuesdays (14h00-17h00) in Seminar Room 3 @ the Barratt Complex. The venue for the seminar on Thursday will be Sociology B (11:20-14h15).

Our first meeting is intended to discuss in detail the operational procedures listed below:

Each student is expected to choose a seminar topic which corresponds with the themes for this module.

Your are expected to write a **3 page summary** for each seminar session. It is important to include at least 3 questions which will form the basis of our discussion.

Each seminar will have a presenter and a discussant. This will be followed by a discussion. We should attempt to make all the seminars as interactive and constructive as possible.

Presenters should make their papers ready a day before. Students are expected to collect these from the Sociology Department.

Please note that for some sessions there will be guest speakers. Arrangements regarding these will be communicated to you in advance, especially where it means a change to our agreed schedule.

Additional reading lists will be provided should these be considered of critical importance to the course. Relevant online readings will be posted on the Library’s website and emailed to the students as well. Core readings have been put on Short Loan.

Refer to **Handout Number 1** on general information and general rules regardingPLAGIARISM. The University’s policy on plagiarism can be found on <http://scifac.ru.ac.za/plag.htm>

Use the web sparingly and with caution.

**ASSESSMENT**

**There are three forms of assessment for this module:**

1. **A Book review:** Choose **ONE** book.

Bond, P., Dada, R. and Erion, G. (eds). (2007). **Climate Change, Carbon Trading and Civil**

**Society: negative returns on South African investments.** Scotsville, South Africa:

University of kwaZulu-Natal Press.

Cock, J. (2007). **The War Against Ourselves: nature, power and justice.** Johannesburg:

Wits Johannesburg: Wits University Press.

Guyot, S. and Dellier, J. (eds). Rethinking the Wild Coast, South Africa: eco-frontiers vs

livelihoods in Pondoland. Saarbrucken: VDM Verlag. (Online)

Hallowes, D. (2011). **Toxic Futures: South Africa in the crises of energy, environment and**

**capital.** Scottsville, South Africa: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.

Rademeyer, J. (2012). **Killing for Profit: exposing the illegal rhino trade.**

Cape Town: Zebra Publishers

**DUE DATE: Presentations and final write-up last week of first term**

1. **Seminar Presentations** and a term **essay** based on the various themes in the module.

You are expected to discuss the topic with me. A minimum of ten relevant up-to-date references should be used. You are required to submit one **essay** of not more than ten typed pages in Times New Roman and 1.5 spacing.

1. An **examination** in June.

**Key suggestions for your assignments** (Refer to **HANDOUT 1** on submission requirements and assessment guidelines)

1. It is important to note the overlapping nature of the various sections**.** This means that you can use information from whatever section of the course.
2. Provide a proper **structure** with a clear **introduction and conclusion.**
3. **Proof reading / editing** is essential.
4. **Assess your work** to see the extent to which you are answering the question.
5. Incorporate the **key concept(s) and theoretical framework(s).**
6. **Supporting evidence** helps to strengthen your argument.
7. **Avoid sweeping statements (refer to no. 6 above).**
8. It is important to **show your own understanding** rather than using quote after quote.
9. Use the **prescribed readings** rather than relying on web sources.
10. **Reference** properly.

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

1. **SOCIAL THEORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY**

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

Benton, T. and Redclift, M (eds.)  1994.  **Social Theory and the Global Environment**. London: Routledge.

Cock, J.  (1994).  ‘Sociology as if Survival Mattered’.  *South African Sociological Review,*  6(2).

Dunlap, R.E. (et al). (2002). **Sociological Theory and the Environment: classical foundations,**

**contemporary insights.** Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Dunlap, R.E. and Michelson, W.  (eds.).  (2002). Handbook **of Environmental Sociology.**

Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. **ON ORDER**

Dryzek, J.S. and Schlosberg, D.  (eds.). (2005).  **Debating the Earth: the environmental politics reader.**  Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Foster, J.B. (1999). Marx's Theory of Metabolic Rift: classical foundations for environmental sociology.  *American Journal of Sociology.* 105 (2).

Goldblatt, D. (1996). **Social Theory and the Environment.** Oxford: Polity.

Hannigan, J.A. (1995). **Environmental Sociology: a social constructivist perspective.** New    York: Routledge.

Harper, C.L. (1996). **Environment and Society**.  Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall.

Irwin, A.  2001.  **Sociology and the Environment.**  Cambridge: Polity Press.

 Mitchell, R.E. (2001). Thorstein Veblen: pioneer in environmental sociology. *Organization &*

*Environment,* 14 (4).

 Redclift,M. and Woodgate, G. (1997).  **The International Handbook of Environmental**

**Sociology.** Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

 Schnaiberg, A. (1980). **The Environment: from surplus to scarcity**.  New York, N.Y.: Oxford.

University Press.

Spaargaren, G. , Mol, P.J. and Buttel, F.H. (eds). (2000). **Environment and Global Modernity.**

London: Sage.

1. **GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE: DEBATES, PROGRESS, CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES**

Cock, J. (2007). **The War against ourselves: nature, power and justice.**  Johannesburg: Wits

University Press.

Drexhage, J. and Murphy, D. (2012). Sustainable Development: from Brundtland to Rio 2012.

New York: United Nations.

Dryzek, J.S. and Schlosberg, D.  (eds.)   (2005). **Debating the Earth: the environmental politics**

**reader.**  Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Friends of the Earth. (2006). **The Unhappy Planet Index**. London: New Economics Foundation.

Harper, C.L. (1996). **Environment and Society**.  Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall.

Irwin, A.  (2001).  **Sociology and the Environment.**  Cambridge: Polity Press.

Joubert, L.S. (2007). **Scorched: South Africa's changing climate.** Johannesburg: Wits

University Press.

Najam, A., Papa, M. and Taiyab, N. (2006). **Global Environmental Governance: a reform**

**agenda.** Winnipeg: International Institute for Sustainable Development. **(Full-text on**

**ELDIS)**

Redclift,M. and Woodgate, G. (1997).  **The International Handbook of Environmental**

**Sociology*.***  Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Reddy, T. (ed). **Carbon Trading in Africa: a critical review.** Pretoria: Institute for Security Studies.

Wackernagel, M. and Rees, W.E. (1996). **Our Ecological Footprint: reducing human impact**

**on the earth.** Canada: New Society Publishers.

1. **CLIMATE CHANGE: ADAPTATION, VULNERABILITY AND MITIGATION**

International Food Policy Research Institute (2009). **Climate Change: impact on agriculture**

**and costs of adaptation.** Washington, DC: IFPRI.

Mace, M.C. (2005). Funding for Adaptation to Climate Change: UNFCC and GEF developments

Since CoP7.  *Reciel,* vol 14 (3): 225-246.

Mitchell, T. and Tanner, T. (2006). **Adapting to Climate Change: challenges and opportunities**

**for the development community.** United Kingdom: Tearfund.

Moser, C, and Satterthwaite, D. (2008). **Towards Pro-poor Adaptation to Climate Change in the**

**Urban Centres of Low- and Middle-income Countries.**  London:International Institute

for Environment and Development.

OXFAM (2008). **Turning up the Heat: Climate Change and Poverty in Uganda.**

Tyler, S. and Fajber, L. (2009). **Land and Water Resource Use in Asia: challenges for climate**

**adaptation.** Canada: International Institute for Sustainable Development.

Venton, P. and La Trobe, S. (2008). **Linking Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk**

**Reduction.** United Kingdom: Tearfund.

1. **INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

* **Ecolabelling, organic foods and green consumerism**

Bethlehem, L and Goldblatt (ed.) (1997). **Bottom Line: industry and the Environment in South Africa.** Cape Town: University of Cape Town Press.

Bond, P. (2001). **Against Global Apartheid: South Africa meets the World Bank, IMF and**

**international finance.** Lansdowne: UCT Press.

Bond, P.; Dada, R. and Erion, G. (eds). (2007). **Climate Change, Carbon Trading and Civil**

**Society: negative returns on South African investments.** Scottsville: University of

kwaZulu-Natal Press.

Bryant, R.L. and Bailey, S. (1997). **Third World Political Ecology.** New York: Routledge.

Elliott, L.M. (1998). **The Global Politics of the Environment**. London: Macmillan.

Engdahl, F.W. (2007). **Seeds of Destruction: the hidden agenda of genetic manipulation.**

Montreal, Quebec: Global Research.

Hallowes, D. (2011). **Toxic Futures: South Africa in the crises of energy, environment and**

**capital.** Scottsville, South Africa: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.

Fig, D. (ed.). (2007). **Staking their Claims: corporate social and environmental responsibility**

**in South Africa.**  Scottsville: University of kwaZulu-Natal Press.

Jansen, K. and Vellema, S. (2004).**Agribusiness and Society: corporate responses to**

**Environmentalism, market opportunities and public regulation.** London: Zed Books.

Korten, D. C. (1995). **When Corporations Rule the World**. West Hartford, Conn. Kumarian Press.

Manby, B. (1999). ‘The Role and Responsibility of Oil Multinationals in Nigeria.’ *Journal of International Affairs,*  53 (1): 281-301.

Miller, M.A.L. (1995). **The Third World in Global Environmental Politics.** Boulder, Colo.: Rienner.

Rappel, I.J. and Thomas, N.H. (1998). ‘An Examination of the Compatibility of World Bank Policies Towards Population, Development and Biodiversity in the Third World’. *Environmentalist*, 18: 95-108.

Rich, B. (1989). ‘The Greening of Development Banks: rhetoric and reality.’ *Ecologist,* 19 (2): 44-52.

\_\_\_\_\_. (1994). **Mortgaging the Earth: the World Bank, environmental impoverishment and the crisis of development.** London: Earthscan.

Sachs, W. (ed.) 1993. **Global Ecology: a new arena of political conflict**. London: Zed Books.

Shiva, V. (2001). **Stolen Harvest: the hijacking of global food supply.**  London: Zed Books.

Wehrmeyer, W. and Mulugetta, Y. (1999). **Growing Pains: environmental management in developing countries.** Sheffield: Greenleaf.

Weir, D. (1987). **The Bhopal Syndrome: pesticides, environment and health.** London: Earthscan.

Weiss, E.D. (1992). ‘Environment and Trade as partners in Sustainable Development: A commentary.’ *American Journal of International law,* 86 (4): 728-35.

1. **VIOLENT CONFLICT AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

ACCORD. (2009). **Natural Resources, the Environment and Conflict.** Durban, South Africa:

ACCORD.

Bannon, I. and Collier, P. (2003). **Natural Resources and Violent Conflict: options**

**and actions.** Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

Brunschweiler, C.N. and Bulte, E.H. (2008). **Natural Resources and Violent Conflict: resource**

**abundance, dependence and the onset of civil wars.** Zurich: Centre of economic research

at ETH (CER-ETH).

Gleditsch, N.P. (1998). Armed Conflict and the Environment: a critique of the literature.

*Journal of Peace Research,* 35 (3): 381-400. **JSTOR.**

Gut, K. (2003). Environmental Causes of Violent Conflict: selected case studies from Latin

America.*Tomo***,** 26: 127-133.

Homer-Dixon, T.F.; Boutwell, J.H. and Rathjens, G.W. (1993). Environmental Change and Violent

Conflict: growing scarcities of renewable resources can contribute to social instability and

Civil strife. *Scientific American*, 268 (2): 37-45.

Klare, M.T. (2000). Resource Wars: the new landscape of global conflict. New York: Metropolitan

/Owl Books.

Le Billon, P. (2001). The Political Ecology of War: natural resources and armed conflicts.

*Political Geography,* 20 (5): 561-584. Available Fulltext : **ScienceDirect.**

Percival, V. and Homer-Dixon, T. (1998). Environmental Scarcity and Violent Conflict:

the case of South Africa. *Journal of Peace Research*, 35 (3): 279-298. **JSTOR.**

Shambaugh, J., Oglethorpe, J. and Ham, R. (2001). **The Trampled Grass: mitigating the impacts**

**of armed conflict on the environment.**  Washington, D.C.: Biodiversity Support Program.

Suliman, M. (1999). **Ecology, Politics and Violent Conflict**. London: Zed Books.

United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). (2007). **Lebanon: post-conflict**

**environmental assessment.** Nairobi, Kenya: UNEP.

--------. (2007). **Sudan: Post-conflict Environmental Assessment.** Nairobi, Kenya:

UNEP.

------. (2003). **Desk Study on the Environment in Iraq.** Nairobi, Kenya: UNEP.

1. **GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Braidotti, R. *et.al.* (1994). **Women, the Environment and Sustainable Development: towards**

**a theoretical synthesis.** London: Zed Books.

Diamond, I. and Orenstein, G.F. (eds). (1990). **Reweaving the World: the emergence of ecofeminism.** San Francisco: Sierra Club.

Hoffman, J. (2001). Defining Feminism. *Politics,* 21 (3):193-199.

Jackson, C. (1994). ‘Gender analysis and environmentalisms’. In Redclift, M & Benton, T. (eds.) **Social Theory and the Global Environment.** London: Routledge.

James, B. (1996). Is Ecofeminism Relevant?  *Agenda,* 29: 8-21.

Mellor, M. (1997). **Feminism & Ecology.** Cambridge: Polity Press.

Mies, M. and Shiva, V. (1993). **Ecofeminism.** London: Zed Books.

Momsen, J.H. (1991). **Women and Development in the Third World.** London: Routledge.

Rodda, A. (1991). **Women and the Environment.** London: Zed Books.

Seager, J. (1993). **Earth Follies: feminism, politics and the environment.** London: Earthscan.

Shiva, V. (1988). **Staying Alive: women, ecology and development.** London: Zed Books.

Warren, K.J. (ed.). (1994). **Ecological Feminism**. London: Routledge.

1. **INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, NATURE CONSERVATION AND**

**PROTECTION**

**Guest speaker and DVD Screening**

Bicker, A., Sillitoe, P. & Pottier, J. (2004). **Development and Local Knowledge: New approaches**

**to issues in natural resources management, conservation and agriculture.**London:

Routledge.

Briggs, J. (2005). The Use of Indigenous Knowledge in Development: problems and challenges.

*Progress in Development Studies*, 5(2): 99-114.

Davies, S.H. & Ebbe, K.(ed) (1995). **Traditional Knowledge and Sustainable Development.** Washington D.C: World Bank.

Ellen, R., Parkes, P. & Bicker A. (2000). **Indigenous Environmental Knowledge and its Transformations.** Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers.

Goddar, H. (2002). “**Biotech Patents and Indigenous Knowledge**”. Paper presented at a conference of Ethical Issues in Patent Law b. Biotechnology and Research Ethics of the 2002 High Technology Protection Summit. University of Washington School of Law, Seattle. July 20, 2002.

Mazonde, I. & Thomas, P. (ed) (2007). **Indigenous Knowledge systems and Intellectual Property in the Twenty-first Century: Perspectives from Southern Africa.** Dakar: Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa.

Mgbeoji, I. (2006). **Global Biopiracy: patents, plants, and indigenous knowledge.** New York:

Cornell University Press.

Posey, D. (2004). **Indigenous Knowledge and Ethics.** New York: Routledge.

Pottier, J., Bicker, A. & Sillitoe, P. (ed) (2003). **Negotiating Local Knowledge: power identity in**

**development.** Terling, Virginia: Pluto Press.

Prain, G., Fujisaka, S. & Warren D. (ed) (1999). **Biological and Cultural Diversity: the role of indigenous agricultural experimentation in development.** London:Intermediate technology Publications.

Shava, S. (2008). **Indigenous Knowledge: a genealogy of representations and applications in developing contexts of environmental education and development in Southern Africa.** PhD Thesis. Grahamstown: Rhodes University.

Shiva, V. (1999)*.* **Biopiracy: the plunder of nature and knowledge***.* Totnes, Devon: Green Books.

Shiva, V. (2001). **Protect or Plunder?: understanding intellectual property rights**.

London: Zed Books.

Sillitoe, P., Bicker, A. & Pottier, J. (2002). **Participating in Development: approaches to**

**indigenous knowledge.**London: Routledge.

1. **ENERGY CRISIS IN SOUTH AFRICA: DEBATES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Bond, P. (2002). **Unsustainable South Africa: environment, development and social protest.**

London: Merlin Press.

Bond, P., Dada, R. and Erion, G. (eds). (2007). **Climate Change, Carbon Trading and Civil**

**Society: negative returns on South African investments.** Durban: University of

kwaZulu-Natal Press.

Diphaha, J.B.S. et.al. (1994). **Biomass Energy and Coal in Africa**. London: Zed Books.

Fine, B. (1996). **The Political Economy of South Africa: from minerals-energy complex to**

**industrialisation.** Johannesburg: Wits University Press.

Ghanadan, J.H.W. (2006). **Electricity Reform in Developing and Transition Countries: a**

**reappraisal.** *Energy*, 31: 815-844. Available Full text **ScienceDirect.**

Hallowes, D. (2011). **Toxic Futures: South Africa in the crises of energy, environment and**

**capital.** Scottsville, South Africa: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.

Heinberg, R. (2004). **Powerdown: options and actions for a post-carbon world.**

Forest Row: Clairview.

Lauber, V. (2005). **Switching to Renewable Power: a framework for the 21st century**.

London: Earthscan.

Quaschning, V. (2005). **Understanding Renewable Energy Systems**. London: Earthscan.

Sims, R.E.H. (ed). (2004). **Bioenergy options for a cleaner environment in developed and**

**developing countries.** Amsterdam: Elsevier.

Sweet, W. (2006). **Kicking the Carbon Habit: global warming and the case renewable and**

**nuclear** energy**.**  New York: Columbia University Press.

Winkler, H.C. (2009). **Cleaner Energy, Cooler Climate: developing sustainable energy**

**Solutions for South Africa.** Cape Town: HSRC Press. Available Full text via **OPAC.**

1. **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SOUTH AFRICA: AN INTRODUCTION (references to be provided)**

**USEFUL WEB SITES**

The following websites are particularly useful:

* **African Centre for BioSafety**

[**www.acbio.org.za**](http://www.acbio.org.za)

* **Biowatch South Africa**

[www.biowatch.org.za](http://www.biowatch.org.za/)

* **CARE**

[**www.careclimatechange.org**](http://www.careclimatechange.org)

* **Dept. of Environmental Affairs and Tourism**

[www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za/)

* **Earthlife Africa**

[www.earthlife.org.za](http://www.earthlife.org.za/)

* **ELDIS: the gateway to development information**

[www.eldis.org](http://www.eldis.org/)

* **Endangered Wildlife Trust**

[www.ewt.org.za](http://www.ewt.org.za/)

* **Environmental Monitoring Group**

[www.emg.org.za](http://www.emg.org.za/)

* **GreenNet**

[www.gn.apc.org](http://www.gn.apc.org/)

* **Greenpeace**

[www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org/)

* **Groundwork**

[www.groundwork.org.za](http://www.groundwork.org.za)

* IFPRI

[www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org)

* **International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – ICLEI**

[www.iclei.org/sbtoc.html](http://www.iclei.org/sbtoc.html)

[www.iclei.org.zw](http://www.iclei.org.zw/)

* Inter-governmental panel on Climate Change

www.ipcc.org

* **Southern Africa Environment Project**

[www.saep.org](http://www.saep.org/)

* **State of the Environment in South Africa**

[www.ngo.grida.no/soesa/nsoer](http://www.ngo.grida.no/soesa/nsoer)

* **World Conservation Union**

[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org/).

* **WorldWide Fund for Nature**

[www.wwf.org](http://www.wwf.org/)

1. **World Resources Institute**

[www.wri.org](http://www.wri.org/)

UNITED NATIONS

* **UN Environmental Programme**

[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org/)

* **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**

[www.unfcc.org.de](http://www.unfcc.org.de/)