



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II



IX Italian National Conference of Environmental Sociologists Naples, 4th-5th October 2013

THE 'RESOURCEENVIRONMENT': POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND CULTURES OF INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABILITY

Call for Papers

For a long time the use of land and natural resources has been considered functional to a model of socio-economic development based on the criteria of instrumental rationality. However, since the 60s, the studies about the environment have progressively redefined the vision about the society-nature relationship and an 'ecological subject' has been created. What we can call the *ResourcEnvironment* is increasingly at the centre of an international scientific debate that is trying to identify possible solutions to the management of its scarcity and deterioration. Today, to address these challenges, we are seeing a pluralization of the paths of sustainability, which necessarily move in the direction of innovation. In other words, we are seeing the spread of new configurations – sometimes original and little studied – which involve all the dimensions of social life. What impacts do new knowledge and green technologies have on society? How are the relations between production and sustainable consumption-redefined? What regulatory models are being defined by the constant updating of the environmental governance? In which way do the experiences of collective management of commons contribute to the diffusion of new forms of social and economic accountability?

These are the main questions that are going to animate the debate among scholars who will analyse the different aspects of innovative sustainability at the *IX Italian National Conference of Environmental Sociologists*. The *Conference* will take place in Naples on October 4-5, 2013 at the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Naples 'Federico II'. Those who wish to present a paper should submit an abstract of maximum 2,000 characters (including spaces) **by May 3rd, 2013 at 12.00 noon**. The abstract, written in English or in Italian, should be sent by compiling a *format* to the following address: www.econote.it/risorsambiente/ adding the attached information:

- title of the paper
- name(s) of the author(s)
- institution(s)

- e-mail address(es)
- three keywords
- choice of the specific work session among those listed below
- preference for a) oral or b) poster presentation

Acceptance of the contributions and details about the event (hotels, program, editorial guidelines, etc.) will be notified by **May 20th, 2013**. Participants will be required to pay a conference fee based on their academic position. For early-bird registration (by July 15th, 2013) the fee is 80€ for researchers, professors, etc. and 40€ for students, PhD students, Postdocs, etc. For later registration (by September 13th, 2013) the fee is respectively 100€ and 60€. The method of payment will be announced after the acceptance of the abstracts.

Considering the diversity of theoretical perspectives and research fields that concern the issue of the Conference, scholars of other disciplines and non-Italian speaking people are welcome to submit abstracts. English and Italian will be the official languages.

In continuity with the last editions, the Conference will be organized in parallel work sessions dedicated to specific aspects.

Work Sessions:

1. Environment and Expert Knowledge. The 'expertise' in the environmental field has taken on an increasingly strategic role in the government of the territory. The most recent researches have focused on the social construction of innovative sustainability, on how the procedures of technical rationality integrate the ethic dimension of environmental protection and on the role of professionals in the complex socio-political processes of the eco-innovation.

2. Environment and Commons. Although the definition is still disputed, generally *commons* are linked to the concept that nobody owns the natural environment. Recently, the institutional logic of Government has also been confronted by the empirical logic of responsible cooperation (social equity, environmental preservation principles). The associations, green movements, use of local resources, participatory planning, and community ecology are some of the main themes of this topic.

3. Environment and Politics. The innovations in the policy-making processes are: the definition of ecological goals (norms to reduce emissions and impact, public support to sustainable innovations, etc.) and new forms of governance of the public actions. Particularly in this case, the concept of the 'sustainable land management' may be able to promote the development of cities and territories according to the principles of distributive and allocative efficiency, social equity and environmental sustainability.

4. Environment and (in)justice. A large part of the human activities that damage the environment seems to affect people and territories in different ways. The literature on environmental injustice, and more recently energy injustice, has analysed the intertwining of social inequality and environmental damage, in short the different distribution of the costs and the benefits of the ecological crisis and the different

distribution of the resources to deal with the ecological problems. Moreover, a part of literature has highlighted the forms of illegality that affect the environment in different social and environmental contexts. All these problems require a search for the innovative ways to promote at the same time antidotes to environmental degradation and social well-being.

5. Environment and Risk. The broad sociological analysis of the risks includes innovative approaches to the analysis and management of environmental risk. These studies focus on topics ranging from the governance of the social acceptability of risks to the management of conflicts regarding the risks at transnational level as well. The areas of interest are regulatory and / or institutional changes, technological changes, environment degradation and major environmental disasters, etc. A transversal topic is the issue of risk communication, with new conceptualizations, arguments and marketing models.

6. Environment and Gender. Since the 70's the gender-environment binomial has taken the centre of the stage in the scientific and political debate combining ecological and feminist perspectives. All the ecological problems from a gender perspective start from the criticism of the world ruled by competition, aggression, dominance. More recently, eco-feminism calls to reflect on the 'feminine principle' in human interaction with the natural world not as a quality based on gender, but as an organizing principle, a point of view on the world.

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Previous Events

I Italian Conference of Environmental Sociologists

Environmental Sociology: the Point of the Researches

Trieste, 15-16 November 1996; organizers: Giorgio Osti and Luigi Pellizzoni

II Italian Conference of Environmental Sociologists

The Environmental Sociology in Italy

Rome, 9-10 April 1999; organizer: Fulvio Beato

III Italian Conference of Environmental Sociologists

For the Health of the Mediterranean

Arcavacata di Rende, 8-9 June 2001; organizer: Osvaldo Pieroni

IV Italian Conference of Environmental Sociologists

Sociology and Environment

Turin, 19-20 September 2003; organizer: Carmen Belloni, Enrico Ercole, Chito Guala and Alfredo Mela

V Italian Conference of Environmental Sociologists

Searching the Future City

Lucca, 30 September-1 October 2005; organizer: Silvano D'Alto

VI Italian Conference of Environmental Sociologists

At the Crossroad. Commons and Climate Changes

Palermo, 28-29 September 2007; organizer: Aurelio Angelini

VII Italian Conference of Environmental Sociologists

Economic Crisis, Environmental Crisis, New Social Models

Trento, 25-26 September 2009; organizer: Lauro Struffi

VIII Italian Conference of Environmental Sociologists

Facing Environmental Risks: Social Representations and Green Economy

Brescia, 23-24 September 2011; organizer: Enrico Maria Tacchi