



## Biennial Report 2017-2019

**1. Name and Number of RN:** **RN12 “Environment and Society”**

**2. Names and email addresses of:**

*a. outgoing Coordinators and board members (2017-2019)*

Matthias Gross, chair/coordinator, [matthias.gross@ufz.de](mailto:matthias.gross@ufz.de)  
Audrone Telesiene (vice-coordinator), [audrone.telesiene@ktu.lt](mailto:audrone.telesiene@ktu.lt)  
Çigdem Adem (e-mail list)  
Henning Best (treasurer)  
Balínt Bálazs  
Peter Oosterveer  
Mikael Klintman  
Natalia Magnani  
Mercedes Martínez  
Sophie Némoz  
Luísa Schmidt  
Aleksandra Wagner

*b. incoming Coordinators and board members (2019-2021)*

- *Coordinator:* Audronė Telešienė, Kaunas University of Technology, Civil Society and Sustainability Research Group, Lithuania, [audrone.telesiene@ktu.lt](mailto:audrone.telesiene@ktu.lt)
- *Vice-Coordinator:* Cigdem Adem (also: e-mail list manager), The Public Administration Institute for Turkey & the Middle East (TODAIE), Turkey, [c\\_adem@yahoo.com](mailto:c_adem@yahoo.com)
- Bálint Balázs, Environmental Social Science Research Group, Hungary. *Roles: member of the Publications Committee; member of the Scientific Events Committee*
- Henning Best, Technische Universität Kaiserslautern, Department of Social Sciences, Germany. *Role: treasurer*
- José M. Echavarren, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain. *Roles: member of the Publications Committee; member of the Scientific Events Committee*
- Ana Horta, University of Lisbon, Institute of Social Sciences, Portugal. *Role: member of the Scientific Events Committee*
- Nikoleta Jones, University of Cambridge, UK. *Roles: communications coordinator; member of the Scientific Events Committee*

- Pia Laborgne, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, European Institute for Energy Research, Germany. *Roles: secretary; member of the Scientific Events Committee*
- Natalia Magnani, Università degli Studi di Trento, Department of Sociology and Social Research, Italy. *Role: chair of local organizing committee for the RN12 midterm conference 2020*
- Sophie Némoz, University of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Laboratory of Sociology and Anthropology, France. *Role: member of the Scientific Events Committee*
- Peter Oosterveer, Wageningen University, Department of Social Sciences, the Netherlands. Aleksandra Wagner, Jagiellonian University, Institute of Sociology, Poland. *Role: member of the Scientific Events Committee*

### 3. Activities:

**a. RN12 organized a *Midterm conference* “4th Energy and Society conference”,** 3rd to 5th September 2018, Exeter, UK. The conference was organized in cooperation with the network Energy and Society. The share of RN12 Environment & Society was medium (40:60). Local Organizers: Catherine Butler and Karen Bickerstaff. The call for paper was widely spread throughout the mailing lists of ESA RN12, ISA, ASA, ECEEE (European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy), several European national associations of sociologists and also ESA website. The conference had 132 abstract submissions and 158 registered participants. There were 109 oral presentations, 4 posters and 12 workshop sessions. Several keynote speakers were invited: Professor Catherine Mitchell, University of Exeter and Professor Harald Rohrer, Linköping University, Sweden.

The conference included 28 thematic panels of oral presentations (each one with 4 to 5 papers), 12 workshop sessions (including a special double session on Art and Energy), a poster session sponsored by Nature Energy, two keynotes speeches, and a final plenary session for debating the development of the energy transition in the modern societies and drawing together the conference themes and insights.

The overall evaluation of the conference is very positive due to the interest shown by so many participants and to the opportunity provided to enhance international collaboration in this emerging field of research in sociology.

Final Program: <https://geography.exeter.ac.uk/energyandsociety/>

**b. RN12 activities at the ESA Conference 2019: Number of sessions; how many presentations, how many distributed papers?**

The ESA conference had 710 sessions in total, RN12 had 35 sessions. Generally, 2476 presentations were accepted, the rejection rate was about 10% for ESA and 13% for RN12. RN12 had 131 contributions with “Accepted” status and 123 contributions with “Will be presented” status.

**c. RN 12 has a *mailing list* (members decided to have mailing list instead of Newsletter).**

There are over 500 email addresses on the RN12 mailing list. It is used to inform about conferences, seminars, other important events, to promote our publications, job offers, etc.

The mailing list is open to all interested persons (interdisciplinary spirit).

**d. Does your RN have a website of its own, other than the space on the official ESA website?**

No. RN12 relies on the ESA website.

**e. Publications related to RN sessions and/or midterm meetings?**

No

**f. Any action to be taken to improve *participation of PhD students and early career researchers*?**

General encouragement from the RN board and members, inclusion in mailing list, participation in business meetings. Suggestions to have an early career researcher representative in the board for the upcoming term.

**g. Any action to be taken to expand *membership, especially from countries with overall weaker ESA membership*? Also, are there members from outside Europe?**

RN12 is currently stagnant in terms of membership. As for 2019 August, it has 108 members who paid the RN fee. Actions for expanding membership mostly relate to midterm conference, mailing list and personal communications.

**h. Any *collaboration within ESA with other RNs*? If so, please give details. Do you plan to improve collaboration across RNs?**

RN12 has good collaborations with RN22 “Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty”, RN05 “Sociology of Consumption”.

A joint Semi-Plenary “SP10 | Understanding Risk and Uncertainty in the Anthropocene” was organized by RN12 and RN22 during the ESA 2019 conference. The main speaker was Jens Oliver Zinn, University of Melbourne.

A Joint Session “Sustainable Consumption and Wellbeing” was jointly organized by RN12 and RN05 during the ESA 2019 conference.

**i. Actions taken to *improve opportunities for publication of papers presented at the RN meetings and sessions*?**

The RN12 newly elected board proposed to establish a “Publications committee”, composed of RN12 board members and RN12 Advisory Board Members. The task of this committee is to suggest publication strategies and to spot/draft calls for joint publications.

**j. Any other important activities undertaken by your RN?**

An RN12 **Advisory Board established** during the Business Meeting in Manchester, 2019.

The aim is twofold: 1) to develop an institutional memory; 2) to receive solicited and unsolicited advice on important matters to the RN12 from people who know the group since a long time.

Topics would include publication strategies, e.g. in order to help younger scholars in the RN, or scientific directions i.e. for conferences, general development of the group; other important/fundamental changes related to RN12.

The Advisory board will be based on people who have been in the RN 12 group and had close connections with ESA and RN12 for a long time; mostly former board members. People who know the rules and have experience with ESA. Typical members of the Advisory board: former RN Chairs, distinguished scholars, board members from other RNs.

Several candidates have been elected in Manchester, Aug 2019:

- Kris van Koppen, Wageningen University, the Netherlands
- Matthias Gross, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research and (joint appointment) University of Jena, Germany
- Luisa Schmidt, University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Mikael Klintman, Lund University, Sweden
- Rolf Lidskog, Örebro University, Sweden.

RN12 board has also established several new board member roles and committees. The current list of established committees: **Publications Committee, Scientific Events Committee**. Newly introduced roles: secretary, communications coordinator, member of the Publications Committee, member of the Scientific Events Committee, chair of local organizing committee for the upcoming RN12 midterm conference.

**k. Any plans for further activities of your RN?**

- The next RN12 midterm conference is planned in Trento September 8th to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Natalia Magnani is responsible for the local organization. A call for workshops has been sent around and is open until 15th of September 2019. It can be found at the webpage of the Energy & Society Network: [https://www.ufz.de/energy\\_and\\_society\\_network/index.php?en=46507](https://www.ufz.de/energy_and_society_network/index.php?en=46507)
- Pia Laborgne plans to establish a closer cooperation with RN24 "Science and technology"
- The next-next midterm conference in 2022 is planned in Kaunas/Lithuania. (Audronė Telešienė responsible). The midterm conference in Kaunas will have a wider approach, including the Energy&Society network and also other networks/topics in RN12.
- Ana Horta announces the Environment and Society second to third of March 2020 conference in Lisbon. It is organized by the Environment and Society Section of the Portuguese Sociological Association.