



SWEDISH  
COLLEGIUM  
for ADVANCED STUDY

## REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

**Session:** Re-visioning Social Sustainability: Challenging Hegemonies and Emerging Alternatives II

**Session Convener(s):** George Odysseus Tsobanoglou, University of the Aegean, Mytilini, Lesvos; Kiran Prasad, Sri Padmavati Mahila University, Tirupati

**Chair:** George Odysseus Tsobanoglou, University of the Aegean, Mytilini, Lesvos

**Comments:** This session is organized by ISA RC 26

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I) *East-West Migrations Flows. New Models and Perspectives*  
Arianna Montanari, University of Roma “La Sapienza”

II) *Urbanization of Southeast Asian Countries from the Perspective of Migration and Land Use on New Towns and Villages*  
Jiro Ooi, Tohoku University

III) *Paradigm Shift in Development: Communicating Sustainable Environment for Communities*  
Kiran Prasad, Sri Padmavati Mahila University, Tirupati

IV) *Towards Improving the Human Nature Interactions in Urban India for Sustainable Urban Development: A Case Study of Participatory Environmental Revitalization in a Segregated Colony of Chandigarh*  
Manoj Kumar Teotia, Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh

V) *Cultural Intervention in Russian Provinces as the Factor of Sustainable Development of Territories*  
Nataliya Velikaya, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow

## ABSTRACT

### Session description

The session wishes to comparatively reflect on both the Eastern and Western perspectives on social sustainability and how both traditions are rethinking hegemonic traditions to allow the emergence of more equitable cultural models and lifestyles towards social sustainability. The theme can also look at what kinds of transcultural flows are expressed by social movements? How does the grass root politics grapple with sustainability as defined by western development paradigms? What are the politics of the 'glocal', if any in each perspective?

How does grass root sustainable efforts negotiate with a general/global model for sustainable communities?

Participation and Empowerment in communities and the associated cooperative work models are essential modes related with such politics and such policies and are to be explored here as well.

### Papers

#### I) *East-West Migrations Flows. New Models and Perspectives*

Arianna Montanari, University of Roma "La Sapienza"

The paper examines possible new models able to promote and support the short-term legal migration of eastern young people with medium-to-high qualifications and contribute to the development of a culture of legal migration with respect to:

- stemming the brain drain phenomenon, whereby the depleted ranks of young qualified individuals inhibits economic growth potential;
- promoting domestic growth and development by *circular migration schemes* that allow for professional and higher education experiences abroad;
- redressing illegal migration, which often leads to exploitation, marginalisation, loss of identity and creates revenue streams for organised crime.

At the same time the paper will analyse the opportunities for migrant workers to improve their professional skills by way of temporary employment within the western countries and to subsequently support their reinstatement within the domestic labour market. As well as pursuing an understanding of migration phenomena, the paper has also sought to test new approaches to circular migration on a sample of Moldovan University graduates by involving them in work experience and by subsequently assisting their return. These labour exchange facilities partook in training programmes designed to promote labour mobility.

#### II) *Urbanization of Southeast Asian Countries from the Perspective of Migration and Land Use on New Towns and Villages*

Jiro Ooi, Tohoku University

The aim of this paper is to refer to the emerging mixed life of urban and rural in suburban areas of Southeast Asia, with an analysis of the land use and statistics. The rapid development of Southeast Asian cities derived from the new international division of labor, particularly since the late 1970s. In this process of urbanization, many analysts have tried to identify the "Southeast Asian City" as a specific category. Focusing on Indonesia, I refer to one of the discussions which notes that parts of urban districts have been migrating to villages from urban areas (Gregory E. Guldin 2001). In western countries, the phenomenon of urbanization is such that many laborers migrate to cities from villages so that many farmers may quit agriculture and start working in factories. On the other hand, in some Southeast Asian country such as Thailand, The Philippines and Indonesia, the rate of decline of the number of farmers is not so high (Hattori and Funatsu 2002). One of the reasons for this is that industrial estates, new towns

and villages are specifically located close to each other in suburban areas. It is my objective to understand the sustainability of these areas and communities.

### III) *Paradigm Shift in Development: Communicating Sustainable Environment for Communities*

Kiran Prasad, Sri Padmavati Mahila University, Tirupati

The competition for rapid economic growth, mass production, and a rich lifestyle has led to a race among nations of the world for fast economic growth and prosperity. There is a serious introspection where development ends and destruction begins in the context of the natural environment. It is being accepted grudgingly that poverty and environmental issues are interrelated. The resource degradation in the past increases today's poverty, while today's poverty makes it difficult to care for the future. In this context, environment and environmental audit have assumed great importance as the future of humankind hinges on the conservation and regenerative policy measures that can be adopted by nations.

Women have played a key role in environmental conservation in the developing world. But their activism was viewed as local action and confined to the fringes of mainstream development. The MDGs that regard empowering women and environmental sustainability as the key factors for development began to recognize the international role of women in protecting and sustaining the ecology. These goals demand a renewed look at indigenous models of living in which women play an important role in environmental conservation. Women have played a significant role in effecting a paradigm shift in political ecology in which sustainable environment will be the touchstone of development. Often excluded from the big mainstream media, women are using alternate media in green communication. This paper will focus on women's interventions in environmental communication through the mainstream and alternate media and also women's activism to mainstream environment communication in sustainable development in the context of the emerging political ecology in India.

### IV) *Towards Improving the Human Nature Interactions in Urban India for Sustainable Urban Development: A Case Study of Participatory Environmental Revitalization in a Segregated Colony of Chandigarh*

Manoj Kumar Teotia, Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh

The human nature interaction has deteriorated rapidly in urban India with unplanned and rapid urbanization. The growth of population in segregated settlements called slums, environmental degradation, denial of human rights in terms of accessibility of housing, basic amenities and livelihood etc are some of the crucial challenges of many of the urban human settlements. The urban development practices adopted by the policy makers further seem to have affected the harmony between urban human society and the nature. The un-sustainable practices and initiatives in environmental management coupled with the poor role of institutions have affected the already deteriorating urban ecology. Chandigarh, the first planned Northwest Indian town is not exception to this emerging general urban scenario. With the rapid growth of urban population, Chandigarh also experienced emergence of large number of slums and segregated 'slum like-rehabilitated colonies' including Ramdarbar which grew rapidly. With the rapid influx of poor migrants the human nature interaction deteriorated continuously in Ramdarbar for about two decades and it became one of the most segregated settlements of the city with highly degraded environment.

Some local initiatives in urban India seem to have shown the way to improve the human nature interaction, an important pre requisite for social and environmental sustainability. Chandigarh also experienced some good initiatives in Ramdarbar which changed the face of the highly deprived colony. The present study of

Ramdarbar experiment is an effort to underline the role of participatory environmental revitalisation initiatives in improving human nature interaction in a segregated urban settlement. The Paper has analyzed the dynamics of participation of local community in revitalizing urban environment. The participatory initiatives by the local people/Neighborhood Revitalization Committee supported by the area councilor has changed the face of colony from a very congested, encroached and polluted habitation to open, clean and green settlement. The environmental and social fabric of the colony has improved considerably after voluntary removal of encroachments, development of 90 parks, plantation drives, neighborhood sanitation programme and many other initiatives, which can be replicated in other rehabilitated colonies of Chandigarh and other cities for improving human nature interaction in urban settlements to counter the challenges of urbanization, environmental degradation and climate change and achieve social and environmental sustainability in urban areas.

*V) Cultural Intervention in Russian Provinces as the Factor of Sustainable Development of Territories*

Nataliya Velikaya, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow

Presentation is devoted to the new cultural policy in Russian regions where culture is considered as the main resource for region developing. That is new approach in Russia because usually culture financed last of all and considered as non important area for investing.

As a data base of the paper we use results of interviewing experts from five regions of Russia and content analysis of federal and regional mass media. We also take case study of Perm region since it was Perm where the policy of cultural intervention had been more successful.

Nowadays culture is not integrated in territorial regional and local policy and mainly cultural sector is excluded from the innovation area in strategic plans of Local Development. Situation has become complicated because of irregularity of developing of different regions in Russia, not equal share of culture in economics of different regions.

Paper observes some results of cultural intervention policy in regions including establishment of new cultural organizations, new jobs, arrangement of conditions for active cultural values consumption and public opinion about new forms of cultural activity. We analyze an increasing of cultural activity of inhabitants, media role of culture, and role culture as a factor of city development and probability for sustainable development of territories in the cultural context. The social and economical consequences of project as were analyzed as well.

It is shown and described how it's possible to overcome existing inequality in access to cultural values in Russian provinces.

We are also going to estimate the involvement of Russian cultural sector in all European processes considering level of participating in European events and programs.