

LEIPZIG 2007

Outlook to the ESEE conference in 2007



ESEE 2007

Integrating Natural and Social Sciences for Sustainability

The European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE), in co-operation with the German associations for ecological economics VÖÖ and VÖW, are pleased to invite you to join us at the UFZ-Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany for the 7th biennial international conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics: 5-8 June 2007. Visit the conference website: <http://www.esee2007.org>

Keynote speakers will include: Elinor Ostrom, Malte Faber, Dick Norgaard, Inge Røpke, Clive Spash, and Carl Folke.

The conference will explore contemporary scientific approaches for incorporating the concept of Sustainable Development in research and practice, with a particular focus on the bridging of contributions from the natural and social sciences. It will address a broad range of sustainability topics including loss of biodiversity, human vulnerability to global change and water problems on all geographical and institutional levels. The aim of the conference is to contribute to a better understanding of societal and natural processes and their interaction through the integration of different scientific methodologies, in order to overcome shortcomings associated with single- and multi-discipline approaches. Impediments to inter- and trans-disciplinary research will be examined and new research approaches for addressing sustainability questions will be identified.

The calls are closed by now, but you still might be interested to come and discuss with some of the 300-400 participants. While we can't give you details on the presentations, we yet can tell you that more than 20 symposia have already been accepted, dealing e.g. with evolutionary and institutional economics, study of the commons, urban development, use of scenarios in biodiversity research or the role of K. W. Kapp, a very early German ecological economist.

(continued from page 4)

would impress me.

Which figures from the past do you most admire (not just in the environmental field), and why?

The figure zero, because its always perplexed me how to conceptualise nothing. The figure 33 trillion, because it exemplifies scientists' ability to conceptualise something based on nothing.

Do religious beliefs influence your life and work?

They influence my life because there's so many

"religious" people trying to kill each other and succeeding in creating considerable human and environmental misery in the process, let alone paranoia.

Do you think of yourself as a rural or as a city person?

Not really.

How do you relax at the weekend?

I don't.

Do you have a favourite motto or saying

about the environment?

More like anti-mottos. Engineers saying: "dilution is the solution to pollution"; well done boys that was a good one! Or even better, from North America "shoot it if it runs and cut it if it stands".

What is the best piece of advice you've been given?

Some advice from a Mr Thomas of Llandudno, Wales:

"Rage, rage against the dying of the light, do not go gently into that good night."