

Editorial

This second issue of the Journal of Transdisciplinary Environmental Studies contains a series of articles that each in their own way are central to the journal's focus. We are particularly proud to present a number of articles which concern issues of great relevance to policymakers and practitioners.

In the article "Sustainable Work – Concepts and Elements of Practice" Helge Hvid and Henrik Lambrecht Lund argues that working life is of crucial importance for sustainable development and, on the basis of an analysis of the current discussions of sustainability in industry demonstrates that discussion of the theme is lacking both in the literature and policy. To rectify this, they develop a concept of sustainable working life, and advance policy prescriptions for trade unions suggesting how to integrate the concept of sustainable working life into their policies. We hope and believe this article will spark off a very much needed discussion among academics and policymakers in the trade unions concerning the notion of sustainable work.

The article "The Environmental Agenda in Organization and Management Research – Toward Interdisciplinarity?" by Eva Heiskanen is in many ways related both to the article on sustainable work, and to the discussion about transdisciplinary presented by Jobst Conrad in the first issue of TES. Both Heiskanen and Hvid & Lund assess the current situation in organisational research with regards to the environment. But where Hvid & Lund engage in this debate from a sustainability and working life perspective, Heiskanen approaches it from the point of view of research strategies and transdisciplinarity. Furthermore, where Hvid and Lund offer analyses of both the background in which companies engage in environmental activities and of the top down approach of organisational research as the explanation for the absence of considerations relating to sustainable work, Heiskanen offers explanations related to the paradigms and history of science, and elaborates three scenarios for the future of interdisciplinary research in organisational research

The article "Community Participation in Natural Resource Management Projects: A Rational Institutional Choice? Some Evidence from Sand Dune Fixation in Mauritania" by Søren Lund offers a stringent analysis of which institutional arrangements would be most optimal seen from an institutional rational choice point of view for this type of sand dune fixation project. In the empirical analysis he shows that projects with theoretical optimal institutional arrangements actually do perform better than projects with non-optimal institutional arrangements. The article thus demonstrates a strategy for how designers of development projects can find steady ground under their feet when discussing how to use community participatory strategies in development projects.

Aleksandra Sas-Bojarska's article "Landscape Protection in Environmental Impact Assessment in Poland. The example of a Gdańsk fortification system which is threatened by transport investments" demonstrates the usefulness of undertaking a scholarly analyses of the actual practice of a planning system from the point of view of an ideal. In this case the ideal that planning systems ought to deliver landscape protection and see to the optimisation of their aesthetic value. Sas-Bojarska describes the planning system in Poland

in relation to roads, and analyses how the system has worked in practice in a number of cases in and around Gdansk. She concludes by providing a number of policy recommendations on how to improve the system and discusses the relationship between Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment - a highly relevant discussion in EU countries which must implement the EU directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (2001/42/EC).

The final article "Towards Heterogeneous Sanitary Engineering: A Study of Sanitation Specialists' Perceptions of Users" by Birgitta Rydhagen engages in a debate about the relationship between experts and laymen. A discussion touched upon in the first issue no by Peder Agger where he discussed the experience of the Danish Nature Council. Rydhagen's approach to the topic is somewhat new: instead of analysing laymen's perceptions of experts, she enters the debate from the other side: the expert's perception of laymen. On the basis of a focus group interview with a number of sanitation experts, she concludes that their normal perception of the user is as to stressed and indifferent to spend more time on the sanitation system. Further, she develops a model of the interrelationships between the actors involved in sanitation design, and discusses whether ecological sanitation provides possibilities to demystify issues, and broaden participation in sanitation design.

Jens Stærdahl, Co-editor.