



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

Editorial for JEPP volume 17, issue 2

Daugbjerg, C., Ellis, G., Feindt, P. H., & Franklin, A. (2015). Editorial for JEPP volume 17, issue 2. *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning*, 17(2), 161-162. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1523908X.2015.1016261>, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1523908X.2015.1016261>

Published in:

Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning

Document Version:

Peer reviewed version

Queen's University Belfast - Research Portal:

[Link to publication record in Queen's University Belfast Research Portal](#)

Publisher rights

© 2015 Taylor & Francis.

This work is made available online in accordance with the publisher's policies. Please refer to any applicable terms of use of the publisher.

General rights

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Queen's University Belfast Research Portal is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy

The Research Portal is Queen's institutional repository that provides access to Queen's research output. Every effort has been made to ensure that content in the Research Portal does not infringe any person's rights, or applicable UK laws. If you discover content in the Research Portal that you believe breaches copyright or violates any law, please contact openaccess@qub.ac.uk.

Editorial for JEPP volume 17, issue 2

CARSTEN DAUGBJERG, GERAINT ELLIS, PETER H. FEINDT & ALEX FRANKLIN

The seven papers in this new issue of the Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning reflect both the increasing range of environmental issues that require coordinated responses, and the ability of the environmental policy field to elicit novel theoretical perspectives.

Julian Edelenbos, Ingmar van Meerkerk & Corniel van Leeuwen take a social-ecological systems perspective to analyse the vitality of social systems in water governance processes. Based on two case studies from the Netherlands, they identify conditions for vitality dynamics. The findings exemplify the usefulness of a systems perspective for the development of long-term environmental governance strategies. Success depends on the changeability of the conditions for vitality.

Jerome Dupras and Mahbubul Alam also take a long-term and ecosystem perspective in their analysis of urban sprawl in the Montreal Metropolitan Region (Quebec, Canada). They evaluate the impact of urban sprawl on a range of ecosystem services between 1966 and 2010. The research demonstrates that variegated management strategies did not prevent continuing loss of ecosystem services due to ongoing land-use change. It adds to the evidence about the limited environmental effectiveness of existing land-use planning strategies.

Bohumil Frantal provides insights into conflicts around wind power in the Czech Republic. Findings from a survey among local governments and affected citizens indicate that acceptance of the next-generation higher capacity wind turbines depends on met expectations from the past and perceived net benefits of existing wind farms. While resistance is mostly spurred by visual impacts on landscape, these might be outweighed by perceived economic benefits. The findings suggest that design and fairness considerations can be critical in tipping the balance.

D.P. Barron & C.L. McDermott have interviewed current and potential investors in REDD+, the evolving financial compensation mechanism for projects in developing countries that reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation. Contrary to expectation, in the current voluntary market for REDD+ certificates, private investors pay significant attention to local benefits from the funded projects, motivated by social marketing purposes and to reduce the risk of local resistance as well as reputational risks. If REDD+ would develop into a mandatory compliance market, however, the social marketing motive might be crowded out by considerations over market price and volume. The findings point to possible and unexpected counterproductive effects in future greenhouse gas emission markets.

The remaining three papers focus on the role of knowledge, discourse and ideas in environmental policy and planning. Nina Tynkkynen has analysed the relation between scientific and experience-based knowledge in the transnational policy regime addressing the problem of eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. Based on expert interviews and document analysis, she demonstrates how the scientific community in Finland deploys problem and scale frames which effectively restrict the possibilities of public engagement and integration of experience-based knowledge. The paper contributes to the growing literature on the effects of discourses and frames in environmental policy.

In a similar vein, but with a focus on performative effects, Rosalie van Dam, Martijn Duineveld and Roel During explore processes of subjectification in three citizens' initiatives. Their case studies suggest that governmental discourses about active citizenship effectively shaped citizens' understanding of roles and expectations and subsequently the performance of citizenship. However, the authors stress that processes of subjectification are dialectical and require the co-performance of governmental actors and citizens' initiatives.

Kristof Van Assche reflects on the role of narrative for environmental policy, planning and design. Deploying semiotic analysis, he demonstrates how Sigurd Olson (1899–1982) through his writings on the subjective and historical meaning of landscapes created audiences which were significant for the development of the American conservation movement and influential ideas about environmental policy, planning and design. A contribution to both the history of environmental policy ideas and a reflection on the ideational dimension of environmental policy and planning, the paper points to the essential role of narrative, communication and meaning both in practice and academic reflection.

Overall, the contributions to this issue demonstrate the vibrancy, originality and practical relevance of current academic discussions on environmental policy and planning.