

## **A workshop held on 17 June 2003 at The Business Centre, The Deep, Hull.**

<b>10.30 a.m.</b>	Coffee and registration at the Business Centre at The Deep.
<b>10:45</b>	Alan Irwin (BrunelUniversity): Introduction: The changing framework of scientific governance
<b>11:00</b>	Presentations from Science in Society research teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sally Eden and Andrew Donaldson (University of Hull) How NGOs evaluate environmental science</li><li>• John Forrester and Laura Potts (Stockholm Environment Institute/University of York/YorkSt JohnCollege) Non statutory NGOs and their involvement in science-based policy'</li><li>• Julie Barnett (University of Surrey) The Environment Agency and local protest groups: science and risk amplification</li></ul>
<b>11:45</b>	Break-out session: problems and opportunities of NGO activism.
<b>12:30 p.m</b>	Buffet lunch
<b>1:45</b>	Andrew Jamison (Aalborg University,Denmark) Non-governmental Organizations and the shaping of green knowledge.
<b>2:15</b>	Tim Jenkins (Policy and Research Unit, Friends of the Earth) Science for sustainability: an NGO perspective
<b>2:45</b>	John Colvin (Social Policy Manager, Environment Policy Unit, Environment Agency) Learning to learn differently: the Environment Agency's role in local communities
<b>3:15</b>	Break-out session and coffee
<b>4:15</b>	Final session: future directions and action
<b>4:45</b>	Close and departure

### **Background to the workshop**

#### **Rationale**

Research about science and research about NGOs both have long pedigrees but have rarely connected. Yet it is increasingly accepted that, if science is to build a new civic relationship with society, debates about science must become increasingly diverse and participatory. To facilitate this, it is important to know how science and messages about science are understood, used and communicated by a range of social actors. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) of all types have become important in this diverse process of scientific debate and communication. Arguably, their role is pivotal because, in a climate of public scepticism and distrust of regulators and politicians, NGOs may, in comparison, provide a more trusted face. In recognition of this, policy-makers and researchers are increasingly seeking legitimate and effective ways to involve NGOs in science-related debates and decisions.

The Science in Society Programme is supporting innovative research in this area as part of its goal to explore and facilitate the changing relations between science and society. This interactive workshop will both disseminate results from the Programme and provide an opportunity for stakeholder groups to discuss how best to build this new civic relationship. We will focus specifically on debates about environmental science and its consequences for public health.

#### **Aims**

1. To disseminate the results of Programme projects to social and policy actors. This will directly support the dissemination strategy of the Programme by

- communicating the results of state-of-the-art research to diverse stakeholder groups,
- increasing awareness of the Programme, and thus raising the profile of social science research in these debates,
- broadening and internationalising the research base through involving researchers outside the Programme and outside the UK and
- generating valuable feedback for ongoing research within the Programme about the roles and needs of NGOs and regulators.

2. To bring NGOs together with other NGOs and with regulators and decision-makers in the field of the environment and public health. This will provide a valuable opportunity for interactive learning and networking between these groups, to discuss ways to better communicate environmental and health science to public groups. As well as research presentations, the day's activities will include sessions based on small-group discussions and break-out debates to provide time for interactive networking and the sharing of ideas.

3. To enhance the outputs of the Programme and of future research in the Programme's themes. Feedback from stakeholder groups and interaction between academic researchers will both improve the intended outputs from the research projects and generate new intellectual outputs, thereby building communication into the ongoing research, as proposed in the Programme's Communications Plan.

- Sally Eden (University of Hull) [s.e.eden@hull.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.eden@hull.ac.uk)
- John Forrester (Stockholm Environment Institute/University of York) [jf11@york.ac.uk](mailto:jf11@york.ac.uk)
- Julie Barnett (University of Surrey) [j.barnett@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:j.barnett@surrey.ac.uk)

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/geog/html/ngo.html>