

Dr. Kirsty Blackstock: “Scottish Experiences: Lessons to learn for Stakeholder Involvement in River Basin Planning”

Abstract

River Basin Management is a central aspect of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and active involvement of stakeholders in river basin management is encouraged under the WFD (EC, 2000). The WFD advocates active involvement by stakeholders in order to achieve sustainable river basin management, given the problems with existing regulatory or market approaches. This paper reports on the process used to develop the Spey Catchment Management Plan (SCMP), using interviews with participants involved in the process of preparing the plan. This research was designed to help those involved learn from this experience and to draw out lessons for future catchment-level planning processes, relating these to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in Scotland. The discussion is organised around themes of representation; and the substantive, instrumental and normative reasons for engaging in a deliberative inclusive process.

Curriculum Vitae

SYNOPSIS: A qualitative sociologist engaged in participatory rural development with a particular focus on catchment management, environmental justice and tourism.

QUALIFICATIONS: PHD (distinction) from James Cook University – thesis entitled ‘Community in Paradise? Living in a Tourism Town’; December 2001

MA (1st class Hons) from Edinburgh University in Sociology with Gender Studies; July 1993

RECENT WORK EXPERIENCE

Current: Socio-Economic Research Programme, Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen, AB15 8HQ
Researcher in a multi-disciplinary team exploring land use issues in rural Scotland. Current projects include a participatory evaluation of the Spey Catchment Management Plan; exploring participatory and deliberative methods for biodiversity management; exploring environmental justice and tourism development; and qualitative analysis of farmer cooperation for agri-environmental outcomes.

January – June 2003: Centre for Social Research on Dementia, University of Stirling
Research Fellow for the ‘Provision of Services for people with dementia and their carers in Rural and Remote Scotland’ which explored the benefits and disadvantages of being a rural service user through in-depth qualitative data collection with the users themselves.

International Autumn Academy „Sustainability in River Basins – A Question of Governance“
December 6-8, 2004, Berlin-Schmöckwitz, Germany

Organized by the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IOEW)

April 2002 – January 2003: Geography Department, University of Dundee, Perth Road, Dundee

Research assistant for the ESRC funded project 'Disciplinary Interactions: Ontological Commitments and the Law' project looking at how the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) develops diffuse pollution water based policy in the Scottish Context.

Prior to April 2002 I worked in Australia as a freelance consultant combining teaching sociology at James Cook University with working for SKM (a consulting engineering firm) and a local authority, Douglas Shire Council, on a range of community consultation and impact assessment projects.

Contact

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