

Summaries

Joanna Swabe

Animals as a Natural Resource: Ambivalence in the Human-Animal Relationship and Veterinary Practice

Animals are perhaps one of the greatest natural resources upon which human societies depend. From the earliest known societies, we have exploited and manipulated them to service not only our most fundamental, but also our less tangible needs. The relationship between humans and other animals is, however, replete with contradictions. To put it crudely: some species we keep and devour for food, upon others we lavish affection. This article explores the ambivalence and ambiguity that typically characterises our relationship with domesticated animals through an examination of routine veterinary practice. It illustrates the very diverse ways in which animals are treated, both culturally and medically, according to which species they belong. Moreover, it highlights some of the dilemmas that veterinarians experience in their daily working lives, which are, in turn, reflective of the ambivalence and ambiguity that pervade the human-animal relationship.

Henk van Zon

Old Roads to the Club of Rome

Environmental problems have always caused concern, protest and opposition. This assertion is examined using some examples from the European society of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and from the rising industrial societies in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Germany and the Netherlands. The article concludes with an analysis of some post-war publications on issues such as resources running out; exhaustion of the soil and pollution, which can be viewed as forerunners of *The limits to growth*.

Kees Schmidt

On Civilization and the Environment

The pivotal question of the article is to what extent the increasing concern for the environment in industrial societies could be considered a matter of civilization in the sense of Norbert Elias. In order to put this question into a developmental perspective, a distinction is made between two interconnected social developments: 'economization' and 'ecologization'. An analysis is made of the structure and civilizing nature of these processes. The implications of this analysis for environmental poli-

cies are taken into consideration as well. Finally, the study discusses to what extent economization obstructs the ecologization of society.

Wilma Aarts

Good Intentions

High-status groups use more self-restraint in their consumption of food and tobacco. Moreover the better educated among them are more environmentally aware. A survey was conducted in order to investigate whether these groups also apply self-restraint to environmentally relevant consumption. The survey revealed that the better educated hardly refrain from consumption causing high CO₂-emissions, such as driving cars and flying airplanes. However, more than others they purchase products considered environmentally friendly and report that they limit on their consumption for the sake of the environment. The analysis focusses on social status and distinction in connection with social constraint.

Henny J. van der Windt

The Dutch Movement for the Conservation of Nature: Continuity and Dynamics

This article analyses the concept of nature as constructed and transformed by the nature conservation movement in the Netherlands. The movement was founded in 1880. It is shown that during this century the movement changed its approach several times. Both in the 1930s and the 1970s the relationship between nature conservationists and their main opponent, the agricultural organisations, became problematic, resulting in the rise of new ideas (conservation). These changes were interconnected with alternative practices, new organisation structures and new groups entering the conservation movement. Intellectuals played an important part in the realisation of changes. Nature conservation has some continuous elements such as the idea of a pristine nature and the nature reserves (*natuurmonumenten*). So, despite the interpretative flexibility of the concept of nature, not *all* interpretations are possible any more. The conservation movement has its own body of knowledge, ideas and practices which act as a selection filter.

Gerda Dinkelman

Dutch Policy on Air Pollution

The article is a summary of a recent Ph.D. thesis which investigates the relationship between important changes in Dutch environmental policy and the agenda-setting of acidification (in the beginning of the 1980s) and the greenhouse effect (at the end of the 1980s). It seeks an answer to the following question: did the reorientations in environmental policy result from the fact that new air pollution problems were

placed on the political agenda, or was it the other way around: was their being entered on that agenda responsible for reorientations that had already begun or were already wanted? This question is tackled by means of an analysis of the two agenda-setting processes (with the help of the so-called 'streammodel' of Kingdon) as well as the development of Dutch air pollution policy between 1970 and 1994 (with the help of Sabatier's advocacy coalition and policy paradigm framework). One of the main conclusions of the research is that the fact that the greenhouse effect put on the agenda was made possible by a reorientation that was already wanted by a group of policy makers and researchers. The acidification case indicated the opposite order, i.e., policy reorientations were the result of the existence of a new problem.

Jan Willem Duyvendak

A Movement that lacks a Natural Adversary. On the Strategic Dilemmas of the Ecological Movement.

By analyzing the strategies of the ecological movement in four Western European countries in the double perspective of their discourses and various political contexts, this article shows that the movement is confronted with a set of particular dilemmas. The rather consensual position of ecological topics in politics - caused by both the discourse of ecological modernization of the movement and the very inviting attitude of political authorities towards this movement - results in massive but rather passive support for this movement: everybody feels involved but nobody in particular. In case of ecological emergencies, it turns out to be difficult for the movement to mobilize its constituency, also because the government is often both the troublemaker and the only possible troubleshooter. By a threefold comparison of countries, social movements, and various issues within the ecological movement, the article shows how the ecological movement may overcome many a dilemma of collective action.

Pieter Leroy

The Rise and Development of Dutch Environmental Science: An interpretation in terms of the Sociology of Science

The environmental consciousness of concerned scientists in the early 1970s gave rise to the development of environmental sciences, both on the national and the international level. This article examines the organisational and substantive development of environmental science in the Netherlands from a perspective of the sociology of knowledge. Dutch environmental science developed very quickly and successfully from an academic opposition movement into an institutionalised and recognised field of scientific knowledge. This acknowledgement not only had to do with its mission (based upon key concepts such as problem-centredness, solution-orientation and interdisciplinary research). The main factors responsible for its success are the

societal and political circumstances which enabled environmental science to become involved in a process of professionalisation and commercialisation.

A.P.J. Mol

Ecological Restructuring and the Chemical Industry

Environmental considerations often trigger processes of transformation and continuity in modern society. This article examines social change induced by environmental considerations. It focusses on two subjects. First, it brings the environment back into social theory by elaborating on the concepts of ecological rationality and the ecological sphere, and it also looks into the theory of ecological modernization. Secondly, these analytical 'tools' are used to investigate processes of ecological restructuring in the chemical industry. Both the magnitude of environment-induced reform in the chemical industry as the relevant actors and mechanisms involved in this transformation process are emphasised.

E. Tellegen, P. de Jong, S. Slingerland, S. Wijmer & M. Wolsink

Public Utility Services and the Limitation of Domestic Use of Environmental Resources in the Netherlands

Reliable and affordable facilities for the provision of drinking water and electricity and gas as well as the removal of solid waste belong to the most valued attainments of modern welfare states. Until about 25 years ago the operation of these facilities was based on the premise of continuing growth. Presently the organisations involved are expected to contribute to drinking water and energy conservation and waste reduction. The article discusses the way this new task was integrated in existing utilities and the opportunities it offered for the development of new organisations in the Netherlands.

L. Reijnders

The Effectiveness of Worldwide Environmental Protection Policy

The effectiveness of worldwide environmental protection policy is discussed with respect to its actual environmental problem solving ability and the degree to which the stated aims of worldwide agreements are actually reached. It is found that the overall problem solving effect of worldwide agreements is very limited. Nevertheless, agreements protecting for example the vicuña, the African elephant, and the ozone layer may be considered a relative success. The degree to which stated aims of worldwide agreements are reached varies substantially. Factors contributing to successful implementation of international agreements are found to be: precision of obligations, financial stimuli for 'good' behaviour, low perceived costs and low

technical/organisational complexity of solutions, substantial (negative) sanctions, pressure of public opinion, cooperation of industry and the actual willingness of influential states to implement treaties.