Ideas Travel: Transnational Flows in the Environmental Movement

Presented by
Professor Christopher Rootes, University of Kent

The flow of ideas and people between the countries of the English-speaking world is relatively easy and influences and interactions are consequently frequent. Yet, at least in respect of environmental activism and green politics, they tend to have been remarked only in passing. Because organizational labels travel easily, it is often assumed that activities similarly labelled in two or more countries are empirically similar, when in fact they are almost always significantly different. I will consider some of these ‘faux amis’ of environmental movement politics – including Green parties, Friends of the Earth and Earth First! – in the attempt to trace transnational influences and the sources of differences among the US, UK, Australian and German cases.

I will also consider the development of forms of environmental activism and the various issues that have been the focus of environmental concern. I will conclude by considering how environmental activism differs in the age of ubiquitous and almost instant electronic communication and when the global issue of climate change dominates the environmental agenda.

About Professor Christopher Rootes
Christopher Rootes is Professor of Environmental Politics and Political Sociology and Director, Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements, at the University of Kent’s School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research. His principal research interests are in environmental movements and NGOs, green parties, environmental protest, and the interactions between environmental campaigners and industry, government and governmental agencies.

When
Friday 17 April, 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Where
Room 319, Social Sciences, Sandy Bay campus

RSVP
All welcome. No RSVP required.

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