Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Values (journal)

"Science and Society in Historical Perspective: Implications for Social Theories of Risk"

Cohen, Maurie J.

Cohen, Maurie J. "Science and Society in Historical Perspective: Implications for Social Theories of Risk." *Environmental Values* 8, no. 2 (1999): 153–76. doi:10.3197/096327199129341770 .

Over the past decade risk society theory has become increasingly prominent within the field of environmental social theory. This perspective contends that conventional political divisions based on class are becoming less salient and are giving way to a politics predicated upon the distribution of risk. There is much in risk society theory, especially its central contention that public anxieties about high consequence-low probability events undermine the legitimacy of science, that has a distinctly German stamp. Through a comparative analysis of how national context has differently shaped science as a public epistemology this paper suggests we should tread carefully in moving to accept the general applicability of this theoretical approach.
— Text from The White Horse Press website

All rights reserved. © 1999 The White Horse Press

Download:
PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev_8no.2_cohen_maurie_j_2.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV809.html
- The White Horse Press
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/

Websites linked in this text:

- http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327199129341770

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Science and Society in Historical Perspective: Implications for Social Theories of Risk"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5770
Print date: 23 November 2026 02:17:32

- http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV809.html

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Science and Society in Historical Perspective: Implications for Social Theories of Risk"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5770
Print date: 23 November 2026 02:17:32