Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Values (journal)

"Community and Life-Chances: Risk Movements in the United States and Germany"

Halfmann, Jost

Halfmann, Jost. "Community and Life-Chances: Risk Movements in the United States and Germany." *Environmental Values* 8, no. 2 (1999): 177–97. doi:10.3197/096327199129341789 .

The connotations attached to the concept of "risk" have changed over the last several decades. In particular, the image of risk, at least in the world's most economically advanced countries, has turned from predominantly positive to highly critical. A sociological look at this historic change reveals the emergence of a plurality of risk definitions that can be attributed to different risk cultures. We can distinguish risk cultures by their proximity to the dominant social practice of risk taking; namely risk cultures belong either to the centre or the periphery of society. Social movements that resist risky technologies are examples of a peripheral risk culture. Due to a certain concept of social community their perception of risk differs fundamentally from that of the centre. In addition, cultural variation across countries leads to different representations of risk-avoidance in social movements. This contribution illustrates these differences by comparing the American and German anti-nuclear movements.
— 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_halfmann_jost.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV810.html
- The White Horse Press
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Community and Life-Chances: Risk Movements in the United States and Germany"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5771
Print date: 21 November 2026 23:08:47

Websites linked in this text:

- http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327199129341789
- http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV810.html

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Community and Life-Chances: Risk Movements in the United States and Germany"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5771
Print date: 21 November 2026 23:08:47