

Thomas Dietz

University Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Environmental Science and Policy (ESPP) at Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI, US

Expert in climate change, human driving forces of environmental change, environmental values, environmental decision making

Biography

Thomas Dietz is a professor of Sociology and Environmental Science and Policy (ESPP). He holds a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of California, Davis, and a bachelor of general studies from Kent State University. At MSU he was founding director of the Environmental Science and Policy Program and associate dean in the colleges of Social Science, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Natural Science, assistant vice president for environmental research at Michigan State University. At the National Research Council he has served on many panels including as chair of the U.S. National Research Council Committee on Human Dimensions of Global Change, the Panel on Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making, and as vice chair of the Panel on Advancing the Science of Climate Change of the America's Climate Choices study. Dietz is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and has been awarded the Sustainability Science Award of the Ecological Society of America, the Distinguished Contribution Award of the American Sociological Association Section on Environment, Technology and Society, and the Outstanding Publication Award, also from the American Sociological Association Section on Tom Dietz 2014 Environment, Technology and Society and the Gerald R. Young Book Award from the Society for Human Ecology. At the National Research Council he has served as chair of the U.S. National Research Council Committee on Human Dimensions of Global Change and the Panel on Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making, and currently is vice chair of the Panel on Advancing the Science of Climate Change of the America's Climate Choices study. Dietz has also served as secretary of Section K (Social, Economic, and Political Sciences) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and is the former president of the Society for Human Ecology. He has co-authored or co-edited eleven books and more than 100 papers and book chapters. His current research examines the human driving forces of environmental change, environmental values and the interplay between science and democracy in environmental issues. Dietz is an active participant in the Animal Studies Program at MSU.

Areas of Expertise

Ecology, Environmental Policy, Human Driving Forces of Environmental Change, Climate Change

Education

University of California

Ph.D. Ecology

Kent State University
B.A. General Studies

Accomplishments

Member, U.S. National Academies Committee to Advise the U.S. Global Change Research Program
2011-2014

Principal Author, Chapter on Drivers, United Nations Environment Programme Global Environmental Outlook
2011-2012

Member, External Advisory Board, School of Global Environmental Sustainability, Colorado State University
2010 - Present

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