Perkembangan Pemikiran Ekologi Manusia

Sessi 3

- Ellen Swallow Richards membangun kajian ekologi manusia di tahun 1892 dengan mendeklarasi istilah *Oekology* sebagai suatu ilmu yang mengkaji kehidupan dan mempelajari prinsip-prinsip yang membawa kepada hidup yang sehat dan bahagia (Clark,1973:120).
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- Di Amerika, ekologi manusia dikembangkan sebagai bagian dari sosiologi di tahun 1920, meskipun sebenarnya sebelumnya sudah digunakan oleh ilmu
- Amos H. Hawley yang pertama menerbitkan buku dengan judul *Human Ecology -- A Theory of Community Structure* pada tahun 1950. Selanjutnya Hawley pada tahun 1961 contributed other works to the development of the field. In 1961, an important reader, *Studies in Human Ecology*.

- In the 1970's William R. Catton and Riley E. Dunlap built on earlier works by Chicago School's Robert E. Park and Hawley. One main idea of Catton and Dunlap was to go away from the Durkheimian paradigm of explaining social facts only with social facts. Instead, they included physical and biological facts as independent variables influencing social structure and other social phenomena. This change of paradigm can be described as a change from a classical sociological view of *human exemptionalism* to a new view (named *new ecological paradigm* by Catton and Dunlap). Humans are no longer seen as an exceptional species that uses culture to adapt to new environments and environmental change, influenced more by social than by biological variables, but rather as one species out of many that interacts with a bounded natural environment.

- In contrast to the Chicago School of Human Ecology developed by Park, Burgess, and Mckenzie during the 1920s, contemporary research in the School of Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine goes beyond the biological and economic foundations of human ecology to provide a broader, cross-disciplinary perspective on the ways in which human-environment relations are jointly influenced by physical environmental, political, legal, psychological, cultural, and societal forces (http://www.seweb.uci.edu/index.uci; http://eee.uci.edu/05f/51000/index.html). This emphasis is shared by the Centre for Human Ecology, Scotland (http://www.che.ac.uk/).

- A line of conflict between this new paradigm and the classical sociological approach is the de-valuating of society and culture. Human ecology views human communities and human populations as part of the ecosystem of earth. In this view, sociology would be only a sub-discipline of ecology -- the special ecology of the species *Homo sapiens sapiens*. Of course, this is seen as an affront by most sociologists.

- In 1969, a College of Human Ecology was created at Cornell University. One year later the College of Home Economics at Michigan State University changed its name to the College of Human Ecology (Bubolz, 1996).

  Human Ecology brings concision and elegance to this holistic perspective and will serve as a point of reference and orientation for anyone interested in the powers and scope of the ecological approach.