

## **Recension des écrits du projet sur**

### **les Usages des TIC comme révélateurs de transformations de pratiques d'engagement écocitoyen**

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## -----DÉMARCHE BIBLIOGRAPHIQUE-----

Cette recension des écrits, accomplie en 2013-2014, rend compte des résultats de notre travail de recherche bibliographique sur l'engagement écocitoyen à l'ère numérique. Nous nous intéressons aux usages des technologies de l'information et de communication (TIC) comme révélateurs de la transformation des pratiques d'engagement écocitoyen. Au total, nous avons recensé 217 textes publiés entre 1995 et 2013 en langues française et anglaise. De ceux-ci, 50 textes scientifiques ont été sélectionnés et catégorisés 5 étoiles (5\*) pour constituer notre corpus d'analyse afin de repérer à la fois ce que font des écocitoyens des TIC et peut-être surtout la façon dont ces acteurs sociaux et chercheurs en parlent.

### **Critères de recension des écrits:**

Temps: 1995-2013

Langues: Français et anglais

### **Critère de pertinence des écrits:**

50 textes	Zone 5 (5*): Écologie-Développement durable + TIC + Action collective-citoyenneté
69 textes	Zone 4 (4*): Écologie-Développement durable + TIC-Médias
37 textes	Zone 3 (3*): TIC + Action collective-Pratiques sociales
20 textes	Zone 2 (2*): Écologie + Action collective
41 textes	Zone 1 (1*): Écocitoyenneté-Développement durable ou Action collective-Institutions ou usages TIC-Médias traditionnels

## -----BIBLIOGRAPHIE PAR ORDRE ALPHABÉTIQUE-----

**Ackland, R., O'Neil, M.** (2011). Online collective identity: The case of the environmental movement. *Social Networks*, 33(3), 177-190.

Social movements are making extensive communicative and organizational use of the Internet in order to identify social problems and bring about change. We present a model of an online social movement, where actors exchange practical and symbolic resources through hyperlink and online frame networks. Our positioning of these exchanges within a continuum of conscious and unconscious expressive behavior informs our framework for the empirical analysis of online collectives. An application using data collected from the websites of over 160 environmental activist organizations reveals significant fragmentation in this field of

contentious activity, which we suggest reflects offline social divisions.

**Askanius, T., Uldam, J. (2011).** Online social media for radical politics: climate change activism on YouTube. *International journal of electronic governance*, 4(1), 69-84.

In December 2009, political attention was turned towards the 15th UN Climate Conference, COP15. For the Global Justice Movement (GJM) this provided an opportunity to promote their agenda. The use of online media conjured up memories of the success of alternative media in mobilising large-scale protests around previous WTO and G8 counter-summits. However, the COP15 saw a turn to the use of what can be termed mainstream - online sites among activists. Drawing on a case study of the activist network NTAC, we explore how YouTube served both the purpose of reaching broader publics and of mobilising for confrontational direct action within activist circles.

**Barr, S. (2011).** Climate forums: virtual discourses on climate change and the sustainable lifestyle. *Area*, 43(1), 14-22.

Internet discussion forums and other forms of virtual social networking media are increasingly being used as sites of discursive practice. Quite apart from the research opportunities offered by conventional forms of Internet research (such as surveys and polls), discussion forums (alongside Web-logs and social networking sites) arguably provide new opportunities for social researchers to gather data in this very particular, but nonetheless popular cultural context. This paper explores the phenomenon through the large amount of textual data generated from an article on climate change and sustainable lifestyles in the Guardian newspaper. The discourses that emerged in reaction to this article provide valuable insights into the social construction of climate change and sustainable lifestyles, demonstrating conflicting arguments relating to the acceptance of climate change as a human-induced phenomenon, the reliability of data used to assert arguments concerning global warming and the contested views expressed over the value of adopting more sustainable lifestyles. Further, the paper argues that environmental social scientists need to become aware of the potential for analysing virtual discussion forums and social networking sites as valuable data sources for their research, recognising that these represent both cultural artefacts in their own right and alternative sites of discursive practice for anonymous and immediate everyday talk

**Baym, G., Shah, C. (2011).** Circulating struggle. *Information, Communication & Society*, 14(7), 1017-1038.

The US hybrid comedy/public affairs programs The Daily Show and The Colbert Report have become surprising media spaces in which a wide variety of political and social activists are allowed to advance ideas and advocate issues rarely given voice on corporate television. Increasingly, that novel source of political information and argument is converging with internet-based activist networks, which are using information communication technologies (ICTs) to reappropriate television clips in pursuit of socially and politically transformative agendas. This study explores the convergence between alternative political television and these emergent public spheres. We consider a set of environmental advocacy clips from TDS and Colbert first broadcast in the spring and summer of 2009, respectively, and then track their circulation on-line. Identifying both websites that link to the original clips and sites that in turn link to those linking sites, we examine the multi-tiered networks of information and activism within which contemporary political television is now embedded. We conclude with a discussion of the implications for both political media and networked collective action.

**Bortree, D. S., Seltzer, T. (2009).** Dialogic strategies and outcomes: An analysis of environmental advocacy groups' Facebook profiles. *Public Relations Review*, 35(3), 317-319.

Previous studies of advocacy groups' Web sites suggest that the use of dialogic strategies could lead to greater dialogic communication. This study examined whether dialogic strategies utilized by environmental advocacy groups via their social networking profiles lead to greater dialogic engagement between organizations and visitors. This study offers the first examination of the relationship between the creation of an online space for dialogue and actual dialogic engagement by identifying and measuring six dialogic outcomes.

**Brunsting, S., Postmes, T. (2002).** Social Movement Participation in the Digital Age: Predicting Offline and Online Collective Action. *Small Group Research*, 33(5), 525-554.

Motives to participate in online versus offline collective action were investigated among environmental activists in the Netherlands. A sample (N = 738) consisting of activists, sympathizers, and nonactivists, reported past and intended participation in online and offline activism. Using structural equation modeling, it was examined whether online activism was predicted by different factors than offline activism. A wide range of predictors was derived from central theories about mobilization and collective action, including identification, relative deprivation, attitudes, subjective norm, perceived efficacy of action, and self-efficacy. Results show that when compared with offline actions, participation in online actions was slightly more motivated by cognitive calculations (efficacy) and less by affective factors (identification). Moreover, results reflect the popularity and potential of the Internet for activities that surpass the individual. This research gives an empirical insight in the influence of Internet on motives for collective action and on the participation of peripheral members.

**Burt, E., Taylor, J. A. (2000).** Information and communication technologies: reshaping voluntary organizations? *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, 11(2), 131-143.

Electronic networking holds the promise of innovation with involuntary organizations as they seek to respond to deep shifts in the social, economic, and political spheres in which they operate. Evidence from our study of U.K. voluntary organizations demonstrates relatively low uptake of the core networking technologies and applications essential to support the reconfiguration of key relationships in and around the organizations. Friends of the Earth and the Samaritans are exceptions to this trend. Case studies of these organizations suggest they are using information and communication technologies to reshape internal relationships and reconfigure relationships externally. The extent to which the organizations are reconfiguring around intelligent campaigning and intelligent client service is tempered by their long-standing values.

**DeLancie, P. (2010).** Tweeting to Save the Planet: The Role-and Limits-of Social Media in Environmental Solutions. *EContent*, 33(2), 18-22.

An emerging branch of environmentalism, armed with startup attitude and the analytical framework of behavioral economics, is positing that given the right combination of information, social pressure, and incentives, behavior can be influenced in an environmentally beneficial way. One element of this strategy involves social media, which can exert positive social pressure.

**Diani, M. (2000).** Communautés réelles, communautés virtuelles et action collective. *Rassegna italiana di sociologia*, 41(1), 29-51, 155-156.

In this paper the author discuss the impact of «computer mediated communication» (or Cmc) on political activism and social movements. Cmc may be expected to affect collective action by improving the effectiveness of communication and facilitating collective identity and solidarity. However, the heterogeneity of social movements undermines too generic arguments about their relationship to Cmc. Accordingly, the paper briefly discuss the potential consequences of Cmc on three different types of political organizations: organizations mobilizing mainly participatory resources, organizations focusing on professional resources, and transnational networks. The potential to build «virtual [social movement] communities» seems highest among sympathizers of movement organizations who act professionally on behalf of causes with vast resonance among the public opinion and low radical potential. All in all, the most distinctive contribution of Cmc to social movements still seems to be instrumental rather than symbolic. Existing bonds and solidarities are likely to generate more effective mobilization attempts than it was the case before the diffusion of Cmc; it is more disputable, though, whether Cmc may create brand new social ties where there were none

**Dordoy, A. Mellor, M. (2001).** Grassroots environmental movements: mobilisation in an Information Age. In F. Webster (Eds.), *Culture and politics in the information age: a new politics?* (pp.167-182). London: Routledge.

- Sans résumé

**Dumont, J., Franjeska-Nicole, B. (2008).** *Learning About the Environment: The Role of Information Technology in Shaping Attitudes and Developing Solutions.* Paper presented at the SynEnergy Forum ICT & Environmental Attitudes.

How do people learn about environmental issues, and how are their attitudes shaped? Has Information Technology including the Internet (for example, websites and blogs) and even the utilization of text messages on mobile phones had a profound effect on this process? What are the implications and the types of solutions generated through these channels of communication, and how can they be used to advance comprehensive strategies at a policy level? In view of the absence of substantial literature to correlate a relationship, if any, between the impact of Information Communication Technology on knowledge acquisition and attitude formation, on the one hand, and civic action on the other, this study references a framework patterned after the use of Information Communication Technology in politics. At present, the 2008 Democratic Presidential Primaries in the United States allow for a clear parallel to be drawn between the use of ICT to inform, convince, and ultimately secure voter engagement in the civic process, with the ways in which such efforts may be replicated to raise awareness and elicit individual participation on environmental issues at a policy level. This preliminary pilot study seeks to address these issues, employing a number of methods to examine the various aspects of such a process. In the first phase, a survey is conducted on a sample of approximately one hundred college students attending the University of Indianapolis-Athens Campus in Greece, to investigate ICT use and environmental awareness. In the second phase of the research, focus groups will assist in the development of a second questionnaire, which in conjunction with European Union SynEnergy Forum ICT & Environmental Attitudes. Dumont, J.F. & Brison-Chraniotis, F.N. (2008) 3 data sets (for example, Eurobarometer and Eurostat) will allow for a more refined secondary data analysis. The findings of the first phase show that students rely on a variety of sources when developing their attitudes and understandings of environmental issues as well as the solutions they believe are viable. The design and implementation of environmental policy measures, in order to be effective, need to take into account these aspects. Any policy agenda is a social construction: whether it reaches its goals or not depends on the objectives set, the characteristics and the power relations of the groups involved, and the broader socioeconomic framework in which it is placed.

**Fanenbruck, G. (2010).** *The Role of New Media in Protest Organisation*, thèse de maîtrise en Média, Culture et Société, Université de Rotterdam, Rotterdam.

This project examines the ways in which five organisations involved new media and social networking sites (SNS) in the organisation of the real-life protest “The Wave” climate change march in London, UK, 5th December 2009. The protest took place in light of the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009 and was aimed at world leaders to find a workable solution for climate change. The research is based on interviews with media experts of the main organiser Stop Climate Chaos Coalition and the member organisations Oxfam, Action Aid, Envision and Campaign Against Climate Change. Furthermore, content analyses of the respective Twitter accounts and the Stop Climate Chaos Facebook group and The Wave event page were conducted to evaluate the involvement with social network sites by the organisations. The concepts that were evaluated in this research were threefold: interactivity, awareness and mobilization. As the results present, the degree of involvement with social media varies between the organization, as the resource-strong organisations Stop Climate Chaos, Oxfam and Action Aid show more efficiency in their application of SNS in their mobilisation strategies. Furthermore, this research evaluates the electronic action repertoire identified by Costanza-Chock (2003) and concludes that, while social media pose a valuable contribution to this repertoire and extends it, they do not provide any revolutionising novelties to the electronic contention repertoire.

**Ganesh, S. (2000).** *Economy over ecology: A critical study of sustainable development discourse and information technology in a non-government organization*, Thèse de doctorat en Philosophie, Purdue University, Indiana.

This dissertation critically examines issues of "sustainable development" and information technology in a Non-Government Organization (an NGO). Using an extended case method, I examine macrolevel discourses on "sustainable development" and information technology. Following this, I analyze the relationship between sustainable development discourse and NGO structure, and finally, I examine the manner in which the growth of new information technology is framed in the NGO. In my examination of macrolevel "sustainable development" discourse and discourses on new information technologies, I establish that

they both serve to reproduce a transnational capitalist ideology. Specifically, I interpret the discourse of "sustainable development" as participating in a passive revolution and discuss how NGO discourse on information technology, even though it is seen as distinct from "regular" capitalist discourse on information technology, is eventually aligned with the same system of interests. In my analysis of the NGO itself, I discuss how "sustainable development" discourse governmentalizes the NGO by producing and reinforcing structures and policies that explicitly orient it toward transnational neoliberal ideology. This is evident in the organization's concept of itself as part of an "independent sector," its "innovation, production and marketing networks," and its conception of its clientele as a rural market. I also argue that governmentalization entails that the NGO exhibit a degree of collusion with and dependence upon the state in its everyday activity. Given this framework, I scrutinize information technology development at the NGO and argue that the overall market orientation of the NGO and its marketized concept of technology--as evidenced in its deployment of "appropriate technology" discourse serve to build a narcissistic view of communication and information technology. Consequently, the NGO frames its foray into information technology in terms of self-interest and enhancement rather than in terms of justice or the public interest. I also show how information technology at the NGO eventually serves to both supplement governmentality as well as provide an instantiation of its incompleteness.

**Gavin, N. T. (2010).** Pressure Group Direct Action on Climate Change: The Role of the Media and the Web in Britain—A Case Study. *The British Journal of Politics & International Relations*, 12(3), 459-475.

This article addresses prominent, disruptive direct action around the climate change issue, in the context of comparable activity across a range of political groupings. It exposes the processes by which such activities are refracted through the conventional media and the web, in a way that comparable studies fail to do. Results suggest they garner significant but unflattering attention from the former, partly as a consequence of the persistent pressures and imperatives that drive conventional journalism. Moreover, they put a question mark against the notion of the web as an egalitarian, democratised, alternative and separate avenue of communication for the otherwise disadvantaged. The conclusions question the viability of direct action activity and the unforeseen consequences that follow, as well as the overall balance of forces in the pressure group domain.

**Glover, L. (2002).** Globalization.com vs. ecologicaljustice.org: Contesting the End of History. In J. Byrne & C. Martinez (Eds.), *Environmental Justice : Discourses in International Political Economy* (pp. 231-260): Transaction.

Examines the relationship between globalization & ecological justice in terms of the potential for resolving antagonisms between economic growth & environmental values, focusing on (1) erosion of traditional lifestyles & indigenous cultures, (2) management of the environmental & cultural commons, & (3) the fate of natural resources. It is suggested that one aspect of globalization offers hope amidst concerns about its potential negative effects: the expansion of new information & communication technologies has created new arenas for environmental activism & a way of creating a global network for the promotion of environmental justice. This potential is hampered, however, by the persistence of the "digital divide" between those with & without access to such technologies.

**Greenberg, J., MacAulay, M. (2009).** NPO 2.0? Exploring the Web Presence of Environmental Nonprofit Organizations in Canada. *Global Media Journal: Canadian Edition*, 2(1), 63-88.

Cet article illustre la présence sur le web des organisations environnementales à but non lucratif au Canada. Il se concentre sur un échantillon de 43 sites web qui ont été examinés en avril/mai 2009. Tous les sites web appartiennent aux organisations membres du Réseau action climat Canada, une organisation environnementale à but non lucratif d'apogée qui a des réseaux de collaboration aux États-Unis et en Europe. Notre intérêt est d'examiner l'ampleur sur laquelle les activités en ligne des organisations environnementales à but non lucratif correspondent au paradigme de la diffusion-basé sur le principe d'une circulation unidirectionnelle de l'information-ou le paradigme bidirectionnel dialogique de la communication. Une attention particulière a été portée sur l'utilisation des technologies de médias sociaux (Web 2.0) par ces organisations, incluant Facebook, Twitter, les flux RSS et les blogues. Les résultats s'interrogent sur la tension entre les formes de communication instrumentale et dialogique. Ils démontrent aussi que, même si ce sont des cas de communications en ligne efficaces par les organisations environnementales à but non lucratif, la plupart n'utilisent pas le plein potentiel de ces technologies pour l'engagement des circonscriptions, la création de filiation et la conversation. Les résultats contribuent au savoir dans le domaine de la

communication des organisations à but non lucratif, la communication environnementale, les médias sociaux et les relations publiques.

**Helling, K., Blim, M., O'Regan, B. (2005).** An appraisal of virtual networks in the environmental sector. *Management of Environmental Quality*, 16(4), 327-337.

To provide information to practitioners and researchers on how virtual networks can enhance the cooperation between organisations to help find sustainable solutions for complex environmental problems. Along with the derivation of a theoretical classification of virtual networks, practical examples of material flow management (MFM) are described. The analysis of best practice is conducted to present actual developments along with virtual forms of cooperation within the environmental community. The practical success of virtual networks in the environmental sector shows the direction of the future development. By using internet-based information and communication tools, virtual networks are not limited by national borders and are able to enhance the cooperation of organisations in a global way. This means that virtual networks are essential instruments in developing complex solutions in the face of the global environmental challenge. The case studies described are exclusively German in origin, as MFM is a recognised and widely implemented tool for sustainability in Germany. This paper provides practical information to practitioners and researchers on successful virtual forms of cooperation within the environmental sector and clearly identifies the value in maintaining virtual networks. The information, and details of case studies, outlined in this paper provide useful advice to organisations seeking information regarding the success of virtual networks within the environmental sector.

**Horton, D. (2004).** Local Environmentalism and the Internet. *Environmental Politics*, 13(4), 734-753.

Across high consumption societies, recent years have seen a dramatic rise in access to and use of the Internet. This paper argues that, in contrast to their relationships with other mobile technologies of the car and television, environmental activists have enthusiastically embraced computer technologies in general and the Internet in particular. Why? Because, unlike either the car or the television, use of the Internet among environmental activists promotes embodied participation in a 'local' green community, a community of choice. The paper discusses the ways in which everyday community life among environmental activists is being reproduced and reconfigured by the Internet, and sets out three specific categories of email important to local environmental activism. The central argument of the paper is that the Internet has quickly become enormously significant to a 'local' environmental activist culture, but rather than altogether transform this culture, Internet technologies have been incorporated into, and are used to promote, an already distinctive cultural way of life.

**Howes, M. (2002).** Reflexive modernisation, the internet, and democratic environmental decision making : The internet environmental decision making. *Organization & environment*, 15(3), 328-331.

Cet article introduit une série de contributions consacrées à l'éventuel apport de l'Internet à la prise de décision en matière d'environnement. Il est en effet problématique d'affirmer que la technologie Internet en elle-même suffit à favoriser la participation sociale. Quelle forme de participation est-elle possible à travers l'Internet ? Le processus démocratique y est-il favorisé ? Les mouvements écologiques en sortent-ils renforcés ?

**Juris, J. (2007).** A new way of doing politics ? Global justice movements and the cultural logic of networking : Altermondialisme, société civile et mondialisation. *Recherches sociologiques*, 38(1), 127-142.

This article explores an emerging mode of political engagement among global justice activists in Barcelona and the transnational circuits through which they travel. Inspired by the Zapatistas and previous struggles against free trade, structural adjustment, and ecological destruction, activists have made innovative use of new technologies, creative direct action, and network-based organizational forms. I argue that what grassroots activists in Barcelona and elsewhere refer to as a «new way of doing politics» specifically involves a growing confluence among network-based technological infrastructures, network-based organizational forms, and network-based political norms, mediated by activist practice. Beyond morphology, networks are increasingly associated with values related to horizontal relations, participatory democracy, self-management, and decentralized coordination

based on autonomy and diversity. The network has thus become a powerful political and cultural ideal, a guiding logic that provides a model of and model for emerging forms of directly democratic politics of local, regional, and global scope.

**Kellogg, W. A. (1999).** Community-based Organizations and Neighbourhood Environmental Problem Solving: A Framework for Adoption of Information Technologies. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 42(4), 445-469.

Community-based organizations (CBOs) today seek improved capacity to address environmental problems in urban neighbourhoods. Many seek access to information technologies such as the Internet and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to expand information about their neighbourhood's environmental quality to support their planning and service efforts. Experience with the Internet has been bolstered somewhat by programmes to create community networks. This experience and experience with GIS in planning at the municipal and state levels reveals a set of technical, organizational and personal prerequisites that bolster successful and effective adoption of information technologies. This paper reviews these prerequisites as they pertain to CBOs and makes recommendations for transactions that could enhance CBO adoption of the Internet and GIS to address environmental problems in urban neighbourhoods. The paper concludes that a constellation of prerequisite conditions, most predominantly data availability problems, staff skill acquisition and staff retention problems, offer the greatest challenges for CBOs seeking to adopt information technologies to manage environmental problems more effectively.

**Kellogg, W. A., Mathur, A. (2003).** Environmental Justice and Information Technologies: Overcoming the Information-Access Paradox in Urban Communities. *Public Administration Review*, 63(5), 573-585.

Scientific studies and resident testimony suggest that urban residents in low-income and minority communities have been subject to an unequal burden of environmental pollution and inequitable environmental enforcement practices. A key component of the equitable development and implementation of environmental policies is the participation of citizens and community-based organizations in the policy process. Such participation rests upon equitable access to agency-generated environmental information and effective use of that information by citizens. This article focuses on the adoption of Internet technologies by environmental agencies as a mechanism for disseminating information and the implications for low-income and minority residents in urban communities. A framework is developed to guide a programmatic response to overcome these implications. The results from several community-based projects are described and analyzed for their capacitybuilding effectiveness. Analysis of the projects indicates improvement in community capacity for information access and use, which bolstered community participation in the environmental decision-making process.

**Kitts, J. A. (1999).** Ce n'est notre affaire (NIMBY) : La solidarité, les réseaux sociaux et l'écologie de la mobilisation environnementaliste. *Sociological inquiry*, 69(4), 551-574.

This paper explores the role of social networks in channeling individuals' involvement in local activism. A case study of grassroots environmental group examines variation in members' levels of involvement, using three levels of explanation: individual attributes, strong and weak ties between members, and memberships in other organizations. After demonstrating that high- and low-level members are very similar in personal attributes, it focuses on social ties and organizational affiliations. As expected the data suggest that an individual's level of involvement is increased by strong ties to other members, structural similarity to other high-level members, and fewer ties to nonmembers. Extramovement organizational affiliations are often assumed to diminish actors' structural availability, though empirical research in differential recruitment has generally revealed a positive effect on participation in social movements. This study addresses a microstructural explanation for the variation between competition and mutualism in a local multiorganizational field, as it shows how organizational goals condition the effect of outside affiliations on level of participation. Paradoxically, ties to other organizations with irrelevant goals appear to facilitate participation in this group, while ties to groups with congruent goals diminish participation

**Lester, L., Hutchins, B. (2009).** Power games: environmental protest, news media and the internet. *Media, Culture & Society*, 31(4), 579-595.

This article is the second part of a study on environmental activism and the media in 'the network society', with the first part examining the historical evolution of this phenomenon in the Australian context. This article assesses the impact of the internet and world wide web (WWW) upon contemporary media--environmentalist relations, and the deployment of environmental activist communication strategies. Drawing upon evidence collected from in-depth interviews with environmental activists and news media journalists, the conclusions presented are two-fold. First, the internet and WWW are effective communications technologies that help to influence the reporting agenda of large-scale print and electronic news media outlets. This effectiveness has ensured that groups such as the Wilderness Society manage to announce their campaigns and messages to a wide audience through the news media both in Australia and internationally. Second, and contrary to our original hypothesis, the use of the internet and websites by environmental activists is actually conservative when viewed from the perspective of media and communication power. Rather than creating a new or alternative model of media power, the internet is instead being used by environmental groups to reaffirm the historical and cultural dominance of established news media outlets.

**Lester, L., Hutchins, B. (2012).** The power of the unseen: environmental conflict, the media and invisibility. *Media, Culture & Society*, 34(7), 847-863.

This article critically revisits the operation of 'mediated visibility' in the context of environmental conflict. Challenger groups have long gained access to news media and influenced political decision-makers by staging highly visible protest events that draw public attention to environmental threats and destruction. The advent of the world-wide web and digital media tools has since added to the tactical arsenal available to groups wanting to infiltrate and disrupt government and corporate networks of power. In turn, governments and corporations deploy these same tools to maintain their reputation and check opponents who oppose their activities. These developments have, we argue, produced a significant flow-on effect. The function of invisibility – or the coordinated avoidance of media communication, attention and representation in order to achieve political and/or social ends – is an under-examined feature of contemporary environmental politics. The case study and evidence presented here are drawn from fieldwork conducted in the Australian island state of Tasmania, and extensive content analysis of news media, social networking platforms and websites.

**Liu, J. (2011).** Picturing a green virtual public space for social change: a study of Internet activism and Web-based environmental collective actions in China. *Chinese Journal of Communication*, 4(2), 137-166.

While increased attention has been paid to the rise of Chinese environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS), the role that new information and communication technologies (ICTs) play in these ENGOS' collective actions has rarely been investigated. Based on first-hand information gained from field research with 19 environmental NGOs in Beijing, the author identified 18 Internet-based environmental collective actions and illustrated the specific conditions under which Chinese ENGOS employ the Internet to engage in these actions. Specifically, this study developed an analytical typology of ICT for the environmental movement to examine the extent to which and conditions under which Chinese ENGOS employ ICTs, especially the Internet, for chances of mobilization and social change. From six groups of thematically classified cases, the study also uniquely compared how various web conditions combine with and mediate various structural dimensions of the campaigns to achieve a certain level of social change.

**MacAulay, M. (2010).** *Aggregate, Amplify, Syndicate: Climate Change and Environmental Activism 2.0*. Mémoire de maîtrise en Journalisme et communication, Carleton University, Carleton.

This thesis explores Web 2.0 technologies in the context of climate change activism, investigating the extent to which new media platforms can be used to facilitate forms of subversion and resistance as well as trust, dialogue, and two-way flows of information (Grunig, 1989). Using the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP15 in Copenhagen, DK as a case study, the findings are based on a combination of interviews with activists, journalists and communications practitioners as well as a content analysis of the Twitter and Facebook profiles of several environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS). The findings suggest that while Web 2.0 technologies largely reproduce top-down modes of communication and are mainly used to disseminate information through link-sharing, they also help aggregate individuals and messages across networks, amplify the voices of activists and journalists in the blogosphere and help ENGOS syndicate their presence across a variety of



Web 2.0 platforms.

**Monnoyer-Smith, L., Mabi, C., Bonaccorsi, J., Julliard, V., Talpin, J., Wojcik, S. (2013).** *Débatte d'environnement de manière participative. Une analyse comparative de trois débats publics en ligne et hors ligne.* Document à paraître, Programme Concertation, Décision, Environnement, France.

- Sans résumé.

**Ollitrault, S. (1999).** De la caméra à la pétition-WEB : Le répertoire médiatique des écologistes : Médias et mouvements sociaux. *Réseaux*, 17 (98), 153-185.

Parmi les mouvements sociaux contemporains, le mouvement écologiste est sans conteste le véritable créateur d'un répertoire médiatique, amplifiant et diffusant ses mobilisations au-delà des frontières étatiques. Ce registre d'action s'inscrit dans une catégorie plus large de répertoire ne ciblant pas que les Etats mais visant à élargir l'espace des contestations à un niveau international. Dès les années soixante, les écologistes anglo-américains ont inventé ce registre médiatique qui a publicisé leurs luttes et promu leur identité militante. Cette tendance à la transnationalisation de leur action a été renforcée depuis le milieu des années quatre-vingt-dix par Internet qui ajoute à l'internationalisation, une interactivité qui devrait produire une forme de cyber-citoyenneté. L'analyse prouve la relativité de ce phénomène qui, au contraire, semble renforcer le pouvoir d'une élite militante fonctionnant en réseau et devenant un groupe d'experts, habiles à manier des techniques ou des modalités d'action collective de plus en plus sophistiquées

**O'Neill, K. (1999).** Internetworking for social change : Keeping the spotlight on corporate responsibility. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (111), 1-78.

Les techniques de l' information et de la communication sont entrées dans les moeurs de beaucoup de grandes ONG qui s' en servent de manière stratégique pour diffuser des informations via le réseau planétaire. Il semble effectivement que, depuis le Sommet de la Terre de Rio, où l' on a assisté aux débuts des échanges en ligne de documents et d' analyses, l' importance des communications électroniques ait considérablement augmenté. Les échanges que permet l' Internet paraissent avoir favorisé une mondialisation de la société civile tout aussi remarquable que celle des entreprises. Mais peut-être est-ce surestimer le rôle que jouent les communications via l' Internet en faisant connaître les objectifs des groupes militant pour un développement durable? Plutôt que l' antidote efficace d' un malaise collectif éprouvé en cette fin de millénaire, du sentiment d' être légèrement dépassé par les événements autour de soi, le monde virtuel des terminaux d' ordinateurs reliés à l' échelle planétaire n' est-il pas une fiction serinée à grand renfort de publicité, destinée à donner aux gens l' impression d' être plus proches des autres, moins isolés? Ce rapport tente de répondre à ces questions, d' abord en étudiant l' histoire de la mondialisation des ONG par l' Internet, puis en s' intéressant aux communications par l' Internet et à l' expérience qu' en ont faite de grandes organisations environnementales et sociales. La Coalition pour une Birmanie libre, les Zapatistes du Mexique, la campagne Ogoni et McSpotlight sont des exemples marquants qui montrent que, très tôt, on a su exploiter les techniques de l' information et de la communication pour faire connaître les campagnes menées pour l' environnement et la justice sociale. Dans chacune de ces situations, de puissants intérêts commerciaux sont apparus en pleine lumière et, s' ils n' avaient pas directement créé les conditions dans lesquelles le développement devenait destructeur, ils en étaient au moins partiellement responsables. Le projet d' Accord multilatéral sur les investissements (AMI) est un exemple plus récent encore dans lequel l' utilisation du courrier électronique et des communications par le Web a réussi à braquer les projecteurs sur le commerce international. En l' espèce, les groupes hostiles à l' AMI ont su mettre à profit l' expérience de travail en réseau qu' ils avaient acquise après Rio pour orchestrer une campagne mondiale destinée à alerter l' opinion aux négociations commerciales multilatérales. On peut soutenir que, sinon, les pourparlers se seraient poursuivis dans la relative obscurité de l' OCDE, loin du regard indiscret des médias qui ont fini par reprendre ce qui était diffusé sur l' Internet. Nombre d' ONG critiques de l' AMI ont aussi répondu au questionnaire qui a fourni matière à ce rapport; les réponses ont exposé plusieurs avantages décisifs et limites des communications via l' Internet. L' interactivité que permet l' association des techniques " push and pull" et les possibilités de dissemination d' information figurent parmi les principaux avantages; ce sont ces avantages qui permettent aux organisations non seulement d' informer les parties intéressées mais aussi de les encourager à prendre immédiatement une part active aux campagnes sur l' Internet. La question de l' accès reste un obstacle important que la technologie ne permet pas de franchir: les organisations

constatent en effet que, malgré une croissance exponentielle de leur audience en ligne, une grande partie du public reste inaccessible, en particulier dans le Sud. Grâce à l' Internet, les organisations de la société civile mondiale ne sont plus arrêtées par des barrières géographiques et cela n' est pas passé inaperçu. Si les sociétés et associations commerciales ont été prises par surprise dans la bataille qui se joue sur l' Internet pour gagner les esprits, leurs départements de communication et des affaires publiques commencent à se servir de leurs propres sites Web pour promouvoir non seulement leurs biens et leurs produits, mais aussi leur image publique de bons citoyens désireux de participer à un développement durable. Si, dans ce jeu, les ONG mènent pour l' instant, les sociétés commerciales deviennent des utilisateurs plus futés et se servent de l' Internet pour faire connaître leur façon de concevoir leurs responsabilités sociales. Comme l' ont fait observer des ONG et des entreprises dans leurs réponses au questionnaire, l' un des éléments les plus séduisants de l' Internet est sa capacité de court-circuiter le contrôle éditorial des médias établis. Grâce à la communication directe qu' offrent le courrier électronique et les sites Web, les organisations mondiales ont maintenant des possibilités sans précédent de contrôler leurs relations avec le public. Ainsi que le rapport le laisse entendre, plusieurs éminentes ONG internationales se servent actuellement des communications via l' Internet pour faire passer leurs messages et maintenir dans le collimateur les activités d' entreprises qu' elles jugent socialement et écologiquement néfastes. Il y a cependant des facteurs qui menacent à court terme le caractère relativement démocratique de l' Internet comme moyen de projeter aussi la version du militant dans l' imaginaire public. L' auteur conclut en recommandant la prudence face aux communications en ligne, dont il faut reconnaître à la fois les limites intrinsèques et les qualités établies.

**Park, N., AimeiYang. (2012).** Online environmental community members' intention to participate in environmental activities: An application of the theory of planned behavior in the Chinese context. *Computers in human behavior*, 28(4), 1298-1306.

This study investigated the factors associated with online environmental community members' intention to participate in environmental activities in the Chinese context, employing the framework of the theory of planned behavior (TPB). Using data from a survey of community members (N = 211), structural equation modeling analyses confirmed the roles of subjective norm and self-efficacy in affecting intention to participate in environmental activities. Unlike other TPB studies, however, the study discovered that attitude was not significantly associated with intention. In addition, other relevant factors, including ego involvement, group identification, perceived salience of environmental problems, perceived popularity of environmental activities, and perceived interactivity of the community websites, were found to be associated with the intention of participation, either directly or indirectly. The theoretical and practical implications were discussed.

**Pickerill, J. (2001).** Environmental Internet Activism in Britain. *Peace Review*, 13(3), 365-370.

Environmental activists have been widely recognized for their innovative use of the media, often deploying it to raise public awareness and pressure politicians. Over the last few years they have extended this media savvy to the Internet, which they have used to publicize their campaigns, mobilize participation, coordinate actions, and as a tactical tool in itself. To illustrate these developments, we can explore the connection between the Internet and environmental activism movements in Britain. The research described herein involved 80 in-depth interviews completed between June 1997 and June 1999 with members of Friends of the Earth, the Center for Alternative Technology, the Green Student Network, McSpotlight, SchNEWS, the Lyminge Forest campaign, and the Mobile OfŽ ce. Five main research areas were examined: environmental activist attitudes towards the potentially environmentally damaging technology of computers; the problems of Internet access for activists; the risks of Internet surveillance of environmentalist activities; the Internet's role in environmental mobilization; and the development of on-line tactics.

**Pickerill, J. (2003).** *Cyberprotest: Environmental activism on-line*: Manchester University Press.

Information communication technologies (ICT) have been employed for radical politics since their inception. Pickerill discusses the incorporated participant observations into environmental activist's use of ICT's, exploration of Indymedia collectives and two ongoing research projects into anti-capitalist activities and Internet use by those involved in the anti-war movement in the UK.

**Pickerill, J. (2006).** Radical Politics on the Net. *Parliamentary Affairs*, 59(2), 266-288.

INFORMATION communication technologies (ICTs) have been employed for radical politics since their inception. Radical politics in the context of this article refers to use of ICTs by activists engaged in collective action campaigns often aligned to specific social movements (such as peace, social justice, environmental and anti-capitalist). Such activists believe they are involved in progressive activities, which contribute to a broader reinvigoration of democracy and as such are concerned with social justice and environmental debates. Moreover, radical activists tend to populate the less formal grassroots style of campaigning (as opposed to the more established and largely hierarchical non governmental organisations), occupy the left, rather than the right, wing political landscape and reject the use of violence (which is of particular significance in this era of the 'war on terror'). The examples in this article are drawn from a range of empirical projects undertaken by the author into radical politics since the mid- 1990s. These have incorporated participant observation into environmental activists' use of ICTs, exploration of Indymedia collectives and two ongoing research projects into anti-capitalist activities and Internet use by those involved in the anti-war movement in Britain. We begin by delineating some key moments of experimentation and innovation by radical activists in their use of ICTs. These are moments of temporary novelty, inspirational uses which have then evolved or been discarded. The resonance of these uses is then more closely examined through the identification of five emerging themes. First is the importance of democratic tendencies by radical activists expressed through their online activities by careful consideration of participatory processes and consensus decision-making. These practices enable activists to use ICTs to reinvigorate democratic processes online and off. Second, ICTs have facilitated activists' ability to employ symbolism and control the representation of their campaigns. Third, there remain threats, in terms of surveillance and adversary reactions, to continued radical use of ICTs. Fourth, ICTs continue to aid the globality of movements through transnationalism and networks of solidarities. Finally, a commonality between these themes is the acceptance and celebration of difference and multiplicity. Consequently, activists' use of ICTs is articulated around a politics of dissensus.

**Postmes, T., Brunsting, S., Taylor, J. (2002).** Collective action in the age of the Internet: Mass communication and online mobilization. *Social science computer review*, 20(3), 290-301.

This article examines how the Internet transforms collective action. Current practices on the web bear witness to thriving collective action ranging from persuasive to confrontational, individual to collective, undertakings. Even more influential than direct calls for action is the indirect mobilizing influence of the Internet's powers of mass communication, which is boosted by an antiauthoritarian ideology on the web. Theoretically, collective action through the otherwise socially isolating computer is possible because people rely on internalized group memberships and social identities to achieve social involvement. Empirical evidence from an online survey among environmental activists and nonactivists confirms that online action is considered an equivalent alternative to offline action by activists and nonactivists alike. However, the Internet may slightly alter the motives underlying collective action and thereby alter the nature of collective action and social movements. Perhaps more fundamental is the reverse influence that successful collective action will have on the nature and function of the Internet.

**Robitaille, C. (2008).** *Relations internationales et pouvoir: Études de cas sur l'Internet et la politique.* Mémoire de maîtrise en Sciences Politiques, Université d'Ottawa, Ottawa.

Cette thèse porte sur la politique et l'Internet. Nous adoptons une approche interdisciplinaire dans une perspective principalement de sociologie politique de la communication. L'hypothèse est à l'effet que l'arrivée d'Internet ait fortement contribué à dépouiller l'État et ses agences de leur prépondérance d'une part en matière d'information et d'autre part en matière d'identification des enjeux de société, dans les deux cas au profit d'une pluralité d'acteurs non étatiques. Nous présentons ensuite deux études de cas, d'abord sur le discours et la communication politique des réseaux de défense de l'environnement et des droits de la personne utilisant Internet à des fins de mobilisation, et ensuite, sur certains défis et possibilités reliés à la radio-télédiffusion publique face à Internet au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle. Notre étude révèle que la relation entre Internet et la science politique est empreinte de contradiction: d'un côté, il existe un potentiel émancipatoire pour la société et de l'autre, nous constatons la persistance des inégalités. Toutefois, cette contradiction est surmontable et la société peut tirer profit des leçons apprises pour le bien fondé de l'humanité et le respect de la diversité des valeurs sociales et culturelles.

**Schlosberg, D., Dryzek, J. (2002).** Digital democracy: Authentic or virtual? : The internet environmental decision making. *Organization & environment*, 15(3), 332-335.

L'A. se demande si le type de participation sociale que permet Internet renforce le processus démocratique ou s'il ne fait que conforter les choix exprimés par des individus isolés les uns des autres. En matière d'environnement, que gagnent les mouvements écologistes à la technologie Internet ? En dehors de la seule communication, n'y a-t-il pas risque d'une perte de délibération démocratique ? A l'appui de leur démonstration, les AA. évoquent le rôle joué par les jurys de citoyens au Royaume-Uni

**Segeberg, A., Bennett, W. L. (2011).** Social Media and the Organization of Collective Action: Using Twitter to Explore the Ecologies of Two Climate Change Protests. *The Communication Review*, 14(3), 197-215.

The Twitter Revolutions of 2009 reinvigorated the question of whether new social media have any real effect on contentious politics. In this article, the authors argue that evaluating the relation between transforming communication technologies and collective action demands recognizing how such technologies infuse specific protest ecologies. This includes looking beyond informational functions to the role of social media as organizing mechanisms and recognizing that traces of these media may reflect larger organizational schemes. Three points become salient in the case of Twitter against this background: (a) Twitter streams represent crosscutting networking mechanisms in a protest ecology, (b) they embed and are embedded in various kinds of gatekeeping processes, and (c) they reflect changing dynamics in the ecology over time. The authors illustrate their argument with reference to two hashtags used in the protests around the 2009 United Nations Climate Summit in Copenhagen.

**Sehmel, H. (2004).** How a Small Environmental Group Uses the Web to Inform and Promote Action: A Content Analysis. In A. Scharl (Ed.), *Environmental Online Communication* (pp. 45-52): Springer London.

As small environmental advocacy groups increasingly create Web sites, we need to better understand how they use them. This chapter reports on research combining interview, observation, and textual analysis of a small environmental group's Web sites to see how the group uses Web sites to meet various goals, such as informing the public and encouraging citizens to take action for the environment. An initial quantitative content analysis demonstrates that more space on the Web sites is used to inform citizens than to persuade them or help them take action. However, more thorough consideration of content placement and combination of visual and verbal elements shows how the Web sites may actually do more to facilitate action than the initial analysis demonstrates. These and other results help us better understand how advocacy groups may be using Web sites as rhetorical and political tools.

**Smith, C. S. (2010).** *Mediating change and changes in mediation: Adapting ICTs for just environmental governance*. Thèse de doctorat en Philosophie, University of California, Irvine.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are important research areas for scientists examining theories of communication, conflict resolution and collaborative decision-making, particularly because they offer impressive analytical capabilities and the capacity to integrate different modes of deliberation and forms of content. The exponential growth in the adoption and diffusion of these digital media currently has, and will likely continue to have, considerable social ecological implications in part because ICTs are increasingly positioned as places of convergence for politically contested information and knowledge. However, the nature of these implications, especially questions concerning how these technologies influence or mediate changes in policy and/or the policymaking process itself is unclear and controversial. Technological enthusiasts, for example, argue that ICTs have potential to upgrade democracy by improving the way we devise means to clarified ends whereas technological pessimists challenge that, far from ushering in a new age of democracy, new media technologies actually hinder coordinative action by reducing more personalized modes of communication. This research examined both face-to-face and online communication facilitated by three institutions in California--the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), the California Environmental Justice Action Committee (CEJAC) and Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)--as they sought to reach decisions concerning a series of environmental justice-related issues. Informed by a mixed methodological approach, this research characterizes the challenges and opportunities afforded by the traditional face-to-face (F2F) settings hosted by the three organizations (i.e., public hearings, public meetings and workshops, respectively) and communication within these settings differed from and integrated with EJ communication in the institutions' corresponding new

media or ICT-based environments (i.e., general content websites and interactive mapping applications). The research found that, while there were obvious limitations to F2F participation, the pragmatic modes of communication that took place in these three settings were not replicated in the online environment. Most troublesome was that ICT-based communication tended to be less trustworthy, interactive and coherent than corresponding communication in F2F settings. The dissertation concludes by putting forth an alternative ICT-based framework for just environmental governance that enables interdependent, multi-directional and adaptive forms of knowledge production and decision-making.

**Stoddart, M. C. J., MacDonald, L. (2011).** Keep it wild, keep it local : Comparing news media and the internet as sites for environmental movement activism for jumbo pass, British Columbia. *Cahiers Canadiens De Sociologie*, 36(4), 313-335.

Environmental movements depend on mass media to reach the public and shape political decision-making. Without media access, social movements experience political marginality. In this paper, we examine whether the internet is a more open space than traditional media for activists to speak on behalf of nature. Our analysis is based on newspaper coverage and environmental organization websites that focus on the conflict over the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort ski resort in British Columbia. Environmental websites and mass media texts both define Jumbo Pass as wilderness and grizzly bear habitat, while focusing on ecological concerns as well as questions of local democracy. However, environmental group websites discuss a greater range of environmental risks and provide more detailed discussion of these issues. Environmentalist websites also integrate scientific experts and celebrity supporters to a greater degree than mass media texts, which are dominated by environmentalist, ski industry, and provincial government news sources.

**Sullivan, J., Xie, L. (2009).** Environmental Activism, Social Networks and the Internet. *The China Quarterly*, 198, 422-432.

Social networks and the internet both have a substantial individual effect on environmental activism in China. In this article, we speculate that social linking patterns between environmental actors, which often facilitate activism on the ground, may also exist in cyberspace in the form of an online network. The article addresses the following empirical questions. Does such an online network exist? If so, who are the constituent actors? Are these the same actors observed on the ground? In addressing these questions the article aims to contribute to the growing debate on the implications of the internet for the potential emergence of social movements in China.

**Thakadu, O. T., Irani, T. A., Telg, R. (2011).** Communicating in the Public Sphere: Attitudes Toward Different Public Instructional Communication Methods. *Environmental Communication*, 5(1), 83-103.

An effective response to global environmental challenges requires analysis of communication patterns, processes and approaches. In addition, improving communication through emerging information and communication technologies (ICT) also must be explored. Understanding recipients' perception of the innovations used in information diffusion is also necessary. This study, using a sample of 120 subjects, examined attitudes of leaders of community-based natural resources organizations toward two approaches used in public instructional communication in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. The quasi-experimental study also explored the effect of demographic variables on subjects' attitudes. The results demonstrated more favorable attitudes toward the visualized method than the traditional verbal method, suggesting subjects' preference and acceptance for the visualized public instructional communication approaches. Results also indicated a differential effect of age on attitude toward methods of communication. The results of the study highlight the importance for practitioners to use integrated communication approaches in the public sphere. Suggestions for future research are offered.

**Tinnel, J. (2011).** Scripting Just Sustainability: Through Green Listing Towards Eco-Blogging. *Environmental Communication*, 5(2), 228-242.

This essay chronicles the author's recent attempt, as a teacher-scholar working in the humanities, to develop an innovative ecopedagogy from his research in cultural theory, environmental rhetoric, and new media. Centered on a project he calls 'eco-

blogging,' this pedagogy references a broad array of (eco)theoretical approaches including ecocomposition, ecocriticism, ecofeminism, electracy, just sustainability, and green cultural studies. In explaining eco-blogging, the author draws on these theoretical frames to critique established, consumeristic online communications such as green listing. In addition, by featuring an example of eco-blogging from his class, he discusses its value to just sustainability focused pedagogy. Ultimately, the author suggests that eco-blogging is a useful counterpart to other forms of environmental communication online.

**Tucker, M. R. (2012).** *Environmental Organizing in the Digital Age*. Doctorat en Philosophie, University of Michigan, Michigan.

Internet technologies have impacted the form and function of social movement activities such that mainstream environmental organizations (MEO) and environmental justice organizations (EJO) have begun to adopt and use various technologies to achieve organizational goals. Given the critical role of internet technologies on social movement activity, the current project contributes to the literature on social movement activity online through a two part analysis including a mail survey and a web-based content analysis. Specifically, the digital divide is observed among EJOs and MEOs: MEOs demonstrate higher rates of adoption and more frequent use of various technologies as compared to their EJO counterparts. Most notably MEOs adopt organizational websites, use e-mail more frequently, have more technology personnel and engage in general computer use at rates higher than their EJO counterparts. Video cameras are the only technology under analysis that was adopted by EJOs at higher rates than their MEO counterparts. In terms of the purpose of use, both had attempted to solicit donations online but again, MEOs did so with greater success as compared to EJOs. Through the web-based analysis MEOs demonstrated higher complexity of their online presence as compared to EJOs with EJOs being less likely to have an online presence at all. Further, organizations with the most functional sites tended to be MEOs which hosted greater interactivity. Overall, it was clear that MEOs have established greater and more complex online presence compared to EJOs. Further studies might consider questions regarding whether these differences in use translate to higher rates of organizational goal attainment. Additionally, future studies can incorporate analyses of the nuances of mobile Internet access given the substantial growth of this means of access especially among Black and Latino users.

**Wojcieszak, M. (2009).** Carrying Online Participation Offline, Mobilization by Radical Online Groups and Politically Dissimilar Offline Ties. *Journal of communication*, 59(3), 564-586.

This study analyzes survey data obtained from members in neo-Nazi and environmentalist discussion forums. It assesses the links between participation in radical and ideologically homogeneous online groups and two forms of political engagement (Movement Support and Movement Promotion). This study also tests whether perceived political dissimilarity of offline friends and family (core ties) and of more distant interpersonal associates (significant ties) encourages or thwarts political engagement and whether it moderates the influence exerted by online groups. As expected, political engagement among the analyzed respondents increases with online participation, also controlling for extremism, political discussion and news media use. Although dissimilar core ties neither encourage nor discourage political engagement, they moderate the mobilizing influence from neo-Nazi and radical environmentalist online groups. Dissimilar significant ties, in turn, do not directly affect political engagement and do not interact with online participation. Theoretical and practical implications are discussed.

**Yang, A., Taylor, M. (2010).** Relationship-building by Chinese ENGOS' websites: Education, not activation. *Public Relations Review*, 36(4), 342-351.

This study extends previous public relations research that has evaluated how the websites of Northern NGOs facilitate relationship-building (), affect the media agenda (), and gather and disseminate information about civil society activities (). The study explores the relationship-building functions of Chinese ENGOS. The content analysis suggests that Chinese ENGOS' websites reflect the realities of activism in China. They provide information to members, the public, and the media but these organizations do little to organize their publics to participate in environmental social movements. The findings provide a picture of the early years of the Chinese environmental movement and the use of the Internet in their public relations and advocacy.

**Yang, G., Calhoun, C. (2007).** Media, Civil Society, and the Rise of a Green Public Sphere in China. *China Information*, 21(2), 211-236.

Direct citizen voices are relatively absent from China's public arena and seldom influence government policymaking. In early 2004, however, public controversies surrounding dam building on the Nu River prompted the Chinese government to halt the proposed hydropower project. The occurrence of such public debates indicates the rise of a green public sphere of critical environmental discourse. Environmental nongovernmental organizations play a central role in producing this critical discourse. Mass media, the internet, and "alternative media" are the main channels of communication. The emergence of a green public sphere demonstrates the new dynamism of grass-roots political change.

**Yang, G., Woodrow Wilson International Center for, S. (2003).** Weaving a green web the internet and environmental activism in China. *China environment series*(6), 89-93.

This commentary discusses how the internet has helped empower voluntary environmental groups in China's emerging civic-society. The author argues that the ability for ordinary citizens to organize, act collectively and practice bottom-up politics would have been unimaginable as recently as 1990.

**Zelwietro, J. (1998).** The Politicization of Environmental Organizations through the Internet. *The Information society*, 14(1), 45-56.

Four hundred environmental organizations in ten countries (Canada, Australia, France, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, U.K., and U.S.) were surveyed regarding the impacts of the Internet upon them; whether or not it has politicized these marginalized groups. A bilingual questionnaire was distributed through two channels (e-mail and postal mail). The study measured the organizations' information interchange through the Internet specifically and other media in general. Evidence indicates a distinction between online and offline groups, suggesting that the online groups are more politicized. Some specific findings include growth in a variety of measures, degree of penetration of the Internet in this population, types of information exchanged, differences between online and offline groups and ambiguous results regarding the extent the Internet informed an organization's policy. This population, as a whole is aware of the political utility of the Internet but as yet only a minority are consciously exploiting this capability.