

CURRICULUM VITAE

Michael Thompson

- Date of Birth:** 28 January 1937
- University Education:**
- 1960-61 Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham
Part I of BSc General (Chemistry, Pure Mathematics and Statistics), University of London (External)
 - 1962-65 University College London
BSc (Special) Anthropology
 - 1965-68 Corpus Christi College, Oxford
BLitt Social Anthropology
 - 1973-76 University College London
PhD Anthropology
- Recent Employment:**
- 1979-80 Senior Research Scientist, Institute for Policy and Management Research, Santa Monica, California, USA
 - 1980-85 International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) Laxenburg, Austria
 - 1985-87 Institute for Management Research and Development, The Business School, University of Warwick, UK
 - 1987-present Self-employed, The Musgrave Institute, London.
Main contracts with Unilever Research (Consumer behaviour and environmental concern), Economic and Social Research Council/Department of the Environment (Risk Review, with John Adams at UCL Department of Geography), Scaife Family Foundation/University of California at Berkeley (Household cultures), European Parliament (Cultural theory and technology assessment), The International Academy of the Environment, Geneva (Consumption), Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (State of the art report on social science and global climate change), The Design Council (Social complexity and the design process), The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria (Policy in a complex world), The Trans National Institute Amsterdam (Re-inventing The Commons), The UK Health

and Safety Executive (How to Take Account of Societal Concerns About Risk) ICIS, University of Maastricht (EU-funded VISIONS project), and NORAD Norwegian Foreign Ministry (Report to the Kathmandu Embassy on field visit to assess prospects for long-term support for critical social science in Nepal).

1995-present Professor II, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen.
Senior Researcher, Norwegian Research Centre in Management and Organisation (LOS Centre), Bergen (now re-organised into the Rokkan Centre).

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 1979 *Rubbish Theory: The Creation and Destruction of Value*. Oxford University Press. Published in German as: *Die Theorie des Abfalls*, Stuttgart, Klett-Cotta, 1981.
- 1985 (With A. Wierzbicki and M. Grauer) (Eds) *Plural Rationality and Interactive Decision Processes*, Lecture Notes in Economic and Mathematical Systems, Berlin, Springer-Verlag.
- 1987 (With M. Warburton and T. Hatley) *Uncertainty On a Himalayan Scale: An Institutional Theory of Environmental Perception and a Strategic Framework for the Sustainable Development of the Himalaya*. London, Ethnographica.
- 1990 (With M. Schwarz) *Divided We Stand: Redefining Politics, Technology and Social Choice*. London, Harvester-Wheatsheaf. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press.
- 1990 (With R. Ellis and A. Wildavsky) *Cultural Theory*. Boulder CO and Oxford, West View.
- 1995 (With G. Chapman) (Eds) *Water and the Quest for Sustainable Development in the Ganges Valley*. London, Mansell.
- 1997 (With R. Ellis) (Eds) *Culture Matters: Essays in Honor of Aaron Wildavsky*. Boulder CO and Oxford: Westview.
- 1999 (With G. Grendstad and P. Selle) (Eds) *Cultural Theory as Political Science*. London: Routledge.
- 2003 *Mülltheorie* (a new translation, by Michael Fehr, of *Rubbish Theory*, 1979, with a new introduction: "Rubbish Revisited"). Essen: Klartext-Verlag, together with Karl Ernst Osthaus-Museum Hagen and Stiftung Kunst und Kultur des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen.
- 2004 *Uncertainty on a Himalayan Scale* (republication of 1987 volume, with a major new introduction by Michael Thompson and Dipak Gyawali). Kathmandu: Himal (forthcoming).

Other Publications (1998 to present)

- Thompson, M (1998) "Waste and Fairness", *Social Research* **65**, 1:55-73.
- Thompson, M (1998) Style and Scale: Two Sources of Institutional Inappropriateness. In Goldman, M (ed) *Privatizing Nature: Political Struggles for the Global Commons*, London: Pluto.
- Thompson, M, Rayner, S and Ney, S (1998) "Risk and Governance Part I: The Discourses of Climate Change", *Government and Opposition*, **33**, 2:139-166.
- Thompson, M, Rayner, S and Ney, S (1998) "Risk and Governance Part II: Policy in a Complex and Plurally Perceived World", *Government and Opposition*, 330-354.
- Thompson, M (1998) "The New World Disorder: Is Environmental Security the Cure?", *Mountain Research and Development*, **18**, 2:117-122.
- Douglas, M, Gasper, D, Ney, S and Thompson, M (1998) "Human Needs and Wants". In Rayner, S and Malone, EL (eds) *Human Choice and Climate Change* (4 vols), Columbus, Ohio:Battelle Press, Vol. 1, 195-263.
- Thompson, M and Rayner, S (1998) "Cultural Discourses". In Rayner, S and Malone, EL *Human Choice and Climate Change* (4 vols), Columbus, Ohio:Battelle Press, Vol. 1, 265-344.
- Schwarz, M and Thompson, M (1998) I Quattro miti della natura (The four myths of nature), *Sistema Terra* VII, 1-3, December 23-24.
- Rayner, S, Malone, EL and Thompson, M (1999) Equity Issues and Integrated Assessment. In Toth, FL (ed) *Fair Weather? Equity Concerns in Climate Change*. London: Earthscan, 11-43.
- Thompson, M (1999) Security and Solidarity: An Anti-Reductionist Analysis of Environmental Policy. In Fischer, F and Hajer, MA (eds) *Living With Nature: Environmental Politics as Cultural Discourse*. Oxford University Press, 135-150.
- Schwarz, M and Thompson, M (1999) Human Choice and Climate Change: Introducing the Reflexive Policymaker and the Responsive Citizen. In Slob, AFL and Van Hoorn, TMM (eds) *Major Shifts in Societal Trends And Their Impact On Climate Change*, TNO: Institute of Strategy, Technology and Policy, The Netherlands.
- Molenaers, N and Thompson, M (1999) The Cultural Conditions for Democracy and Their Implications for Transitional Societies. In Thompson, Grendstad and Selle (op cit) 186-205.
- Ney, S and Thompson, M (1999) Consulting the Frogs: The Normative Implications of Cultural Theory. In Thompson, Grendstad and Selle (op cit) 206-223.
- Dake, K and Thompson, M (1999) Making Ends Meet In the Household and on the Planet, *GeoJournal* **47**:417-424.
- Thompson, Michael and Rayner, Steve (2000) Risk and governance Part I: The discourses of climate change. In Mars, Gerald and Weir, David (eds) *Risk Management Volume I (International Library of Management)*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 489-510 [Reprint of 1998 paper in *Government and Opposition*.]

- Thompson, Michael, Rayner, Steve and Ney, Steven (2000) Risk and governance Part II: policy in a complex and plurally perceived world. In Mars, Gerald and Wier, David (eds) *Risk Management Volume I (International Library of Management)*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 517-542. [Reprint of 1998 paper in *Government and Opposition*.]
- Thompson, Michael and Warburton, Michael (2000) Decision making under contradictory certainties: how to save the Himalayas when you can't find out what's wrong with them. In Mars, Gerald and Wier, David (eds) *Risk Management Volume II (International Library of Management)*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 447-478. [Reprint of 1985 paper in *Journal of Applied Systems Analysis*.]
- Thompson, Michael (2000) Global networks and local cultures: what are the mismatches and what can be done about them? In Engel, Christof and Keller, Kenneth H (eds) *Understanding the Impact of Global Networks On Local Social, Political and Cultural Values*. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 113-130.
- Tranvik, T, Thompson, M and Selle, P (2000) Doing technology (and democracy) the pack-donkey's way: the technomorphic approach to ICT policy. In Engel, Christof and Keller, Kenneth H (eds) *Governance of Global Networks In the Light of Differing Local Values*. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 155-196.
- Thompson, M (2000) Not Seeing the People for the Population: A Cautionary Tale from the Himalaya. In Lowi, Miriam, R and Shaw, Brian R. (eds) *Environment and Security: Discourses and Practices*. London and New York: Macmillan, St. Martins, 192-206.
- Thompson, M (2000) Less is more: myths, the Nepal environment and behaving responsibly. *The Alpine Journal* 105, 349:153-156.
- Thompson, Michael (2000) Consumption, motivation and choice across scale: consequences for selected target groups. In Jochem, Eberhard, Sathaye, Jayant and Bouille, Daniel (eds) *Society, Behaviour and Climate Change Mitigation*. Dordrecht, Boston, London; Kluwer, 93-108.
- Ney, Steven and Thompson, Michael (2000) Cultural discourses in the global climate change debate. In Jochem, Eberhard, Sathaye, Jayant and Bouille, Daniel (eds) *Society, Behaviour and Climate Change Mitigation*. Dordrecht, Boston, London, Kluwer, 65-92.
- Thompson, Michael and Gyawali, Dipak (2001) Transboundary risk management in the South: a Nepalese perspective on Himalayan water projects. In Linnerooth-Bayer, Joanne, Löfstedt, Rognar E. and Sjöstedt, Gunnar (eds) *Transboundary Risk Management*. London: Earthscan, 183-206.
- O'Connor, Martin and Thompson, Michael (2002) "Information Technology and Communication Systems: Development Information and Knowledge". In *Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Thompson, Michael (2002) "Kulturtheorie: Unsicherheit und ihre Definitionen". In Engel, Christoph, Halfmann, Jost, and Schulte, Martin (eds) *Wissen-Nichtwissen-unsicheres Wissen*. Nomos: Baden-Baden, 191-224.

- Thompson, Michael (2002) "Man and Nature as a Single but Complex System". In Munn, R.E. (editor-in-chief) *Encyclopaedia of Global Environmental Change: Vol. 5, "Social and economic dimensions of global environmental change"*, 384-393.
- Thompson, Michael (2002) "Aller schlechten dinge sind drei: ein pessimistischer Blick auf Utopien im Widerstreit". In Zinsmeister, Annett (ed) *Plattenbau oder die Kunst, Utopie im Baukasten zu warten*. Hagen: Karl Ernst Osthaus-Museum, 45-49.
- De Vries, Bert, Thompson, Michael and Wirtz, Kai (2002) Understanding "Fragments of a Unifying Perspective". Chapter 8 of de Vries, Bert and Goudsblom, Johan (eds) *Mappae Mundi: Humans and Their Habitats in a Long-Term Socio-Ecological Perspective*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 257-300.
- Adams, John and Thompson, Michael (2002) "Taking Account of Societal Concerns About Risk: Framing the Problem". Report to the UK Health and Safety Executive. Available at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/tr035.pdf>, 50 pages.
- Thompson, Michael (2002) "Fission and Fusion in Nuclear Society": In Benthall, Jonathan (ed) *The Best of Anthropology Today*. London and New York: Routledge, 193-206.
- Thompson, Michael (2002) "Oblivion, Eternity and Tick-Tock". In Hensel, Thomas, Reck, Hans Ulrich and Zielinski, Siegfried (eds) *Jahrbuch 2001/2 für Künste und Apparate: Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln*. Köln: Walther König, 303-309.
- Thompson, Michael (2002) "Benji the Binman and his Anti-Archive". In Pompe, Hedwig. and Scholz, Leander (eds) *Archivprozesse: Die Kommunikation der Aufbewahrung*. Köln: DuMont.
- Thompson, Michael (2002) "Don't Let It Put You Off Your Dinner: First Steps Towards Ethical Policies Shaped by Cultural Considerations", *Comparative Policy Analysis*, 4:347-363.
- Thompson, Michael and Price, Martin F. (2002) "In Praise of Clumsiness", *Newsletter 01/2002*, International Human Dimension Programme (IHDP).
- Douglas, Mary, Thompson, Michael and Verweij, Marco (2003) Is time running out? The case of global warming. *Daedalus* (special issue on "Time") Spring, 98-107.
- Thompson, Michael (2003) Technology and democracy: a cultural theory approach. In Osterud, Oyvind (ed) *Power and Democracy*. London: Ashgate.
- Thompson, Michael (2003) Cultural Theory, Climate Change and Clumsiness. *Economic and Political Weekly* (Delhi), November (forthcoming).
- Thompson, Michael (2003) Yes, culture matters but in what way? In Ehlers, E. and Gethmann, C.F. (eds) *Environment Across Cultures*. Berlin: Springer.
- Thompson, Michael (2003) Stoffströme und moralische Standpunkte ("Physical flows and moral positions") in Fansa, Mamoun and Wolfram, Sabine (eds) *Müll Facetten von der Steinzeit bis zum Gelben Sack*. Main am Rhein: Verlag Philipp von Zabern.
- Verweij, Marco and Thompson, Michael (eds) (2006) *Clumsy Solutions For A Complex World*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Thompson, Michael, Warburton, Michael and Hatley Tom (2007) *Uncertainty On A Himalayan Scale*. Lalitpur, Nepal: Himal Books. (This is a publication with a major new introduction by Michael Thompson and Dipak Gyawali. It was originally published in 1986 by Ethnographica: London.)

Exhibitions

Michael Thompson (2003) A Bit of the Other: A farce in one act (starring William Blake, Po Chu-I, John Maynard Keynes, Jackie Onassis and Miss Piggy). In the documentation (Michael Fehr and Thomas W. Rieger) for the exhibition *Museutopia*, Karl Ernst Osthaus-Museum Hagen, 208-217.

Michael Thompson (2003) "Rubbish Theory" (Photographs of inner-London houses in 1975 and again in 2003). Müll Facetten von der Steinzeit bis zum Gelben Sack. Landesmuseum für Natur und Mensch, Oldenburg.

Recent Interviews, etc.

3-SAT (Germany, Austria and Switzerland) TV. Documentary on Waste, October 2003.

"Michael The Mountaineer". Interview in *Nepali Times*, Kathmandu, 31 January-06 February 2003.

"If You Do More With Less, The Benefits Are Long-Term". Conversation with Kanak Mani Dixit (about how Nepal might use the 50th anniversary of the ascent of Mount Everest to encourage a more aesthetic approach to mountaineering). *Nepali Times*, 28 March-03 April 2003.