

2023 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Environmental Sociology

Introduction

Annual reports are used by the Sections Committee to assess the health of a Section, measure the Section's vitality, and identify processes, programs, or initiatives that could serve as a model for other Sections. In addition, they serve to provide institutional memory, socialize new Section leaders, and promote transparency to Section members.

This annual report covers the period of Section activity from September 2022 to August 2023 and a fiscal year from January 2023 to December 2023. This portion of the report will be shared publicly.

Section Governance

Provide details of your Section's governance activity during the period between September 2022 and August 2023.

Business Meeting

Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and draft/approved meeting minutes from the Section business meeting which include a count of members present and summary of decisions made at this meeting. Minutes are not a transcript of proceedings, but a listing of what discussions took place and official actions taken.

Agenda, August 19th Business Meeting

Update from the Chair, Sandy Marquart-Pyatt
Update from Council members in attendance
List of Award winners
Additional Business

Minutes:

Environmental Sociology Section
Business Meeting Notes
August 19, 2023

Outgoing chair, Sandy Marquart-Pyatt, reported that our section has been continuing work regarding diversity and inclusion for environmental sociologists of color in our section, in our association, and in our discipline. We continued to support efforts of CRIEJ, including the theory and community building cafes held throughout the year and in ballot initiatives to rename section awards to reflect their function. Council held two meetings during the year, once in fall and once in spring semester. Introduced new council members and recognized council members present at the meeting.

Current section leadership:

Section Council

- Chair: Debra Davidson, University of Alberta
- Chair-Elect: Raoul Lievanos, University of Oregon
- Past Chair: Sandy Marquart-Pyatt, Michigan State University
- Section Secretary: Jennifer Carrera, Michigan State University

- Section Treasurer: Maricarmen Hernandez, University of New Mexico
- Council Member-At-Large: Michael Warren Murphy, University of Pittsburgh
- Margaret Walkover, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Student Representative)

Committee Leadership

- Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity Chair: Devparna Roy, Nazareth College
- Digital Communications Committee Co-Chair (social media): Christina Ergas, University of Tennessee
- Digital Communications Committee Co-Chair (webmaster): Michael Lengefeld, Widener University
- Legacy Committee Chair: Scott Frickel, Brown University
- Membership Committee Chair: Jennifer Givens, Utah State University
- Nominations Committee Chair: Cameron T. Whitley, Western Washington University
- Policy and Research Committee Chair: Nikhil Deb, Murray State University
- Publications Committee Chair: Michael Haedicke, University of Maine
- Teaching Committee Chair: Alan Rudy, Central Michigan University

Outgoing Council Members (terms ending in 2023):

- Past Chair: Norah MacKendrick, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Section Treasurer: Amalia Leguizamon, Tulane University
- Teaching Committee Chair: Alissa Cordner, Whitman College
- Membership Committee Chair: Steve Hoffman, University of Toronto

Awards

Committee leaders who chaired awards committees announced award winners. Marquart-Pyatt announced award winners, noting those to be recognized in person at the section reception the evening of the 19th.

Secretary: Jennifer Carerra helped facilitate the transition for incoming and outgoing officers, collecting notebooks and annual reports, collating reports for the chair, and ensuring new elected positions have access to the records and information they need to fulfill their duties well and with clarity. Jennifer noted that the award certificate costs were rising considerably, as only 2 of the awardees were present at ASA, resulting in increased costs for shipping award plaques.

Membership Committee: Per Steve Hoffman, section membership has been stable with over 500 members. The 2022 year-end tally used for Annual Meeting session allocations, taken every year at the end of August, was 531. A reliable pattern is for the roster to retract at the end of the year, grow a bit around the paper submission deadline (when many ASA members renew), and re-expand in the months leading up to and just after the annual meeting in August. Membership numbers between October 2022 and September 2023 followed this general trend of growth, contraction, and re-growth.

This year the SES Membership Committee conducted an analysis of trends among both lapsed and new SES memberships. Our analysis of lapsed memberships demonstrates that the highest attrition rates occurred among the two largest SES membership types, "Regular" and "Student" members. Roster data posted by the ASA includes membership type and academic rank. It does not include several dimensions

that could be salient to the analysis of membership gains and losses, such as racial and gender identification or income.

Treasurer's Report: The 2023 budget planned \$4000 in expected expenditures, divided as follows: \$2500 allocated towards the annual meeting reception, \$500 towards awards, \$200 for website security, and \$800 in speaker honorariums for the Theory and Community-Building Café organized by the Section's Committee on Racial Inclusion, Equity, and Justice (CRIEJ). CRIEJ planned to host four events during the 2022-23 academic year. The council voted in 2021 to compensate speakers with a \$200 honorarium. Accounting for a remaining balance in 2022 of \$4,734 and an estimated income for 2023 of \$3,306, the budgeted expenditures planned for a total of \$4,040 in estimated assets by the end of August 2023.

Teaching & Practice Committee: Alisa Cordner reported on general activities regarding updating and diversifying the resources on the envirosoc website. Also reported were the process of selection (and recommended updates to this) and award recipient selection for the Teaching and Mentorship Award and Practice and Outreach Award.

Legacy Committee: The section's Oral History Project is moving forward again, with important information being provided by past committee members and with information posted on the Section website, including transcriptions with past award winners. Documents are being compiled and will be shared as appropriate in the future, including archival material as well as new ones in upcoming years.

In the coming year, we plan to solicit additional documents and interviews with a focus on early history and prehistory of the section, foundational scholars and diversification of voices. For example, Robert Bullard, Beverly Wright, and Bunyan Bryant are notably absent from the oral history collection at present. More importantly, I will ask Council to discuss and recommend a policy for guiding development of the collection that so that we broaden the scope of the project beyond Distinguished Contribution Award winners and Section Chairs (the project's original scope). This will help ensure that the collection more accurately represents the diverse voices and scholarly traditions integral to the field's historical development.

Nominations: Elected 4 to Council. Next year will be seeking 9 new members.

Additional Business: Noted section reception location and encouraged all to attend. Noted 2024 planning in motion.

Council Meeting

Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and draft/approved meeting minutes of all council meetings. Minutes must include a list of council members present and a summary of decisions made. Minutes are not a transcript of proceedings, but a listing of what discussions took place and official actions taken.

[We held 2 council meetings in 2022-2023.]

MEETING AGENDAS

Environmental Sociology Fall 2022 Council Meeting Friday October 28, 2022 from 1-2 pm Eastern time via Zoom

Invitees:

Debra Davidson; Norah MacKendrick; Amalia Leguizamon; Jennifer Carrera; Cameron T. Whitley; Steve Hoffman; Devparna Roy; Nikhil Deb; Michael Haedicke; Alissa Cordner; Scott Frickel; Michael Lengefeld; Christina Ergas; Margaret Walkover; Michael Warren Murphy; Sandy Marquart-Pyatt;

Agenda

- 1) Welcome, and thank you!
- 2) Introductions
- 3) Announcements
- 4) Ballot initiative re: Section Award Names
- 5) Update from Committee on Racial Justice, Equity, and Inclusion (CRIEJ)
- 6) Membership Dues Increase
- 7) 2023 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA August 17-21
- 8) ASA Connect
- 9) Matters arising

Environmental Sociology Spring 2023 Council Meeting Friday April 7, 2023 from 3:30-4:30 pm Eastern time via zoom

Invitees:

Debra Davidson; Norah MacKendrick; Amalia Leguizamon; Jennifer Carrera; Cameron Whitley; Steve Hoffman; Devparna Roy; Nikhil Deb; Michael Haedicke; Alissa Cordner; Scott Frickel; Michael Lengefeld; Christina Ergas; Margaret Walkover; Michael Warren Murphy; Sandy Marquart-Pyatt

Agenda

- 1) Announcements
- 2) **2023 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA August 17-21 (D. Davidson)**
- 3) New members for Committee on Racial Justice, Equity, and Inclusion (CRIEJ) (D. Roy)
- 4) **Section awards (N. Deb)**
- 5) Section elections (C. Whitley)
 - a. Chair-elect
 - b. Membership Committee Chair
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Teaching, Training and Practice
 - e. 2 ballot initiatives—1 re name changes and 1 re dues increase
- 6) Matters arising

Environmental Sociology Section Fall Council Meeting – Minutes

October 28, 2022

Attendance: Sandy Marquart-Pyatt, Norah MacKendrick, Amalia Leguizamon, Jennifer Carrera, Steve Hoffman, Alissa Cordner, Devparna Roy, Debra Davidson, Scott Frickel, Cameron T. Whitley, Michael Haedicke, Nikhil Deb, Christina Ergas, Margaret Walkover.

Agenda Items:

Ballot initiative: We are continuing our efforts to review and change the award names. We will be putting them on the ballot this year.

Update from CRIEJ: Three presentations last year. Did one this year. Looking forward to two more this year. Will be starting the BIPOC only listserv this year. Cafes are now open for everyone. Previous cafes were poorly attended, 8-9/meeting. · Andrew Curley in December 2021; · Janaki Anagha in March 2022; · Lacey Satcher in April 2022; · Amy Zhang in September 2022

Membership Dues Increase: Will use additional resources to pay speakers invited by CRIEJ. Have some remaining funds from not holding receptions for two years. Have been able to pay \$200 per speaker. Options to reduce amount to \$100, reduce to \$0, raise dues. Suggestion to raise funds through donations at renewal instead of general membership dues increase. Amalia will look into possibility of soliciting donations through ASA. Raffle tickets for book with donation levels flexible.

Next ASA: Three sessions moved forward. 1) · Creative interventions in environmental-sociology theory; 2) New insights in the sociology of climate change; and 3) Intersectionality and Environmental Justice

ASA is later this year. Business meeting will be with the roundtables.

There is an interest in making Climate Change more explicit within the section and ASA. If interested reach out to Sandy and she will connect you with the group.

ASA Connect: Designed to make the listserv and the newsletter obsolete. Trying to make communication easier by redistributing the burden from one individual to everyone can post. Timing and functionality have come into question. Experience has been uneven and unpleasant. Sandy will collect comments to bring back to ASA. It seems to have made it harder rather than easier for people to engage. For people who only like to use email we took this means of engaging away. Can we have a non-ASA listserv? We cannot use ASA lists to create a listserv. Northeastern listserv has a different group of people than the current membership of the section.

ASA Environmental Sociology Section

Spring Council Meeting

April 7, 2023

Meeting Minutes (Prepared by Jennifer Carrera)

Attendance: Debra Davidson, Sandy Marquart-Pyatt, Nikhil Deb, Devparna Roy, Norah MacKendrick, Amalia Leguizamon, Scott Frickel, Alissa Cordner, Jennifer Carrera

Invitees:

Debra Davidson; Norah MacKendrick; Amalia Leguizamon; Jennifer Carrera; Cameron Whitley; Steve Hoffman; Devparna Roy; Nikhil Deb; Michael Haedicke; Alissa Cordner; Scott Frickel; Michael Lengefeld; Christina Ergas; Margaret Walkover; Michael Warren Murphy; Sandy Marquart-Pyatt

1. ASA Annual meeting

- Roundtables are ready!
 - Received more than 100 submissions.
 - Can require keywords to help organize sessions/roundtables
 - We have about a 10% acceptance rate. We need to do better in helping people to be included in the professional organization.
 - Discussion about how AAG accepts all submissions.
 - We can partner with another section to get another session
 - Started with a total of 72 roundtable papers. Will end up with around 65.
 - Need to encourage people to come to the roundtables. Have some stellar submissions.
- Need a replacement for one panel session organizer.

2. CREIJ Elections/Update

- Devparna (faculty) will be transitioning out in August
- Rachel McKane (postdoc) will be transitioning out in December
- Leaves two graduate student members
 - Roger & Yassi terms end in August
- Need to nominate two new members
- Maybe need at least one person of European descent on the committee
 - Section leadership is white. The membership is white. Want there to be a space for white allies within CREIJ.
- Cannot rely on ASA Connect for self-nominations. How broadly should we cast a net to encourage self-nominations?
- BIPOC listserv has about 18 members – no name as of yet
 - Recommend “BIPOC Environmental Sociologists”
 - Will send out request through the BIPOC with request for nominations
 - Call for BIPOC list from the general Environmental Sociology listserv
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmlDNC5TCr8zvoaWt96ImO4NxiCclUcutnbx0WpfyEMTksWQ/viewform>
- CREIJ membership
 - self-nominations or nominations from the Council.
 - No general membership election
 - If we were to go to elections that is a big shift. Should hear from the committee and that decision itself should go to a vote of the section
 - There are many difficulties in creating elections for CREIJ
 - Underrepresented members tend to be already marginalized and thus less well known – particularly early career
 - A benefit of elections would be increasing the legitimacy of the committee and not just an extension of Council
- History of the formation of CREIJ is documented in a folder
 - New council members should look at the READ THESE folder in the Dropbox to see the history of CREIJ
 - <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/s5uj82dju0v9ab5gd7g8i/h?dl=0&rlkey=h1gbgbsxsgvl35bvvtgvhpi8h>
 - Read Harrison email about Bylaws change
 - <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/233eoi20fl9qcy6sdhcy/BylawsChanges2020.HarrisonEmail011620.docx?dl=0&rlkey=se00ml4c05h3csqldekdagbk2>

- Would be good to have some continuing membership in transitioning committee so it is not brand new

3. Section awards

- Deadline for award nominations is April 15
 - Practice and Outreach packet due March 1
- Deadline for decisions is mid to late May (May 20th?)
 - Deadline to notify ASA is beginning of June
 - Send decisions to Amalia so student award checks (\$200) can be generated by ASA
- Secretary (Jennifer) creates the certificates/plaques
- Buttel award only has two nominations
- Schnaiberg 18 nominations – hoping for 10 more nominations
- Students 5 nominations – hoping for 10 more nominations
- Boguslaw – no updates
- Practice and Outreach – 2 nominations
- We will announce again across the two primary listservs
- We will connect back to ASA that we are not getting as much interaction or nominations

4. Section elections

- New chair elect
- New membership
- New treasurer
- New teaching training and practice committee chair
- Two ballot initiatives
 - Name changes
 - Dues increase proposal
- Mid-April launch
 - Runs for about 6 weeks

Awards

Provide a list of Section awards and awardees conferred in the past year.

Section on Environmental Sociology Award Recipients 2023

The Environmental Sociology Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award

Co-winners: Dr. Caleb Scoville & Dr. Christof Brandtner

Dr. Caleb Scoville, Tufts University for “Constructing Environmental Compliance: Law, Science, and Endangered Species Conservation in California’s Delta”

Dr. Christof Brandtner, emlyon Business School, France for "Green American City: Civic Capacity and the Distributed Adoption of Urban Innovations”

The Environmental Sociology Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award

Winner:

Adrienne Brown, University of New Hampshire. ““Driving Down a Road and Not Knowing Where You’re At”: Navigating the Loss of Physical and Social Infrastructure After the Camp Fire.”

Honorable Mention:

Mila Listrovaya, University of Oregon. “‘Here’ versus ‘There’: Perceptions of Deforestation and Ecological Scapegoating Among Loggers in Northwestern Russia.”

The Environmental Sociology Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award.

Dr. Tammy Lewis, City University of New York, Brooklyn College

The Frederick H. Buttel Award goes to Dr. Tammy Lewis of City University of New York, Brooklyn College. Dr. Lewis was recognized by her nominators for her innovative scholarship on green gentrification and environmental conservation and sustainable development in Ecuador, her remarkable contributions to undergraduate teaching as an instructor, director of multiple initiatives at Brooklyn College, as well as her role as co-author of *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*. Nominators commended her extraordinary leadership of the ASA section on Environmental Sociology from 2016-18, in which she went above and beyond to make structural changes to the section that have benefited graduate student and junior scholars.

The Environmental Sociology Robert Boguslaw Award

Vitor Martins Dias, Indiana University

And co-authors: Pedro Paulo de Miranda Araújo Soares, Eduardo S. Brondizio, & Sandra Helena Ribeiro Cruz

Vitor Dias, for his paper titled “Grassroots Mobilization in Brazil’s Urban Amazon: Global Investments, Persistent Floods, and Local Resistance across Political and Legal Arenas.”

The Environmental Sociology Practice and Outreach Award

Dr. Michael Mendez, University of California, Irvine

2023 Finances

Provide a narrative on how the 2023 budget matched with actual expenses and income from 2023. Please account for any substantive differences.

The 2023 budget planned \$4000 in expected expenditures, divided as follows: \$2500 allocated towards the annual meeting reception, \$500 towards awards, \$200 for website security, and \$800 in speaker honorariums for the Theory and Community-Building Café organized by the Section’s Committee on Racial Inclusion, Equity, and Justice (CRIEJ). CRIEJ planned to host four events during the 2022-23 academic year. The council voted in 2021 to compensate speakers with a \$200 honorarium.

Accounting for a remaining balance in 2022 of \$4,734 and an estimated income for 2023 of \$3,306, the budgeted expenditures planned for a total of **\$4,040 in estimated assets by the end of August 2023**.

Regarding actual expenses and income for 2023:

As of October 17, 2023, the section has a balance of \$5,153.77. This figure considers the section’s balance reported as of August 31, 2023 (\$4,887), plus \$266.77 deposited post-reception, as explained below.

The total year-to-date income in 2023 is \$3,335. This includes membership dues (\$840), our section budget allocation (\$2,109), and \$386 in funds raised during the reception’s book raffle.

This is the first year the section organizes a book raffle as a fundraising event. Funds are destined to support activities organized by CRIEJ, including but not limited to speaker honorariums for the Theory and Community Building Café. The book raffle took place during the section's annual reception. Members donated 31 books for the raffle. We raised \$95 in online donations and \$ 291 in cash for a total of \$386.

A second initiative to raise funds for CRIEJ was a proposal for a \$1 dues increase for regular members only. Section members voted to approve this increase. We expect roughly an additional \$500 in premium dues for 2024 resulting from this increase.

Regarding expenses for 2023:

We spent \$2,409.23 to host the annual reception at ASA 2023. The reception was hosted solely by the Environmental Sociology Section. The reception took place at Brauhaus Schmitz. We paid the venue \$2,385 to cover plenty of food, taxes and gratuity, and 30 free drinks shared among students and contingent faculty. We also spent \$24.23 to purchase raffle tickets and reusable gift bags.

We spent \$500.21 on awards. We gave a \$200 cash prize to the 2023 student paper award winner, paid \$222.16 in awards plaques, and \$78.05 in shipping plaques to award winners who did not attend the reception.

We spent \$215.76 on communications. We renewed the section's website hosting (\$119.88) and security (\$95.88) for one year.

Lastly, we paid \$200 in honorariums for one Theory and Community Building Café speaker.

In total, the section's expenses as of August 31, 2023 (the end of the treasurer's term) are \$3,325.20.

As of October 17, 2023, ASA has yet to deposit a check for \$266.77. As noted, we collected \$291 in cash donations during the section's book raffle fundraising. The treasurer spent \$24.23 on raffle tickets and reusable gift bags in preparation for the book raffle. As stated in our proposal (approved by the ASA Executive Director on Friday, May 5, 2023), the treasurer wrote a personal check while keeping the cash as reimbursement. To minimize paperwork, and as approved by ASA, the treasurer deducted the expenses from the total ($\$291 - \$24.23 = \$266.77$).

In sum, to date, the section has a surplus from the 2023 budget. This surplus arises from the following line items: (1) CRIEJ planned for four events during the year, of which only one has taken place; and (2) we raised extra funds thanks to the book raffle as noted above. We had no unexpected or unforeseen expenses beyond those budgeted for 2023.

The Previous Year

Describe Section activities during the period between September 2022 and August 2023.

Provide an overview of the Section's communications with its members and include explanation of how your communication strategy meets the goals and values of the Section. Include links to the section website, newsletters, and any other electronic media used.

Through newsletters, email, and via ASA Connect, the section communicated with members and upheld the value of transparency regarding section activities and creating conditions conducive for sharing information overall, as well as in more specific terms regarding forthcoming events, viewpoints, and new research findings and publications. Unlike past years where the Chair communicated with section members mainly by email, all Environmental Sociology section members were able to post and comment on others' messages.

We used ASA Connect, the new communication tool for 2022-23 as per ASA policy, to disseminate information to section members. Exact counts of communications would be held on that platform, which is no longer accessible as of this writing in Fall 2023, as it was retired in August 2023. Within the Environmental Sociology section a handful of officers (Chair, Chair-elect, Past-chair, and Digital Communications co-chairs) completed the two required training modules to gain access to ASA Connect and learn about moderation responsibilities. ASA Connect was designed to replace the official section listserv from ASA (listed below). The section has two listservs envirosoc@listserv.neu.edu which is outside of the control of ASA and environment_tech-announce@listserv.asanet.org. ASA Connect will replace the latter with the Northeastern listserv continuing. All trained council members are responsible for moderating content in the new ASA Connect system; along with ASA personnel.

Newsletter editor: Published quarterly newsletters (4 issues in total). The newsletters include latest publications, and occasionally, short essays written by section members. Editor redesigned the newsletter template to improve readability and worked with the digital publication committee chair to make sure it appears on the section's website in conjunction with the distribution via listserv and, in 2022-23 via ASA Connect.

Digital communications co-chair in some instances tweeted/posted on X important news and announcements (formerly Twitter: @EnviroSocASA).

Newsletters: <http://envirosoc.org/>

Website: <http://envirosoc.org/>

Describe the Section's diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. What steps were taken this year to achieve those goals?

This year the Committee on Racial Inclusion, Justice and Equity (CRIEJ), chaired by Devparna Roy, held two online events that included invited speakers. In addition, as was the case in 2021-22 the chair-elect considered diversity, equity and inclusion in designing programming for the summer's conference.

Significant actions of the section also included changing the award names via a ballot initiative to change the Section bylaws. The report from a member survey regarding the proposed changes from summer 2022 with the majority (60%) supporting a name change to generic award names was sent to the section via ASA Connect on September 16th, 2022. In 2023, the section voted to adopt a simple format for award names to reflect the purpose of each award. Prior to this change, award names honored the contributions of Allan Schnaiberg (1939-2009), Fred Buttel (1948-2005), and Marvin E. Olsen (1936-1992), who were valued members of our section

and whose important legacies have been and will continue to be recognized within the discipline of environmental sociology. Three awards were renamed after being approved via the 2023 election: 1) Environmental Sociology Outstanding Publication Award (from the Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award); 2) Environmental Sociology Distinguished Contribution Award (previously the Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award); and 3) Environmental Sociology Student Paper Award (from the Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award).

The Legacy committee reviewed previous materials and plan to solicit additional documents and interviews with a focus on early history and prehistory of the section, foundational scholars and diversification of voices to ensure that the collection more accurately represents the diverse voices and scholarly traditions integral to the field's historical development.

Provide an overview of the section's programming at the annual meeting and include explanation of how this programming meets the goals and values of the section (e.g. intellectual exchange, professional networking, mentoring, inclusion).

[Section chair-elect, Debra Davidson, chose three session topics for the 2023 Annual Meeting held in Philadelphia that were intended to capture a wide breadth of current scholarship in environmental sociology, and then sought feedback from other Section Executive members, all of whom confirmed the following three topics: 1) Creative Interventions in Environmental-Sociology Theory; 2) Intersectionality and Justice; and 3) New Insights in the Sociology of Climate Change.

Our section sessions received over 70 submissions. Selection of a final set of five oral presentations for each section was done based on the quality of the abstract/paper; diversity of content, particularly by region; and presenter representation based on seniority, race and ethnicity, and sex. Remaining papers were transferred to roundtables, which were organized into 17 tables by theme. The Chair-elect then sought volunteers from our membership to serve as Presiders for regular paper sessions, and Roundtables. Although our usual mentoring event was not held in 2023 at ASA, we intend to offer it for the 2024 meeting.

The section also held a business meeting, book raffle, and off-site reception on Saturday, Aug 19. Combined, these formal sessions and informal gatherings provided opportunities for mentoring, intellectual exchange (the book raffle especially so), networking and inclusion.]

Provide an overview of the Section's programmatic activities outside of the Annual Meeting (e.g. webinars, networking events, mentoring initiatives, resources for dissemination) and include explanation of this programming meets the goals and values of the Section.

CRIEJ held 2 theory and community-building cafes in 2022-23. In these Theory and Community-Building Cafes, scholars mostly present a part of their own research. Generally, the format is 40 minutes of PowerPoint Slides driven presentation by the speaker followed by 30 minutes of Q&A session. The first was held on September 21st 2022 featuring environmental anthropologist Dr. Amy Zhang from NYU who gave a talk titled: 'From Dirty Work to Green Labor: The Political Economy of Recycling'. The second was delivered by Dr. Evan Bowness on May 31st 2023. His lecture was titled: 'Towards reparative just transitions in food systems and beyond'.

These events met the goals of the section by fostering discussion around inclusion in the section and in the discipline of sociology more broadly.

Transparency Initiative: Our previous Theory and Community-Building Cafés (i.e., in the 2021-2022 academic year) have been open only to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-identifying scholars but we have decided to open this year's Theory and Community-Building Cafés to all scholars including people who identify as White. The reasoning behind this shift is to make sure that all the scholars in environmental sociology are aware of the important theoretical and empirical work being done by BIPOC environmental scholars. Another reason for this shift is to elevate the status of BIPOC researchers and activists in our community of environmental scholars. The Theory and Community-Building Café series will continue to be presented by only BIPOC scholars since the voices of the scholars of color continue to be silenced. Even when scholars of color are conducting path-breaking theoretical and empirical research, they continue to be ignored by the academy. We hope the Theory and Community-Building Cafés are a good start to building racial equity that is beyond performativity, to make sure that the excellent research done by marginalized and minoritized scholars is recognized, supported, and widely cited.