

Environment, Technology, and Society

Newsletter of the Section on Environment and Technology of the American Sociological Association

Towards a Sociology of Brownfields: an Interview with David Pellow

By J. Timmons Roberts, Tulane University

David Pellow is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Ethnic Studies and Sociology, University of Colorado at Boulder. His research has examined the intersections of Environmental Justice and workplace hazards, and the role of social movements, the state, and corporations in shaping these conflicts. He worked as a participant on the Chicago Brownfields Forum in 1994 and 1995 where he and other "stakeholders" from industry, government, and communities attempted to hammer out a plan for land redevelopment in the inner city.

Roberts: Brownfields redevelopment is a solution proposed across the country for a series of environmental ills facing our cities. Could you tell us briefly what a brownfield is?

Pellow: Brownfields are vacant, abandoned, or underutilized commercial and industrial properties where the fear of unknown environmental liability is a serious obstacle to their successful redevelopment or improvement. The problem arises because Superfund and related environmental laws allegedly have created a situation where would-be developers and purchasers of land choose not to do so out of fear of future liability if contamination is discovered. The efforts by the federal and many state governments to redevelop these sites have centered on removing these barriers.

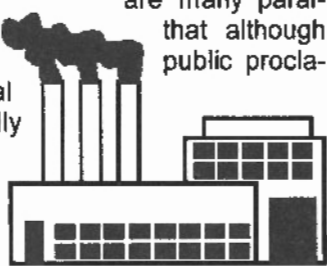
Roberts: How widespread are brownfields?

Pellow: The U.S. General Accounting Office has estimated that there are somewhere between 130,000 and 450,000 brownfield sites in the U.S. and that clean up costs would be \$650 billion (in 1995 dollars). Brownfields are largely concentrated in urban areas and often in poor neighborhoods and communities of color. So, for example, in the City of Chicago we believe that there are about 2,000 brownfields.

Roberts: What factors have led to brownfields being so broadly touted by city governments and the EPA?

Pellow: Two principal factors: First, the strong desire on the part of cities to maintain a tax base and jobs in the urban core. This would be done by retaining industries that otherwise might leave for greener pastures (i.e. cheaper

labor, fewer regulations abroad or less environmental liability in the suburbs). The second reason is the real potential for environmental improvement in polluted inner city areas. When a brownfield is cleaned up, this might represent a net environmental improvement. Thus, brownfield redevelopment was viewed as a 'win-win' situation and has been referred to as "land recycling"—transforming plots without market value into commodities with great economic potential. There are many parallels to solid waste recycling in that although this plan was ushered in with promises promising ecological improvements, it was actually driven by political and economic considerations (see Weinberg, Pellow, and Schnaiberg 2000).



Roberts: What has been the response of developers and other business groups?

Pellow: It has been mixed, but largely positive. Some business groups argue that the focus on removing disincentives (i.e. liability) stops short of actually creating real incentives. However, on the whole, brownfield redevelopment has been viewed as a "win-win" scenario, where the interests of business and the environment could somehow converge. Despite early promises of community benefits and environmental improvement, the needs of business quickly became the driving force behind this process and

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Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2000 ET&S!



In this issue, we have a very interesting piece on the topic of brownfields. There are probably brownfields in every city; I know of a few even in my little 3.1 square mile inner ring city. Unlike the crisis-level problems of Superfund sites, brownfields present a lingering, sticky problem—not contaminated enough to get funding for intensive clean-up, yet too contaminated for many uses, and too contaminated for a developer to take a chance on. The interview by Timmons Roberts of David Pellow explores the history and complexity of this important issue.

Also, if you're in doubt about whether to register for this year's Annual Meetings, take a look at the list of E&T sessions! We have quite a line up, put together by Carole Seyfrit, David Pellow, Shirley Laska, as well as a joint NRRG - E&T symposium led by Tom Rudel, Naomi Krogman, Michael Smith, and Riley Dunlap. The sessions run the gamut of environmental sociology topics—something for everyone. Low pre-registration rates end May 31.

The initial results of my top ten poll echo this range of environmental sociology topics. Initial results?, you ask. Yes; so far, only a couple dozen of you have responded, so consider this list a new poll. Hopefully, checking out the responses to date will inspire you to share your opinion!

And, don't forget to send along your news and notes for the Summer, pre-conference ET&S. I am still in need of feature articles for upcoming issues, so DON'T BE SHY! Also, columns on partnering with other disciplines, point-counterpoint debates, and department spotlights will continue with your input. News and notes from members outside the U.S. would be especially welcome. Please contact me with your ideas.



Award Committees, 1999-2000

Olsen Student Paper Award:
Lori Hunter, Chair
Tammy Lewis & Stella Čapek

Distinguished Contribution Award:
Dorceta Taylor

Outstanding Publication Award
(to be awarded in 2000):
Riley Dunlap, Chair
Karen O'Neill & Adam Weinberg

Boguslaw Award (to be awarded in 2001):
Allan Schnaiberg

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Publication Schedule: ET&S is published quarterly. The deadline for submissions for the next (Summer) issue is May 31. If at all possible, please submit text items electronically or on IBM-formatted diskette, as this greatly facilitates the newsletter production process. Articles on current research that can be represented graphically on the front page are especially sought.

ET&S is printed on recycled paper.



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♦ **ET&S Pages:**
<http://socanth.msu.montana.edu/rik/ETS/eandt.htm>

ET&S is a publication of the American Sociological Association, Section on Environment and Technology. The newsletter is a member benefit.

Please note that you must be a member of the ASA in order to join a Section. Contact the American Sociological Association, Membership Services, at 1307 New York Ave, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005

Top 10 Environmental Sociology Books/Articles Poll Results

Here are the results of the editor's poll on the top ten environmental sociology books and articles. (A few nominees are followed by annotations submitted by the voters.) While a handful of pieces have received several votes, there seems to be quite a bit of disagreement on what environmental sociology means. As you can see by glancing over the list of runners-up, the works which influence our field cover a broad range.

Since this list represents the input of only 24 E&T members, let's try another round. Perhaps looking over these nominations will inspire you to vote, or maybe no one has nominated what you consider to be the quintessential work in environmental sociology. Between now and the next issue of *ET&S*, I'll take votes on the works in the lists below. And, if there is a work you feel must be added to the list, this is your chance. The full list of nominations (including those with single votes) is posted at <http://csf.colorado.edu/envtecsoc/es/top10.html>. Please do check out the full list—it really does represent a range of interesting and valuable work.

This is a new round, so those of you who participated in developing the first round should vote again. No need to rank your top ten, just send me a list. Thank you for your input.

- #1 with 9 votes: Schnaiberg, Allan. 1980. *The Environment: from Surplus to Scarcity*.
—Still a rich source of basic ideas.
- #2 with 8 votes: Catton, William and Riley Dunlap. 1978. "Environmental Sociology: A New Paradigm," *The American Sociologist*.
- #3 with 6 votes: Szasz, Andrew. 1994. *Ecopolitism: Toxic Waste and the Movement for Environmental Justice*.
- #4 with 5 votes: Catton, William R., Jr. 1980. *Overshoot: The Ecological Basis of Revolutionary Change*.
- #5 with four votes (tie): Murphy, Raymond. 1994. *Rationality and Nature: A Sociological Inquiry into a Changing Relationship*.
&
Bullard, Robert D. 1990. *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality*.
- #6 with 3 votes (tie): Beck, Ulrich. 1992. *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*.
&
Dunlap, Riley and William Catton. 1994. "Struggling with Human Exemptionalism," *The American Sociologist*.
&
Rosa, Eugene. 1998. "Metatheoretical Foundations for Post-Normal Risk." *Journal of Risk Research*. 1:15-44.
—Exemplar of a fine body of work and a preview of an important forthcoming book.
&
Schnaiberg, Allan and Kenneth A. Gould. 1994. *Environment and Society: The Enduring Conflict*.

Other nominations with two votes:

Bell, Michael. *Invitation to Environmental Sociology*.

Cable, Sherry and Charles Cable. 1995. *Environmental Problems/Grassroots Solutions: The Politics of Grassroots Environmental Conflict*.

Daly, Herman. *Beyond Growth*.

Hampson, Fen & Judith Reppy (eds.) *Earthly Goods: Environmental Change and Social Justice*.

Hannigan, John A. 1995. *Environmental Sociology: A Social Constructionist Perspective*.

O'Connor, James. 1998. *Natural Causes: Essays in Ecological Marxism*.

Redclift, Michael and T. Benton, eds. 1994. *Social Theory and Global Environment*.

Stretton, Hugh. 1976. *Capitalism, Socialism and the Environment*.



firms often took the liberty of laying down the law. In one meeting of the Chicago Brownfields Forum, an industry representative told a group of environmentalists concerned with corporate responsibility, "It is so much easier to go to a cornfield in another city and mow it down and develop, than to go to the center cities. If someone like me is willing to give you a business at a vacant abandoned site, I don't see what this discussion is about." In keeping with this attitude, presidential candidate George W. Bush has recently gone on record promoting brownfield redevelopment, and his proposal is nothing more than a thinly veiled call for near-total environmental deregulation.

Roberts: What has been the response to the EPA's "brownfields initiative" by community and toxics groups, both locally and nationally?

Pellow: Initially it was quite positive on the whole. There were a few early bumps in the road (like when the USEPA removed thousands of toxic sites from the Superfund list, using questionable criteria, in order to promote development), but communities and toxics groups were very much on board this program. The Washington Office on Environmental Justice (a movement coordination center) and other prominent national organizations were supportive of the program. Later, as several state and congressional brownfield bills were proposed and debated, and as pilot programs were announced, we saw two disturbing trends. First, there was a conspicuous absence of labor, toxics, and environmental justice organizations included in task forces convened to debate these issues. Second, this absence of progressive organizations was also mirrored in the lack of any programmatic focus on the role of labor and community groups in implementing brownfield redevelopment. For example, within the Chicago Brownfields Forum, there were a dozen representatives from community and environmental groups, 50 from business, and 70 from governmental agencies. As stark as these numbers may seem, they fail to reveal the ideological dominance of business in this process. One USEPA representative freely admitted to me, "the driving force in this project is the lending institutions." Another representative from a federal agency predicted glowingly, "when we can change these environmental laws, we can open up this land to the free market." The response by many community development corporations (CDCs) and community groups was never radical enough to challenge this underlying ideological framework.

The Environmental Justice movement's expressed concerns for healthy jobs and environmental clean up were also given little consideration during this process. However, the EJ community in many cases sought to inject a "bottom up" perspective into the debate (however unsuccessfully). This perspective was at odds with the dominant trend in brownfield development schemes—federal agencies and industries defining the parameters of the problem and solution. In 1995, the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (an EPA-based organization with periodically strong community-based representation) convened a series of community dialogues in inner cities around the nation. It was clear from that experience (which I helped coordinate) that the EPA's vision of brownfields was much too narrow in scope. EJ communities wanted control over decision-making surrounding both redevelopment and future use of brownfield sites. In other words, we wanted to be able to prevent a brownfield site from hosting a polluting firm, like an incinerator. Furthermore, as many communities of color are characterized by extremely toxic conditions, EJ activists wished for highly polluted sites

to be considered for clean up. However, these issues were not even on the table at EPA headquarters.

Specifically, when asked by one activist, "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired, so how will we ensure that polluting companies won't come in and develop brownfield sites?," one government official admitted to a group of EJ activists in Chicago:

"undoubtedly someone who wants to bring in an incinerator will come and want to develop here. We do want clean industries, but outside of the permitting process I don't know what we can do. I have to issue a permit for a company that meets all legal requirements even if I don't like that particular industry. As long as they have all the whistles and bells I have no choice."

Another official acknowledged, "I have to be honest with you in saying that we cannot do cleanups of badly contaminated sites because it won't be cost effective for buyers."

Thus, when activists asked the hard questions, the initial grandeur of brownfield redevelopment lost its glitter. There was no safeguard against brownfield redevelopment becoming a catalyst for continued patterns of environmental racism in the inner city. This is doubly unfortunate given that strong zoning requirements can be mandated that might offer more protections and greater public input. However, such strategies would have been viewed as barriers to the process.

Roberts: As I suggested in a posting over the listserv Envtecsoc, virtually all I've seen written about brownfields has been government sources and much cheerleading. Given C. Wright Mills' point that good sociology often "debunks" accepted wisdom, what would a "Sociology of Brownfields" look like?

Pellow: A Sociology of Brownfields would question the accepted wisdom that brownfields represent a 'win-win solution' for contaminated urban areas and focus a keen eye on the backstage of the brownfields debate. That backstage would reveal the presence of multinational firms and local growth machine actors focused on injecting revenue into government coffers, manipulating symbolic politics, and boosting profits for industry via transaction cost reductions. So, in a sense, brownfields might represent a 'win-win' scenario for the state and industry, but not for communities and environmentalists. Indeed, there has never been any real effort to ensure that brownfield redevelopment would create decent jobs or improve environmental quality. Yet the common wisdom and public proclamations by industry and political leaders suggest just the opposite—that we can indeed have both "jobs and the environment." As sociologists it is imperative that we pull back the curtains to expose this "Wizard."

Roberts: Who loses in the brownfields initiative? Anyone? Who gains? What other issues are ignored?

Pellow: There are purported tangible benefits to communities that have resulted from brownfield redevelopment. For example, official reports about one site in Chicago that was cleaned up allege that after a business expanded on the site, it added 100 jobs. However, I am doubtful that these reports of success are representative of the broader trends. Brownfields are like Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. It's the same basic concept with the environmental liability variable thrown in. What this means then, is if we can agree on covenants not to sue potentially responsible parties for future environmental liabilities, brownfields and empowerment zones are nearly identical. In fact, many brownfield development projects were paired with Enterprise Communities/Zones grants. Empowerment Zones have an unflattering history of creating few quality jobs, costing tax payers a great deal of money (in subsidies), and featuring no requirements that industries remain in place for a certain amount of time. The

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result is that a warehouse could be built where one or two security guards and a small staff are hired, and the facility closes down in a year. Thus, the winners are those developers and industries who are fortunate enough to get these plots of land in the cities free of liability. Also among those on the winning team are mayors and federal agencies who accumulate political capital for putting these plans in motion. This political capital might be conferred by voters and industry. The losers are the communities, workers, and environmentalists who had hoped for a policy that would include their concerns, allow them decision-making power, and guarantee environmentally safe future uses of sites. The issues that are ignored include (but are not limited to) the fact that the problem of deindustrialization was not driven by fear of environmental liability. However, the dominant brownfield frame focuses on the legal system and ignores the political-economic origins of brownfields. White flight, the dismantling of basic industry, and the unrelenting corporate search for profits and cheap labor are much stronger drivers of inner city decay than any environmental liability scheme. At the end of the day, however, if brownfield proponents are successful, our hard-won environmental laws could be gutted and inner cities might become more polluted than ever.

Roberts: Real participation by community members in decision-making about their neighborhoods is a core value for many of us sociologists. How have EPA and city/state governments done with that? As David Driscoll wrote in an interesting piece about Miami (<http://www.sfaa.net/eap/driscoll/driscoll.pdf>), the EPA mandated community input but engineers and planners don't often know how to create such participation. Is that your experience?

Pellow: This is a multi-faceted problem in that, as you point out, even if the politicians genuinely seek community input, this is easier said than done. There are a host of problems surrounding any efforts to involve communities in policy-making. Often times the easiest way out is for the EPA to include politically moderate groups they are familiar with. The problem here, of course, is that this selection bias excludes all other potentially interested organizations and raises fundamental questions about the legitimacy of certain groups officially "representing" the public. My experience overall was that, like most public hearings and comment periods, the involvement of communities is purely symbolic.

Roberts: So finally, scrap them or keep them? How could brownfields initiatives be improved?

Pellow: Historians and sociologists have demonstrated that when movements are involved in policy-making (often through engaging in disruptive action), then these issues are often pushed from the halls of science, the filing cabinets of bureaucracies and the ivory tower, out into the public domain. This has often produced real gains for communities in terms of labor and welfare rights, health care, and environmental protection. This is exactly what I would advocate—real community and movement action around this issue to redefine the problem and reshape the solutions. Brownfield redevelopment will ultimately be a failure if the social and environmental needs of inner cities are not taken into account. At the present there is little indication that this trend will change without a major uproar from movement groups.

Roberts: Do you plan to do research in brownfields, and/or should we encourage graduate students to take up this area?

Pellow: I plan on monitoring future developments in brownfield policy, but remain committed to other projects where movements and community organizations have a stronger foothold in decision-making. When and if the terms of the brownfield debate evolve to address structural issues of

environmental injustice and the need for inclusion of labor organizations, I'll revisit it. In the meantime, I would certainly encourage graduate students to research this issue to uncover its history, the driving forces behind its emergence, and to produce theoretically-informed explanations to account for its failure. In many ways brownfield redevelopment represents one of the greatest successes and one of the greatest failures of recent environmental policy initiatives. It is one of the only initiatives I am aware of that had the potential to produce sustainable community development—development that achieves economic, social, and environmental goals. Because brownfield redevelopment was hijacked by lending institutions and developers from day one, this project represents yet another dream deferred.



Reference

Weinberg, Adam, David N. Pellow, and Allan Schnaiberg. 2000. *Urban Recycling and the Search for Sustainable Community Development*. Princeton University Press.



Member News and Announcements

Beth Schaefer Caniglia recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Oklahoma State University. The department is very exciting, especially because it's one of the few offering M.A. and Ph.D. concentrations in *environmental sociology*. Congratulations, Beth!

Lawrence Hamilton and Cynthia M. Duncan of the University of New Hampshire, together with biologist Richard Haedrich at Memorial University of Newfoundland, have been awarded a grant from the Arctic Social Sciences program of the National Science Foundation to study "Environment and Social Change in the North Atlantic Arc (NAArc)." This NAArc project (2000-2003) extends work begun under a previous (1996-2000) NSF grant. The research will integrate oceanographic and marine biological data with both qualitative and quantitative social science, covering fisheries dependent regions of Newfoundland, Greenland, Iceland and Norway during the ecological/social transformations of the past two decades.

Loren Lutzenhiser (Washington State University) is leading a study concerned with how physical macro-structures (e.g., large commercial/institutional buildings) and their environmental impacts (energy and resource demands, pollution, etc.) are shaped by socioeconomic, political and technical processes. Other E&T Section members involved are **Nicole Woolsey-Biggart** and **Tom Beamish** (UC Davis), along with collaborators at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The research is particularly concerned with how "green building" movements, ecological modernization processes, and counter-tendencies (e.g., anti-environmentalism) affect conventional practice in U.S. market contexts.

After a national search, **Carole Seyfrit** has been appointed Assistant Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at Old Dominion University. Starting June 1, her address will be Office of Research and Graduate Studies, 210 Koch Hall, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529-0013; phone 757-683-3460; fax 757-683-3004. E-mail remains: cseyfrit@odu.edu

2000 American Sociological Association Annual Meetings

Sessions Sponsored by the Section on Environment and Technology

Global Economy - Environmental Tradeoffs?

Organizer: *Carole L. Seyfrit*, Old Dominion University;
 President: *Eugene A. Rosa*, Washington State University
Sandra T. Marguatt-Pyatt, The Ohio State University: "A Cross-National Exploration of Social, Political, and Economic Dimensions of Deforestation"; *James Talley*, University of Tennessee: "Development and the Environmental Crisis"; *Eric Kostello*, University of California, Los Angeles: "Environmental and Social Tradeoffs during Economic Development in Comparative Perspective"; *Perry Grossman*, New York University: "Global Environmental Citizenship: Reconciling Trade and the Environment." Discussion: *Zsuzsa Gille*, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Science and Activism: Framing Environmental Issues

Organizer: *Carole L. Seyfrit*, Old Dominion University; President: *Tammy Lewis*, Denison University
Scott Frickel, University of Wisconsin-Madison: "Framing Scientist Activism: 'Chemical Risk to Future Generations' and The Rise of Genetic Toxicology"; *Aaron M. McCright* and *Riley E. Dunlap*, Washington State University: "The Controversy over Global Warming: The Roles of Skeptic Scientists and Their Supporters"; *Stephen Zavestoski*, *Kate Agnello*, and *Frank Mignano*, Providence College: "Issue Framing and Citizen Apathy Towards Local Environmental Contamination"; *Phil Brown*, Brown University, *Steve Zavestoski*, Providence College, *Sabrina McCormick*, *Joshua Mandelbaum*, *Aracely Alicea*, and *Theo Luebke*, Brown University: "Print Media Coverage of Environmental Causation of Breast Cancer." Discussion: *Loren Lutzenhiser*, Washington State University

Environmental Justice: Political Economy, History, and Theory

--Co-sponsored by Section on Environment and Technology and Section on Race, Gender and Class

Organizer, President, and Discussant: *David N. Pellow*, University of Colorado at Boulder

Gregory Hooks and *Chad Smith*, Washington State University: "Native Americans, National Security, and Toxic Waste: The Environmental Injustice of the Military-Industrial Complex"; *Jan Buhrmann*, United States Environmental Protection Agency: "Regulatory Agencies and Environmental Justice: Social Impacts of the Proposed Emergency Outlet at Devils Lake, North Dakota"; *Melissa Toffolon-Weiss*, University of Alaska and *Timmons Roberts*, Tulane University: "How Does the Growth Machine Manufacture Environmental Justice: Incentives, Politics, and Resistance in Louisiana"; *David N. Pellow*, University of Colorado at Boulder: "The Hazards of Work: Environmental Racism at the Point of Production."

Refereed Roundtables on Environment and Technology

Organizer: *Carole L. Seyfrit*, Old Dominion University

1. Environmental Advocacy and Activism -- Table President: *Shelly Habel*, Whitman College
Sherrie Steiner-Aeschliman and *Ruthann Hionides*, Eastern College: "The Emancipatory Possibilities of Faith-Based Organizing"; *Eric Petersen*, Northwestern University: "The Politics of Cycling: Bicycle Advocacy Groups in an Environmental Context"
2. Environmental Inequality -- Table President: *Karen O'Neill*, Rutgers University
R. Scott Frey, Kansas State University: "The Migration of Hazardous Industries to the Export Processing Zones of East Asia"; *Glynis Daniels*, Penn State University: "Ecological Fallacy or Environmental Fact? An Investigation of Aggregation Bias in the Study of Environmental Justice"
3. Global Environmentalism and Local Actions -- Table President: *Suzanne B. Maurer*, Syracuse University
Jerry L. Williams, Stephen F. Austin State University: "Natur-

al Pragmatism and the Grassroots Environmental Movement"; *Michael J. Reynolds*, University of Chicago: "The Downside of Global Environmentalism: How Global Actors Stifle Local Solutions to Conflict in the Amazon"

4. Environmental Values -- Table President: *Riley E. Dunlap*, Washington State University
Lori M. Hunter, Utah State University: "Environmental Values: Qualitative Evidence of 'Ruralism'"; *Blake D. Ratner*, TIGER Research: "Sustainable Development as a Dialogue of Values"
5. Fisheries -- Table President: *Christopher K. Vanderpool*, Michigan State University
Lawrence C. Hamilton and *Cynthia M. Duncan*, University of New Hampshire: "Local Effects of a Large-Scale Change: Newfoundland After the Codfish Collapse"; *Steven Lang*, Nassau Community College, New York: "Conflicting Environmental Discourses in the Estuary: Mariculture, Ecotourism and Nostalgia"
6. Toxic Hazards and Environmental Health -- Table President: *Stephen R. Couch*, The Pennsylvania State University
Eric J. Krieg, Buffalo State College: "The Hidden Costs of Manufacturing: Economic Change and Environmental Hazards in Vermont"; *Allison Shore*, University of California, Santa Cruz: "Risk, Regulation, and Indoor Air Pollution: Environmental Inequality Inside"
7. Actions of Nation-States and Environmental Impacts -- Table President: *Paul K. Gellert*, Cornell University
Debra J. Davidson, University of Alberta: "Toward a Theory of the Environmental State: Directions for Research"; *Alexis A. Vasquez* and *J. Timmons Roberts*, Tulane University: "Which Nations Sign Which Environmental Treaties and Why? Patterns in Ratification and Gaps in Understanding a Decade after Dietz and Kalof."
8. Environmental Attitudes and Behaviors -- Table President: *Annette P. Hanada*, George Mason University
Monica J. Nevius, University of Wisconsin, Madison: "Household Energy Use and Energy Conservation-Mindedness: Implications for Voluntary Energy Conservation Programs"; *Trent Wade Moore*, Florida State University, and *Mary McLaughlin*, University of Texas, Arlington: "Explaining Curbside Recycling Behavior: The Relative Effects of Cognitive and Affective Components"
9. Modernity and Environment -- Table President: *Harris Ali*, University of Toronto at Scarborough
Maggie Alario, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and *William R. Freudenburg*, University of Wisconsin-Madison: "The Paradoxes of Modernity: Scientific Advances, Environmental Problems, and Risks to the Social Fabric?"; *David A. Sonnenfeld*, University of California, Berkeley: "Reflexive Modernization in Theory & Practice: The Case of Pulp and Paper Manufacturing"
10. Environmental Legacies of the Cold War -- Table President: *Kenneth A. Gould*, St. Lawrence University
Tamara L. Mix, University of Tennessee, Knoxville: "Trust, Risk, Contamination and Recreation: Community Divisions at DOE's Oak Ridge Site"; *Maggie Alario*, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: "Landscape of Risks: Nuclear Science, Waste and Restoration Policy Efforts"
11. Framing of Environmental Issues and Policies -- Table President: *Erin E. Robinson*, University at Buffalo
Axel Franzen and *Andrea Hungerbühler*, University of Bern: "Environmental Concern and Environmental Policy in International Comparison"; *William T. Markham*, University of North Carolina, Greensboro: "The Role of German and U.S. Environmental Organizations in Shaping Public Opinion and Public Policy: Members and Fundraising as Constraints"
12. Growth, Change, and Environmental Quality -- Table President: *J. Stanley Black*, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Melissa M. Toffolon-Weiss, Univer-

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sity of Alaska, Anchorage: "How Do Environmental Battles Change the Growth Machine? A Conceptual Discussion and an Application"; Jennifer S. Barber, Ann E. Biddlecom, and William G. Axinn, University of Michigan: "Neighborhood Change and Environmental Quality"

13. Other Issues -- Table Presider: Susan H. Roschke, City of Norwood, Ohio

Kevin Wehr, University of Wisconsin, Madison: "Dam Ecology and Dam Politics: The State of Nature and the Nature of the State in the American West"; Lisa Anne Zilney and Sam J. Zahran, University of Tennessee, Knoxville: "An Application of the Irrationality of Rationality Thesis: Human-Nonhuman Animal Relations, the Meat-Eating Ethos, and Environmental Degradation"; Sabrina Oesterle, University of Minnesota: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle--Do They Really Go Together? Patterns of Environmental Activity"

Environmental Sociology: International Development

Organizer: Shirley Laska, University of New Orleans; Presider: Paige Tucker, George Mason University

Jeffrey Broadbent, University of Minnesota: "Japan's Changing Environmental Regime: Treadmill or Modernization?"; Stephan Elkins, Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus, E. Germany: "Limits of Technocratic Politics in Environmental Policy: Some Results of a Case Study in Local Traffic Policy in Germany"; Fatos Goksen, Koc University, Turkey, Fikret Adaman, Bogazici University, Turkey, Unal Zenginobuz, Bogazici University, Turkey: "Multi-faceted Aspects of Environmental Problems in Istanbul and Willingness to Pay for Environmental Improvement"; Max J. Pfeffer, Cornell University, John W. Schelhas, Auburn University, Leyla Ann Day, Cornell University: "Forest Conservation, Value Conflict, and Interest Formation in a Honduran National Park." Discussion: Steve Kroll-Smith, University of New Orleans

Environmental Sociology: Mobilization, Disputes and Claims-making

Organizer: Shirley Laska, University of New Orleans; Presider: Chris Biga, Washington State University

Steve Matthewman, Auckland University of Technology: "Towards a Sociology of the Weather"; Harry R. Potter, Purdue University: "Public Awareness of Environmental Issues Prior to Earth Day, 1970"; Harris Ali, University of Toronto at Scarborough: "Dealing with Toxicity in the Risk Society: The Case of the Hamilton, Ontario Plastics Recycling Fire"; Phil Brown, Brown University, Steve Zavestoski, Providence College, Sabrina McCormick, Brown University, Aracely Alicea, Brown University, Joshua Mandelbaum, Brown University, Theo Luebke, Brown University: "A Gulf of Difference: Disputes Over Gulf War-Related Diseases." Discussion: Valerie Gunter, University of New Orleans

Environmental Sociology: Organization and Equity Issues

Organizer: Shirley Laska, University of New Orleans; Presider: Patricia Widener, University of New Orleans

Tammy Lewis, Denison University: "Environmental Aid: Driven by Recipient Need or Donor Interests?"; Ben Crow, University of California, Farhana Sultana, UN Development Program, Bangladesh: "Water, Power and Gender: Pressing Questions and Overlooked Interests in a Poor and Crowded Delta"; Bob Edwards, East Carolina University, Anthony Ladd, Loyola University, "Where the Hogs Are: Corporate Swine Production and Environmental Justice in North Carolina, 1982-97"; Don Grant, Albert Bergesen, and Andrew Jones, University of Arizona: "Is Big Good or Bad for the Environment?: An Empirical Analysis of the Effects of Organization Size on Toxic Emissions." Discussion: Betty Morrow, Florida International University

Joint NRRG-E&T Section Environmental Policy Symposium, August, 2000, Washington, D.C.

August 15th, Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, Washington DC

8:30 a.m. Public Participation, Presider: Thomas K. Rudel, Rutgers University

Rebecca Romsdahl, George Mason University: "Community

Participation in Land Management: A Case Study of the Brooks Township Land Use Vision Project"; Karen O'Neill, Rutgers University: "Public Participation as a Stage in the History of Resource Planning: the Case of New Jersey Watersheds"; David Fig, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg: "The Environment can not toyi-toyi": Public Participation in the Formulation of Post-Apartheid Environmental Policy in South Africa"; Gene Rosa, Washington State University: "How can Metatheoretical Orientations inform Public Participation?: Seeking Concordance between Theory and Citizens"

10:15 a.m. The Political Economy of the Environment, Presider: Naomi T. Krogman, University of Alberta

Bob Edwards, East Carolina University and Anthony Ladd, Loyola University - New Orleans: "Where the Hogs are: Corporate Swine Production and Environmental Justice in North Carolina, 1987-1997"; Diane Mitsch Busch, Colorado Mountain College, Steamboat Springs, CO: "From Collaboration to Implementation: Policies to Preserve Agriculture, Open Space, and Wildlife Habitat in Rural Rocky Mountain Resort Communities"; David Sonnenfeld, University of California - Berkeley: "Labor and Ecological Modernization: Preliminary Findings from Thailand's Electronics Industry"; Li-Fang Yang, University of Wisconsin - Madison and Tze-Luen Lin, University of Delaware: "Embedded Autonomy and Environmental Policy - A Case Study of Taiwan's High Tech Industries"

1:15 p.m. Implementing Environmental Policies, Presider: Michael Smith, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA

Yong Un Ban, University of Pennsylvania: "Environmental Agreements in the HRS Process: Toward Fair Decision Making for Cleaning up Superfund Sites"; Tom Russ, Assistant Professor with The Environment project at community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville: "The Failure of Public Participation in Brownfield Redevelopment"; Lori Strauss, Senior Manager, National Farmworker Environmental Education Program Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs: "The National Farmworker Environmental Education Program: A Model for Implementing National Environmental Policy at the Grass Roots Level"; Tyrone Wilson, PhD student, Environmental Science and Public Policy, George Mason University in Alexandria, Virginia: "The Impact of Science and Public Awareness on the Regulatory Improvements Imposed in the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996."

2:30 p.m. International Environmental Policy, Presider: Riley Dunlap, Washington State University

Beth Schaefer Canaglia, Notre Dame: "Secrets & Ties: the Importance and Function of Informal Alliances for Transnational Environmental Movement Organizations"; J. Timmons Roberts, Tulane University: "Global Environmental Standards: Emergent Social Control or Trojan Horse?"; Dana R. Fisher, University of Wisconsin - Madison: "International Environmental Policy Implementation within Post-industrial Society: Actors and Institutions"; Wil Burns, American Society for International Law: "The International Whaling Commission in the Twenty First Century: Leviathan or Laggard?"



Meeting Announcements

ISA RC24 Conference

The Research Committee "Environment and Society" of the International Sociological Association is organizing a two day environmental sociology conference on 6 and 7 July 2001 at the Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (UK). Further details will follow later on this year. Or contact for additional information: Peter Dickens; Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, 15 Chedworth Street, Cambridge CB3 9JF United Kingdom e-mail: peter@15chedworth.freemove.co.uk

Member Publications and Other Publications of Interest

Bullard, Robert D. Glenn S. Johnson, and Angel O. Torres. 2000. *Sprawl City: Race, Politics, and Planning in Atlanta*. Island Press. ISBN 1559637900.

A serious but often overlooked impact of the random, unplanned growth—commonly known as "sprawl"—that has come to dominate the American landscape is its effect on economic and racial polarization. Sprawl-fueled growth pushes people further apart geographically, politically, economically, and socially. Atlanta, Georgia is experiencing one of the most severe cases of sprawl in the country, and offers a striking example of sprawl-induced stratification.

Fitzpatrick, Kevin and Mark LaGory. 2000. *Unhealthy Places: The Ecology of Risk in the Urban Landscape*. New York: Routledge.

Unhealthy Places explores the connection between place and health in U.S. metropolitan areas, arguing that "place matters" in understanding the health of a given population. The authors offer a place-oriented approach to health and cover such topics as the ecology of everyday urban life; the sociology of health; the needs and risks of the sociology disadvantaged, children and elderly; the ecology of risk and protection; and ecological strategies for delivering better health services in urban environments.

Lewis, Tammy L. 2000. "Media Representations of 'Sustainable Development': Sustaining the Status Quo?" *Science Communication* 21(3): 244-273.

Weaver, Paul, Leo Jansen, Geert van Grootveld, Egbert van Spiegel, and Philip Vergragt. 2000. *Sustainable Technology Development*. ISBN 1874719 09 8

Sustainable Technology Development sets out the five-year research programme's underpinning philosophy and describes its approach, methods and findings. Delivering sustainability means finding ways to meet human needs using a fraction of the natural resources we use today. The world's richer nations would be wise to target at least ten-fold improvements by 2050 in the productivity with which conventional natural resources and environmental services are used. And they need to bring new, sustainable resources on-stream to augment the resource base and replace the use of unsustainable alternatives.

Call for Papers

Call for Papers on "Anti-Consumption Attitudes" for a Special Issue of *Psychology & Marketing*

Psychology & Marketing announces a Call for Papers on the topic of anti-consumption attitudes. The last five years have seen a pronounced increase in the public's interest in lifestyle simplifying, lifestyle downsizing, or what Schor (1998) has referred to as "downshifting." Yet, with few exceptions (Etzioni, 1998; Iwata, 1997) there has been very little attention paid to this phenomena by academics or industry professionals. The special issue is aimed at amassing what is currently known about this emerging phenomena.

Papers are sought that provide an understanding of the form of lifestyle downsizing that is rooted in a skepticism, or "anti-consumption attitude," toward the marketing and advertising industries and toward their promises of fulfillment to the consumers of their products. These attitudes tend to motivate individuals who hold them to seek satisfaction, fulfillment, and self-esteem through means other than the consumption of material goods.

The special issue will be aimed at elaborating the origins and consequences of anti-consumption attitudes. Appropriate papers should address questions such as: Are there particular negative consumption experiences that trigger anti-consumption attitudes, or do such attitudes develop over a longer period of time from an underlying value orientation?; Do anti-consumption attitudes truly result in lower levels of consumption, or merely a shift in type of consumption?; Once formed, are anti-consumption attitudes enduring, or do they emerge and reside with various lifecycle changes such as marriages, child rearing, and retirement?; How

do consumption patterns of those with anti-consumption attitudes differ from those whose consumption levels are low due to financial constraints?; Are the levels of consumer debt among those with anti-consumption attitudes lower than the levels among other consumers?; Are there unique lifestyle choices that set those with anti-consumption attitudes apart from other consumers?

All papers will be double-blind reviewed. Papers should be submitted according to the style guidelines of the American Psychological Association. Please submit five copies of your paper to the editor of the special issue: Stephen Zavestoski, Department of Sociology, Providence College, Providence, RI 02918-0001 (telephone: +1-401-865-2523; email: szavesto@providence.edu). Deadline for paper submissions: September 1, 2000.

Schor, J. 1998. *The overspent American: Upscaling, downshifting, and the new consumer*. New York: Basic Books.

Etzioni, A. 1998. "Voluntary simplicity: Characterization, select psychological implications, and societal consequences." *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 19:619-643.

Iwata, O. 1997. "Attitudinal and behavioral correlates of voluntary simplicity lifestyles." *Social Behavior and Personality* 25: 233-240.