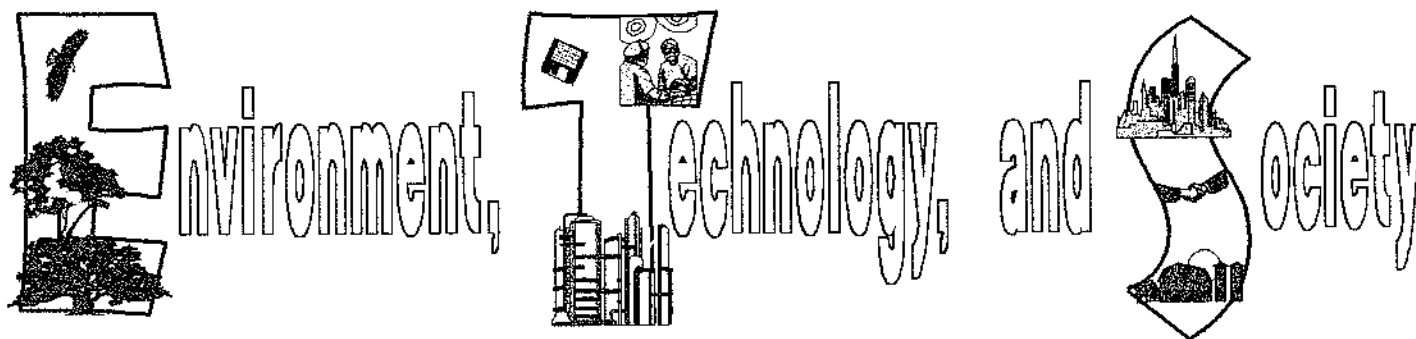




Newsletter of the Section on Environment and Technology of the American Sociological Association

Points of Interest in Washington, D.C.

The Anacostia River

Reclaimed by the actions of local residents, particularly the youth service-learning group the Earth Conservation Corps. The habitat is being restored to encourage the return of Bald Eagles to this traditional nesting place.

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Anacostia Ave. and Douglas St. NE

Water plants in ponds along the Anacostia River

The National Mall, between the Capitol and the Washington Monument

146 acres of national open space and historic landscapes, surrounded by Smithsonian Institution museums.

Smithsonian Institutions

16 museums and galleries, as well as the National Zoo. A trust for preserving artifacts and a research center supporting national service, public education, and study in the areas of the arts, sciences, and history. Free to the public.

Smithsonian National Zoo, 3001 Connecticut Ave. NW

More than 3,000 animals, reptiles, and birds. See <http://www.si.edu/organiza/museums/zoo/>

Dr. Robert H. Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD

Space science, technology, and earth science. Tours available.

The National Aquarium, U.S. Department of Commerce Building, 14th and Constitution Ave. NW

First public aquarium in the U.S. Variety of marine species.

National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave. NE

400 acres of trees, flowering plants, herbs, and Bonsai. Picnic area.

Constitution Gardens, Constitution Ave.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging project claimed land from under the Potomac River.

Rock Creek Park

Nature Center and Planetarium, Old Stone House, Peirce Mill, Civil War fortifications. Recreation opportunities.

Prince William Forest Park

17,000 acres of Piedmont forest.

Continued on page 5

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Melissa Toffolon & Steve Zavestoski

Notes from the Editor

*Welcome to the Summer 2000 -
pre-conference issue of ET&S!*



It's that time of year again, time for the Annual Meetings of the ASA, including the E&T Section. This is our big event, where we share our research with each other and with those outside the Section. This is also a great networking opportunity, a time to bounce ideas off those colleagues you don't get to see very often, a time to form new research partnerships. Don't miss it!

The program sessions don't just materialize, and they aren't put together by ASA's executive office—E&T Section members work hard to plan topics and organize sessions, read submitted papers, and put together slates of papers, presiders, and discussants. Be sure to thank these dedicated E&T members, who put together this year's sessions, when you see them in D.C.: Carole Seyfrit, David Pellow, and Shirley Laska. And a joint RSS-NRRG - E&T symposium led by Tom Rudel, Naomi Krogman, Michael Smith, and Riley Dunlap. (See pages 7-8 for a full list of E&T and related sessions.)

Remember, the number of regular sessions allotted is based on the number of members on the rolls in September. To keep our current three regular sessions, we need to have 400 members. Since many people do not re-join during the December renewal period, numbers at this time of year are typically low. Please encourage lapsed members to re-up now, and make a potential new member feel welcome to join our friendly and intellectually stimulating bunch!

This year's reception is jointly sponsored with the Rural Sociological Society's Natural Resources Research Group, following the joint symposium on environmental policy on Tuesday. It will be held at the RSS conference hotel, the Renaissance Mayflower—a short 8 blocks from the ASA main site at the Hilton. Be sure to make this little side trip, even if you don't get to the symposium.

I'm always accepting submissions for upcoming ET&S issues. I need your input!



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

Environment, Technology, and Society Newsletter

Editor: Susan H. Roschke

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Publication Schedule: ET&S is published quarterly. The deadline for submissions for the next (Fall) issue is September 15. 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.



The Environment and Technology Section on the Internet:

♦ Listserv: Envtecsoc.

To subscribe, send an email
listserv@csf.colorado.edu with the message:
text: sub envtecsoc yourfirstname
yourlastname

♦ **Resources:** The listserv archives and additional resources for environmental sociologists.
<http://csf.colorado.edu/envtecsoc>

♦ Section Websites:

[http://csf.colorado.edu/envtecsoc/es/
env.html](http://csf.colorado.edu/envtecsoc/es/env.html)
[http://www.asanet.org/Sections/
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environ.htm)

♦ ET&S Pages:

[http://socanth.msu.montana.edu/rik/ETS/
andt.htm](http://socanth.msu.montana.edu/rik/ETS/
andt.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

Member Publications and Other Publications of Interest

Burawoy, Michael, Joseph A. Blum, Sheba George, Zsuzsa Gille, Teresa Gowan, Lynne Haney, Maren Klawiter, Steve H. Lopez, Seán Ó Riain, and Millie Thayer. 2000. *Global Ethnography: Forces, Connections, and Imaginations in a Postmodern World*.

In this follow-up to the highly successful *Ethnography Unbound*, Michael Burawoy and nine colleagues break the bounds of conventional sociology, to explore the mutual shaping of local struggles and global forces. In contrast to the lofty debates between radical theorists, these nine studies excavate the dynamics and histories of globalization by extending out from the concrete, everyday world.

The authors were participant observers in diverse struggles over extending citizenship, medicalizing breast cancer, dumping toxic waste, privatizing nursing homes, the degradation of work, the withdrawal of welfare rights, and the elaboration of body politics. From their insider vantage points, they show how groups negotiate, circumvent, challenge, and even re-create the complex global web that entangles them. Traversing continents and extending over three years, this collaborative research developed its own distinctive method of "grounded globalization" to grasp the evaporation of traditional workplaces, the dissolution of enclaved communities, and the fluidity of identities. Forged between the local and global, these compelling essays make a powerful case for ethnography's insight into global dynamics.

All of the authors were affiliated with the Sociology Department at the University of California, Berkeley.

Gedicks, Al. 2000. "Silencing the Voice of the People: How Mining Companies Subvert Local Opposition," in Richard Hofrichter (ed.) *Reclaiming the Environmental Debate: The Politics of Health in a Toxic Culture*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Hamilton, Lawrence C. and Cynthia M. Duncan. 2000. "Fisheries dependence and social change in the northern Atlantic." Pp. 95-105 in David Symes (ed.) *Fisheries Dependent Regions*. Oxford: Fishing News Books.

Hamilton, Lawrence C. and Richard L. Haedrich. 1999. "Ecological and population changes in fishing communities of the North Atlantic Arc." *Polar Research* 18(2):383-388.

Kroll-Smith, Steve, Phil Brown, and Valerie Gunter (eds.). 2000. *Illness and the Environment: A Reader in Contested Medicine*. New York: New York University Press.

Kroll-Smith, Steve, Valerie Gunter, Shirley Laska. 2000. "The Symbolic, The Physical, and Sociology: Analytic Stances and Theorizing Environments." *American Sociologist*, Spring: 44-61.

Kroll-Smith, Steve. 2000. "The Social Production of the 'Drowsy Person'" in Gale Miller and James Holstein (eds.) *Perspectives on Social Problems*. JAI Press, pp. 89-109.

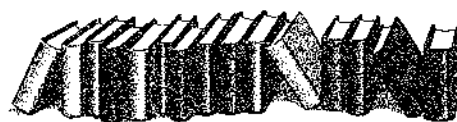
Kroll-Smith, Steve and Hugh Floyd. 2000. *Bodies in Protest: Environmental Illness and the Struggle Over Medical Knowledge*. New York: New York University Press. (Reissued in paperback.)

Lewis, Tammy L. 2000. "Transnational Conservation Movement Organizations: Shaping the Protected Area Systems of Less Developed Countries." *Mobilization* 5 (1): 105-123.

Mol, Arthur P.J. and David A. Sonnenfeld, eds. 2000. *Ecological Modernisation Around the World: Perspectives and Critical Debates*. London and Portland: Frank Cass. To order: in North America: c/o ISBS, (800) 944-6190, orders@isbs.com, in Europe: Frank Cass, +44 (20) 8599 8866, sales@frankcass.com, <http://www.frankcass.com>

Rudel, Thomas K. 2000. "Organizing for sustainable development: conservation organizations and the struggle to protect tropical rain forests in Esmeraldas, Ecuador." *Ambio*. 29(2):78-82.

Top 10 Environmental Sociology Books/Articles Poll Results



Here are the results of the second round of the editor's poll on the top ten environmental sociology books and articles. Thanks to all who voted!

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| #1 | Schnaiberg, Allan. 1980. <i>The Environment: from Surplus to Scarcity</i> . | #6 | Beck, Ulrich. 1992. <i>Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity</i> . |
| #2 | Catton, William and Riley Dunlap. 1978. "Environmental Sociology: A New Paradigm," <i>The American Sociologist</i> . | #7(tie): | Dunlap, Riley and William Catton. 1994. "Struggling with Human Exemptionalism," <i>The American Sociologist</i> . |
| #3 | Szasz, Andrew. 1994. <i>Ecopolitism: Toxic Waste and the Movement for Environmental Justice</i> . | & | Schnaiberg, Allan and Kenneth A. Gould. 1994. <i>Environment and Society: The Enduring Conflict</i> . |
| #4 | Bullard, Robert D. 1990. <i>Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality</i> . | #8 (tie): | Daly, Herman. 1997. <i>Beyond Growth: The Economics of Sustainable Development</i> . |
| #5 (tie): | Catton, William R., Jr. 1980. <i>Overshoot: The Ecological Basis of Revolutionary Change</i> . | & | O'Connor, James. 1998. <i>Natural Causes: Essays in Ecological Marxism</i> . |
| & | Rosa, Eugene. 1998. "Metatheoretical Foundations for | | |

Another Counter to the "Devil" of a Point-Counterpoint

from Alan Rudy, Michigan State University

As with Bill Freudenburg, my position is that environmental Sociology's "devil" is not in nature but in our bedevilment with dualisms. Environmental sociologists need alternative methods of analysis in order to treat these dualisms as the heuristic tools they can be, as opposed to the reified divisions they have become. The greatest similarity between the strong realist and constructivist camps is their shared commitment to these classic modernist dualisms. Freudenburg's conjoint constitution and mutual contingency approach is a notable step forward.

Nevertheless, I would expect that it remains unclear what kind of method to use when taking conjoint constitution and mutual contingency seriously. Steve Zavestosky's earlier contribution to this newsletter advocated a search for the proportional causality generated by real nature and its constructed meanings.¹ I would argue that Freudenburg's approach eschews not only Steve Kroll-Smith's pluralist position, but also that of the proportional "both/and" approach that seeks an intermediate ground "between" ecological determinations and social constructions.

Beyond this, however, in Freudenburg's work nature appears to remain a thing, with properties, "out there." Nature remains a ground the meaning and/or form of which changes over socially historical time. Re-reading "Beyond the nature-society divide," the article generally treats Iron Mountain as a natural resource the nature and meanings of which society changes under evolving social, technological and market conditions.² Responding to Andrew Pickering's response that nature's resistance to social intentionality is understressed in that article, Freudenburg appropriately indicated that there is more than resistance going on—ecological conditions can be said to contextually enable emerging social intentionalities as well as constrain them.³ Despite his realist constructivism, Pickering continued a variant of the "nature as devil" tradition which Freudenburg rejects.

What isn't necessarily clear from Freudenburg's position is the theoretical and methodological traditions with which it connects or from which it is derived. It is important, here, that Freudenburg's work emerged as a result of an engagement with the science studies literature. Unfortunately, he is one of the relatively few US environmental sociologists who have actively incorporated this other literature in their work.⁴ I think it is fairly obvious that this silence derives from the frustration many environmental sociologists have with what they see as idealist navel-gazing in post-structuralist science studies and some environmental historians.⁵ Similarly, science studies and environmental history schol-

ars have been frustrated with what they see as forms of naïve realism, in environmental studies/sociology and within the science wars.

In this context, the question arises as to where to look for realist approaches to the nature-society dualisms which take the socially situated and historically contingent ideational moments in science, policy and public opinion seriously. What we are all looking for is something I call "materialist constructivism." Materialist constructivists posit BOTH ontological realism and epistemological constructivism.⁶ Whether borrowing from Neil Smith's work on the production of nature and space,⁷ Bruno Latour's work on scientific actor-networks,⁸ Donna Haraway's exploration of material-semiotic actors,⁹ Karen Barad's agentially real world of physics research,¹⁰ or Levins and Lewontin's dialectical biology,¹¹ the effort is to see the world as always already produced, or constructed, though not wholly by human hands nor determinately by natural forces.

What ties all of these literatures together is another set of "devils" for environmental sociology. All material constructivisms are multidisciplinary, all range beyond sociological literatures and methods. Whether science studies, environmental history, political ecology, historical geography, or feminist studies of nature, technology, and bodies, these research programs cut across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Methodologically, scholars in these research programs pay great heed to the social production of meaningful spatial and historical boundaries and their own practices selecting the spatial scales, historical scopes and sociological units of analysis.¹²

The question is not whether the material world exists, nor is it about the power of ideation. The key concern is with the sociological relations and processes by which the environment comes to exist for us—and comes to have different material forms, meanings and consequences for different individuals and groups. Perhaps most important, however, is an analysis of the ways these relations and processes include some actors and exclude "others" from participation or evidentiary meaning. These unavoidably political processes of inclusion and exclusion—the processes within and by which the boundaries of real and meaningful time, space, nature and persons for environmental activity and policy-making are established have an undeniable impact on environmental scholarship and policy.

Continued on page 5

¹ Steve Zavestoski 1997. "Emerging Theoretical Parameters in Environmental Sociology." *Environment, Technology and Society*. No. 85. Spring, pp. 5-6. Newsletter of the Section on Environment and Technology, American Sociological Association.

² William R. Freudenburg, Scott Frickel, and Robert Gramling (1995). "Beyond the nature society divide—learning to think about a mountain." *Sociological Forum* 10(3): 361-392.

³ Andrew Pickering (1996) "Further beyond the society nature divide: A comment on Freudenburg, Frickel, and Gramling." *Sociological Forum* 11: (1) 153-159; and William R. Freudenburg, Scott Frickel, Robert Gramling. (1996) "Crossing the next divide: response." *Sociological Forum*. 11: (1) 161-175.

⁴ This is not intended to shortchange the folks who do work with these materials.

⁵ See William Cronon (ed). 1995. *Uncommon ground: toward reinventing nature*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.; Klaus Eder. 1996. *The social construction of nature: a sociology of ecological enlightenment*. London: Sage Publications; Andrew Ross. 1994. *The Chicago gangster theory of life: nature's debt to society*. New York: Verso; and Michael E. Soule and Gary Lease (eds.) (1995) *Reinventing nature?: responses to postmodern deconstruction*.

Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

⁶ David Demeritt (1998) "Science, social construction and nature." Pp. 173-193 in B. Braun and N. Castree (eds.) *Remaking reality: nature at the millennium*. New York: Routledge.

⁷ Neil Smith. 1984. *Uneven development: nature, capital, and the production of space*. New York, NY: Blackwell.

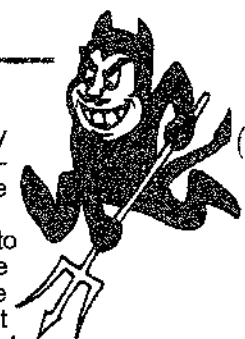
⁸ Bruno Latour. 1993. *We have never been modern*; translated by Catherine Porter. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

⁹ Donna Haraway. 1991. *Simians, cyborgs and women: the reinvention of nature*. London: Free Association.

¹⁰ Karen Barad. 1996. "Meeting the Universe Halfway: Realism and Social Constructivism Without Contradiction." In Lynn Hankinson Nelson and Jack Nelson (eds.), *Feminism, science, and the philosophy of science*. Dordrecht, Holland: Kluwer Press.

¹¹ Richard Levins and Richard Lewontin. 1987. *The dialectical biologist*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

¹² For a remarkable example of this tradition, see: Bruce Braun and Noel Castree, (eds.). 1998. *Remaking reality: nature at the millennium*. London: Routledge.



I will end this little intervention with an example that seeks to make this material constructivist, what I have elsewhere called an active materialist¹³, position clear. My dissertation work was stimulated by the emergence of a "superpest" in California's Imperial Valley, now called the Silver Leaf whitefly. This whitefly found a host in just about every agricultural crop in the Valley, was resistant to every legal pesticide and pesticide cocktail, and it reproduced at rates never before seen in whiteflies. However, whether the pest was constructed (whether it evolved within the environmental cauldron of the Valley) or was introduced (as a result of the global greenhouse economy in the region) remains unclear. In other words, it remains unclear whether the whitefly is a devil we made or if it is nature's devil that we transported—though this latter position again raises the question of combined agency in social ecological generation of environmental problems.

Depending on how one binds time, space, agroecological relations, political economic processes, etc., a broad spectrum of interpretive outcomes can be generated when looking at this whitefly. If one focuses on agriculture, the superpest might be treated as "natural," "immediate," "regional," and "costly." Then, "social" reactions (whether driven by economic, political, social, or cultural interests) can be studied. However, if one focuses on the (historical) sociology of environment, it may be that the key is to study the intra- and inter-regional agroecological processes which led to the emergence of the pest. Here, "social" processes are always already in negotiation with existing and emergent ecological, market, labor, transportation, and regulatory conditions. Each of these conditions operates across space and time at different rates, with different actors and at different, overlapping scales. For me, the Silver Leaf whitefly led to the discovery and analysis of myriad other (multi-)regional and (inter-) national environmental crises, labor struggles and community (under- and re-)development trajectories.

By far, the most important difference between the three approaches just listed is the self-conscious academic work renegotiating and reestablishing temporal, spatial, and social-ecological levels of analysis. Each renegotiation demands that diverse moments in the "real" world be differentially categorized such that they increase or decrease in their material and sociological importance. It is this greater self-reflexivity in our own theoretical and material abstraction of that which we determine to be meaningful that is most necessary for our further development as material constructivists. Until we do so, environmental sociologists will struggle to move beyond our ongoing pre-occupation with

whether or not our colleagues are realists, constructivists, or conjoint constitutionalists.

This leads me to my final concern and last appeal. There is an intellectual tradition in sociology that has a long-term commitment to these issues of real abstraction, of materialist constructivism. Further, this tradition undergirds much of the geographic, environmental historical and science studies literature that seeks to move beyond the dualisms of realism and constructivism—particularly in its feminist forms. That environmental sociology continues to underplay the theories and methods associated with ecological Marxism and socialist ecofeminism is, I believe, part of the reason we keep struggling with dualisms.¹⁴

Looking at the last two decades of publications in the journals *Capitalism Nature Socialism*¹⁵, *Socialist Review*, *Monthly Review*, *Economic Geography*, *Rethinking Marxism*, *Antipode*, *The Journal of Historical Geography*, *The Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Hypatia*, *Signs*, and/or *Organization and Environment* provides a sense of how diverse, fecund and generative these traditions are. Though often theoretically incommensurable and concerned with intramural debates, these publications are broadly committed to exploring the mutual, conjoint and co-evolutionary moments within social ecological relations.

To sum up, the devil is NOT in our opposite, our dance partner, the Other, the environment, or nature. The devil is in the way sociologists, scientists, environmentalists and policy makers have investigated the environment. More often than not there has been no dance at all, whether clutching, groping, free form or at a go-go distance. I would argue that treating nature like the devil does us, nature, and our students a great disservice. We cannot continue to consider nature the devil or even an Other that scholars outside sociology study. So much of the struggle in environmental sociology has been a process of coming to see nature in society—not as something "really" out there, or "constructed" in here, but a social ecological relation that is always already real and meaningful. To my mind, we will become both more sociological and more interesting to other sociologists the more we construct the environment as "in" our very real world.

¹⁴ Two things should be indicated here. First, I'd be a fool not to acknowledge that Marxism and feminism each have their own histories of problematic and reified dualisms. Secondly, at least to this reader, Bruno Latour's latest book ([1999] *Pandora's hope: essays on the reality of science studies*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.) on scientific methods and philosophy, sounds a great deal like Bertell Ollman's explication of Marxist dialectics ([1993] *Dialectical investigations*. New York: Routledge.)

¹⁵ Here, I need to acknowledge my historical relationship with *CNS* as a participant in the seminar from which it sprang, a contributor and an ongoing member of the editorial review collective.

¹³ Alan Rudy. 1994. "The Dialectics of Capital and Nature." *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 5(2): 95-106

Points of Interest, continued from page 1

Great Falls Park

Includes the ruins of the nation's first failed canal-building effort, begun by George Washington.

Chesapeake Bay

World's largest estuary with 7,000 miles of tidal shoreline and thousands of acres of salt marshes supporting 2,500 species of plants and animals.

Patuxent Research Refuge

A science and education center of the Interior Department. 12,750 acres of woods, lakes, and wetlands. Trails. Tram tours.

Hiking Trails

Capital Crescent (11.5 miles); C&O Canal Tow Path (185 miles); Battery Kemble Trail (1.3 miles); Former trolley right of way (0.6 mile); Wesley Heights Trail (0.8 mile); Glover Archbold Trail (3.1 miles); Whitehaven Trail (1 mile); Normanstone Trail (0.9 mile); Dumbarton Oaks Trail (0.8 mile); Rock Creek Trail (4 miles); Melvin Hazen Trail (1.1 mile); Western Ridge Trail (4.3 miles); Soapstone Valley Trail (0.9 mile); Valley Trail (5.2 miles); Potomac Heritage Trail (10 miles); Mount Vernon Bike Trail (17.5 miles); Fort Circle Trail (5 miles). See the National Park service for detailed trail maps.

Meeting Announcement

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). For information contact: Peter Dickens, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, 15 Chedworth Street, Cambridge CB3 9JF United Kingdom, e-mail: peter@15chedworth.freemove.co.uk

Position Announcement

Georgia Institute of Technology. The School of History, Technology, and Society invites applications for a tenure track Assistant or Associate Professor of Sociology, to begin August 2001. Ph.D. required at time of appointment. Candidates are sought in the sociology of technology and science. The ability to teach sociology of the environment and/or social theory/ methods is also desirable, but not required. The School of History, Technology, and Society is an interdisciplinary department composed of sociologists and historians whose research concerns the relationship between culture, society, and technology, broadly defined. The successful candidate will be expected to show evidence of excellence in scholarship and teaching, both of which are important to our growing under-graduate and graduate programs. We encourage applications from women and members of underrepresented groups. Please send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and examples of written work to: Mary Frank Fox and Steven Vallas, Co-Chairs, Sociology Recruitment, School of History, Technology, and Society, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0345, USA. Review of Applications will begin October 20.



Member News

Riley E. Dunlap, Washington State University, received the 2000 Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award from WSU's College of Liberal Arts in recognition of his contributions to the field of environmental sociology.

Riley Dunlap was also recently appointed Gallup Scholar for Environment by the Gallup Organization. His role involves helping Gallup organize their archives of environmental opinion data and plan new surveys focusing on the environment. He helped design Gallup's Earth Day 2000 survey that focused on public perceptions of the environmental movement.

Paul Mohai (School of Natural Resources & Environment, University of Michigan) and **John K. Thomas** (Dept. of Rural Sociology, Texas A&M University), participated in a Pellston workshop entitled, "Environment-Human Health Interconnections." The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) and the Society of Toxicology (SOT) sponsored the workshop, held at Snowbird, Utah (June 10-15). Mohai chaired a group of professionals from academia, business, government to address social and policy implications of these interconnections. Thomas participated as a member of the panel that examined linkages between ecosystem assimilation capacity and human health. A SETAC/SOT monograph of the proceedings is expected to be published late in the year.

After two years as Ciriacy-Wantrup Visting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, **David Sonnenfeld** has returned to his position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Washington State University. He returns to WSU's Tri-Cities campus just as President Clinton has declared the nearby Hanford Reach a national monument, and as clean-up worries continue at the Hanford nuclear site.

Des Connor has put together a new Internet Tutorial on Public Participation

If you, or someone you know, are interested in increasing your knowledge of Public Participation, check out my new Internet Tutorial on the subject at www.connor.bc.ca/connor. The program features: * copy of Public Participation: A Manual; * use of instructional video: "How to Prevent and Resolve Public Controversy"; * design a public participation program for one of your projects; * when you want it; where you want it; and no travel costs!

Section Election Results

Secretary-Treasurer:

Ken Gould, St. Lawrence University

Council Members:

Angela Mertig, Michigan State University

Rik Scarce, Michigan State University

Melissa Toffolon-Weiss, Tulane University [student rep.]

The E&T Election Committee: Steve Brechin, Lori Hunter, and Max Pfeiffer extend congratulations to those elected and a hearty thanks to all who ran. It was a terrific slate of candidates.



Letter to the Editor

Re: Toward a Sociology of Brownfields

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing the Pellow/Roberts interview in the Spring issue of *ET&S* (no. 97, 2000). From my own experience I would like to suggest that any sociology of brownfields has to consider the social and cultural purpose of the site. A city planner, developer, or next door neighbor may consider a site to be a brownfield--dilapidated, an eyesore, without worth but with potential--while the owner and/or user of the site has a purpose and use for the site.

My experience with fishing communities suggests that a modern fishing operation requires about 0.5 acres of space to store and repair fishing gear for each vessel. These storage areas are close to, if not on, the dock area and represent a major asset to fishermen. However, they also represent prime waterfront space in most coastal communities with an economic value to developers far beyond that to the fishermen. Except that in cultural and social terms the fishery is dead without access to such space.

There is a growing body of evidence that suggests that the brownfield designation is being used to condemn fishermen's gear storage areas for conversion to other use. I would be most interested to learn of other examples, from agriculture, forestry, etc., in which industries and occupations that use sites that others may consider brownfields are having sites usurped for other purposes.

Sincerely,

Peter H. Fricke
Middleway, West Virginia



Environment and Technology-Related Sessions at the 2000 ASA Annual Meetings

Saturday, August 12 -- 8:30 a.m.

18. *Section on Political Economy of the World System. Refereed Roundtables* (to 9:30 a.m.)—Marriott Wardman Park. Table 1. Environmental Movements and Environmental Transformation in the Modern World-System.

Saturday, August 12 -- 12:30 p.m.

69. Regular Session. *Seeking Profit, Avoiding Danger: Social Aspects of Risk*—Hilton Washington.

Sunday, August 13 -- 10:30 p.m.

151. Research Poster Session. *Inequalities: Race, Class, and Gender*—Hilton Washington. Poster 3. "Understanding the Multiple Conceptions of Environmental Justice."

Sunday, August 13 -- 12:30 p.m.

173. Special Session. *International Environmental Justice Issues*—Hilton Washington; Organizer and Presider: Dorceta E. Taylor; Panel: Dorceta E. Taylor, Paul Mohai, Steve Brechin, June Glin.

Monday, August 14 -- 8:30 a.m.

226. Special Session. *Spatial Inequalities*—Marriott Wardman Park.

Monday, August 14 -- 10:30 a.m.

276. Regular Session. *Place and Space: Tourism, Multiculturalism, and Public Life*—Marriott Wardman Park.

Monday, August 14 -- 2:30 p.m.

304. *Open Refereed Roundtables. Theories, Social Movements, Culture, Cognition, Technology, and Methodology*—Marriott Wardman Park. Table 5. Technology and Society.

Monday, August 14 -- 4:30 p.m.

339. Regular Session. *Disasters*—Hilton Washington.

345. Regular Session. *Place and Space: Race, Gender and Place Identity*—Marriott Wardman Park.

Joint NRRG-E&T Section Environmental Policy Symposium*

Tuesday, August 15 -- all day

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

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

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

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

located at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel

* participation in the Symposium requires one-day registration for the RSS Meetings, see
<http://www.ruralsociology.org/annual-meeting/2000/index.html>

(Please note: Reception participation does NOT require registration at both sets of Meetings!)

Tuesday, August 15 -- 8:30 a.m.

372. Regular Session. *Environmental Sociology: International Development*—Hilton Washington; Organizer: Shirley Laska, University of New Orleans; Presider: Paige Tucker, George Mason University; Discussion: Steve Kroll-Smith, University of New Orleans.

Tuesday, August 15 -- 10:30 a.m.

390. Special Session. *Spotlight on Environmental Racism: Strategies for the New Millennium*—Hilton Washington; Organizer: Glenn S. Johnson; Presider: Beverly Wright.

421. *Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology. Refereed Roundtables on Scientific Knowledge and Technology* (to 11:30 a.m.)—Hilton Washington. Table 1. Institutions, Standardization, and Culture in Science-based Knowledge; Table 2. Pollution, Status, and Identity in the Production of Science.

Tuesday, August 15 -- 12:30 p.m.

435. Regular Session. *Environmental Sociology: Mobilization, Disputes, and Claimsmaking*—Hilton Washington; Organizer: Shirley Laska, University of New Orleans; Presider: Chris Biga, Washington State University; Discussion: Valerie Gunter, University of New Orleans.

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Tuesday, August 15 -- 2:30 p.m.

460. Regular Session. *Environmental Sociology: Organization and Equity Issues*—Hilton Washington; Organizer: Shirley Laska, University of New Orleans; Presider: Patricia Widener, University of New Orleans; Discussion: Betty Morrow, Florida International University.

469. Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work. *Organizations and Risky Technologies: Managing Hazards and Disasters* (co-sponsored with the ASA Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology)—Marriott Wardman Park.

472. Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements. *Refereed Roundtables on Collective Behavior and Social Movements*—Marriott Wardman Park. Table 6. The Role of Organizations in Social Movements.



Environment and Technology Section Reception

4:15 p.m.

**Co-sponsored with the Rural Sociological Society - Natural Resources Research Group
at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel**

****open to all, no extra charge for entry****

Tuesday, August 15 -- 4:30 p.m.

475. Special Session. *Nuclear Power and Anti-Nuclear Struggles*—Hilton Washington; Organizer and Presider: Lester R. Kurtz; Discussion: Lester R. Kurtz.

487. Regular Session. *Global Production Networks in the World Economy*—Marriott Wardman Park; Organizer and Presider: Susan Tiano.

Wednesday, August 16 -- 8:30 a.m.

516. Section on Environment and Technology. *Refereed Roundtables and Business Meeting*—Hilton Washington.

Refereed Roundtables (to 9:30 a.m.); Organizer: Carole L. Seyfrit, Old Dominion University

Tables: 1. Environmental Advocacy and Activism -- Table Presider: Shelly Habel, Whitman College; 2. Environmental Inequality -- Table Presider: Karen O'Neill, Rutgers University; 3. Global Environmentalism and Local Actions -- Table Presider: Suzanne B. Maurer, Syracuse University; 4. Environmental Values -- Table Presider: Riley E. Dunlap, Washington State University; 5. Fisheries -- Table Presider: Christopher K. Vanderpool, Michigan State University; 6. Toxic Hazards and Environmental Health -- Table Presider: Stephen R. Couch, The Pennsylvania State University; 7. Actions of Nation-States and Environmental Impacts -- Table Presider: Paul K. Gellert, Cornell University; 8. Environmental Attitudes and Behaviors -- Table Presider: Annette P. Hanada, George Mason University; 9. Modernity and Environment -- Table Presider: Harris Ali, University of Toronto at Scarborough; 10. Environmental Legacies of the Cold War -- Table Presider: Kenneth A. Gould, St. Lawrence University; 11. Framing of Environmental Issues and Policies -- Table Presider: Erin E. Robinson, University at Buffalo; 12. Growth, Change, and Environmental Quality -- Table Presider: J. Stanley Black, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; 13. Other Issues -- Table Presider: Susan H. Roschke, City of Norwood, Ohio.



**Section on Environment and Technology
Awards Ceremony and Business Meeting**

(9:30-10:10 a.m.)



Wednesday, August 16 -- 10:30 a.m.

534. Regular Session. *Rural Sociology*—Marriott Wardman Park; Organizer: Angela G. Mertig; Presider: Alan Rudy; Discussion: Alan Rudy.

539. Section on Environment and Technology. *Environmental Justice: Political Economy, History, and Theory* (co-sponsored by the Section on Race, Gender, and Class)—Hilton Washington; Organizer, Presider, and Discussant: David N. Pellow, University of Colorado at Boulder.

Wednesday, August 16 -- 12:30 p.m.

561. Section on Environment and Technology. *Global Economy: Environmental Tradeoffs?*—Hilton Washington; Organizer: Carole L. Seyfrit, Old Dominion University; Presider: Eugene A. Rosa, Washington State University; Discussion: Zsuzsa Gille, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Wednesday, August 16 -- 2:30 p.m.

573. Section on Environment and Technology. *Science and Activism: Framing Environmental Issues*—Hilton Washington; Organizer: Carole L. Seyfrit, Old Dominion University; Presider: Tammy Lewis, Denison University; Discussion: Loren Lutzenhiser, Washington State University.