



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

Winter 2004

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Elected Officers:

Chair:

Phil Brown

Phil_Brown@brown.edu

Chair-Elect:

Stella Capek

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Secretary/Treasurer:

Bob Brulle

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Council Members:

Tammy Lewis

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Lori Hunter

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John Bellamy Foster

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Margarita Alario

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Stephen Zavestoski

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Dana Fisher

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Student Council

Representative:

Marcia Hill

Gossardmgossard@wsu.edu

Newsletter Editor:

Stephan W. Scholz

scholzsu@u.arizona.edu

Membership Passes Revision of Section By-Laws

Phil Brown

A special ballot, coordinated by the ASA office, resulted in a virtually unanimous passage of the by-laws revision that the Council worked hard on over this past year – 60 voted in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstained. The general idea of the restructuring is to formalize standing committees and to make specific ETS responsibilities attached to regular elected Council positions, rather than being assigned to voluntary committees. As such, most functional responsibilities of the Section will now be conducted by committees with an elected chair, supported by committee members either recruited by the Committee Chair or recruited by the Section Chair and Council. The full by-laws can be found on the website. Here is a brief description of the elected offices and the responsibilities of their committees:

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the overall leadership of the Section. The Chair will ensure that other elected Council members and Committee Chairpersons are carrying out their duties. The Chair is responsible for organizing and chairing the Business and Council Meetings. In the Chair's first year, s/he is responsible for organization of Section-sponsored sessions, although the Chair may enlist others to help prepare the sessions.

Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer handles all financial affairs of the Section, works with the Chair and Chair-Elect to provide overall leadership, organizes the annual ASA reception, and takes notes and distributes minutes of the annual Council Meeting and Business Meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer also chairs the Distinguished Contribution Committee.

Chair-Elect

The Chair-Elect works together with the Chair and Secretary-Treasurer to provide overall leadership of the Section. In the Chair-Elect's first year, s/he will take on special tasks as deemed necessary by the Chair, such as liaison with other ASA sections and related non-ASA organizations, as well as possibly working on periodic pre-ASA mini-conferences. In the Chair-Elect's second year, s/he is responsible for putting together the Section-sponsored sessions. In the Chair-Elect's second year, s/he is also responsible for chairing the Boguslaw Award Committee.

Nominations Committee Chair

The Nominations Committee Chair will be joined by two members appointed by Section Chair with help from the Council. The committee will solicit nomination for upcoming offices by handing out nomination forms at the Council meeting, business meeting, and all ETS sessions.

Policy and Research Committee Chair

The chair of the Policy and Research Committee will work with at least two members recruited by the Section Chair with help from the Council. They will keep informed of major research opportunities for Environmental Sociologists, and write or solicit from others an article on these opportunities for each newsletter issue. They will also keep aware of major policy issues and write or solicit from others brief policy notes for the newsletter as well. This committee will conduct the selection of the Outstanding Publication Award and the Marvin Olsen Student Paper Award.

Membership Committee Chair

The chair of the Membership Committee will work with at least two members appointed by

Bylaw Revisions Passed (Cont'd)

Webmaster:

Rob Gardner
Robert.Gardner
@colorado.edu

Listserv Manager:

Andrew Van Alstyne
avanalst@umich.edu

Program Committee for ASA 2004:

Phil Brown, chair

Membership Committee:

Stephen Zavestoski, chair;
Aaron McCright
Bruce Pobodnik

Policy and Research Committee:

Dana Fisher
Bill Freudenburg
Gene Rosa

Outstanding Publication Committee:

Craig Humphrey, chair;
Scott Frickel
Tammy Lewis

Olsen Student Paper Award Committee:

Margarita Alario, chair;
Karen O'Neill
John Bellamy Foster

Nominations Committee:

Steve Kroll-Smith, chair;
David Pellow
Lori Hunter

Distinguished Contribution Award Committee:

Bob Brulle, chair;
all council members

Section Website:

<http://socsci.colorado.edu/SOC/ET/ets.html>

To subscribe to the listserv for this section go to the website and follow the relevant link and directions.

the Section Chair with help from the Council, to build membership by contacting past section members and encouraging their return to the section, as well as actively recruiting new members.

Publications Committee Chair

The Publications Committee Chair will lead a committee composed of the Webmaster, Listserv Manager, Newsletter Editor, and one or two other members appointed by the Section Chair with help from the Council. The committee will oversee the Section's Newsletter, website, and listserv. This committee will deal with any future discussions on journal affiliations, as well as publishing and/or updating a brochure describing the Section and listing past Chairs and award winners, for use in expanding the Section's presence and in soliciting new members.

Teaching and Training Committee Chair

The chair of the Teaching and Training Committee will work with a committee of at least two others. The committee will compile a list of graduate programs in Environmental Sociology, for posting on the web, in order to help potential Environmental Sociology graduate students. The committee will also compile a list, for posting on the web, of postdoctoral positions. This committee will also undertake periodic revision of the Syllabi and Instructional Manual, as per the ASA's timetable.

Council Member-at-large and Student Member Positions

One Council member-at-large will be elected. They will be assigned to a rotating series of tasks, depending on Section needs (e.g., mini-conference organization). This Council Member-at-large may also be appointed to assist on a major committee project (e.g. revision of the Syllabi and Instructional Manual). The Student Council Member will write, or solicit from others, a brief article on student news and concerns for each newsletter. The student member will also assist the Membership Committee reach out to students.

Special Procedures for Transition to the New System of Elected Officers Beginning in 2004

The following will be elected for a one-year term to start the restructuring process: Chair of Nominations Committee, Chair of Policy and Research Committee, and Chair of Publications Committee. Next year we will elect for two-year terms: Chair of Teaching and Training Committee and Chair of Membership Committee. In the third year, the first group of the officers (Chair of Nominations Committee, Chair of Policy and Research Committee, and Chair of Publications Committee) will be elected for a two-year term, and the Council and Student Council members will also be elected. At that point the elections will be on schedule. Current Council-at-large will continue for their three-year term because they have been elected on that basis. Similarly, other Council members will serve out their terms.

Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award

This award is given annually to recognize an outstanding graduate student-authored paper accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the ASA. It is named after Marvin Olsen to recognize his contributions to environmental sociology. The award is announced at the Section business meeting and the student will be presented a certificate acknowledging the honored paper. The recipient receives \$200 to help defray the cost of participating in the Meeting. Graduate students, and their advisors on their behalf, are encouraged to submit papers to this competition. The deadline for submitting papers is May 1, 2004. Send them to:

Maggie Alario
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois
1023 Plant Sciences Lab, MC-634
1201 South Dorner Drive
Urbana, Illinois 61801

If you have any questions about eligibility, please contact the award committee chair, Maggie Alario at alario@uiuc.edu

Outstanding Publication Award

This award, made every other year, recognizes outstanding research in the sociology of the environment and technology. The research can be published either in book or article form. The committee will consider books published during the last two years, or a series of articles published during the last six years. The committee will consider self-nominations as well as nominations made by people other than the authors. It will not consider nominations made by publishers. To be eligible for consideration, please send copies of the works or works to each of the committee members by May 1, 2004:

Craig Humphrey
Department of Sociology
Pennsylvania State University
215 Oswald Tower
University Park, PA 16802

Scott Frickel
Department of Sociology
220 Newcomb Hall
Tulane University
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-5698

Tammy Lewis
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Muhlenberg College
2400 Chew St., Allentown PA 18104.

If you have any questions about eligibility, please contact the award committee chair, Craig Humphrey at ch8@psu.edu

Distinguished Contribution Award

The Distinguished Contribution Award is given each year to a section member for outstanding service, innovation, teaching, and publication in the sociology of the environment and technology. Nominations for this award must be received by May 1, 2004. To nominate a section member for this award, please send a letter of nomination describing the nominee's contribution to the field, accompanied by a copy of the nominee's CV, to the chair of the award committee, Robert Brulle (rbrulle@igc.org) electronically or to:

Robert Brulle
Associate Professor of Sociology and Environmental Science
Department of Culture and Communication, Drexel University
3141 Chestnut St., Philadelphia PA 19104

**Call For
Nominations**

**ET&S 2004
Awards**

TECHNONATURES II

Environments, Technologies and Spaces
in the 21st Century

Department of Geography and the Environment
University of Oxford
Thursday June 24th 2004

Conference
Announcement

In an era marked by accelerating environmental change, and deepening battles over eco-technological and biotechnological transformations, the nature of "Nature" and the politics of "Nature" is increasingly up for grabs. Overlapping conversations in geography and sociology concerned with "the production of nature" (Lefebvre, Smith, Castree/Braun), "contested natures" (Urry/Macnaghten) or "socio-natures" (Swyngedouw), have drawn attention to the irreducibly cultural and political qualities of contemporary socio-environmental relations and processes. Elsewhere, in science and technology studies and anthropology, Haraway's "cyborgs", and "companion species", or Latouri's obsessions with "quasi objects" and "actants" indicate a new desire to think through hybridity. For others still, (Harvey, Castells, Urry), a defining feature of contemporary times is how political economies of scapes, flows and mobilities criss-cross the globe, reworking space/time, places and technocultures with increased intensity. Whether working through landscapes and townscapes or ecologies and bodies, we appear to be increasingly negotiating our ways through "technonatures".

The aims of the technonatures symposia are to create spaces for interdisciplinary conversations between the various critical theoretical traditions which now populate sociology, geography, anthropology and technology studies (e.g: eco/post Marxism, post structuralism and actor network theory; critical ecological modernism, cyborg feminism and political ecology). Technonatures aims to generate an on-going discussion on how we could move and expand debates about "the environment" beyond ecocentrism and high modernist framings; it seeks to imagine 'spaces of hope' in unpromising times and anticipate and support a new critical politics of technonatures.

Confirmed Speakers include:

Erik Swyngedouw Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford; John Urry Sociology, Lancaster University; Noel Castree Geography, Manchester University; Andrew Jamison Science and Technology Studies, University of Aalborg; Andrew Barry Sociology, Goldsmiths College, University of London; Bromyn Parry Geography, University of Cambridge; Damian White Sociology, James Madison University; Gail Davies Geography, University College London Chris Wilbert Planning, Anglia Polytechnic University, Fletcher Linder Anthropology, James Madison University.

To secure a place at the symposium/obtain further details contact Damian White, Dept of Sociology, and Anthropology, James Madison University, Sheldon Hall, MSC 7501 Harrisonburg, Virginia, 22801 USA whitedf@jmu.edu or Chris Wilbert, Dept of Planning, Anglia Polytechnic University, Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SQ. c.wilbert@apu.ac.uk

Book
Review

Against the Grain: Foresters and Politics in Nova Scotia, reviewed by David Orton
L. Anders Sandberg and Peter Clancy
UBC Press, 2000, 335 pages, paperback
ISBN: 0-7748-0766-0.

Seven foresters are discussed in Against the Grain, covering "the interwar, postwar, and contemporary generations", and each have separate chapters. Sandberg and Clancy are claiming through their book that these foresters "might have generated (or might yet generate) a more environmentally sound and socially equitable kind of forestry." The authors further claim that these foresters were "against the grain" of past and current industrial and government orthodoxies in Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia is rather different from a Canadian land "ownership" perspective, in that there is a high degree of "private" ownership in the province. As this book points out, individual and non-industrial owners "own over fifty per cent of Nova Scotia's forest resource." The Crown (public) lands in the province are mainly committed through long-term renewable leases to the pulp mills. To increase the supply of wood for pulp or for saw logs, which sell to an ever-expanding market, therefore meant addressing such individual and non-industrial owners, in an attempt to get them to embrace the industrial forestry paradigm of values. When forestry orients to a world market, there can never be enough wood supply. Yet there is little discussion in this book of how an expansionary, class-based industrial capitalism shapes industrial forestry in Nova Scotia.

The authors of Against the Grain, want to appropriate environmentalism, while denying its legitimacy as being "extreme." They are fundamentally committed towards a commercial forestry, whether for saw logs or for pulp. Sandberg and Clancy share essentially the existing human-centered world view of industrial forestry towards the forests of Nova Scotia but want a better deal for workers and the communities which are directly impacted. If the foresters discussed are "dissenters", their dissenting is basically a concern that forest *exploitation* for their own species be viable in the long term.

The forestry profession, and really all aspects of the industrial forestry enterprise, are reinventing themselves and selling an image of "caring" professionals at the forefront of ecological change. All the foresters discussed by Sandberg and Clancy, with the exception of one, are interesting forestry workers who, by the information presented, tried to bring about some changes in the areas where they worked. However, they did not change the overall priorities of industrial capitalist forestry in Nova Scotia. Any changes they made, were made within this paradigm of values. The changes were, usually, more on the social justice or social equity side than the environmental side. This was a consequence of all these foresters operating within a human-centered frame of reference with humans as the dominant species.

I recommend Against the Grain: Foresters and Politics in Nova Scotia, to those who are interested in forestry politics in Nova Scotia; and, more importantly, to those interested in the major ongoing environmental issue in this province, the destruction of the Acadian forest and how to change this. There is interesting information in this book for the forestry activist, because of the inside access of the authors to various foresters, or to the historical records of such foresters, who worked within and had to implement or contend with various forestry policies in Nova Scotia. However, this book highly exaggerates the importance of the foresters discussed and, apparently, can only do so by ignoring or misrepresenting the extensive contributions by environmentalists to forest discussions in Nova Scotia.

For a more in depth review please visit David Orton's website at:
http://home.ca.inter.net/~greenweb/BR_NS_Forestry.html

Environmental Health Research -- Women's Health, Breast Cancer Research Scientist / Information Technology Specialist

**Job
Opening**

Silent Spring Institute, a non-profit institute studying the environment and women's health, especially breast cancer, seeks researcher with excellent IT skills and background in environmental health science. We are a multi-disciplinary team with expertise in epidemiology, toxicology, chemistry, GIS, and communications. Annual budget of approximately \$1 million supports a staff of 7, working with collaborating investigators at Harvard, Boston University, SUNY Stony Brook, etc. Current research focuses on breast cancer and endocrine disrupting compounds from drinking water pollutants, household exposures, and other sources.

We seek applicants with dual skills and interests in environmental health science and computer technology. Responsibilities:

Provide research support for studies of household contaminants and drinking water pollutants. Coordinate and conduct field sampling, manage data and assist in data analysis, conduct literature reviews. Experience with SAS a plus.

Manage the Institute's information technology (IT) infrastructure including basic systems administration, troubleshooting, and maintenance. Manage the Institute's IT consultants. Train staff as needed. Experience with Windows 2000 and Office 2000 essential, Linux desirable.

Manage the technical aspects of the Institute's website using Macromedia products. HTML coding, graphics production (using CorelDraw and Freehand), and content management experience preferred.

Manage the Institute's internal and web databases using Microsoft Access and Filemaker Pro. Experience with relational database design and implementation preferred. Experience with Active Server Pages or Dreamweaver UltraDev development desirable.

Additional requirements: Excellent academic record, Masters Degree preferred. 2+ years experience, including computer technology management. Chemistry/biology coursework an asset. Excellent attention to accuracy, good writing and communications skills, ability to work independently within a multidisciplinary team. Commitment to careful and impartial research in a context of partnership between scientists and the public. For more information, visit our web site at www.silent.spring.org. To apply, send cover letter describing your interests and experience related to this job, resume, and copy of academic transcript (photocopy is fine) to Diane Czwakiel, Administrative Manager, Silent Spring Institute, 29 Crafts Street, Newton, MA 02458.

Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition
760 North First St.
San Jose, CA 95112
408-287-2607
svtc@svtc.org
www.svtc.org

Training Coordinator/Lead Community Organizer

Silicon Valley Health and Environmental Justice Project

Job Opening

Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (SVTC) is a 21-year old non-profit organization committed to the practice of social justice and multi-racial democracy. SVTC envisions a sustainable world where a healthy environment is a right, rather than a privilege. To bring about this vision, SVTC works for the empowerment of people locally, nationally and globally. SVTC is seeking a Training Coordinator/Community Organizer for the Health and Environmental Justice Project to work with other staff and community leaders to empower low-income and people of color communities in East San Jose and the surrounding area to achieve social and environmental justice.

Responsibilities:

1. Design and implement training programs for community residents;
2. Develop training curricula on a variety of topics such as toxics, environmental health, environmental justice, leadership development, and community organizing;
3. Develop outreach materials and recruitment plans;
4. Coordinate the logistical arrangements for trainings;
5. Recruit community residents and conduct trainings;
6. Work with Community Organizers and community residents to develop and implement community organizing, empowerment, and leadership development strategies, especially around issues of toxics and environmental justice in the East San Jose community and surrounding area;
7. Prepare and implement campaign strategic plans and effectively integrate community organizing with policy change efforts;
8. Represent SVTC/HEJ and advocate for the community to the media, government agencies, and community residents; and
9. Liaison with various organizations to implement the program plan. Qualifications:
10. Experience in community organizing and conducting trainings;
11. Good knowledge of the principles of adult education and popular education;
12. Bilingual (English/Fluent Spanish or Vietnamese) strongly preferred;
13. Knowledge of community and/or Santa Clara County political landscape preferred;

Salary: DOE
Type: Full-time
Start date: Immediately

To apply, mail, fax, or e-mail resume and cover letter to:

Nobuko Mizoguchi, Project Director
Health and Environmental Justice Project, Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition
760 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95112.

E-mail: nobuko@svtc.org
Fax: 408-287-6771
Website: www.svtc.org

**Call For
Submissions**

If any ET&S members would be willing to contribute a story or an update on their research projects for the Spring edition of the newsletter please contact me at scholz@u.arizona.edu.

Some story ideas that I am looking for include a history and assessment of ET&S programs in the United States, bridging academia and activism and fellowship experiences.

Of course the newsletter is also always interested in including a story about current research projects and/or interesting findings.

**Member
News**

Gene Rosa, Washington State University, has been elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Gene Rosa has also been appointed to the National Research Council's National Academy of Sciences Committee on "Metrics of Global Environmental Change."

Publications

Brown, Phil. 2003. "Qualitative Methods In Environmental Health Research." *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 111: 1789-1798.

Brown, Phil. Stephen Zavestoski, Theo Luebke, Joshua Mandelbaum, Sabrina McCormick, and Brian Mayer. 2003 "The Health Politics of Asthma: Environmental Justice and Collective Illness Experience in the United States." *Social Science and Medicine*, 57: 453-464.

Davidson, Debra J. 2003. "Risk in the Redwoods: Contending for Normalcy in Timber Country." *Journal of Risk Research*, 6 (3): 253-266.

Davidson, Debra J., Tim Williamson and John Parkins. 2003. "Understanding Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability in Northern Forest-Based Communities." *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, 33 (11): 2252-2261.

Hunter, Lori M., Manuel de J. Gonzalez G., Matthew Stevenson, Richard Toth, Thomas C. Edwards, Jr., Rob J. Lilieholm, Mary Cablk. 2003. "Population and Development in the California Mojave: Natural Habitat Implications of Alternative Futures". *Population Research and Policy Review*. Vol. 22: 373-397.

Hunter, Lori M., Michael J. White, Jani S. Little, and Jeannette Sutton. 2003. "Environmental Risk, Migration, and Equity". *Population and Environment*. Vol. 25, No. 1:23-39.

McCormick, Sabrina, Phil Brown, and Stephen Zavestoski. 2003. "The Personal Is Scientific, The Scientific Is Political: The Public Paradigm of the Environmental Breast Cancer Movement." *Sociological Forum*, 18: 545-576.

Obach, Brian. 2004. Labor and the Environmental Movement: The Quest for Common Ground. MIT Press, State University of New York, New Paltz.

Rosa, Eugene A., Richard F. York, and Thomas Dietz. 2004. "Tracking the Anthropogenic Drivers of Ecological Impacts." *AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment* (Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences), forthcoming.

York, Richard. 2004. "Cross-National Variation in the Size of Passenger Car Fleets: A Study in Environmentally Significant Consumption." *Population and Environment* 25 (3): 227-248.