

Environment, Technology and Society

NEWSLETTER OF THE SECTION ON ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

FALL 2006

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Elected Officers

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Greetings, Once Again, Environment and Technology Section Members!

This is my second and last year as your Chair, and the first time in two years that I am not organizing the program for the upcoming meetings (that task falls to Chair-Elect Timmons Roberts, who has been doing a terrific job for us on next year's program). So I have even more of a chance to look up and out at the bigger picture for our section. If we look at section-sponsored or supported activities, things are looking very good. There is plenty of creativity, good energy, and collaboration going on in the section, and beyond. But a sustainable organization takes careful design and "architecture," as Phil Brown recognized when he helped us revise the by-laws so that the organization could run more smoothly and have better continuity. In conversations with Timmons about the present and future of the section, we always note that we would like to have more feedback about the direction of the section. Are we doing enough, for example, in terms of policy and social action? Do all of our members, new and old, feel included and welcome in the section? We are committed to finding even better ways to draw on the experience and expertise of our long time members, as well as bringing in fresh directions from our newer members, including students. Please continue to let us hear your ideas about this—on our listserv, in our newsletter, and in messages to me and our elected Council. And speaking of electronic communication, in response to ASA-initiated new discussion forums for sections, our Council is interested in having one sponsored by our section, but we urgently need to find a moderator—please contact Bill Markham and Timmons Roberts if you have some recommendations.

One great piece of news is that in September we passed the 400 member mark for the section, so we will have an extra session at the 2007 meetings. Thanks to everyone, and to our Membership Committee, for their diligent work recruiting members! Even though we have said that focusing on the 400 figure isn't our most important priority, it does give us more space to do what we want to do, and to be visible at the ASA meetings—reason enough to be glad about 400+ members.

Our program for 2007 in New York City is already looking like an exceptionally exciting space for environmental sociology. In addition to the ASA regular Environmental Sociology sessions, the Environment and Technology Section will sponsor three paper sessions including an open session, one on "New Directions in Environmental Inequalities Research" suggested by Liam Downey, and one co-sponsored with the Marxist Section and the Political Economy and World Systems Section (details from organizer Timmons Roberts). We will also, for the

first time co-sponsor a session with the Community and Urban Sociology Section, to be co-organized by Ken Gould and Sharon Zukin, titled "Cities, Consumption and the Environment." I'm personally very glad to see this, since we have so many common interests with the community section, and have not developed that relationship. Our section roundtables will be organized by Carole Seyfrit this year. There will also be quite a few environment-related ASA Thematic Sessions: "Globalization and Environmental Governance" (organized by David Sonnenfeld); "Science, Democracy and Environment: The Contributions of Barry Commoner" (organized by Bob Brulle and Timmons Roberts); "Environmental Justice" (organized by Riley Dunlap); and "Environmental Constraints on Development" (organized by John Bellamy Foster). We plan to explore the possibility of an urban field trip experience at the meetings, so send your suggestions our way. We also have the possibility of using one of our roundtable sessions for a "Critics Meet the Authors Session," which we haven't done in quite a while—again, send your ideas our way if this interests you.

I'd like to thank everyone for all of the good work that went into the Montreal meetings, including participants, presiders, and discussants for our paper sessions on "Society and Nature: Theoretical Approaches" and "Culture, Environmentalism, and Social Justice." Thanks also to Jan Meij for our nine section roundtables, and to students for organizing their roundtable panel "Big Questions in Environmental Sociology: Off-the-Record and Off-the-Cuff." Ken Gould worked hard to set up a very successful pre-conference site tour and mini-symposium on environmental justice at Akwesasne, co-sponsored by Sociologists Without Borders, and hosted by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environmental Division. Maurie Cohen organized our second interesting off-site "Session in Exile" forum, on "The Future of Environmental Sociology and the Environmental Sociology of the Future." The ASA also sponsored a thematic session on Hurricane Katrina on "The Flooding of New Orleans: Views From Up Close," with section members well represented. Our sessions, roundtables, and Business Meeting were well attended—see the minutes posted on our web page. Thanks also to Bob Brulle for setting up our enjoyable off-site reception (and for his great work as Secretary/Treasurer for the past three years!). And congratulations to all of our award recipients (see listing elsewhere in this newsletter), and all of the careful committee work behind those awards. The only hitch is that we need someone to be our (at least semi-official) awards photographer, since in a busy moment, it's difficult to come up with a camera, and to

document our events as well as we would like to. Thanks are also in order to our outgoing and incoming officers on the Council, to the Nominations Committee for putting together an excellent slate, and to everyone who keeps the section running and linked, including Stephan Scholz, our newsletter editor, Rob Gardner on our website (who is always looking for suggestions) and Andrew Van Alstyne on the listserv. We also very much need your help for nominating future officers of the section—see Tom Rudel's note. This is also the time to volunteer for the section's committees so please contact the chairs listed on the masthead if you are interested.

Some ongoing issues for our section include the "Greening of the ASA" letter that we sent to the ASA about its environmental practices, connecting the ideas of environmental sociologists better with decision-makers and the general public, and a thoughtful question about gender balance in our sessions raised by member Jan Buhrmann.

It's heartening to see the good energy in the section, and I am honored to work with you. Besides all of these organizational matters, I wish each of you the joyful pursuit of the things you like best. As for me, I'm going out to harvest some wild persimmons to share with my Food, Culture, and Nature class—one more good way to experience environmental sociology!

Best wishes,

Stella Čapek



**Distinguished Contribution Award Presented to
Phil Brown**

by Steve Kroll-Smith



Phil Brown was the recipient of the 2006 Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award in Environmental Sociology from the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association. Phil's contribution to scholarship, mentoring, and service is nothing short of outstanding. His landmark book with Edwin Mikkelsen *No Safe Place: Toxic Waste, Leukemia, and Community Action* documents the toxic waste crisis in Woburn, MA and the efforts by local citizens to protect their community. Starting in 1999, supported by grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Science Foundation, he studied "contested illnesses" such as asthma, breast cancer, and Gulf War-related illnesses, involving public debates over environmental causes and the impact of social movements on those debates. His book on that work, *Contested Illnesses: Toward a New Environmental Health Movement*, will be published by Columbia University Press in June 2007. Supported by a National Science Foundation grant, Phil is currently examining coalitions between environmental organizations and labor organizations. In addition to a remarkable record of publishing and external grants, Phil is widely recognized for mentoring graduate students, many of whom are now making their own contributions to the discipline. Phil was previously Chair of both the Medical Sociology Section and the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association.

**Kudos to Dickens on Receiving
the Outstanding Publication Award**

by Maurie J. Cohen

The recipient of the 2006 Outstanding Publication Award conferred by the Environment and Technology Section was Peter Dickens (Cambridge University) for his book *Society and Nature: Changing Our Environment, Changing Ourselves* (Polity Press, 2004). This year's award process was highly

competitive and the committee received several worthy nominations.

Dickens' book however stood out in this spirited field for its high degree of originality and conceptual novelty and was the unanimous choice of the committee. This notable volume functions effectively on a number of levels. It is valuable for specialists working across the breadth of the environmental social sciences and for students looking for a serious and innovative treatment of human-environment relations. In bestowing the award on Dickens, the committee noted that

The book is a major achievement, comprehensively addressing multiple dimensions and debates within environmental social science. This volume has already received wide attention and will undoubtedly be considered a foundational work for years to come. While theoretically constructed, the book employs as well findings from a variety of empirical studies with which the author has been engaged. The book is written for a broad audience, including students, environmental sociologists, and anyone interested in the field of human interaction with the natural environment.

**Washington State Student Receives
Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Certificate**

by Maurie J. Cohen

The recipient of this year's Marvin E. Olsen award was Jessica Crowe from Washington State University in recognition of her paper entitled "Community Economic Development Strategies in Rural Washington: Toward a Synthesis of Natural and Social Capital." Her project was carried out under the supervision of Andrew Jorgenson and Eugene Rosa.

The committee overseeing the award process this year also extended an "honorable mention" award to Lisa Asplen (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) for a paper entitled "Decentering Environmental Sociology: Lessons from Post-Humanist Science and Technology Studies." Lisa's project was pursued under the direction of Zsuzsa Gille.

Hearty congratulations to both awardees!

**ASA New York 2007:
A Powerhouse Year for the Environment Section**
by J. Timmons Roberts

Our Environment and Technology Section will have four sessions in 2007, since membership has now topped 400. Members and non-members are encouraged to submit to one of these, and we will pass papers to other regular and section sessions and roundtables to make coherent panels. All submissions need to go through the ASA website (www.asanet.org), but here is the contact information in case you'd like to be in touch with the organizers about any ideas.

1. Roundtables and Business Meeting (as always), roundtables to be organized by Carole L. Seyfrit (clseyfrit@radford.edu)
2. Open Submissions, organized by Timmons Roberts (timmons.roberts@ouce.ox.ac.uk or jtrobe@wm.edu)
3. "New Directions in Environmental Inequalities Research", organized by Timmons Roberts (timmons.roberts@ouce.ox.ac.uk or jtrobe@wm.edu)
4. Session co-sponsored with the Marxist section and PEWS (Political Economy of the World System) section: "Impacts of globalization under capitalism on environments and human rights." Organized by Timmons Roberts (timmons.roberts@ouce.ox.ac.uk or jtrobe@wm.edu)

We also have a joint session submitted by the Community and Urban section (CUSS), co-organized by Sharon Zukin and Ken Gould entitled "Cities, Consumption, and the Environment." (kgould@stlawu.edu)

There are also Regular sessions each year with environmental themes (see the ASA call for papers or the website), and this year there will be four very exciting plenary/special/thematic sessions on the environment. Stand by for details on those.

We will also be electing people to three positions:

- (1) A new chair-elect, who will become chair of the section after two years.
- (2) A council member who will serve as the teaching and training chair.
- (3) A council member who will serve as the membership chair.

Please send your nominations by January 1, 2007 to: Tom Rudel (rudel@aesop.rutgers.edu)

Call for ASA 2007 Section Award Nominations

Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Certificate

This certificate is given annually to recognize an outstanding graduate student-authored paper accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the ASA (The paper can be presented at any session or roundtable at ASA). Graduate students, or advisors on their behalf, are encouraged to submit papers to this competition. The deadline for submitting papers is May 1, 2007. Send three copies to David Pellow (dpellow@ucsd.edu).

Outstanding Publication Award

This award recognizes outstanding research in the sociology of the environment and technology. In alternate years we consider research published either in book or article form. This year the committee will consider series of thematically-related articles published from January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2006. The committee will consider self-nominations as well as nominations made by people other than the authors. To be eligible for consideration, please send 3 copies of the works or works, along with a nomination letter, by May 1, 2007 to David Pellow (dpellow@ucsd.edu).

Fred Buttel 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, 2007. 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: Craig R. Humphrey (ch8@psu.edu).

The Robert Boguslaw Award for
Technology and Humanism

This award is given to a doctoral student or young investigator whose paper addresses technology and human affairs, social action and social change, conflicts over values, or innovative solutions to emerging social issues associated with technology. The honored work should address the concerns of ordinary people, rather than reflecting organizational or institutional agendas. Unpublished papers or articles published within the last two years are eligible. Candidates may either submit their own work or be nominated by someone else. The deadline for submitting papers is May 1, 2007. Please send three copies of the nominated work, along with a nomination letter to J. Timmons Roberts (timmons.roberts@ouce.ox.ac.uk or jtrobe@wm.edu)

**Report from the German Sociological Association
Section for Sociology and Ecology**

by William T. Markham

Attending the German Sociological Association meeting, held in early October in Kassel, provided me with a good occasion to write a few words for my American colleagues about environmental sociology in Germany. The Kassel meeting was my first full GSA meeting, but over the past few years, I have also attended several smaller meetings sponsored by GSA's Section for Sociology and Ecology, and I receive the Section's newsletter.

The GSA meeting attendance of about 1,500 falls between the ASA meeting and meetings of regional associations in the U.S., and the German meeting combines some elements of each. As at regional U.S. meetings, there were many presentations based on doctoral dissertations in progress, and many graduate students are in attendance; however, there was also an impressive and very well attended opening assembly, and the program included presentations by some of the best known names of German sociology. This year's meeting theme, "the 'nature' of society," focused attention on the relationship of society to human biological nature and to the natural environment. As in the U.S., the conference theme was not always systematically carried through at the level of individual sessions, but presentations of potential interest to environmental sociologists were sprinkled throughout the program. German readers might thus profit from scanning the on-line program in search of colleagues who share their research interests. The language of the meeting is German, but a few presentations, including a number of invited presentations from Chinese scholars, were given in English.

I attended mainly sessions sponsored by the Sections for Urban and Regional Sociology and for Sociology and Ecology. The latter has about 150 members and sponsored three sessions, including one cosponsored with the Section on Development.

Sustainability research has been a dominant theme in German environmental sociology for several years now, and the session on sustainability at Kassel emphasized how societies can promote sustainability by developing mechanisms of self governance and self-correction that go beyond traditional state activity. This session highlighted the contrast between European environmental sociologists' optimism that their societies are in the midst of a process of political and ecological modernization that makes sustainability a realizable objective and U.S.

sociologists' typically more gloomy assessment. This difference in perspectives is not accidental. It reflects real and important differences in how seriously the government and business sectors in Germany and the U.S. take environmental problems and the substantial flow of EU and German funds into sustainability research. Still, it is difficult for the skeptical outsider to overlook the fact that--despite all the positive rhetoric about creating sustainability in Europe--Volkswagen continues to avidly pursue selling every family in China a car.

The other two sessions more closely reflected the conference theme. One of these, unfortunately, coincided with my own presentation. It focused on theoretical conceptualizations of nature. The second, cosponsored with the Section on Development, focused on social processes accompanying natural disasters in Germany and abroad. It included an exceptionally interesting presentation by Fritz Reusswig of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research about factors influencing how many fatalities and how much damage hurricanes inflict in the U.S. and various Caribbean countries. Disaster research also cropped up in other parts of the program, including an invited presentation on Katrina's impact by John Logan from Brown.

In addition to its sessions at the biennial national meetings, the Section for Sociology and Ecology also sponsors smaller meetings twice yearly at various cities. Attendance at the three of these I have attended ranged from about a dozen to almost a hundred. Topics for these meetings, as well as session topics at the general DGS meeting, are chosen by the Section's Board in consultation with the membership. Both of the two I have attended recently, including one cosponsored with the Dutch Sociological Society, focused on sustainability research, but other themes have also been featured. The topics tend to be relatively narrow, and--even at the DGS meeting--there are no "catch all" sessions where scholars with ongoing research that does not fit the featured topics could present their work. In comparison to the American approach, this makes for better focused sessions, but it can also exclude important work from presentation. Unlike their American counterparts, German sociologists frequently attend meetings even though they are not presenting a paper, and the short travel distances involved make doing so relatively inexpensive.

Some prominent themes in U.S. environmental sociology receive relatively little attention in German scholarship. Two decades ago, research on environmental movements occupied a prominent

place in German sociology, but very few young scholars have picked up this interest, and I was surprised to discover that the GSA has no section for social movement research. To my knowledge, I am the only sociologist studying German environmental organizations, and attention to the Green Party is limited to political sociologists. German environmental sociologists do concern themselves with environmental justice, but only in the broader meaning of the term. There is no tradition of research about exposure of different population groups to environmental hazards, in part because fewer data are available.

Attending the meeting reminded me once again that there is not a single worldwide sociology, but instead many national and regional sociologies, with emphases that both overlap and diverge. U.S. environmental sociologists who read German might enjoy perusing the homepage of the Section for Sociology and Ecology at:

<http://www.soziologie.de/sektionen/s08/index.htm>

**Understanding Your Audience:
Applications to Teaching**
by Christine Bevc

This is the second article in a series on teaching issues offered by the Teaching and Training Committee.

In the Spring 2006 issue of the ETS Newsletter, Michael Agliardo addressed several areas related to course development and implementation. Another part of preparing to teach is understanding your audience – the students. When you're writing you need to know who your audience is. Is it for an academic or nonacademic audience? For a nonacademic audience, how much knowledge do they already have? Are they completely new to the topic? Do they have some vague or general ideas about the topic; or are they already experts with a great deal of experience to support their knowledge? Just as understanding your audience is important when writing, it is important to understand your audience when you are teaching. By understanding your classroom audience, you can tailor your teaching strategy to improve knowledge transfer and information retention.

While the material we teach is important, we must not ignore that how we teach that material will affect how well the knowledge is transferred. There are a number of factors that could influence your teaching strategy, including class size, campus

culture, students' experience (academic and non-academic), and students' motivations for enrolling in the course. These are by no means the only factors, but some of the factors that should be taken into consideration as your course begins and progresses through the semester.

Before the course even starts, you can identify the first two factors, class size and campus culture. With enrollment limits (minimum and maximum), you will already have an idea about the number of students you will be teaching. This should be obvious, but the number of students in your class will affect your teaching strategy. If you are confronted with a cavernous lecture hall of 500 students, the lectures and activities will be quite different from a more intimate discussion group of a dozen or less. Campus culture can also have an impact. Do you have to deal with high rates of absenteeism when the "powder" is fresh on the nearby ski slopes or are students more intellectually focused? If you are new to your campus, ask your colleagues about the student culture and what can be expected of the students.

On the first day of teaching my undergraduate Environment and Society class, I had students complete a short survey. I asked the basic questions (name, major, year), whether they were taking other courses, what courses in sociology and environmental studies they had taken, why they were taking the course, and what they hoped to gain from the course. I found that the students had a great diversity of academic experiences. I had sophomores with seniors, non-traditional students, undeclared majors and double majors. A majority of them had at least taken an introductory sociology course and many had also taken courses in environmental studies. Whether your students have taken course(s) in sociology and/or environmental studies can affect how much background information is needed to present a particular topic. Also, students' experiences inside and outside the classroom may offer an additional resource that might enhance the classroom. If one of your students is a member of a local environmental group, you can try and bring their experience(s) into class discussions. The balance of experience will vary from class to class depending upon your students and is something to take into consideration.

Overall, students taking a course in environmental sociology often have some sort of interest in the environment. However, their specific motivations may vary. In my class, a few students were taking it to meet requirements or "to fill elective credits," but most were taking the course because they were interested in the material. From simply wanting to know what

environmental sociology is to understanding environmental concern and the environmental movement, their expressed motivations varied. By asking students what they hope to gain from this course, it also helps provide some insight into their expectations.

By understanding your audience, you can help improve your overall teaching by balancing the different types of students entering the classroom with differing levels of knowledge, passions and commitments. Instead of feeling restricted to lecturing, you can also explore other types of teaching, such as student-centered teaching, experiential learning (service-learning, fieldwork, and collaborative research), peer-learning, and/or problem-based learning. As you prepare to teach your next course, spend some time thinking about your teaching audience and some of the factors that might affect your teaching strategy.

Final note: As the course progresses, it will also be useful to get some feedback on how the course is going. Not only can this provide some time to correct before the final course evaluations, it can also help improve your teaching methods. Perhaps you're going through the material too quickly or students would like more time to work in groups; mid-semester is a good time to get some feedback and make adjustments, if needed.

Some additional sources of information:

Filene, Peter. 2005. *The Joy of Teaching: A Practical Guide for New College Instructors*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

McKeachie, Wilbert J. 1999. *McKeachie's Teaching Tips: Strategies, Research, and Theory for College and University Teachers*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Perry, William G. 1988. "Different Worlds in the Same Classroom" in Paul Ramsden, ed. *Improved Learning: New Perspectives*. London: Kogan Page.



Graduate Student Column: Call for Submissions

by Becki Gasior Altman

Dear fellow graduate students with an Interest in environment and technology, this letter serves as both introduction and invitation. Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your new representative to the Environment and Technology Section. Like Marcia Hill Gossard, who served as our representative over the past term, I hope to encourage more graduate student participation in the section. In particular, I would like to draw out the contemporary experiences of graduate students in environmental sociology and how graduate students use sociology to engage environmental problems.

By way of introduction, I am a fifth-year graduate student at Brown University, where I work with Phil Brown and the other members of The Contested Illness Research Group. My dissertation examines emerging social and scientific contests about trace levels of environmental pollutants found inside human bodies. I comparatively examine how pollution-affected communities, grassroots groups, and social movement organizations participate in human biomonitoring research, which, in its simplest form, can detect trace level of environmental chemicals in the human body. I then observe how these groups use biomonitoring science to contest accumulation of chemicals in biological and ecological systems. In the coming weeks, I head to Alaska, where I will observe the day-to-day workings of an academic-community collaboration that documents 'body burdens' of chemicals in Alaska Native communities.

Now on to the invitation: our council, led by chair, Stella Capek, and chair-elect, Timmons Roberts, allotted us graduate students column space in the section newsletter. We thank council for this opportunity. How shall we use this space? I would like to hear from you-about your graduate experiences, your burning questions about life as an environmental sociologist, your vision for the future of the field and the section. I invite both column suggestions and guest columnists. Moreover, our faculty mentors in the Environment and Technology Section would like ideas about how better to support graduate student section members. Send me an email and let me know what's on your mind: rebecca_altman@brown.edu. Also, please send materials for our column by December 15, 2006, so we have enough lead time for the Winter newsletter.

In the meantime, I hope the 2006-2007 academic year is off to a good start. I look forward to hearing from you.

Conferences, Call for Papers

Great Lakes Climate Change Conference

Michigan State University is holding an international symposium on Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region: Decision Making Under Uncertainty. We are now accepting poster abstracts for the poster session that will be held on the first day of the Symposium, March 15, 2007.

Faculty, students, government agencies and community organizations are invited to submit an abstract for this competitive poster session. Abstracts are to be no more than 300 words in length. Posters will be selected according to their overall quality and relevance to the symposium topics:

Potential impacts of climate change, particularly in the Great Lakes Region

Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies

Decision making under uncertainty

Abstracts will be peer reviewed. Nine small cash awards for the best posters in various categories (undergraduate student, graduate student, community and faculty) will be given.

Deadline for abstracts is December 29. For further information and to submit abstract, please go to:

<http://environment.msu.edu/climatechange/index.html>

Note that the Symposium is free and open to the public; we request that everyone register to aid our planning. The confirmed speakers are:

Jeff Andresen, Michigan State University
Joe Arvai, Michigan State University
Bill Easterling, Penn State University
Scudder Mackey, University of Windsor
Linda Mortsch, Environment Canada
Susi Moser, National Center for Atmospheric Research
Terry Root, Stanford University
Joel Scheraga, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Steve Schneider, Stanford University
Barry Smit, University of Guelph
Elke Weber, Columbia University
Julie Winkler, Michigan State University

Constructions of Environmental Justice in Canada

An edited collection to be published by The University of British Columbia Press

Editors: Julian Agyeman (Tufts University), Randolph Haluza-DeLay (The Kings University College), Peter Cole (University College of the North), Patricia O'Riley (University College of the North)

On an international scale, environmental justice is a concept that has evolved over the past two decades to provide new, exciting and challenging directions for public policy and planning and social movements. Researchers are increasingly positioning social "equity" as a building block of (or prerequisite for) sustainability, yet the relationship between social equity and the environmental aspects of sustainability is often implicit and under-analyzed, especially in environmentally focused scholarship. "Environmental justice" brings equity issues to the forefront. Unfortunately, equity concerns still do not receive adequate attention. In this book, we will draw on research and scholarship from Canada – First Peoples and Newcomers, of European and other backgrounds – to consider "environmental justice" in specifically Canadian contexts. In Canada, unlike its southern neighbour, there has been relatively little sustained scholarly activity focused on environmental justice. In the U.S., there is now abundant evidence of discrimination in the siting of "locally unwanted land uses" (LULUs) with a disproportionate number being placed in Native American, people of colour and low-income neighbourhoods and communities. In the U.S. there is an environmental justice movement (or more correctly movements), federal legislation, a presidential executive order, court victories and halted industrial projects. In Canada, a preliminary scan seems to show that the limited academic environmental justice scholarship is mostly related to Aboriginal peoples, though there is increasing scholarship in the areas of race and socio-economic inequities.

In many cases these are rural struggles, whereas, in the U.S. much of the "EJ impetus" comes from disproportionate risks faced by African-Americans, Latin Americans and those in low-income communities in urban areas. Aboriginal Peoples in Canada have also faced resource management and land claim disputes that in many cases may be considered environmental justice concerns. More importantly, however, these are political issues affecting Aboriginal Peoples in Canada in ways not faced by Native Americans in the U.S. Environmental inequities in Canada also appear to take different

forms than in the United States due to the differing spatial structure(s) of Canadian cities (e.g., less segregated), racial dynamics, regional differences, and the social policy orientations of the Canadian polity. Finally, there has been relatively little writing on social organizing under the frame of “environmental justice” in Canada, although, among others, the Cree have organized against flooding of their lands in Northern Quebec, the Clayquot have successfully protested old growth logging and clear-cutting of their traditional lands in British Columbia, and the Inuit have begun to mobilize against impacts on the Arctic and traditional lifestyles by global climate changes (under the frame of “climate justice”).

This book, for the first time, examines the multidimensionality and multivocality of environmental inequity and injustice in Canada. In the process, the contributors (both established ‘expert’ and new voices) will examine social-environmental relationships in the light of these Canadian cases. Many of the concepts involved in “environmental justice” are based in the European/Western tradition. For example, both “environment” as a generalized concept and “justice” as a notion of jurisprudence are western ways of knowing, that are not universal in understanding nor practice. Nevertheless, they are treated as default positions in the environmental justice literature. Aboriginal knowledge(s) and practice(s) have often approached these concerns in quite different ways. This text, based in Canadian cases, will deepen the environmental justice literature in Canada and globally by, in part, showing how environmental justice is “constructed” in different ways in this nation’s context.

The chapters:

Constructions of Environmental Justice in Canada will be divided into two sections, corresponding to two key questions:

Does the fact that there is little activity under the rubric “environmental justice” relative to the US and a number of other countries mean that environmental injustice is not an issue in Canada?

How is environmental justice constructed in Canada?

Please submit papers which deal with one of the key questions to julian.agyeman@tufts.edu by November 30th 2006. You may submit abstracts for consideration before, but we will need your paper by November 30th.

New Chemical Bodies: Biomonitoring, Body Burden, and the Uncertain Threat of Endocrine Disruptors

The Chemical Heritage Foundation will host the 2007 Gordon Cain Conference, “New Chemical Bodies: Biomonitoring, Body Burden, and the Uncertain Threat of Endocrine Disruptors,” on 22-23 March 2007 in Philadelphia, PA. The conference is designed to foster cross-disciplinary discussion and collaboration between those working in the chemical, ecological, environmental/public health, and social sciences to address the problems and challenges associated with the use and proliferation of human body burden studies, especially as they relate to research into endocrine disrupting chemicals. We will employ a format focused on discussion rather than paper presentation; as such, this call is for participation rather than specifically for papers (see below for further details). Please submit inquiries and statements of interest to Jody Roberts (jroberts@chemheritage.org), Gordon Cain Fellow, Chemical Heritage Foundation. Statements should include an abstract-length (approx. 200 words) description of how your work bears on the issues outlined below, along with appropriate publication(s) or work(s) in progress (graduate students are certainly encouraged to apply). Deadline for submission is 1 December 2006 with notification of acceptance no later than 1 January 2007. Some travel assistance will be available for participants through the Gordon Cain Fellowship. Please check the website for updates:

<http://www.chemheritage.org/events/event-detail.asp?id=255>.

Background and Prospectus:

In July of 2005, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control released its *Third National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals*. Through the process of biomonitoring—measuring the amount of a chemical in a blood or urine sample—the CDC aims to track the accumulation of synthetic chemicals into the human population through direct measurement of the populace. As the report states: “Biomonitoring measurements are the most health-relevant assessments of exposure because they measure the amount of the chemical that actually gets into people from all environmental sources (e.g., air, soil, water, dust, or food) combined.” But just what happens once these chemicals enter our bodies, and what exactly we are to do with this information remains unclear. This conference aims to address the uncertainty that surrounds the now well established fact that organisms of all types, kinds, and geographies—

including but certainly not limited to humans—find themselves carrying/composed of a cadre of chemicals heretofore unknown to the planet.

Additionally, the class of chemicals generally referred to as environmental endocrine disruptors presents challenges to our current systems of monitoring and regulating synthetic chemicals in the environment. These chemicals have potential activity at orders of magnitude lower than current dose limits for other toxins. Perhaps more troubling, these chemicals leave no “smoking gun” with effects manifested years if not decades later, and often times in a body only indirectly exposed (such as developing fetuses). Thus, new modes of thinking about these problems seem necessary and timely. Understanding the new chemical bodies of the twenty-first century requires new analytical tools – both instrumental and conceptual. A primary goal for this conference, then, is to begin thinking about what this new set of tools might look like.

The conference will bring together individuals from a diversity of research areas and institutional backgrounds in order to represent and address the breadth and scope of the issues while initiating collaboration towards the construction of new modes of dealing with our new chemical bodies. It will be held over two days and will utilize two different formats. The opening day will feature keynote lectures on topics related to biomonitoring, body burden, and environmental endocrine disruptors. It will provide an opportunity for a public forum where leaders in the field can offer their perspectives on the current state of the fields involved with these issues. The second day of the conference will be devoted to an intensive and focused conversation about the future trajectories of the field. This academic-styled meeting will be smaller and centered on a set of pre-circulated papers from conference participants, designated commentators for each of the papers, and with the remaining time left to open discussion by all participants.

Confirmed participants include:

Terrance Collins (Carnegie Mellon University)
Carl Cranor (University of California, Riverside)
Kim Fortun (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)
Scott Frickel (Tulane University)
Alistair Iles (University of California, Berkeley)
Nancy Langston (University of Wisconsin)
John Peterson Myers (Environmental Health Sciences)
Fred vom Saal (University of Missouri)

Job Openings

St. Lawrence University. The Department of Sociology invites applications for a three-semester position at the Instructor or Assistant Professor level beginning JANUARY 2007. Teaching interests are open, but preference will be given to those with experience in environmental sociology. The successful candidate is expected to contribute to the Department's introductory level courses. Preference will be given to candidates who will have completed the Ph.D. by December 2006. Review of applications begins 15 October 2006. A curriculum vita, statement of interest, three letters of reference, and any supportive documents (Syllabi, student evaluations of teaching, samples of scholarship, etc.) should be sent to Karen Dillon O'Neil, Chair, Department of Sociology, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY 13617. St. Lawrence University is an Affirmative Action/Equal opportunity employer. Women, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln seeks applicants for a tenure-track faculty position (rank open) in water policy as part of a campus-wide Water Resources Research Initiative, which integrates activities in natural and social sciences, policy, and law (faculty positions in water law, aquatic chemistry, river ecology, environmental economics, climate modeling, and surface hydrology were filled in 2005). We seek to hire a highly motivated individual who is willing to take an active role in promoting research, education, and interdisciplinary interactions associated with the Initiative. Candidates should demonstrate expertise in policy at the state, regional, federal, and/or international levels, as well as in water resources management (broadly construed). We seek someone with a background in one (or more) of the following areas: behavioral, economic, legal, political, psychological, or sociological sciences. Candidates are expected to have a Ph.D. (or equivalent terminal degree) and an established or emerging research program of national to international prominence.

To be considered for this position go to <http://employment.unl.edu>, requisition # 060480 (policy), complete the Faculty/Academic Administrative Information Form, and attach a letter of application, vita, description of research and teaching interests, and the names of at least three references. Questions regarding the position may be directed to Kyle Hoagland, Director, Water Center, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, (khoagland@unl.edu, 402-472-

3305). Consideration of candidates will begin on October 16, 2006 and continue until the position is filled. A more detailed job description is available on the web at <http://wrii.unl.edu/>. Further information about the university is available on the web at <http://www.unl.edu/ucomm/aboutunl/>.

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position with a two-thirds appointment in Sociology and a one-third appointment in Environmental Studies, beginning September 1, 2007. Applicants should have a primary specialization in environmental sociology. Preferred secondary specializations are demography, and at least one of the following: urban sociology, rural sociology, or community sociology. Teaching responsibilities will include an intermediate interdisciplinary environment and society course and an upper level social ecology course (both cross listed in sociology and environmental studies) as well as other upper and lower level courses in sociology. All faculty are expected to be active scholars and to advise majors and minors. A strong commitment to undergraduate education is essential, and an ability to involve students in research is particularly desirable. A Ph.D. in Sociology by September 2007 is essential. Send letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, teaching statement (and evaluations if available), research agenda statement, writing sample, three current letters of recommendation, and transcripts (official or photocopy) to: Gerry Grzyb, Chair; Dept. of Sociology; UW Oshkosh; 800 Algoma Blvd; Oshkosh, WI 54901-8633. Application deadline: October 15, 2006. Please visit our website: www.uwosh.edu

The Department of Sociology at the University of San Francisco invites applications for a tenure-track position in Sociology at the Assistant Professor level anticipated to begin in Fall 2007. We seek candidates who specialize in Political Sociology or Political Economy. All candidates in these areas are welcome to apply. We particularly encourage candidates with an international focus. Ability to teach quantitative methods and/or sociological theory is also a priority.

The candidate will be asked to offer courses in one of the following departmental emphases: "Politics, Development, and Globalization;" or "Criminology, Law & Society." The candidate will teach two courses per semester, plus one additional course over two years (2-2-2-3 over two years) and will be expected to develop an independent and ongoing research program; research with an applied focus is particularly welcomed.

The Department contributes to several interdisciplinary minor programs on campus, including: African American and African Area Studies, Asian American Studies, Environmental Studies, Ethnic Studies, Gender and Sexualities Studies, International Studies, Latin American Studies, Legal Studies and Criminal Justice, and Peace and Justice Studies. We also offer a number of Sociology courses in the Core Curriculum, the general education requirements common to all majors.

Candidates must have university teaching experience, a strong commitment to teaching, a strong record of scholarship, and an earned doctorate in Sociology by Fall 2007. The candidate will be expected to develop an independent and ongoing research program.

Applicants should submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, graduate transcripts, brief description of research plans, evidence of teaching ability (including sample syllabi, qualitative and quantitative student evaluations, and a statement of teaching philosophy), a sample of written work, and three letters of recommendation to Stephen Zavestoski (smzavestoski@usfca.edu).

Publications

Organization & Environment

December 2006

Voluntary Environmental Programs in the United States: Whose Interests Are Served?

Toddi A. Steelman, Jorge Rivera

In Search of Relevance and Impact: Introduction to a Special Feature on the State of Organizations and the Natural Environment Research

Mark Starik

The Evolution of Organizations and Natural Environment Discourse --- Some Critical Remarks

Tomi J. Kallio, Piia Nordberg

Building the Future by Looking at the Past: Examining Research Published on Organizations and Environment

Pratima Bansal, Jijun Gao

Coevolution as a Research Framework for Organizations and the Natural Environment

Terry B. Porter

Book Review Essay

Politics of Animal Rights, Gary Varner

Book Reviews

Topographies of the Sacred: The Poetics of Place in European Romanticism by Kate Rigby
Mark Lussier

Nature, Technology, and the Sacred by Bronislaw Szerszynski
Frank Coleman

Constitutional Environmental Rights by Tim Hayward
John M. Meyer

The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution edited by Robert D. Bullard
Phaedra C. Pezzullo

Signs of Danger: Waste, Trauma and Nuclear Threat by Peter van Wyck
Renee Lertzman

Bevc, Christine A., Brent K. Marshall, and J. Steven Picou. 2005. "Toxic Exposure and Environmental Justice: Toward a Spatial Model of Physical Health and Psychological Well-Being," Social Science Research (available online via science direct since December 2005, print copy available in 2007).

Brown, Phil, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Stephen Zavestoski, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Rebecca Gasior, and Laura Senier. "A Lab of Our Own": Environmental Causation Of Breast Cancer and Challenges to the Dominant Epidemiological Paradigm", Science, Technology, and Human Values 2006, 31:499-536

Brulle, Robert J., and Pellow, David, 2006. "Environmental Justice: Human Health and Environmental Inequalities," Annual Review of Public Health (27) 107-124

Buttel, Frederick H. and Kenneth A. Gould. 2006. "The Environmental Trajectory of the Anti-Corporate Globalization Movement" in Global Social Change: Historical and Comparative Perspectives. Chris Chase-Dunn and Salvatore Babones, editors.

Čapek, Stella M. 2006. "Surface Tension: Boundary Negotiations around Self, Society, and Nature in a Community Debate over Wildlife." Symbolic Interaction 29,2: 157-181.

Carpenter, Stephen R, Ruth DeFries, Thomas Dietz, Harold A Mooney, Stephen Polansky, Walter V Reid, and Robert J Scholes. 2006. "Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: Research Needs." Science 313:257-258.

Downey, Liam. Forthcoming 2006. "Using Geographic Information Systems to Reconceptualize Spatial Relationships and Ecological Context," The American Journal of Sociology.

Downey, Liam. Forthcoming 2006. "Environmental Racial Inequality in Detroit," Social Forces.

Downey, Liam. 2006. "Environmental Inequality in 14 Major Metropolitan Areas in 2000," Sociological Spectrum. Vol. 26(1): 21-41.

Downey, Liam and Marieke Van Willigen. 2005. "Environmental Stressors: The Mental Health Impact of Living Near Industrial Activity," Journal of Health and Social Behavior. 46: 289-305.

Downey, Liam. 2005. "Single Mother Families and Industrial Pollution," Sociological Spectrum. 25(6): 651-675.

Downey, Liam. 2005. "Assessing Environmental Inequality: How the Conclusions We Draw Vary According To the Definitions We Employ," Sociological Spectrum. Vol. 25(3): 349-369.

Jermier, John M., Forbes, Linda C., Benn, S. & Orsato, R.J. 2006. "The New Corporate Environmentalism and Green Politics." In Stewart R. Clegg, Cynthia Hardy, Walter R. Nord & Tom Lawrence (Eds.), Handbook of Organization Studies. 2nd Edition. London: Sage Publications. Pp. 618-650.

Pellow, David N. and Brulle, Robert J. (ed.) 2005. Power, Justice, and the Environment: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement. Cambridge MA: MIT Press

Scholz, Stephan. 2006. "The POETICs of industrial carbon dioxide emissions in Japan: an urban and institutional extension of the IPAT identity," Carbon Balance and Management, 1:11.

Smith, Ted, David A. Sonnenfeld, and David Naguib Pellow (editors). 2006. Challenging the Chip: Labor Rights and Environmental Justice in the Global Electronics Industry. Temple University Press.

Member News

Riley Dunlap, Oklahoma State University, gave an invited talk on "The Globalization of Citizen Concern for the Environment" as part of Stanford University's Center for Environmental Sciences and Policy lecture series in late September.