

Environment, Technology and Society

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

SUMMER 2007

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Section Website:
www.linfield.edu/soan/et/index.htm

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Environment and Technology Section Members,

We have an ASA program rich in environmental topics this year, from ASA Thematic Sessions to our own paper and roundtable sessions. It will be hard to choose between so many great options – check out the listings in this newsletter and online! We also have quite a bit of collaboration going on with other sections, including the Community and Urban Sociology Section (CUSS), the Marxist Sociology Section, the Political Economy of the World-System Section (PEWS), and the Science, Knowledge and Technology Section (SKAT). We are also helping to sponsor a showing of the documentary "Green, Green Water" with the Society for the Study of Social Problems and the International Rivers Association (see the enclosed flyer), and Barry Commoner will be with us at one of the thematic sessions.

Our Section Day is Sunday, August 12th. Please join us for our reception (co-sponsored with SKAT this year) at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 11th. Our Section Business Meeting is from 1:30-2:10 p.m. on Sunday, August 12, at the Hilton, right after the section roundtables. We'll present our awards, update you on what's going on in the section, and look for your input as we make plans for the future. We'll also welcome our new Chair, Timmons Roberts, and Chair-Elect, Bob Brulle, as well as new Council Members. If anyone has a pressing issue that they want to put on the agenda for the Council Meeting (we will have it on Saturday evening, August 11th, at 8:30 p.m., following our section reception), please send a message to me or to any of our council members.

Is another world possible? We think so! Hope to see you there!

Stella Čapek
Chair, Environment and Technology Section

IS ANOTHER WORLD POSSIBLE?

SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CONTEMPORARY POLITICS



102nd ASA ANNUAL MEETING | AUGUST 11-14, 2007 | HILTON NEW YORK AND SHERATON NEW YORK | NEW YORK, NEW YORK

A National Policy for E-Waste

David N. Pellow

For most of us, the word “pollution” conjures up images of smoke stacks, oil slicks in the Atlantic Ocean, or overflowing garbage dumps. We tend to go about our lives believing that environmental problems are “out there” and disconnected from our daily routines. Unfortunately, the electronics we use every hour of the day are also responsible for much of the world’s pollution. The average US household owns 25 consumer electronics products, and since we typically replace these products in very short cycles, we create an enormous amount of “e-waste.”

In the U.S., 315 million computers became obsolete between 1997 and 2004 and about 100,000 every day since. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 130 million cell phones were discarded in 2005, resulting in 65,000 tons of e-waste. This creates a combined 300,000 tons of electronic junk annually. In all, an estimated 80% of our electronics waste ends up improperly disposed of in U.S. landfills and incinerators, or recycled by prison labor under hazardous conditions (44 million pounds of electronic waste were recycled by prison labor in 2004), or shipped overseas, where some of the poorest and youngest citizens in places like China, Nigeria, and Pakistan might pick through our old printed circuit boards, printers, and other discards for a meager wage.

The electronics industry is the largest manufacturing sector globally, and, contrary to popular conceptions, it is not “clean.” It creates large volumes of pollution and waste every year. And even when consumers try to do the right thing by recycling e-waste, the products are often shipped abroad for disassembly and then used in new manufacturing processes or are simply dumped.

Many electronics contain several pounds of highly toxic materials. Computer or television displays (CRTs), for example, contain an average of four to eight pounds of lead each. Lead can damage the nervous system, cardiovascular system, and kidneys. CRTs also contain hexavalent chromium, PVC, mercury, and brominated-flame retardants—all of which pose significant risks to human health. Cell phones also contain lead, mercury, cadmium and other dangerous chemicals. The practice of sending obsolete electronics abroad creates a massive transfer of hazardous waste from rich nations to nations of the global South, and is responsible for impacting public health and the integrity of watersheds in countries such as Bangladesh, Brazil, India, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

In recent years, we have seen a growing

international effort led by environmentalists to document these problems, and advocates have had success at changing corporate environmental policies and passing government legislation to address some of the worst dimensions of the e-waste crisis.

Dell Computer Corporation and Hewlett-Packard, for example, are now offering improved computer recycling options for their customers. And just this month, Apple Computer pledged to reduce the level of toxic chemicals being used in its products. (Al Gore is on Apple’s Board of Directors and was pressured by activists to persuade Apple to improve its environmental record.) Several states in the U.S. – Maine, Wash., Calif., and Md. – and even the entire University of California system have enacted helpful policies: policies that reduce toxic inputs in production processes, policies that ensure a take-back of electronics at the end of life in order to recycle them, policies that prohibit the use of prison labor for recycling, and policies that prevent the export of these materials to other nations.

These are positive signs, but alone they will never move us toward sustainability as a nation. A state-by-state, company-by-company approach to environmental responsibility for our e-waste has created a patchwork of solutions that will soon become unwieldy and cumbersome for consumers, government, and industry.

In the 1970s and early 1980s, environmental organizations and farsighted elected officials led the way in developing state legislation that pushed companies to publicly report the extent of chemical substances they used or produced, so that nearby communities would be more aware of potential public health risks. The legislation was taken up by so many states that it became obvious that a national approach was the best way to go. This effort gave birth to the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986, which led to significant improvements in safety across the nation.

Today, with rising volumes of e-waste and safety threats to public health and to the environment here and overseas, it’s high time for a more sensible approach – a national policy on electronic waste. The US Congress should take a cue from the states and computer firms that have stepped up to the challenge and pass federal legislation. Like the European Union, which has already passed such laws, the US must ensure that our electronics goods are safer for consumers and the workers who produce them, and that companies will take them back and recycle them responsibly (with non-incarcerated labor *in* the United States) when they are obsolete. And while it may be true that—as Kermit the frog was fond of saying—“it ain’t easy being green,” the alternative would be much harder to live with.

Ethnography as Extractive Enterprise?

Rebecca Gasior Altman
Doctoral Candidate, Brown University

A recent flight to Alaska instructed me in the state's political economy and on research ethics.

October chilled the migration of tourists from the Lower Forty-Eight. My fellow-travelers on a connecting flight to Anchorage represented a different slice of the Alaskan economy: uniformed infantry returning from training exercises and contract laborers, like the plaid-shirted oil worker who sat beside me. His day began in Missouri, and would end the following evening, when he would roll into Prudhoe Bay. For three weeks, he would fix oil machinery, then return home to coax crops from his family-run farm.

Historically, the potential to extract Alaskan resources has lured steady waves of Outsiders, so much so, that the phrase "outsider" routinely appears capitalized. Outsiders came first to harvest whale oil and furs, then seafood and pulp, followed by metals, coal, then oil. The booms have been volatile, driven by resource depletion and destruction, price-setting market forces, extensive federal oversight, and by Outsider investments. Today, new projects are in various stages of development—a natural gas pipeline, initiatives to extract and gasify coal, to eke out the last of Alaskan gold, and Pebble Mine, which would rival the size of the world's largest copper mines. To these enterprises, more Outsiders flock.

As suggested by infantry aboard my flight, Alaska also has been a strategic staging area for the US to engage global politics. The U.S. military sparked an unparalleled wave of development and migration of Outsiders. During the World War II era, the military constructed bases along the southern coastal regions and on the Aleutian Chain, where the US engaged Japan and guarded ports so that coal, from the interior, could fuel the Pacific fleet. Airfields stretched across Alaska's girth so planes from the Lower 48 could refuel before skipping across the Bering Sea and onward to the eastern front. Alaska hosted nuclear bomb tests, and then was cited for testing of non-military nuclear applications, including a never-materialized plan to use bombs to create new harbors. During the Cold War, Alaska maintained its status as a tactical outpost for observing Russian operations and detecting missile launches. Today, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, an Anchorage-based environmental health and justice organization, has tallied some seven hundred FUDS, or formerly used

defense sites, in the state. Though many lay fallow, mere ghost operations strewn with detritus, several bases remain active and still anchor a substantial portion of the Alaskan economy, as the military continues to test new generations of weapons.

On the Anchorage-bound flight, I represent another demographic of Outsiders—researchers. I came not for the minerals or the oil, nor even the salmon (though delicious), but because the minerals and the oil have been pillaged, and because the rich marine life — and the communities who subsist on them — are laced with PCBs, pesticides, and other synthetic chemicals. I came to Alaska lured by the work of Alaska Community Action on Toxics to address these issues as human rights violations and environmental injustices. Research is a different kind of resource exaction, to be sure, but a form of extraction all the same. As I sat aboard the Anchorage-bound airplane, on my second trip to Alaska, I began a methodological and philosophical conversation, one that continues to this day: in the outcome achieved, *what is the difference between an (environmental) ethnographer and an extractive enterprise?* Even if unintentionally, am I but another prospector, an Outsider, come to harvest Alaska? What realistically can I hope to offer in exchange for what I've taken? What do these questions mean for both methodology and for the practice of research ethics in ethnography and environmental sociology more generally? And, one final question, prompted by a much beloved professor: how should these interrogations be incorporated into the very conduct of research and not as the standard ethnographic confession buried in the prologue or methodological appendix?

On these questions, I would welcome an extended conversation and the experiences from others in the section.

Thoughts? Post to the section listserv or email me at: Rebecca_Altman@brown.edu



Beijing Environmental Sociology Conference

The Beijing International Conference on Environmental Sociology, held at Renmin University June 30th and July 1st, was very successful. While our roles as Co-Organizers may affect our impression, we have received consistently positive reactions from those who attended and thus believe our view is widely shared. The 101 attendees included 57 international scholars from over a dozen different nations and 44 Chinese scholars (including the President of the Chinese Sociological Association, Professor Zheng Hangsheng), a majority of whom gave presentations.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Center for Studies of Sociological Theory and Method and the Department of Sociology at Renmin University, the Department of Sociology at Hohai University and the Research Committee on Environment and Society (RC 24) of the International Sociological Association, with partial support from the K. C. Wong Education Foundation in Hong Kong. It provided an excellent opportunity for Chinese scholars interested in environmental sociology to interact with a wide range of both senior and younger international scholars, and for the latter to learn more about the growing interest in environmental issues among Chinese academics.

The presentations covered a diverse range of topics, with most focusing on China but others dealing with theoretical or empirical issues in other nations that might have relevance to China. Representatives of the Organizing Committee are in the process of selecting a set of papers for eventual publication in an English-language volume.

Although the program was quite full, international attendees uniformly reported a wonderful experience because of the warm hospitality of the Chinese hosts. The conference setting at Renmin University was attractive, the meals were outstanding, the hotel was first-rate and reasonable, and the opportunities for socializing and site-seeing (including a group visit to the Juyongguan section of the Great Wall) were excellent.

The primary organizer of the conference, Dayong Hong, a sociologist and Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Renmin University, had previously organized a conference for Chinese scholars interested in environmental sociology last Fall, and he reported that about 40 attended from around the nation. Professor Hong edited a book based on that conference, and a few other volumes on

environmental sociology published in Chinese have recently appeared. While interest in environmental sociology is clearly growing in China, only about 15 sociologists are thus far actively involved in environmental research. Individuals seeking more information on environmental sociology in China can contact Professor Hong at hongdy@vip.sohu.com.

Several key members of the Japanese and Korean environmental sociology organizations attended the recent conference, and one positive outcome is that an informal Chinese-Japanese-Korean environmental sociology network is being formed. It is also expected that some Chinese environmental sociologists will become active in ISA's RC 24.

Riley E. Dunlap
Oklahoma State University

Chenyang Xiao
Albright College



Bill Freudenburg, Riley Dunlap and Paul Mohai prepare to tackle the Great Wall of China the day after the Beijing International Environmental Sociology Conference

**ASA Annual Meeting 2007:
Environment and Technology Section Schedule**

SATURDAY, AUG. 11th

**Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology
Paper Session. Science, Technology, and
Environments**

Scheduled Time: Sat, Aug 11 – 8:30am – 10:10am

Building: Sheraton New York

Session Organizer: Patrick Eamon Carroll (University of California Davis)

Presider: Kelly Moore (University of Cincinnati)

Session Organizer: Thomas D. Beamish (University of California-Davis)

Critical Materialism in Contemporary Environmental Sociology: A Comparative Exploration

Christopher S. Oliver (Michigan State University)

Envisioning Environment as Ecosystem: Cybernetics, Epistemology, and Ontology in Early Systems Ecology

Lisa Asplen (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

From 3D Space to Third Place: Building Sociable Public Places in Virtual Environments

Robert John Moore (Palo Alto Research Center), E. Cabell Hankinson Gathman (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Nicolas Ducheneaut (Palo Alto Research Center)

Taylorist Talk and Bossy Built Environments

Rachel Elizabeth Barlow (Indiana University)

Sociologists interested in science, technology, and the environment discuss “the environment” in a range of ways: natural, material, built, virtual, as place, and so on. This session aims to articulate different usages of “the environment” and related terms, and advance discussion on what these terms mean, particularly in relation to questions about materiality.

Regular Session. Climate Change and Sustainable Lifestyles

Scheduled Time: Sat, Aug 11 – 10:30am – 12:10pm

Building: Hilton New York

Session Organizer: Maurie J. Cohen (New Jersey Institute of Technology)

Presider: Eugene Rosa (Washington State University)

Climate Change and Energy Policies in Japan: Its Challenge of Building a Sustainable Society

Kazumi Kondoh (Washington State University)

A Comparative Analysis of Civil Society's Impact on Urban CO₂ Emissions

Stephan Scholz (University of Arizona)

U.S. Policies on Climate Change and Health:

Environmental Justice Bridging Science and Political Freeze

Sabrina McCormick (Michigan State University)
Ecovillages and Prospects for a Sustainable Future
Debbie V.S. Kasper (Sweet Briar College)
Nature, Culture and Machines in the Ecovillage Movement

Kelly Moore (University of Cincinnati), Alan Wight (University of Cincinnati)

Discussant: Kari Marie Norgaard (Whitman College)

Recent years have brought increasing clarification regarding the scale and scope of global climate change, as well as growing experimentation to develop strategies to reduce the carbon intensity of contemporary lifestyles, to foster sustainable use of energy and materials, and to forge new models of communality. This session focuses attention on some of these frontier initiatives to manage the transition toward a future characterized by inventive application of technology and creative social practices designed to sharply reduce carbon-dioxide emissions. These efforts comprise, for example, fuel switching by industrial manufacturers, public policy measures to modify modal transportation choices, and novel strategies for reorganizing everyday life. Future years are likely to see growing scholarly and popular attention devoted to reducing the carbon intensity of a broad range of consumption and production practices as we learn to live in a world that is climatically very different from the one that exists today. As society seeks to adapt to these circumstances there will likely be growing demands for sociological knowledge and increasing interdisciplinary collaboration among social scientists, engineers, and physical scientists.

ASA Thematic Session. Environmental Constraints on Development

Scheduled Time: Sat, Aug 11 – 10:30am – 12:10pm

Building: Hilton New York

Session Organizer: John Bellamy Foster (University of Oregon)

Presider: John Bellamy Foster (University of Oregon)

Third World Development, Global Equality and Environmental Sustainability

Walden Bello (University of Philippines, Diliman)

The Ecological Footprints of North and South and Problems of Sustainability and Equality

Richard F. York (University of Oregon)

Women, Development and Environment

Rebecca Pearl (Women's Environment & Development Organization)

Discussant: William K. Tabb (CUNY)

**Section on Community and Urban Sociology
Paper Session. Cities, Consumption and the
Environment (co-sponsored with the Section on
Environment and Technology)**

Scheduled Time: Sat, Aug 11 – 10:30am – 12:10pm
 Building: Sheraton New York
 Session Organizer: Sharon Zukin (City Univ of New York Graduate Ctr)
 Session Organizer: Kenneth Alan Gould (CUNY – Brooklyn College)
 Presider: Kenneth Alan Gould (CUNY – Brooklyn College)
Bucolic Towns and Blocks of Cement: Environmental Protest in Fuheis, Jordan
 Elizabeth A. Zack (University of South Carolina Upstate)
Conflicted Sustainability and Crushing Landscapes: The Neoliberal Quagmire of Urban Environmental Planning in Buenos Aires
 Ryan Centner (University of California, Berkeley), Federico Lastra (Universidad de Buenos Aires)
Environmental Justice, Citizenship, and Brownfields Gentrification
 Cheryl Teelucksingh (Ryerson University)
Household Water Consumption in an Arid City: Affluence, 'Affordance,' and Attitudes
 Sharon L. Harlan (Arizona State University), Scott Thomas Yabiku (Arizona State University), Larissa Larsen (University of Michigan), Anthony Brazel (Arizona State University)
 Discussant: Kristen Vanhooreweghe (Brooklyn College and City University Graduate Center)

ASA Thematic Session. Globalization and Environmental Governance: Is Another World Possible?

Scheduled Time: Sat, Aug 11 – 2:30pm – 4:10pm
 Building: Sheraton New York
 Session Organizer: David A. Sonnenfeld (Washington State University)
 Presider: David A. Sonnenfeld (Washington State University)
Governance, Flows, and the End of the Car System
 John Urry (University of Lancaster)
Governing the Global Commons: The Interlinked Challenges of Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation
 David O'Connor (United Nations)
Global Governance for Sustainable Consumption
 Gert Spaargaren (Wageningen University), Arthur P.J. Mol (Wageningen University)
 Discussant: J. Timmons Roberts (College of William & Mary)

Rapid acceleration of global flows of natural resources and manufactured goods have been accompanied by escalation of global warming, increasing scarcity of clean air and water, and growing trafficking in toxic wastes. In this session, several renowned social scientists offer empirically- and theoretically-based

insights on the nature of these transnational environmental flows, their social and environmental impacts, and the development of political processes and institutions to address them.

ASA Thematic Session. Environmental Injustice in a Global Economy

Scheduled Time: Sat, Aug 11 – 2:30pm – 4:10pm
 Building: Hilton New York
 Session Organizer: Riley E. Dunlap (Oklahoma State University)
 Presider: Riley E. Dunlap (Oklahoma State University)
Time-Space Appropriation, Environmental Load Displacement, and Unequal Ecological Exchange in the World System
 Alf Hornborg (Lund University, Sweden)
The Flow of Toxic Materials in the World-System
 R. Scott Frey (University of Tennessee)
Who's Getting 'Bangalored'? Struggles Over Urban Space, Land, and Resources in the Making of a World City – Bangalore, India
 Michael R. Goldman (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities)
 Discussant: David Pellow (University of California, San Diego)

While there is a vast body of sociological work on environmental justice issues in the U.S., thus far only modest attention has been given to environmental inequities internationally. This session focuses on key aspects of environmental injustice at the international level, highlighting the complex manner in which the global spread of a capitalist economy is generating escalating levels of environmental injustice as well as ecological degradation in general.

It is increasingly apparent that wealthy nations are able to protect the quality of their own environments by importing inexpensive natural resources from poorer nations and by exporting environmental “bads” (both directly by shipping hazardous wastes and indirectly by relocating polluting industries) to poor nations. Wealthy nations are thus using poor nations as “supply depots” and “waste repositories,” and in the process degrading the “living space” of those nations. In addition, wealthy nations contribute disproportionately to global-level problems such as climate change that are likely to exact a heavy toll on poor nations in the Southern hemisphere, particularly the most vulnerable sectors of their populations. These trends result in both immediate and long-term damage to poor nations, creating further barriers to their “development.”

This session brings together a group of environmental social scientists who have been leaders in documenting and analyzing patterns of

environmental injustice at the international level. They will summarize and synthesize existing knowledge, as well as point to key issues that deserve more attention from sociologists and other social scientists.

Regular Session. Sociology of Risk

Scheduled Time: Sat, Aug 11 – 2:30pm – 4:10pm

Building: Hilton New York

Session Organizer: Maurie J. Cohen (New Jersey Institute of Technology)

Presider: Stephen R. Couch (Pennsylvania State University)

An Ecological-Symbolic Approach to Study a Local Risk Network: About Hazards, Risks, and Soil Pollution.

Frédéric Vandermoere (Ghent University)

Body Burdens as a Technological Risk: A Study of Canadian Media Discourse from 1986-2006

Norah MacKendrick (University of Toronto)

Miscommunication During the Anthrax Attacks: How Events Reveal Organizational Failures

Karen O'Neill (Rutgers University), Jeff Calia (Rutgers University), Caron Chess (Rutgers University), Lee Clarke (Rutgers University)

The Brown Superfund Basic Research Program: A Multistakeholder Partnership Addresses Real-World Problems in Contaminated Communities

Laura Senier (Brown University), Phil Brown (Brown University), Benjamin Hudson (Brown University), Sarah Fort (Brown University), Elizabeth Hoover (Brown University), Rebecca Tillson (Brown University)

The Invisible Injuries of the Risk Society: Contested Illness Among Nuclear Weapons Workers

Sherry Cable (University of Tennessee), Thomas E. Shriver (Oklahoma State University), Tamara L. Mix (Oklahoma State University)

Discussant: Brent K. Marshall (Univ of Central Florida)

Joint Reception: Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology; and Section on Environment & Technology

Scheduled Time: Sat, Aug 11 – 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Building: Sheraton New York

SUNDAY, AUG. 12th

Section on Environment and Technology Paper Session. Impacts of Globalization under Capitalism on Environments and Human Rights (co-sponsored with Section on Marxist Sociology and PEWS)

Scheduled Time: Sun, Aug 12 – 8:30am – 10:10am

Building: Hilton New York

Session Organizer: J. Timmons Roberts (College of William & Mary)

Presider: J. Timmons Roberts (College of William & Mary)

Does the Globalization of Foreign Investment Harm the Air We Breathe and the Water We Drink? A Cross-National Study of Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Organic Water Pollution in Less-Developed Countries, 1975-2000

Andrew K. Jorgenson (Washington State University)

Globalization and the Destruction of the Commons: Exploring the Global Water Crisis

Krista Bywater (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Re-Peripheralization of the Indonesian Political Economy: From Resource-based Industrialization back to Resource Exports

Paul K. Gellert (University of Tennessee)

World Systems Theory and the Environment: A Critical Appraisal

Jan-Martijn Meij (Oklahoma State University), Tony

Zschau (Oklahoma State University)

Discussant: Thomas K. Rudel (Rutgers University)

Section on Environment and Technology Paper Session. New Directions in Environmental Inequalities Research

Scheduled Time: Sun, Aug 12 – 10:30am – 12:10pm

Building: Hilton New York

Session Organizer: J. Timmons Roberts (College of William & Mary)

Presider: Dorceta E. Taylor (University of Michigan)

Children's Asthma Hospitalizations, Social Vulnerability and Air Pollution: An Environmental Justice Study

Sara Elizabeth Grineski (University of Texas at El Paso)

Co-Learning and Participatory Research Strategies to Achieve Community Health in Environmental Justice Settings

Pamela Davidson (George Washington University), David F. Goldsmith (George Washington University)

Environmental Inequality: Fact or Fiction?

Marieke M. Van Willigen (East Carolina University),

Bob Edwards (East Carolina University), Shannon

McKenzie Lewis (East Carolina University)

Shrimp Eat Better than Fishing Households: Impacts of Export Aquaculture on Philippine Environment and Women

Wilma A. Dunaway (Virginia Tech), M. Cecilia

Macabuac (Xavier University, Philippines)

Discussant: Dorceta E. Taylor (University of Michigan)

Discussant: Liam Downey (University of Colorado)

Screening: Green, Green Water

Scheduled Time: Aug 12 – 11:10am – 1:10pm

Building: Roosevelt Hotel

Section on Environment and Technology Roundtable Sessions

Scheduled Time: Sun, Aug 12 – 12:30pm – 1:30pm
Building: Hilton New York
Session Organizer: Carole L. Seyfrit (Radford University)

Table 1

Presider: Donald W. Hastings (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

HIV/AIDS, Food Security and the Role of the Natural Environment: Evidence from Rural South Africa

Lori M. Hunter (University of Colorado, Boulder),
Laura Patterson (University of Colorado at Boulder),
Wayne Twine (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)

In the Name of Modernization: International Organizational Construction of Discourse on Avian Influenza Control

Yu-Ju Chien (University of Minnesota)

The Globalization of International Environmental Health Activism in Response to the Spread of Industrial Hazards: The Bhopal Disaster in Perspective

Stephen M. Zavestoski (University of San Francisco)

Table 2

Session Organizer: Carole L. Seyfrit (Radford University)

Presider: Leslie L. King (Smith College)

The Structural Determinants of Nitrous Oxide Emissions: A Cross-National Analysis of an Understudied Greenhouse Gas

Christopher Dick (Washington State University)

Consumption in China and the Environment

Karen Stein (Rutgers University)

Table 3

Presider: Michael J. Mascarenhas (Kwantlen University College)

Caring for Place? A Compassionate Sense of Place as Logic of Practice Among Environmentalists

Randolph Brent Haluza-DeLay (The King's University College)

Economic Rationality, Existential Rationality, and Environmental Concern

Miin-wen Shih (West Chester University)

Are the Social and Physical Really so Different?: Elements in the Development of an Attachment to Place

David M. Burley (University of Louisiana at Monroe)

Table 4

Presider: Fletcher Winston (Mercer University)

Environmental Organizations and Communication Praxis: Communication Strategies among a National Sample of Environmental Organizations

Tomoyasu Nakamura (Senshu University (Japan)),
Michael Dreiling (University of Oregon), R. J. Jonna (University of Oregon), Nicholas Lougee (University of Oregon)

The Impact of Education on Treaty Ratification and the Environment

Gretchen McHenry (North Carolina State University)

Table 5

Presider: Robert O. Gardner (Linfield College)

Economic Dependency, Repression, and Deforestation: A Quantitative, Cross-National Analysis

John M. Shandra (State University of New York at Stony Brook)

Global Biodiversity Decline of Marine and Freshwater Fish: A Cross-National Analysis of Social and Ecological Influences

Rebecca J. Clausen (University of Oregon), Richard F. York (University of Oregon)

The Political Economy of Borderlands: Migration, Environmental Sustainability and the Responsible Conduct of Developing-Country Firms in Southeast Asia

Piyasuda Pangsapa (University at Buffalo), Mark Jonathan Smith (The Open University)

Table 6

Presider: Alicia Ann Weaver (Birmingham-Southern College)

Environmental Transformation and Social Closure: The Building Of The Elwha Dam And The Lower Elwha Klallam

Whitney Mauer (Cornell University), Max J. Pfeffer (Cornell University)

Traditional Indigenous Peoples Facing Globalization

Pat L. Lauderdale (Arizona State University)

Table 7

Presider: Beth Schaefer Caniglia (Oklahoma State University)

An Analysis of the "Path of Least Resistance" Argument

David T Schelly (Colorado State University), Paul Stretesky (Colorado State University)

How Do Bucket Brigades Work?: A Research Proposal

Christine A. Overdevest (University of Florida), Brian Mayer (University of Florida)

Paradise or Pavement? The Social Constructions of the Environment in Two Urban Farmers Markets
Alison Hope Alkon (University of California-Davis)

Table 8

Presider: Damian Finbar White (James Madison University)

Antinuclear Power Movement: Paradigm Shift and Social Networks

Christopher Hartz (Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo)

Blowing in the Backyard: The Environmental Movement and the Global Development of the Wind Energy Industry, 1980-2005

Ion Bogdan Vasi (Columbia University)

Table 9

Presider: Gabriela Sandoval (University California, Santa Cruz)

Children at Risk: The Relationship Between Race, Class and Pollution Near Our Children's Schools

Stephanie Gonzales (Adams State College)

Profit, Pollution and Racism: The Development of Environmental Injustice in a Copper Smelter Town

Diane M. Sicotte (Drexel University)

Table 10

State Environmental Protection Efforts, Women's Status, and World Polity: A Cross-National Analysis

Colleen Nicole Nugent (Boston College)

Table 11

Presider: Mark Braun (SUNY-Cobleskill)

Determinants of Disaster Risk: Wildfire Hazards and Social Vulnerability in Arizona's High Country

Timothy William Collins (University of Texas at El Paso)

Using Focus Groups for Qualitative Research

Lori Peek (Colorado State University), Alice Fothergill (University of Vermont)

Table 12

Destructive Advertisements: The Relationship Between Advertisements and the Environment

Giselle Touzard (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Reflexive Engineering and the Challenges of Development

Peter T. Robbins (Open University)

When it Rains it Doesn't Pour: Considerations of a US Backed Water System Project in Honduras

Park Atkinson Doing (Cornell University)

Section on Environment and Technology Business Meeting

Scheduled Time: Sun, Aug 12 – 1:30pm – 2:10pm

Building: Hilton New York

Section on Environment and Technology Paper Session. Open Topic on Environment and Technology

Scheduled Time: Sun, Aug 12 – 2:30pm – 4:10pm

Building: Hilton New York

Session Organizer: J. Timmons Roberts (College of William & Mary)

Presider: Chenyang Xiao (Albright College)

Inequality, Democracy, and the Environment

Liam Downey (University of Colorado), Susan Strife (University of Colorado)

Environmental Perceptions of Rural South African Residents: The Material Nature of a Post-Material Concern

Lori M. Hunter (University of Colorado, Boulder),

Susan Strife (University of Colorado), Wayne Twine (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)

The Four Disasters of Hurricane Katrina: People, Peril, and Pollution in the Floodwaters

William R. Freudenburg (Univ. of California-Santa

Barbara), Robert Gramling (University of Louisiana),

Shirley Laska (University of New Orleans), Kai

Erikson (Yale University (emeritus))

Why Do Americans Support or Reject Climate Change Policies?

Rachael Leah Shwom-Evelich (Michigan State

University), David Bidwell (Michigan State University),

Amy Dan (Michigan State University), Thomas M.

Dietz (Michigan State University)

Discussant: Chenyang Xiao (Albright College)

MONDAY, AUG. 13th

Section on Political Economy of the World System Roundtable Session

Scheduled Time: Mon, Aug 13 – 10:30am – 11:30am

Building: Hilton New York

Session Organizer: Scott Byrd (University of California)

Table 4: Environmental Analyses in Global Context

A Cross-National Analysis of Economic Prosperity as a Predictor of Carbon Dioxide and Methane Emissions Intensity

Laura McKinney (North Carolina State University)

Session Organizer: Matthew R. Sanderson (University of Utah)

Examining Internal and External Factors in Nation-State Participation in Environmental Treaty Ratification

Elizabeth K. Seale (North Carolina State University)

Session Organizer: Phillip A. Hough (Johns Hopkins University)

The Post-War Environmental Movements, Environmentalism, and the Challenge

Miin-wen Shih (West Chester University)

ASA Thematic Session. Science, Democracy, and Environment: Contributions of Barry Commoner

Scheduled Time: Mon, Aug 13 – 2:30pm – 4:10pm

Building: Sheraton New York

Session Organizer: Robert Brulle (Drexel University)

Science and Democratic Deliberations on the Environment: The Contributions of Dr. Barry Commoner

Michael Egan (McMaster University)

Science, Democracy, and the Environment

Barry Commoner (Queens College New York)

Democratic Participation and Environmental Policy

Thomas Webler (Antioch New England Graduate School)

Lay Epidemiology and Environmental Health

Sabrina McCormick (Michigan State University)

Discussant: J. Timmons Roberts (College of William & Mary)

This session will focus around the contribution of Dr. Barry Commoner toward advancing a public dialogue, informed by scientific knowledge, about the natural environment, and the need for society to move toward a sustainable and healthy environment. The U.S. environmental movement has played a major role in coupling scientific knowledge with political advocacy for the environment. Thus this topic lies at the confluence of sociological analyses of civil society, social movements, the sociology of science, and environmental sociology. The purpose of this session is to draw these different strands of sociology together in a consideration of the role of the public scientific intellectual, in the persona of Dr. Barry Commoner, in creating and maintaining reasoned public deliberations about science and the environment. This session will feature an introductory address by Dr. Michael Egan, who has recently published a biography of Dr. Commoner: Barry Commoner and the Science of Survival. Dr. Commoner, the feature speaker of this session, will then address this topic. This will then be followed by two sociologists who work in the area of democratic deliberations on environmental policy. They will focus their comments on connecting their current scholarship to the contributions of Dr. Commoner. Specifically, Dr. Thomas Webler will address the application of Habermas' Communicative Ethics to structuring environmental deliberations that are both competent and just. Dr. Sabrina McCormick will connect her work on how democratic science, in the form of lay epidemiology, and inform public environmental health decisions.

Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements Roundtable Session

Scheduled Time: Mon, Aug 13 – 4:30pm – 6:10pm

Building: Hilton New York

Session Organizer: Michael P. Young (University of Texas, Austin)

Table 19: Environmental Movements

Emergent Collective Identities and the Practice of Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining: Environmental Activism in Appalachia

Daniel Sarabia (Roanoke College), Dayton Gordley (Roanoke College)

Governance, Money, and Advocacy: Government Funding and Environment NGOs in Post-Democratization Korea

Chang Bum Ju (University of Southern California)

Who Partners? A Longitudinal Analysis of the Environmental Movement Organizations in the United States, 1970-2001

Hyung Sam Park (University of Pittsburgh)

The Founding of Environmental Movement

Organizations in Korea: Resource Mobilization

Perspective and Institutional Perspective

Maria Hyun (Korea University)

Presider: Chang Bum Ju (University of Southern California)

TUESDAY, AUG. 14th

Section on Marxist Sociology Paper Session. Capitalism and Environmental Decline (co-sponsored with PEWS and the Section on Environment and Technology)

Scheduled Time: Tue, Aug 14 – 8:30am – 10:10am

Building: Hilton New York

Session Organizer: Richard F. York (University of Oregon)

Presider: Eugene Rosa (Washington State University)

Globalization, Foreign Investment Dependence, and Agriculture Production: A Cross-National Study of Pesticide and Fertilizer Use Intensity in Less-developed Countries, 1990-2000

Andrew K. Jorgenson (Washington State University),

Kennon Austin Kuykendall (Washington State University)

Killing the Mattanza : A Political Economic Analysis of the Sicilian Bluefin Tuna Fishery and its Environmental Impacts.

Stefano B. Longo (University of Oregon)

The Slow Co-Production of Disaster: Wildfire, Timber Capital, and the United States Forest Service

Mark Hudson (Ursinus College)

Solving the Ecological Problems of Capitalism: Capitalist and Socialist Possibilities

Andrew W. Jones (University of Vermont)

Ecological Rent: Toward a Formal Theory of

Ecological Degradation in Human Social Evolution

Kirk S. Lawrence (University of California, Riverside)

Green Green Water follows U.S. filmmaker, Dawn Mikkelsen, as she traces the source of her 'green energy' back to the displacement of the indigenous Cree and Metis in Northern Manitoba. Whitewashed under auspices of renewable energy, power suppliers Xcel Energy and Manitoba Hydro provide cheap hydro-electric power to Minnesota - energy that comes at the price of mass flooding, destroyed land and devastated communities, a far cry from the 'clean and green' tranquility of the energy company's posters. Dating back to pressured agreements signed in the 1970s, the hydro-electric dams harshly disrupted the sustainable practices of indigenous life. Now, as a new set of dams are being proposed, the communities stand at the crossroads, divided. Some advocate partnership in the development of new projects, hoping to spark the economy and a new way of life; others continue to resist government pressure, choosing to maintain the integrity of indigenous tradition. A cautionary tale of consumer consciousness, Green Green Water exposes the important story of displacement, resistance and insidious public relations that lie beyond the energy grid.

Green Green Water recently premiered at the imagineNATIVE Film Festival in Toronto, the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco, and the Planet In Focus International Environmental Film Festival in Toronto.

Visit www.greengreenwater.com to learn more!

Or contact Jamie A. Lee, the film's co-director/editor through www.visionariesfilmworks.com!

...the power to connect...the power to divide...
it's about power...

Discussion with co-director Jamie A. Lee of visionaries filmworks and David Pellow of the International Rivers Network to follow.

<http://sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/280>

SCREENING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12
11:10 A - 1:10 P
The Roosevelt Hotel
Park Suite
New York



carol kobirski

dawn mikkelsen



nick halcrow



gideon mckay

charlie osborne



green green water

Screening co-sponsored by the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association (ASA), and the International Rivers Network (IRN).

2007 Section Election Results

Tom Rudel

In the spring of 2007 we elected three new officers in the section elections. We had six excellent candidates for the three positions, and I want to thank all six candidates for their willingness to run for office. Robert Brulle (Drexel University) won the election for chair-elect. He will serve in that position for two years before becoming chair of the section. He succeeds Timmons Roberts. Sherry Cable (University of Tennessee) won the election for the council position that focuses on teaching. She succeeds Lori Peek. Andrew Jorgensen (North Carolina State University) won the election for the council position that focuses on membership. He will succeed Beth Caniglia.

Chair-Elect
Robert Brulle

Teaching and Training Committee Chair
Sherry Cable

Membership Committee Chair
Andrew Jorgensen

Job Openings

Washington State University's Department of Sociology invites applications for a permanent, full-time, nine-month tenure-track Assistant Professor, with appointment beginning August 16, 2008. The primary area of specialization is open; however, we are particularly interested in specializations in crime/deviance, environment, or social psychology. Applicants should have a PhD in Sociology or a related field, or be ABD within one year of completion by date of hire. Successful candidates will have excellent records of research or research potential, provide evidence of teaching ability, and be prepared to teach and mentor undergraduate and graduate students. We seek candidates who will advance the university's commitment to diversity and multiculturalism. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, samples of written work, and three letters of reference. We will begin to review completed applications August 31, 2007. Direct applications and other communications to: Lisa Catanzarite, Chair of the Search Committee, Department of Sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4020; e-mail lcatanzarite@wsu.edu. WSU is committed to diversity and equality in education and employment. Minorities, women, and other protected group members are encouraged to apply.

Michigan State University seeks three faculty members in the areas of environmental policy, land use, population and environment and coupled and human and natural systems. One of these positions will emphasize environmental policy, one land use and one population and environment or environmental policy. We are especially interested in researchers who apply modeling to understanding human-environment interactions. Appointments will be joint between the Environmental Science and Policy Program and the Departments of Geography (land use position), Political Science (environmental policy position) or Sociology (population and environment or environmental policy position). The disciplinary department will be the tenure home for each position. The appointments will be tenure system at the assistant professor level on an academic year basis. Ph.D. or equivalent is required at the time of appointment. Candidates should have strong methodological skills and rigorous theoretical focus. International experience or demonstrated interest in international issues is an advantage. The positions will be structured to allow development of internationally renowned research programs with extramural support. Preference will be given to candidates who could engage in an initiative to introduce computational and other formal modeling techniques into the undergraduate social science curriculum. Letters of application should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae, short statement of professional goals, three letters of reference and examples of published work. Applications will be reviewed starting October 1, 2007, and will be accepted until the position is filled. Applications can be mailed or sent electronically. Mailed applications should be addressed to: ESPP CHANS Search Committee, Environmental Science and Policy Program, Michigan State University, 274 Giltner Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1101. Electronic applications should be sent to ESPP@MAIL.MSU.EDU and directed to Search Committee. MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations of women, persons of color, veterans, and persons with disabilities.



St. Lawrence University's Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenure track position at the rank of Assistant Professor to begin Fall 2008. Primary teaching and research interests should be in environmental sociology and/or rural sociology, with an emphasis on environmental justice and resource issues. This position is part of the combined majors offered with Environmental Studies. Preference will be given to candidates who have research interests in the Adirondack region and/or those with interests in First Nations or Native American Studies, although consideration will also be given to those whose interests support the other area studies programs (U.S. Cultural and Ethnic Studies, African Studies, Asian Studies, Canadian Studies, Caribbean and Latin American Studies, and European Studies). Opportunities exist to develop and participate in the summer term Adirondack/Appalachia travel program, to work with students on funded research projects, to develop connections with the Adirondack Semester, Outdoor Studies, and Akwesasne (Mohawk Nation) Semester, and to participate in the Department's Community Based Learning component. Participation in the Department's introductory course offerings is expected. Opportunities also exist to participate in the First Year Program. Preference will be given to candidates who will have completed the Ph.D. by September 2008. Review of applications begins 15 October 2007. 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 Bob Torres, Department of Sociology, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY 13617.

Publications

Anahita, Sine and Tamara L. Mix. 2006. "Retrofitting Frontier Masculinity for Alaska's War Against Wolves" *Gender & Society* 20(3): 332-353.

Brown, Phil. *Toxic Exposures: Contested Illnesses and the Environmental Health Movement* (Columbia University Press).

Chase-Dunn, Christopher, and Andrew Jorgenson. 2007. "Trajectories of Trade and Investment Globalization." In *Frontiers of Globalization Research*, ed. Ino Rossi. Kluwer Academics.

Downey, Liam. 2007. "US Metropolitan-area Variation in Environmental Inequality Outcomes." *Urban Studies* 44:953-977.

Dunlap, Riley E. and Brent K. Marshall. 2007. "Environmental Sociology." Pp. 329-340 in C. D. Bryant and D. L. Peck (eds.), *21st Century Sociology: A Reference Handbook*, Vol. 2. Thousands Oaks, CA: Sage. (After reviewing the development of the field this chapter offers overviews and critical comparisons of the Treadmill, STIRPAT, WST, WCS and EcoMod perspectives).

Dunlap, Riley E. 2007. "Sociology of the Environment." Pp. 1417-1422 in G. Ritzer (ed.), *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, Vol. 4. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Gellert, Paul K. 2007. "From Managed to Free® Markets: Transnational and Regional Governance of Asian Timber," *The Annals of The American Academy of Political and Social Science*. Volume 610 (March):246-259.

Gellert, Paul K. 2006. "The Shifting Nature(s) of Development in Indonesia." Pp. 173-192 in *Globalization and the Environment*, edited by Andrew K. Jorgenson and Edward L. Kick. Netherlands: Brill Press.

Gould, Kenneth A., and Tammy L. Lewis. 2007. "Viewing the Wreckage: Eco-Disaster Tourism in the Wake of Katrina" in *Societies Without Borders*. 2 (2): 175-197. July.

Jorgenson, Andrew, Christopher Dick, and Matthew Mahutga. 2007. "Foreign Investment Dependence and the Environment: An Ecostructural Approach." *Social Problems* 54:371-394.

Jorgenson, Andrew. 2007. "Does Foreign Investment Harm the Air We Breathe and the Water We Drink? A Cross-National Study of Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Organic Water Pollution in Less-Developed Countries, 1975-2000." *Organization & Environment* 20:137-156.

Jorgenson, Andrew, and Thomas Burns. 2007. "Effects of Rural and Urban Population Dynamics and National Development on Deforestation Rates, 1990-2000." *Sociological Inquiry* 77:458-480.

Jorgenson, Andrew, and Thomas Burns. 2007. "The Political-Economic Causes of Change in the Ecological Footprints of Nations, 1991-2001: A Quantitative Investigation." *Social Science Research* 36:834-853.

Jorgenson, Andrew. 2007. "The Effects of Primary Sector Foreign Investment on Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Agriculture Production in Less-Developed Countries, 1980-1999." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 48:29-42.

Jorgenson, Andrew. 2007. "Foreign Direct Investment and Pesticide Use Intensity in Less-Developed Countries: A Quantitative Investigation." *Society and Natural Resources* 20:73-83.

Jorgenson, Andrew, and James Rice. 2007. "Uneven Ecological Exchange and Consumption-Based Environmental Impacts: A Cross-National Investigation." In *Rethinking Environmental History: World-System History and Global Environmental Change*, eds. Alf Hornborg, J. McNeill, and J. Martinez-Alier. AltaMira Press.

Mix, Tamara L. and Sherry Cable. 2006. "Condescension and Cross-Class Coalitions: Working Class Activists' Perspectives on the Role of Social Status." *Sociological Focus* 39(2):99-114.

Xiao, Chenyang and Riley E. Dunlap. 2007. "Validating a Comprehensive Model of Environmental Concern Cross-Nationally: A Canadian-USA Comparison." *Social Science Quarterly* 88:471-493.

Xiao, Chenyang and Riley E. Dunlap. 2007. "Validating a Comprehensive Model of Environmental Concern Cross-Nationally: A Canadian-USA Comparison." *Social Science Quarterly* 88:471-493.

Member News

Mil Duncan, Larry Hamilton and other researchers at the Carsey Institute of the University of New Hampshire recently launched a multistage project studying Community and Environment in Rural America (CERA). The first stage of CERA, completed in June, involved telephone surveys of 6,500 respondents in selected rural counties of eight US states (supported by grants from the Ford, Kellogg and Tillotson Foundations). Some preliminary comparisons of survey results across rural regions in the Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountains, Northeast, Midwest, Appalachia and the Mississippi Delta are presented in a brief report (PDF version also available):
http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/snapshot_viewsfromruralamerica.html

Further CERA work will be linked from the Carsey Institute home page:
<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/>

Andrew Jorgenson has left Washington State University and joined the department of Sociology and Anthropology at North Carolina State University (beginning August, 2007).

Riley E. Dunlap has been appointed Regents Professor of Sociology at Oklahoma State University. The highest faculty honor awarded in the State of Oklahoma's system of higher education, a Regents Professorship "is bestowed to recognize a scholar of exceptional ability who has achieved national and international distinction." Dunlap was granted the honor for his contributions to environmental sociology and environmental social science.

A lengthy interview with **Riley E. Dunlap**, conducted by Joan David Tabara of the Autonomous University of Barcelona and transcribed by Tabara and Daniel Polo, has been published in a special issue of Papers: Revista de Sociologia devoted to environmental sociology (No. 82, 2006). Entitled "A Passion for Environmental Sociology: Exploring Links between Social Environmental Sciences, Interdisciplinary Integration and Sustainability with Professor Riley E. Dunlap," the interview covers Dunlap's reflections on the early years of environmental sociology, thoughts on sociological contributions to sustainability science, and views on interdisciplinary research. The special issue, containing articles by Raymond Murphy, Ernest Garcia, Eric Darier and Tabara and several others as well as the interview, is available electronically at <http://www.raco.cat/index.php/Papers/issue/view/4749>

