

Environment, Technology and Society

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

FALL 2011

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The ASA Task Force on Climate Change Needs Your Help

by Riley Dunlap
*ASA Task Force on Sociology
and Global Climate Change*

As you probably know, at the urging of the Section on Environment and Technology, the American Sociological Association (ASA) created a Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change in 2010. The larger goal is to provide sociological analyses of various aspects of anthropogenic climate change. There is substantial sociological research on which one can draw: sociological theory, social movements, organizational theory, political sociology, and environmental sociology.

Our sub-committee (consisting of Scott McNall, Kari Norgaard, Stacey Merola, and Andy Szasz) is focusing on Climate Change and the Sociological Curriculum and has three responsibilities. The first is to contribute a chapter to the Task Force report. The second is to develop an outline or module that can be used to integrate climate change into core courses in sociology. The third is to develop a list of resource materials for teaching about the sociology of climate change

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Canadian Sociological Association Environment and Society Research Cluster New Website

The Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) Environment and Society Research Cluster proudly launches a new website: <http://www.csa-scs.ca/enviro-home>. The main role of the Environmental Sociology Research Cluster website is to provide information to a varied audience including academics, students, the media, policymakers, and non-governmental organizations.

Dr. Mark Stoddart, co-founder of the research cluster remarks, "We hope this website will reflect a truly Canadian environmental sociology and will give a voice to the growing number of students and researchers interested in environment-society relationships in Canada." The site features events, news, research profiles and more. "We invite those working on issues related to environmental sociology to join the dialogue and contribute to the website and our activities", adds Stoddart.

The ASA Task Force on Climate Change Needs Your Help, cont...

Continued from Page 1

We need your help to do the following:

- If you teach about climate change in your course(s), would you please send us an electronic copy of your syllabus (or syllabi). Send to: smcnall@csuchico.edu
- If your colleagues teach courses about climate change in their classes, could you ask them to send you an electronic copy of their syllabus (or syllabi), so that you can forward it to us? Send to smcnall@csuchico.edu

If there are exemplary ways in which the topic of climate change is being taught either in your own department, or in other courses on the campus, could you describe those for us and/or get us the syllabi in question? (This could include special projects in which students are engaged, or service-learning opportunities or opportunities for civic engagement, etc.) Send to smcnall@csuchico.edu

We would also like you to respond to a brief survey, which should take no more than 5 minutes. Please click on the link for SurveyMonkey®.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TBKJ8HR>

We understand that any time is always a busy time for faculty, but we believe it is extremely important to introduce our students to the subject of climate change and to focus on what sociology can add to policy debates and how our discipline can help deepen understanding and contribute to solutions to this important global problem. We hope you can respond to our questions no later than November 15, 2011.

Announcing ENVIROgrads: New Listserv for ETS Student Members

In the next few weeks, student members will be receiving information about the new listserv for graduate and undergraduate students of the section. At this year's annual meeting in Las Vegas, the recently proposed and approved listserv was formally announced. Overwhelmingly supported by the Executive Council, ENVIROgrads will provide an exclusive channel for discussions and information sharing among undergraduate and graduate students to ask questions, request information, disseminate student-related information, and promote programs and opportunities. Student members will be able to contact each other and share their interests, as well as providing a forum for concerns, support, and resources. For those on the job market, it will offer an additional resource for job postings and openings, including fellowships and post-docs. Its goal will be to help foster a collegial environment for communication, discussion, and professional development among student members of the section.

Each student member currently involved in the section will receive an email from Christine Bevc, the current Graduate Student Representative, with additional information about the list and subscription information. For information, questions, or general comments, please send an email to Christine at bevc@unc.edu or call (919) 966-0341.

Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

**Association for Environmental Studies and
Sciences (AESS) 2012 Annual Meeting.
21-24 June, Santa Clara, California
Conference Theme: "Preparing for our
Environmental Future"**

Call for Sessions including Workshops, Symposia, Panels, and Roundtables

The 2012 annual meeting of the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) will be held on 21-24 June 2012 in Santa Clara, California. We invite your participation. Our call for conference presentations occurs in two parts: Call for sessions (Deadline: 1 December 2011); Call for individual papers/presentations (Deadline: 1 March 2012)

In this first call we are soliciting proposals for pre-organized workshops, symposia, panels, and roundtables in which all (or a substantial number of) scholars have already agreed to participate.

We encourage you to organize a session. A submitted session proposal must have a partial or full set of participants. In particular, we encourage sessions that include multiple disciplines, professions, and perspectives.

Proposals for workshops, symposia, and panels must include an assigned chair or coordinator and a list of confirmed and/or invited presenters; proposals for roundtables must include an assigned coordinator for the session.

SESSION TYPES

There are four categories of sessions:

Workshops
Discussion Symposia
Presentation Panels
Mealtime Roundtables.

Conference and AESS themes

This year's conference theme is "Preparing for our Environmental Future."

AESS is proud of its breadth. To continue our efforts to reach out, we encourage session proposals that:

- combine scholars from multiple disciplines—physical and natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts
- are submitted by students, faculty, or administrators
- bring together theorists and practitioners
- blend those who work in government, business, foundations, and other areas of society
- are organized by or include Environmentalists of Color
- are organized by or include practicing artists
- enhance conference participants' awareness of a sense of place—in the case of the AESS 2012 conference in Santa Clara, this means that we encourage proposals with a

geographic focus on the San Francisco Bay Area and California.

HOW TO SUBMIT

To submit a proposal, please visit the AESS website: <http://www.aess.info>.

The **second call** for individual abstracts for all forms of oral and poster presentations will also be announced in a future E and T newsletter.

If you have questions, contact Ken Wilkening, chair of the AESS Program Committee, at kew@unbc.ca.

Eastern Sociological Society

The deadline for submissions to the Eastern Sociological society has been extended to October 30. The meetings this year run from February 23-26, 2012 at the Broadway Millennium Hotel in New York City. For Information on the meeting, see <http://essnet.org> To submit an abstract, you can go directly to:
<http://www.meetingsavvy.com/ess/login.aspx>

Call for Papers: World Turning: Race, Class, Gender, and Global Climate Change

Be part of a new edited volume addressing global climate change, tentatively titled World Turning: Race, Class, Gender, and Global Climate Change! For this unique volume, (publisher to be confirmed once submissions are), we are seeking contributions from academics and activists with experience and expertise in addressing the social dimensions of global climate change in their work, with a particular focus on intersections of race, class, gender, and other social markers.

World Turning is intended to be a multidisciplinary reader that will introduce undergraduate and graduate students to the major issues and debates surrounding the study of intersectionality and global climate change. The volume will be broadly organized into sections on the social and natural sciences, as well as public health, art and literature.

Specifically, we are seeking academic pieces between 15-25 pages (including notes) that address any aspect of climate change: legal, political, social, educational, agricultural, economic, religious, sexual, ideological, international, local, etc. and that incorporate an intersectional analysis. In addition, we are seeking original essays, poetry, or other works of art that also address climate change in relation to any form of activism. Contributions may be visual,

empirical, theoretical or any other creative form, and may be between 1-20 pages (including notes).

Preference will be given to original pieces but we may also consider previously published pieces.

If you are interested in contributing, please submit a 500 word abstract of your piece (or of your art / activism) with the title, author, and institutional or organizational affiliation (if any) to Dr. Phoebe Godfrey at phoebe.godfrey@uconn.edu or Dr. Rachel Hallum-Montes at rhallum@ufl.edu by January 31, 2012.

Call for Papers: Special Issue on Coal and the Environment Organization & Environment

Special Issue Editors:

Shannon Elizabeth Bell, University of Kentucky and
Richard York, University of Oregon

Deadline: April 1, 2012

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the burning of coal accounted for 41.3% of the global carbon dioxide emissions generated from the consumption of fossil fuels in 2006. This trend is not forecast to end anytime soon; between 2005 and 2035, world carbon dioxide emissions from coal are projected to increase by 68.1%. The coal industry – along with the capitalist world system that depends on the cheap energy it provides – holds a large share of the responsibility for rising global temperatures and the resulting harm that has come to many geographically-vulnerable nations. In addition to its contributions to hastening climate change, the coal industry also causes great ecological and social harm in its other industry activities. Throughout the entire lifecycle of this fossil fuel – including the mining, processing, washing, and burning of coal – workers and nearby communities are endangered by industry practices.

Given the coal industry's tremendous and rapidly-increasing impacts on global climate, fragile ecosystems, communities, and public health, it is critical that scholarly analyses of this industry be highlighted and prioritized in the social-scientific literature.

In this special issue on Coal and the Environment, we will bring together social science scholars studying coal throughout its lifecycle and across regions, with the hope of contributing to larger scientific and public debates about the future of this powerful industry.

We are soliciting article contributions of approximately 8,000 words, with a particular focus on the following priority areas:

- Examinations of the relationships between coal and other energy sources, with a focus on how tradeoffs between the costs and benefits of various energy sources are contested and negotiated.
- Critical assessments of "clean coal" technology, including carbon capture and storage.
- Theorizations of the global political economy of coal and the strategies and alliances that maintain the coal industry's global power.
- Examinations of social movements resisting coal extraction and/or coal power plants, particularly in vital but understudied areas, such as China.
- Analyses of the challenges and possibilities of transitioning away from coal as an energy source.
- Case studies of communities, states, or nations that have attempted (successfully or unsuccessfully) to transition away from coal as an energy source.
- Theorizations of the ways in which various axes of social inequality (such as race, class, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, or nationality) intersect with destructive coal industry practices and/or affect social movement outcomes.
- Analyses of the social, economic, political, and/or environmental impacts of mountaintop removal mining and other forms of coal extraction.

Please submit all contributions by April 1, 2012 at:
<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/oe>

Direct inquiries to Shannon Bell
(shannon.eliz.bell@uky.edu) and Richard York
(rfyork@uoregon.edu)

Publications

Books

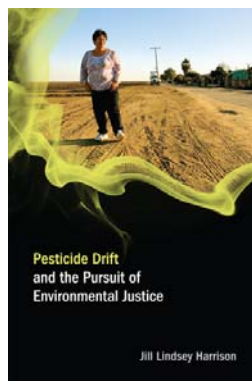
Pesticide Drift and the Pursuit of Environmental Justice

Jill Larson Harrison

The MIT Press (2011).

<http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?tttype=2&tid=12729>

The widespread but virtually invisible problem of pesticide drift--the airborne movement of agricultural pesticides into residential areas--has fueled

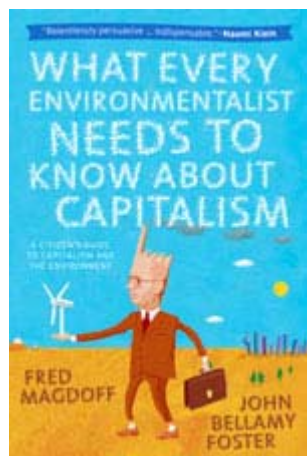


agricultural pesticides

grassroots activism from Maine to Hawaii. Pesticide drift accidents have terrified and sickened many living in the country's most marginalized and vulnerable communities. In this book, Jill Lindsey Harrison considers political conflicts over pesticide drift in California, using them to illuminate the broader problem and its potential solutions.

The fact that pesticide pollution and illnesses associated with it disproportionately affect the poor and the powerless raises questions of environmental justice (and political injustice). Despite California's impressive record of environmental protection, massive pesticide regulatory apparatus, and booming organic farming industry, pesticide-related accidents and illnesses continue unabated. To unpack this conundrum, Harrison examines the conceptions of justice that increasingly shape environmental politics and finds that California's agricultural industry, regulators, and pesticide drift activists hold different, and conflicting, notions of what justice looks like.

Drawing on her own extensive ethnographic research as well as in-depth interviews with regulators, activists, scientists, and public health practitioners, Harrison examines the ways industry, regulatory agencies, and different kinds of activists address pesticide drift, connecting their efforts to communitarian and libertarian conceptions of justice. The approach taken by pesticide drift activists, she finds, not only critiques theories of justice undergirding mainstream sustainable-agriculture activism, but also offers an entirely new notion of what justice means. To solve seemingly intractable environmental problems such as pesticide drift, Harrison argues, we need a different kind of environmental justice. She proposes the precautionary principle as a framework for effectively and justly addressing environmental inequities in the everyday work of environmental regulatory institutions.



What Every Environmentalist Needs To Know about Capitalism: A Citizen's Guide to Capitalism and the Environment

Fred Magdoff and John Bellamy Foster
Monthly Review Press
(2011).
<http://monthlyreview.org/press/books/pb2419/>

There is a growing consensus that the planet is heading toward environmental catastrophe: climate change, ocean acidification, ozone depletion, global

freshwater use, loss of biodiversity, and chemical pollution all threaten our future unless we act. What is less clear is how humanity should respond. The contemporary environmental movement is the site of many competing plans and prescriptions, and composed of a diverse set of actors, from militant activists to corporate chief executives.

This short, readable book is a sharply argued manifesto for those environmentalists who reject schemes of "green capitalism" or piecemeal reform. Environmental and economic scholars Magdoff and Foster contend that the struggle to reverse ecological degradation requires a firm grasp of economic reality. Going further, they argue that efforts to reform capitalism along environmental lines or rely solely on new technology to avert catastrophe misses the point. The main cause of the looming environmental disaster is the driving logic of the system itself, and those in power—no matter how "green"—are incapable of making the changes that are necessary.

What Every Environmentalist Needs To Know about Capitalism tackles the two largest issues of our time, the ecological crisis and the faltering capitalist economy, in a way that is thorough, accessible, and sure to provoke debate in the environmental movement.



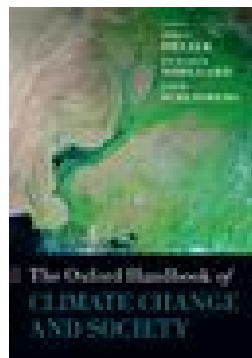
Technoscience and Environmental Justice: Expert Cultures in a Grassroots Movement

Gwen Ottinger and Benjamin R. Cohen, eds.
The MIT Press (2011).
<http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?type=2&tid=12723>.

Over the course of nearly thirty years, the environmental justice movement has changed the politics of environmental activism and influenced environmental policy. In the process, it has turned the attention of environmental activists and regulatory agencies to issues of pollution, toxics, and human health as they affect ordinary people, especially people of color. This book argues that the environmental justice movement has also begun to transform science and engineering. The chapters present case studies of technical experts' encounters with environmental justice activists and issues, exploring the transformative potential of these interactions.

Technoscience and Environmental Justice first examines the scientific practices and identities of technical experts who work with environmental justice organizations,

whether by becoming activists themselves or by sharing scientific information with communities. It then explore scientists' and engineers' activities in such mainstream scientific institutions as regulatory agencies and universities, where environmental justice concerns have been (partially) institutionalized as a response to environmental justice activism. All of the chapters grapple with the difficulty of transformation that experts face, but the studies also show how environmental justice activism has created opportunities for changing technical practices and, in a few cases, has even accomplished significant transformations.



The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society
John Dryzek, Richard Norgaard, and David Schlosberg, eds.
Oxford University Press (2011).
<http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Politics/AmericanPolitics/ScienceTechnologyEnvironmentalPo/?view=usa&sf=toc&ci=9780199566600#>

Climate change presents perhaps the most profound challenge ever confronted by human society. *The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society* is a definitive analysis drawing on the best thinking on questions of how climate change affects human systems, and how societies can, do, and should respond. Key topics covered include the history of the issues, social and political reception of climate science, the denial of that science by individuals and organized interests, the nature of the social disruptions caused by climate change, the economics of those disruptions and possible responses to them, questions of human security and social justice, obligations to future generations, policy instruments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and governance at local, regional, national, international, and global levels.

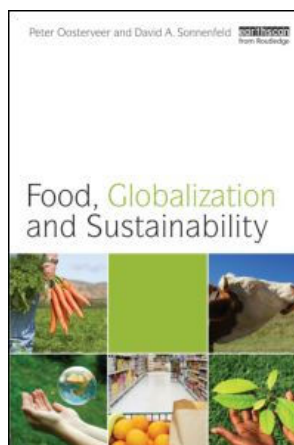
Features

- * A major analysis of a key global issue
- * Broad-ranging treatment of fast-growing field
- * Outstanding range of contributors
- * Multidisciplinary in approach
- * Essential reference for students and scholars in this field

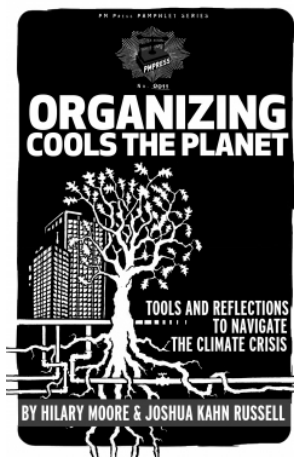
Food, Globalization, and sustainability

Peter Oosterveer and David A. Sonnenfeld.
Routledge (2011).
<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9781849712613/>

Food is increasingly traded internationally, thereby transforming the organization of food production and



consumption globally, and influencing most food-related practices. This transition is generating unfamiliar challenges related to sustainability of food provision, the social impacts of international trade and global food governance. Distance in time and space between food producers and consumers is increasing and new concerns are arising. These include the environmental impact of food production and trade, animal welfare, the health and safety of food, and the social and economic impact of international food trade. This book provides an overview of the principal conceptual frameworks that have been developed for understanding these changes. It shows how conventional regulation of food provision through sovereign national governments is becoming elusive, as the distinctions between domestic and international, and between public and private spheres, disappear. At the same time multi-national companies and supranational institutions put serious limits to governmental interventions. In this context, other social actors including food retailers and NGOs are shown to take up innovative roles in governing food provision, but their contribution to agro-food sustainability is under continuous scrutiny. The authors apply these themes in several detailed case studies, including organic, fair trade, local food and fish. On the basis of these cases, future developments are explored, with a focus on the respective roles of agricultural producers, retailers and consumers.



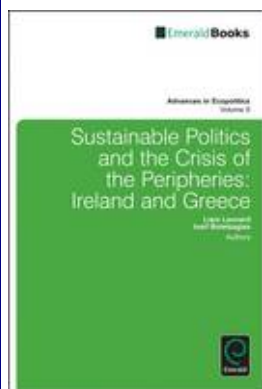
Organizing Cools the Planet: Tools and Reflections to Navigate the Climate Crisis

Hilary Moore and Joshua Kahn Russell
PM Press (2011)

www.organizingcoolstheplanet.org

Organizing Cools The Planet offers a challenge to all concerned about the ecological crisis: find your frontline. This booklet weaves together stories, analysis, organizing tools, and provocative questions, to offer a snapshot of the North American Climate Justice movement and provide pathways for readers to participate in it. Authors share hard lessons learned, reflect on strategy, and grapple with the challenges of their roles as organizers who do not come from "frontline

communities” but work to build a movement big enough for everyone and led by the priorities and solutions of low-income people, communities of color, Indigenous, youth, and other constituencies most directly impacted by the crisis. Rooted in the authors’ experiences organizing in local, national, and international arenas, they challenge readers to look at the scale of ecological collapse with open eyes, without falling prey to disempowering doomsday narratives. This booklet is for anyone who wants to build a movement with the resiliency to navigate one of the most rapid transitions in human history.



Sustainable Politics and the Crisis of the Peripheries: Ireland and Greece

Liam Leonard and Iosif Botetzagias

Emerald Group (2011)

<http://books.emeraldinsight.com/display.asp?isbn=9780857247612&CUR=EUR>

This volume of the "Advances in Ecopolitics" examines the impact of the economic crisis on peripheral European states such as Ireland and Greece. Following an introductory chapter, it is divided into two geographically-focused sections, the first on Ireland, the second section on Greece. Specifically the book focuses on governance, sustainable politics and environmental policies, within the context of accelerated growth and the subsequent economic downturn. It also examines issues of governance and politics within these peripheral states, in addition to the development of policies within an EU/EC context. The book concludes with a discussion of the future for sustainable politics in the peripheral states of Europe, in the aftermath of the global downturn. "Advances in Ecopolitics" is essential reading for all academics, researchers and practitioners who are involved in the areas of environmentalism, providing insight and extending understanding of these issues.

Articles

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Member News

Riley Dunlap

Riley Dunlap, Regents Professor of Sociology at Oklahoma State University, has been appointed the Laurence L. and Georgia Ina Dresser Professor. The Dresser Professorship is the first endowed chair established for OSU's Department of Sociology.

Additionally, she gave the keynote address at the 3rd International Symposium on Environmental Sociology in East Asia held at Catholic University, Bucheon City, October 15-16th. The bi-annual symposium is an outgrowth of the 2007 International Environmental Sociology Conference in Beijing. This year's symposium had participants from Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan

Finally, an Italian environmental sociologist, Ilaria Beretta, has published a book about Riley Dunlap's contributions to environmental sociology. Entitled "Il Nuovo Paradigma Ecologico in Sociologia dell'ambiente: Pensiero e opere di Riley E. Dunlap" [The New Ecological Paradigm and Environmental Sociology: The Thought and Work of Riley E. Dunlap], the volume was published by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Brescia, Italy, 2011, ISBN: 978-88-8311-799-2.