

Environment, Technology and Society

NEWSLETTER of the SECTION on ENVIRONMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY of the AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Summer 2015

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Climate Change Task Force Publishes Report

by Riley E. Dunlap, Oklahoma State University

I am pleased to announce that Society and Climate Change: Sociological Perspectives will be issued by Oxford University Press the first week of August. It serves as the "report" of the ASA Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change, established by ASA Council in response to a proposal from ETS. Since I have a long essay on the Task Force and the volume coming out in the July/August issue of ASA Footnotes I will just offer some brief comments here. After long and careful deliberations, the Task Force Steering Committee decided to aim for an edited volume with a well-established publisher, rather than just writing a report for ASA Council as prior task forces had typically done. We then prepared a prospectus and submitted it to Oxford. After receiving very positive reviews of the prospectus, Oxford agreed to publish the volume. ASA Council was sufficiently impressed by the prospectus and Oxford agreement that it decided to endorse the volume as an official ASA publication. All royalties will go to ASA.

Fortunately, Oxford is issuing hardcover and paperback versions simultaneously, and the latter is a very reasonable \$29.95. Better yet, Oxford is offering a temporary

Continued on next page

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Features
1	Climate Change Task Force Publishes Report
2	Laudato Si, Climate Change, and Environmental Sociology
5	Environmental Sociology Service Learning Community Collaboration
6	Section News
6	Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award
7	Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award
7	Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award
7	Practice and Outreach Award
8	Election Results
8	Conferences and Calls for Papers
8	International Sociological Association 2016
9	CfP: Special Issue of <i>Environmental Sociology</i>
10	Position Announcement
12	Publications
12	Books
14	Articles
15	Member News

Climate Change Task Force Report (cont.)

30% discount. Because the idea for the Task Force originated in ETS, and a majority of the 37 contributors are affiliated with our Section, Michael Agliardo is including the flyer describing the volume and offering the discount in this issue of the newsletter.

I would like to thank the contributors for their hard work on the chapters, patiently enduring two and sometimes three rounds of revisions, and numerous reviewers (acknowledged in the volume) for their excellent feedback and recommendations. I would also like to thank ASA Council for their faith our effort, and the ASA Executive Office for facilitating our work.

Special thanks are due Bob Brulle, who was the driving force behind the ETS proposal to create the Task Force. Early on I asked Bob to serve as Associate Chair of the Task Force, and he has done an exemplary job—especially in helping bring the volume to fruition. I had some health problems the last couple of years (greatly alleviated by a long-postponed hip-replacement operation shortly after submission of the manuscript to Oxford), and Bob played an invaluable role in helping wrap things up when I was struggling physically.

Initial feedback from the Executive Office and a few key individuals who have provided endorsements has been very positive, and I am hopeful that ETS members will be pleased with the volume. Having the imprimatur of ASA is very nice, and will not only give the volume more credibility but also enhanced visibility. In fact, Oxford and ASA will launch a significant PR campaign for the volume on August 20th, to coincide with the beginning of our Chicago meeting. So please hold off on publicizing it yourself until then.

Laudato Si*, Climate Change, and Environmental Sociology

by Michael Agliardo, SJ, Loyola University Chicago

Introduction

On June 18th the Vatican released the papal encyclical *Laudato Si*, a document on the environmental issues, social justice, and faith. Many of us environmental sociologists are aware that Pope Francis has a certain star appeal, and so are happy that his voice has been added to the chorus underscoring our responsibility to address climate change. Some are also aware of the size of the Catholic community and the institutional resources at its disposal. In the United States, there some 66.5 million Catholics (based on parish records) or 79.7 million (based on self-identification) (CARA, Georgetown University). They attend more than 17,400 parishes in 195 dioceses (*Official Catholic Directory*, J. P. Kennedy & Sons). In

addition, in the U.S. there are 220 Catholic colleges and universities, and extensive church-affiliated elementary school, high school, health, and social service networks. Worldwide, according to Vatican estimates, there are approximately 1.2 billion Catholics in the world. In some sixty nations (of varying size) Catholics make up at least 40% of the population, sometimes significantly more (CIA Factbook). And in many parts of the world, especially the developing world, Catholic institutions constitute a significant part of the institutional landscape.

Given the size and institutional heft of the Catholic community, what response can we expect in the wake of Pope Francis's environmental encyclical? In the first place, it must be noted that *Laudato Si* is hardly the first Catholic document addressing environmental matters or climate change. Previous popes have stressed the religious obligation to safeguard the environment and share the resources of Earth with all, especially the poorest among us. Eighteen national bishops' conferences around the world have issued pastoral letters the environment. In particular, the U.S. Catholic bishops published *Renewing the Earth* in 1991, and ten years later *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good*. Presumably, these documents have helped to raise awareness among Catholics that environmental issues not only matter but that they do so as matters of faith. What difference then will *Laudato Si* make?

In the brief comments below I explore two dimensions of that question. On the one hand, the impact of the document is tied to the authority it carries within the Catholic polity. The section immediately below treats some of the nuances concerning the authoritative status of *Laudato Si* that the media often misses, as well as the wrestling with that status that is taking place among Catholic climate naysayers. The final section discusses in a schematic way the kind of difference that *Laudato Si* might make, both in Catholic circles and beyond. At issue is not simply the mobilizational *umph* that it might spark—some quantity of generic social force, as it were—but the qualitative way it and the effort with which it is associated might transform the field of play. Since the document itself and many excellent summaries are available online, I will leave the content of the document to the reader's own explorations. Insofar as many of these reflections derive from the initial phase of a study into the impact of *Laudato Si* and the factors affecting Catholic mobilization in particular, I certainly welcome any comments or inquiries.

What weight does *Laudato Si* carry among Catholics?

"I don't get economic policy from my bishops or my cardinals or my pope." With these widely-reported words, Jeb Bush, Catholic convert and faithful churchgoer, distanced himself from *Laudato Si* even before the document was released. Other prominent Catholics have staked out long-standing positions nay saying the threat of climate change. Like Mr. Bush, they attempt to bracket

Laudato Si by arguing that climate change is a scientific matter and hence one outside the competence and pastoral purview of any prelate or pope.

Marc Morano, part of a delegation brought to Rome in April by the Heartland Institute (a think tank that promotes skepticism over climate change) took a different tack. He protested concern that the encyclical would confuse "people into thinking that climate change issues are now an article of faith, part of the Roman Catholic doctrine" (as reported in the *NY Times* on April 28, emphasis added). Mr. Morano's point seems to be that while doctrine has a certain binding quality within the Catholic community, anything Pope Francis might write concerning climate change is something else, and certainly not binding.

Cardinal Peter Turkson, who heads the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, was a key drafter of *Laudato Si* in collaboration with Pope Francis. Cardinal Turkson offered Mr. Bush a public correction, pointing out that the document leaves the science to the scientific community; nonetheless, given the scientific consensus that has emerged, it then reflects upon the moral and religious duties that follow from that consensus, even shy of absolute certainty. Indeed, the Catholic Church has developed a substantive body of principles concerning questions of social justice known as its "social teaching." Though particular applications of Catholic social teaching are more or less probable, their cogency resting upon force of the reasoning offered, the principles themselves are well-grounded in Scripture and the standing moral and religious commitments of the Catholic Church. This body of teaching places the Church on record for affirming that the demands of faith extend beyond one's relationship with God and other individual persons, including also the obligation to work for a just social order. Building on a succession of earlier Church statements, *Laudato Si* acknowledges an even wider horizon of responsibility, one embracing not just human society but the Earth itself. It represents, then, not a momentary fret, but a well-grounded and carefully considered articulation of core Christian responsibilities.

While admitting that Catholic social teaching does uphold human responsibility vis-à-vis creation, other commentators have argued that the style of *Laudato Si* vitiates its authoritative status. An editorial in *First Things* (August / September 2015), "America's most influential journal of religion and public life," notes that the document does not work out any new, definitive, philosophically honed guiding principles, such as mark encyclicals of Benedict XVI or even the seemingly more pastorally inclined John XXIII: "The modern encyclical tradition...is a teaching tradition, not a homiletic one, and *Laudato Si* provides too little teaching." Accordingly, as rousing as some Catholics may find the document, since it lays out no definitive teaching, others are perfectly free to ignore it.

To be sure, that *Laudato Si* was published by the

Holy See does not automatically invest it with any claim to infallibility among Catholics. Nonetheless, that it was issued as papal encyclical (a letter to be circulated throughout the Church) means that Pope Francis invested it with the authority of his office. That makes it a significant point of reference, a sort of trump card in the poker of Catholic theological debate. Since the Pope assumes a certain pastoral responsibility for the entire Church, *Laudato Si* possesses a commensurate moral and pastoral cogency, a cogency that for Catholics supplements the reasoning it contains. That reasoning, nonetheless, is not *sui generis*. It draws on insights articulated over the course of four decades by previous popes and bishops' conferences, and these are deliberately cited in the document. For these reasons, *Laudato Si* lays effective claim to being the public teaching of the Catholic Church. No Catholic bishop will gainsay it. And any pastor, school teacher, or activist who draws on it as a resource can simply presume the backing of "The Church" as such.

I offer this anecdote to suggest the kind of shift *Laudato Si* may foster: When I was researching the impact of a pastoral letter issued by the Catholic bishops of the Pacific Northwest, I interviewed the head of an secular organization dedicated to river restoration. A person of faith himself, he often went before parish groups to win their involvement. Before the Northwest bishops' pastoral letter was published, when he went before Catholics he had to make the case that environmental stewardship had a faith dimension. After the letter, it was no longer necessary. The bishops had spoken. The case had been made.

At the same time, *Laudato Si* represents something of a gambit when it comes to authority within the Catholic Church. It is winning praise in circles where criticism of bishops and popes has been common; and it is earning criticism from those who are used to promoting official Church teaching. Moreover, there is an asymmetry in these new circumstances worth noting. Those who now distance themselves from *Laudato Si* tend to affirm a more hierarchical understanding of the Church's teaching authority. As a result, they cannot help but find themselves caught in a contradiction should they acknowledge the legitimate moral and pastoral authority of the document. At the same time, those who welcome the document tend to understand the teaching authority of the Church in a more diffuse way. They are more apt to recognize the authority of their own conscience and less apt to be uncritical supporters of hierarchical authority in the Church. Accordingly, with this document Pope Francis risks alienating institutional stalwarts while gaining assent among Catholics who agree with his position in any case, but who nonetheless remain at the margins of the institutional Church. Time will tell whether *Laudato Si*, understood as an event, sociologically speaking, merely gets caught up in existing cultural patterns and political polarities, or whether it catalyzes genuine political and cultural change.

Laudato Si and the Sociological Imagination

Those who read *Laudato Si* and wonder whether its Vatican drafters have been reading up on their environmental sociology may be allowed a certain indulgence. Indeed, Pope Francis comes from a part of the world where "social analysis" is woven into the life of the Church. Here I would like to briefly cite three themes of sociological import that the document explicitly takes up. Then I note four ways in which the document is a sociological event worthy of further study.

Perhaps the most obvious sociological theme of note in *Laudato Si* is its discussion of "integral ecology." In chapter four, the document spells out clearly that environmental problems cannot be understood in isolation, but rather must be viewed in connection with their human and social dimensions. Indeed, it notes that the processes that degrade the Earth are often the same processes that impoverish some to enrich others. This theme, long sounded by social theorists from Marcuse to Bookchin, is also found in the writing of Brazilian liberation theologian Leonardo Boff, who was asked by Pope Francis to submit material for inclusion in *Laudato Si*.

The document also critiques anthropocentrism as "misguided." There have been lengthy debates in various literatures concerning the degree to which Judaism and Christianity lend support to anthropocentrism. Francis of Assisi, who penned the canticle from which the words "Laudato Si" were taken, is sometimes cited as exceptional because he viewed all creatures as kindred. Offering an alternative perspective, a Franciscan theologian and friend once pressed the point that every mainstream reading of the Christian tradition manifests not an anthropocentric but a *theocentric* position. In that perspective, all created beings are indeed united insofar as they all reflect the glory of God. In any case, however one reconstructs the tradition, *Laudato Si* clearly rejects exploitation of other creatures, a theology of domination, and preoccupation with human welfare alone.

A third point to note is the degree to which *Laudato Si* articulates a critique of economic globalization, unrestrained capitalism, and the technocratic mindset. In other words, the thrust of the document is not simply to rally support around climate change. Those who are alarmed to see in the document a far deeper protest against the global economic order read it aright. It brings out the extent to which environmental degradation and human exploitation follow from a system that overreaches. After the release of *Laudato Si*, Naomi Klein was invited to speak at the Vatican, an indication that Rome is also contemplating the extent to which "this changes everything."

None of foregoing ideas found in *Laudato Si* are radically new, certainly not in sociology. Even in theological circles they have been discussed before, a debt recognized in the document itself. What is new and interesting is the new setting in which they are located.

As the *Laudato Si* event continues to unfold within

the Catholic Church and beyond, its impact will hinge on a number of factors. Four of sociological import may be worth attending. In the first place, can Pope Francis, through the status of his office and the force of his own personality, bring together stake holders and catalyze synergies of collaboration among people of a range of faith, scientific, and environmental communities? Can he do so in a way that might not otherwise have occurred? And what difference will this make?

Second, does a religious grounding of the themes in *Laudato Si* make a difference? While the first question asks about possible new synergies among social actors, religious and otherwise, this second question focuses on the specific difference a religious frame makes. For example, one resource of Catholicism is precisely the aforementioned principles of Catholic social teaching. These principles not only link exploitation of people with exploitation of the environment; working out of a frame that transcends and grounds the separate "value spheres" of economics, science, politics, and nation, they also propose ways to view these spheres as interrelated. How cogent will such a vision be for Catholics and sympathetic others?

Third, what is distinctive about the way that *Laudato Si* brings religion into public life? The very capacity of a religious group to enter public debate presupposes its refusal to accept relegation to a privatized sphere of its own, and instead, a capacity to interrogate the various value spheres and bring them into mutual dialogue. In the contemporary West, marked as it is by structural differentiation, we are prone to accept Jeb Bush's suggestion that religion mind its own business. However, at least since the publication of José Casanova's *Public Religions in the Modern World* (1994), the topic of public religion has gained prominence in the sociology. *Laudato Si* provides the occasion for exploring the distinctive way that religion might shape public debate, not only in the U.S., but in a range of societies and in the emerging order of global civil society.

Fourth, the reaction to *Laudato Si* tells us something about our moment in history. Indeed, some have ventured that Pope Francis will play the role of charismatic prophet in our day. But as Weber reminds us, a prophet is made by the people. If they respond, then the prophet *as such* comes into being. In 1951 Rachel Carson wrote *The Sea Around Us*, and the book and its sequels earned her praise and numerous speaking engagements. However, the firestorm she set off in 1962 with *Silent Spring* was of another order altogether. The times had changed, and American society was attuned to what she had to say in a very different way. When the U.S. Catholic Bishops published their pastoral letter *Global Climate Change* in 2001, few outside select circles noted the event. In 2015, are Catholics, other Christians, and the wider religious community listening in a new way? Let us hope that they are. If there is one thing that Pope Francis does inspire, it is hope.

Environmental Sociology Service Learning Community Collaboration

*by Sherrie Steiner,
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne*

Students enrolled in my Spring 2015 Environmental Sociology course at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) experienced a unique hands-on special project where they helped assess the environmental and health risks in the area. In Fall Semester 2014, I applied for an Indiana Campus Compact Service Learning grant and approached Hoosier Environmental Council to explore the possibility of collaborating in Spring semester in a way that might benefit a citizen's group I had learned about in Blackford County, 50 miles south of Fort Wayne. I was awarded the grant with matching funds from the IPFW Sociology Department and we moved forward with a course collaboration that ultimately involved Hoosier Environmental Council, Blackford County Concerned Citizens, Blackford County Historical Society, IPFW's Environmental Resources Center and IPFW's Studio M. The service learning component complemented the academic coursework on environmental sociology; students were given two exams on a textbook and were required to keep a journal in response to questions that linked the textbook content with issues associated with the service learning project.

According to the 2013 County Health Rankings, Blackford County ranks 89 out of 92 for Health Outcomes. In particular, residents suffer from elevated rates of certain cancers and neurologic diseases. Residents formed Blackford County Concerned Citizens in 1999 over concerns about the county's rates of cancer and neurological illnesses with a desire to improve the quality of life through citizen action to investigate the diseases that are prevalent and by advocating to have these diseases investigated. The citizen's group partnered with Hoosier Environmental Council to assess the environmental health risks in the area. There is a substantial industrial history in Blackford County beginning with the 1880s oil and gas boom. This has raised questions of whether there might be links between health and environmental conditions. Blackford County Concerned Citizens wanted us to create maps of this industrial legacy; they also wanted students to create a short video of their water testing project that they could use to communicate their activities to the general public. I wanted students to create a video of the collaboration itself.

I broke students into three groups. One group was responsible for mapping the industrial legacy and the other two groups were responsible for creating a video of the water testing project and a video of the class collaboration. The service learning project constituted 20% of their grade; they were expected to volunteer 30

hours to the project which constituted an additional 15% of their grade. Students were graded on the degree to which they worked together, met collaboration deadlines, and incorporated collaborator feedback into their final product. Whether or not our partners actually chose to use what students created was irrelevant to their grade, but students were graded on the degree to which the products were usable.

With the assistance of IPFW's Environmental Resources Center, the environmental sociology students began the process of mapping the industrial legacy of Blackford County. Students combed through old maps, books and records at the Blackford County Historical Society to obtain locations of various industries since the late 1800's. Using ArcGIS software, students created a series of maps that depict the location of various industries over time, their industrial legacy and the current buildings on those industrial sites. Students mapped the oil and gas boom, the glass industry, modern industries and then created a cumulative industrial legacy map for Blackford County Concerned Citizens to use for identifying the location of possible contaminants that might be contributing to the unusually high rates of cancer and disease. With the assistance of IPFW's Studio M, students recorded community interviews with residents, water drillers, and other community experts. Students edited hours of footage, recorded audio narration and integrated the various messages into two short videos that had to be under six minutes maximum.

The projects were collaboratively designed and implemented with our community partners. We visited the site three times. The first trip involved gathering initial information and footage to produce a rough draft that was circulated to our partners for feedback prior to the second trip. Final drafts were submitted for feedback prior to the third trip when student products were presented to the general public. Collaborator feedback was specific and detailed; students incorporated the vast majority of their feedback despite the added strain associated with the additional workload. I repeatedly emphasized the importance of developing a collaborative relationship throughout the semester and 'operationalized' collaboration by requiring deadlines for drafts and holding project leads accountable for how they incorporated partner feedback. Several of the students described how this experience strengthened their sense of civic responsibility and personal efficacy as pertains to environmental engagement. Community partners were pleased with the student's products and they expressed interest in continuing the collaboration with future courses. "The mapping expertise that the university brought to this project is a tremendous benefit for the community," said Dr. Indra Frank, the Hoosier Environmental Council's environmental health project director. "This helped us have a clearer picture of possible environmental hazards." Student videos and

maps that were presented at the April 25, 2015 public event can be viewed at www.blackfordcountyc ConcernedCitizens.com Students experienced first-hand the textbook descriptions of tension between business and environmental health when they had to rename certain map coordinates, delete particular comments from videos, and turn cameras off before people would fully share their thoughts. Situations like this arose throughout the course of the semester and led to much classroom discussion related to environmental politics. Several students indicated that this class was a memorable and transformative experience; two of the thirteen students are continuing with the project in Fall Semester.

The development of this collaboration involved an immense amount of work that went well beyond a typical course prep for environmental sociology. Much of the success of the partnership is related to the quality of our partners and the assistance provided by the ERC and Studio M. I developed this course with no prior technological expertise in ArcGIS or video editing. The president of the Board of Directors for Blackford County Concerned Citizens has served two terms as Mayor of the largest city in the county. He is politically savvy and well integrated into the community. The environmental health specialist representing Hoosier Environmental Council is trained as a toxicologist and has an MPH; she is well versed in the health effects of particular toxic exposures. The Environmental Resources Center provided us with a graduate student who assisted students with the technological challenges associated with making ArcGIS maps. The staff at Studio M patiently assisted students with the many technical questions associated with video editing. There were many points in the semester when I wondered if I had designed the course with too heavy of a reliance upon the collaborative components, but people put in the extra effort to produce collaborative products. Several students expressed in their evaluative feedback that this was the first time they had ever experienced how a group could produce something above and beyond what any of the individuals could produce by themselves.

The service learning collaboration will continue in Fall 2015 in association with a Collective Behavior and Social Movements course. It will be interesting to see how the collaboration evolves in relation to this different pedagogical lens.

Sherrie Steiner is a member of the Teaching and Outreach Committee of ETS. The committee is still seeking examples of action-oriented environmental sociology projects.

Do you have a sociology project to share?

Please contact Shannon Bell shannon.eliz.bell@uky.edu to contribute yours.

Section News: ASA-ETS Awards Announcement 2015

Dear all,

Please join the ETS Council and Awards Committee chairs and members in congratulating this year's recipients of the ASA-ETS Awards. The winners will be recognized at the ASA reception, which will be held on-site from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 22 and at the section business meeting, to be held from 1:30-2:10 p.m. on Sunday, August 23. Please mark your calendars and check the final ASA schedule for event locations.

Finally, a special thanks to the committee chairs and members who dedicated countless hours to evaluating an array of excellent submissions this year.

The Section on Environment & Technology Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award

The Environment & Technology Section is pleased to announce that **Dorceta Taylor**, Professor of Environmental Sociology at the University of Michigan, is the 2015 recipient of the Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award. This award recognizes individuals for outstanding service, innovation, and/or publication in environmental sociology or sociology of technology. Taylor was chosen for this award based on her extraordinarily meritorious contributions over the course of her career to scholarship and outstanding, dedicated service to the Section and the profession. Taylor has made particularly important contributions to our understanding of environmental justice. Her book, *The Environment and The People in American Cities, 1600s-1900s: Disorder, Inequality, and Social Change*, which was honored with the Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award in 2010, stands out as a particularly important work. In addition to her scholarship, Taylor has been a valued leader in the Section, recently serving as the Chair. This award expresses the respect the ETS community has for Taylor and appreciation for her many contributions.



Selection Committee Members:

Richard York, Chair, University of Oregon and ETS Council Members

**The Section on Environment & Technology
Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award**



The Environment & Technology Section is pleased to award **Andrew K. Jorgenson**, Professor of Sociology at Boston College, and **Brett Clark**, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Utah, the 2015 Allan Schnaiberg

Outstanding Publication Award for their influential paper, "Are the Economy and the Environment Decoupling? An Comparative Inter-national Study, 1960–2005," published in the *American Journal of Sociology*. This award is reserved for publications of special noteworthiness in the field of environmental sociology. The award committee recognized this paper for its contribution to the long-standing debate on energy/environment and economy, the importance of the knowledge generated by the analysis to the environmental sociology subsection and the broader climate science and sustainability communities dealing with these issues, and its methodological innovations.



Honorable Mention:

The Environment and Technology Section is pleased to award **Michael J. Lynch**, **Michael A. Long**, **Kimberly L. Barrett**, and **Paul B. Stretesky**, honorable mention for the Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award for their paper, "Is it a crime to produce ecological disorganization? Why green criminology and political economy matter in the analysis of global ecological harms," published in the *British Journal of Criminology*. The award committee thought the article by Lynch and colleagues deserved honorable mention for their innovative and well written article that provides environmentalists a way of framing ecological problems and offers a new perspective that could provide context for scholars not traditionally identified as environmental sociologists.

Committee Members:

Rachael Shwom, Chair, Rutgers University
Angela Mertig, Middle Tennessee State University

Hannah Holleman, Amherst College
Tarique Niazi, University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire
Jennifer Carrera, Michigan State University

**The Section on Environment & Technology
Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award**



The Environment and Technology Section is pleased to announce that **Rebecca Elliott**, Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology at University of California-Berkeley, is the 2015 recipient of the Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award. This award recognizes outstanding papers presented by graduate students at the annual American Sociological Association

meetings. Though all papers were highly deserving, it was unanimously agreed that Rebecca Elliott's paper, "Calculative Ambivalence: Climate Change and the Mapping and Pricing of Flood Risk in New York City" was deserving of the Marvin E. Olsen Award. The award committee called Elliott's idea of calculative ambivalence "an important contribution to the risk literature - beyond just climate change and the environment." Elliott is acknowledged for her impressive contribution that has methodological, theoretical, and empirical strength.

Committee Members:

Rachael Shwom, Chair, Rutgers University
Ethan Schoolman, University of Michigan
Michael Miklin, National Institutes of Health
Emily Huddart Kennedy, University of Alberta
Kirk Lawrence, St. Josephs College

**The Section on Environment & Technology
Practice and Outreach Award**



The Teaching and Outreach Committee of the Environment and Technology Section is delighted to announce **Phil Brown**, Professor of Sociology and Health Sciences at North-eastern University, as the 2015 recipient of the Practice and Outreach Award. This award is given

biennially to a scholar or practitioner in the field of environmental sociology who has made outstanding contributions to furthering environmental causes within society. Brown's extensive history of community-engaged participatory research in the environmental health movement has made him a shining model of a scholar who has successfully merged social science inquiry with environmental justice goals. Over the past 25 years, Brown has worked with community groups, environmental justice advocates, non-governmental and governmental organizations, graduate students, and academics from a variety of disciplines to document and draw attention to "contested illnesses" from environmental pollutants. His work has led to policy changes, the passage of legislation, and the empowerment of local communities affected by industrial pollution. In addition, Brown's extensive collaboration with and mentorship of graduate students has encouraged many young scholars to follow his example and use their research skills to further environmental health causes.

Committee Members:

Shannon Bell, Chair, University of Kentucky
Diane Bates, The College of New Jersey
Tom Shriver, North Carolina State University
Lisa Conley, Director, Safety City

Section News: Election Results from ASA headquarters

Many congratulations to the following individuals who were elected to the Environment and Technology Section council:

Chair-Elect:

Andrew Jorgenson, Boston College

Secretary:

Brian Mayer, University of Arizona

Membership Committee Chair:

Aya Kimura, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Teaching and Outreach Committee Chair

Josh Sbicca, Colorado State University

Many sincere thanks to everyone who ran in what proved to be very close races. The entire section greatly appreciates your willingness to serve.

Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION 2016

The Third ISA Forum of Sociology will take place July 10-14, 2016, in Vienna, Austria. The following calls for papers and sessions might be of interest.

Research Committee-39: Sociology of Disasters

Sessions include two roundtables discussions ("The Impact of Different Stakeholder Understandings of Disaster Concepts on Policy Creation, Enactment, and Local Communities"; "Lessons Learned: Success, Failures, and Government Accountability in Disaster Mitigation and Response") and 12 paper presentation sessions spanning the topics of gender, rural challenges, indigenous voices, climate change adaptation, preparedness, and mitigation, urban vulnerabilities and resilience, material goods, political economy, legal issues, epidemics and pharmaceuticals, and local social services.

More detailed descriptions are available at the link above. Abstracts can be submitted from 14 April 2015 – 30 September 2015. If you have any question, feel free to contact:

Andrea Lampis, National University of Columbia
alampis@unal.edu.co, OR Michèle Companion.
University Colorado-Colorado Springs
mcompani@uccs.edu.

Research Committee 02: Economy and Society

Corporate Power and Carboniferous Capitalism

Session Organizer: Bill Carroll, University of Victoria, Canada, wcarroll@uvic.ca

Since the industrial revolution, capitalism has been carboniferous, with increasingly serious ecological implications. This session welcomes papers that map and explore the social organization of corporate power in and around the carbon-extractive sector, broadly defined (including petroleum and bitumen, natural gas, coal, and transport via pipelines and other means), whether extracted using "conventional" or unconventional methods.

Papers may focus on any of a variety of modalities through which corporate power is expressed, including the strategic control of firms, elite networks, the allocative power of finance, operational power exercised within corporate chains of command, the power inscribed within transnational commodity chains, cultural power via media relations and corporate social responsibility initiatives, and political power vis-à-vis state bodies. While the social organization of corporate power is the main focus, papers that address how that power is contested in the struggle for a just transition to a better world are also welcome.

Climate Change, Capitalism, Geoengineering

Session Organizer: J.P. Sapinski, University of Victoria, Canada and University of Oregon, USA, sapinski@uvic.ca

It is now widely admitted that the global elite has failed to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions after nearly 25 years of international negotiations. In the last few years, a growing number of voices have started to advocate, albeit very reluctantly, that climate geoengineering needs to be seriously considered to avoid the most catastrophic consequences of global warming. Interest in the topic has grown rapidly, as numerous research initiatives have formed and mechanisms for a legitimate governance of geoengineering research and implementation are being actively sought. However, the critical voice of sociology and political economy is still marginal in this crucial discussion, and the context of capitalism's reliance on fossil fuels to support unfettered capital accumulation is all but absent from debates.

This session addresses many of the questions that are left out of the discussion, such as: What is the relationship between capitalism and climate geoengineering? Is geoengineering a necessary consequence of capitalism or can it be avoided in an ecologically modernized regime of 'green' capitalism? Where does geoengineering fit in capital accumulation circuits? Can it potentially provide a new source of corporate profit, or is it simply a desperate attempt at safeguarding the conditions of accumulation? Within a capitalist framework, what kind of governance arrangements would ensure that geoengineering truly serves to 'buy more time' to reduce emissions, and is not used as a spatio-temporal technological fix to allow emissions to keep growing unabated?

The complete list of RC02 sessions is available at:
www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/rc/rc.php?n=RC02

Research Committee-24: Environment and Society

And of course, ETS members may be interested in submitting an abstract for a session of RC24:

www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/rc/rc.php?n=RC24

Abstract must be submitted on-line before September 30, 2015 24:00GMT:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2016/cfp.cgi>

CALL FOR PAPERS: ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY SPECIAL ISSUE "SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH THE LENS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY"

http://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issue/s/EnvironmentalSociology

Dear Colleagues,

Our planet is undergoing radical environmental and social changes. Sustainability has now been put into question by, for example, our consumption patterns, loss of biodiversity, depletion of resources, and exploitative power relations. With apparent ecological and social limits to globalization and development, current levels of consumption are known to be unsustainable, inequitable, and inaccessible to the majority of humans. Understanding and achieving sustainability is a crucial matter at a time when our planet is in peril—environmentally, economically, socially, and politically. Since its official inception in the 1970s, environmental sociology has provided a powerful lens to understanding the challenges, possibilities, and modes of sustainability.

This Special Issue of *Sustainability* will provide an environmental sociology approach to understanding and achieving the widely used notion of "Sustainability." The Special Issue will focus on, among other topics, the inherent discursive formations of environmental sociology, conceptual tools and paradoxes, competing theories and practices, and their complex implications on our society at large. We invite papers that will specifically focus on how Sustainable Development has been understood through different theoretical lenses in environmental sociology, such as ecological modernization, policy/reformist sustainable development, and critical structural approaches (such as the treadmill of production, ecological Marxism, metabolic rift theory, etc.). Also, review papers and original manuscripts may draw on how sustainable development has been practiced in, or by, various stakeholders, such as states, corporations, and local communities, for various ends, through the use of specific case studies, showing, for example, the discursive shifts, dynamic formations, and diverse contours of sustainable development.

The range of relevant topics includes:

- Environmental sociology as a field of inquiry for sustainability Historical context of sustainable development in environmental sociology
- Nature-society relationship in environmental sociology
- Theories/approaches to sustainability discourse in environmental sociology
- Environmentalism/environmental movements for sustainability
- Empirical cases (such as climate change, biodiversity, food, certification, etc.) through the lens of environmental sociology

Dr. Md Saidul Islam
Guest Editor

Submission

Manuscripts should be submitted online at www.mdpi.com. Manuscripts can be submitted until the deadline. Papers will be published continuously (as soon as accepted) and will be listed together on the special issue website. Research articles, review articles as well as communications are invited. For planned papers, a title and short abstract (about 100 words) can be sent to the Editorial Office for announcement on this website.

Submitted manuscripts should not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere (except conference proceedings papers). All manuscripts are refereed through a peer-review process. A guide for authors and other relevant information for submission of manuscripts is available on the Instructions for Authors page. Sustainability is an international peer-reviewed Open Access monthly journal published by MDPI.

Please visit the Instructions for Authors page before submitting a manuscript. The Article Processing Charge (APC) for publication in this open access journal is 1200 CHF (Swiss Francs).

Teaching Workshop. Teaching Race, Gender, and Colonialism within Environmental Sociology Monday, August 24, 10:30am to 12:10pm,

http://convention2.allacademic.com/one/asa/asa15/index.php?cmd=Online+Program+View+Event&selected_box_id=191826&PHPSESSID=a5hb7445aqs7iset8kap3fjun7

While environmental justice has key origins within sociology, and a nod to gender and race is almost universal in environmental sociology courses, we contend that the topics of gender, race and colonialism remain under-theorized within both the scholarly sub-discipline and the classroom. A review of environmental sociology syllabi at the graduate and undergraduate level reveals that 1) discussion of gender, race and colonialism/decolonization are generally brief, 2) when included, concepts of gender, race and colonialism/decolonization are rarely addressed in ways that incorporate the leading theory from these fields, 3) large majorities of the authors assigned for course readings at both graduate and undergraduate levels are white and male, 4) especially when it comes to gender, we notice periodic postings to the Environment and Technology listserv requesting teaching resources. Indeed, while gender and race are at least present, sociological engagement with indigenous experiences or the concepts of colonialism and decolonization are only just beginning. This workshop will provide examples of 3 classroom modules that incorporate key sociological

theory with hands on activities. Teaching resources and reading lists on each topic will be included. While this workshop is focused around courses in environmental sociology, material and resources will be presented in a manner to facilitate those teaching courses in gender, race or indigenous perspectives who wish to learn more about how their courses can include the environment.

Kari Marie Norgaard

Associate Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies

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Eugene, OR 97403-1291

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Position Announcements

Position: **Water Social Science**

Rank: **Associate or Professor**

Department: **School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University**

The School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University invites applications for a tenure-track social scientist at the associate professor or professor level. The position will be located at the Wooster campus of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC). The position is research and classroom teaching or extension education with a focus on coupling social and natural science to ensure sustainable water resources that improve agroecosystems in parallel to improving resilience to climate change. Ideal candidates will have experience leading/working in interdisciplinary research teams. The faculty member will initiate new transformative research projects with colleagues across campus and thus strengthen the university's research on resilient and sustainable food security. Preference will be given to candidates with a demonstrated ability to model complex interactions as community systems that function at watershed or regional scales. A range of theoretical approaches and specific areas of research interest may be suitable for this position and candidates may emphasize community, organizational, or governmental-level decisions related to water resource management and related social and ecological services. This can include social relations pertaining to point and non-point source pollution, nutrient flows, and land use. Candidates who have a history of both outstanding disciplinary expertise and collaborative and interdisciplinary team research leadership, especially in programs focused on resilience and sustainability issues in food systems, are strongly encouraged to apply.

This will be a fulltime, 9-month, tenure-track appointment. This position is partially funded by OSU's

Discovery Themes Initiative (discovery.osu.edu), a significant faculty hiring investment in key thematic areas in which the university can build on its culture of academic collaboration to make a global impact. The successful candidate will join a highly collaborative transdisciplinary team of over 50 existing faculty and many external partners working toward Resilient, Sustainable and Global Food Security for Health.

In addition, the successful candidate will be located within a larger community of scholars engaged in interdisciplinary research related to water and agroecosystem management. OSU has a number of long-standing and new initiatives on water linking over 250 faculty working on water related issues. Among these are initiatives such as the Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park in the School of Environment and Natural Resources, Stone Lab in Lake Erie, the Sugar Creek Watershed Research Program near OARDC, and the Muskingum Watershed Water Quality Trading Program. The College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences has also been active in promoting the Global Water Initiative and the Field to Faucet Initiative focusing on solving the Lake Erie algal problem and other water quality issues with Ohio's inland waters.

Salary/Support:

Salary is dependent on qualifications and experience. The Ohio State University offers one of the most comprehensive benefits packages in the nation, which includes medical, dental, vision, and life insurance; tuition authorization; paid vacation and sick leave; ten paid holidays; and State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) or an Alternative Retirement Program. A start-up package, including discretionary funding, will be provided.

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion:

The Ohio State University is committed to establishing a culturally and intellectually diverse environment, encouraging all members of our learning community to reach their full potential. We are responsive to dual-career families and strongly promote work-life balance to support our community members through a suite of institutionalized policies. We are an NSF Advance Institution and a member of the Ohio/Western Pennsylvania/West Virginia Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (HERC).

Qualifications:

Ph.D. and evidence of productivity and excellence in research and teaching sufficient to be appointed as an Associate Professor or Professor with tenure in the School of Environment and Natural Resources is required. Disciplinary expertise in a social science discipline that aligns with the School's existing graduate specializations in Rural Sociology or Environmental Social Sciences. Preferred qualifications include

experience developing or working in interdisciplinary research teams, and particularly in mentoring members of underrepresented groups.

Application Instructions:

The deadline for applications is August 24, 2015. Complete applications include a signed cover letter, including a statement that addresses your experience in mentoring members of underrepresented groups, and how you can help us achieve our goals, curriculum vitae, and names and contact information of three references. Submission of materials or questions may be directed to Dr. Linda Lobao at ENRFacultySearch@osu.edu

Position: Health, Environment, and Social Justice

Rank: Assistant Professor

Institution: The University of California at Davis

The Department of Sociology at the University of California, Davis, invites applicants for a tenure-track position in Health, Environment, and Social Justice. Applications from sociologists who work at the intersection of the three areas of health, environment, and social justice are especially encouraged but we welcome applications from a broad range of scholars. This recruitment is conducted at the rank of Assistant Professor (salary commensurate with experience). The resulting hire will be at the assistant rank regardless of the proposed appointee's qualifications. We seek a scholar with a strong commitment to research and teaching. Teaching duties include four courses per academic year (quarter system) at the introductory, advanced undergraduate, and graduate level. Supervision of graduate students, student advising, curricular development, and performance of University service are also expected. The successful candidate must have a completed Ph.D. by the first day of courses (September 21, 2016). Applications must be submitted through the online application system found at: <https://recruit.ucdavis.edu/apply/JPF00632>.

The following materials are required: cover letter, curriculum vitae; research and teaching statements; copies of up to three publications; and contact information for three references. A statement outlining the applicant's contributions to enhancing diversity in higher education is strongly recommended. For full consideration applications should be completed by September 15, 2015. The position is open until filled. The University of California, Davis, is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer with a strong institutional commitment to the achievement of diversity among its faculty and staff. UC Davis is a smoke and tobacco free campus. Smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco products, and the use of unregulated nicotine products (e-cigarettes) is strictly prohibited on any UC Davis owned or leased property, indoors and outdoors, including parking lots and residential space.

Publications

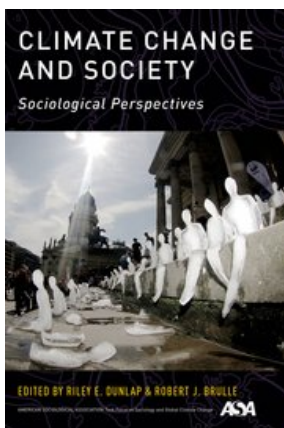
Books

Climate Change and Society Sociological Perspectives

Edited by Riley E. Dunlap and Robert J. Brulle.
Oxford University Press (2015)

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/climate-change-and-society-9780199356119?cc=us&lang=en&>

Climate change is one of the most critical issues of the twenty-first century, presenting a major intellectual challenge to both the natural and social sciences. While there has been significant progress in natural science understanding of climate change, social science analyses have not been as fully developed. *Climate Change and Society* breaks new theoretical and empirical ground by presenting climate change as a thoroughly social phenomenon, embedded in behaviors, institutions, and cultural practices.



This collection of essays summarizes existing approaches to understanding the social, economic, political, and cultural dimensions of climate change. From the factors that drive carbon emissions to those which influence societal responses to climate change, the volume provides a comprehensive overview of the social dimensions of climate change. An improved understanding of the complex relationship

between climate change and society is essential for modifying ecologically harmful human behaviors and institutional practices, creating just and effective environmental policies, and developing a more sustainable future. *Climate Change and Society* provides a useful tool in efforts to integrate social science research, natural science research, and policymaking regarding climate change and sustainability.

Produced by the American Sociological Association's Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change, this book presents a challenging shift from the standard climate change discourse, and offers a valuable resource for students, scholars, and professionals involved in climate change research and policy.

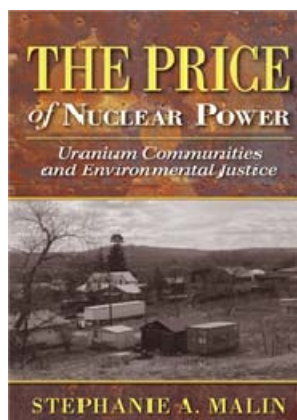
Please see the final pages of this newsletter to order this volume at a substantial discount.

The Price of Nuclear Power Uranium Communities and Environmental Justice

Stephanie A. Malin

Rutgers University Press (2015)

<http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/product/Price-of-Nuclear-Power,5465.aspx>



Rising fossil fuel prices and concerns about greenhouse gas emissions are fostering a nuclear power renaissance and a revitalized uranium mining industry across the American West. In *The Price of Nuclear Power*, environmental sociologist Stephanie Malin offers an on-the-ground portrait of several uranium communities caught between the harmful legacy of previous mining booms

and the potential promise of new economic development. Using this context, she examines how shifting notions of environmental justice inspire divergent views about nuclear power's sustainability and divisive forms of activism.

Drawing on extensive fieldwork conducted in rural isolated towns such as Monticello, Utah, and Nucla and Naturita, Colorado, as well as in upscale communities like Telluride, Colorado, and incorporating interviews with community leaders, environmental activists, radiation regulators, and mining executives, Malin uncovers a fundamental paradox of the nuclear renaissance: the communities most hurt by uranium's legacy—such as high rates of cancers, respiratory ailments, and reproductive disorders—were actually quick to support industry renewal. She shows that many impoverished communities support mining not only because of the employment opportunities, but also out of a personal identification with uranium, a sense of patriotism, and new notions of environmentalism. But other communities, such as Telluride, have become sites of resistance, skeptical of industry and government promises of safe mining. Indeed, Malin shows that the nuclear renaissance has exacerbated social divisions across the Colorado Plateau, threatening social cohesion. Malin further illustrates ways in which renewed uranium production is not a socially sustainable form of energy development for rural communities, as it is utterly dependent on unstable global markets.

The Price of Nuclear Power is an insightful portrait of the local impact of the nuclear renaissance and the social and environmental tensions inherent in the rebirth of uranium mining.

STEPHANIE A. MALIN is an assistant professor of sociology at Colorado State University and a faculty affiliate with CSU's Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis and the Water Center.

Political Ecologies of Meat

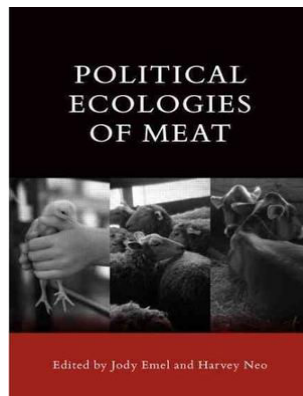
Jody Emel, Harvey Neo
Routledge (2015)

<http://tinyurl.com/q9djo7v>

Livestock production worldwide is increasing rapidly, in part due to economic growth and demand for meat in industrializing countries. Yet there are many concerns about the sustainability of increased meat production and consumption, from perspectives including human health, animal welfare, climate change and environmental pollution.

This book tackles the key issues of contemporary meat production and consumption through a lens of political ecology, which emphasizes the power relations producing particular social, economic and cultural interactions with non-human nature. Three main topics are addressed: the political ecology of global livestock production trends; changes in production systems around the world and their implications for environmental justice; and existing and emerging governance strategies for meat production and consumption systems and their implications.

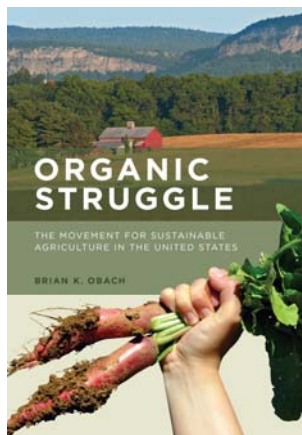
Case studies of different systems at varying scales are included, drawn from Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe. The book includes an editorial introduction to set the context and synthesize key messages for the reader.



Organic Struggle: The Movement for Sustainable Agriculture in the United States

Brian K. Obach
MIT Press. (2015)

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/organic-struggle>



In the early 1970s, organic farming was an obscure agricultural practice, associated with the counterculture rather than commerce. Today, organic agriculture is a multi-billion dollar industry; organic food can be found on the shelves of every supermarket in America. In *Organic Struggle*, Brian Obach examines the evolution of the organic movement in the United

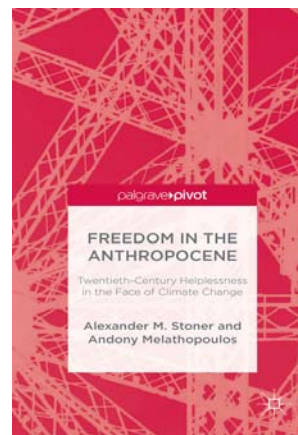
States, a movement that seeks to transform our system of agriculture and how we think about food. Obach analyzes why the organic movement developed as it did and evaluates its achievements and shortcomings. He identifies how divergent interests within the diverse organic coalition created vulnerabilities for the movement. In particular, he examines the ideological divide between those he calls the "spreaders," who welcome the wider market for organic food and want to work with both government and agribusiness, and the more purist "tillers," who see organic practices as part of a broader social transformation that will take place outside existing institutions. Obach argues that the movement's changing relationship with governmental institutions is crucial to understanding the trajectory of the organic sector. The government-run National Organic Program fostered dramatic growth and deep corporate penetration of the organic market. While many activists were disillusioned by changes in the organic industry that came with corporate and government involvement, Obach sees a failure in the essential market-based strategy adopted by the movement early in its history. He argues for a refocus on policy efforts that can reshape the agricultural system as a whole.

Freedom in the Anthropocene Twentieth-Century Helplessness in the Face of Climate Change

Alexander M. Stoner, Andony Melathopoulos
Palgrave Macmillan (2015)

<http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/freedom-in-the-anthropocene-alexander-m-stoner/?isbn=9781137503879>

While it is clear that the Holocene/Anthropocene transition marks the unprecedented transformation of human societies, scholars have not been able to account for what this transition entails, how it could give rise to our current ecological predicament, and how we might plausibly move beyond it. Without such an understanding, we are left with an inadequate analysis that creates the condition for ill-informed policy decisions and a self-sustaining cycle of unsuccessful attempts to ameliorate societally induced environmental degradation. *Freedom in the Anthropocene* illuminates our current



ecological predicament by focusing on the issue of history and freedom and how it relates to our current inability to render environmental threats and degradation recognizable, and by extension, subject to its conscious and free overcoming by society. Working through the writings of three twentieth century critical theorists (Lukács, Adorno, and Postone), the

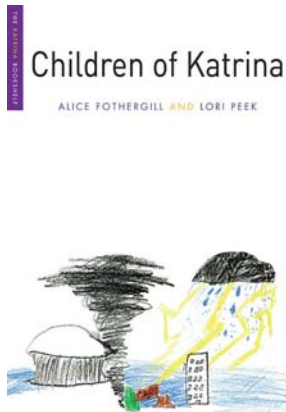
authors argue that the idea of the Anthropocene is a historically specific reflection of helplessness, which only becomes possible at the close of the twentieth century.

Children of Katrina

Alice Fothergill, Lori Peek.

University of Texas Press (2015)

<http://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/fothergill-peek-children-of-katrina>



When children experience upheaval and trauma, adults often view them as either helpless or as resilient and able to easily “bounce back.” But the reality is far more complex for the children and youth whose lives are suddenly upended by disaster. How are children actually affected by catastrophic events? How do they cope with the damage and disruption? *Children of Katrina* offers one of the only

long-term studies of young people following disaster. Sociologists Alice Fothergill and Lori Peek spent seven years after Hurricane Katrina interviewing and observing several hundred children and their family members, friends, neighbors, teachers, and other caregivers. In this book, they focus on seven children between the ages of three and eighteen, selected because they exemplify the varied experiences of the larger group. They find that children followed three different post-disaster trajectories—declining, finding equilibrium, and fluctuating. The children’s moving stories illuminate how a devastating disaster affects health and well-being, families, housing and neighborhood contexts, schooling, peer relationships, and extracurricular activities. This work also demonstrates how outcomes were often worse for children who were vulnerable and living in crisis before the storm. Fothergill and Peek clarify what kinds of assistance children need during emergency response and recovery periods; moreover, they identify the individual, familial, social, and structural factors that aid or hinder children in getting that support. Throughout, *Children of Katrina* provides inspiring examples of how young people helped themselves, other youths, and adults recover from one of the most destructive disasters in modern US history.

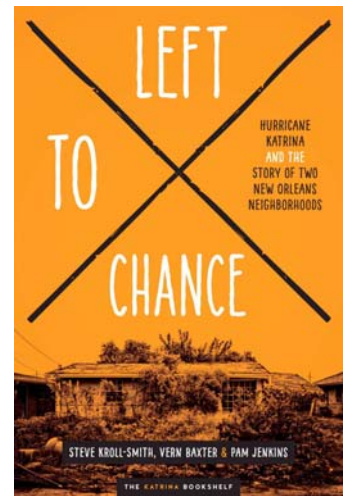
Left to Chance: Hurricane Katrina and the Story of Two New Orleans Neighborhoods

Steve Kroll Smith, Vern Baxter, Pamela Jenkins

University of Texas Press (2015)

<http://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/kroll-smith-baxter-jenkins-left-to-chance>

What if the knowledge we cannot know is essential to us in a protracted moment of crisis? In writing this book we try not to look away from madness of disaster toward the sanity of the first this, then that. We took direction from William James, who celebrated the out of the ordinary. In his well-chosen words, “There is a zone of insecurity in human affairs in which all the dramatic interest lies.” Faced with insane nature joined to a massive failure of federal, city, and state resolve, what’s left is a raw, existential uncertainty and an elusive belief that it might be overcome. We take a deliberate look at contingency and chance as they worried the lives of residents in two historic New Orleans neighborhoods. We dwell at some length in that “zone of insecurity” created by a historic flood and the troubled relief efforts that followed.



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Member News

Riley E. Dunlap

Riley Dunlap, Oklahoma State University, gave the keynote address at the Xth Italian Environmental Sociology Conference held in Bologna, June 18-19.

David N. Pellow

Congratulations to David Pellow, who has been appointed to the Dehlsen Chair of Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

There he will also serve as Director of the Global Environmental Justice Project. His appointment at Santa Barbara begins July 1st.

Richard York and Philip Mancus

Congratulations to Richard York and Philip Mancus for receiving this year's distinguished scholarship award from the ASA's Animals & Society section for their paper "The Invisible Animal: Anthrozoology and Macrosociology." That paper appeared in the first issue of volume 31 of Sociological Theory in 2013. The article can be accessed at:

<http://stx.sagepub.com/content/31/1/75.full.pdf>

Md. Saidul Islam

The Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) this year awarded the Early Investigator Award/ Prix jeune chercheur 2015 to environmental sociologist Dr. Saidul Islam. The award was presented at the Banquet in Ottawa on June 3rd 2015. A recorded part of the ceremony and posted in the YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cfy2-hw6a4&feature=youtu.be>

Dr. Islam, a Canadian Sociologist, received his PhD from York University in 2008, and joined Nanyang [Technological] University the next year. His research productivity has been absolutely outstanding, with two sole-authored books (and another under contract), 14 peer reviewed journal articles (including a co-authored publication in Science, one of the most influential publications across disciplines and article in top environmental sociology journals), and 18 books and commissioned papers. Of course we do not adjudicate the Early Investigator Award on the crude metric of productivity alone – the importance of one's contributions and quality of one's research are crucial. In this respect, Dr. Islam is also a standout. His

research bridges the sociology of development, globalization, and the environment, making important contributions to each. Dr. Islam's first book, published by Routledge, Development, Power and the Environment: Neoliberal Paradox in the Age of Vulnerability present seven case studies of the critical global sustainability challenges such as food regimes, climate change, and disaster vulnerability, offering a new framework of a "double risk" Society for the global South. Offering a trenchant critique of the neoliberal paradox and development as historical project of power, it concludes by presenting alternative pathways to sustainable development. His second book, published by the University of Toronto Press, Confronting the Blue Revolution: Industrial Aquaculture and Sustainability in the Global South, is a fascinating study of the global shrimp commodity chain linking sites in the global South (Bangladesh, Malaysia, China, and Indonesia) to the global North. Drawing on extensive fieldwork, it draws out the critical role of new forms of neoliberal environmental governance in shaping (in part through silence and omissions) not only environmental change, but also labour patterns and gender relations. It is first rate work that will no doubt have a lasting impact on his field, and that has important implications for all of us as citizens and consumers.

About the Award:

"The Canadian Sociological Association Early Investigator Award honours sociologists who have made significant research contributions within the first ten years since the completion of their PhDs. The award recognises research demonstrating high quality, theoretical rigour and/or methodological innovation, and future potential. Furthermore, the research should make a significant contribution to the candidate's field."

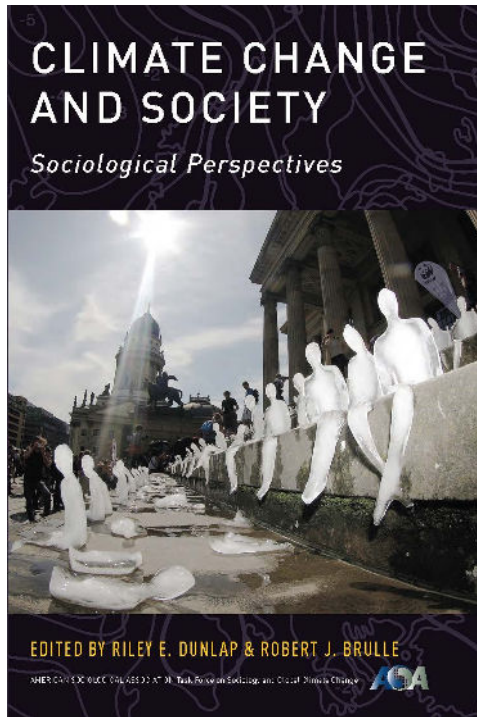
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<http://www.csa-scs.ca/early-investigator-award>

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIETY SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

Edited by Riley E. Dunlap and Robert J. Brulle



August 2015

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Climate change is one of the most critical issues of the twenty-first century, presenting a major intellectual challenge to both the natural and social sciences. While there has been significant progress in natural science understanding of climate change, social science analyses have not been as fully developed. *Climate Change and Society* breaks new theoretical and empirical ground by presenting climate change as a thoroughly social phenomenon, embedded in behaviors, institutions, and cultural practices.

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Produced by the American Sociological Association's Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change, this book presents a challenging shift from the standard climate change discourse, and offers a valuable resource for students, scholars, and professionals involved in climate change research and policy.

Riley E. Dunlap is Dresser Professor and Regents Professor of Sociology at Oklahoma State University, Past President of the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Environment & Society, and Past Chair of the American Sociological Association's Section on Environment & Technology. He is senior editor of the *Handbook of Environmental Sociology* and *Sociological Theory and the Environment*, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Robert J. Brulle is Professor of Sociology and Environmental Science at Drexel University, and Past Chair of the American Sociological Association's Section on Environment & Technology. He is author of *Agency, Democracy and the Environment: The U.S. Environmental Movement from the Perspective of Critical Theory* and co-editor of *Power, Justice and the Environment*. He was a 2012-2013 Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Sociology and Global Climate Change: Introduction

Robert J. Brulle and Riley E. Dunlap

Chapter 2: The Human (Anthropogenic) Driving Forces of Global Climate Change

Eugene A. Rosa, Thomas K. Rudel, Richard York, Andrew K. Jorgenson, and Thomas Dietz

Chapter 3: Market Organizations and Environments

Charles Perrow and Simone Pulver

Chapter 4: Consumption and Climate Change

Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez and Juliet B. Schor with Wokje Abrahamse, Alison Alkon, Jonn Axsen, Keith Brown, Rachel Shwom, Dale Southerton, and Hal Wilhite

Chapter 5: Climate Justice and Inequality

Sharon L. Harlan, David N. Pellow, J. Timmons Roberts, Shannon E. Bell, William G. Holt, and Joane Nagel

Chapter 6: Adaptation to Climate Change

JoAnn Carmin, Kathleen Tierney, Eric Chu, Lori M. Hunter, J. Timmons Roberts, and Linda Shi

Chapter 7: Mitigating Climate Change

Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez, Thomas K. Rudel, Kari Marie Norgaard, and Jeffrey Broadbent

Chapter 8: Civil Society, Social Movements, and Climate Change

Beth Schaefer Caniglia, Robert Brulle, and Andrew Szasz

Chapter 9: Public Opinion on Climate Change

Rachael L. Shwom, Aaron M. McCright, Steven R. Brechin with Riley E. Dunlap, Sandra T. Marquart-Pyatt, and Lawrence C. Hamilton

Chapter 10: Challenging Climate Change: The Denial Countermovement

Riley E. Dunlap and Aaron M. McCright

Chapter 11: The Climate Change Divide in Social Theory

Robert J. Antonio and Brett Clark

Chapter 12: Methodological Approaches for Sociological Research on Climate Change

Sandra T. Marquart-Pyatt, Andrew K. Jorgenson, and Lawrence C. Hamilton

Chapter 13: Bringing Sociology into Climate Change Research and Climate Change into Sociology: Concluding Observations

Riley E. Dunlap and Robert J. Brulle

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