

ASA SECTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY NEWS

Newsletter of the American Sociological Association's
Section on Environmental Sociology

Fall 2017: October 15

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Chair of Marvin Olsen Student Paper Certificate Committee:
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A MESSAGE FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

Dear Environmental Sociology Section,

It was a pleasure to see so many longtime members and so many new faces at the ASA meetings in Montreal. We had a vibrant set of sessions and a lively reception and awards ceremony. Thank you all for contributing to the intellectual life of our community and for your generosity, especially with our new and junior members. I am grateful to be part of such a collegial professional association.

I'd like to thank our outgoing council members (Andrew Jorgenson, Stephanie Malin, Aya Kimura, and Joshua Sbicca) and welcome our incoming council members (Chair-Elect: Kari Marie Norgaard, Treasurer: Lori Hunter,



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Message from Section Chair (cont'd)

Membership Committee Chair: Kerry Ard, and Teaching, Training & Practice Committee Chair: Erica Morrell. This year ASA asked sections to nominate Public Relations Liaisons. Thanks to Stephanie Malin for volunteering for that task. We hope that the addition of this role will help us get our work out to wider publics. I'd also like to acknowledge the diligent work of our Committee on Racial Diversity: Michael Mascarenhas (chair), Jennifer Carrera, Lauren Richter, and Elisabeth Wilder. In Montreal, they conducted focus groups with many of our members. The council looks forward to working with them on their recommendations, especially with regard to how we can do a better job retaining members of color in our section. For the second year in a row, our council member Jordan Besek made mentor-mentee matches, a program we hope promotes retention. Thanks, Jordan!

For those of you who were unable to attend the ASA meeting this year, the minutes of our Business Meeting, the first under our new name (Environmental Sociology Section), have been sent out via our ASA listserv.

This fall, consider nominating yourself or a colleague to run for council. We have a large number of roles to fill: Chair-Elect, Secretary, Policy and Research Committee Chair, Nominations Committee Chair, Publications Committee Chair, Council Member At-Large, and Student Council Member. Nominations can be sent to the Chair of the Nominations Committee: Brian Gareau. Also, be on the lookout for an e-mail from Chair-Elect Kari Norgaard, who will be soliciting your input for session themes for ASA 2018 in Philadelphia.

With each passing day, I am convinced that the work that we do is increasingly important to the well-being of our species. The latest round of hurricanes has focused my attention. Immediately following the ASA meeting, I visited Barbuda as part of a team of City University of New York (CUNY) researchers tasked to develop a sustainable development plan for the island using participant action research (PAR). The



Hurricane Irma Damage in Barbuda

island was strikingly beautiful and its 1600 inhabitants appeared to be living simple, satisfying lives. After that trip, Hurricane Irma decimated the island and the residents were evacuated. We returned in September to interview the survivors and take stock of the situation. What a difference a month has made. The natural and human damage brought by Irma in Barbuda (and the destruction from other hurricanes in the U.S. and the Caribbean this storm season) has pressed me as an environmental sociologist to examine the ways our knowledge and skills can be used in meaningful ways right now. Our work on disasters, social movements, and climate justice, to name just a few, can have real positive consequences for real people.

Have a good fall. Do good work and use your work to make a difference.

Tammy L. Lewis

Chair, Environmental Sociology Section
Professor of Sociology, Brooklyn College, CUNY

SECTION NEWS

Section Name Change

During the ASA 2017 Conference in Montreal, Canada, the Section officially reverted to its inaugural name, *ASA Section on Environmental Sociology*. The section had been referred to as *ASA Section on Environment and Technology* since 1987. However, following a proposal by Dr. Riley Dunlap, a founding member of the section, members voted in May 2017 to revert to the section's original name.

Leadership Change

Dr. Tammy L. Lewis, Professor of Sociology at Brooklyn College, CUNY, officially became chair of the section during the ASA 2017 Conference in Montreal, Canada. She succeeded Dr. Andrew Jorgenson, Professor and Chair, Boston College. Many thanks to Dr. Lewis and Dr. Jorgenson for their service to the discipline.

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CALLS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Water Resources Meeting

Section members are invited to bring their sociological insights about water issues to the University Council on Water Resources Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA from June 26-28, 2018. This multidisciplinary conference is an opportunity to meet potential collaborators and to share your research. Karen O'Neill writes that "As a member of the organizing committee, I hope to have social science research well represented."

Please consider participating in the meeting. Individual presentation proposals can be submitted up until January 2018. Karen (Karen.oneill@rutgers.edu) would be happy to help with your submission. For more information go to: <http://www.ucowr.org/>

Request for Environmental Sociology Syllabi

The Teaching, Training, and Practice Committee is collecting syllabi related to environmental sociology. Syllabi for environmental sociology, environmental justice, sociology of food, environmental governance/policy and any other related topics are welcome. The committee will categorize and archive materials on the section's website which will serve as a reference list for instructors to find good readings for a particular topic, brainstorm new teaching strategies, etc. The list will be updated every few years to include fresh materials. Please email your syllabus to Kent Henderson (kent.henderson@stonybrook.edu) with the subject line "ES Section Syllabus Request."

PUBLICATIONS

Books

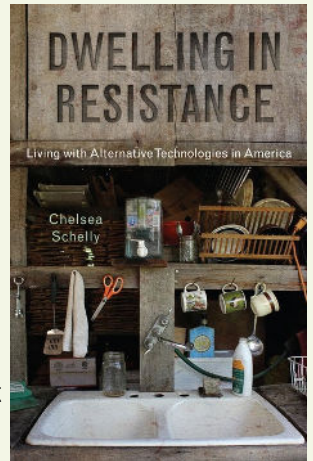
Dwelling In Resistance: Living with Alternative Technologies in America.

Chelsea Schelly
(Rutgers University Press, 2017)
<https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/dwelling-in-resistance/9780813586502>

Most Americans take for granted much of what is materially involved in the daily rituals of dwelling. In *Dwelling in Resistance*, Chelsea Schelly examines four alternative U.S. communities – "The Farm," "Twin Oaks,"

"Dancing Rabbit," and "Earthships" – where electricity, water, heat, waste, food, and transportation practices differ markedly from those of the vast majority of Americans.

Schelly portrays a wide range of residential living alternatives utilizing renewable, small-scale, de-centralized technologies. These technologies considerably change how individuals and communities interact with the material world, their natural environment, and one another. Using in depth interviews and compelling ethnographic observations, the book offers an insightful look at different communities' practices and principles and their successful endeavors in sustainability and self-sufficiency.

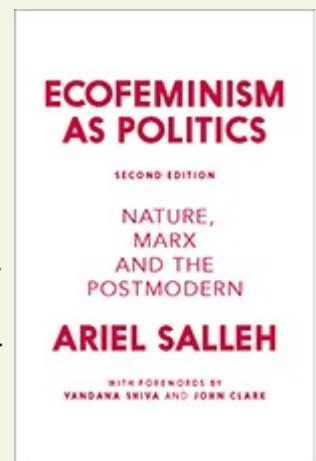


Chelsea Schelly is an associate professor of sociology at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. She is the author of *Crafting Collectivity: American Rainbow Gatherings and Alternative Forms of Community*.

Ecofeminism as Politics: Nature, Marx and the Postmodern (Re-Issued).

Ariel Salleh
(Zed Books, London, 2017)
<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/E/bo26504851.html>

Exploring the philosophical and political challenges of bridging feminist and ecological concerns, *Ecofeminism as Politics* argues that ecofeminism reaches beyond contemporary social movements as a political synthesis of four revolutions in one, taking in ecology, feminism, socialism, and postcolonial struggle.



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Books (cont'd) —Ecofeminism as Politics

Informed by a critical postmodern reading of Marxism, *Ecofeminism as Politics* integrates discourses on science, the body, culture, nature, and political economy. Highlighting the importance of finding commonalities between ecofeminist and indigenous struggles, Salleh offers a groundbreaking discussion of deep ecology, social ecology, eco-socialism, and postmodern feminism through the lens of an ecofeminist deconstruction.

Ariel Salleh is a research associate in political economy at the University of Sydney, Australia.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

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- Bidwell, David. 2017. "Ocean Belief and Support for an Offshore Wind Energy Project." *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 146: 99-108.
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MEMBER NEWS

Thomas Dietz

Dr. Thomas Dietz, Michigan State University, has been reappointed to the US National Research Council Committee to Advise the Global Change Research Program (<http://dels.nas.edu/Study-In-Progress/Advice-Global-Change/DELS-BASC-11-01?bname=basc>). Dietz has served on the Committee since 2011. Congratulations to Dr. Thomas Dietz!

TRANSITION

Kevin Smiley (PhD Rice University, 2017) has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University at Buffalo, SUNY.

Jordan Besek (PhD University of Oregon, 2017) has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University at Buffalo, SUNY.

Lazarus Adua (PhD Ohio State), formerly of University of Northern Iowa and current editor of the section newsletter, has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.