

ASA ETS SECTION NEWS

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

Winter 2017

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A MESSAGE FROM ASA ETS SECTION CHAIR

Hello and Happy New Year to you all! Welcome to the first section newsletter for 2017. Our Newsletter Editor, Lazarus Adua, has done another wonderful job putting this together, and a sincere thanks to him as well as to all of you that contributed to the issue.

Like most (if not all) of you, I had a very difficult time with the result of the US presidential election. The concerns we share about the new President-Elect and his emerging administration are serious. Initially, I was terrified. But for me, that terror has been transformed into



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Message from ETS Chair (cont'd)

motivation. In my view, the work we do as environmental sociologists is more important now than ever. We need to continue to stick together and support one another. I am constantly inspired by the work that section members do and the commitment that we share to gain a deeper understanding of socioenvironmental relationships.

As a reminder, the calls for our section awards are listed on our section's new and improved webpage (<http://envirosoc.org/wordpress/section-awards/>) and this newsletter. The deadline for nominations for the section awards is March 1. As another reminder, don't forget to renew your membership to ASA and to our section!

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have ideas or suggestions for things I and the council members can do to further improve and enhance our section.

Sincerely,

Andrew Jorgenson
Chair, Section on Environment and Technology
Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies
Boston College
email: jorgenan@bc.edu

FEATURE ESSAY

The 2016 Elections and the Environment

Alissa Cordner
Chair, ASA ETS Research and Policy Committee

The 2016 U.S. elections will have significant impacts on the environment, climate change, and environmental and social justice for years if not decades to come. At the federal level, there are many significant causes for concern about the environmental policies of a Trump administration, from the overt climate denial by the President-Elect, to the anti-regulatory history of the nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, to the nomination as Secretary of Energy of a politician who once vowed to dismantle the agency. We will undoubtedly hear more from E&T section members about

the election and its consequences, going forward, on the ENVIROSOC listserv, in this newsletter, and through various online and print publications.

This election year also saw important action at the state level. Below I will share brief details about some of the environmentally-related initiatives and measures that were on the ballot this past November. Thanks to Jeannie Economos, Rachel Gibson, Janet Johnson, Stacy Malkan, Paul Orum, Sara Schmidt, and others for sharing what happened in their states.

- California: Californians voted on two measures related to single-use plastic bags. Voters approved Measure 67, which supports the state legislature's 2014 ban on single-use plastic bags and allowed retailers to charge shoppers for other bags. Californians rejected Measure 65, supported by the plastics industry, which could have prevented the enactment of Measure 67. Voters in Monterey County approved Measure Z, which bans fracking and expansions on oil drilling in the county. Monterey became the seventh county in California and the first oil producing county to ban fracking. Two lawsuits were quickly filed by Chevron, Shell, and ExxonMobil, and a judge has delayed implementation of Measure Z until the lawsuits are resolved. Voters in Sonoma County approved Measure M, a ban on growing and using GMO crops and seeds in the county. Sonoma became the sixth California county to ban GMO crops. Alameda County and Oakland, CA, also approved several transportation related measures: Measure RR, which provides bonds for BART funding; Measure C1, a parcel tax that funds public transportation; and Measure KK, which provides bonds for transportation, affordable housing, and facility improvements.
- California and Colorado: San Francisco, Oakland, and Albany, CA, approved a one-cent-per-ounce soda tax, and Boulder, CO, passed a two-cent-per-ounce soda tax. These cities join Berkeley, CA, which approved a soda tax in 2014, and Philadelphia, PA, which approved a soda tax earlier this year.
- Florida: Voters narrowly rejected Amendment 1, which would have put the right to produce solar energy into the state's constitution and prevented

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2016 Elections (cont'd)

- people who don't produce solar energy from being required to subsidize those who do.
- Montana: Voters rejected Initiative I-177, which would have prohibited individuals from using traps and snares to hunt animals on public lands.
 - Oregon: Voters approved Measure 99, which directs Oregon lottery funds to the Outdoor School Education Fund, providing fifth and sixth grade students with a week-long outdoor school program. Voters also approved Measure 100, which prohibits the sale of products and parts from 12 wildlife species.
 - Washington State: Voters rejected Initiative 732, which would have established a carbon tax, reduced the state sales tax, increased the Working Families Tax Credit, and reduced the business tax rate. While most of the opposition to this initiative came from fossil fuel, utility, and mining industries, it was also opposed by some environmental justice organizations which argued that it would not lead to significant climate mitigation and that it failed to help communities of color who are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about this column, or suggestions for future columns on Policy and Research. Email: cordneaa@whitman.edu.

SECTION NEWS

ETS Committee on Racial Equity Unveiled

The section has unveiled a new committee, the *Committee for Racial Equity* (CRE). The committee is tasked with advising the ASA ETS Council and Section on racial equity. Members of CRE are:

Michael Mascarenhas, Chair
Associate Professor
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
mascam@rpi.edu

Lauren Richter, Member
PhD Student
Northeastern University
lrichter@husky.neu.edu

Elisabeth Wilder, Member
PhD Student
Northeastern University
wilder.e@husky.neu.edu

Expect more information about this committee and its activities in the coming weeks.

CALL

Nominations for ETS Awards

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

The Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award recognizes outstanding papers presented by graduate students at the annual American Sociological Association meetings. In addition to recognition, recipients will receive a modest monetary award to help defray expenses associated with attending the ASA meetings. Nominees are limited to graduate students who are giving presentations at this year's annual meeting in Montreal. (The paper can be presented at any session or roundtable at ASA). All members of the ASA and the E&T Section are invited to submit nominations for the award. To nominate a paper, please send a PDF copy of the paper, along with a nomination letter or other supporting documentation, by **March 1, 2017** to Alissa Cordner at cordneaa@whitman.edu.

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

The Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award is given in alternate years for publications of special noteworthy in the field of environmental sociology. It is given in alternate years for either (a) a book in even years or (b) a single article in odd years. This year the committee will consider **articles** published within the period, January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2016. All members of the ASA and the E&T Section are encouraged to submit nominations; self-nominations are welcome. To nominate an article, please send a PDF copy of the article, along with a nomination letter, by **March 1, 2017** to Alissa Cordner at cordneaa@whitman.edu.

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ETS Nominations (cont'd)

Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award:

The Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award is to recognize individuals for outstanding service, innovation, or publication in environmental sociology or sociology of technology. It is intended to be an expression of appreciation, to be awarded when an individual is deemed extraordinarily meritorious by the Section. All members of the Section are invited to submit nominations for the award, together with supporting documentation. Nominations for this award must be received by March 1, 2017. To nominate an individual for this award, please send a letter of nomination describing the nominee's contribution to environmental sociology and/or the sociology of technology, accompanied by a copy of the nominee's CV, to the chair of the award committee, Kenneth Gould, at kgould@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism:

The Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism is conferred bi-yearly (every odd year) to a doctoral student or other young investigator who has obtained a Ph.D. in the past five years. The purpose of the award is to recognize work that investigates the relationship between technology and humanism or otherwise proposes innovative solutions to emerging social issues associated with technology. Unpublished papers or articles published within the period January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2016, are eligible. All members of the ASA and ETS Section are encouraged to submit nominations; self-nominations are welcome. To submit a nomination, please send the article and a nomination letter by March 1, 2017 to Tammy Lewis at tlewis@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

The Environmental Sociology Teaching And Mentorship Award:

The biennial Environmental Sociology Practice and Outreach Award, which is given in odd years, honors faculty members and other professional practitioners in the field of Environmental Sociology. The award recognizes the outstanding practice and outreach contributions of professionals not only in college and university positions, but also positions in journalism, government, service agencies, private sector environmental

organizations, and non-profit environmental organizations. Section members are encouraged to nominate colleagues, but all members are encouraged to self-nominate. Note that the Practice and Outreach Award is not necessarily a "life-time achievement" award, so people with innovative projects/programs should consider submitting a nomination packet.

Nomination packets should include the following:

1. Letter of Nomination (If self-nomination, this should include description of the service project/program and should be limited to a maximum of 4 pages).
2. Description of practice/outreach project/program (3 pages maximum, included ONLY if this is not a self-nomination).
3. CV (with practice/outreach projects/programs highlighted, including related publications).
4. Maximum of 5 letters of support (any mix of students, colleagues, community partners, including letter of nomination if not self-nominated).

Nomination packets should be scanned into a single PDF and submitted by email to Josh Sbicca at j.sbicca@colostate.edu by **March 1, 2017**.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Resilience, Environmental Justice and the City

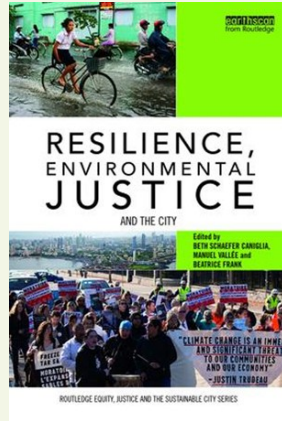
Caniglia, Beth Schaefer, Manuel Vallée and Beatrice Frank
(Routledge, 2017), <https://www.routledge.com/Resilience-Environmental-Justice-and-the-City/Caniglia-Vallee-Frank/p/book/9781138119895>

Urban centres (*centers*) are bastions of inequalities, where poverty, marginalization, segregation and health insecurity are magnified. Minorities and the poor – often residing in neighbourhoods (*neighborhood*) characterized by degraded infrastructures, food and job insecurity, limited access to transport and health care, and other inadequate public services – are inherently vulnerable, especially at risk in times of shock or change as they lack the option to avoid, mitigate and adapt to threats.

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Resilience, Environmental Justice and the City (cont'd)

Offering both theoretical and practical approaches, this book proposes critical perspectives and an interdisciplinary lens on urban inequalities in light of individual, group, community and system vulnerabilities and resilience. Touching upon current research trends in food justice, environmental injustice through socio-spatial tactics and solution-based approaches towards urban community resilience, *Resilience, Environmental Justice and the City* promotes perspectives which transition away from the traditional discussions surrounding environmental justice and pinpoints the need to address urban social inequalities beyond the build environment, championing approaches that help embed social vulnerabilities and resilience in urban planning.



With its methodological and dynamic approach to the intertwined nature of resilience and environmental justice in urban cities, this book will be of great interest to students, scholars and practitioners within urban studies, environmental management, environmental sociology and public administration.

Beth Schaefer Caniglia is Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Economic & Enterprise Development in the College of Business & Economics at Regis University, Denver, Colorado.

Manuel Vallée is a faculty at The University of Auckland, New Zealand

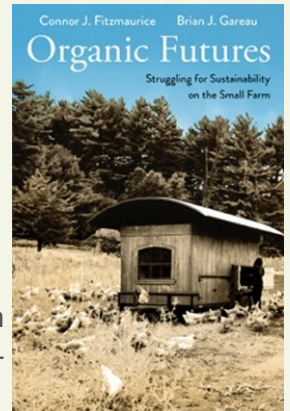
Beatrice Frank is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Sociology, Oklahoma State University.

Organic Futures: Struggling for Sustainability on the Small Farm.

Fitzmaurice, Connor J. and Brian J. Gareau (Yale University Press, 2016) <http://yalebooks.com/book/9780300199451/organic-futures>

In recent years, the popularity of organically grown produce has exploded. In 2014, organic fruits and vegetables accounted for 12% of all produce sales in the United States, with \$39 billion in consumer sales reported

for 2015. As a federally recognized niche market within the agricultural mainstream, organic farming is increasingly on display in American grocery stores. Yet the organic food most Americans consume today is produced by an industrial food system at odds with the practices and ideals of small-scale farmers. Taking an ethnographic approach, the fieldwork by Connor Fitzmaurice and Brian Gareau at a small New England organic farm sheds light on how farmers navigate the difficult terrain between practices of sustainability and the economic realities of contemporary agriculture. Drawing on extensive research, Fitzmaurice and Gareau examine the historical context, complexities, and viability of nonconventional organic farming practices: practices that seek to balance ecology and community with the business of agriculture.



Connor J. Fitzmaurice is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at Boston University, MA.

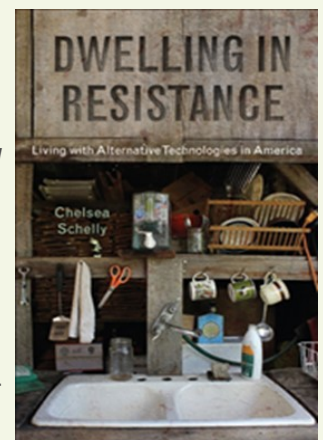
Brian J. Gareau is an Associate Professor of Sociology and International Studies at Boston College, MA.

Dwelling in Resistance: Living with Alternative Technologies in America

Chelsea Schelly

(Rutgers University Press, Forthcoming) <http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/product/Dwelling-in-Resistance,6453.aspx>

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,



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Dwelling in Resistance (cont'd)

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, decentralized 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.

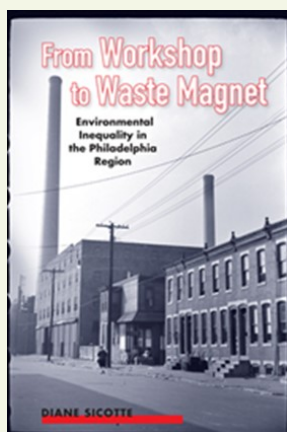
CHELSEA SCHELLY is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. She is the author of *Crafting Collectivity: American Rainbow Gatherings and Alternative Forms of Community*.

From Workshop to Waste Magnet: Environmental Inequality in the Philadelphia Region

Diane Sicotte
(Rutgers University Press, 2016), <http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/product/From-Workshop-to-Waste-Magnet,6098.aspx>

Like many industrialized regions, the Philadelphia metro area contains pockets of environmental degradation: neighborhoods littered with abandoned waste sites, polluting factories, and smoke-belching incinerators. However, other neighborhoods within and around the city are relatively pristine. This eye-opening book reveals that such environmental inequalities did not occur by chance, but were instead the result of specific policy decisions that served to exacerbate endemic classism and racism.

From Workshop to Waste Magnet presents Philadelphia's environmental history as a bracing case study in mismanagement and injustice. Sociologist Diane Sicotte digs deep into the city's past as a titan of American manufacturing to trace how only a few communities came to host nearly all of the area's polluting and



and waste disposal land uses. By examining the complex interactions among economic decline, federal regulations, local politics, and shifting ethnic demographics, she not only dissects what went wrong in Philadelphia but also identifies lessons for environmental justice activism today.

Sicotte's research tallies both the environmental and social costs of industrial pollution, exposing the devastation that occurs when mass quantities of society's wastes mix with toxic levels of systemic racism and economic inequality. *From Workshop to Waste Magnet* is a compelling read for anyone concerned with the health of America's cities and the people who live in them.

DIANE SICOTTE is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she teaches courses on environmental justice.

Vanishing Bees: Science, Politics, and Honeybee Health

Sainath Suryanarayanan and Daniel Lee Kleinman
(Rutgers University Press, 2016) <http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/product/Vanishing-Bees,6099.aspx>

In 2005, beekeepers in the United States began observing a mysterious and disturbing phenomenon: once-healthy colonies of bees were suddenly collapsing, leaving behind empty hives full of honey and pollen. Over the following decade, widespread honeybee deaths—some of which have come to be called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)—have continued to bedevil beekeepers and threaten the agricultural industries that rely on bees for pollination. Scientists continue to debate the causes of CCD, yet there is no clear consensus on how to best solve the problem.

Vanishing Bees takes us inside the debates over widespread honeybee deaths, introducing the various groups with a stake in solving the mystery of CCD,



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Vanishing Bees (cont'd)

including beekeepers, entomologists, growers, agrichemical companies, and government regulators. Drawing from extensive interviews and first-hand observations, Sainath Suryanarayanan and Daniel Lee Kleinman examine how members of each group have acquired, disseminated, and evaluated knowledge about CCD. In addition, they explore the often-contentious interactions among different groups, detailing how they assert authority, gain trust, and build alliances.

As it explores the contours of the CCD crisis, *Vanishing Bees* considers an equally urgent question: what happens when farmers, scientists, beekeepers, corporations, and federal agencies approach the problem from different vantage points and cannot see eye-to-eye? The answer may have profound consequences for every person who wants to keep fresh food on the table.

Sainath Suryanarayanan is an Assistant Scientist of Biology and Society in the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology and in the Morgridge Institute for Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Daniel Lee Kleinman is an Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he is also a Professor in the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology.

Articles –Journal Special Issues

New Solutions, Volume 26, Issue 3, November 2016

The journal *New Solutions* has published a special issue on “Social Science-Environmental Health Collaborations.” The issue is based on an NIEHS-sponsored conference held in May 2015 at Northeastern University. Some of the articles published in this special issue may be of interest to ASA ETS members. Below is a listing of the articles in the issues:

1. The Perils of Integrating Wellness and Safety and Health and the Possibility of a Worker-Oriented Alternative, by John Howard, L. Casey Chosewood, and Heidi L. Hudson.
2. Social Science-Environmental Health Collaborations: An Exciting New Direction, Jacob Matz, Phil Brown, Julia Green Brody.

3. Inspiring Collaboration: The Legacy of Theo Colborn's Transdisciplinary Research on Fracking, by Sara Wylie, Kim Schultz, Deborah Thomas, Chris Kassotis, Susan Nagel.
4. The Pivotal Role of the Social Sciences in Environmental Health Sciences Research, by Symma Finn, Gwen Collman.
5. Community-University Collaborations for Environmental Justice: Toward a Transformative Co-Learning Model, by Penn Loh.
6. Collaborating for Systems Change: A Social Science Framework for Academic Roles in Community Partnerships, Katrina Smith Korfmacher, Kristianna Grass Pettibone, Kathleen M. Gray, Ogonnaya Dotson Newman.
7. Redesigning a Participatory Health Study for a French Industrial Context, by Barbara L. Allen, Alison K. Cohen, Yolaine Ferrier, Johanna Lees, Travis Richards.
8. Community Engagement and Research Translation in Puerto Rico's Northern Karst Region: The PROTECT Superfund Research Program, by Carmen M. V. Vega, Phil Brown, Colleen Murphy, Abigail Figueroa, José Cordero, Akram Alshawabkeh.
9. Community Health Impacts from Oil and Gas Development in Texas: The Perspective of Sharon Wilson, by Lourdes Vera.

Du Bois Review, Volume 13, Issue 2, October 2016

The *Du Bois Review* has published a special issue on race and the environment. Below is a listing of the articles in the issues:

1. Race and Environmental Equity, by David T. Takeuchi, Lisa Sun-Hee Park, Yonette F. Thomas, and Samantha Teixeira.
2. Toward a Critical Environmental Justice Studies: Black Lives Matter as an Environmental Justice Challenge, by David N. Pellow.
3. The Long-Term Dynamics of Racial/Ethnic Inequality in Neighborhood Air Pollution EXPOSURE, 1990-2009, by Nicole Kravitz-Wirtz, Kyle Crowder, Anjum Hajat, and Victoria Sass.
4. The Racial Ecology of Lead Poisoning: Toxic Inequality in Chicago Neighborhoods, 1995-2013, by Robert J. Sampson and Alix S. Winter.
5. Race and the Distribution of Social and Physical Environmental Risk: A Case Example from the Detroit Metropolitan Area, by Amy J. Schulz, Graciela B. Mentz, Natalie Sampson, Melanie Ward, Rhonda Anderson, Ricardo de Majo, Barbara A. Israel, Toby C. Lewis, and Donele Wilkins.
6. Basics Inequality: Race and Access to Complete Plumbing Facilities in the United States, by Stephen P. Gasteyer, Jennifer Lai, Brittany Tucker, Jennifer Carrera, and Julius Moss.

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Du Bois Review Special Issue (cont'd)

7. Ruin's Progeny: Race, Environment, and Appalachia's Coal Camp Blacks, by Karida L. Brown, Michael W. Murphy, and Apollonya M. Porcelli.
8. Multiethnic Neighborhoods on the Ground: Resources, Constraints, and Sense of Community, by Emily Walton and Mae Hardebeck.
9. The Enduring Atlanta Compromise: Black Youth Contending with Home Foreclosures and School Closures in the "New South", by LeConté J. Dill, Orrienne Morrison, and Mercedes Dunn.
10. School Gardens in the City: Does Environmental Equity Help Close the Achievement Gap? by Rashawn Ray, Dana R. Fisher, and Carley Fisher-Maltese.
11. A Critical Race Theory Analysis of Public Park Features in Latino Immigrant Neighborhoods, by Jennifer J. García, Gilbert C. Gee, and Malia Jones.
12. Black Agency and the Ongoing Struggle for Black Educational Opportunity, by Carla O'Connor.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

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- Allen, Barbara, Yolaine Ferrier, and Alison Cohen. 2016. "Through a maze of studies: Health questions and 'undone science' in a French industrial region," *Environmental Sociology*. doi:10.1080/23251042.2016.1220850.
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- Elliott, James R. and Junia Howell. 2016. "Beyond disasters: A longitudinal analysis of natural hazards' unequal impacts on residential instability." *Social Forces*, (Published Online November 15) DOI: 10.1093/sf/sow086.
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- Gasteyer, Stephen P., Jennifer Lai, Brittany Tucker, Jennifer Carrera, and Julius Moss. 2016. "Basics Inequality: Race and access to complete plumbing facilities in the United States." *Du Bois Review*, 13 (2): 305-325.
- Givens, Jennifer, Brett Clark, and Andrew K. Jorgenson. 2016. "Strengthening the ties between environmental sociology and the sociology of

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Journal Articles and Book Chapters (cont'd)

- development." Pp. 69-94 in *The sociology of development handbook*, edited by Gregory Hooks. Oakland: University of California Press.
- Hein, James Everett and J. Craig Jenkins. 2016. "Why does the United States lack a global warming policy? The corporate inner circle versus public interest sector elites." *Environmental Politics*, DOI: 10.1080/09644016.2016.1244966.
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- Keller, Julie K., Margaret Grey, and Jill Lindsey Harrison. 2016. "Milking workers, breaking bodies: Health inequality in the dairy industry." *New Labor Forum*. DOI 10.1177/1095796016681763.
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- Longo, Stefano B. and Brett Clark. 2016. "An ocean of troubles: Advancing marine sociology." *Social Problems*, 63(4): 463-479.
- Longo, Stefano B., Brett Clark, Thomas E. Shriver, and Rebecca Clausen. 2016. "Sustainability and environmental sociology: Putting the economy in its place and moving toward an integrative socio-ecology." *Sustainability*, 8(5): No. 437. doi:10.3390/su8050437.
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