



ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY NEWS

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

Spring 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
MESSAGES	
1	From the Publications Committee Chair
FEATURE ESSAYS	
2	Rotten Apples: The Externalities of Urban Greening
4	The Impact of Extreme Weather Events on Food Service Workers in British Columbia
6	Stony Brook University’s “Turbulent Times” Colloquium
PUBLICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
8	Books
12	Journal Articles and Book Chapters
14	Public Sociology and Community Engagement
14	Transitions and Honors
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES	
15	Professional Opportunities
17	Section on Environmental Sociology Call for Awards for 2023

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE CHAIR’S MESSAGE



Greetings to the membership of the ASA Section on Environmental Sociology! Welcome to the Spring 2023 issue of the section newsletter.

This issue includes three feature essays that illustrate the breadth of environmental sociologists’ inquiry and engagement. In the first essay, William Grady Holt (Birmingham-Southern College) uses the example of the notorious Alabama “poop train” to draw attention to how metropolitan areas shift environmental burdens to distant rural communities. Holt points out that, ironically, this is sometimes done under the auspices of “urban greening” plans.

Next, Jen Kostuchuk (University of Victoria) discusses hazards that extreme weather poses to

an often-overlooked group of precarious workers: employees in restaurants and food service businesses. From working near a wood-fired oven during a heat wave to staffing a drive-through window during wildfire season, these workers are caught between protecting personal health and preserving their jobs.

Finally, Nayla Huq (Stony Brook University) reviews a recent colloquium about “Turbulent Times”, which brought researchers together to explore connections between climate change, pandemic threats, economic turmoil, and social unrest.

As always, the newsletter also provides information about section members’ professional accomplishments and about current opportunities, as well as about the nomination process for Section awards.

Michael Haedicke, Publications Committee Chair

FEATURE ESSAYS

Rotten Apples: The Externalities of Urban Greening

William Grady Holt
Birmingham-Southern College

In Spring 2018, residents of Parrish, AL began noticing a pungent smell in this small town located about 35 northwest of Birmingham. They learned that for two months sludge hauling train cars passed near the town's little league ballfields. The rail cars carried human sludge sent down from the New York City area, bound for Big Sky Landfill located about 20 miles east of Parrish. Due to atmospheric heating, the odors from the containers worsened at dusk, prompting locals to move the children's recreational games while nearby residents had to dab their noses with peppermint oil to lessen the stench. The U.S. media labeled the incident the "Poop Train".

To avoid dealing with local regulations, seven wastewater treatment facilities in New York and New Jersey signed a deal with Big Sky Landfill in 2016 to ship their biosolids, the solid materials left after going through wastewater treatment processes. Big Sky planned to use these biosolids as an "alternative cover" to promote plant growth on their landfill's covered slopes. The northeastern wastewater facilities began pursuing this option when ocean dumping was banned.

Most complaints over the "Poop Train" originated from the transfer operations. The biosolids are loaded on shipping containers that travel by rail around 1000 miles from New York and New Jersey to Alabama. Then, the shipping containers are transferred from rail to trucks which haul them to the landfill. Besides the odor, these shipping containers attracted flies and vermin. In early 2017, these biosolid trains began arriving in Alabama. That year residents in adjacent western Jefferson County complained of similar issues to those later noticed in Parrish. Locals in western Jefferson County halted the process through a federal judge who ruled that county officials may enforce a local rail yard zoning ordinance prohibiting noxious odor emissions. During these hearings, Big Sky Landfill officials admitted that biosolids routinely spilled onto the roadways while transferring the shipping containers on their 20-mile route from the railyard to the landfill. With this federal court decision, 250 containers left stranded in western Jefferson County were moved to rail tracks in Parrish for two months.

After the 2018 lawsuit, Big Sky officials promised to stop accepting the northeastern sludge. Additionally, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection planned stoppage of any further shipments. However, in February 2022, an official with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) caught Big Sky reverting to its former policies. ADEM discovered Big Sky constructed a new rail spur at their landfill facility with eight rail cars emptied in the past two weeks. Further investigation revealed that Big Sky filed had documents with ADEM indicating since November 2022 three additional New York and New Jersey wastewater facilities obtained permission to dump at this facility. The new rail spur was a minor modification of the landfill's permit. ADEM issued Big Sky a "cease and desist the operation of the railyard for the rail transportation of waste material until such time as the permit is appropriately modified."

In environmental economics, externalities are indirect costs or benefits to an uninvolved third party emerging from an effect of another party's activity. Originally developed in the 1920's, Arthur Pigou used

economic terms to explain that a tax equal to the marginal damage or marginal external cost on negative externalities could be used to reduce this behavior to an efficient level. Debates surround whether taxing or regulating negative externalities is preferred. In this Alabama situation, localities in New York and New Jersey take advantage of local loopholes while southern states are willing to accept their biosolids in landfills as part of local economic development strategies to raise tax bases.

Ironically, the New York Metropolitan Area, the source of this externality, is touted by environmentalists as a model of municipal sustainability. Specifically, New York City's present OneNYC Plan, an update of the original 2007 PlaNYC, links sustainability to equity as the mayoral administrations moved from Bloomberg to de Blasio. The original OneNYC Plan involved 25 city departments and agencies around a ten-point plan to make the city more resilient while promoting job development. A 2011 update of PlaNYC established 132 program initiatives with around 400 milestones to be achieved between 2013 and 2030. This plan placed special emphasis on public health.

In 2015 the de Blasio administration released the OneNYC Plan. A key focus of this plan highlights resilience while placing greater emphasis on environmental equity. Under its four principal visions, OneNYC stresses growth, equity, sustainability, and resiliency. While this plan includes metrics and measurements, many are restatements of actions with no mechanisms to address what occurs when milestones are not achieved. In 2019, Mayor de Blasio proclaimed an extension of this plan to become OneNYC2050 with an emphasis on developing a "strong and fair" city.

Using poor, majority minority, primarily rural American South locations for NIMBY's is not new. Bullard's 1990 *Dumping in Dixie* shows a historical pattern of this behavior. However, in many of these previous cases, the parties receiving the free ride on the externalities did not promote themselves as environmental leaders and pioneers. What is illustrated in the biosolids landfill situation is a new type of behavior combining virtue signaling with domestic colonialism (to borrow a recent equity term).

In 2023, Parrish, AL still resembles a small American South town from the 20th century with a population around 1000 that is 66% White, 25% Black, 6% multi-racial, and 3% other. The Hispanic population is under 1%. Twenty-seven percent of Parrish's population is below the poverty line. For any plan to be truly sustainable and resilient, the implementation must address problems around externalities. While promoting equity, public health, and fairness, OneNYC2050 seems to ignore places like Parrish when determining their goals success. This raises questions about how many other negative externalities are ignored in these municipal green plans.

To implement strategies that truly are equitable, politicians and environmentalists as well as their celebrity supporters must move beyond virtue signaling. My first position in urban planning was on the National Capital Planning Commission's 2050 update of the 1902 McMillan Plan of Washington, D.C. While key parts of the 1990's update focused on monument sites and federal office space, a major impetus of this plan was Earth Day 1991 where participants demolished the National Mall's greenswards while leaving tons of garbage. Building on these problems with green virtue signaling and externalities, the New York City biosolids removal is only one in a series of similar issues facing this region including disrupting the Connecticut coast to extended underwater power lines across Long Island Sound as well as high voltage lines strung across New York State to Westchester County. While the attempt to embrace new technologies for a 21st century resilient city is admirable, plans that promote equity and public health need to acknowledge these externalities and apply their principles to address these new environmental justice problems.

The Impact of Extreme Weather Events on Food Service Workers in British Columbia

Jen Kostuchuk
University of Victoria

Extreme weather due to climate change poses a significant threat to workplace health and safety in many sectors, and precarious workers often have little practical ability to refuse unsafe work during climate disasters. Although emerging research documents the threats of wildfires, heat domes, and flooding, on outdoor workers, such as agricultural workers (Weiler & Klassen, 2023), policymakers often assume indoor work is safer. Consequently, less is understood about the impact of extreme weather on low-wage workers in industries like food service. In 2021, British Columbia (BC) declared a provincial state of emergency for deadly wildfires, record-breaking high temperatures, and strong atmospheric rivers (Government of Canada, 2022; Watson, 2022; WorkSafeBC, 2021). How these climate emergencies impacted restaurant servers on smoky patios, cooks in dangerously hot kitchens, and food couriers on flooded roads is essential to inform climate justice and policy.

In Canada, restaurant labor represents 6.4% of the workforce, and 22% of Canadians work their first job in restaurants (Virgin et al., 2021). The restaurant and fast-food sector is highly racialized and gendered (Charlebois, 2016; Dempsey, 2021; Lu, 2021; Wingfield & Chavaz, 2020). Almost one quarter of food and beverage workers are immigrants and 70% of front-of-house workers are women (Charlebois, 2016; Government of Canada, 2022). Workers in food service also face job insecurity through low unionization rates, poor wages, and fear of retaliation for speaking out against labor violations (Lastoria & Bach, 2022; Nguyen, 2021; Robb, 2021).

Recently, I began a community-engaged, mixed-method study with the Worker Solidarity Network (WSN), a workers' right non-profit in BC, to investigate how food service workers are grappling with a changing climate. This project recognizes climate change as an additional layer of precarity in work that is already a struggle.

Before attending graduate school, I worked as a restaurant server. One summer, we experienced a memorable heatwave accompanied by extreme humidity and severe thunderstorms. Environment Canada issued a heat warning, and health authorities advised individuals to stay indoors and take precautions. During this time, the outdoor patio remained open, the air conditioning broke, and the centralized wood-fired oven blazed on. In addition to spending time in the walk-in freezer, my coworkers and I wrapped cold, wet rags around our necks in an attempt to counteract the unsafe working conditions. While understanding the environmental situation to be dangerous, we accepted the idea that it was a workers' individual responsibility to manage the discomfort through such ad hoc strategies.

As the WSN's Climate-Labour Project Coordinator, I have been connecting with food service workers across the province to discuss their experiences with extreme weather at work. I have gathered empirical evidence to support the need to elevate the voices of low-wage food service workers in environmental dialogue. Responses from our survey and sixteen in-depth qualitative interviews suggest that food service workers lack protective measures in their workplace and experience compromised health and safety during extreme weather events.

During a wildfire, a fast-food worker with asthma discussed the need to monitor her symptoms when working in the drive-through window. A restaurant patio server (working her second food service job of the day during the heat dome), fainted on the shift from heat exhaustion. Another participant, a line cook, reported working in two inches of water for a week during a major flood. Participants also shared other struggles during extreme weather events, such as being denied adequate hydration and cooling breaks. The

majority also reported mental health challenges that were exacerbated during extreme temperatures. Some participants described these working conditions as “alienating” and “brutal”. Importantly, when I asked if participants were comfortable refusing unsafe work, I was met with responses like “not at all” and “absolutely not”. These responses emphasize the valid fear of termination, especially while living and working in BC, one of Canada’s most unaffordable provinces (Meissner, 2022).

In this research, food service workers proposed industry-wide changes that could aid in safer and fairer working conditions related to extreme weather events. Recommendations for protective measures included adequate evacuation procedures, provision of personal protective equipment, and additional (and compensated) breaks for hydration. At the governmental level, workers identified the need for accessible cooling centres and free transit to mitigate health risks during climate catastrophes. Basic weather-related protective standards are necessary to raise the bar for precarious workers.

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Stony Brook Sociology’s “Turbulent Times” Colloquium

Nayla Huq
Stony Brook University

The Stony Brook University (SBU) Sociology Graduate Student Colloquia Organizing Committee held our Spring colloquium: “Turbulent times: living through pandemics, conflicts, and climate crises” on March 24, 2023. This event featured a keynote address by Assistant Professor Danielle Falzon (Rutgers University, Department of Sociology) and panel presentations by graduate students in Sociology, Political Science, and History on the various crises that characterize our current social context. Topics discussed included climate change, pandemics, social and political unrest, and economic tensions that affect the way we live, emote, organize, and resist in the past, present, and future. Crises were also examined in the contexts of institutional failures, or rather, inherent design flaws that sustain the imbalances favoring the wealthy and powerful. Presentations included completed and in-progress research projects. Sponsors included the SBU Sociology Department, SBU Graduate Student Organization (GSO), and the SBU Institute for Advanced Computational Science (IACS).

Three presentations kicked off the first panel, “Family and Work in the Midst of Uncertainty: strong supports or crumbling pillars?” Ting-Syuan Lin’s (SBU, Sociology) and Bonnie Ip’s (CUNY Graduate Center, Sociology) presentations explored how patterns of interaction within families are affected by changes in local and global cultural landscapes. Sohee Shin’s (SBU, Sociology) research tested the relationship between nativity/immigrant status, employment, and access to healthcare in the US.

Panel two, “‘We are fixed and certain only when we are in movement’: Shifting political landscapes and the movements that propel them,” featured four social movement presentations, two of which explored the shifts that pivotal, large-scale events have on existing politicized landscapes. Kajol Patel’s (SBU, Sociology) paper dealt with the exponential growth of the public “pro-life” identity following the Supreme Court’s Dodd decision. Danial Vahabli (SBU, Sociology) discussed the shift from sad to explicitly angry and violent Iranian rap lyrics following Mahsa Amini’s murder. José Guevara Fino (SBU, Sociology) probed framing conflicts between protestors calling for regime and constitutional change and government officials in Chile’s 2019 social outburst. Ignacio Urbina (SBU, Political Science) applied network analysis to demonstrate homophily’s impact on protest involvement.

Two presenters led panel three, “Bridging Futures: contemporary crisis in a (post)colonial world.” Albert Garcia (CUNY Graduate Center) delved into tourism’s economic, social, and environmental impacts in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, which engender climate migration. George Osei (SBU, History) posed Ghanaian and Gold Coast “native rights” as already encompassing the Western notion of human rights, but both were used as frames to challenge European imperialism.

Three presenters capped off our last panel, “Tangible and intangible: constructing meaning and memory in contested climates.” Olivia Steiert (The New School for Social Research, Sociology) scrutinized the *Wikipedia* Climate Change entry, its edit history, and explanations for those edits, noting authors’ attempts at collective meaning-making, and navigating issues of expertise and perceptions of audience polarization. Nas Ferns (SBU, Sociology) explored the consecration of memento mori to the present and future casualties of climate change, and used in demonstrations at global climate summits. Adam Koehler Brown (New School for Social Research, Sociology) presented preliminary findings of his close reading of the January 6th Attack on the US Capitol report highlighting inconsistencies, including waffling on Trump’s culpability,

and conflating two possible groups amongst the insurgents, militia groups equipped for destruction and other Trump devotees present without plans, but prepped for a fight.

Danielle Falzon's (Assistant Professor, Rutgers, Sociology) two-part keynote address, "Confronting Global Crisis or Business as Usual?" first discussed institutional failures to implement necessary climate change policies, then turned to her research on Bangladesh as a case for implementing climate change adaptation policies. The institutional failures portion was akin to a documentary film taking the audience through the experiences of the structural inequalities that poorer and often more climate change-vulnerable countries face at all levels at global summits from the meeting rooms down to their "free time" in hotel rooms. At each level, the cards are stacked against the countries lacking the power and privilege necessary to attain immediately-needed action. Bangladesh is a case in which there is both locally-led climate change adaptation work, as well as that led by International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) whose funding of such projects is tied to economic development projects. Conflicts arise when development agencies are disinclined to fund projects unaligned with their goals, having to trust corrupt local government officials, and generally not taking local actors' expertise seriously.

Lively, thoughtful discussions followed each panel's and the keynote address's Q & A sessions, as well as during the breaks, lunch, and concluding reception. We are grateful to all presenters, attendees, sponsors, and organizers for their contributions. We are indeed living in turbulent times in a multiplicity of areas of social life, as reflected in the array of topics presented at this colloquium.

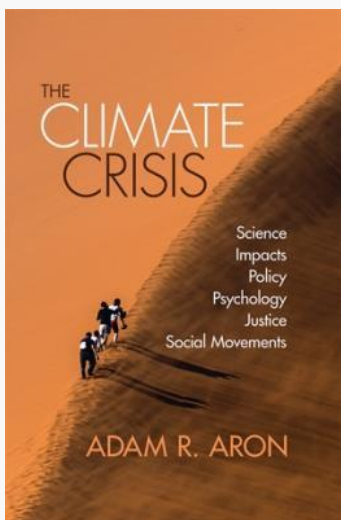
PUBLICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Books

[*The Climate Crisis: Science, Impacts, Policy, Psychology, Justice, Social Movements*](#)

Adam R. Aron

Cambridge University Press

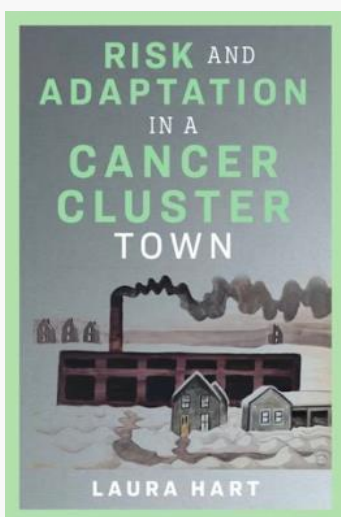


Why, despite all we know about the causes and harms of global heating, has so little effective action been taken to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and what we can do to change that? This book explains the mechanisms and impacts of the climate crisis, traces the history and reasons behind the lack of serious effort to combat it, describes some people's ongoing skepticism and how to shift it, and motivates an urgent program of action. It argues that the pathway to stopping dangerous global heating will require a much larger mobilization of advocacy and activism to impel decision makers to abandon fossil fuels, and transition to renewable energy and electrification embedded in a political and social framework guided by justice principles. It is an excellent resource for students and researchers on the climate crisis, the need for a renewable energy transition, and the current blocks to progress.

[*Risk and Adaptation in a Cancer Cluster Town*](#)

Laura Hart

Rutgers University Press

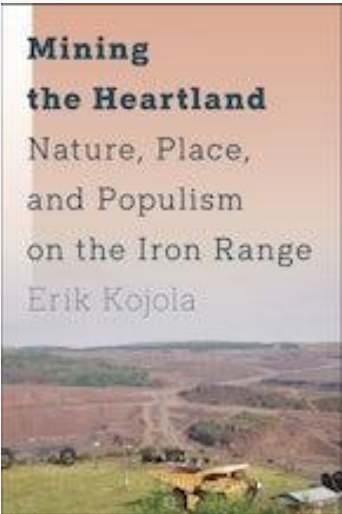


In disease cluster communities across the country, environmental contamination from local industries is often suspected as a source of disease. But civic action is notoriously hampered by the slow response from government agencies to investigate the cause of disease and the complexities of risk assessment. In *Risk and Adaptation in a Cancer Cluster Town*, Laura Hart examines another understudied dimension of community inaction: the role of emotion and its relationship to community experiences of social belonging and inequality. Using a cancer cluster community in Northwest Ohio as a case study, Hart advances an approach to risk that grapples with the complexities of community belonging, disconnect, and disruption in the wake of suspected industrial pollution. Her research points to a fear driven not only by economic anxiety, but also by a fear of losing security within

the community—a sort of pride that is not only about status, but connectedness. Hart reveals the importance of this social form of risk—the desire for belonging and the risk of not belonging—ultimately arguing that this is consequential to how people make judgements and respond to issues. Within this context where the imperative for self-protection is elusive, affected families experience psychosocial and practical conflicts as they adapt to cancer as a way of life. Considering a future where debates about risk and science will inevitably increase, Hart considers possibilities for the democratization of risk management and the need for transformative approaches to environmental justice.

[Mining the Heartland: Nature, Place, and Populism on the Iron Range](#)

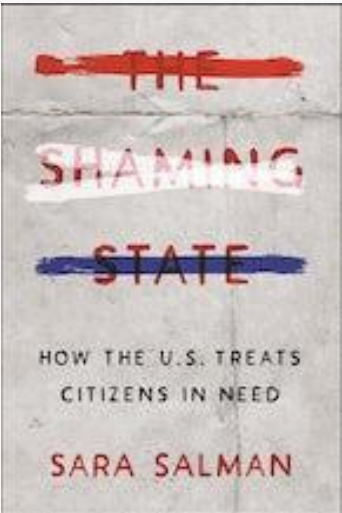
Erik Kojola
NYU Press



In many rural American communities, there is profound tension around the preservation and protection of wilderness and the need to promote and profit from natural resources. In *Mining the Heartland*, Erik Kojola looks at both sides of these populist movements and presents a thoughtful account of how such political struggles play out. Drawing on over a hundred ethnographic interviews with people of the Iron Range region in northern Minnesota, from members of labor unions to local residents to scientists, Kojola is able to bring this complex struggle to life. Focusing on both pro- and anti-mining groups, he expands upon what this conflict reveals about the way whiteness and masculinity operate among urban and rural residents, and the different ways in which class, race, and gender shape how people relate to the land. *Mining the Heartland* shows the negotiation and conflict between two central aspects of the state’s culture and economy: outdoor recreation in the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes and the lucrative mining of the Iron Range.

[The Shaming State: How the U.S. Treats Citizens in Need](#)

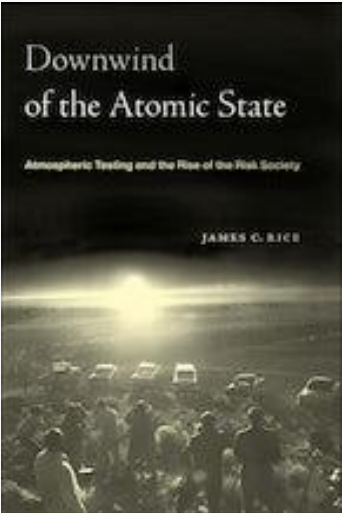
Sara Salman
NYU Press



The Shaming State is a timely investigation of the vanishing horizon of social rights in the United States. The book argues that Americans have been abandoned by a government that has relinquished its duties of care toward its citizens. The book focuses on two groups whose stories illustrate the extent of state neglect in times of disaster, including so-called natural disasters. The first is Iraqi resettled refugees who arrived in the country after assisting the American forces in the Iraq War. The second is white homeownership New Yorkers whose homes were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The book focuses on the difficulties each group experienced while accessing government assistance programs. The book finds that the government’s emphasis on fraud prevention renders public resources scarce and amplifies experiences of vulnerability and precarity. The book explores the valorization of personal responsibility and denial of social vulnerability. The book argues that the state ebbs from the sphere of social rights by deploying a relentless denunciation of social vulnerability, which produces shame in those who come to need the government and antipathy toward social others.

[*Downwind of the Atomic State: Atmospheric Testing and the Rise of the Risk Society*](#)

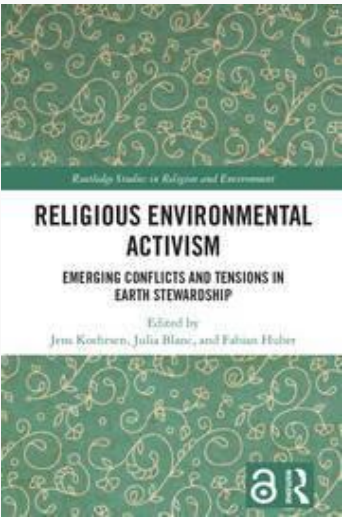
James Rice
NYU Press



Between 1951-1962 the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) conducted more than 100 open-air detonations in Nevada dispersing radioactive fallout over the communities downwind and, indeed, much of the country. Of particular concern is the failure of AEC officials to fully appreciate the contingencies of releasing radionuclides into a fluid, intransient, and vibrant nonhuman realm. This points to the liabilities of not simply organizational and institutional dynamics but prevailing ontological assumptions of modernity. In this regard, atmospheric testing was an ontological wake-up call. Nonhuman entities, processes, and things act and, at times, react to human provocation. And too often powerful actors seek to manipulate and control nature without anticipating the unintended side effects imposed on others, particularly when things go wrong.

[*Religious Environmental Activism: Emerging Conflicts and Tensions in Earth Stewardship*](#)

Jens Köhrsen, Julia Blanc, and Fabian Huber, eds.
Routledge



This volume explores how religious and spiritual actors engage for environmental protection and fight against climate change. Climate change and sustainability are increasingly prominent topics among religious and spiritual groups. Different faith traditions have developed "green" theologies, launched environmental protection projects and issued public statements on climate change. Against this background, academic scholarship has raised optimistic claims about the strong potentials of religions to address environmental challenges. Taking a critical stance with regard to these claims, the chapters in this volume show that religious environmentalism is an embattled terrain. Tensions are an inherent part of religious environmentalism. These do not necessarily manifest themselves in open clashes between different parties but in different actions, views, theologies, ambivalences, misunderstandings, and sometimes mistrust. Keeping below the surface, these tensions can create effective barriers for religious environmentalism. The chapters examine how tensions are manifested and dealt with through a range of empirical case studies in various world regions. Covering different religious and spiritual traditions, they reflect on intradenominational, interdenominational, interreligious, and religious-societal tensions. Thereby, this volume sheds new light on the problems that religions face when they seek to take an active role in today's societal challenges.

Foundations of Socio-Environmental Research: Legacy Readings with Commentaries

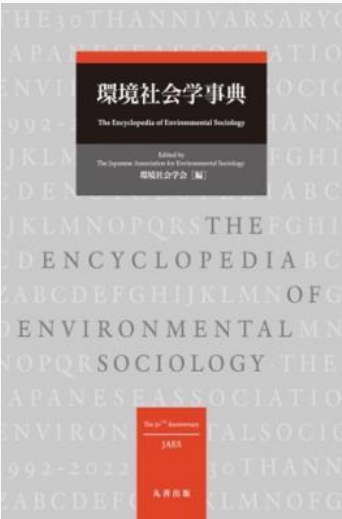
William R. Burnside, Simone Pulver, Kathryn J. Fiorella, Meghan L. Avolio, and Steven M. Alexander, eds.
Cambridge University Press



News about our interactions with the environment hits us daily, from zoonotic disease pandemics to flood damage due to climate change to deforestation driving species extinctions. It’s always topical, it always seems new, and in scale it often is. Never before has a pandemic spread this far or this fast. Never before have our actions increased temperatures this much. However, the interactions between people and their environments are not new; they have long precedents. *Foundations of Socio-Environmental Research* tracks the history of research about socio-environmental interdependence via 53 foundational readings, spanning centuries, continents and disciplines. Intended as a canonical reference volume, the assembled readings, along with critical commentaries from leading experts, showcase key ideas about socio-environmental change. The book’s conclusion then links those ideas to the wide diversity of current approaches to socio-environmental scholarship. For research teams, our book can serve as a springboard for advancing collaborative, interdisciplinary projects. As a resource in the classroom, the legacy readings with commentaries provide instructors and students with a landscape view of the past and present of socio-environmental research.

The Encyclopedia of Environmental Sociology

Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology, ed.
Maruzen (in Japanese)



This encyclopedia is a part of the 30th anniversary celebration of the Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology (JAES). More than 150 members of the JAES contributed to this massive publication project, spending 3 years to complete it. The result is the most comprehensive account of Japanese environmental sociology today.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

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**PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

Paul Almeida published a fact sheet titled “[Climate Action: Community and Labor Organizations Build Capacity for Environmental Change](#)” with the UC Merced Community and Labor Center.

Rebecca Altman published an article titled “[On vinyl: A Brief History of East Palestine’s Toxic Train Disaster](#)” in *Orion Magazine*.

Michael Méndez, along with Leo Goldsmith and Vanessa Raditz, contributed an article titled “[Disaster Response Must Help Protect LGBTQ+ Communities](#)” to the March 10, 2023 issue of *Issues in Science and Technology*.

Kristin Anderson Moore, along with Jessie Laurore, Yuko Yadatsu Ekyalongo, Salomon Villatoro, and Deana Around Him, published an issue brief titled “[To Protect Children of Color, Leaders Must Understand and Address Environmental Racism](#)” in *Child Trends*.

Archana Ramanujam is co-hosting a podcast titled “[Future Beyond Shell](#)”, which investigates

different policy tools and strategies that might help us wind down an oil and gas company in the face of climate crisis.

Alana Stein and Lizbeth De La Cruz Santana published a research report titled “[Navigating the Joys and Challenges of Public Scholarship in Graduate School](#)” with *Imagining America*.

Dorceta Taylor and **Molly Blondell** published a research report titled “[Examining Disparities in Environmental Grantmaking: Where the Money Goes](#)”.

TRANSITIONS & HONORS

Shawn Olson Hazboun has moved from Evergreen State College to Oregon State University, where she holds a position as Assistant Professor of Sociology in the School of Public Policy.

Mark Suchyta defended his dissertation, titled "Social and Environmental Influences on Subjective Well-Being", this past summer. He is now a visiting professor of sociology and criminology at Butler University in Indianapolis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

(1) CONVERGE Positionality in Hazards and Disaster Research and Practice Training Module and Demonstration Webinar

The CONVERGE facility, headquartered at the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder, is so pleased to announce the release of the [Positionality in Hazards and Disaster Research and Practice Training Module](https://converge.colorado.edu/training-modules). This module defines positionality and highlights how understanding your own positionality—or how your different identities shape your perceptions, interactions, and experiences—can lead to more ethical and methodologically sound disaster work. You can register and access the free module here: <https://converge.colorado.edu/training-modules>.

You can access a recorded webinar where the module development team provided a demonstration of the new module. Please visit: <https://converge.colorado.edu/webinars/converge-positionality-in-hazards-and-disaster-research-and-practice-training-module-a-demonstration-webinar/>.

This new module is part of a larger series of foundational and advanced trainings that are designed to accelerate the education of a diverse hazards and disaster workforce. The module, like the others in the series, concludes with a 10-question quiz. Upon successful completion of the quiz, users receive a certificate, which is worth [one contact hour of general management training](#) through the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) certification program. These modules can be useful for classroom assignments as well as other activities. Please see the [CONVERGE Annotated Bibliographies](#) for further readings and the [Assignment Bank](#) for sample assignments.

Please sign up for additional free resources and updates at the CONVERGE website at: <https://converge.colorado.edu/signup>.

(2) University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

The University of Minnesota's [Institute on the Environment](#) (IonE) has recently launched a cohort-based Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.

The program is looking for recent PhDs or PhD candidates who are interested in interdisciplinary academic research and community-engaged scholarship with a focus on solutions-oriented research in sustainability to support an equitable and just transition for all.

Those who are interested in applying can visit [IonE Postdoc Fellowship webpage](#). We are accepting applications until 12pm Central Time on **May 1, 2023**.

(3) Society for Human Ecology International Conference Call for Submissions

“Sowing Human Ecological Futures: Vision, Justice, and Diversity”

November 5 – 8, 2023
Tucson, Arizona USA

Dear SHE Members and Friends:

- Take part in a diverse international and interdisciplinary gathering.
- Contribute to a wide range of formal and informal exchanges in a relaxed atmosphere.
- Enjoy the beautiful southwestern environment and University of Arizona campus.

The program for SHE XXV is well under way. Many thanks to everyone who responded to the initial call for preliminary program contributions. Additional contributions are encouraged up to the FINAL DEADLINE of JULY 31.

Like previous SHE meetings, it is intended to bring together a diverse group of educators, researchers and practitioners who utilize, or are interested in, interdisciplinary and ecological approaches. We look forward to a diverse and exciting program with an excellent range of speakers, symposia, round-tables and individual presentations.

Abstract preparation for contributed papers should include: The full title of the paper and name(s), institutional affiliation(s) and email address(es) of the registered presenter(s). Similar information should be submitted for poster presentations. Those proposing organized sessions/symposia should likewise provide information for all presenters in their session, but at this point we only need an abstract for the symposium itself, not individual papers within it.

Abstracts should be about 150-200 words and include 3 - 5 key words. They may be submitted as an email attachment or email text to shexxvconference@societyforhumanecology.org. In the subject line of the email please indicate "Symposium Abstract", "Paper Abstract", "Poster Abstract", or "Pecha Kucha Presentation".

Early submissions help the conference committee identify emerging themes and design the program. Thus, we encourage early symposia/paper/poster submissions and "draft" abstracts as soon as is possible – keeping in mind revisions are always accepted up to the final deadline date.

Continuously updated information about the conference (e.g., the developing program, keynoter details, payment procedures, accommodation information, etc.) can be found on the conference website: www.societyforhumanecology.org

SECTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY CALL FOR AWARDS FOR 2023

The deadline for all award nominations is April 15th, 2023.

Note that nominees do not need to be section members, but in accordance with ASA policies, award recipients must be current members of the association at the time the award is given to receive the award.

The Environmental Sociology Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award

This is given for publications of special noteworthiness 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, 2020, through December 31, 2022. To nominate an article, please email a nomination letter by April 15th, 2023 to Nikhil Deb (ndeb@calpoly.edu) and indicate when the nominee received their Ph.D.

The Environmental Sociology Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding paper written by a graduate student or group of graduate students. All members of the Section and the ASA are encouraged to submit nominations; self-nominations are also welcome. In addition to recognition, recipients will receive a modest monetary award. Papers do not have to be published, accepted for publication or submitted to the ASA meeting to be considered. They must have been submitted to the ASA annual meeting and/or to a journal by a graduate student(s) at the time the nomination is made. Published papers must have been accepted for publication or published between January 1st, 2021 and December 31st, 2022 and while the author(s) was still a graduate student in order to be considered. Papers co-authored with faculty are ineligible. To nominate a paper, please send a PDF copy of the paper along with a nomination letter that includes information about the paper's status by April 15th, 2023 to Nikhil Deb (ndeb@calpoly.edu).

The Environmental Sociology Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award.

This award is given annually to recognize individuals for outstanding service, innovation, or publication in environmental sociology. It is intended to be an expression of appreciation, awarded when an individual is deemed extraordinarily meritorious by the Section. All members of the Section are encouraged to submit nominations; self-nominations are welcome. Nominations for this award must be received by April 15th, 2023. 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, Norah MacKendrick (Past-Chair) (norah.mackendrick@rutgers.edu). Please put "Buttel Award Nomination" in the subject line.

The Environmental Sociology Robert Boguslaw Award

This award is conferred every odd year by the Section to a doctoral student or scholar who has obtained a Ph.D. in the past five years. The purpose of the award is to recognize a paper or article that investigates innovative approaches to addressing emerging issues pertaining to technological, environmental, and social change. In accordance with Robert Boguslaw's wishes, the honored work should address the concerns of "ordinary people rather than those of established organizations and institutions." Unpublished papers or articles published between January 1, 2020 and December 31st, 2022 are eligible. Please send award nominations to Debra Davidson, Chair-Elect, (debra.davidson@ualberta.ca) by April 15th, 2023.

Section Officers (2022-2023)

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Marvin Olsen Student Paper Award
Nikhil Deb

Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution
Norah MacKendrick

Teaching and Mentorship Award
Practice and Outreach Award
Alissa Cordner

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