**2021 Council Minutes: ASA Section on Environmental Sociology**

**Jun 16, 2021 2:00-3:20 PM Eastern Time**

**Minutes submitted by: Hannah Holleman**

**In Attendance:** Rachel Shwom (presider/chair), Jill Lindsey Harrison, Lourdes Vera, Devparna Roy, Michelle Edwards, Jessie Luna, Sara Grineski, Jordan Besek, Amalia Leguizamón, Norah MacKendrick, Janet Lorenzen, Raoul Lievanos, Hannah Holleman, Steve Hoffman

1. **Brief introductions**

2. **Officer reports/updates:**

After introductions, each council member provided brief updates on their work this year. What we learned and discussed based on these reports included the following:

The Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity has been very active, meeting 3 times since March. We will meet as a council again in July 2021 with the committee to discuss how best to advance section goals of equity and inclusion. Our website was threatened with malware, which prompted the purchase of protective software. Our treasurer noted that we have enough money in our section budget to update the website as needed, especially as we did not pay for an in-person reception this year. Our membership has grown, even as some sections lost members during the pandemic. And, it seems our membership is beginning to look more like the ASA as a whole demographically. We also discussed an awards rubric implemented by one of our awards committees, which could be used in the future to make criteria for awards selection more transparent and signal that the goals of equity and inclusion are also considered in the awards selection process. We learned that a major update to our section website’s list of environmental NGOs and agencies is complete. We discussed section mentoring and how best to organize social/mentoring/awards event given the unusual virtual format for the ASA annual meetings. We also discussed the position of legacy chair, which hasn’t been filled for six years.

Based on reports and discussions, the section chair thanked council for all of their activities in 2020-2021, especially for their accomplishments while dealing with the particular challenges of the past year.

3. **Decisions Taken/Action Items for Council:**

   a) Rachel Shwom will convene council meeting in July with Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity, as well as newly elected council members/section officers, to share and develop new ideas for how council as a whole and individual council members in their positions may advance the goals of equity and inclusion. We will also discuss implementation of committee recommendations.

   b) Council decided to keep the Legacy Chair position, which has not been fulfilled for six years. Council also decided that the position should actively advance goals of equity and inclusion, in part by addressing the legacies of under-recognized section members and their contributions to environmental sociology. The position will go on our next ballot.

   c) Jordan Besek will draft the first position notebook for the Legacy Chair, which will include the recommendations of council for the goals of this position.

   d) Norah MacKendrick will consult with Lourdes Vera to plan a combined section awards reception/mentoring event for the virtual 2021 ASA meetings.
e) Jill Harrison suggested all council members read the history of the Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity online and the materials in our dropbox folder.

f) Rachael Shwom will ask ASA director Mark Fernando if we can add all council members to the ASA announce listserv so more people can post to our official list.

g) Sara Grineski will make note in the 2021 section call for awards language regarding equity and inclusion.
In Attendance: Rachel Shwom (presider/chair), Yasi Shaker, Devparna Roy, Jill Lindsey Harrison, Michelle Edwards, Norah MacKendrick, Janet Lorenzen, Raoul Lievanos, Hannah Holleman, Roger Renteria, Alissa Cordner, Jennifer Carrera, Sandra Marquart-Pyatt, Jordan Fox Besek

Description/Purpose of Meeting: Section chair Rachael Shwom organized this meeting of section council members and members of the section’s Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity to facilitate cooperation and communication between the two section bodies. Time was reserved for members of the Committee to share their recent activities, proposed mission statement, and ideas to inform routine section work.

1. Summary of Discussion:
Members of the Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity brought forward three main points for discussion:

a) First, was the proposed mission statement of the Committee. The proposed statement, with one slight revision suggested by a council member, is:

The Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity (CREE) will serve as a general assessment and challenge to the ASA’s Section on Environmental Sociology’s racist and exclusionary practices that promote white supremacy and maintain white spaces within the section. CREE will address white ignorance and white innocence within the section as a symptom of a broader culture that must be critically addressed. The members of CREE will be guided under an intersectional framework and critical race theory that center the voices of people who have been marginalized through systemic and historical processes by being open to their experiences, concerns, critiques, and suggestions.

We will also work toward tangibly (re)distributing resources from the section in which membership and scholarly work are more accessible to people coming from historically marginalized backgrounds. The committee will challenge the section’s members to critically reflect on both an individual level and as a community on the challenges for racial equity and inclusion and the work necessary to achieve them.

The council supported this statement. The decision was taken that the members of the Committee would report back on the discussion to other Committee members and submit a final version for publication on the section website and dissemination to section members the following week.

b) The second point raised by Committee members was the need for specific meeting/mentoring/community spaces for BIPOC section members and the elevation of the work of BIPOC scholars, including for the purposes of reconceiving/decolonizing/diversifying/deepening and widening our knowledge of environmental sociology. The Committee proposed an idea for hosting regular Theory/Community Cafés—a series of events that highlight both the work of BIPOC scholars and offer BIPOC section members opportunities to gather. These could build on successes of a similar program instituted in the Sociology of Development Section of the ASA. Committee members and council discussed different forms these events could take, depending on the specific goals for each event. During discussion several points were made: 1) the need to consider goals for each event, which would shape how they are organized and who is invited to each portion, 2) the question of whether we have funds to offer honoraria, 3) the need for more mentoring/community events focused on BIPOC members, 4) the question of workload for all of these events and how council might best provide support, 5) the need to set up community expectations regarding participation in these spaces, and 6) and the question of facilitation—having experienced facilitators makes a difference for any event.

c) The third point raised by Committee members was the need to rethink section awards—including who is nominated and recognized (and at what career stage), and for what, as well as how awards are named/administered/advertised. During discussion council members and Committee shared experiences chairing awards committees, discussing procedures, and offering to further discuss history of awards.

d) Another point raised by Committee members was the need for two additional members. During discussion, the point was made that there is some flexibility for how this is done for this Committee.
3. Decisions Taken/Action Items for Council and Members of Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity:
   a) The members of the Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity will approve a final version of the Committee’s mission statement and send it to section council, with attention to Michelle Edwards, who will publish the mission statement on the section’s website.
   b) The section chair and chair-elect will look into funds to support honoraria for speakers during Theory/Community Cafés.
   c) Jennifer Carrera will help Committee members and council identify skilled facilitators for section events.
   d) Rachael Shwom agreed to help research models of facilitation that might be appropriate for section events so that facilitation promotes goals of equity and inclusion.
   e) The Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity will continue to discuss models for the Theory/Community Café’s and the council will support these events.
   f) Council and incoming chair, Norah MacKendrick, agreed to continue discussion of section awards.
   g) Rachael Shwom agreed to remind incoming section council members to read bylaws with attention to specific obligations of council members regarding the work of advancing goals of equity and inclusion within the section.
   h) The Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity will discuss best procedures for identifying two new Committee members, and in doing so will consult with the incoming chair, Norah MacKendrick.
Awards Ceremony ASA Annual Meeting 8-9-2021
7:30-9:00 PM EST
VAM Room 35

Participants

Norah MacKendrick
Lourdes Vera
Rachel Shwom
Albert Fu
Alessandro Morosin
Amanda McMillan Lequieu
Amanda Sikirica
Andrew Szasz
Angela Serrano Zapata
Anna McCreery
Anne Mook
Caitlin Schroering
Celene Krauss
Danielle Falzon
David Pellow
Feng Hao
Frederic Traylor
Giselle Greenridge
Grace Poudrier
J.M. Bacon
Janet Lorenzen
Jessie Luna
Jill Harrison
J. M. Bacon
Jordan Besek
Josh Basseches
Justin Szasz
Kelsey Ryan-Simkins
Lauren Richter
Lori Peek
Malcolm Araos
Matt Comi
Michelle Edwards
Nikhil Deb
Phil Brown
Raoul Lievanos
Sara Grineski
Shannon Bell
Simone Domingue
Simone Pulver
Thomas Dietz

Tyler Bateman
Vitor Dias
Agenda

7:30-8:00 Happy Hour Breakout Rooms

Ice breakers:

Would you rather be able to speak to animals or speak every language?

What sitcom would you want to live in?

Share what object helped you through the pandemic.

Break/Group Informal Discussion

8:00-8:10

What’s in your glass?

Awards

8:10-9:00 Awards

Rachael Shwom leading the ceremony. Norah MacKendrick new chair after this ceremony.

Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award

- Two co-winners
  - Malcom Araos
    - Doctoral student at NYU: Democracy Underwater
    - Social production of resistance to climate change infrastructure
    - 4:15 8/10/2021 Tuesday presentation
  - Angela Serrano
    - Materializing Inequality

Allan Schnaiberg Award

- Shannon Bell and others
  - Feminist insights into energy transitions

Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism

- Lourdes Vera
  - Publication when Data Justice and Environmental Justice Meet
  - Published in Information Communication and Society
  - Completing PhD from Northeastern University
  - Starting a faculty position at the University of Buffalo
  - Outlined the contribution of Environmental Data Justice
  - Equitable design of computational tools

Practice and Outreach in Environmental Sociology

- Syllabi sent out to the listserv
- Corrie Grosse
- Ogibwe Nations, Honor the Earth Winona LaDuke
- Community engaged strategy for climate justice
- Holistic responses to climate justice
- Water Protectors syllabus
- Jennifer Carrera
  - Water quality and access in Flint

**Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award**

- Outstanding teaching, innovation for the section
- Five nominations
- Whole council votes
- Lori Peek
  - Commitments to mentoring
  - Creating space and structural support for scholars of color
  - Joy and ray of sunshine that she brings into the classroom
  - Undergraduate numbers are growing because of Lori
  - Gifted and generous builder of transdisciplinary partnerships and collaborations
Section on Environmental Sociology Business Meeting

Tue, August 10, 12:45 to 1:15pm EDT, VAM, Room 68

Agenda

Environmental Sociology Business Meeting

August 10, 2021

12:45-1:15

Welcome and Opening Statement by Chair, Rachael Shwom

Reports from council members – Please try to keep this to 2-3 items (1-2 minutes) of what you have done this year in order to let all speak and leave time for announcements

Chair-Elect: Norah MacKendrick, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Past Chair: Jill Lindsey Harrison, University of Colorado-Boulder
Section Secretary: Hannah A. Holleman, Amherst College
Section Treasurer: Amalia Leguizamon, Tulane University
Council Member-At-Large: Jessie K. Luna, Colorado State University
Lourdes Annette Vera, Northeastern University (Student Representative)
Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity (CREE) Chair: Devparna Roy, Nazareth College
Digital Communications Committee Co-Chair: Michelle L. Edwards, Texas State University and Timothy Haney, Mount Royal University
Policy and Research Committee Chair: Sara Elizabeth Grineski, University of Utah
Membership Committee Chair: Raoul Salvador Lievanos, University of Oregon
Nominations Committee Chair: Jordan Fox Besek, SUNY-Buffalo
Publications Committee Chair: John Chung-En Liu, National Taiwan University
Teaching Committee Chair: Janet A. Lorenzen, Willamette University

Questions/Announcements from membership

Awards announced last evening at section happy hour. Congratulations of recipients again.

ES section is committed to supporting diverse scholars and untenured scholars. Statement read by Rachael.

Hannah Holleman appreciative of working with the section and passing the torch to Jennifer Carrera.

Treasurer Report: We have ~$4,500 in unused funds that we will be using for speakers for CREE initiative and updating the website. Speaker honorarium.

Mentorship pairs: 25 pairs. 44 participants. Reached out to mentors outside of the section and outside of academia. 4 pairs outside of academia. 1 from EPA. 1 from teaching and engaged researched at Northeastern. Survey got 17 responses. Suggested expanding the program. Good experiences with it.
Norah Chair Elect: Responsibility to organize the program and convene a committee to award the Robert Boguslaw award that is given out every two years. Welcome to Sandy Marquart-Pyatt to new chair elect. Sincere thank you to Rachael Shwom and Jill Harrison in supporting role as incoming chair.

Jill Outgoing past chair: Responsibility to help with the leadership transition. Enjoyed working with Rachael and Norah. Reach out to me if I can be of help in any way. Also involved in supporting the newly formed CREE. Very important to me. Appreciate ASA’s formal statements around inclusion but we have a lot of work to do to get there. Chair Fred Buttel award committee. Great honor to honor Lori Peek in that way.

Jesse Luna Council at Large: Served on nominations committee with Jordan Besek. Available to serve as needed.

Devparna Roy Chair of CREE Committee: Thank Rachael, Norah, and Jill for support on this committee. First meeting was on March 22nd. Have met 8 times since then. Working on the Mission statement. Also working on the Vision statement. Activity for the fall will be Theory and Community Café. Will welcome scholars who are marginalized or work on marginalized topics. Will have two in the fall and one in the spring. Fourth in the spring will be directed to minoritized scholars within our community. We will be asking for support for this process.

Michelle Edwards Digital Communication: ½ of digital communications committee. Main responsibility is keeping the website up to date and putting information from council members on the website. Had an issue with malware that we addressed. We are also working on accessibility.

Sara Grineski Policy Chair: Olsen Student Paper award. Consider nominating graduate students for this award including self-nomination. Would like to see more people trying for this award. Developed a scoring rubric for this award. Had a lot of response for the Schnaiberg award.

Raoul Membership committee: Two surveys this year analyzing membership trends to advance our racial equity work. Newer survey this year: new members identify other dimensions of social exclusion that they would like to have addressed. 554 members highest we have been in at least 10 years. Great to see. Inactive membership survey: 15 responses out of 161 inactive members who did not renew as of June. Biggest issue is ASA cost not necessarily the section cost. Previously identified cultural issues for nonrenewal. Now primarily economic. New survey is about bringing new members to the section. Identifying with the section’s interests. Climate change and environmental quality. People would like more panels on climate change, environmental inequality, indigenous perspectives. Would like to see more recognition, support, and funding for scholars of color, more sessions and workshops. Don’t burden people of color with the racial equity work. Other aspects of exclusion are socioeconomic in terms of cost of membership. Others bring up past gender exclusion.

Jordan Nominations Committee: Four open spots. Reached out to 24 people. 8 agreed. 4 elected. Next year Chair Elect, Council at Large, Grad Rep, Digital Communications Co-Chairs. Dormant position is Legacy Chair charged with honoring the legacy of the section. Fold it back into the list of council members. Focus on including people from the section who have not been included in the past, voices that have not been heard as much in our past. Legacy chair position is open to people who have already served as Chair of the section.
Publications Committee: John is in Taiwan. Focused on editing the newsletter and a redesign of the template. Enjoying putting out the newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Teaching Committee Janet: Outgoing Teaching Training and Practice Chair. Alissa Cordner is incoming chair. Recruiting for new committee members. Been working on updating our website. NGOs page is updated. Email Janet at jlorenze@willamette.edu to join the committee. Worked on the Outreach and Practice Award to Corrie Grosse and Jennifer Carrera. Have a diversifying the cannon section of our website. See if you are interested for diversifying your fall syllabi. Thank the members of this committee.

Rachael: Thanks to all committee members this past year for working in difficult circumstances.

Other announcements:

Norah: Roundtables start at 1:15.

Job announcements and postdoc ads: Washington State and Northeastern.

Lori Peek: Forthcoming Handbook of Environmental Sociology, 2021, Edited by Beth Schaefer Caniglia, Andrew Jorgenson, Stephanie A. Malin, Lori Peek, David N. Pellow, Xiaorui Huang. Thank you contributors!
Environmental Sociology Section Fall Council Meeting – Minutes
October 1, 2021

Zoom: https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/95244953952?pwd=a1gvb3lGM1BpSG9RQVh1T2hLRk1PQT09
Meeting ID: 952 4495 3952
Password: 930606
One tap mobile: +16465588656,,95244953952# US (New York)

Agenda:

i) Update council on the committee on racial exclusion and equity’s work and vision, including a short series of community cafés for BIPOC-identifying scholars (Devparna and Norah)

ii) Discuss/approve a name change for the committee on racial exclusion and equity. Proposed name is Committee on Racial Inclusion, Equity, and Justice (Devparna and Norah)

iii) Brief update on planning for a community-building event (Norah)

iv) Discuss/approve new legacy chair description for inclusion in bylaws change—see attachment (Jordan)

v) Annual report due November 15th (Rachael)

vi) Coordinating deadlines for section awards (Norah)

vii) Begin a formal discussion about section awards and award names. See Jill Harrison’s notes “EnvSocSectionAwardsChangeProposals” in our Dropbox folder. (Norah)

viii) Brainstorm other initiatives for the spring

Attendance: Jennifer Carrera, Norah MacKendrick, Devparna Roy, Amalia Leguizamon, Jessie Luna, John Chung-En Liu, Jordan Fox Besek, Lourdes Vera, Michelle Edwards, Sara Grineski, Sandy Marquart-Pyatt, Rachael Shwom

Introductions: Jennifer Carrera, Sandy Marquart-Pyatt

Agenda Items:

i) Update the council on the activities of the Committee on Racial Exclusion, Equity, and Justice
   a. 1st meeting March 22nd, regular meetings every 2 weeks. 14 meetings so far.
   b. Members of the Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity come from all corners of the globe, and in addition, the Committee has 2 assistant professors and 2 graduate students: so, they are going through a series of "community-building" exercises among themselves to bridge the cultural differences (since they all
belong to different ethnic/racial groups) and differences in hierarchy. Having these 14 meetings since March 22nd has helped them to create more of a community of solidarity. Last meeting Sept 29th. Discussed Theory and Community Building Cafes. How to talk about the theoretical contributions of BIPOC scholars.

i. Open only to BIPOC scholars
   1. Speakers are BIPOC

ii. Andrew Curley Dec 8th, 2021 7-8:30. Arizona
   1. https://geography.arizona.edu/people/andrew-curley

iii. March & April
   1. Michael W. Murphy
      a. https://www.sociology.pitt.edu/people/ant-32
   2. Patrick Greiner & Julius McGee
      a. https://as.vanderbilt.edu/sociology/bio/?who=patrick-greiner
      b. https://www.pdx.edu/profile/julius-mcgee

iv. Whether part of the speakers’ sessions will be recorded and shared with the larger section to create opportunities for non-BIPOC scholars to include the work of BIPOC scholars in their classrooms

v. A larger meeting of the whole section may take place to be inclusive of the non-BIPOC scholars. Could be used to affirm the importance of the TCC events and build an understanding of work happening in the committee and the cafes. A small committee consisting of Michelle Edwards, Jessie Luna and Norah MacKendrick has formed to brainstorm possible ideas for a larger meeting. Jennifer Carrera and Devparna Roy volunteered to be added to the committee. The first task will be to explore how to make such an event work in conjunction with the TCC events.

vi. Each speaker will receive honorarium of $200 because section has extra money because we haven’t been having events.

   c. Open only to paying members or open to non-paying graduate students?
      i. Makes sense to include non-members as part of the committee’s charge to increase BIPOC membership in the section and this is an opportunity to create space for that process

   d. Committee has been discussing community standards for the committee meetings

   e. Want BIPOC scholars listserv
      i. Will use to induct new members into the committee
      ii. Recommended Name: Committee on Racial Inclusion, Equity, and Justice
      iii. Google Groups might be an option outside of the section
      iv. Lourdes will look into issues around creating a listserv

ii) Proposed Name Change for the Committee
a. Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity has acronym CREE, which is the name of an indigenous people and can be seen as offensive. Complaint was made to council about the use of the acronym
b. Committee recommends change to “Committee on Racial Inclusion, Equity, and Justice”
   i. Committee chose this name to have positive words
c. Voting to approve name change in the bylaws amendment:
   i. Vote: Approve the name change 12/0
   ii. Next step is to put before the section to have the section membership vote in the bylaw amendment.

iii) Legacy Chair Update
a. Proposed bylaw change
   Legacy Chair Bylaw Change:

   Current Description in Bylaws:
   "The Chair of the Legacy Committee will be elected and will work with a committee of at least two other members. The Committee will oversee the Section’s Oral History Project. The Committee will also deal with other legacy issues that may arise, including honoring Section members who have passed away and the documentation of the Section’s history."

   Proposed change to Description (from J. Fox Besek)*

   "The Chair of the Legacy Committee will be elected and will work with a committee of at least two other members. The Committee will oversee the Section’s Oral History Project as well as other legacy issues that may arise, including, but not limited to; honoring Section members who have passed away, documentation of the full diversity of Section’s history, and working towards an inclusive and equity-based understanding of the section’s current status and potential futures."

   *Note that the committee on racial equity and exclusion has already looked at the statement. They found that statement to be satisfactory and have no edits to suggest.

b. Council vote on the change 12/0 to approve the change
c. Reviving a position that has been dormant
d. Someone who has served as section chair can serve in this role
e. Hope with bylaw change it will be instituted that a much fuller, broader history will be incorporated into the legacy of the section
f. Elected position
g. Language in the bylaws sets the expectation of how the person in this position will approach the responsibilities
iv) Annual Report due November 15\textsuperscript{th}
a. Rachael working on it 
   b. Will contact people if individual components are missing 
   c. Get materials in by October 15\textsuperscript{th} so Rachael has time to compile everything

v) Coordinating deadlines for all awards
a. Four awards this year
   i. Schnaiberg
      1. Sara Grineski
   ii. Olsen
      1. Sara Grineski
   iii. Buttel
      1. Rachael Shwom
   iv. Teaching & Mentorship
      1. Alissa Cordner
b. Set an April deadline for all awards. April 15\textsuperscript{th}?
   i. Norah – check with ASA deadline for announcing award winners
   ii. If April 15\textsuperscript{th} is too late for book award then April 1
   iii. Currently the deadline is March 15\textsuperscript{th} but it’s one of the earlier deadlines and nothing really happens with the materials until closer to when the reviews are due
   c. Advertise at the same time as all of the other sections. Do not want to start advertising later in case we might lose people.
   d. Schnaiberg this year is the book award.

vi) Changing the Award Names
a. Have Jill Harrison’s write up on the history of trying to change the names previously
b. Proposals
   i. Award name change with the legacy chair
   ii. Change names to content rather than names
   iii. Do not change them
   iv. Hyphenate names/Compound names
   v. Create new awards
   vi. Rotating system where we change the name every few years
c. Mark Fernando
   i. Five awards in a given year
   ii. Can have more than five but only five per year
   iii. Multiple awardees per award
d. We need another meeting this fall to discuss award changes so that we can make these decisions in time for this spring