

Environment, Technology and Society

NEWSLETTER OF THE SECTION ON ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
1	Four Year E&T Section Agenda <i>Timmons Roberts, Bob Brulle</i>
4	Chemical Security Post-9/11 <i>Brian Mayer</i>
5	Dual Distinguished Contribution Awards to Bob Gramling and Penelope Canan <i>Bill Freudenberg and Beth Caniglia</i>
8	Outstanding Publication Award to Brett Clark and Richard York, Student Paper Award to Norah Mackendrick <i>David N. Pellow</i>
9	Job Openings
12	Publications
14	Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference Announcement
15	Member News

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Active and Engaged: An Agenda for the ASA E&T Section Over the Next Four Years

by Timmons Roberts and Bob Brulle

We want to acknowledge all the hard work of those who came before us in serving this crucial organization for our sub-discipline of environmental sociology (especially and most recently outgoing Chair Stella Čapek). But before losing readers, we want to get straight to our agenda for the next four years (our combined terms as Chairs).

1. Making it Relevant:

A. Creating Policy Interventions from Environmental Sociology. To bring the important insights of our field to the public discourse on environmental issues, we will begin releasing 1, 2 or 4 page policy opinion briefs, published as special issues of the section newsletter, drafted by 2-3 lead authors with 3-8 reviewers/committee members, on a series of topics. (The current newsletter will continue to have four issues a year, targeted more internally for members and outreach, on our activities.) One model for these opinion briefs are the IIED "Sustainable Development Opinion" pieces at: <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=11064IIED>.

A committee led by Roberts and our policy committee chair David Pellow will oversee the series. Some topics we have thought of (please propose more or volunteer to join the lead authors group or reviewers):

- a. The state of environmental justice in US government policy
- b. Freedom of information, community empowerment, and democracy
- c. Climate change policy options and global justice
- d. Rural conflicts over water
- e. The impacts of the professionalization of US environmental organizations, and what can be done to revive the movement
- f. Teaching environmental sociology in the classroom?

We should also have small groups writing for the Society for Environmental Journalists, and commenting on or writing articles for Grist Magazine and other outlets.

B. Gaining More Impact for Environmental Sociology in Major Reports. We need more involvement by section members in the preparation of national and international science and agency policy committee reports like the Human Dimensions, IHDP, IPCC, Millennium Ecosystem Report, etc. We request your help in publicizing the drafts of these reports, preparing section member comments, etc. and in making contacts for the section.

2. Bringing American Environmental Sociology into the Digital Age. We seek to totally goose up the website. A committee led by Brulle, communications committee chair Bill Markham, newsletter editor Stephan Scholz, Kari Norgaard, current section Webmaster Rob Gardner and Roberts will lead this effort. Some of the major areas being considered are to:

- a. Have a space for members to upload PDFs of their working, discussion, or published papers;
- b. Videotape ASA sessions and have them online;
- c. Have an ongoing set of Syllabi and teaching discussion online; and
- d. Links to key research sites

Some other ideas include starting a blog or discussion boards for all members, and for students only, respectively; and expanding the utility of the site with exclusive areas for members, such as job listings. Another idea from Beth Caniglia is to do an oral history or set of video interviews on the origins and key debates in our subdiscipline. Finally, the ASA has also offered to provide us 30 years of PDF files of all our newsletters, which we will also post.

3. Diversifying American Environmental Sociology as reflected in our section. The core of our discipline is examining inequalities along lines of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and position in the global stratification/class system. Though we're two middle aged white men, we will do more, like:

- a. Doing our best in organizing sessions to keep them as diverse as possible given submitted papers. We'd like to encourage more diverse submissions, and can work with potential authors who might like to present but feel some assistance would be helpful before the meetings. Please email us: Roberts will be organizing section sessions in 2008, Brulle in 2009.
 - As a first step, we have set up a pair of co-sponsored sessions with the Race and Ethnic Minorities (REM) section in 2008 and 2009, and possibly a co-sponsored reception with the Race, Gender, Class section in 2008.
- b. Encouraging the nominations committee and other organizers to consider gender, race and ethnic diversity, and to expand on the new diversity resolution passed by the section's council.
- c. Bringing to the E+T Council a proposal for spending \$500-1000 annually in minority fellowships for attendance at the ASA, though we may have to fundraise for this through special contributions or other means (ideas

and initiatives from anyone accepted). Encourage the ASA to choose conference sites that are more affordable for attendees. We are open to your further ideas.

4. Greening the ASA: Stella and others have for a couple years now been working with the ASA Executive Office to address or at least consider addressing the huge environmental impacts of its practices. Waste reduction and recycling at conferences was an obvious start, and next year we are proposing a booth to help attendees calculate the ecological footprint of their travel, and alternatives they might consider next time. A conference call this summer and follow-up (provisionally led by Stella) suggest the ASA is moving on this. For example, the association did not immediately reject the idea of a \$20 bonus for attendees choosing not to fly to the conference. Join Stella, Bob, Timmons, and Lauren Heberle on this committee, which meets only as needed, and by phone and email.

5. Reaching the Lost Environmental Sociologists: We wish to reach out to non-members (including a surprising number of prominent environmental sociologists!) and the silent 90% of E+T members; we seek to give you all reasons to (re)join and participate, not cajoling. Any suggestions appreciated.

6. Making Good ASA Conferences

- a. **Planning ahead - ASA 2008:** Please see the call for papers coming out soon from the ASA, and send yours in. Our paper sessions and roundtables will be interesting and lively, with your participation.
- b. **Planning Ahead - ASA 2009:** The planning for the 2009 ASA conference, to be held in San Francisco, is now starting to take shape. Now is the time to develop and submit session proposals for: Thematic Sessions, Special Sessions, Regional Spotlight Sessions, Book Nominations for Author Meets Critic Sessions, Workshops, and Methodological Seminars. You will need to have your Thematic Session proposals in by mid November 2007, and the rest of the sessions by February 1, 2008. This is a good way for Environmental Sociology to have greater visibility at the ASA conference. The ASA session descriptions and application procedures are available online at: http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/meetings/future_meetings/annual_meeting_2008_submitt_suggestions

7. Planning Two Types of New Thematic Winter Mini-Conferences, on a topic, potentially leading to

special issues of a respectable scholarly journals. One goal is to avoid more unrelated paper panels, by getting a smaller group of specialists in one area all presenting and discussing that issue, forcing the field to confront itself and to advance theory and methods in environmental sociology, and to reach out to and learn from scholars and experts in other disciplines and fields. The types:

- a. *Small two-day retreat meetings* (please consider hosting at your university or college or workplace, and ask your dean for some funding help with housing and food costs). Planning should start pretty soon for 2009. These could be combined with other mini-conferences, such as through the RC24 of the International Sociological Association.
- b. A *virtual mini-conference*, spanning one or several days, with one or two streaming video keynotes (30-40 minutes) and a real-time or blogged discussion of 2-5 papers posted in advance. Given the timing of the US election primaries, we would like to propose the topic "*The Environment and the Elections: The Politics of Climate Change in America Today*," to be held online in mid-February or early March, 2008.

8. Internationalizing and Interdisciplinary Our

Section: We would like to build much stronger links to the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Environment and Society (RC24), the International Studies Association's Section on Environment and Society, various interest groups in the American Association of Geographers, the Royal Geographic Society, the American Planning Association, American Environmental History Association, various area studies associations, etc. We could co-sponsor mini-conferences, ASA sessions, or publications. We welcome your initiative and would like to assist.

9. Finding External Funding for the Section to do

Much More, like hosting conferences and beginning a serious data-set clearinghouse. We would like to seek: (i) EPA funding for a conference on risk perception and action on climate change, and why the US is different; (ii) NSF funds for an international conference on environmental social movements; and (iii) EU funding for a conference on environmental communication and public opinion. We seek your ideas and initiative.

10. Making the Governance More Active and Shared.

- a. Shorten the Chair's term to two years (one as Chair-Elect, one as Chair).

- b. Create an outreach/PR position
- c. Give very specific time-framed tasks/ calendar of activities to all council members
- d. Regularize and announce more volunteer opportunities on each committee
- e. Hold three regular phone or Skype conferences of the Council per year to keep us in touch and to prod us all to keep projects moving and meet deadlines.
- f. By-laws update to accomplish the above... (see Council minutes)

11. Developing Collective Data Sets

– one of the major functions of the section is to promote research by section members. Right now, we primarily have an individualist/small group model of research in which we develop data sets that we use to do our research. However, after that, the data languishes unused. To move our research forward, we need to develop series of research programs that build on each other in a cumulative manner. To support this effort, we need to have access to a series of valid and reliable data indicators in a number of research areas. Additionally, this data could be used to fill in the slim social science offerings on major environmental data banks. This practice of shared social science data bases is becoming well developed. For an example of shared data in the area of political sociology, see the Policy Agendas Project – available online at: <http://www.policyagendas.org/>. This site is increasingly used by political sociologists and social movement scholars in their empirical research.

Over the course of the next 18 months, Brulle and David Pellow are leading an application to NSF for conference funding to support area conferences that would define the key empirical data needs to support research in a specific area of environmental social science. Currently, the four areas being considered are:

1. Cross national data sets
2. Environmental justice analysis (including geospatial analysis)
3. Public opinion on the environment
4. Environmental movement activities

Based on the results of each conference, a second NSF grant would be submitted to enable: Data Collection, Web Site Construction, and Integration into existing data bases

This all is ambitious, but the lesson of sociology certainly must be that people can achieve amazing things if we work together. Please email us at jtrobe@wm.edu and rbrulle@comcast.net and join these exciting initiatives or propose your own. We'd like to support your ideas, and you'll meet a lot of people interested in the same crazy stuff as you are.

Chemical Security Post-9/11

by Brian Mayer



In the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks, several government officials and environmental organizations raised troubling questions about the security of the U.S.'s chemical infrastructure. The vulnerability of chemical facilities and the close proximity of several to metropolitan areas may make them ideal targets for terrorists, with far greater potential for harm to public health. In 2003, the U.S. General Accounting Office identified 123 facilities that each had worst-case scenarios involving more than a million people at risk of being exposed to clouds of toxic chemicals. Given the magnitude and severity of these health risks, we might think that policymakers would take significant action to reduce the likelihood that an accident or deliberate attack might occur.

Instead, the policy debate that occurred after September 11 more closely resembles another chapter in an unending grudge match between the Environmental Protection Agency, the chemical industry, and Homeland Security. A key point of contention was the selection of the agency to set chemical security regulations. In 1999, the EPA had begun collecting Risk Management Plans (RMPs), as required by the Chemical Accident Prevention Program authorized in the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and was ready to implement new chemical security regulations as early as 2002. The chemical industry had instituted voluntary measures governing chemical security after the 1984 Bhopal Disaster termed "Responsible Care." Industry opposed granting EPA authority to regulate chemical security. Despite EPA's prior authority via RMPs, their general counsel could find no official authority to set safety guidelines.

The newly formed Department of Homeland Security ultimately received authority over chemical security policy, though no guidelines were set to aid the new agency in developing such a policy. As DHS put chemical security on the backburner to address

other issues, a political battle between Republicans and Democrats over chemical security legislation was waged from November 2001, with the introduction of the Chemical Security Act until a DHS's Appropriation bill finally contained language regarding the issue in 2006. As of this writing after more than five years of debate, no final rules exist regarding how facilities storing, using, or disposing of toxic chemicals should practice security.

Reporters from major newspapers and environmental activists from groups such as Greenpeace seized the opportunity to sensationalize federal inaction and the lax security at many of the nation's chemical facilities. To demonstrate these problems, reporters would document security breaches by walking onto facility grounds and waiting, often for hours, to be noticed by an employee. Further complicating the issue were the early efforts of DHS staff to characterize the risks surrounding chemical facilities. In a 2003 report on "asset characterization," DHS included potential facilities such as an ice cream plant, a Rolls Royce plant, and several Wal-Marts as terrorist targets alongside chemical industries.

Despite the media's attention to the problem of characterizing facilities needing regulation, few reporters identified the problematic elements of the proposed guidelines: inherently safer technologies (ISTs). Stakeholders in the chemical security debate have squared off over the question of what, exactly, constitutes 'security.' Is it the reinforcement of facility fences and gates with concrete barriers and armed guards? Or does making chemical facilities secure involve altering production, transportation and storage processes such that potential risks are reduced at the source? Several environmental groups and labor unions, as well as the GAO, have all released reports showing that companies can embrace ISTs in a cost-efficient manner to improve efficiency and reduce their vulnerability to accidents and deliberate attack.

Despite these findings, the chemical industry and its lobbyists adamantly oppose ISTs. The current guidelines, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Interim Final Rule (CFATS), only grant DHS the authority to collect data on security risks and practices. It is not clear what would happen if DHS determined that a particular facility posed a significant human health and economic risk. According to CFATS, the agency will assess these risks by "*us[ing] its best judgment and all available information in determining whether a facility presents a high-level of security risk.*" No further information on exactly how DHS's 'best judgment' will be applied has been made publicly available. If the "high-risk" label is applied, that facility is then required to conduct an assessment and report back to DHS. CFATS contains very little

detail as to what actions would be required if DHS identified significant vulnerabilities.

With multiple chemical facilities potentially placing millions of people at risk of toxic exposure, both safety and security are important public policy issues. The dissociation of safety measures from security ones however, has important implications for how future chemical security standards will evolve. Moreover CFATS applies to many industries and organizations who feel they should be exempt. Colleges and universities for example, store many different chemicals in both large and small quantities in a variety of settings.

The politics of chemical security post-9/11 have created coalitions of unusual partners. Unions such as the Steelworkers of America are collaborating with environmental groups to advocate for a safety-based agenda. Industry groups are working with institutions of higher education to undermine the existing policies. Ultimately, enhanced security measures and real-time tracking can only protect these facilities and the communities that surround them to a limited extent. ISTs and the practice of precaution can offer viable alternatives to hazardous and potentially vulnerable production and storage processes and should be a part of our national policy on chemical security.

Bob Gramling and **Penelope Canan** are dual recipients of the 2007 Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award in Environmental Sociology from the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association.

Bob Gramling Receives the Distinguished Contribution Award

by Bill Freudenberg



Bill Freudenberg (right) presents Bob Gramling with the Distinguished Contribution Award

There may be nothing more rewarding than to be able to express publicly one's appreciation for the fine work of a good colleague and a good friend. In my case, I have had two colleagues and friends who have been especially important to me, and this award allows me to invoke the name of one of them, Fred Buttel, in recognizing the other, Bob Gramling.

My long-time colleagues at the University of Wisconsin often sought to distinguish between contributions "of" sociology, versus contributions "to" sociology, but Bob is someone who has transcended this dichotomy for his entire career. On the one hand, more than almost anyone else in the history of the Section – of which he has been a member since its earliest days -- he has demonstrated to the powerful people who make decisions over natural resources and the environment just what it is that sociology can contribute to dealing with real-world environmental problems. At the same time, however, he has also demonstrated – at least equally clearly and compellingly – just what it is that dealing with environmental problems can contribute to the discipline of sociology. What I hope to do in these words is to give at least a truncated introduction to his thoroughly impressive contributions in both directions.

I start with what he has done to bring sociological contributions to the management of real-world environmental problems. As is clear from his *vita*, for example, he has been a member of no fewer than three committees of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council -- as well as a long-time member of the Standing Scientific Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and of the Independent Scientific Advisory Board of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Northwest Power Planning Council. The *vita* also reports that he has received important appointments from governors of states that literally stretch from the Gulf of Mexico to Alaska. What no *vita* can adequately communicate, however, is the degree of prominence that sociological insights have had in the reports and recommendations of those committees, thanks almost entirely to Bob's insights and persuasiveness. In several cases, he has been the only sociologist in a room full of scientists (and worse, economists), and yet the committees' final reports have largely been built around his cogent insights into the interconnections between environment and society. Unlike almost all such reports, moreover, the reports that Bob produces, often as the head of an interdisciplinary team, have tended to make a serious difference in real-world outcomes.

To take just one of the most recent examples, it is worth paying closer attention to something that

shows up simply as a two-line item on his *vita*, a small item that shows up as a report on "Anticipating Socioeconomic Effects of Coastal Restoration Projects." If there is any justice in the telling of history, this small listing will show up in the work on the history of the Gulf Coast as having been the key to stopping what might otherwise have become a multi-billion-dollar pork-barrel disaster, pushed by the Corps of Engineers and powerful local "growth machine" interests. As the head of a small, interdisciplinary team, Bob took on the so-called "third delta" project, which enjoys extremely strong and well-organized support, and peeled back the veneer.

As just one indicator, Google "third delta conveyance channel," and note the lavishly funded statements of support from organized interests such as "Restore or Retreat, Inc." These interests claim to be backing the proposal because of what it would contribute to "wetlands restoration," but closer checking shows that shipping interests are prominent (at least financially) among the backers. To put the point as simply as possible, shipping interests tend to be in favor of building canals, not wetlands, because they have noticed that actual wetlands have this pesky habit of getting in the way of their ships and barges. As Dr. Gramling and his colleagues have managed to figure out, however, the so-called "third delta" proposal would be much more likely to lead instead to environmental as well as social disasters -- mistakes that would be of the same order of magnitude as the Corps projects that helped Hurricane Katrina to drown the city of New Orleans.

So modest is Bob about tooting his own horn that he doesn't even list this contribution in his *vita*, but you can see a copy of it by going to <http://lacoast.gov/reports/program/Gramling%20Final%20Report.pdf>. Page 49 of the report includes the figure that I have taken the liberty of copying below; as it shows, the so-called "third delta" would probably include almost no flow of fresh water during the very months of the year when fresh water is vital to keeping out the salty "storm surges" from hurricanes.

As is spelled out in a forthcoming book on Hurricane Katrina (which Bob also modestly refrains from mentioning on his *vita*, but which I happen to know about because I have worked with him so closely on that effort), the damage from salt-water intrusion, created by past Corps of Engineers projects, was a key part of the reason why Katrina killed so many people. Those past projects proved to be deadly, producing what Louisiana residents now call "ghost swamps," by killing cypress trees and other salt-sensitive vegetation, contributing to the loss of wetlands and their former shock-absorbing capacities. Those earlier projects led to deadly consequences for humans and communities of the

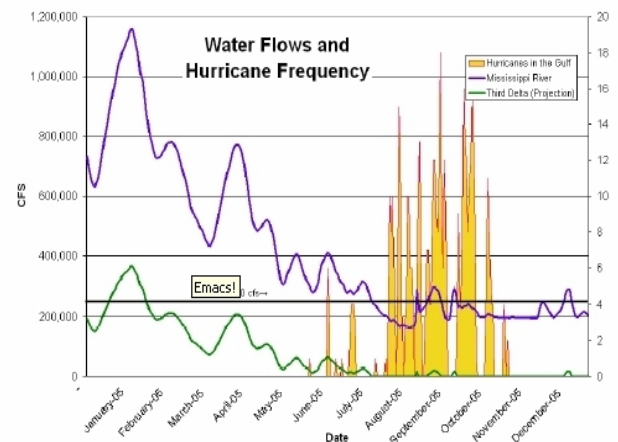


Figure 7.2: Flow Rates 2005, Hurricanes in the last 150 years

Sources: USGS gauge #7374000 Mississippi River at Baton Rouge; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pastprofile.shtml>

region when Hurricane Katrina roared ashore, but they were built before Bob became professionally active; the supposed "next big thing" is now likely not to be built as all, thanks in very large part to the fact that he is now active and at the top of his game.

At the same time as he has been making contributions to real-world decisions affecting humans and the environment, however, Bob has also been consistently outstanding in showing how grappling with real-world environmental problems can contribute to the improvement of sociology. Some of the evidence is easy to quantify, such as the fact that he has been the Principal or Co-Principal Investigator for roughly three million dollars' worth of funded research, much of which would not have come to sociology without his active involvement and his credibility. More to the point in my view is another easy-to-quantify fact -- the fact that the funding has led in turn to some sixty peer-reviewed articles and books, as well as a rich assortment of minor articles and technical reports. Bob has done that research with colleagues from an impressive range of disciplines, from sociologists to sedimentologists, and some of the peer-reviewed articles have shown up in journals that rarely publish sociological contributions, such as *Risk Analysis*, *Franklin Pierce Law Review*, and *Fisheries*. Most, however, have shown up in journals that members of our section know much better.

His peer-reviewed social science articles, to be more specific, include at least a half-dozen articles in journals that tend to emphasize environment-society relationships, such as *Society and Natural Resources*, but perhaps more impressively, they also

include a broad array of "mainstream" sociology journals that rarely published work by environmental sociologists before Bob and a few other pioneers finally managed to convince them that environmental sociology belongs in the mainstream journals, not just specialized ones. This, indeed, may be one of the most important but least visible ways in which he has contributed to the strengthening of our section.

To note just a few examples, his articles have been some of the first (as well as some of the most recent) of the environmental sociology articles to appear in *Social Problems*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Quarterly*, *Rural Sociology*, *Sociological Spectrum*, *Sociological Inquiry*, and *Social Forces*, among others. If younger members of our section now rarely get back letters from journal editors and reviewers, saying that those journals simply do not publish environmental sociology articles, one of the key reasons is that Bob consciously played a key role in starting to "educate" those editors and reviewers on the value and insights that environmental sociology can bring to the discipline as a whole.

Finally, as I am well-aware on the basis of my ongoing collaborations with him, Bob personifies the kinds of personal behavior that our Section rightfully prizes. He has served as a generous and helpful senior colleague to far more of the currently active members of our section than might ever appear to be the case on the basis of the written records, effectively chairing Ph.D. committees for people who at the time were stranded in departments that had no environmental sociologists on their faculties. Since Hurricane Katrina, he has worked with Kai Erikson and a small group of colleagues to help obtain other funding that, again, will not show up on his *vita*, because he has helped to assure that most of the funding will go to other, less-fortunate sociologists in the Gulf region, thanks to funding sources that are well-respected even by sociologists who are unsure how much they respect environmental sociology, including the Rockefeller, Ford, and MacArthur Foundations. In addition, I know from my own highly valued collaboration with him that he is continuing to make powerful and original contributions to still more articles that are being considered at mainstream journals today -- and that I am quite confident will be considered to be important contributions to both environmental and mainstream sociology in the future.

In short, Bob is not just an exceptionally qualified candidate, but one who personifies the kinds of qualities for which Fred Buttel is so fondly remembered, and one for whom this Award is badly overdue. It is a pleasure to know that the oversight has now been remedied, and I am honored to have been able to play a small role in that process.

Penelope Canan Receives the Distinguished Contribution Award

by Beth Caniglia



Beth Caniglia (left) presents Penelope Canan with the Distinguished Contribution Award

It was my distinct honor to present the Distinguished Contribution Award to Dr. Penelope Canan at our annual business meeting in New York City. Dr. Canan's contribution to environmental sociology is considerable and her scholarly work has shaped our field in important ways. One of Dr. Canan's key contributions to the field of environmental sociology is in the area of socio-legal studies of environmental policies and regulation. While at the University of Hawaii in the graduate Department of Urban and Regional Planning, her work centered on social impact assessment, citizen participation, and public decision making. Her skilled application of sociological methods informed analyses of geothermal and biomass energy development proposals, land-use zoning, the evaluation of conservation and equity issues in electric utility rate design, and the relationship between community values and energy technology choices.

Dr. Canan's scholarly work is almost always marked with an applied dimension -- a practical outcome designed to translate her scholarly findings into effective tools for the resolution of pressing social problems. Her work on "strategic lawsuits against public participation" (SLAPPs) with law professor George Pring unveiled the social, legal and political processes that structure the use of civil lawsuits to repress citizens' constitutional right to petition the government. Starting with the examination of the use of lawsuits against environmental advocates, this NSF-sponsored work became a widely respected exemplar within the socio-legal research community

and extended to public policy issues across the spectrum of the American value system. Dr. Canan's work with Pring resulted in scores of academic articles, a summary book (Temple University Press), hundreds of magazine, newspaper, radio and television broadcasts, courses at universities and Continuing Legal Education programs, and the enactment of anti-SLAPP laws in 28 states. In keeping with her commitment to applied outcomes, Dr. Canan also heads the Board of Directors at the SLAPP Resource Center (www.slapps.org), a non-profit organization to assist SLAPP targets and their attorneys.

At the same time that Dr. Canan was working on SLAPPs, she turned her attention to the international environmental policy arena. Her work on the Montreal Protocol spans nearly two decades and has resulted in at least seven scholarly articles, two international awards, and the publication with Nancy Reichman of her most recent book [Ozone Connections: Expert Networks in Global Environmental Governance](#) (Greenleaf). I personally consider this book to be among the most important environmental sociology books published in the last five years. In part, the work is so compelling and insightful because of Dr. Canan's ability to combine her commitment to serve as a catalyst in solving real world problems with her innate scholarly curiosity. While serving in her role as a member of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel of the United Nations Environment Program Montreal Protocol, Dr. Canan collected participant observation data and interviewed expert participants from all of the technical assessment committees. NSF later funded her collection of data regarding the bonds of trust among experts around the world. Canan and Reichman suggest that informal dimensions of international expert networks are central to the success or failure of international policy design and implementation. Far too little sociological attention has been paid to the social conditions under which successful policies are created, and Dr. Canan's work is by far the best in this area.

Penelope's work is always multi-methodological and always combines qualitative and quantitative approaches. When reviewing her work on expert networks of global environmental governance, David Pellow commented, "[Ozone Connections](#) is an outstanding example of the kind of research that sociologists in the twenty-first century will be required to conduct—multidisciplinary, multi-methodological, and collaborative approaches that capture social action from the micro to the global." After being a part of the successful implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (and receiving two awards from the US EPA,

Penelope took a two-year leave from the University of Denver to serve as the Executive Director of the Global Carbon Project (GCP) in Japan. This organization is dedicated to bringing natural and social sciences into dialogue to produce sound earth systems science and sustainable carbon cycle management. Toward this end, Dr. Canan created several international conferences such as the one in Tsukuba, Japan entitled "Social Networks for Ecosystem Management" and the one in Mexico City entitled "Urban and Regional Carbon Management". These conferences marked the beginning of Dr. Canan's efforts to embed sociological methods and theories into analyses of this critical environmental challenge. To date, sociological frameworks have taken a back seat to other social sciences (e.g. economics and political science) in the creation and analysis of successful policy instruments for the alleviation of environmental problems. Because Dr. Canan is well-known in policy circles, her credibility offers an opportunity for all environmental sociologists. And, given her past history of making rigorous scholarly contributions, we can expect important outcomes from this latest investment.

Dr. Canan is simply an amazing woman: generous, tenacious, rigorous and determined to make the world a better place through her scholarship. She is an exemplary environmental sociologist, and sincerely deserving of the Environment & Technology Section's Distinguished Contribution Award.

Outstanding Publication Award Goes to Brett Clark and Richard York

by David N. Pellow



From left to right: Richard York, Brett Clark and David N. Pellow

Each year the Outstanding Publication Award goes to the scholar or scholars who have authored articles or a book that speaks to critical issues in our field and pushes the scholarship in innovative directions. This

year the committee presents the Award to Brett Clark and Richard York for a series of three articles they published in 2005 and 2006. "Carbon Metabolism: Global Capitalism, Climate Change, and the Biospheric Rift" (published in *Theory and Society* in 2005), "Dialectical Materialism and Nature: An Alternative to Economism and Deep Ecology" (published in *Organization & Environment* in 2005), and "Marxism, Positivism, and Scientific Sociology: Social Gravity and Historicity" (published in *The Sociological Quarterly* in 2006). In these articles, Clark and York present new and theoretically rich frameworks for how environmental sociology (and sociology more generally) might address critical issues such as global climate change and the loss of biodiversity. Clark and York establish an approach for studying the dynamic relationship between humans and the environment, and illustrate how this approach can be used to address some of the most important ecological problems of our time. Congratulations to Brett Clark and Richard York for being the recipients of the 2007 Outstanding Publication Award.

**Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award Goes to
Norah Mackendrick**
by David N. Pellow



Norah Mackendrick is presented with the Student Paper Award by David N. Pellow

Every year, the Environment and Technology Section of the ASA presents an award to the student who has written a paper of high quality, critical insight, and theoretical and methodological rigor. The committee decided to offer the Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award to Norah MacKendrick (University of Toronto) whose paper, "Contaminants, the Human Body and the Framing of Risk: A Study of Canadian News Coverage, 1986-2006," explores how environmental and public health concerns become neutralized and derailed through the routine mobilization of ideologies

of individualism and the commodification of health. The study suggests that the struggle for environmental and public health necessitates the mobilization of rhetorical tools toward a reframing of public and institutional discourses. In a sense, then, discourse partly produces environmental and health outcomes. We found this paper to be thoughtfully argued, original, and fascinating. MacKendrick's work has implications for our thinking about the social and political dimensions of science, technology and risk, and for our theorizing the connections between environment and human health. Congratulations to Norah MacKendrick for being the recipient of the 2007 Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award.

Job Openings

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at **North Carolina State University** seeks applications for two tenure-track assistant professor positions. Both positions are 9 month appointments with teaching and research responsibilities in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. One position focuses on rural community development, sustainability and local entrepreneurship in an era of globalization. The other position focuses on community well-being/health and the socioeconomic impacts of demographic change. Additional specialties may include rural crime, environment, or global. The PhD in Sociology is required for appointment as an assistant professor. Candidates whose research interests complement other strengths of the graduate program (inequality and work/industry/organizations, family and gender) and who have an active program of research and grant-seeking experience are particularly encouraged to apply. For instructions on how to apply, please visit <https://jobs.ncsu.edu> or to go directly to this position posting please visit: jobs.ncsu.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=77458. Formal screening of applications will begin December 1, 2007.

Brown University seeks a distinguished scholar with broad interdisciplinary interests in environmental issues to be the Director of the Center for Environmental Studies (CES). The Director will be responsible for overseeing faculty and programs in the CES, building on the Center's record of innovative interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate education, actively promoting interaction between the CES and other environmental programs at Brown University, and maintaining the Center's presence in the community. CES interests encompass the humanities, natural sciences, public health and social sciences. With Brown University's investments in the

Plan for Academic Enrichment the new CES Director will have unparalleled opportunities for building new initiatives based on the Center's strong tradition of innovation. For more information about the CES and new environmental research initiatives at Brown visit:

<http://envstudies.brown.edu/env/index.php>><http://envstudies.brown.edu/env/index.php>. Requirements include an outstanding scholarly record meriting a tenured appointment at the rank of Professor; commitment to excellence in undergraduate and graduate education; demonstrated leadership experience, vision, administrative ability and communication skills in environmentally-related areas. The candidate must also have the potential for scholarly interaction with faculty in the CES, the Environmental Change Initiative, the Watson Institute for International Studies, the Population Studies and Training Center, the Initiative in Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences, the Center for Environmental Health and Technology, and cooperating departments. This appointment will be at the rank of Professor, tenured in the appropriate department. To apply, please send a letter of interest, a current CV, and names of 5 references to: Search Committee, CES Director, Box 1943, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912-1943. For further inquiries, please contact Patricia-Ann_Caton@brown.edu. Applications must be received by December 1, 2007 in order to receive full consideration.

The Environmental Studies Program at the **University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)** anticipates permission to fill a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Environmental Politics, Policy, Society, and the Law, beginning approximately July 1, 2008. Our Program has a long-standing commitment to interdisciplinary balance, with relatively even representation from each of three major areas -- biophysical sciences, social sciences, and humanities. We are particularly interested in faculty who have training in traditional social science disciplines, but who relish the opportunity to work with colleagues in the biophysical sciences and humanities.

UCSB's Environmental Studies Program was originally founded in the aftermath of the Santa Barbara Oil spill in 1969. The Program has maintained a position of leadership since that time, graduating over 4000 students and playing a key role in establishing a new, interdisciplinary professional association for environmental studies/sciences. We are looking for candidates who can contribute to our Program's position of international leadership, particularly through our growing emphasis on the interactions of human and natural systems.

The successful candidate will have a record of scholarly achievement, evidence of successful teaching, and a Ph.D. in the social sciences or an interdisciplinary environmental program at the time of hire. This position is open until filled, but for full consideration, applications should be received by Monday, December 3, 2007.

To save trees and carbon, we ask that applications be submitted electronically. Interested candidates should send applications, complete with vita, supporting documentation, and three letters of recommendation, to Dr. William Freudenburg, Chair, Faculty Recruitment Committee, via this email address: ESFacSearch@es.ucsb.edu

The Department of Human Ecology is a dynamic group of social scientists within the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at the **New Brunswick campus of Rutgers the State University of New Jersey**. We wish to hire an active scholar and effective teacher in the area of climate, society, and environmental change. This person will be expected to develop courses that support and complement the offerings of the Department of Human Ecology and to take a leading role within an emerging multi-disciplinary Climate Change, Social Policy, and Politics Initiative at the University. Disciplinary area is open; the Human Ecology Department currently consists of anthropologists, communication researchers, psychologists, and sociologists and has strong linkages with geography, public policy, and ecology and natural resources. The successful candidate will have a Ph.D degree, show ability to teach and to work across disciplines both within the social sciences of the environment and with physical and life scientists working on environmental problems, and have experience obtaining competitive grants and/or working with diverse organizations and publics, as appropriate to a Land-Grant Institution.

This is an academic year tenure-track position at the assistant to associate professor levels. Salary will be competitive and commensurate with qualifications. Excellent personal benefits package is provided, including one month of annual leave per year, health insurance, retirement program and other institutional benefits. Interested persons should submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae and arrange to have letters of recommendation sent directly by three (3) professional references. The deadline for applications is December 5th, 2007 or until a suitable candidate is found. Nominations are also invited. The position is expected to be filled by September 1, 2008, pending university approval. Applications should be sent to: Dr. Bonnie J. McCay, Chair of Search Committee, Chair, Department of

Human Ecology School of Environmental & Biological Sciences, Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, 55 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8520, Tel: 732-932-9153 x 314, HEsearch@SEBS.rutgers.edu or; Thomas K. Rudel, Departments of Human Ecology and Sociology, Rutgers University, 55 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, phone: 732-932-9169, ext. 317, fax: 732-932-6667, email: rudel@aesop.rutgers.edu

University of Tennessee-Knoxville. The Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level in the area of environmental sociology, beginning Fall 2008. The preferred candidate should possess a Ph.D. at the time of appointment and be able to contribute to graduate and undergraduate teaching and research in environmental sociology. The area within environmental sociology is open, but preference may be given to candidates with teaching and research experience in the human dimensions of ecosystem management, environmental movements, national and international environmental policy, globalization of environmental problems, and/or demographic and spatial analysis. With a strong focus on social justice, the department has recognized strength in the areas of criminology, environmental sociology and political economy. It offers a collegial and supportive environment for research and teaching and its members are committed to collaborative work. Preference will be given to individuals with strong evidence or promise of publishing and obtaining external funding. Applicants should submit a letter of application outlining his/her research agenda, curriculum vitae, a sample of publications, a teaching portfolio, and three letters of reference. The city of Knoxville offers a rich variety of cultural, recreational and professional opportunities. Located close to Oak Ridge National Laboratory, it is also a gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Cumberland Mountains and the Blue Ridge National Parkway. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply. The university welcomes and honors people of all races, creeds, cultures, and sexual orientations, and values intellectual curiosity, pursuit of knowledge and academic freedom and integrity. Address materials to: Robert Emmet Jones, Chair of the Environmental Sociology Search Committee, Department of Sociology, 901 McClung Tower, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 3799-0490. Review of applications will begin November 1, 2007 and continue until the position is filled.

Graduate Fellowship Opportunity - Global warming, biotechnology, obesity and famine, loss of farmland, water shortages, organic and local food systems, the loss of rare animal species, fair trade coffee, deforestation, geopolitical struggles over oil and gas supplies, and desertification these are some of the major issues of our time. They raise important questions about how we should organize the relationships between people, society and the natural resources and environments upon which they depend. The Training in Sustainable Sciences Through an Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Rural Sociology (IGPRS), a new fellowship opportunity addresses these and many other topical issues. The program will cultivate a new and diverse generation of scholars committed to and capable of a broad understanding of the four primary dimensions of food and agricultural systems: social responsibility, environmental compatibility, economic viability, and production efficiency. The goal of the master's degree fellowship is to train skilled, engaged, committed scholars who will make use of and contribute to the food and agricultural system by engaging in basic and applied interdisciplinary research and policy making and analysis. It is targeted at two primary audiences: those wishing to pursue a career in food, agricultural, and environmental sciences; and those wishing to do further academic study and research on these topics.

The fellowship opportunity is distinctive in several ways:

- First, it builds on the concept of the ecological paradigm, which considers the whole spectrum of approaches to food, agricultural, and environmental systems consisting of social responsibility, environmental compatibility, economic viability, and production efficiency.

- Secondly, the IGPRS makes the connections between the dimensions of the paradigm and social spheres where innovation, adoption and policy-making appear - such as production, distribution and consumption.

- Finally, the program is highly interdisciplinary and will expose students to ideas and practices developed in a range of subject areas rather than one alone.

The Social Responsibility Initiative (SRI) invites recent undergraduate degree holders in the fields of sociology, agriculture, economics, biological and environmental sciences and other related fields to apply for a two-year masters degree fellowship in Rural Sociology focused on the interdisciplinary nature of food, agricultural, and environmental issues.

The IGPRS fellowships cover tuition, stipend (\$18,000 per year), and benefits for the duration of a 2-year masters program in Rural Sociology. Academic standards must be met to maintain eligibility. Two fellowships are available for studies beginning Fall

2008. The Application deadline is January 1, 2008. Fellowships are restricted to U.S. citizens or nationals of the United States. Candidates must have completed their bachelor's degree by the time of appointment. For application materials go to the Ohio State University Graduate School admissions website at <http://gradadmissions.osu.edu/>.

Publications

Organization & Environment

Table of Contents 20.3
September 2007

Articles

Voluntary Adoption of Green Electricity by Ontario-Based Companies: The Importance of Organizational Values and Organizational Context
Tom Berkhout and Ian H. Rowlands

School Custodians and Green Cleaners: New Approaches to Labor-Environment Coalitions
Laura Senier, Brian Mayer, Phil Brown, and Rachel Morello-Frosch

Creating and Managing Inter-Organizational Learning Networks to Achieve Sustainable Ecosystem Management
Susan Manning
Place Attachment and Environmental Change in Coastal Louisiana
David Burley, Pam Jenkins, Shirley Laska and Traber Davis

Validity of the Factor Structure of the General Social Survey's Environmentalism Scales across Gender and Ethnicity in the United States
Tao Li and Kevin Wehr

Book Review Essay

Sustainability, Democracy and Pragmatism: Bryan Norton's Philosophy of Ecosystem Management
Piers H.G. Stephens

Book Reviews

New Developments in Environmental Sociology, edited by Michael Redclift and Graham Woodgate
Aaron McCright

US National Report on Population and the Environment, by Victoria Markham and Nadia Steinzor
Sara R Curran and Jacqueline Meijer-Irons

From Energy Dreams to Nuclear Nightmares: Lessons from the Anti-Nuclear Movement in the 1970s, by Horace Herring
Brett Clark

The Recurrent Green Universe of John Fowles, by Thomas M. Wilson
James Aubrey

The American Wilderness: Reflections on Nature Protection in the United States, by Thomas R. Vale
Robert Shelton

Organization & Environment

Table of Contents 20.4
December 2007

Articles

Seeing Shades: Ecological and Socially Just Labeling
Alison Grace Cliath

Organizational Consequences of Implementing an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System: An Empirical Analysis
Maria Concepcion Lopez-Fernandez and Ana Maria Serrano-Bedia

The Role of Organizational Culture in the On-Ground Implementation of Tourism Partnerships in Protected Areas
Kathryn A. Larsen and Peter S. Valentine

Contexts and Corporate Voluntary Environmental Behavior: Examining the EPA's Green Lights Voluntary Program
Seong-Gin Moon

Archives of Organizational and Environmental Literature

Wai—Indigenous Water, Industrial Water in Hawai'i
Carol A. MacLennan

Ancient Hawaiian Water Rights: And Some of the Customs Pertaining to Them
Emma Metcalf Nakuina

The Punahou Spring
E. M. Nakuina

Irrigation Works in the Hawaiian Islands
M M O'Shaughnessy, M. Am. Soc. C. E.

Film Review

The Ister
Patricia Glazebrook

Book Reviews

Ecological Ethics: An Introduction by Patrick Curry
Benjamin Hale
Toxic Burn: The Grassroots Struggle Against the WTI Incinerator by Thomas Shevory
Phaedra Pezzullo

This Delta, This Land: An Environmental History of the Yazoo-Mississippi Flood Plain by Mikku Saikku
Christa Walck

Contemporary Environmental Politics: From Margins to Mainstream by Piers H.G. Stephens with John Barry and Andrew Dobson (Eds)
Robert Paehlke

The Incarnality of Being: The Earth, Animals and the Body in Heidegger's Thought by Frank Schalow
Juanita Rinas

Phil Brown published Toxic Exposures: Contested Illnesses and the Environmental Health Movement (Columbia University Press) in June 2007.

Phil Brown, Rebecca Gasior Altman, and others published "Is It Safe? New Ethics for Reporting Personal Exposures to Environmental Chemicals". American Journal of Public Health, on-line July 31, 2007; will appear in print in fall 2007.

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November 7- 9, 2007
Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, CA



behavior, energy & climate change
becc

BEHAVIOR, ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Speakers (partial list)

Jackie Pfannenstiel, Chair
California Energy Commission
Mary Nichols, Chair*
CA Air Resources Board
Dian Grueneich, Commissioner
CA Public Utility Commission
Jamais Cascio
Institute for the Future
Loren Lutzenhiser,
Portland State University
Andy Hargadon
UC Davis
Carrie Armel
Precourt Inst, for Energy-Efficiency
Albert Bandura*
Stanford University
Renee Bator
SUNY, Plattsburgh
Ralph Cavanaugh
Natural Resources Defense Council
Robert Cialdini
Arizona State University
Magali Delmas
UC Santa Barbara
Mark DiCamillo
Field Research Corporation
Richard Earle, Author
"The Art of Cause Marketing"
Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez
ACEEE
Bill Guns*
SRIC-Business Intelligence
Marvin Horowitz
Demand Research
Jon Krosnick
Stanford University
Skip Laithner
ACEEE
Jan Mazurek
UCLA
Edward Maibach
George Mason University
Jennifer Mankoff
Carnegie Mellon University
Jennifer Nash*
Harvard University
Crystal Durham
CA Student Sustainability Coalition
J. Matthew Sleeth, MD*
"Serve God, Save the Planet"
Karabi Acharya
Academy for Educational Dev.
Ernie Paicopolos
Opinion Dynamics Corporation
Jane Peters
Research Into Action
Roland Risser*
Pacific Gas & Electric
Gene Rodrigues
Southern California Edison
Paul Stern
National Research Council
Iris Sulyma
BC Hydro
Tom Turrentine
Center for PHEV, UC Davis
Marie Tikoff Vargas
Energy Star, US EPA
Ed Vine
CA Instit. for Energy & Environment
Charlie Wilson
University of British Columbia

The first national conference focused on understanding the behavior and decision-making of individuals and organizations and using that knowledge to help accelerate our transition to an energy-efficient and low-carbon economy.

Conference Topics

- ◆ Behavior and technology -- design, adoption and use
- ◆ Motivating individual action
- ◆ Behavior in resource planning and utility goals
- ◆ Mobilizing communities and groups
- ◆ Behavior and policy design and regulation
- ◆ Insights from public health and other interventions
- ◆ Increasing program participation and effectiveness
- ◆ Lessons from 30 years of energy programs
- ◆ People are different – leveraging segmentation
- ◆ Behavior change in business and industry
- ◆ Impacts of changing lifestyles on energy forecasts
- ◆ Social norms and social networks
- ◆ Economic models and behavior
- ◆ Social marketing & other behavior change strategies
- ◆ Attitudes, opinions and "public will"
- ◆ Messages, messengers and roll models

Who Will Be Attending

- ◆ Researchers, Policy-makers & Advisors, National, State & Local Government, Program Developers/Implementers, Communications Professionals, Corporations, Consultants, Evaluators, Utilities, Energy-efficiency Program Managers, Technology Manufacturers, Non-Profit Organizations, Faculty & Students, Others Interested in Behavior, Energy & Climate Issues

Registration and Information

- ◆ www.aceee.org (Register before October 8 for regular conference rate)

Convening Organizations

- ◆ American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
- ◆ California Institute for Energy and Environment, University of California
- ◆ Precourt Institute for Energy Efficiency, Stanford University



Member News

The Sound of the Other Chopstick Falling

The last newsletter reported on the groundbreaking first international environmental sociology conference in Beijing China in June/July 2007. The brief article featured a photo of three of the senior attendees from the United States: Bill Freudenburg, Riley Dunlap, and Paul Mohai. Now that the temporary blindness from the albedo of their uniformly silver hair has subsided it is an appropriate time to recognize other attendees—namely, the next generation of American environmental sociologists who will eventually replace us. In the order listed in the conference's master roster, the other attendees were: Richard York, University of Oregon; Guobin Yang, Columbia University; Patricia Widener, Florida Atlantic University; Kevin Wehr, California State University Sacramento; Frances Fremont-Smith, Western Academy of Beijing; Robert MacAuslan, Washington State University; John Gulick, Akita International University; W. Chad Futrell, Cornell University; and John Zinda, University of Michigan. I hope I haven't overlooked anyone, but if I have please do not hesitate to let me know. Finally, special thanks should go to Chenyang Xiao of Albright College who not only helped to organize the conference, who not only served as a translator, who not only acted as a liaison, but who also served as an effective go between in dealing with the numerous logistic issues that pop up at such conferences.

Gene Rosa (Semi-silver conference attendee)
Washington State University, <rosa@wsu.edu>

Gene Rosa was the single academic invited to make a presentation at the Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy sponsored conference "The Role of Nuclear Power in Global and Domestic Energy Policy: Recent Developments and Future Expectations," held at the Woodrow Wilson Center International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. Among presenters at the conference are: Senators Howard H. Baker, Jr., Lamar Alexander, Pete Domenici, Jeff Bingaman, Bob Corker, several representatives including Lee Hamilton (director of the Wilson Center), and the Secretary of the Department of Energy, Samuel Bodman, and Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Dale Klein. The conference audience comprises a "select group of approximately 40-60 invited guests consisting of policy professionals, public servants, and distinguished academics." The title of Gene's talk is: "The Public Climate for Nuclear Power: The Changing of Seasons."

William J. Smith Jr. is working with colleagues focused on policy, outreach, as well as technologies for integration of scientific data and information through cyberinfrastructure for targeted stakeholders with a large group submitting an NSF EPSCoR grant focusing on improving Nevada's ability to research how to both study and cope with climate change. UNLV, University of Nevada, Reno, and the Desert Research Institute are collaborating on the proposal.

Richard York has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the University of Oregon.

Open Call to All Undergraduate and Graduate Students:

Got an interesting BS, MA/MS, or PhD research project in production or under construction?

Tell the section about it! Inquiring minds want to know...

Send the following tidbits to
Rebecca_Altman@brown.edu by December 1, 2007
for publication in an upcoming section newsletter.

Name:
University:
Primary Academic Advisor:
Project Title:
[Specify if undergrad, MA or doctoral thesis].
Plus, a 1-sentence teaser describing your project.

Your Friendly Graduate Student Representative to the
ETS Council,
Rebecca Gasior Altman
Brown University

