

# Environment, Technology and Society

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

FALL 2008

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## Section Officers

Chair: Timmons Roberts	Lee Clarke, Council Member at-Large
Chair-Elect: Bob Brulle	Rachael Shwom-Evelich, Student Representative
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Beth Caniglia, Chair of Nominations Committee	Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism: Robert Brulle, Chair
Andrew Jorgenson, Chair of Membership Committee	Stephan Scholz, Newsletter Editor Emilian Geczi, Website Manager Andrew Van Alstyne, Listserv Manager
Sherry Cable, Chair of Teaching and Training Committee	
Michael Carolan, Chair of Publications Committee	Section Website: <a href="http://www2.asanet.org/environment">www2.asanet.org/environment</a>

## Greetings from the Chair and Chair-Elect

*by J. Timmons Roberts and Bob Brulle*

This newsletter provides some transparency in our organization - summarizing what happened at ASA and some of our dedicated section officers' reports in all their glorious detail - offering a glimpse into what's going on before and behind the scenes. Before we lose you to the details and mushy rehash of our time in Boston, however, we need to raise two important issues looking ahead: some crucial deadlines and planning for future conferences, and some points on our visibility as a subfield.

**Planning ahead:** Just quickly, the 2009 ASA meetings will be quite similarly organized as this year. However, because our section day is the last day of the meeting (August 11, 2009), we will be awarded an additional open topic session. Thus the upcoming meeting will have three open topic section sessions that we will co-organize, a roundtables/business meeting session, and a joint session on environmental justice co-sponsored with the Racial and Ethnic Minorities section. As always, we welcome papers of diverse methodology, topic, and authorship, and will do our best to engineer cohesive sessions. This year it will be REM's turn to do the screening of papers for the EJ session.

A new development is that the PEWS (Political Economy of the World-System) section is organizing a one-day mini-conference on Social and Environmental Limits to Globalization that is likely to be held the day before the ASAs (August 7, 2009). We'll send along any details as we hear them; these can be interesting affairs. Note that our "section day" with most of our sessions will be Sunday, the last day of the conference, so doing the PEWS miniconference and E&T events may mean staying five days.

Organizing for the 2010 ASA conference in Atlanta is now ongoing. Now is the time to submit proposals for special sessions. By proposing special sessions, members can create and organize a session focusing on a specific topic of interest. This additional session does not count against the section's overall session count. Rather, it provides us with another session. We urge all E&T members to consider submitting a session proposal. The ASA has announced the theme of the 2010 ASA meeting will be "Toward a Sociology of Citizenship." You can read about this theme at [http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/meetings/2010\\_annual\\_meeting](http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/meetings/2010_annual_meeting).

The ASA procedures for submitting a session proposal are available at [http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/meetings/2010\\_session\\_proposal\\_guidelines](http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/meetings/2010_session_proposal_guidelines).

The deadline for thematic sessions is coming November 14th, 2008; the deadline for all other special sessions is January 30, 2009. Jan Burmann may organize a teaching workshop—contact her if you're interested at [jbuhrman@ic.edu](mailto:jbuhrman@ic.edu). Think about bold ideas of your own: the ASA Council and organizing committees are showing quite high interest in environmental topics in these kinds of events.

The final future conference issue is the online mini-conference. We called at ASA for help with the hosting side of this idea—we want to hold one but need someone at a big or highly technically-advanced school to volunteer to find us the capacity to have a dynamic event, hopefully with web video links with several presenters and discussants able to log in and be seen by viewers, who can in turn submit questions by text or chat. Contact Timmons to help out at [jtrobe@wm.edu](mailto:jtrobe@wm.edu).

**On public visibility**, we'd like to encourage all environmental sociologists to work on getting their work "out there," writing op-eds and articles for popular press outlets. We have seen the benefit of developing personal relationships with reporters, which can lead to our subdiscipline being represented in the public discourse on the crucial issues of our day. Too often economists are getting all the play, and we know what kinds of environmental policy that can lead to.

**Mushy Rehash:** This year's ASA meetings were pretty successful, with well-attended and interesting sessions with timely topics and some good discussion. There were special sessions and thematic ones. There was a wonderful memorial for Brent Marshall to close out the SSSP meetings that Steve Picou and other E&T members led. We had a noisy but well-fed reception co-sponsored with Race, Gender and Class section at a pretty cool tapas restaurant, we handed out awards (see below), held a session on greening the ASA (see report below from Lauren Heberle), we talked about last year's and next's "Focus the Nation" teach-in. We mused on why our membership is hitting new records—is it the dynamic duo of Andrew Jorgenson and Beth Caniglia, or is it a disciplinary awakening? (or both, of course). We dined and drank and strolled through Boston's Back Bay. There are details on nearly all these below.

We want to thank outgoing section officers Bill Markham, Tom Rudel, David Pellow, Kari Norgaard, and Rebecca Altman, and give our advance thanks to new officers for their help. Mostly, we need to thank Stephan Scholz for doing this wonderful newsletter for another year. Who would like to take up the job next summer?

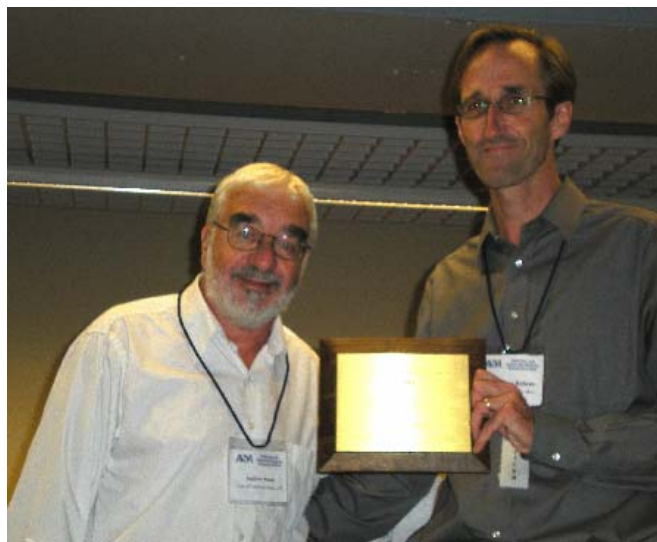
All the best,  
Timmons and Bob

## **J. Timmons Roberts Receives the Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award for 2008**

*by Andy Szasz*

The Environment and Technology Section of ASA recognizes Timmons Roberts for his individual scholarship and for his leadership, in the past two years, in continuing to reorient the Section toward a more activist profile on environmental issues. Roberts's individual academic achievements speak for themselves. He has co-written or co-edited five books, authored or co-authored many book chapters and journal articles, pedagogical notes, research reports and book reviews. He has organized conferences and presented papers. These works are empirically rich, theoretically sophisticated and deal with substantively important issues ranging from environmental justice struggles in the U.S. to the environmental impacts of globalization.

In addition, as Chair of our Section, Roberts has continued the recent trend of the Section moving toward activism, on campuses nationwide, and in the ASA itself. Under Roberts's chairmanship, the Section actively participated in the recent nation-wide climate teach-in, Focus the Nation. The whole ASA ended up endorsing Focus the Nation and encouraged all members, regardless of specialization, to discuss climate change with their classes on January 31st. This reorientation of the Section is exemplified by the programmatic statement, "Active and Engaged: An Agenda for the ASA E&T Section over the Next Four Years," coauthored by Roberts and Bob Brulle.



*Andy Szasz presents Timmons Roberts with the Fred Buttel Award  
(Photos by Rachael Shwom-Evelich)*

**Thomas Rudel Receives the  
2008 Outstanding Book Award**  
*by Penelope Canan*

In *Tropical Forests: Paths of Destruction and Regeneration*, Thomas K. Rudel conducts a comparative analysis of numerous local studies of forest cover change from the past twenty years to articulate a unique and compelling global theoretical perspective on forest deforestation and regeneration. With separate chapters on individual regions, including South and Central America, the Caribbean, South and Southeast Asia, and West, Central, and East Africa, Rudel's work offers an original and moving assessment of the multiple dynamics impacting the world's tropical forests. Through a meta-analysis, Rudel identifies the social, economic, and environmental forces driving forest cover change since 1980. His careful attention to context, geography, politics, ecology, and history underscores that there are vastly different reasons for deforestation across the planet. Rudel also cogently presents pragmatic and hopeful policy mechanisms for conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development in each region. Rudel's years of working in tropical forest research have produced a delightful and critically important book that we should all read and assign to our students. So please join me in congratulating Tom Rudel for being the winner of this year's Outstanding Book Award from the Environment & Technology Section of the American Sociological Association.



*Penelope Canan presents Thomas Rudel  
with the Outstanding Book Award*

**Marvin E. Olsen Award  
Goes to Eric Bonds**  
*by David N. Pellow*

Every year, the Environment and Technology Section of the ASA presents an award to the student who was written a paper of high quality, critical insight, and theoretical and methodological rigor. The committee decided to present this year's Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award to Eric Bonds (University of Colorado) whose paper, "The Knowledge-Shaping Process: Elite Mobilization and Environmental Policy," explores how corporate and military elites utilize knowledge-shaping processes to influence the development of environmental policy. This knowledge-shaping work includes: suppressing knowledge and research deemed harmful to elite interests; funding institutions that legitimate particular kinds of research and ideas; funding experts to discredit research/ideas that are not advantageous to elite interests; and influencing the selection of what counts as legitimate knowledge and what does not. This conceptual model builds on classical and contemporary power structure research and focused on a case study of a national policy debate concerning rocket fuel contamination. It is a highly original contribution to the sociology of power, sociology of knowledge, and environmental sociology. Congratulations to Eric Bonds for being the recipient of the 2008 Marvin Olsen Student Paper Award.



*Penelope Canan presents Eric Bonds  
with the Marvin E. Olsen Award*

## Call for Nominations: 2009 Section Awards

### Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award

The Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award is to recognize individuals for outstanding service, innovation, or publication in environmental sociology or sociology of technology. It is intended to be an expression of appreciation, to be awarded when an individual is deemed extraordinarily meritorious by the Section. All members of the Section are invited to submit nominations for the award, together with supporting documentation. Nominations for this award must be received by March 1, 2009. 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, Stella Čapek <capek@hendrix.edu>.

### Outstanding Publication Award

The Outstanding Publication Award is given in alternate years for publications of special noteworthiness in the field of environmental sociology. In alternate years publications are considered in either book or article form. This year the committee will consider series of thematically-related articles published within the period, January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2008. All members of the Section are encouraged to submit nominations; self-nominations are welcome. To nominate a series of thematically-related articles, please send three copies of the works along with a nomination letter to Richard York <rfyork@uoregon.edu> by April 1, 2009.

### Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award

The Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award recognizes outstanding papers presented by graduate students at the annual American Sociological meetings. In addition to recognition, recipients will receive a modest monetary award to help defray expenses associated with attending the ASA meetings. Nominees are limited to graduate students who are giving presentations at the annual meetings. All members of the Section are invited to submit nominations for the award, together with supporting documentation. All members, including potential recipients, are encouraged to submit nominations. (The paper can be presented at any session or roundtable at ASA). The deadline for submitting papers is April 1, 2009. Send three copies to Richard York <rfyork@uoregon.edu>.

## New! The Environmental Sociology Teaching and Mentorship Award

The biannual Teaching and Mentorship Award honors faculty members who have provided especially dedicated service to the teaching of environmental sociology and effective training of graduate and/or undergraduate students. Section members are encouraged to nominate colleagues, but all members, especially those in smaller institutions, are encouraged to self-nominate. Nomination packets may include teaching statements, syllabi, innovative assignments and exercises, course evaluations, letters of support, peer observations, etc. Materials should be submitted electronically to Sherry Cable <scable@utk.edu>, in one file under 10 Mb. For full consideration, all materials must be received by March 1, 2009.

### Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism

The Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism recognizes work that addresses technology and human affairs, social action and social change, conflicts over values, or work that proposes innovative solutions to emerging social issues associated with technology. In accordance with Robert Boguslaw's wishes, the honored work should address the concerns of ordinary people rather than reflecting organizational or institutional agendas. The award is limited to doctoral students or young investigators who have obtained their Ph.D.s in the past five years. In addition to recognition, the award includes a small monetary gift. Unpublished papers or articles published within the last two years are eligible. Candidates may either submit their own work or be nominated by someone else. Neither nominees nor nominators need be affiliated with this or any other Section, nor do they need to be associated with any other professional network or organization. Please submit nominations, including copies of the papers or articles by April 1, 2009, to Bob Brulle <rbrulle@comcast.net>.

## Report Back on Greening the ASA Open Forum

*by Lauren Heberle*

The Open Community Forum held to discuss Greening the ASA this summer in Boston was well attended and productive. The following serves as a report out and follow-up to the meeting. The meeting was held with several goals in mind. First, to allow the ASA Executive Office the opportunity to inform us about measures they are taking and plans they have

in the works to reduce our organization's environmental impact. Second, the meeting served as a brainstorming session for members to offer up suggestions for what we can and should do. Finally we wanted to make sure that folks came away with a few firm ideas for moving the organization forward.

The meeting got off to a great start as Executive Office staff summarized all the activities and areas they are exploring for greening the organization and our meetings. They are following the Convention Industry Council's recommendations as a starting point for our annual meeting. They worked to make the renovation of their new office space as green as possible and will continue to pursue daily office practices that reduce energy consumption, material production and waste, among other things.

We moved on to the specifics of the annual meeting. Participants at the workshop were very interested in hearing about ways to reduce our impact due to transportation choices. Suggestions included considering the number of direct flights that are available when selecting the meeting location, using more virtual technology such as skype and video conferencing, highlighting and facilitating the purchase of carbon offsets for travel, organizing group busses from various regions, working closely with the selected city to facilitate public transportation usage and continuing to examine opportunities to offer incentives to use Amtrak.

In this discussion about the huge impact our travel has, folks asked to examine just why it is we meet every year. What about the ASA meeting is necessary for our profession? No one suggested that we stop meeting, but by asking the question of why we meet, we can start imagining alternative gatherings that might allow us to examine ways to reduce our travel. What would happen if we met every other year? What would be lost, and what would be gained?

A major part of our discussion focused on whether we want to develop measurable goals for greening the organization. Do we want to set a formal goal that would state that we seek to reduce our GHG by X% by year 2020? How would we establish that goal and how would we even measure the reductions? This lead to a question of which baseline measurements folks think are necessary? The overwhelming answer was to document our travel. The folks in the room want a base line measure of how we get to ASA and the GHG attached to that. This could be done by survey or somehow attached to the registration process. In any event, the resources to gather that data would have to be identified.

Another subject folks discussed in detail was how to use the ASA as an organization to influence other institutions. It was noted that the ASA executive officers and staff all attend various meetings that include other academic association leaders and thus have the opportunity to influence those other organizations' decisions. Furthermore, together, academic associations can influence the market by placing demands upon the service providers.

Importantly, several folks noted that the ASA has a presence in DC and can lobby on behalf of the social scientific community and assist in bringing science to bear on policy questions related to sustainability and climate change. This role for the ASA was mentioned in response to the feeling that the social sciences, sociology in particular, are under-represented in the policy conversations about climate change at most levels but especially at the national and international levels.

The idea to have the ASA to serve as means to offer guidance for integrating sustainability and climate change into a broader range of sociology courses was raised, offering the example of Focus the Nation. The Executive Staff mentioned that they were working to revamp the section on teaching resources on the website and could examine how that change might include information for folks who want to include sustainability and climate change into their syllabi.

The Executive Staff highlighted that using the organization as a vehicle to improve teaching resources and our presence in policy making in DC is appropriate. Staff also agreed to help reach out to ASA sections beyond the Environment & Technology section to help integrate conversations about greening the organization and even larger, climate change and sustainability, into all section discussions. The Staff also suggested that we take advantage of opportunities to set up additional working meetings during the ASA meetings so that we can broaden the conversation. We were also reminded that the ASA does have a press office and that we could reach out to the Society for Environmental Journalists.

Whether or not the ASA needed a mission statement regarding its green activities was addressed. We agreed that a short statement that simply reiterated the organization's commitment to reducing our environmental impact would be helpful. We did not come to a point of agreement as to whether that statement should include specific numbers as our goal.

Everyone agreed that our work can and should be at multiple levels, from everyday practices of the organization and its members to using the organization to help us gain access to policy makers at the national and international levels. The ASA Executive Office staff were also very open to having folks communicate ideas and questions directly to them. They also wanted to be sure that we shared information about other organizations they need to contact or with whom we need help establishing a relationship or “seat at the table”.

So we are left with the next steps:

- Developing a formal task force within the ASA organization that would perhaps help guide the organization further in its efforts to reduce our impact and develop methods of using the organization as a tool to further our knowledge about climate change and sustainability. Having a task force rather than a work group allows us to request resources for things such as a survey about travel.
- Having the ASA develop and implement a survey about travel that would allow us to measure and track our impact. This may be a specific task of the above mentioned taskforce.
- Improve teaching resources on the ASA website for those who want to integrate climate change and sustainability into their courses.
- Schedule meeting times during the 2009 meeting to reach across sections and out to folks who are interested in working with this group to develop goals and means to reach those goals.
- Use this group to compile ideas for innovative practices to share with the Executive Office as well as each other so that we can bring ideas to our own institutions and academic organizations, other conferences for instance.
- Help the Executive Office identify organizations, policy boards, funding agencies who need to have sociologists included in their work on climate change and sustainability.
- Develop a method for how we as a group will communicate. For now Lauren Heberle (Lauren.heberle@louisville.edu) has agreed to

manage a mailing list and in the near future can house documents we want to share on her Center website.

For those who want to communicate directly with the ASA Executive Office, the contact information is below:

Sallie Hillsman hillsman@asanet.org  
Janet Astner astner@asanet.org  
Kareem Jenkins Jenkins@asanet.org

### **Right to Privacy vs. Environmental Health Research**

*by Barbara Allen*

In my research on ‘Cancer Alley’ in Louisiana, I discovered an astounding fact: the state could not say unequivocally if there really was a higher incidence of cancer in people living near industry. The state agency mandated to collect cancer data, the Louisiana Tumor Registry (LTR), claimed that there was no evidence of such a correlation. However, there was also no evidence that there was *not* a correlation. The data had been collected and aggregated in such a way to render it useless in showing health effects in smaller locale-based analyses.

When a group of citizens and medical researchers sued the LTR asking for the release of cancer data by zip code, including rare cancers such as pediatric cancers, the LTR denied the request. They asserted that if the data were released in such small geographic units, that for some rare cancers, the incidence could be “1” thus violating a person’s right-to-privacy. The medical researchers in the lawsuit were particularly interested in pediatric cancer, as anecdotal evidence suggested it was high and potentially linked to environmental hazards. Because the LTR’s classification system recognizes 16 types of pediatric cancer, to delete all instances of “1” could effectively miss 16 cancers per year in a geographic area. While some states do release important public health information by zip code and census tract, others have used the right-to-privacy to deny access making it difficult to aggregate data across similarly exposed populations in other regions.

The right-to-privacy, to most Americans, is sacrosanct. Fears of employer discrimination or stigma attached to certain illnesses reinforce people’s insistence on their health data security. In a country where health insurance is expensive and/or difficult to obtain, the protection of one’s records against corporate voyeurs can mean the difference between

obtaining coverage and going bankrupt due to hospital costs.

For environmental health researchers, the application of privacy rules to cancer and other types of health data can mean the inability to do both larger epidemiological studies as well as analyze illness clusters and links between disease and proximity to hazardous sites.<sup>1</sup> There are of course many other cases of specific data-hiding in environmental health, such as not reporting individual results to study participants, not releasing aggregate health study results in a timely fashion due to fear of harming the business climate, taking EPA data off the website, and cases where firms withheld disease data.

One example of the tension between privacy and research is HIPAA. In 1996, Congress passed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which contained strict guidelines for the use and disclosure of a person's medical records, with legal ramifications for non-compliance. While strong privacy laws appear to protect individual rights, they form a barrier to some public health research efforts. Cancer surveillance is one area that has felt the unintended consequences of HIPAA.<sup>2</sup> Only a few sections of HIPAA are directed at research, and these attempt to balance privacy and data access. For example, the privacy act requires written authorization for use of medical records from living persons unless researchers obtain waivers from a Privacy Board. Exceptions to obtaining written authorization include: 1) if the health information is de-identified (name, address, social security number, etc.); 2) if the research is about people who have died; or 3) if information is required by law for public health activities. Despite attempts at balance, "early anecdotes suggest that IRBs are being conservative in their interpretation of HIPAA, erring on the side of privacy . . . [and] HIPAA does not preempt state regulations so there is no national standard," making multi-state research difficult.<sup>3</sup>

That environmental health knowledge, data, and science exists, collected using public funding, but is buried for reasons such as the 'right-to-privacy', is unfortunate. In 2004, a Cancer Surveillance and Information Summit was held to address the concerns

of professionals and allied groups regarding the future of cancer data and public health. Their recommendations included both the standardization of data collection and better legal access to individually identifiable data for public health purposes.<sup>4</sup> This allows for easier retrospective research such as combing a hospitals' archive looking for patterns of illness or treatment or conducting a study using cancer registry data.

One of the primary critical themes of recent cancer surveillance literature is the balancing of individual privacy with public health research needs. Among the recommendations is the development of standards for protection of personal information including policies regarding who can use the data and for what purpose. There are 18 personal identifiers in surveillance data and typically only certain data is needed by researchers, depending on the scope and requirements of their investigation. Digital records enable registries and agencies to strip non-essential data from patient records enabling respect of privacy rules while complying with researcher requests. This requires both standardization in reporting as well as standardization of technical systems, which, to date, has not happened as the data collection and dissemination is still predominantly driven by state standards. Improving standardization and accessibility would also hopefully insure that this kind of data could be made available to environmental researchers as they try to understand the public health implications of rapid industrialization and expansion of chemical hazards.



<sup>1</sup> Dennis Deapen, "Cancer Surveillance and Information: Balancing Public Health With Privacy and Confidentiality Concerns (United States)," *Cancer Causes & Control* 17 (2006): 633-637.

<sup>2</sup> Robert A. Hiatt, "HIPAA: The End of Epidemiology, or a New Social Contract?," *Epidemiology*, Vol. 14, No. 6, November 2003: 637-639.

<sup>3</sup> Robert A. Hiatt, "The Future of Cancer Surveillance," *Cancer Causes & Control* 17 (2006):638.

<sup>4</sup> Hiatt, 2006, 643-4.



**An Introduction to the  
Interdisciplinary Environmental Association**  
by Michael Reiter

Dear members of the section on ET&S, my colleagues and I read with curiosity the call in the Summer 2008 newsletter by William Freudenberg to join the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS), in particular the following:

*"There are plenty of specialized organizations that take on one piece or another of environmental work – environmental economics, for example (as distinct from ecological economics), as well as environmental philosophy, environmental ethics, and of course the ones we all know in environmental sociology. There is now even an association to serve environmental deans and directors. There has never been a professional association, though, to serve the students, faculty and staff of the 1000 or so interdisciplinary "environmental" programs at colleges and universities in the U.S. alone. The people who work in those programs, as far as I can tell, can't really do the work they need to do without improved contact and communication across the full range of disciplines that are needed for understanding environmental problems and solutions -- from those that study the physics of ocean currents and global climate models, to those that study the critter that generates so much of the hot air in the first place, to those that study the latest currents in environmental literature."*

In response, we would like to introduce your readership to the Interdisciplinary Environmental Association (IEA). The IEA, organized in 1994 by Drs. Demetri Kantarelis and Kevin Hickey of Assumption College in Massachusetts, is an association of environmental academics, practitioners, and concerned colleagues who believe that environmental problems require an interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary (ID/TD) approach that needs to be clearly reflected in an organization dedicated to

addressing these issues. Our membership represents a wide range of traditional disciplines in universities and colleges large and small, both here in the United States and across the globe.

Interestingly, the IEA began with a decision to create an interdisciplinary course in environmental economics. While looking for supporting information for course design, Drs. Kantarelis and Hickey discovered that there was little published scholarship from which to draw, and that peer-reviewed journals and other professional outlets afforded little opportunity for scholars to step beyond their field and experiment with a new, broader approach to environmental issues. Suspecting that there were other scholars with similar interests in interdisciplinary approaches to environmental issues but no outlet for presentation or publication, they initiated the IEA in the spring of 1994 to identify and organize these individuals. Initial interest was created through a massive internet campaign, which they referred to as their "internet bottle cast out into the world", in the fall of 1994. While expecting some modest response from like-minded colleagues scattered around the globe, they instead received over 1400 responses to their query of interest within a few days. The response led them to organize the first International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment (IICE), which was held in Boston in June of 1995 and included over 100 attendees and 70 papers representing 14 countries and 14 disciplines.

This initial group of participants became the core of the IEA, and from this informal beginning the IEA now has an organization with a Constitution and elected Board and Officers established as of 2004, an annual IICE (the 14th was held this past June in Edmonton, Alberta, with the 15<sup>th</sup> to be held next summer in Daytona Beach, Florida), and an international journal titled *Interdisciplinary Environmental Review* (IER) now assembling its tenth volume. Kappa Alpha Omicron, our Honor Society in ID/TD Environmental Science/Studies, is presently being organized with the first chapters scheduled to be installed for our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in 2009.

Our organization was founded specifically to provide a home for those ID/TD environmental colleagues and programs that did not "fit" neatly into more traditional academic structures; to provide a means of networking across the various departments and institutions where such individuals would be found, to offer a place for the exchange of information that would not normally be exchanged in disciplinary conferences or organizations, and to establish a professional association that could recognize and support such important ID/TD work. Because we



believe that environmental issues, and thus approaches and solutions, extend beyond all academic and political boundaries, our organization has no traditional disciplinary subtext or geographic limitations. This can be seen in our conferences in particular, which are organized to emphasize the ID/TD nature of the field, the exchange of information, thoughtful discussion across disciplines, and the potential for networking with individuals that we would not normally meet at our more typical disciplinary venues. For example, our last conference program in Edmonton contained the following (among many others):

*A Theoretical Framework for Investigating the Determinants of Corporate Environmental Policy*

*Long-term or Short-Term? Japan's Contribution toward the Climate Change Agenda*

*Policy-Making for Environmental Sustainability in the United States: Eighteenth-Century Barriers to Achieving Twenty-First-Century Goals*

*Development of Advanced Analytical Techniques for Monitoring of Emerging Pollutants in Water*

*Designing an Integrated Transdisciplinary Environmental Science Curriculum Using an IRMA Chart: An Example from Bethune-Cookman University*

*At What Cost Tourism? Individuals Rights vs. Environmental Rights in Argentina*

*An Ethical Analysis of the Scientific Weight of Evidence Approach in the Regulation of Toxic Chemicals in Canada*

*Is There (Or Should There Be) a Set of Critical Core Concepts in Environmental Science/Studies from which All Programs should be Developed?*

Our dedication to ID/TD approaches is also apparent in our journal, where all manuscripts must pass review both from within (for timeliness and accuracy) and outside (for understandability and usefulness) the closest primary discipline of the manuscript/authors. For example, a recent edition of IER contained the following papers (among others):

*Multidisciplinary Lenses on Nature*

*Examining Spatio-Temporal Relationships of Land Use Change, Population Growth, and Water Quality in the SWFWMD*

*Wind Farms: Windfall or Wipeout?*

*Unseen Algal Blooms in Tumon Bay, Guam's Premier Tourist Location: Possible Connection to Hotel Landscaping Activities*

*Communication and the Aesthetic Appreciation of Wetlands*

The fact that we have been able to exist for nearly 15 years on word of mouth alone with a minimal budget attests, we believe, to the value of (and interest in) our approach.

We have been in contact with the organizers of AESS for several years now to make them aware of us, but despite their awareness they continue plans to form another similar organization. While the recent call for members in the last newsletter was carefully, even cleverly worded (the IEA is made up mostly of, but is not limited to, colleagues and colleges/universities in the United States, so depending on how literally you read the call we would not necessarily be considered an organization for "...colleges and universities in the U.S. alone."), to us it is still inherently misleading, factually incorrect, and in the end self-defeating. The IEA has been providing a home for people from varied disciplines to discuss and network on environmental issues for well over a decade, we are designed to serve the students, faculty, and staff of ID/TD environmental programs (assuming they are interested enough to join in), and over that time have successfully brought together biologists, ethicists, economists, sociologists, resource managers, journalists, policy professionals, communication specialists, historians, physicists, educators, and many more, literally from all over the globe.

We value the perspectives of all disciplines, locales, and defensible points of view in the IEA, and believe that the ID/TD approach to environmental issues becomes more viable and valuable when we set aside disciplinary and political limitations that prevent us from exchanging ideas and information. Indeed, we would argue that the only way to be true to the philosophy of an ID/TD environmental organization would be to remove as many of these barriers as possible. We in the IEA have worked hard over the years to build the infrastructure to accomplish this goal while avoiding the often sharp divides between the (so-called) 'hard sciences', 'soft sciences', and

humanities (which can quickly bog down a meeting or organization in disciplinary squabbles), and thus do not see the value of yet another attempt to build a similar organizational structure to accomplish similar goals. We believe that the IEA is an extremely successful example of constructive, inclusive interdisciplinary debate and exchange, as testified by the continued existence of the IEA, the range of articles that appear in IER, and the regularity with which participants from different disciplines and different countries attend our conferences.

We hope that by making your membership aware of the IEA we can gain further participation by ID/TD social scientists of all types in our organization rather than have another faction form for what is purportedly a broadly-based effort. If there are members of the ETS section of the American Sociological Association who are looking for a true ID/TD environmental organization with an infrastructure that can support their work and careers while significantly broadening their horizons and connectivity, we suggest that they consider joining the IEA and/or attending our next conference, the 15<sup>th</sup> International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment, to be held July 7th – 10th 2009 at The Shores Resort in Daytona Beach, Florida USA. Information on the organization, journal, Honor Society, and IICE can be found online at [www.ieaonline.org](http://www.ieaonline.org), or feel free to contact any of the officers listed below.

Sincerely,

Michael Reiter, Ph.D.  
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Editor, IER  
Associate Professor of Environmental Science  
Bethune-Cookman University  
Florida, USA  
[reiterm@cookman.edu](mailto:reiterm@cookman.edu)

Anthony Lumby, Ph.D.  
President, IEA (2007-2009)  
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Eric Fitch, Ph.D.  
Vice-President and President-Elect, IEA (2007-2009)  
Director, Kappa Alpha Omicron  
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Ohio, USA  
[fitche@marietta.edu](mailto:fitche@marietta.edu)

## Conferences and Calls for Papers



### 1<sup>st</sup> CALL FOR PAPERS and POSTERS

THE 15<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
INTERDISCIPLINARY  
CONFERENCE ON THE  
ENVIRONMENT

JULY 7-10, 2009  
THE SHORES HOTEL AND  
RESORT AND SPA  
DAYTONA BEACH  
FLORIDA USA

Abstract Deadline: May 17, 2009

The Interdisciplinary Environmental Association, committed to an interdisciplinary approach to environmental issues, is now accepting submissions of papers and posters for the 2009 conference. We welcome research that crosses the boundaries of traditional disciplines to frame environmental problems, propose working models, or address field, community, or academic issues. **While any interdisciplinary environmental topic is welcome**, areas of special interest in 2009 include:

- \* Coastal Resource Impacts and Management
- \* Environmental Ethics
- \* Regional Water Resources and Pollution Issues
- \* Environmental Impacts of Tourism
- \* Climate Change and Coastal Areas
- \* Creative Visions of the Changing Landscape
- \* The Economics of Sustainability
- \* SPECIAL TOPIC: Accreditation of Environmental Programs

For further information, contact Dr. Kimberly Reiter, Conference Chair, at [kreiter@stetson.edu](mailto:kreiter@stetson.edu), or go to <http://www.ieaonline.org>

### **Call for Papers - "Population Dynamics and Hurricane Katrina" Special Issue of Population and Environment**

Guest Editors:

- William H. Frey, The Brookings Institution
- Audrey Singer, The Brookings Institution

In the summer of 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the North American Gulf Coast, especially the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. Triggering a

massive exodus of residents, the hurricanes offered potent examples of the ways in which the natural environment can shape demographic trends. The region's demographic future also remains uncertain as many evacuees have resettled permanently elsewhere.

For this special issue, we seek a range of papers that examine the demographic dimensions of hurricane events, with a focus on the implications of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Although event-specific, the research should improve broader understanding and theory regarding the association between population and environment. We encourage contributions based on quantitative as well as qualitative data, as well as those that focus on policy dimensions.

Population and Environment publishes research articles (both full-length and research briefs), commentary and reviews related to the reciprocal links between population, natural resources, and the natural environment, with the purpose of deepening scientific and policy dialogue in this often complex area. The coverage is multidisciplinary, spanning a range of social, policy, life, and natural sciences. Work at all scales, local to global, is presented as are both theoretical and empirical contributions.

Please submit a note of interest, including a short overview of topic of inquiry by Friday, September 26th to Bill Frey (WFREY@brookings.edu) and Audrey Singer (ASINGER@brookings.edu). Earlier inquiries are welcome. Completed manuscripts are due Friday, November 14th and should be formatted in accordance with Population and Environment guidelines available in the journal or at [www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com).

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Brent K. Marshall Graduate Student Paper Award**  
Environment and Technology Division  
Society for the Study of Social Problems

The Environment and Technology Division is pleased to announce its 2009 graduate student paper competition. Beginning this year, this award has been renamed The Brent K. Marshall Graduate Student Paper Award to honor the late Brent Marshall's (1965-2008) personal and professional commitment to the Division and encouragement of student engagement in academic scholarship and research. His dedication to the division and the field of environmental sociology extended through his mentorship of his graduate students during his tenure at the University of Central Florida. In keeping with the intent of the E&T Division, this student paper award continues to provide an

"opportunity for young scholars to present their work to a critical audience of scholar advocates interested in good research and social action to move toward solutions for social problems."

Papers may be theoretical and/or empirical and may be on a topic relevant to environment and technology, including environmental movements, technology and risk, political economy and the environment, environmental justice, disasters, natural resource management, among others. The winner will receive a \$200 cash award, membership dues, conference registration, and a ticket to the annual SSSP awards banquet. The winner will also be offered the opportunity to present this paper at one of the Environment and Technology sessions held at the 2009 SSSP meeting.

To be eligible, the paper must meet the following criteria: 1) the paper must have been written between January 2008 and March 2009; 2) the paper may not have been submitted for publication (papers presented at other professional meetings or that have been submitted for presentation at other meetings are eligible); 3) the paper must be authored by one or more students and not co-authored by faculty or a colleague who is not a student; 4) the paper must be 25 pages or less, including notes, references, and tables; and, 5) the paper must be accompanied by a letter from a faculty member at the student's university nominating the work for The Brent K. Marshall Graduate Student Paper Award (formerly the Environment and Technology Division Graduate Student Paper Competition).

Students should send one copy of the paper accompanied by a letter of support via snail mail or e-mail with attachment to: Christine Bevc, Department of Sociology, University of Colorado at Boulder, UCB 327, Boulder, CO, 80309-0327, [christine.bevc@colorado.edu](mailto:christine.bevc@colorado.edu).

**SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT ON MARCH 15, 2009.**

**Sustainability Across the  
Curriculum Leadership Workshop  
January 9-10 (Fri. - Sat.) 2009  
Emory University**

AASHE, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, is pleased to invite participation in a two-day workshop for faculty leaders of all disciplines who wish to develop curriculum change programs around sustainability on their campuses.

Through an intensive two days of presentations, exercises, discussions, reflection, and planning, participants will become familiar with the philosophy of change in higher education developed through the Ponderosa Project at Northern Arizona University and adapted at Emory in the Piedmont Project. Participants will also experience a range of workshop strategies, hear local experts, enjoy outdoor place-based activities, and dialogue with faculty from around the country as they gain help in adapting this model to their own campus. In a supportive and stimulating environment, workshop members will reflect on their own roles in the transformation of higher education. Readings and materials will also be provided.

These highly successful workshops are led by Geoffrey Chase of San Diego State University and Peggy Barlett of Emory University. Peggy and Geoff are editors of *Sustainability on Campus: Stories and Strategies for Change*, published by MIT Press in 2004. Peggy and Geoff have many years of experience leading these kinds of workshops and have helped more than 200 faculty on several campuses revise courses in a wide array of disciplines.

Workshop tuition is \$420 for AASHE members and \$485 for non-members. Tuition covers snacks and lunches on both days of the workshop, handouts, materials, and an evening reception on the first day of the workshop.

Applications are due by October 16 and are available at: <http://www.aashe.org/profdev/curriculum.php>

## Job Openings

### Assistant Professor of Sociology

**Ursinus College** invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Sociology position in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology to begin fall 2009. We seek as our preferred candidate an Environmental Sociologist who will work closely with our thriving Environmental Studies Program. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to scholarship and undergraduate teaching in a liberal arts context at the introductory and advanced level. We seek a colleague who will complement current strengths of the department, and help to build a sociology program appropriate to a selective liberal arts college. Ability to teach quantitative methods desirable. Responsibilities include teaching five courses per year (including introductory sociology courses, courses in specialty areas, and an

interdisciplinary freshman seminar) as well as developing an ongoing research program, and supervising student research and honors theses. Please send a letter of application, your Curriculum Vitae, an official transcript, a statement about your teaching philosophy, a writing sample, and three confidential letters of recommendation, one of which should address teaching experience and performance, to Regina Smith Oboler, Chair, Sociology Search Committee, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Ursinus College, P.O. Box 1000, Collegeville, PA 19426. If you have questions, contact Dr. Oboler at [roboler@ursinus.edu](mailto:roboler@ursinus.edu). Review of completed applications will begin on September 15, 2008. Ursinus College is a highly selective, independent, co-educational, residential liberal arts college of nearly 1700 students located about 25 miles from center city Philadelphia. Ursinus is an EEO/AA employer. In keeping with the College's historic commitment to equality, men and women, and members of all racial and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply.

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF TEMPORARY FACULTY VACANCY State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF)

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

William J. Donlon Visiting Professorship. Residential, distinguished visiting professorship in environmental communication, decision-making, and governance. Teach one undergraduate and one graduate course. Meet with students during office hours. Present one or more public lectures to the College of Environmental Science and Forestry/ Syracuse University community. Engage with faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students in the Dept. of Environmental Studies and other College units. Courses include an upper-division studio/ workshop course in Environmental Communication, and a graduate course in Collaborative Governance Processes for Environmental and Natural Resource Management.

**DURATION:** Spring-semester, from December 31, 2008 through May 11, 2009; longer residency may be arranged.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

Required: Ph.D. or equivalent degree in Communication, Sociology, Politics, Public Policy, Human Geography, Planning, or related field; substantial university teaching experience; strong record of active research and publication. Preferred:

Environmental policy/ practice experience; related international experience.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Although applications will be accepted until the position is filled, candidates should submit materials by September 21, 2008, to ensure optimal consideration.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:** Submit a cover letter, current curriculum vitae, and contact information for three references on-line at <http://www.esf.edu/hr/search/>.

For further information, please contact David Sonnenfeld, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Environmental Studies, SUNY-ESF, tel. 315.470.6636, e-mail: [envsty@esf.edu](mailto:envsty@esf.edu). SUNY-ESF is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

Visit SUNY-ESF on the web at <http://www.esf.edu/>

**Middle Tennessee State University.** The College of Liberal Arts invites applications for the position of Chairperson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The position, available August 1, 2009, includes academic, administrative, and leadership responsibilities for a department with 20 full-time faculty (thirteen sociologists and seven anthropologists), 90 undergraduate sociology majors, and 90 undergraduate anthropology majors. The department also offers a Master of Arts in Sociology with approximately 30 graduate students. The position is tenure-track with immediate consideration for tenure possible. Applicants must qualify for appointment at the rank of professor. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Qualifications include: (1) an earned doctorate in Sociology or Anthropology and an appreciation and understanding of both disciplines; (2) demonstrated scholarly achievement; (3) demonstrated excellence in teaching; (4) demonstrated record of sound fiscal management of complex budgets; and (5) demonstrated leadership abilities and strong interpersonal and problem-solving skills. The chair is expected to teach each semester. Review of applications will begin October 1, 2008, but applications will be accepted and considered until the position is filled. Letter of application referencing position title, plus curriculum vitae, academic transcripts, and three letters of recommendation should be sent to: Hilary Stallings, College of Liberal Arts, Faculty Recruitment, Middle Tennessee State University, Box 546, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Visit [www.mtsu.edu/~libarts2](http://www.mtsu.edu/~libarts2) for more information. MTSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer.

**Washington State University,** Department of Sociology invites applications for one permanent, full-time, nine-month tenure-track Assistant Professors to begin August 2009 at the Pullman, WA campus. The primary area of specialization is open. The Department maintains strengths in a number of research areas, including criminology, environmental sociology, political sociology, family and the life course, work and organizations, and social inequality (see <http://libarts.wsu.edu/soc/research/> for more information). We seek candidates who will advance the university's commitment to building excellence in the study of just and sustainable societies, policies and practices. Required: PhD in Sociology or a related field, or ABD within one year of completion by date of hire. Successful candidates will have excellent records of research or research potential, provide evidence of teaching ability, and be prepared to teach and mentor undergraduate and graduate students. Applicants should send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, two samples of written work, and three letters of reference to:

Thomas Rotolo, Chair of the Search Committee, Dept. of Sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4020. Review of applications will commence October 1, 2008. Washington State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Protected group members are encouraged to apply.

### Book Reviews, Publications

#### **Rivers by Design**

**Karen O'Neill**

*reviewed by Marta Maldonado*

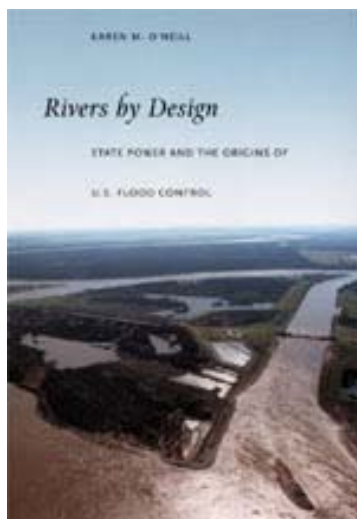
Karen O'Neill, *Rivers by Design*, is well-written and timely; it deals with a set of important and fascinating questions that are at currently at the center of both scholarly and public discussion.

Relevance for the discipline and for policy makers: In examining the social origins of the U.S. flood control program, *Rivers By Design* illuminates two key processes of interest to environmental sociologists: 1) the process by which social actors (with particular interests at particular historical junctures) negotiate and shape resource management policies and decisions (e.g., how rivers are used and why, what uses are given centrality, what uses are fostered and funded) and how these policies and decisions have ecological implications, and 2) the process through which environmental risk and disaster vulnerability are socially produced.

O'Neill specifically documents the ways in which the state has been historically implicated in producing flood risks. She also shows how in the development of U.S. flood control systems, human concerns (including notably economic development concerns) have been historically articulated as if separate and distinct from ecological concerns. In this way she highlights the *raison d'être* for environmental sociology (the necessity of understanding human/social and ecological processes as connected and mutually shaping). O'Neill articulates a theoretically informed analysis that sheds light on the complex web of the institutional and social arrangements that shape decision making about river use and management. It also highlights questions of (spatial) scale as they relate to natural resource/environmental governance, and points to how the relationship and tension between federal, state, and local governments shape river programs.

Relevance for a broader audience, especially after Katrina and more recently after the floods that affected the Midwest. The book articulates the social history of flood control in the United States in clear and engaging language that is accessible to a broad public. O'Neill makes socio-historical analysis accessible, and in this sense, is responsive to and contributes to a public sociology of the environment at a time in which there is growing concern about how humans are implicated and how we might respond to climate-related disasters.

Relevance beyond U.S.: As the author articulates, the relevance of the book extends far beyond a U.S. context, as U.S. water projects have served as models for flood control structures elsewhere.



## **Globalisation and Environmental Governance Special issue of Global Environmental Change**

David A. Sonnenfeld, ed.

Vol. 18, No. 3, September 2008, Elsevier

Rapid acceleration of global flows of natural resources and manufactured goods have been accompanied by escalation of global warming, increasing scarcity of clean air and water, and growing trafficking in toxic wastes. In this symposium, several renowned social scientists offer empirically- and theoretically-based insights on the nature of these transnational environmental flows, their social and environmental impacts, and the development of political processes and institutions to address them. A prominent environmental sociologist responds with a commentary on the challenges and opportunities for global environmental governance in the 21st century.

### Editorial

Globalisation and Environmental Governance: Is Another World Possible?

*David A. Sonnenfeld, State University of New York, USA*

### Articles

Governance, Flows, and the End of the Car System?

*John Urry, Lancaster University, UK*

Greening Global Consumption: Redefining Politics and Authority

*Gert Spaargaren and Arthur P.J. Mol, Wageningen University, the Netherlands*

Pioneer Countries and the Global Diffusion of Environmental Innovations. Theses from the Viewpoint of Ecological Modernisation Theory  
*Joseph Huber, Martin Luther University, Germany*

Governing the Global Commons: Linking Carbon Storage and Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Forests

*David O'Connor, United Nations, NY*

### Commentary

Challenges and Opportunities for Global Environmental Governance in the 21st Century

*J. Timmons Roberts, College of William and Mary, USA*

**Ecopolitics Online Journal:** Vol. 1 No. 1 Winter 2007 and Vol. 1 No. 2 Autumn 2008 now available at: <http://www.ecopoliticsonline.com>

**New E-Book from NUI Galway & Australian Researchers: *Issues in Environmental Research: Politics, Anthropology and Sociology***  
by Liam Leonard and Michael O' Kane

Free to download at: <http://www.ecopoliticsonline.com>

This book examines the relationship between activism and research is explored through a series of case studies, interviews and articles. Activists with the Irish Green Party in working class areas of Dublin provide the focus for Irish-Australian anthropologist Michael O'Kane's in depth study on the 1997 election campaign. This is followed by a series of articles by Irish-American political sociologist Liam Leonard, based on his work as a researcher and journalist in Galway between 1999 and 2008.

**New Book by Dr. Liam Leonard, National University of Ireland, Galway: *The Environmental Movement in Ireland***

*The Environmental Movement in Ireland* Leonard, Liam (with a forward by John Barry). 2008, xvi, 236p., Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-4020-6811-9

About this book: Collective responses to Ireland's dramatic transformation from a primarily agrarian and rural society to an industrialised economy obsessed by rapid growth and development occurred in two phases: Starting with the Woodquay protests in Dublin, the "No Nukes" protests at Carnsore Point, the "Shell to Sea" campaign in Mayo and the campaign to save Tara from destruction, these significant ecological campaigns, based on the community's localised sense of place or rural sentiment, have formed the response to these challenges which are analysed here using social movement theories such as resource mobilisation, political opportunity, framing and event analysis.

### Articles

Boudes, Philippe. 2008. Sociologie de l'environnement, globalisation et traditions nationales: Une étude des cas français et québécois. *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 33 (3), 657-688.

Thomas Dietz and Adam Douglas Henry. 2008. "Context and the commons." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 105:13189-13190.

Thomas Dietz. 2008. "Making Climate Change Research Matter: Balance and Scale." Pp. 100-107 in *Coping with Climate Change: Proceedings of a National Summit*, edited by R. Bierbaum, D. G. Brown, and J. L. McAlpine. Ann Arbor, Michigan: School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan.

Riley E. Dunlap and Richard York. 2008. "The Globalization of Environmental Concern and the Limits of the Post-Materialist Explanation: Evidence from Four Cross-National Surveys." *Sociological Quarterly* 49:529-563.

Riley E. Dunlap and Aaron M. McCright. 2008. "A Widening Gap: Republican and Democratic Views on Climate Change." *Environment* 50 (September/October): 26-35.

DuPuis, E. Melanie and Brian J. Gareau. Forthcoming. "Neoliberal Knowledge: The Decline of Technocracy and the Weakening of the Montreal Protocol." *Social Science Quarterly*.

Gareau, Brian J. 2008. "Dangerous Holes in Global Environmental Governance: The Roles of Neo-liberal Discourse, Science, and California Agriculture in the Montreal Protocol." *Antipode*. 40(1): 102-130.

Gareau, Brian J. 2008. "Class Consciousness or Natural Consciousness? Socionatural Relations and the Potential for Social Change: Suggestions from Development in Southern Honduras" *Rethinking Marxism*. 20(1): 120-141.

Gareau, Brian J. 2007. "Ecological Values Amid Local Interests: Natural Resource Conservation, Social Differentiation, and Human Survival in Honduras." *Rural Sociology*. 72(2): 244-268.

Haluza-DeLay, Randolph B. 2008. A theory of practice for social movements: Environmentalism and ecological habitus. *Mobilization*, 13 (2), 205-218.

Haluza-DeLay, Randolph B. & Debra Davidson. 2008. The environment and a globalizing sociology. *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 33 (3), 631-656.

Kaup, Brent Z. 2008. "Negotiating through Nature: Resistant Materiality and the Materiality of Resistance in Bolivia's Natural Gas Sector." *Geoforum* 39:5:1734-1742.

## Member News

### Robert Bullard Named as One of the Century's Environmental Leaders by Newsweek

by Katie Paul of Newsweek

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/130264>

Al Gore may be the green spokesman of the moment, but he and the rest of today's environmental leaders stand on the shoulders of a long and diverse list of giants. Researchers, explorers, scientists, activists, conservationists, filmmakers, world leaders, and ordinary citizens have all made a case for how humans should best manage their interactions with the natural world around them, as well as how they should fix the messes they've caused along the way. Here, a look back some of the most influential environmental leaders of the last century, from the highly celebrated to the unsung heroes of the movement.

Robert Bullard: The 'father of environmental justice' sees no distinction between the fight against racism and the fight for environmentalism. Robert Bullard, a professor at Clark Atlanta University in Georgia and the director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center, has argued since 1978 that poor minorities have to bear the brunt of the world's environmental problems. His reasoning: due to racial and economic segregation, they're the ones who end up living closest to hazardous waste sites. Recently Bullard has been active in responding to the Hurricane Katrina disaster.



(Picture courtesy of the Sierra Club)

William T. Markham. *Environmental Organizations in Modern Germany: Hardy Survivors in the Twentieth Century and Beyond*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2008.

German environmental organizations have doggedly pursued environmental protection through difficult times: hyperinflation and war, National Socialist rule, postwar devastation, state socialism in the GDR, and confrontations with the authorities during the 1970s and 1980s. The author recounts the fascinating and sometimes dramatic story of these organizations from their origins at the end of the nineteenth century to the present, coupled with a detailed analysis of the issues and strategic decisions that confront them at the beginning of the twenty-first century. The book describes how environmental organizations reacted to powerful social movements, including the homeland protection and socialist movements in the early years of the twentieth century, the Nazi movement, and the anti-nuclear and new social movements of the 1970s and 1980s, but it also examines their strategies for survival in periods like the current one, when environmental concerns are not at the top of the national agenda. The book joins a growing body of literature about environmental organizations in the U.S. and the UK but is the first book in English about environmental organizations in a non-English speaking country. Previous analyses of environmental organizations have almost invariably viewed them from the perspective of larger social structures, that is, as components of social movements, as interest groups within a political system, or as contributors to civil society. This book, by contrast, is grounded in theories developed specifically to analyze the behavior of organizations and NGOs. Working within this framework, the author examines how the social, political, and cultural contexts within which environmental organizations operate, as well as environmental conditions themselves, have influenced the organizations' goals, strategies, and structures, both at present and historically. William T. Markham is Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is co-editor of a recent book on nature protection in nine European countries and the U.S. and author of two books and numerous journal articles on the sociology of organizations, social inequality, non-governmental organizations, and environmental sociology.

Brent K. Marshall and J. Steven Picou. "Postnormal Science, Precautionary Principle, and Worst Cases: The Challenge of Twenty-First Century Catastrophes". *Sociological Inquiry*. Vol. 78. May 2008: 230-247.



**Section on Environment and Technology  
Council/Committee Reports  
Annual Meeting 2008**

**Chair's and Chair-elect's Report – J. Timmons Roberts/ Robert Brulle**

*1. Planning for ASA 2008 meeting*

We received a total of 35 papers for the three Section sessions scheduled for the ASA meetings in August, and ended up co-organizing the sessions. Eight papers were slated to the two Section open sessions, and the rest to roundtable sessions. One of the two open sessions clustered roughly on the topic of modernization and capitalism; the other on environmental social movements. We added discussants Sherry Cable and JoAnn Carmin in June. Additionally, we organized the scheduled two joint sessions: (1) With the Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, the topic was "Environment, Race, and Ethnicity: Assessing Progress on Rights and Justice 25 Years On". Julian Agyeman agreed to be discussant. Next year, SREM will do the organizing. (2) With the Sections on the Political Economy of the World-System and Marxist on ecologically unequal exchange. This year's reception was held offsite at Tapeo restaurant, and was sponsored jointly with the Section on Race, Gender, and Class.

*2. Planning for ASA 2009 meeting*

Plans are now pretty much complete for the 2009 ASA conference in San Francisco. As mentioned above, one of our sessions will be with the Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities. We will also have two open sessions, and a roundtable session based on papers submitted. The status of a special session proposed for the 2009 meeting by David Pellow has not yet been determined.

*3. Planning for ASA 2010 Meeting*

Now is the time to start planning for the 2010 ASA meeting in Atlanta. In order for us to have any special sessions beyond the three regular sessions that we are allocated by ASA, members need to propose either thematic or special sessions. Proposals for Thematic Sessions should be submitted by November 15, 2007. Proposals for other types of invited sessions are due by February 1, 2008.

*4. Increased Public Visibility*

We have seen a recent increase in public recognition of environmental sociology in the mainstream media. Bob Brulle has written a story for the Society for Environmental Journalism magazine providing information to reporters on how to access social science reporting on the environment. The story should be appearing in the fall edition of this magazine.

We need more information from members to report on what is going on in this regard. Timmons Roberts was one of the background papers authors in UN Development Programme Human Development Report, and was invited to keynote for UNESCO at the Bali climate negotiations. Additionally, Timmons, Bob Brulle and Riley Dunlap have been featured in the Dot.Earth Blog by the NY Times reporter Andrew Revkin.

*5. Online Conference*

We ran into a series of difficulties organizing the online conference (Carbon-Free Blab-Fest) we'd hoped to arrange in April or May. Neither of our universities had existing software or service contracts to host such a conference. ASA was not able to offer it either. We will continue to research the issue and welcome help in carrying out this new kind of conference.

*6. Bylaws Revision Development*

A comprehensive revision of the bylaws was completed and passed. This involves a number of significant changes, including:

- Chair and Chair-elect go to 1-year terms. This shift will take place after the end of Timmons Roberts' term in 2009.
- New post of past-Chair, replacing newsletter editor on the Council. Timmons will become our first past-Chair, for a term of one year following the 2009 ASA meeting.

- Position of Secretary-Treasurer will be split. The Secretary will be elected to a 3-year term, the Treasurer to a 2-year term; subsequent Treasurers to a 3-year term. These new positions will be filled in the elections taking place this coming year.
- A new Teaching and Mentorship Award was approved, to be administered by the Teaching and Training Committee. This award may be presented for the first time at the 2009 ASA meeting in San Francisco.

#### *7. Greening ASA*

A working group, led by Lauren Heberle, has been conducting a number of meetings with the ASA Executive staff on reducing the environmental impact of the association and our huge meetings in particular. A complete account of this committee's activities was published in the ASA Footnotes. As noted in that article, an Open Forum on the "Greening of the ASA" was held at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Boston. It included an update on what the ASA is already doing and a chance for meeting attendees to brainstorm together about solutions.

#### *8. Focus the Nation*

Kari Norgaard led the effort to get ASA to endorse the January 31<sup>st</sup> national teach-in on climate change, which had nearly 2,000 institutions and over 1 million individuals participating. We put up some key links and sources on the Section website for bringing climate issues into core sociology courses, and got a good start for future years' events.

#### *9. Newsletters, listserv, Website*

Thanks to Stephan, we got off four good newsletters in Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. The Section's discussion listserv, <envirosoc@listserv.brown.edu>, is lively with some great discussions. Bill Markham and Timmons oversaw a major overhaul of the section website, which is very near completion at this report. Graduating senior Ryan Powers at William and Mary has designed a great new site; Bill has done a ton of work on the text and organization of the site.

#### *10. Awards*

See the individual award committees' reports, our sincere thanks for their hard work, especially with some very delicate situations with section officers getting nominated! Special thanks to Craig Humphries and Penelope Canan for stepping up to chair two of the award committees when the designated others were in conflict of interest. Another discussion in the E&T Council was whether edited volumes could be awarded the Outstanding Publication Award; the final vote was positive to allow exemplary volumes with clear contributions by the editors themselves.

#### *11. Nominations:*

Thanks to Tom Rudel, we have excellent slates for all the open positions.

#### *12. Resolution on Economic Growth*

Richard York and Rebecca Clausen proposed a resolution on Economic Growth for the section to consider endorsing. Bob Brulle argued that such a resolution is outside our purpose as a section and that the ASA prohibits us from taking these kind of positions publically. The Council voted to address the proposal within the limits of the section's abilities and encourage the proposers to take the issue to the ASA Council. The Council resolved that:

... this proposal [be returned] to Richard York and the graduate students at the University of Oregon for submission to the ASA via appropriate procedures for member resolutions. In addition, [the Section] will provide a roundtable [as part of the Section's roundtable session] at the 2009 ASA meeting for this proposal to be discussed, and will publish an article on this proposal in the E&T newsletter, to be submitted by the sponsors of this proposal.

#### *13. External Funding*

Bob has done some initial work on his ideas of seeking external funding for meetings. The creation of the new position of Treasurer should strengthen our abilities to apply for additional outside funding for the section.

## **Secretary-Treasurer's Report – David Sonnenfeld**

### I. Section Finances

The most recent section financial report received from ASA is dated June 30, 2008. As of that date, the Section had a balance of \$6897. Net dues income as of that date was \$2390. Total projected expenses through 9/30/08 are \$3014, for a projected net decline of approximately \$600. Anticipated expenses include up to \$500 for website (re)design services, and \$1840 for our share of a joint reception with the Section on Race, Gender, and Class. Overall, I project that, by 9/30/08, the Section will have a reasonably healthy balance of approximately \$4500, down approximately 7% compared to last year. This projection may be a bit conservative, in that I expect our next quarterly financial report (3Q 2008) from ASA will show additional dues income for the year.

### II. Major Activities Since Annual Meeting

The Secretary-Treasurer's primary activity since the 2007 Annual Meeting in NYC was chairing an ad hoc By-laws Review and Update Committee. The primary impetuses for this effort were a member-initiated change to a one-year term of office for Section Chair, and proposed clarifications for the Outstanding Publication Award guidelines from the Section's Policy and Research Committee.

The ad hoc By-Laws Review Committee proposed, and the Section Council approved, placing before the membership a series of bylaws changes, including: changing the term of Chair and Chair-elect to one year each, adding a new post of past-Chair, also for one year, removing the unelected Newsletter Editor from the Council, splitting the Secretary-Treasurer position into two positions, adding a new section teaching award, and other measures. These measures were placed before the membership in the spring ASA elections and passed by overwhelming margins. The reduced term of office for the Chair and Chair-elect will commence with the election of a new chair-elect in 2009; a new Secretary and separate Treasurer also will be elected in 2009.

An additional proposal for a section service/ practice award was deferred by the Council for further development and consideration.

### III. 2008 Section Reception

By suggestion and approval of the Council, the 2008 Section Reception was co-sponsored with the Section on Race, Gender, and Class. The Reception was held as follows:

#### ***Tapeo Restaurant, Tapas Bar 266 Newbury Street Boston, MA 02116***

URL: <http://www.tapeo.com/> We had the Flamenco room at Tapeo on Sunday, August 3, from 6-8:30pm, at a cost of \$20/ person for food (selection of 5 tapas) with a \$15 cash bar beverage minimum/ person. Approximate Cost: somewhere between a minimum of 20 x 120 = \$2400 to a maximum of \$35 x 120 = \$4200 + tax ~ shared equally between the two sections, so a total to ETS of between \$1200 and \$2100 + tax. Budgeted at the maximum of about \$2,600, including gratuity & tax, but final bill will likely be less.

### IV. Distinguished Contribution Award Committee

Normally chaired by the Secretary-Treasurer, the committee was kindly chaired this year by Craig Humphrey.

## **Nominations Committee Report – Tom Rudel**

This past year, the section's membership elected five new people to the Section Council. The new Council members are:

Publication Committee Chair – Michael Carolan  
Nominations Committee Chair – Beth Caniglia  
Policy and Research Chair – Richard York  
Council Member-at-Large – Lee Clarke  
Student Representative – Rachael Shwom-Evelich

To run the election, we had ten candidates. To get a slate, we approached fourteen people, some of whom, although recommended by members of the section, were not section members at the time that

they were asked. The recruitment of people to run was greatly facilitated by written suggestions on a handout, asking for suggested candidates, that was distributed at the annual section business meeting. Announcements on the EnviroSoc listserv also proved productive in identifying people who were interested in running for office. Both practices should assist future Nomination Chairs in putting together lists of candidates. For the second year running, it has been difficult to get help from other people who were recruited at the annual meeting to be on the committee. To a greater extent than is desirable, the job has devolved into being a 'one person' job. This pattern may be nothing more than happenstance.

### **Policy and Research Committee Report – David Pellow**

I want to thank Timmons Roberts and David Sonnenfeld for their steadfast support and guidance on a number of matters this year.

The committee members include me, Marta Maldonado, Patrick Gillham, Diane Sicotte, and Penelope Canan. Marta and Patrick continue their service from last year and have been excellent contributors to the committee. I asked Penelope to join the committee as Chair of the Outstanding Publication Award subcommittee (after consulting with the Council) in order to avoid a conflict of interest, because a book that I had co-edited was nominated for this prize. Penelope graciously accepted and has been a wonderful colleague throughout the process. I also recruited Diane Sicotte in order to have enough members on both award committees and she was immensely helpful and constructive in her participation.

Timmons Roberts and I solicited several E&T Newsletter submissions this year with a focus on scholars doing policy-oriented research. We had also hoped to launch a companion online publication with short articles focusing on a theme. While we were pleased with some of the submissions we received (and published), on the whole the picture was mixed. I believe this is still a great idea, but it might require a new approach in order to attract a higher quantity and quality of submissions. We should think this over during the council meeting or during future online/phone discussions.

#### **Awards**

The recipient of this year's Section on Environment & Technology's **Outstanding Publication Award** is Thomas Rudel, Rutgers University, for his book, *Tropical Forests: Paths of Destruction and Regeneration*. In this work, Rudel conducts a comparative analysis of numerous local studies of forest cover change from the past twenty years to articulate a unique and compelling global theoretical perspective on forest deforestation and regeneration. With separate chapters on individual regions, including South and Central America, the Caribbean, South and Southeast Asia, and West, Central, and East Africa, Rudel's work offers an original and moving assessment of the multiple dynamics impacting the world's tropical forests. Through a meta-analysis, Rudel identifies the social, economic, and environmental forces driving forest cover change since 1980. His careful attention to context, geography, politics, ecology, and history underscores that there are vastly different reasons for deforestation across the planet. Rudel also cogently presents pragmatic and hopeful policy mechanisms for conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development in each region. Rudel's years of working in tropical forest research have produced a delightful and critically important book that we should all read and assign to our students.

This year's **Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award** was presented to Eric Bonds, University of Colorado, whose paper, "The Knowledge-Shaping Process: Elite Mobilization and Environmental Policy," explores how corporate and military elites utilize knowledge-shaping processes to influence the development of environmental policy. This knowledge-shaping work includes: suppressing knowledge and research deemed harmful to elite interests; funding institutions that legitimate particular kinds of research and ideas; funding experts to discredit research/ideas that are not advantageous to elite interests; and influencing the selection of what counts as legitimate knowledge and what does not. This conceptual model builds on traditional and contemporary power structure research and focused on a case study of a national policy debate concerning rocket fuel contamination. Bonds' paper was truly outstanding.

We received 4 submissions for the Outstanding Publication Award this year – all of the highest quality. As a reminder, we consider books and articles for this award in alternative years, so next year we will return to articles. Three student papers were submitted/ nominated this year. This was a smaller number of submissions than last year (8) and the year before (6) but larger than the year before that (2), so I think these fluctuations are normal. However, I would like to see more encouragement of graduate students to submit their work for consideration.

#### *Concerns and Questions*

The only issue to arise (other than the above mentioned concern about how to recruit more people to submit their work for the newsletter) is the question of whether to allow edited books for consideration for the Outstanding Publication Award. This question was put to the Council and passed, so I presume that this should be reflected in future calls for nominations for this Award. This required a Council vote because the by-laws and previous calls for nominations have not specifically allowed for edited volumes.

#### **Membership Committee Report – Andrew Jorgenson**

As the new membership committee chair, I want to thank Beth Caniglia for providing many helpful suggestions. I also want to thank David Sonnenfeld for sending me updated data on section membership. In the Fall of 2007, I began a general electronic campaign to remind existing members to renew their membership for 2008. This primarily involved sending detailed emails over the official listserve (with the help of David Sonnenfeld) as well as the other listserve that members tend to use. I received a number of “thank you emails” for the reminders as well as a few inquiries about how to renew memberships. Following the initial membership renewal drive, with the help of my graduate research assistant (Christopher Dick), we compiled a list of sociologists who were not section members during 2007, but that have published research relevant to the section in particular journals over the last decade. More specifically, we looked closely at articles published in *Rural Sociology*, *Society & Natural Resources*, *Human Ecology Review*, and *Organization & Environment* from 1997 to present. We compared the listed authors to the section membership list for 2007. Sociologists who authored relevant works in these journals during the last decade who were not members in 2007 were flagged and sent an “encouraging” invitation via email to join the section. In the coming year we plan to extend this practice to other journals—including the more “generalist” journals, and we also plan to take a close look at the Web pages for sociology departments at all sorts of institutions to also identify new potential members [thanks to Timmons Roberts for suggesting we do the latter]. In the coming year I also plan to encourage members of RC 24 of ISA to join [and become active in] our section.

As of May 14<sup>th</sup>, there were 401 section members [in August of 2007 there were 393 members]. I anticipate that this number [has already I’m sure] will increase during [and after] the annual meetings since some attendees renew their memberships at that time.

#### **Publications Committee Report – Bill Markham**

The Publications Committee has had a busy and productive year, although some important tasks must, unfortunately, be passed on to next year’s committee for completion.

First, I want to thank two hardworking colleagues for their help and support during my two years as chair. Stephan Scholz has continued to serve reliably and very effectively as editor of the section’s newsletter with minimal help from me. His willingness to do this allowed me and the committee to focus on the pressing matter of revising the section’s web site, and I am very grateful. As webmaster, Rob Gardner has kept our existing web site up to date and responded helpfully to our requests for advice and assistance as we worked on the new site. After serving the section well for several years, Rob has recently asked to be relieved of his duties, so this is an especially appropriate time to thank him for all he has done.

The major task of the committee over the past year has been a redesign and upgrade of the web site. A subcommittee comprised of me, Timmons Roberts, Bob Brulle, Rob, and Kari Norgaard consulted

regularly through the fall by e-mail to develop a plan for development of the site. This work went more slowly than I had hoped because of the complexity of the task and because I was burdened with a book project. Nevertheless, we carefully considered a long list of proposed additions and upgrades to the site, debated their relative merits and drawbacks and the practical issues involved, and developed a document that was later used as the basis for a plan to revise the site. Because we discussed many ambitious ideas that we could not implement immediately, this document can be also used as a basis for thinking about future upgrades.

During the winter, I drew up a plan for revising the web site, which was approved by the committee. We had hoped to divide the work among ourselves and make progress on the revision during the spring, but a set of very busy schedules kept us from accomplishing very much. Immediately after the end of the spring semester, I was able to free up substantial time for the project. I've worked closely with Timmons and had a great deal of help from Rob and David Sonnenfeld. With authorization from the executive committee at the spring teleconference, we also hired one of Timmons' students to help with technical web design.

The following tasks were accomplished this summer: I drew up a very detailed plan for the new site, which, due to Rob's stepping down, will be housed on the ASA's server. I made arrangements with the ASA to locate the new site there, and Rob has already moved the pages from the old server to the new location. I spent several days finding publicly available pictures that could be used on the new site and wrote the copy for a new home page and for separate new pages for members, students, and visitors--the latter edited by Timmons. I also developed extensive lists of links to web sites of environmental sociology groups from other nations, relevant government agencies, and NGOs and environmental organizations--the latter two based in part on some earlier research by Kari. I was able to draw on David's very comprehensive list of journals in environmental sociology for a list of links to journals for our site, which required only minor editing to update a few links and journal titles. Thanks to David for making it available!

I also engaged in a long series of discussions with Bob, Timmons, my university's attorney, and ASA staff about developing the facility to upload papers and syllabuses to our web site. This turned out to be a very complex undertaking, both in terms of copyright and the technical issues involved. We have agreed with ASA in principle that pages that allow section members to upload syllabuses and abstracts of papers and links to off-site locations where the papers can be obtained is a desirable feature of our new site. ASA is now investigating off-the-shelf software that might be used for this purpose, but they are moving cautiously because they host the sites for several other sections and anticipate further requests for this capability.

The plan for the new site includes retaining several pages from the old site, especially the excellent list of links to graduate programs in sociology developed and recently updated by the education committee. Most of these pages need to be updated and modified in minor ways. Rob has already made some of these modification and has promised to complete the rest before stepping down.

No one on the committee has the skills or time to design web pages at a high level of sophistication, so we employed one of Timmons' students to undertake this task for us, and Timmons kindly agreed to coordinate the work. Unfortunately, the student has been burdened with other work and has so far completed only the home page and a template for the other pages. Once we have the pages for students, visitors, members and a template for the various links pages, it will be possible to assemble all the pieces of the new site on the ASA server and make it publicly available. I had hoped to see the work completed before stepping down, but, unfortunately, it will fall to Timmons and the new publications committee chair, Michael Carolan, to bring it to completion. I will provide a complete electronic notebook of necessary materials to Michael.

Finally, I reworked and updated the section brochure and will have copies printed for distribution at the ASA meeting. We have already advertised on the list serve for a new webmaster and will announce the vacancy at the ASA meeting as well. Finding a replacement for Rob is a high priority in terms of getting the new site functioning and maintaining it.

I cannot close this report without some further comments about the section's web site. The Internet has become central to how we present ourselves and do business. Predictably, therefore, most everyone has a list of ambitious ideas about how we could better use it. This is as it should be, but there is clearly a major gap between our collective ability to develop ambitious ideas and our resources to carry them out. When I agreed to serve as publications committee chair, I had no idea that the section's web site would turn out to be the major responsibility of the job, and I lacked skills in web design. This has made my task harder, but that is not really the core of the problem. Designing, programming, and doing the research for major web site revisions is an intricate, technical, and very time consuming task, and I found the amount of work involved daunting and, at times, demoralizing.

I understand that Michael has some skills and interest in web design, and most of the work for the upcoming major site upgrade has already been done, so I am confident we will have a new and much improved site soon. Still, more major upgrades and expansions are on the horizon, and no volunteer with the normal complement of teaching and research responsibilities is going to find it easy to implement all the good ideas that can be proposed--to say nothing of simultaneously dealing with the newsletter and the section's list serve, which I have basically left to run themselves. It is also unrealistic to expect a volunteer web master to take on extensive new programming or web design tasks. One can try to distribute the work around among several people, but that leads to the predictable problems of coordinating the work of overworked volunteers. In short, I don't think it is possible for us to have a professional, extensive web site of the type we all wish for with the current allocation of responsibilities. To help resolve this dilemma, I'd like to make two suggestions. Hopefully, there will be some time to discuss them at the ASA meeting.

1. The job of publications chair should be divided into two positions. The first should be devoted to the newsletter, brochure, and other section publications. (I had hoped to work on helping the section put out one or more edited volumes that would increase our visibility and provide additional publication outlets, but work on web site work pushed all that aside). The second position should focus only on the web site and list serve.

2. Second, if we want professional quality web design, we are probably going to have to pay for it. The ASA has made clear that they can host our site but not undertake elaborate web design. We could hope to find that a volunteer webmaster or publications committee chair who has the skills to design beautiful, technically complex web pages and wants to sacrifice endless hours to doing so; however, such people are rare and burnout is likely. In other words, I think it is realistic to expect a webmaster to keep a site functional and make minor improvements and for a web site committee chair to keep content updated and add something new now and then, but I don't think it is realistic to expect volunteers to undertake major web site overhauls or implement elaborate new features. That's like expecting the membership committee to mount a professional advertising campaign to double our membership or the education committee to prepare a professional level set of teaching materials of the sort one might expect from a publisher. Since our section budget is not accumulating a surplus, I recommend, therefore, that we raise dues a bit and gradually build a fund for the web site, which could be used to pay a professional every few years when a major overhaul is needed. The alternative is limping along with whatever volunteers can do, but if we go that way, we have to be realistic about what can be accomplished.

## **Teaching and Training Committee Report – Sherry Cable**

### **Committee Members:**

Sherry Cable, University of Tennessee-Knoxville (Chair)  
Tom Shriver, Oklahoma State University  
Laurel Holland, West Georgia State University

### **Activities:**

1. Updated the website list of graduate programs offering a concentration in Environmental Sociology.

2. Submitted newsletter article in April.
3. Made significant process since March on an extensive bibliography in Environmental Sociology. Intended purpose is a resource for comprehensive doctoral examinations in the field. I'd hoped to break the bibliography into subgroups but the task proved too onerous – folks may easily define such subgroups differently. Bibliography will be completed and submitted for website posting by September 1.
4. Primary tasks for 2008-09:
  - (a) *Teaching and Mentoring Award (odd years)*: soliciting applications for the new Teaching and Training award, to be administered by the Committee;
  - (b) *Extended Committee Mission and 2<sup>nd</sup> New Award*
    - i. draft revised bylaws language to include *service, practice, and outreach activities* in the committee's mission statement – for discussion and approval by section Council and forwarding to ASA for spring membership elections; and
    - ii. to devise a proposal to the Council recommending the criteria for a new Service/ Practice/ Outreach Award.

#### **Member-at-Large Report – Kari Marie Norgaard**

##### *Activities:*

1. Coordinated ASA Wide Climate Change Teach-In on January 31<sup>st</sup>. This event was in conjunction with the Focus the Nation Teach In on the same day. See detailed description below.
2. Worked with Publications Committee Chair Bill Markham to create a set of links of environmental organizations for the ETS website.
3. As part of the Teach In, the ETS section website now contains an extensive section of climate change teaching resources. Thanks to section members for sharing their ideas, articles and PowerPoint presentations, and to Rob Gardner who did a great job putting all this material onto the website.

##### *Climate Change Teach In:*

This first year was a modest but highly successful effort! The teach in was endorsed by the ETS Section and the Section on Teaching and Learning. The ASA Executive Council passed a resolution to support an ASA wide teach in on climate change. Postings about the teach in were placed on the monthly News and Notes, on ETS listserv, the teaching and learning listserv and a number of additional section listservs. Climate change teaching resources were sent in from many individuals, compiled and made available online at: [www2.asanet.org/environment](http://www2.asanet.org/environment).

A link was made from the Focus the Nation website to our ETS site:  
[http://www.climatechangeeducation.org/university\\_materials/index.html](http://www.climatechangeeducation.org/university_materials/index.html)

For the teach in itself, we had about three dozen sociologists teaching about climate change in their regular sociology courses across the country. I'm particularly impressed and thrilled with the range of courses into which people incorporated climate material (see list below). This is exactly in keeping with the notion of the teach in of making visible the far reaching impacts of climate change on society. In addition, many campuses organized extensive campus wide events, and many Sociology faculty participated in these. Thanks to all of you!



Here are some of the Sociology courses in which climate change was a topic on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>:

- Introduction to Research Methods
- Introduction to Sociology
- Sociology of Religion
- Women in the Global Economy
- Comparative Environmental Movements in Asia
- International Development
- Sociological Inquiry
- Sociology of Agriculture
- Sociology Senior Seminar
- Environment and Society
- Social Problems
- Class and Power
- Community, Environment and Society
- Environmental Policy & Governance
- Introduction to Environmental Studies

The website remains up as a teaching resource.

We welcome additional suggestions. Some topic areas have more material than others. I for one am hoping that we do this on an annual basis. Should we do this again I suggest working in advance with the sections to ask for endorsement from as many sections as possible, and asking that resources be sent in from these sections. This would be one way to expand participation and buy-in.

#### **Student Member's Report – Rebecca Altman**

The most significant effort as grad student representative occurred in late December, when I emailed all section student members that had not renewed their section membership. My email urged renewal and also inquired again about interest in a student listserve (no one replied).

I also encouraged students to email about their theses and dissertations in progress (so I could compile them for our newsletter), but have yet to spur anyone to write in. I will be communicating with the incoming rep about my ongoing struggle to get grad students to interact more with the newsletter.

Over the coming weeks, I'll begin to assemble the requisite binder for this position so that the incoming student rep will have one.