

Environment, Technology and Society

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

FALL 2010

Section Committee

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Chair (2010-2011):
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Secretary (2009-2012):
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Treasurer (2009-2011):
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Award Committees

Outstanding Publication Committee:
Richard York, Chair rfyork@uoregon.edu

Marvin Olsen Student Paper Certificate Committee:
Richard York, Chair rfyork@uoregon.edu

Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism:
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Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award Committee:
Timmons Roberts, Chair jrobe@wm.edu

Chair of Teaching and Mentoring Award Committee
Sherry Cable, Chair bmayer@soc.ufl.edu

Council

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Section Website

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The National Research Council Releases New Report on America's Climate Choices

*By Lucas Sharma
Loyola University Chicago*

The newest report in the America's Climate Choices suite of studies, "Informing an Effective Response to Climate Change", was released Thursday, June 22, 2010. The report examines how to best provide decision makers information on climate change. A final overarching report, America's Climate Choices, will build on each of the previous reports to offer a scientific framework for shaping the policy choices underlying the nation's efforts to confront climate change.

Prior to this, three reports were published by the NRC:
Advancing the Science of Climate Change
Limiting the Magnitude of Climate Change
Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change

The current report and the preceding three can be accessed via <http://americasclimatechoices.org/>. These reports are excellent resources that we academics can make use of to inform our own research and teaching. The recent edition of Footnotes ran an article highlighting the role of one of our own, **Thomas Dietz**, in drafting these reports and serving as a resource for the Obama Administration. While the general public usually thinks of climate change through natural sciences, Dietz focuses in on how sociologists can provide insights to this conversation:

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Section News

ETS Election Results 2010

Results from this year's Section elections are reported below. Their terms of office commence with the end of this year's Section Business Meeting.

Chair Elect: **Beth Schaefer Caniglia**, Oklahoma State University (2010-11).

At Large Council Member: **Scott Frickel**, Washington State University (2010-11).

Student Representative: **Christine Bevc**, University of Colorado Boulder, (2010-11).

Nominations Committee Chair: **Tammy Lewis**, Muhlenberg College, (2010-11).

Policy and Research Committee Chair: **Lori Hunter**, University of Colorado Boulder, (2010-11).

Publications Committee Chair: **Sandy Marquart Pyatt**, Michigan State University, (2010-11).

ETS Awards 2010

Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award for outstanding service, innovation, or publication in environmental sociology or sociology of technology.

Awarded to:

Arthur Mol, Wageningen University

Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award

Awarded to:

Dorceta Taylor, University of Michigan for "The Environment and the People in American Cities, 1600s-1900s: Disorder, Inequality and Social Change"

Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism

Awarded to:

Govind Gopakumar, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Environmental Sociology Practice and Outreach Award (NEW)

Awarded to:

Daniel Faber, Northeastern Environmental Justice Research Collaborative, Northwestern University

Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award

Awarded to:

KuoRay Mao, Institute of International Education For: The Neoliberal Conundrum: The Western Development Policies, Migration, and Environmental Degradation in Northwestern China."

The National Research Council Releases New Report on America's Climate Choices continued from Page 1

"I think sociology is critical to the study of climate change because we work from the micro level of individual decision making to the macro level of nation states and global institutions," said Dietz. "We're comfortable with long-term historical research and multiple empirical methodologies, and we have a growing tradition of interdisciplinary work with collaborators in the ecological and physical sciences."

Dietz served as Vice Chair of the National Research Council and "was also responsible for briefing John P. Holdren, the Obama Administration's top science advisor, on the content of his group's study."

In addition to highlighting the work of Thomas Dietz, Footnotes also mentions **Riley E. Dunlap's** work on the Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change, a task force approved by the ASA Council.

Excerpts of this article are taken from the Footnotes article, "Sociologists Play Key Role in Academy's Climate Change Report" by Daniel Fowler." To read the full article, please visit the ASA Footnotes website: <http://www.asanet.org/footnotes/julyaugust10/climate0710.html>.

Annual Report of the Environment, Technology and Society Section

Chair Report By Robert Brulle

As you will see from this report, the section is vibrant and very active. A few of the activities that I would like to highlight are as follows;

1. *Establishment of ASA Climate Change Task Force:* At last year's ASA meeting, the Council of the E&T section unanimously voted to authorize an initiative to create an ASA Task Force on Sociology and Global

Climate Change. Dr. Timmons Roberts, Dr. David Pellow and I developed and submitted a proposal to the ASA Council. This proposal was approved by ASA Council in February, and Riley Dunlap was appointed Task Force Chair. On August 1st, 2010, Riley Dunlap announced the steering committee membership. A planning meeting for the ASA Task Force will be held on Monday, August 16, 2010.

2. *ASA 2010 Meeting in Atlanta* - David Pellow had done a great job in organizing the sessions at this year's ASA convention in Atlanta. The entire listing of sessions is contained in Dave's report. Additionally, Dave has substantially increased involvement of section members in running the different sessions. I would like to thank all of the members who have volunteered to preside over the different paper sessions.

3. *Web Site Improvements* The E&T web site has never looked better. Dan Thompson has done a great job in updating the web site. In addition, he has added an upload capability to the web site for members. You can now upload your papers and syllabi to the E&T web site, and share them with other environmental sociologists. To access this capability, you need to log in at : <http://www.envirosoc.org/cms/> and follow the instructions. This is an important capability and enables us to share our work with each other.

4. *Legacy Project* Beth Caniglia is chairing an ad hoc committee charged with documenting the historical development of environmental sociology. They have interviewed Dr. William Freudenberg, and plan on interviewing key environmental sociologists at the ASA convention this year. If you wish to help out on this effort, please contact Beth Caniglia at beth.caniglia@okstate.edu

Chair-Elect Report by David Pellow

ASA E&T Paper Sessions Update

This year I was responsible for organizing two regular paper sessions, a special session (Challenges to the Orthodoxy of Environmental Sociology), and the Roundtables. Jason Konefal (Utah State University) graciously agreed to assist with organizing the roundtables and did a great job.

I am pleased with the quality and substance of the papers submitted for these sessions. I was hoping for more papers for the Roundtable sessions but there simply were not that many papers submitted overall.

Also there were several competing paper sessions, which I think is actually great since it offers people more high profile alternatives. These include the sessions that Sherry Cable is organizing (on Environmental Justice, which features great papers by E&T section members) and a session I organized for the SKAT section, all of which received many submissions (this session is on science, technology, and the struggle for human rights).

We had a total of 40 papers submitted to all the sessions I was in charge of. The three paper sessions have 4 presenters each, plus a presider, and there are 24 papers accepted to the Roundtables. The remaining 4 papers were rejected because they choose not to go forward with a Roundtable option or because they were substantively not focused on E&T subject matter.

Participants include very senior scholars and first year graduate students, scholars from every region of the country, scholars from large and small universities and colleges, and numerous scholars from abroad. The substance of the papers covers a great deal of conceptual and methodological ground, and there should be interest in our sessions from sociologists active in myriad other sections like Race and Ethnic Minorities, World Systems, Social Movements, Community and Urban, Labor Movements, Medical, Peace/War/Social Conflict, Political Economy, Population, and Theory.

Boguslaw Award Update

The Council has been charged with addressing concerns related to the Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism, mainly because there seem to be so few young scholars interested in it, or nominated for it. However, this year we had 4 nominees for the award, suggesting that email reminders (and perhaps a difficult job market) have encouraged people to participate. Depending on the award committee's view of the quality of the papers and nominations received this year, we should either leave the award as is or propose new language to the Council. I have contacted the ASA archives, but they do not possess the Boguslaw family will, so we have limited materials to draw from, but I think the purpose of the award is clear enough to allow for a broadening of its scope if we choose that path.

Academic year: 2011-2012

Looking forward to the year ahead, I am excited about continuing my work with Chair Robert Brulle and working with our new Chair-Elect Beth Caniglia. The newly formed Task Force on Climate Change promises to be a major challenge and opportunity for

our field and for Sociology as a discipline to gain greater visibility in public policy debates and to shape the national discourse on one of the most critical social issues facing humankind. I also look forward to proposing exciting sessions for next year's ASA meetings that will continue our collective work to push the field in productive directions. Finally, I plan on launching a campaign to revise the ASA Code of Ethics to ensure greater protections for scholars threatened with risks to academic freedom. This has been a serious problem facing a number of sociologists and it deserves our attention.

Past Chair Report By Timmins Roberts

After handing over the gavel finally after four years as Chair-Elect and Chair, in my calmer role as Past-Chair I advertised the Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award, to be reviewed starting March 1st. I also helped a bit on listserv and website issues, and in developing the proposal for an ASA report on climate change and sociology. Given the past four years, this is a much-needed break, and I'm pleased to see the section prospering.

Secretary Report By Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez

I. Section Membership

According to the ASA Governance and Sections Coordinator, Diego de los Rios, as of May 11, 2010, the Section had 401 members. Current membership is 424 according to the Chair of the Membership Committee, Liam Downey.

III. Secretary Activities since Annual Meeting

The Secretary's primary activities since the 2009 Annual Meeting in San Francisco have included:

Following up on several proposed bylaws changes for the section.

The Council of the ASA Section on Environment and Technology submitted for review and approval by the Section membership, two proposed bylaws changes. The purposes of these two proposed changes were i) to honor the lifetime contributions of Allan Schnaiberg by renaming the Section's Outstanding Publication Award to the Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award, and ii) to revise the guidelines for the Outstanding Publication Award for outstanding articles by requiring the submission of a single article rather than "a series of related articles" and reducing

the eligible publication period from "a five-year period, ending on December 31 of the year prior to when the award is given" to "a three-year period, ending on December 31 of the year prior to when the award is given."

These changes were APPROVED in a special, online election by Section members.

Assisting the nominations committee in soliciting and organizing nominations for six upcoming elected section offices. Section members elected six new incoming officers and Council Members. See page 2 for the list of new incoming officers and Council Members.

Assisting the Council in publicizing the calls for nominations for five section awards for 2010. Deadlines for the nominations ranged from March 1 to April 1. (See page 2 for list of 2010 Award Winners.)

Securing a location for the section's joint reception in Atlanta, Georgia. The reception will be held offsite at the Peasant Bistro.

Working with the Section Awards committees in preparing for the 2009 awards, including the preparation of a plaque and certificates.

Helping the Section Chair to obtain position notebooks for officers and members of the ETS Section Committee.

Updating and distributing the Section's bylaws to reflect recent amendments.

IV. 2010 Section Reception

The 2010 Section Reception will be held from 6:30 to 9:30, Saturday, August 14th at the Peasant Bistro Restaurant at 250 Park Avenue West, Atlanta, Georgia. The reception will be held jointly with the Section on Political Economy of the World System. We expect that the combined sections will result in a total of 125 guests. The total estimated cost is \$2500 plus tax and gratuity for a total of \$3240 which will be split such that ETS pays two-thirds (\$2160) and PEWS pays one-third (\$1080). ETS has already paid a deposit of \$1000.

V. Upcoming Tasks Prior to the 2009 Annual Meeting

Recording and writing up formal minutes for the 2009 Section Council and Business Meetings..

Assisting Robert Brulle in producing the 2009/2010 Council report for submission to ASA..

Financial Report, July 2010
Joan Garmin

Current Net Worth

As of May 31, 2010, the section had a balance of \$5,742. This includes \$2,520 in annual membership revenue received and expenses of \$1,334 toward the section reception, awards, and oral history project. Overall, the balance represents a decrease of \$1,515 from the same period in May 2009. The decrease does not account for payments for the reception or awards. Therefore, the actual difference is \$300.00 and is largely due to the payment made for the oral history project and the additional cost of the reception held in 2009 in San Francisco.

Revenue

The total annual income from membership dues/allocations should be approximately \$2,820 for the year. This amount is based on dues trends from previous years. Our base allocation this year is \$1,964, up \$40 from last year. To date, we have received \$556 in dues. Traditionally, we receive approximately \$300 additional from dues in the third quarter.

Expenses

At present, I am projecting expenses of approximately \$3,190 this year as follows:

1. Reception at ASA 2010, \$2,140
2. Olsen award, \$200
3. Award certificates, frames, & plaque, \$100
4. Oral history project, \$750

Projected Year-end Net Worth

Based on these projections, ETS should end 2010 with a balance of approximately \$4,082. This is an increase of \$300 from the beginning of the fiscal year. However, due to funds being allocated for the oral history project, this represents a decrease from the \$5,000 balance we have generally maintained over the years.

Nominations Committee
Beth Caniglia, Chair

This year, our committee was charged to fill a slate for the following positions: Chair-elect, At-Large, Chair of the Nominations Committee, Chair of the Policy & Research Committee, Chair of the Publications Committee and Graduate Student Representative. Nominations were solicited at the section's annual business meeting and twice via the section listserv. The nominations solicited at the business meeting were anonymous, while the nominations submitted by email were not.

The Committee worked together to create a short-list of candidates for each position, if more than two people were nominated. The Committee was mindful of gender, race/ethnicity, and former service to the Council when selecting candidates and strived for broad representation on the slate. The short lists were derived from nominees submitted to the Committee for all positions except Chair-elect. The Committee nominated several candidates to serve as Chair-elect before filling the slate. Ultimately, however, both candidates who accepted to run had been submitted to the Committee.

Each of the top two nominees was contacted by email and/or phone by the Committee. The nominees were provided an overview of the position for which they were nominated; they were informed regarding the term of service; and an electronic file was updated regularly as to the status of each nominee.

The Committee solicited and received biographical statements from all candidates. These biographical statements were submitted to David Sonnenfeld, who submitted them to ASA.

Election results are listed on page 2.

Policy and Research Committee
Richard York, Chair

The committee had three main tasks. (1) To determine the winner of the Outstanding Publication Award; (2) to determine the winner of the Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award; and (3) to advance policy issues.

Outstanding Publication Award

There were a total of 12 books nominated for the Award this year, many of which were strong candidates. Due to conflicts of interest Rebecca Clausen and I recused ourselves from deliberations on the Award (we both were close colleagues/friends with one or more of the nominated books' authors). Therefore, after consultation with Robert Brulle, Steve Brechin and Andrew Jorgenson were appointed to join Angela Mertig in evaluating the books for the Award. The subcommittee selected Dorceta Taylor's book, *The Environment and the People in American Cities, 1600s-1900s: Disorder, Inequality, and Social Change*, as the winner. An announcement of the Award has also been sent to *Footnotes*.

Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award

We received seven nominations for this award, several of which were strong candidates. Rebecca Clausen and I evaluated the submissions carefully

and selected KuoRay Mao's paper, "The Neoliberal Conundrum: The Western Development Policies, Migration, and Environmental Degradation in Northwestern China," as the winner. An announcement of the Award has also been sent to *Footnotes*.

Policy Issues

The main effort of the Committee regarding policy issues has been to solicit policy relevant submissions for the Section newsletter. However, there is a lot of room to expand the Section's engagement with policy. We did not make the strides we hoped to of this front and encourage the incoming Chair of the Committee to consider an expanded engagement with policy issues. This could include developing a summary of insights and lessons from environmental sociology that could be used to educate the media and policy makers.

Additional Items

1. Conflict of Interest Policy

It would be helpful if the Council adopted some policy on conflict of interest for serving on award committees. In determining what policy we should have, it is important to recognize that not only is it necessary to avoid "genuine" conflicts of interest, but also the appearance of conflicts, since it is important that the legitimacy of awards is widely accepted and respected. Here are some guidelines we may wish to consider:

1. First and foremost, you should recuse yourself from an award committee if for any reason you do not believe you can make a fair evaluation.
2. You should recuse yourself if you have a clear personal stake in the outcome of an award committee decision.
3. You should recuse yourself from an award committee evaluating someone who is at your institution (either student or colleague), a student at a different institution from your own on whose dissertation committee you have served or are serving, someone you've collaborated with on research, or a close personal friend.
4. In cases of potential conflicts of interest, you should consult with the Section chair for advice.

We should consider whether we want to have specific guidelines for each award, or one general set of guidelines that applies to all awards. Note that as far as I can tell, we have not applied guidelines as stringent as the ones I list above to Council decisions on the Distinguished Contribution Award (e.g., I think

it has been common for a Council member to have co-authored with a nominee for this award). Perhaps we want a stricter set of guidelines for the Student Paper Awards and Outstanding Publications Awards than for the Distinguished Contribution Award. I have no singular strong preference on the various points, but do think it is important that we have a policy that helps us avoid conflicts of interest. Following Brulle's suggestion, I think it is worth considering the guidelines for fair reviewing used by *Contemporary Sociology* in developing this policy (see Appendix). However, it is important to recognize that for the Outstanding Publication Award there may be many nominations (12 books this year), so that it may be common to have multiple members need to recuse themselves. This could create practical problems since conflicts may not be known until the nomination deadline, in which case new members will need to be appointed with short notice.

2. Edited Books and the Outstanding Publication Award

At present, our policy does not exclude edited books. We may wish to consider whether such books should be eligible for the Award.

3. Foreign Language Books and the Outstanding Publication Award

It may be a good idea to specify that only books written in English are eligible for the award. This year one book written in Japanese was nominated, with a short English summary of the book. It was not possible to properly evaluate this book, since no committee members could read Japanese.

Publications Committee Michael Carolan, Chair

Written Publications (Newsletter)

Stephan Scholz's term as Newsletter editor ended with the recent release of the Winter 2008/9 newsletter. In preparation for his departure, a "call" for new Newsletter Editor was advertised in December of 2008. The Spring 2009 newsletter was compiled by Michael Agliardo (then at Canisius College, Department of Sociology, Buffalo, N.Y.).

Online Vehicles of Communication (Website, EnviroSoc listserv)

Most of the committee's energies have been directed toward the new website. A new website was launched in October 2008 (at which time we also

abandoned the ASA host server). Since then, we have (in no particular order):

- Transferred all of the information from the old webserver to the new one;
- Formatted and added new resources for students (e.g. the comprehensive biblio document);
- Formatted and added new resources for teachers (e.g. additions to the Climate Change Teach-In);
- Compiled a bibliography of sociology climate change literature;
- Entered new records into the Graduate Programs listing and made the listing more easily navigable;
- Refreshed the Scholarly Journals listing;
- Collected and listed all of the Section Newsletters;
- Updated Section Information items (e.g. section officer's page).

Items Council Should Consider

It has been suggested that the committee develop one or more vehicles for listing current significant reports that are open for public/scientific comment. This would have to be accompanied by a vehicle that would allow individuals to post comments. The website is likely the most efficient mechanism through which to accomplish this. First, this is a technical issue (e.g., what is the most efficient mechanism for posting comments?). But there is also the matter of keeping these postings up to date. Perhaps Section members could up-load these reports? This brings us to the following matter that Council may wish to discuss—that is, an up-loading function for the website.

The Committee has also talked about a syllabus listing and an area-of-expertise listing. David Sonnenfeld offered as a sample of the latter an "experts database" that WSU runs of its faculty: <http://experts.wsu.edu>. One way to address both listings options is to allow section members to create individual profiles on the website, which they can then update whenever they want. Syllabi and areas of expertise could be searchable by keyword, title, etc. by other members or by the public at large. If only section members can contribute information to the site the issue of monitoring its content would hopefully not be an issue. We could have them accept some terms of use that would prohibit profanity, inflammatory language, etc., and then make it easy for visitors to report offensive language, etc., to either the webmaster or Chair of the Publications Committee. Some questions/issues:

How could we make it easy for section members, and only section members, to obtain individual usernames and passwords for the website?

It would be good if an ex-section member's access would expire after failing to renew his/ her membership (after a grace period of X months). We will need to somehow have access to an up-to-the-minute list of section members who are current with their ASA membership dues.

Membership Committee Liam Downey, Chair

Between July 2009 and February 2010 ETS membership dropped from 442 to 314. To counteract this trend, I sent out several announcements over the ETS listserv as well as through the ETS newsletter requesting former members to rejoin the section and current members to recruit new members to the section. I also sent out e-mails to former members who were still in the ASA but had not rejoined the section and to former members who were no longer in the ASA. In these e-mails, I requested that they rejoin the section. As a result of these efforts, membership increased to 424. I will continue to place periodic requests in the ETS newsletter and to send out periodic e-mail reminders to current and former section members. However, I think it might also make sense to take advantage of our connection with PEWS to try to attract additional PEWS member into our section. I will work on this with their new chair, Leslie Gates.

Teaching, Training and Practice Committee Brian Mayer, Chair

Activities:

Adjudicate applications for Practice and Outreach Award

Solicited Contributions on Teaching, Practice, and Outreach for ETS Newsletter

In process: compiling lists of films appropriate for environmental sociology courses

Recommendations for improved committee operations:

We need to improve the definition of the Practice and Outreach Award, specifically in regards to defining the period that the award reflects. For example, is this a lifetime award or practice and outreach that is accomplished within the relevant year?

Suggested projects for the future:

Solicit some newsletter articles written by graduate students describing their experiences as graduate teaching assistants.

Help to develop teaching module on climate change for Climate Teach-In

Develop list of majors, minors, and certificate programs in Sustainability Studies and potential interfaces with environmental sociology programs

Member at Large Lee Clark

I have engaged, informally, in recruitment efforts among colleagues and graduate students. Much of this effort has been directed at colleagues in other countries. I am also active in the Southern Sociological Society, and so have extended my recruiting efforts there. I have made suggestions to friends and colleagues in other sections about possible items to submit to our newsletter, hoping to generate inter-sectional interest.

Future agenda

Consider combining with other, relevant ASA sections. This could result in a much larger, more influential section. The constant splintering of the organization jibes poorly with the aggregation of knowledge required to meaningfully address big environmental problems.

How can we better get our message to environmental reporters? Might be useful to consider mechanisms by which we identify the key environmental reporters and get names and specialties into their hands.

We should encourage scholars outside of the section to contribute documents to the website.

Maybe we should consider creating an identifiable image, a brand, as it were. This might entail ribbons that officers would wear at the meetings (as present ASA officers wear), perhaps a button or even a shirt with a logo on it. Identity seems to matter, so maybe we should get one.

Awards Committees

**Richard York, David Pellow, Timmons Roberts,
Brian Mayer**

Award decisions and descriptions

Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award

This year there were probably a record number of nominations for the Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award: **Arthur Mol**, nominated 2009 by David Sonnenfeld; Ariel Sala, nominated 2010 by John Bellamy Foster; Ken Gould, nominated 2010 by David Pellow; Chuck Geisler, nominated 2010 by Melanie Stansbury; Danny Faber, nominated 2010 by Phil Brown; and Michael Bell, nominated 2010 by Daniel Kleinman. This number of nominations and the diversity and strength of their work is a sign of vitality in our subfield and our section. Nominations are valid for three years.

The committee of twelve elected E&T Council members voted to give the award to Arthur Mol, who has been Professor in Environmental Policy in the Department of Social Sciences at Wageningen University in the Netherlands since 2000. (He by coincidence also won the International Sociological Association's Research Committee 24's every-four-year Buttel award this year). Arthur's 1995 PhD is from the University of Amsterdam, and he also holds an MSc in Environmental Sciences from Wageningen University.

Arthur's research is truly global: he has worked in and on Southeast and East Asia, Russia, the European Union, in Latin America and North America. Working on sustainable production and consumption, Arthur has been a pioneering developer of ecological modernization theory. His impact on our field has been great. By the time of David Sonnenfeld writing his letter last winter, Arthur had published "a staggering 23 books, 6 symposia, 80 journal articles, 68 book chapters, and more." He has been an active participant at ASA meetings and E&T miniconferences, and of course in international fora like the ISA's RC24. And one more area of remarkable strength is best told by David: "Through their successful efforts to gain support from Dutch international aid programs, from the Academies of Arts and Sciences in the Netherlands and China, from the Dutch National Science Foundation, from ministries in the various countries they have worked in, as well as from the European Union, Mol and his colleagues have been responsible for raising millions of Euros to train the next generation of environmental scholars and policy makers in Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, China, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Brazil, Russia and elsewhere. For Mol, this has been an encompassing commitment: he has personally taken on scores of doctoral and master's students from around the world."

Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award

There were a total of 12 books nominated for the Award this year, many of which were strong candidates. Due to conflicts of interest Rebecca Clausen and I recused ourselves from deliberations on the Award (we both were close colleagues/friends with one or more of the nominated books' authors). Therefore, after consultation with Robert Brulle, Steve Brechin and Andrew Jorgenson were appointed to join Angela Mertig in evaluating the books for the Award. The subcommittee selected **Dorceta Taylor's** book, *The Environment and the People in American Cities, 1600s-1900s: Disorder, Inequality, and Social Change*, as the winner. An announcement of the Award has been sent to the Section newsletter and to *Footnotes*.

Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism

Govind Gopakumar is this year's recipient of the Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism. He is an Assistant Professor and member of the Faculty of Engineering & Computer Science at Concordia University in Montreal.

Gopakumar's work emerges out of a deep concern with the plight of low-income urban residents in India who lack sanitation and water supplies. From that concern he builds a series of studies of the politics of urban sanitation and water supply systems in India. As urban shantytowns continue to grow and pressures of cities on local environments increase, issues of water and sanitation have become important sites for the intersections of environmental and social justice politics. Building on institutional sociology, transition theory, and Bourdieu's work on "fields", Gopakumar draws on his background in engineering and public policy and weaves it into a social science research agenda that provides a holistic analysis of social, economic, policy, and systems design issues involved in urban infrastructure development, public policy, and environmental change.

The review committee decided to award Govind Gopakumar the Boguslaw prize because his work matches well the Boguslaw family's concern for humanism and experiences of ordinary people in relation to technology, social change, and innovative solutions.

Environmental Sociology Practice and Outreach Award

Daniel Faber is the recipient of the Service and Outreach award.

Dr. Faber is Director of the Northeastern Environmental Justice Research Collaborative at Northeastern University. Over the past ten years, he has published two edited book collections, eight book chapters, six refereed journal articles, five major research reports, and a number of newspaper and magazine articles. He has also recently published a new book (2008) entitled *Capitalizing on Environmental Injustice: The Polluter-Industrial Complex in the Age of Globalization*, which was one of five finalists for the C.W. Mills Award.

Dr. Faber was chosen for the Environmental Sociology Practice and Outreach Award for the contributions that his scholarly work has had both in service to the discipline and on environmental policy and solutions to a variety of problems. His work on environmental inequities has informed public attention, philanthropy, and policy solutions for addressing unequal exposures to environmental hazards. His work on the environmental movement and foundations has led to major changes and improvements for the funding of nonprofit organizations. And finally, his work on sustainability and globalization has been broadly featured both domestically and internationally, and is featured in several research efforts and policy proposals to address the impact of global climate change on vulnerable communities.

Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award

The Policy and Research Committee has selected **KuoRay Mao** to be the recipient of the 2010 Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award for his manuscript titled "The Neoliberal Conundrum: The Western Development Policies, Migration, and Environmental Degradation in Northwestern China." This impressive paper offers a socio-historical analysis of the Chinese neoliberal turn, explaining the restructuring of the corresponding political and social systems according to a capitalist framework. KuoRay discusses the multiple consequences of this transformation including the rural "migrant labor regime," soil erosion and desertification, and the creation of ethnic unrest and regional disparities. The paper draws on theoretical studies of globalization and modernization to inform the analysis, providing original survey research for support. The breadth of this sociological analysis provides the foundation for an important reconceptualization of "environmental migration." KuoRay's exploration into the interwoven dynamics of environmental migration in China provides an important contribution as we face the uncertainties and challenges of an unequal world in the midst of environmental crisis.

KuoRay Mao is a doctoral student at the University of Kansas, and expects to complete his PhD in winter 2011. His research in China has been supported through multiple grants, including a Fulbright scholarship and a NSF fellowship. The Environment and Technology Section wishes him continued success in his important contributions to environmental sociology.

Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

Upcoming Symposium: *Freudenfest: A Symposium to Honor William R. Freudenburg's Scholarly Contributions*

November 6, 2010
University of California – Santa Barbara

Please join us for an upcoming special symposium called *Freudenfest*, to be held November 6, 2010, at the University of California at Santa Barbara. There is a tremendous need to forge new directions in scholarship on environment and society that can ensure meaningful contributions to academia and civil society alike. There is perhaps no other contributor who has offered a larger trove of concepts and insights to direct such an endeavour than William R. Freudenburg, Dehlsen Professor of Environment and Society at UCSB. Over the past several decades, his work in the areas of risk, disaster, and natural resource development, and most critically the political forces that define such events, has offered multiple seeds that warrant further development by others in our sub-discipline.

Please join us for a day of collaborative discussion and celebration of Dr. Freudenburg's contributions to sociology, environmental studies, and society. Several presenters have already confirmed their ability to start the discussion off with their own insights, including Riley Dunlap, Eugene Rosa, Kathleen Tierney, Tom Heberlein, Lee Clarke, Raymond Murphy, Rick Krannich, Bob Gramling, Dana Fisher, Debra Davidson and Rich Stedman. Planning is still in the works, and we will have a registration form and payment process set up soon. In the meantime, please let the organizing committee chair, Debra Davidson (debra.davidson@ualberta.ca) know by email of your intention to participate. Fees have been kept nominal, to cover the costs of refreshments and a banquet dinner. The fee for students is \$50, and \$85 for the rest of us. We have blocks of hotel rooms

reserved at a discounted rate at the Hotel Santa Barbara (<https://www.reservations-page.com/C00000/H00196/be.ashx?pc=Freudenfest>), and Holiday Inn Express Hotel Virginia (<http://www.hotelvirginia.com/>).

Organizers: Debra Davidson, Riley Dunlap, Dana Fisher, Bob Gramling & Josh Schimel

If you cannot make the symposium but would like to submit a statement to be read or posted, please send it to Debra Davidson at debra.davidson@ualberta.ca

Call for Papers Association of American Geographers Conference: Religion and the Environment 2011

April 12-15, 2011
Seattle, WA

This session welcomes papers from a variety of perspectives and scales that explore the ways natural resource management, sustainability or environmental degradation interact with religion. Papers in this session could address (but are certainly not limited to) the question: What role does religion play in shaping our attitudes towards the natural world (or vice versa)? What is the relationship between the environment and sacred space / material culture / historical geography? What is the religion-environment nexus in places such as Asia, the Pacific, Latin America or Africa? What is the relationship between lived religion and social, economic and / or environmental sustainability? In what ways do notions of environmental stewardship or religious eschatology (the study of last things) influence local, national, regional and/or geo-political uses / abuses of the environment and its resources? What roles do deeply-held beliefs play in shaping environmental decisions, lifestyles and / or policy? How does the (re)interpretation of religious texts influence religious praxis, and vice versa?

Interested participants are invited to send expressions of interest, questions, and/or the title and abstract of 250 words or less to Michael Ferber (michael.ferber@kingsu.ca) or Deborah Lee (deborah.lee@nus.edu.sg) by October 20, 2010 (or, if there is an extension for the general AAG CFP, at the end of the final call). Upon acceptance, you would have to submit your AAG pin number for inclusion in the session.

More information can be found at <http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>.

Call for Chapter Proposal: Agenda for Social Justice

In 2004 and 2008, the SSSP and the Justice 21 Committee published the first two volumes of the **Agenda for Social Justice**. Those reports contained chapters on a variety of social problems, among them poverty, educational inequality, unemployment, environmental health risks, global economic change, capital punishment, post-Katrina disaster response, gender inequality in the criminal justice system, vulnerability of ESL public school students, surveillance technologies, civil unions, domestic violence.

We are now beginning our work on the third publication--**Agenda for Social Justice-2012**. This publication is designed to inform the public-at-large about the nation's most pressing social problems and to propose a public policy response to those problems. This project affirms the commitment of SSSP to social justice, and enables the members of the association to speak on public issues with the sponsorship of the corporate body. This report will be an "agenda for social justice," in that it will contain recommendations for action by elected officials, policy makers, and the public at large. The report will be distributed as widely as possible to policy makers, those in progressive media, and academics.

The quadrennial report will be a product of the most valid and reliable knowledge we have about social problems and it will be a joint effort of the members and Divisions of SSSP. We invite you to consider preparing a chapter for the 2012 publication. We ask you, individually or with colleagues, to consider submitting a brief proposal (1-2 pp) identifying a social problem of concern to members of SSSP, and respond to the questions:

- *What do we know?*
- *How do we know it?*
- *What is to be done?*

As the coordinating committee for **Justice 21**, we invite members to prepare a draft statement for a proposed contribution to the 2012 publication, tentatively to be produced and distributed by the Edwin Mellen Press (<http://www.mellenpress.com/>). For the 2012 edition, confirmed contributors include the following well-known sociologists: Frances Fox Piven, Alejandro Portes, and Amatai Etzioni. Please submit a copy of your 1-2 page proposals to each of the members of the committee by March 1, 2011, and contact us if you have questions or would like additional information. Final manuscripts will be due near the end of 2011, and will appear in print prior to the 2012 SSSP annual meetings in August 2012.

Glenn Muschert (chair), Miami University,
muschegw@muohio.edu
Kathleen Ferraro, Northern Arizona University,
kathleen.ferraro@nau.edu
Brian Klocke, SUNY Plattsburgh,
bkloc001@plattsburgh.edu
JoAnn Miller, Purdue University,
jmiller@purdue.edu
Robert Perrucci, Purdue University,
perruccir@purdue.edu
Jon Shefner, University of Tennessee,
jshfner@utk.edu

For an expanded discussion of **Justice 21**, see the May 2001 issue of *Social Problems* ("Inventing Social Justice"). To see the 2004 and 2008 publications, see the SSSP website at the following address:
<http://sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/323>

New Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences (JESS)

The National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) is pleased to announce the launch of the Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences (JESS), the official publication of the Association for Environmental Sciences and Studies (AESS). The Journal will be issued quarterly in electronic and hard copy by Springer Publications beginning in early 2011. We invite you to submit articles for the Journal.

AESS is an independent professional association designed to serve the needs of environmental scholars, scientists, practitioners and students who value interdisciplinary approaches to research, teaching, and problem-solving. NCSE serves as the Secretariat for AESS. We encourage you to join as a member and become an original subscriber to the Journal. To join or to find more information about AESS, please visit <http://www.aess.info/>.

The AESS and Journal provide venues for the advancement of interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the coupled human-nature systems. A major goal of AESS is to encourage this advancement by promoting related teaching, research and service and by facilitating communication across boundaries that may inhibit environmental discourse across traditional academic disciplines. This commitment also involves supporting the professional development of Association members and advancing the educational status of Environmental Studies and Environmental Sciences programs. The Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (CEDD) of which NCSE also

serves as Secretariat is actively involved in the leadership of AESS.

The Journal, available to all AESS members, provides a peer-reviewed, academically rigorous and professionally recognized forum for the publication of explicitly interdisciplinary environmental research, policy analysis and advocacy, educational discourse and other related matters. Contributions are welcome from any discipline or combination of disciplines, any vocation or professional affiliation, any national, ethnic or cultural background. Articles may relate to any historical and global setting. The Journal provides several submission categories:

- Research and Theory.
- Research Briefs.
- Environmental Education
- Policy Analysis
- Commentary and Opinion
- Book Reviews and Review Articles
- Special Issues and Symposia
- Letters

Additional information about submissions and instructions for authors are available at the Journal website:

http://www.springer.com/environment/journal/13412?detailsPage=editorialBoard&cm_mmc=AD--Journal--BIO12955_V1--0

Upcoming Conference

Please also remember to mark your calendar for AESS's 2011 Annual Meeting and Conference, "Confronting Complexity" to be hosted by the University of Vermont on June 23-26, 2011.

Special EJ Issue of the journal Environmental Practice

As mentioned at the ASA E&T Business meeting, the Journal Environmental Practice will be doing a special EJ issue for Summer 2011. Articles to be considered for this issue are due by December 31, 2010. Please send all submissions directly to the journal. For more information on submission guidelines, please visit the following link:

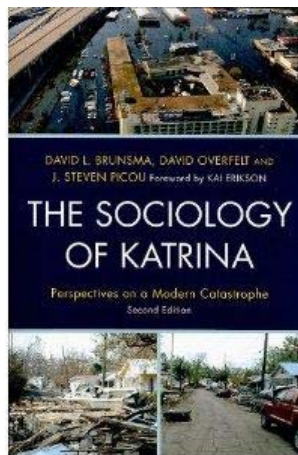
http://journals.cambridge.org/images/fileUpload/documents/ENP_ifc.pdf

Publications

Books

[The Sociology of Katrina: A Perspectives On a Modern Catastrophe](#)

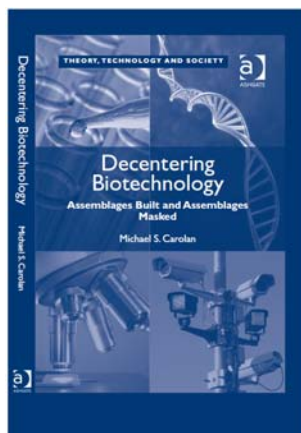
David Brunnsma, Dave Overfelt
and J. Steven Picou (eds)
Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (2010)



The second edition of *The Sociology of Katrina* brings together the nation's top sociological researchers in an effort to deepen our understanding of the modern catastrophe that is Hurricane Katrina. Five years after the storm, its profound impact continues to be felt. This edition explores emerging themes, as well as ongoing issues that continue to besiege survivors. The book has been updated and revised throughout—from data about recovery efforts and environmental conditions, to discussions of major social issues in education, health care, the economy, and crime. The authors thoroughly review the important topic of recovery, both in New Orleans and in the wider area of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This new edition features a new chapter focused on the Katrina experience for people in the primary impact area, or 'ground zero,' five years after the storm. This chapter uncovers many challenges in overcoming the critical problems caused by the storm of the century. From this important update of the acclaimed first edition, it is apparent that 'the storm is not over,' as Katrina continues to generate political, economic, community, and personal controversy.

Decentering Biotechnology: Assemblages Built and Assemblages Masked

Michael S. Carolan
Ashgate (2010).



Decentering Biotechnology explores the nature of technology, objects and patent law. Investigating the patenting of organic life and the manner in which artifacts of biotechnology are given their object-ive appearance, Carolan details the enrollment mechanisms that give biotechnology its

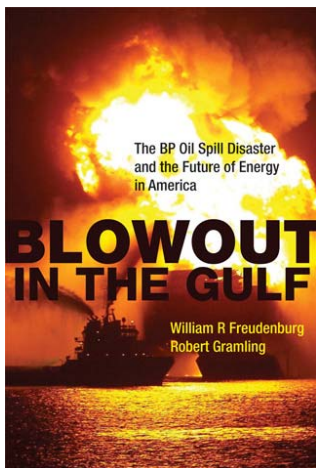
momentum. Drawing on legal judgements and case studies, this fascinating book examines the nature of object-ification, as a thought and a thing, without which biotechnology, as it is done today, would not be possible. Unable to reject biotechnology per se, recognizing that such a rejection would essentialize the very objective categories shown to be manufactured, Carolan ultimately argues for doing biotechnology differently. A theoretically sophisticated analysis of the nature of objects and the role of technology as a form of life which shapes the social landscape, *Decentering Biotechnology* engages with questions of power, globalization, development, resistance, exclusion, and participation that arise from treating biological objects differently from conventional property forms. As such, it will appeal to social theorists, sociologists and philosophers, as well as scholars of law and science and technology studies.

"*Decentering Biotechnology* is a lucid and timely book. It illuminates how the biotechnology regime exercises power to create new avenues for profit through the commodification of nature. Anyone interested in understanding how patents are employed in opposition to public welfare needs to read this book." Brett Clark, North Carolina State University, USA

"*Decentering Biotechnology: Assemblages Built and Assemblages Masked* offers an at once scholarly and refreshingly clear account of a core component of contemporary technoscientific imaginaries – biotechnology. Theoretically sophisticated, and carefully historically documented, Carolan incisively highlights some of the key legal, social, economic and scientific issues of the 21st century." Adrian Mackenzie, Lancaster University, UK

[Blowout in the Gulf: The BP Oil Disaster and the Future of Energy in America](#)

William Freudenburg and Bob Gramling
MIT Press (2010)



On April 20, 2010, the gigantic drilling rig *Deepwater Horizon* blew up in the Gulf of Mexico, killing eleven crew members and causing a massive eruption of oil from BP's Macondo well. For months, oil gushed into the Gulf, spreading death and destruction. Americans watched real-time video of the huge column of oil and gas spewing from the obviously failed "blowout preventer." The evening

news showed heart-rending images of pelicans, dolphins, and other Gulf wildlife covered in oil. What has been missing until now, though, is a book that tells the larger story of this disaster. In *Blowout in the Gulf*, energy experts William Freudenburg and Robert Gramling explain both the disaster and the decisions that led up to it. They note that—both in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere—we have been getting into increasingly dangerous waters over recent decades, with some in the industry cutting corners and with most federal regulators not even noticing. In the process, the actual owners of the oil—American taxpayers—have come to receive a lower fraction of the income from the oil than in almost any other nation on earth.

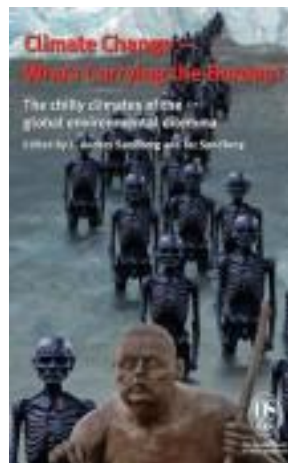
Freudenburg and Gramling argue that it is time for a new approach. BP's Oil Spill Response Plan was pure fantasy, claiming the company could handle the equivalent of an Exxon Valdez spill every day, even though "cleaning up" an oil spill is essentially impossible. For the future, our emphasis needs to be on true prevention, and our risk-management policies need to be based on better understandings of humans as well as hardware.

Blowout in the Gulf weaves these failures, missteps, and bad decisions into a fascinating narrative that explains why this oil spill was a disaster waiting to happen—and how making better energy choices will help prevent others like it.

Freudenburg and Gramling are the authors of *Oil in Troubled Waters: Perceptions, Politics, and the Battle over Offshore Drilling*.

[Climate Change - Who's Carrying the Burden: The Chilly Climates of the Global Environmental Dilemma](#)

L. Anders Sandberg and Tor Sandberg
Policy Alternatives (2010)



The devastating impacts of climate change are clear. But there are disturbing revelations about how global elites are tackling the issue. Al Gore—on one hand — promotes carbon emissions trading and green technologies as a solution, and—on the other—profits handsomely from his timely investments in those same initiatives. Infamous climate change skeptic Bjørn Lomborg recommends free market solutions to fight

global poverty and disease. And it's these solutions that almost exclusively receive the attention of world leaders, so-called experts and media pundits.

Climate Change—Who's Carrying the Burden? rallies the call of climate justice advocates and activists concerned with 'system change not climate change'. This call demands control of local resources, the restitution of past wrongs, and the willingness to conceive and accept different modes of living and seeing.

The contributors to this book draw attention to the disparity between climate change and social justice concerns. They seek to confound, confuse and extend what constitutes the meaning of climate change. They juxtapose and make connections between climate change and the chilly climates that exclude and marginalize groups and individuals who live and imagine different ways of interacting that are more respectful of social and environmental relationships.

Sustainable Justice in the Community

Liam Leonard and Paula Kenny, eds.
Emerald Group Publishing Limited (2010)



"Sustainable Justice and the Community" is an attempt to locate justice in a workable and sustainable way within the community, introducing 'Sustainable Justice' as a key concept for the coming century. This volume is a critical examination of three key concepts which need to be understood for the management of today's flexible and fluid society, namely Sustainability, Justice and

Community. Within this study, we seek to explore both through an analysis built from their original philosophical understandings, through to their contemporary usage and application, ultimately developing new understandings through a combination of the essential thematic notions underpinning these salient concepts.

Please note that all books in this series have the same cover design

Eco-socialism as Politics: Rebuilding the Basics of Our Modern Civilisation

Quingzhi Huan, ed.
Springer Publishing (2010)

This volume consists of analyses by experts from both the West and the East on the up-to-date development of



Eco-socialism as a red-green politics within the context of capitalist globalisation. It investigates whether and/or in what sense Eco-socialism can offer a better explanation to the causes of ecological problems than the other Green discourses - such as deep ecology and ecological modernisation theory, and thus has more contributions to make in dealing with the deteriorating ecological crisis throughout the world.

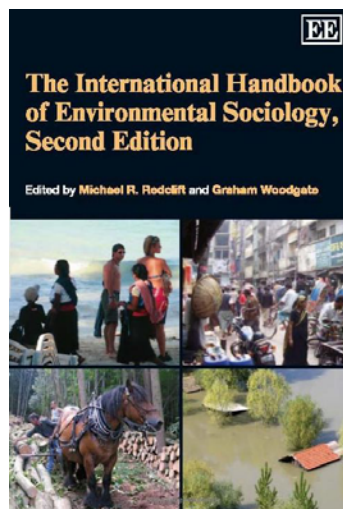
The International Handbook of Environmental Sociology, 2nd edition

Michael R. Redclift, ed.
Edward Elgar Publishing (2010)

When the first edition of The International Handbook of Environmental Sociology was published in 1997, it became a staple in the field. This second edition is sure to receive the same acclaim as the first.

For those familiar with the first edition, The 2010 Handbook maintains the same structure. It is divided into three main parts:

- I. Concepts and Theories in Environmental Sociology
- II. Substantive Issues for Environmental Sociology
- III. International Perspectives on Environment and Society



In all, some 26 scholarly articles are distributed among these three parts. Woodgate provides an overall introduction, and editorial commentaries to each part, as well. While each author writes in his or her own style and addresses a unique area of expertise, the collection holds together nicely. As a result, the Handbook maintains a judicious balance between providing a survey of the field and giving the reader a

considered look at key issues that are setting the environmental agenda of the day. As with the first edition, contributors to this volume include both the foremost established scholars in the field and important newer voices.

Part I is noteworthy for the way that it surveys the paths along which environmental sociology has evolved in the past decade or more. It also speaks to the moment with articles that nicely capture the state of the debate concerning ecological modernization theory, global ecosociology, human exceptionalism, ecological debt, and a range of other theoretical issues. Part II Surveys many of the substantive fields that we research and teach about: animals and society, the social role of science, environmental social movements, consumption, globalization, environmental disasters, the politics of climate change, and forest management. Finally, part III shines a spotlight on Africa, Australia, China, Mexico, and Eastern Europe.

This second edition of *The International Handbook of Environmental Sociology* will prove an invaluable resource for all involved in the field.

- Michael Agliardo, SJ, Department of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago

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The table of contents for **Organization & Environment** can be found at the following links:

June 2010, 23(2):

<http://oae.sagepub.com/content/23/2.toc>

September 2010, 23(3):

<http://oae.sagepub.com/content/current>

Member News

Riley E. Dunlap

Riley E. Dunlap, Oklahoma State University, has been elected a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. Riley was nominated for fellow status by APA's Division on Population and Environmental Psychology in recognition of his scholarship on environmental attitudes, beliefs and values.

Michael Mascarenhas

Michael Mascarenhas was featured in the *New York Times*' "Scientist at Work" section while on a two-week research trip in Rwanda where he participate in and analyzed a baseline survey and assessment of drinking water and sanitation. Below are links to the *New York Times* articles:

Mascarenhas, M. 2010a. "Interviews on Water Use Are Thirsty Work." in The New York Times. Science. <http://scientistatwork.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/01/interviews-on-water-use-are-thirsty-work/>.

September 1st, 2010: The New York Times Company.

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September 15th, 2010: The New York Times Company.

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<http://scientistatwork.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/09/the-tale-of-two-umudugudus-villages/>.

September 9th, 2010: The New York Times Company.

Member News (continued)

Tanya Pergola

The organization - Terrawatu - founded in Tanzania in 2000 by Environmental Sociologist Dr. Tanya Pergola (PhD, University of Washington, 1999) has been operating educational tours for 7 years and has just launched a student internship programme in collaboration with Washington College in Maryland. Students from around the world are welcome to apply. For more information about both Educational Group Tours and Personalized Group Tours that uniquely combine cross-cultural learning and sustainable development-in-action visit:

<http://www.peopletopeoplesafaris.com/>

Eugene A. Rosa

Eugene A. Rosa was featured on a Science Podcast at

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/sci:329/5993/762/DC1>