

Environment, Technology and Society

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

Fall 2012

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Organization & Environment: The Jermier Years, 1997-2012

by John Bellamy Foster

After 15 years of publication, *Organization & Environment* (O&E) is approaching a twofold transition: (1) its founding editor, John Jermier is stepping down along with his coeditor Richard York, and (2) SAGE Publications has shifted editorial control of the journal to the Group on Organizations and the Natural Environment (GRONEN) based in Europe, where it will be edited by two mainstream business management scholars Mark Starik and J. Alberto Aragón-Correa, beginning with the March 2013 issue. The shift in control of the journal was engineered by SAGE and GRONEN unbeknownst to the current editors and most of the editorial board of the journal, and was carried out in the face of their adamant objections once they became aware of the editorial coup. Jermier and York had been working in conjunction with the editorial board on a plan for a smooth editorial transition for the journal. Instead, O&E is being transformed from a self-designated "eco-social" journal with strong links both to critical organizations theory and environmental sociology to one in which environmental sociology will be excluded, in favor of a sustainability-management (or green-capitalist) policy orientation. This represents a major setback for environmental sociology, if not environmental social science as a whole.

The story of O&E's rise and fall and of the role it played in the growth of environmental sociology over the last decade and a half is well worth telling. In 1996 John Jermier, a leading critical organization theorist at University of South Florida invited me to become part of the editorial group of a new, planned, peer-reviewed journal, *Organization & Environment*, to be published by SAGE and edited by himself and Paul Shrivastava—

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another important figure in critical environmental management. The new journal was to have an interdisciplinary focus. Part of the contents would come from critical organization theory and various other social science fields, and part would be devoted to culture and the environmental movement. Poetry and art were to be included. There was from the start a strong opening to radical ecology: including ecofeminism and ecosocialism. (An additional key figure in the critical orientation and development of the journal was Linda Forbes, who occupied various editorial roles in relation to *O&E* over its history.) I had published my book *The Vulnerable Planet* a couple years prior to this and was writing on classical sociology and the environment. The proposal was that I would edit a regular specialty section of *O&E* on Citation Classics and Foundational Works. However, in getting the new journal off the ground contract issues quickly arose with SAGE that I played a role in resolving, and I had a large part in the editing of the journal from the outset. As a result, by the time vol. 1, no. 1 of *O&E* was published in March 1997, I had joined Jermier and Shrivastava as a co-editor. Soon after (in June 1997) Shrivastava was compelled by a strenuous work schedule to step down.

Apart from being inspired by the critical vision that Jermier had for the new journal, my reason for agreeing to be co-editor of *O&E* had to do with the opportunity that this represented for environmental sociology. At the time a central issue in environmental sociology was that the field had been almost entirely shut out of the leading sociological journals, such as the *American Journal of Sociology* and the *American Sociological Review*. Environmental sociology, with only two or three exceptions, was largely absent from sociology departments in the big research universities. Those receiving doctoral degrees in the field had few job opportunities and were repeatedly blocked from interviewing in major programs (a problem that repeatedly arose at the University of Oregon where I worked). Above all, there were very limited academic venues in which environmental sociologists could develop their own ideas. I therefore saw *O&E* as a means by which environmental sociologists could break out of this trap by publishing and developing their ideas—beyond the opportunities already afforded by such journals as *Society and Natural Resources* and *Rural Sociology*. Jermier was a leading figure in the Organization and Natural Environment section of the Academy of Management, while I was increasingly involved with the Environment and Technology section of the ASA. We decided to make this double affiliation the distinguishing characteristic of *O&E*. It was this double affiliation that defined the journal for the next fifteen years. I stepped down from co-editorship in December 2001 as a result of becoming co-editor of *Monthly Review*. Jermier continued as editor alone for a number of years, and then brought in the management theorist Mark Starik as coeditor from March 2005 to December 2007, followed by environmental sociologist Richard

York from my department (now chair-elect of the Environment and Technology section), who served as coeditor of *O&E* from March 2006 to the present. Kari Norgaard, then a graduate student, served early on as book review editor. In all of these years *O&E* maintained the connection to environmental sociology.

The success of *O&E* was extraordinary. It published original articles by world-renowned environmental thinkers, including such figures as: Shirley Briggs (Rachel Carson's colleague), Barry Commoner, Herman Daly, David Korten, Carolyn Merchant, and Bill McKibben—together with an in-depth interview of Pete Seeger (by Linda Forbes). *O&E* authors represented a veritable Who's Who of environmental sociology, as well as numerous up-and-coming scholars, including (to name just a few): Tom Athanasiou, David Barkin, Ulrich Beck, Ted Benton, Paul Burkett, Stephen Bunker, Frederick Buttel, Robert Brulle, Carlos Castro, William Catton, Brett Clark, Rebecca Clausen, Matthew Thomas Clement, Maurie Cohen, Stephen Couch, Thomas Dietz, Liam Downing, Michael Dreiling, Riley Dunlap, Robyn Eckersley, Christina Ergas, James Elliott, William Freudenburg, Scott Frickel, Martha Gimenez, Kenneth Gould, Ryan Gunderson, Gregory Hooks, Michael Hudson, Craig Jenkins, Andrew Jones, Edward Kick, Andrew Jorgenson, Steve Kroll-Smith, David Levy, Andrew Light, Timothy Luke, Lauren Lutzenhiser, Arthur Mol, Jason Moore, Stefano Longo, Mary Mellor, Karie Marie Norgaard, Brian Obach, Michael Perelman, David Pellow, Charles Perrow, James Rice, Eugene Rosa, Ariel Salleh, Allan Schnaiberg, Kristin Shrader-Frechette, Chad Smith, David Sonnenfeld, Gert Spaargaren, Victor Wallis, Adam Weinberg, and Stephen Yearly. Particularly under the co-editorship of Jermier and York the journal took off. In 2011 it attained an impact factor higher than *Social Problems* and almost equal to *Social Forces*.

But if *O&E* was such a remarkable success story, and if its success had so much to do with the role of environmental sociology in the journal, how do we explain SAGE's turning it over to GRONEN, representing mainstream business management, and placing its emphasis (as indicated in the statement of incoming editors Starik and Aragón-Correa on the journal's website) on "sustainability management" and environmental "policy"? Why is it the case—as *O&E*'s editors and board were duly informed—that the post-Jermier *O&E* would largely exclude environmental sociology? The answer is to be found in the fact that academic journals published in the private sector are commodities. Academic journal publishing is a \$10 billion industry, one which has its content provided for free, has very minimal production costs (production runs are small and journals are increasingly digitalized), and has monopoly power over pricing (since university libraries have little choice but to pay whatever is charged)—resulting in 30-40 percent profit margins (see Armin Beverungen, et. al., "The Poverty of Journal Publishing," *Organization*, pre-publication online version, August 8, 2012). SAGE is a privately-held corporation and one of

the top five academic journal publishers, which together represent about 40 percent of the total market. SAGE alone publishes some 645 academic journals, employs a workforce of 1,100, and offshores much of the remaining production (mainly copyediting) to India. It owns *O&E* outright. GRONEN offered SAGE an enlarged subscription base in Europe for *O&E*, representing enhanced revenue. There is no longer a print edition of *O&E*. Annual digital library subscriptions for the journal (including the backlist) now run at \$749 a year, according to SAGE's latest price list. Several hundred extra institutional subscriptions a year can translate quickly into a quarter of a million dollars. Moreover, SAGE publishes eleven out of twenty-nine organizational studies journal primarily directed at business schools. *O&E* was a critical academic journal that continually threatened the coherence of SAGE's organization journal offerings, and ran at cross-purposes with SAGE's own business culture. Hence, SAGE's long-term profit objectives fit exactly with turning editorship of *O&E* over to GRONEN.

O&E's demise can be viewed as a metaphor for the ecological and economic contradictions of our society. *O&E* will continue to exist *in name* as a GRONEN journal, dedicated to sustainability management, and to green business. For environmental sociologists, however, *O&E* is as good as dead. Nevertheless, its history cannot be erased. As we continue to develop environmental sociology as a critical field, we will continually be drawn back to the crucial legacy represented by *Organization and Environment*: the Jermier Years.

There is no doubt that environmental sociology is in a far better place than it was fifteen years ago. Due partly to the extraordinary role that *O&E* played, environmental sociology has been able to attain footholds in the discipline as a whole, with articles now appearing in the top journals. Nevertheless, the need for a broad, critical environmental sociology journal of the kind that *O&E* represented remains. It may not be too soon for the field to begin to consider the development of a replacement journal—this time one over which we retain ownership and hence complete and final control.



Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

GENDER AND DISASTER WEBINAR SERIES

This series is brought to you through the Gender and Disaster Resilience Alliance and EPI Global. Both organizations are committed to building awareness about the importance of gender in disaster vulnerability and resilience. Speakers, subtopic, and registration details will be announced on our websites. Visit EPI Global at <http://www.epiglobal.org/>; and GDRA at www.usgdra.org. Registration for the event is free. Future webinars include:

Webinar #3: Gender and Emergency Health

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, at 1pm EST

Webinar #4: Gender and Climate Change

Wednesday, April 10, 2013, at 1pm EST

Webinar #5: Gender, Disaster, Policies & Politics

Wednesday, July 10, 2013, at 1pm EST



AESS (Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences) 2013: "Linking Rural and Urban Societies and Ecologies."

Duquesne University - Pittsburgh, PA.

June 19-22, 2013

For more information visit <http://aess.info/>

The Society for Conservation Biology's Social Science Working Group (SSWG)

Those Interested in the sociology of biodiversity conservation, please consider joining the Social Science Working Group of SCB. This is a global community of conservation professionals interested in the social aspects of biodiversity conservation. With over 600 members in 70 countries, the SSWG is home to social scientists, natural scientists and conservation practitioners.

For more information please visit this website:

<http://www.conbio.org/groups/workinggroups/social-science/get-involve>

Publications

Books

Statistics with Stata, version 12.

Lawrence C. Hamilton
Cengage (2013)

http://www.cengage.com/search/productOverview.do?Ntt=19924697268043842919393998261001618481&N=16+4294922413+4294966842&Ntk=P_EPI

A new edition of Hamilton's *Statistics with Stata*, updated for Stata version 12, has just been published by Cengage. Written by an environmental sociologist, this edition is reorganized and revised



Lawrence C. Hamilton

with fresh examples on climate and survey-research themes. For example, the chapter on Survey Data shows partisanship and education effects on responses to a factual question asking whether the area of Arctic sea ice has declined in recent decades.

A later chapter on Time Series Analysis demonstrates simple models in which volcanic forcing, solar variation, El Niño and CO₂ are tested sequentially as predictors of global temperature.

All the example datasets can be downloaded from the publisher (Cengage) or StataCorp. The detailed contents of *Statistics with Stata* cover basic to advanced topics, including:

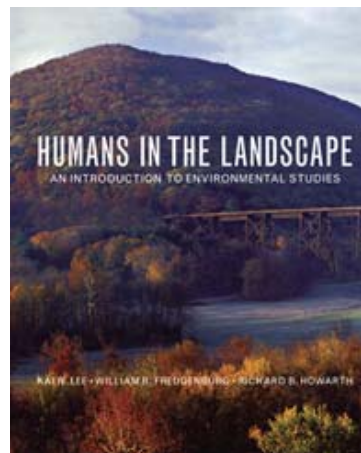
- A chapter on database management, including sections on how to create, import, combine or restructure datasets.
- An example-based introduction to Stata's graphical capabilities, including the Graph Editor. Topics range from simple bar and line plots to regression diagnostics, overlaying multiple plots and drawing detailed, publication-quality graphics.

- Basic statistical tools, including tables, parametric tests, chi-squared and other nonparametric tests, ANOVA/ANCOVA, correlation and regression analysis.
- Advanced methods including lowess, robust, quantile, nonlinear and Box–Cox regression; logit, ordered logit and multinomial logit models; survival, event-count and Poisson analysis; generalized linear modeling (GLM); factor analysis and cluster analysis; ARIMA and ARMAX time series modeling; and multilevel or mixed-effects modeling—all demonstrated through practical, easy-to-follow examples with an emphasis on interpretation.
- New sections and illustrations for simple to advanced survey data analysis; using marginal effect plots to visualize results from ANOVA, regression, logit or mixed-effects modeling; structural equation modeling (SEM); using factor scores in regression; and multiple imputation of missing values.
- New example datasets including 3 recent surveys, and time series tracking ancient to modern climate change.
- Examples showing how to write your own programs in Stata.

Humans in the Landscape: An Introduction to Environmental Studies

Lee N. Kai, Richard Howarth, and William Freudenburg
W.W. & Norton Company (2012)

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail.aspx?ID=4294969924>



This is the first textbook to fully synthesize all key disciplines of environmental studies. *Humans in the Landscape* draws on the biophysical sciences, social sciences, and humanities to explore the interactions between cultures and environments over

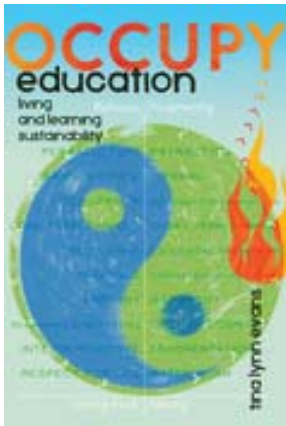
time, and discusses classic environmental problems in the context of the overarching conflicts and frameworks that motivate them.

Occupy Education: Living and Learning Sustainability

Tina Lynn Evans
Peter Lang (2012)

<http://www.peterlang.com/home>

Occupy Education is motivated by the sustainability crisis and energized by the drive for social justice that inspired the Occupy movement. Situated within the struggle for sustainability taking place amid



looming resource shortages, climate change, economic instability, and ecological breakdown, the book is a timely contribution to community education and action. It opens a whole realm of integrated theory to educators and sustainability activists and demonstrates how that theory can be moved into practice.

Occupy Education is an excellent text for courses in sustainability studies, social philosophy, globalization, social justice, food system praxis, sustainability education, political economy, and environmental studies.

"Our minds, and education which shapes our minds, have been colonised with false categories of separation, fragmentation, competition, scarcity, and greed. We have to free our minds in order to free life on earth and all people from the threat of destruction and extinction. Occupy Education is an important book for our finding our way to an inclusive freedom, to Earth Democracy."

Vandana Shiva, founding member of the Navdanya project; author of Earth Democracy and other books; winner of the Right Livelihood Award



Articles

Adams, Alison E. and Thomas E. Shriver. 2011. "Collective Identity and Gendered Activism in the Czech Environmental Movement: The South Bohemian Mothers' Struggle Against Nuclear Power." *Research in Social Movements, Conflicts, and Change* 32:163-189.

Bonds, Eric and Liam Downey. 2012. "Green Technologies and Unequal Ecological Exchange: The Environmental and Social Consequences of Ecological Modernization in the World System." *Journal of World-Systems Research* 18: 1-22.

Clark, Brett, and Andrew K Jorgenson. 2012. "The Treadmill of Destruction and the Environmental Impacts of Militaries." *Sociology Compass* 6(7): 557-569.

Clement, Matthew Thomas and James R. Elliott. 2012. "Growth Machines and Carbon Emissions: A County-Level Analysis of how U.S. Place-Making Contributes to Global Climate Change," in William G. Holt (ed.) *Urban Areas and Global Climate Change* (Research in Urban Sociology, Volume 12), Emerald Group Publishing Limited, pp.29-50.

Gould, Kenneth A., and Tammy L. Lewis. 2012. "The Environmental Injustice of Green Gentrification: The Case of Brooklyn's Prospect Park" in *The World in Brooklyn: Gentrification, Immigration, and Ethnic Politics in a Global City*. Judith DeSena and Timothy Shortell, editors. Lexington Books.

Hall, Thomas D. 2012. Nagel, Joane and Thomas D. Hall. 2012. in press. "Sociology of American Indians." In *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online*, edited by George Ritzer. New York: Wiley-Blackwell.

Hall, Thomas D. 2011. *How Chiefs Became Kings: Divine Kingship and the Rise of Archaic States in Ancient Hawai'i*. By Patrick Vinton Kirch, *Journal of the West*, 50:1(Winter):105.

Hall, Thomas D. 2012. *The Uniqueness of Western Civilization*. By Richardo Duchesne, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 52(2): 143-146.

Hall, Thomas D. 2012. Book Review: *Patterns of Empire: The British and American Empires, 1688 to the Present*. By Julian Go. *Journal of World-Systems Research* 18:2:278-297.

Hall, Thomas D. 2011. *How Chiefs Became Kings: Divine Kingship and the Rise of Archaic States in Ancient Hawai'i*. By Patrick Vinton Kirch, *Journal of the West*, 50:1(Winter):105.

Hall, Thomas D. 2012. *The Uniqueness of Western Civilization*. By Richardo Duchesne, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 52:2(April):143-146.

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Hamilton, Lawrence C. 2012. "Did the Arctic ice recover? Demographics of True and False Climate Facts." *Weather, Climate, and Society*. DOI: 10.1175/WCAS-D-12-00008.1

Harland Prechel and Lu Zheng, 2012. "Corporate Characteristics, Political Embeddedness and Environmental Pollution by Large U.S. Corporations." *Social Forces* 90(3): 947-970.

Organizational and environmental sociology contain surprisingly few studies of the corporation as one of the sources of environmental pollution. To fill this gap, we focus on the parent company as the unit of analysis and elaborate environmental theories that focus on the organizational and political-legal causes of pollution. Using a compiled longitudinal dataset of corporations in Standard & Poor's 500 from 1994 through 2001, we test hypotheses derived from an organizational political economy framework. We find that corporations with more complex structures, greater capital dependence and those headquartered in a state with lower environmental standards have higher pollution rates. In addition, the dollar amount of penalties did not curb pollution rates during this period of weakened federal environmental protection.

Jorgenson, Andrew K. and Brett Clark. 2012. "Are the Economy and the Environment Decoupling? A Comparative International Study, 1960-2005." *American Journal of Sociology* 118:1-44.

Jorgenson, Andrew K. 2012. "The Sociology of Ecologically Unequal Exchange and Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 1960-2005." *Social Science Research* 41:242-252.

Jorgenson, Andrew K. 2012. "Analyzing Fossil Fuels Displacement." *Nature Climate Change* 2:398-399.

McCright, Aaron M., and Riley E. Dunlap. 2012. "Bringing Ideology In: The Conservative White Male Effect on Worry about Environmental Problems in the United States." *Journal of Risk Research* DOI: 10.1080/13669877.2012.726242.

Messer, Chris, Alison E. Adams, and Thomas E. Shriver. 2012. "When Corporate Framing Fails: The Erosion of Elite Legitimacy." *The Sociological Quarterly* 53(3): 475-499.

Murphy, Raymond and Maya Murphy, 2012. "The Tragedy of the Atmospheric Commons: Discounting Future Costs and Risks in Pursuit of Immediate Fossil-Fuel Benefits" *Canadian Review of Sociology* 49 (3): 247-270.

One of the most significant positive approaches to the politics of climate change on the scale required by the problem is that of Giddens. This paper uncovers weaknesses in his argument and reveals motivational divergence for mitigation and energy security in both Canada and New Zealand, which is opposite to what occurred in Northern Europe that provided the basis for his analysis. This suggests that the response to climate change varies according to deeper cultural and geophysical structures. The paper also examines cost(risk)-benefit analysis versus the precautionary principle, the directionality of political-economic convergence with mitigation, and political partisanship concerning climate change. It documents the complexity of making near-term economic opportunities converge with mitigation of distant harm.

Nagel, Joane and Thomas D. Hall. 2012. "Sociology of American Indians." In *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online*, edited by George Ritzer. New York: Wiley-Blackwell.

Page, Justin and Janet Atkinson-Grossjean. 2012. "Mines and Microbes: Public Responses to Biological Treatment of Toxic Discharge." *Society and Natural Resources* DOI:10.1080/08941920.2012.685147. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2012.685147>

Shwom, Rachael and Janet Lorenzen. 2012. "Changing Household Consumption to Address Climate Change: Social Scientific Insights and Challenges." *WIREs Climate Change* 3: 379-395. doi: 10.1002/wcc.182

Stevens, Paul. 2012. "Towards an Ecosociology." *Sociology* 46 (4): 579-595.

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Xiao, Chenyang, and Aaron M. McCright. 2012. "Explaining Gender Differences in Concern About Environmental Problems in the United States." *Society and Natural Resources*. 25:1067-1084.

Zschau, Tony, Alison E. Adams and Thomas E. Shriver. 2012. "Reframing the Biotechnology Debate: The Deconstructive Efforts of the Council for Responsible Genetics." *Symbolic Interaction*. 35(2): 221-239.

Zinda, John Aloysius. 2012. "Hazards of Collaboration: Local State Co-optation of a New Protected-Area Model in Southwest China." *Society & Natural Resources* 25(4): 384-399.



Member News

Student News, E&T Section Newsletter – Fall 2012

Alissa Cordner – Alissa_Cordner@brown.edu

Last spring, we created the new ENVIROGRADS listserv, dedicated to graduate student members of the E&T section. ENVIROGRADS was migrated to Northeastern University's server when Phil Brown moved to Northeastern's Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute this fall. The overall goal is to provide a forum for the section's student members and foster a collegial

environment for communication, discussion, and professional development.

If you are not subscribed, you can do so by visiting <http://listserv.neu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=ENVIROGRADS>. Once subscribed, students will be able to post to the list by emailing Envirograds@listserv.neu.edu. ENVIROGRADS is intended to serve as a companion to the E&T section's main listserv, so student members are encouraged to subscribe to both.

When students subscribe to the listserv, they are sent a 'welcome survey' that asks questions about what type of information they would like to see on the list, what areas of environmental sociology they work on, what they hope to get from the listserv and the E&T section, and their eventual job market aspirations. Based on responses from people who have subscribed to ENVIROGRADS thus far, people are interested in job postings, fellowship and funding announcements, calls for papers, conference information, and teaching resources. We hope that ENVIROGRADS will offer a great way for student members to contact others with similar interests as well as provide support and resources, though we don't want to duplicate information shared on the main E&T section listserv.

Finally, many thanks to Christine Bevc, who served as the E&T Student Member and is now a postdoctoral researcher at University of North Carolina's Center for Public Health Preparedness. Your new Student Member is Alissa Cordner, a Ph.D. Candidate at Brown University. Feel free to contact her at Alissa_Cordner@brown.edu with any questions or ideas about the E&T section, student needs or roles, or ENVIROGRADS.