

Environment, Technology and Society

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

SPRING 2009

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Section Website

<http://www.envirosoc.org/>

Section News

Section Reception – Hold the Date!

Monday, August 10, 6:30-8:30 pm

Thirsty Bear Restaurant & Brewery
661 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA
tel. 415.974.0905
<http://www.thirstybear.com/>

- *light snacks*
- *cash bar*
- *and a good time to be had by all!*

Section Elections

*Beth Caniglia,
Chair of the Nominations Committee*

Elections for section officers are currently taking place. The following candidates have been nominated:

Nominees for Chair-Elect

Kenneth A. Gould
David N. Pellow

Nominees for Treasurer

Diane C. Bates
JoAnn Carmin

Nominees for Secretary

Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez
Lawrence Hamilton

Nominees for Teaching & Learning Committee Chair

Brian Mayer
Alan Rudy

Nominees for Membership Committee Chair

Liam Downey
Aaron M. McCright

Voting is currently taking place online and will continue until June 1st, 5:00 PM EDT. Section members should have received a link for a ballot in an email from the ASA Executive Director's office. The link directs one to a custom-prepared ballot on the intelliscaninc.com website which lists all ASA and section offices for which one is eligible to vote.

Information on each of the above candidates has been sent twice to all section members. It can also be found by going to your ballot and activating the hyperlink for each candidate. (I.e., click the candidate's name.)

Twenty-Year Memorial of Exxon Valdez Oil Spill: Sociological Research of a Toxic Disaster

*by Becky Clausen
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On March 24, 1989 the Exxon Valdez oil tanker grounded on Bligh Reef, spilling at least 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound, Alaska -- the largest and most ecological devastating oil spill in North American history. Oil traveled an estimated 470 miles, a distance roughly equivalent to a spill in New York Harbor reaching South Carolina. Media images of oiled beaches and dying sea otters testified to the immense ecological damage of the spill, with estimated losses of 250,000 seabirds, 2,800 sea otters, 300 harbor seal, 250 bald eagles, and up to 22 killer whales. In addition to the immediate environmental impacts, oil still can be found on the beaches of Prince William Sound (PWS) today, twenty years after Exxon's tanker ran aground. Marine toxicologists have discovered that oil persists and remains toxic in beach sediments for decades, possibly centuries, after a spill.

Ecological research to restore environmental conditions is well funded and ongoing. Just as important, although perhaps less recognized, is the sociological research assessing the oil spill's impacts to the renewable resource dependent communities of PWS. Over the past twenty years, Dr. J. Steven Picou (University of South Alabama) and Dr. Duane Gill (Mississippi State University) have led a research program to document residents' experiences in the oiled community of Cordova, Alaska. Cordova is a remote commercial fishing community that was economically and socially impacted by the oil spill. Fishing families declared bankruptcy and traditional practices of sharing and exchanging subsistence harvests became impossible. Picou and Gill's research project is the longest running longitudinal study of a community impacted by a technological disaster, using surveys, ethnographic data, and participatory action research. Their findings have contributed significantly to both the environmental sociology literature as well as to the on-the-ground healing of a devastated community. The following is a summary of their sociological insights concerning a community impacted by a technological disaster.

As biologists began studying the initial ecological impacts of the oil spill in 1989, the sociologists began to study community impacts of the "money spill." Exxon, in their unapprised attempts to clean up the oil, began offering exorbitant amounts of money to local fisherman and residents to help wipe oiled rocks and scoop buckets of oil out of the ocean.

Facing the economic collapse of their fisheries, many residents felt they had no other choice but to accept the jobs, while others were morally opposed to accepting money from the corporation. The creation of "Spillionaires" in the Cordova community created visible inequalities and led to what Picou and Gill term a *corrosive community*. The influx of clean up workers created a lack of housing, child care, and medical services within Cordova, while also creating social conflicts between residents and the out-of-towners. The deterioration of social relationships within the community was compounded by a drastic rise in mental health issues. Depression, anxiety, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder were immediate effects of the oil spill. In addition, the social research began documenting other chronic disorders many years after the spill. These research findings were submitted as an Amicus Brief to the U.S. Supreme Court, a rare achievement for sociologists. Just as the lingering oil created long-term ecological harm, so did the lingering oil litigation continue to bring harmful memories and stress to the Cordova residents. Picou and Gill found that prolonged litigation became the secondary disaster that prevented the community from healing.

Communities impacted by natural disasters often rebound with a renewed social fabric; however, human-caused disasters defer community healing to the courts. Exxon's 19 years of vigorous legal challenge to all damage claims led to adversarial discourse within the community. This community fragmentation was caused by the constant reminder of the oil spill as a source of stress. Contrary to Ulrich Beck's hypothesis that at-risk communities will evolve into more active, political groups of resistance, Picou and Gill found that the corrosive community created through ongoing litigation prevented solidarity.

In light of this, their research project evolved to understand how communities can overcome the fragmentation caused by technological disaster. Through participatory action research, Picou and Gill documented how the Native Village of Eyak used 'Talking Circles' to begin their healing, and how the non-Native community began to search out educational resources to understand the context of their problems. These results may offer guidance to other communities confronting the burden of modern industrial risks and disasters.

The final court ruling of 2008 demonstrated a sad but familiar outcome – Exxon wins, the people of Cordova lose. The Supreme Court justices reduced Exxon's punitive damages award by 90%, the monetary penalty amounting to only 4 days of Exxon's profits. Justice delayed, justice denied. Even amidst this discouraging legal outcome, the people of Cordova have learned healing and coping

mechanisms from each other and from the beneficial research conducted by the sociologists dedicated to this community. While most of us may be far removed from the waters of Alaska, we all face the risk of toxic disasters in our environment. The results from this extensive research attest to and reaffirm the connection between biophysical conditions and social well-being.

Teaching resources related to this research:

- 1) "Black Wave: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill," a newly release film offering a sociological, political, and legal analysis of this environmental disaster. www.blackwavethefilm.com.
- 2) "The Day the Water Died," a documentary produced by The Sierra Club in 2007 explaining the effects of the oil spill. It is available on YouTube.

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Coal Politics in the West Virginia Legislature

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Central Appalachia is one of the most biodiverse regions in North America, but it is also one of the most exploited. Since the late 1800s, the coal industry has been intertwined with the economic, social, and political landscape of this region, creating what some

scholars have called an “internal colony” that provides cheap resources to fuel the rest of the country’s energy demands. The coal industry has never been a friend to the environment, but in the past twenty years, its destruction has reached new levels through a form of coal extraction called mountaintop removal mining. This form of surface mining entails blasting apart the tops of mountains in order to expose a thin seam of low-sulfur coal for extraction. The large quantities of “excess spoil” (namely rock) generated in this process are deposited in valleys that are adjacent to the surface mine, creating “valley fills.” According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s 2005 Environmental Impact Statement on Mountaintop Mining and Valley Fills in Appalachia, mountaintop removal mining and/or valley fills directly impacted 1,200 miles of headwater streams between 1992 and 2002. More recent estimates from federal officials suggest that mountaintop removal has destroyed more than 1,600 miles of streams in Appalachia since the mid-1980s. Mountaintop removal mining requires vast tracts of land for its coal extraction methods; thousands of acres of Appalachian ridges may be deforested and flattened under just one mountaintop removal mining permit.

During the past eight years, Central Appalachia has seen a drastic increase in the number of approved mountaintop removal permits due to the Bush Administration’s “revisions” (read: reversals) of many environmental protections. In 2002, for instance, the Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency redefined what could be dumped into streams, stating that rock, sand, clay, plastics, construction debris, and mining overburden all fell under the definition of permissible “fill material.” Furthermore, as a parting gift to the coal industry, in 2008 the Bush Administration revoked the “Stream Buffer Zone Rule,” which had been in place since 1983 and stated that “No land within 100 feet of an intermittent or perennial stream shall be disturbed by surface coal mining and reclamation operations.” Revoking this rule in effect meant that coal companies could mine beside streams, through streams, and bury streams legally, as long as they indicated that they were *attempting* to “minimize the creation of excess spoil and adverse environmental impacts.”

In late March, however, we saw the Obama Administration take a small step toward reversing some of the past eight years’ worth of unabashed dismantling of environmental protections. Lisa Jackson, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency, announced that the agency will more closely review mountaintop removal/valley fill permits issued by the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that they are in compliance with the Clean Water Act. In fact, since the announcement was made

on March 24, a number of permit objection letters have already been sent to the Army Corps of Engineers for proposed mountaintop removal sites in West Virginia, Virginia, and Kentucky. While the EPA’s announcement does not mean a moratorium on mountaintop removal mining – as environmental groups and the coal industry initially believed – it does indicate a significant shift from the Bush Administration’s policies, which had weakened or removed many of the Clean Water Act’s protections. Thus, it appears that a *tentative* step has been taken toward more accountability for irresponsible mining, although there is still quite a ways to go.

However, while things may appear to be moving forward on the national front, the coal industry has hunkered down and begun to fight back on the local front. Coal’s political power plays out in such exaggerated ways in West Virginia – Appalachia’s top coal-producing state – that it almost seems as though it is a caricature of reality. Anytime there is a threat of increased environmental protections, coal industry leaders cry “job losses” and scare policy-makers and elected officials into submission. The reality is, however, that mountaintop removal mining provides far fewer jobs than underground mining, and coal mining as a whole has seen more than a five-fold reduction in jobs since 1948. Even after incorporating contract workers (such as coal truck drivers) into the employment data, which would increase the total coal employment in West Virginia to 40,924 individuals, coal industry employment still only accounted for 5% of the state’s total employed civilian labor force in 2005. Health care, hospitality services, retail trade, professional and business services, and local, state, and federal government were each far more significant employers within the state than coal (West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs 2005).

However, in a state that has seen massive job losses (as already noted, this has primarily been due to mechanization in the coal mines), the threat of even fewer jobs looms large. Environmental justice organizations working in Central Appalachia have started to respond to this fear, however, and have begun examining other potential uses of the mountains that are currently being destroyed – such as through wind energy production. In 2006 the advocacy group Appalachian Voices commissioned WindLogics, a wind energy consulting firm, to explore the wind potential for Coal River Mountain in Raleigh County, West Virginia, which is currently slated for three mountaintop removal mining operations that would destroy over 6,000 acres of the mountain. WindLogics (2006) modeled wind speeds of Class 4 through Class 7 on top of Coal River Mountain, concluding that this mountain was indeed viable for wind energy development. However, if the mining

takes place, this wind potential will be nearly destroyed. According to a report by Downstream Strategies, LLC (2009), the number of jobs that would be generated over the long-term from the construction and maintenance of a proposed 164-turbine wind farm on Coal River Mountain far exceed the number of jobs that would be generated by the mountaintop removal mining operations that currently hold permits for the mountain.

This year's legislative session in West Virginia seemed to hold some promise for gaining political support for this proposed wind farm. Six sponsors and 35 co-sponsors signed onto House Concurrent Resolution 52, which was a resolution in support of a permanent utility-scale wind farm on Coal River Mountain. Four of the five delegates from Raleigh County, where the mountain is located, signed on as co-sponsors of the resolution. Things seemed to be progressing along quite well, and the resolution was scheduled to be introduced on Tuesday, March 31...and then the coal industry heard that they weren't the only game in town promising jobs. When the "Resolution in Support of Wind Power on Coal River Mountain" was about to be introduced on the House floor, House Speaker Rick Thompson did not allow the sponsors to speak to the resolution, and it was quickly shunted off to the House Rules Committee without the title even being read on the House floor. It was then killed in committee. Three days later, on April 2, Senate Resolution 50 was introduced and passed in support of "all methods" of coal mining, including surface mining. This resolution was an obvious retaliatory measure aimed to assert coal's continued dominance in the Mountain State.

The truth is, while coal has historically been an important part of West Virginia's economy, there is public support for alternatives in the southern coalfields. Coal extraction has devastating impacts on the lives of many local residents who live down-valley of these mining operations. A few of the most egregious consequences include massive flooding (Flood Advisory Technical Taskforce 2002); coal slurry impoundment breaks and disasters (Erikson 1976); respiratory problems from coal dust in the air (Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition 2005); and well water contamination consisting of heavy metals (present in coal) and carcinogenic chemicals used in the coal cleaning process (Orem 2006). Furthermore, coal mining areas of Appalachia have been found to suffer higher rates of mortality, more hospitalizations for certain respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, and higher rates of chronic illnesses than the rest of the nation and other Appalachian areas, even after controlling for such variables as income and education (Hendryx, Ahern and Nurkiewicz 2007; Hendryx 2008; Hendryx and Ahern 2008; Ahern and Hendryx 2008).

Despite all of the environmental, social, and public health costs of mining, the coal industry's inordinate political influence continues to play out in exaggerated ways at the local level. While the EPA's closer scrutiny of mountaintop removal permits is a good first step, stronger decisions – such as putting a moratorium on all mountaintop removal mining – are necessary to protect both the Central Appalachian ecosystem and coalfield residents. It is clear from this year's legislative session in West Virginia that these protections are not likely to come from local or state political structures.

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The Adverse Social and Ecological Consequences of Trophy Hunting in Alaska

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Hunting has a variety of ecological and social consequences. Among some Native American cultures, subsistence hunting was a means of sustainably appropriating resources from the environment and distributing them in an equitable manner. This was accomplished by indigenous peoples consciously refraining from over-exploiting prey species and co-existing with other predator species, e.g., wolves, bears, and mountain lions. Moreover, members of these societies were typically given access to game meat regardless of their hunting skills or whether or not they had participated in the hunt.¹

Hunting can also manifest itself in forms which result in ecological degradation and can either create or exacerbate inequalities among social classes, regions, and racial or ethnic groups. In Alaska, trophy hunting interest groups have become a powerful force in shaping hunting regulations and in determining the outcome of elections. These groups' (e.g., Safari Club International, the Alaska Outdoor Council, and the Ballot Issues Coalition) primary motive is to increase the number of trophy quality game animals that are available to their memberships. The two main tactics these groups employ are: Promoting predator control programs which seek to artificially inflate the number of ungulates by killing predator species and opposing any preferential treatment in the distribution of hunting rights based on race, ethnic heritage, geographic location, or social class. It is argued here that the first tactic constitutes a threat to the integrity and long-term viability of various eco-systems. Moreover, the second tactic exacerbates inequalities based on race, class, and geographic location and threatens the survival of cultural practices which have deep historical roots.

¹ Marilyn Holly. "The Persons of Nature Versus the Power Pyramid: Locke, Land, and American Indians". *International Studies in Philosophy*. 13,31, 1994.

Ecological Effects of Trophy Hunting

Defenders of predator control programs claim that humans must intervene to protect prey species from being overly utilized by predator species such as wolves and bears.² However, in North America, human hunters have always been the most efficient predator species and, in most cases, they have the greatest impacts on both other predator species and prey species. This was the case even prior to European contact when the human population was relatively low and indigenous peoples were utilizing primitive hunting technologies.³

Subsistence hunting has been practiced since humans first migrated to North America. Trophy hunting is a relatively new phenomenon. It was not widely practiced among middle and working class people until the economic growth of the post-World War II era brought them both the economic resources and the leisure time to pursue game animals for sport.⁴ Trophy hunters tend to support the decimation of predator species, they typically kill the largest, healthiest males among game species, and they employ technologies which are very effective means of killing both game and predator species. These three factors tend to result in contemporary trophy hunting having a greater ecological impact than traditional subsistence methods.

The technologies utilized by contemporary hunters, e.g., aircraft, ATVs, snowmobiles, power boats, and the like, give them greater access to prey species than ever before. Modern rifles, which are accurate for hundreds of yards, enable relatively inexperienced hunters to kill animals at great distances. The impacts of these technologies can be somewhat mitigated by game laws. However, in Alaska, these same technologies are utilized by both state employees and private individuals to decrease predator species such as wolves and bears in numbers that were impossible prior to their development. This is particularly true in the case of aircraft. Thus, wolf and bear populations that would have been inaccessible prior to the development of these technologies can be located and killed with relative ease.⁵

In order to increase the number of trophy moose and caribou, trophy hunting organizations, e.g., Safari Club International, Alaska Outdoor Council and the Ballot Issues Coalition, pressure the Alaskan state government to radically reduce the number of both wolves and

² Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation. *Predator Management in Alaska*. (Juneau: ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation, 2007).

³ See, Andrea S. Laliberte & William J. Ripple. Wildlife Encounters by Lewis and Clark: A Spatial Analysis of Interactions between Native Americans and Wildlife. *BioScience* (2003) 53 (10) 994-1003.

⁴ See, Thomas Dunk, "Hunting and the Politics of Identity in Ontario". *CNS* 13, 1, March, 2002.

⁵ See, Victor Van Ballenberghe. A Critical Review of Predator Management in Alaska (2008). Unpublished document.

bears.⁶ In Alaska, the stated goal is to reduce the wolf populations to below 80 percent of their pre-predator control population numbers. In two predator control areas, the goal is to totally eliminate wolves.⁷

The practice of eliminating wolves was virtually unchallenged until after wolves had been almost driven into extinction in the lower 48 states. In 1949, Aldo Leopold published *A Sand County Almanac*. Among other things, he challenged the dominant assumption that it was possible to remove entire species from eco-systems without adverse consequences. Or as Leopold stated, "It is assumed falsely, I think, that the economic parts of the biotic clock will function without the uneconomic parts."⁸ In the early twentieth century, Leopold was a proponent of eliminating wolves. Leopold held a master's degree in forestry from Yale University. However, it was not scientific data which initially led him to radically alter his perception of the value of wolves and their role in maintaining healthy eco-systems. It was an interaction he had with a wolf subsequent to Leopold, and others in his party, shooting a mother wolf and her pups:

We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that there was something new to me in those eyes — something known only to her and to the mountain. I was young then and full of trigger-itch; I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunters' paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view.⁹

Leopold contended that predator species had an inherent right to exist and that they played a vital role in maintaining the health of ecosystems by preventing prey species from becoming overpopulated and over-browsing flora. Moreover, he maintained that in most cases, human hunters could not fulfill the biological role that predator species play in maintaining the health of eco-systems.¹⁰

The reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park in 1995 provided wildlife biologists with a unique opportunity to study how wolves affect the health of ungulate populations and the overall health of eco-systems. A multitude of studies in Yellowstone and other

areas, continue to support Leopold's argument that in the absence of wolves and/or other natural predators, ungulates tend to over-browse plant species, which, in turn, results in dramatic declines in both ungulates and their predators.¹¹ Moreover, there is a growing body of scientific evidence which indicates that wolves (and many other species) experience a wide range of emotions and have complex social hierarchies and systems of communication.¹² Wolf biologist, Gordon Haber maintains that among the adverse effects of decimating wolf populations is the disruption of the packs' social structures and their abilities to socialize pups. He further asserts that, "This same extraordinary sentience that is so integral to their basic biology also provides an ethical reason for not allowing them to be harvested and for considering remedial short-term control only in the rarest of circumstances, when there are solid, irrefutable biological and cost-benefit arguments and no reasonable alternatives."¹³

In recent years, Alaska's predator control programs have been criticized by the scientific community. In a 2006 article, University of Alaska Professor of wildlife biology and former Board of Game member, Victor Van Ballenberghe contended that, "Alaska's record of managing high-density ungulate populations demonstrates a consistent inability to prevent ungulates from exceeding carrying capacity or quickly responding once problems are apparent." He further stated that "Efforts to chase unattainable population and harvest objectives with poorly designed predator control programs risk long-term sustainability of ungulates, protection of habitat integrity, and predator population viability."¹⁴ In 2007, Governor Sarah Palin received a letter signed by 172 scientists expressing concerns regarding the ecological impacts of the state's predator control programs. The letter concluded that the current methods the state government is employing to reduce predator numbers may have multiple adverse ecological consequences, including "habitat damage from high ungulate populations that may result in population crashes of both ungulates and predators..."¹⁵

Trophy hunters can also adversely affect the gene pools of the game species that they hunt. Unlike wolves, who tend to cull the weaker members of the biotic community, trophy hunters purposely select the largest and healthiest males among game species. Culling members of the herd who have the highest "breeding value" can result in smaller, weaker members of a species being more likely to reproduce. For instance, one study of the effects of trophy hunting on

⁶ For instance, these three organizations formed a PAC in opposition to a ballot measure in Alaska that would have outlawed the aerial hunting of wolves and bears. See, https://webapp.state.ak.us/apoc/income.jsp.elec_key (As of September 18, 2008).

⁷ See, Victor Van Ballenberghe. A Critical Review of Predator Management in Alaska (2008). Unpublished document.

⁸ Leopold op. cit. p. 214.

⁹ Leopold, op. cit. p. 130.

¹⁰ See, Aldo Leopold, "Review of the Wolves of North America", in *Aldo Leopold's Southwest*. David Brown & Neil Carmony (Eds.) (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1990).

¹¹ Ripple & Beschta, op. cit.

¹² See Marc Bekoff. *The Emotional Lives of Animals*. (California: New World Library, 2007)

¹³ Haber, op. cit. p. 1076.

¹⁴ Van Ballenberghe op. cit. p. 10

¹⁵ http://alaskawolfkill.com/Palin_Letter.html (As of September 17, 2008).

big horn sheep found “that in an evolutionary response to sport hunting of bighorn trophy rams....body weight and horn size have decline significantly over time.”¹⁶

The Social Consequences of Trophy Hunting

A growing number of social scientists¹⁷ contend that conspicuous consumption has many adverse social, psychological, and ecological consequences. Trophy hunting is among the many forms conspicuous consumption. Edward Abbey maintained that hunting for reasons other than appropriating meat was one of the adverse consequences of economic and social stratification:

A hunter pursues wild game in order to provide meat for himself, kin and kith. This is a craft as old as life, and perfectly honorable. A sportsman kills for the sake of pleasure, or what he calls “sport.” This is not honorable.

In our pathologically over-crowded society the hunter is a rare, endangered species. The sportsman, on the other hand, is much too abundant. Hunting for sport always appears in over-developed, socially stratified, over-refined cultures. It is a reliable indicator of privilege, hierarchy and moral decay. From ancient Assyria thru feudal Europe to contemporary jet-age Montana this pattern has held true.¹⁸

The head or other body parts of certain exotic species displayed in one’s home or office is tangible evidence that the individual has the economic means, although not necessarily the required hunting skills, to kill an animal that is coveted among trophy hunters. Trophy hunting can be a very costly form of recreation. In the late 1990s, one hunter paid over \$1 million (Canadian currency) for hunting permits for trophy big horn sheep.¹⁹ On the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, tourists can shoot a bison for \$3,000.00 They are charged an additional \$300.00 if they wish to have a guide gut, skin, and quarter the carcass for them.²⁰ In Mongolia, a permit to kill a snow leopard costs \$10,000 and a guided hunt costs \$25,000.00 per hunter.²¹ In Alaska, it costs a

non-resident \$1,185.00 to purchase a license and a big game tag to hunt a bull musk ox and and \$9,000.00 for a guided hunt.²² For an additional \$5,000.00, a taxidermist will make a head mount.²³

In addition to providing elites with yet another means to distinguish themselves, trophy hunting also deprives both nonhuman predator species and impoverished rural hunters of access to game animals. Over the last decade, on average, non-residents have killed 2,057 caribou and 1,102 moose annually.²⁴ In 2007, the state’s aerial wolf control program resulted in the deaths of 124 wolves. The state claimed that this “saved” the equivalent of 1,400 moose or 3,000²⁵ caribou. Thus, *more ungulates could have been saved by not issuing out of state hunting licenses than by killing 124 wolves.* Of course, this would have resulted in the DWC forgoing well over \$5 million in fees from hunting licenses and big game tags.

Karen Deatherage found that in three out of the five wolf control areas, the majority of the moose were killed by either urban hunters or by hunters who reside outside of Alaska. Deatherage suggested that, “Perhaps a rural preference for subsistence during periods of low prey availability would be helpful in resolving this issue for residents more dependent upon wild game.”²⁶ Both the Alaska Outdoor Council and Safari Club International are opposed to preferential hunting rights based on cultural heritage or geographic location.

Trophy hunting may also encourage anti-social behaviors. Despite being an avid hunter, Aldo Leopold was greatly disturbed by some hunting practices. He observed that it was common for some hunters to kill does or spike bucks (which have no trophy value) and abandon their carcasses. “Such deer hunting is not only without social value, but constitutes actual training for ethical depravity elsewhere.”²⁷ Leopold also contended that trophy hunting itself was an atavistic behavior:

The trophy-hunter is the caveman reborn. Trophy-hunting is the prerogative of youth, racial or individual and nothing to apologize for. The disquieting thing in the modern picture is the trophy-hunter who never grows up, in whom the

¹⁶ David Coltman, Paul O’Donoghue, Jon Jorgenson, John Hogg, Curtis Steinbeck & Marco Festa-Blanchet. Undesirable Evolutionary Consequences of Trophy Hunting. *Nature* (2003) 426 (11) 655-658.

¹⁷ Juliet Schor. *The Overspent American: Why We Want What We Don’t Need.* (New York: Harper Collins, 1998); Tim Kasser. *The High Price of Materialism* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2002).

¹⁸ Edward Abbey (2006) *Postcards from Ed: Dispatches and Salvos from an American Iconoclast.* Edited by David Peterson. Milkweed Editions: Minneapolis. P. 101

¹⁹ David Coltman, Paul O’Donoghue, Jon Jorgenson, John Hogg, Curtis Steinbeck & Marco Festa-Blanchet. Undesirable Evolutionary Consequences of Trophy Hunting. *Nature* (2003) 426 (11) 655-658.

²⁰ *The Economist*, (2005) At least the buffalo are thriving (Oct. 15, 2005).

²¹ Alastair Gunn, *Ethics & The Environment* 6 (1) 2001

²² <http://www.alaska-d-l-outfitters.com/muskox.htm> accessed on June 12, 2008.

²³ <http://www.chichesterinc.com/MuskOxHeadMount.htm>

²⁴ Data provided to author by Brian Lieb, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

²⁵ These estimates are based on the inaccurate assumption that the diets of wolves are restricted to moose or caribou. The diets of wolves rarely consist of one species. The feeding habits of wolves depend on the various eco-systems that they inhabit. Their diets often include hares, ground squirrels, deer, wild sheep and goats, beaver, and salmon. Victor Van Ballenberghe, personal communication, June 12, 2008.

²⁶ <http://www.akwildlife.com/WhoEatsMoose.pdf> (As of September 17, 2008).

²⁷ Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac* (1949) p. 179

capacity for isolation, perception, and husbandry is undeveloped, or perhaps lost.²⁸

Leopold saw trophy hunting as being unproblematic for younger hunters as long as they were able to achieve a higher level of maturation. However, the motives of the hunter who slaughters for pleasure and the trophy hunter are not significantly different. The primary motive of the former is the satisfaction they derive from killing; whereas, the latter kills in order to display the body parts of the slain animal as tangible evidence of their hunting skills. In either case, the primary motive for killing the animal is not to obtain food, it is being killed as a means of satiating sadistic desires and/or conspicuously consuming wildlife as a means of enhancing one's status with others.

Converting body parts into trophies is not the exclusive domain of some hunters. The former war reporter, Chris Hedges, has frequently observed "... the strange need by killers to display human corpses as trophies."²⁹ Some soldiers pose with the corpses of the enemy in the same manner that a trophy hunter poses with a carcass. Displaying body parts is tangible evidence that an enemy has been conquered. Moreover, it is a means of humiliating the dead and terrorizing the living. Displaying an animal's head on a wall is a means of communicating that one has both the economic resources and the hunting skills to conquer the animal. Like killing animals for pleasure, trophy hunting may also be "actual training for ethical depravity elsewhere."

Conclusion

For several hundred thousand years, Alaskan predator species and their prey have maintained a symbiotic relationship. Humans are a relatively recent addition to the region. A variety of indigenous hunting and gathering and horticultural societies were able to co-exist with large predators. This was possible in a geographic area larger than California, Texas, and Montana combined. In the past century, the state's natural environment has been significantly altered and degraded by dramatic increases in the human population, urban sprawl, oil and mineral extraction, commercial fishing, industrial accidents and the like. It is almost certain that these eco-systems will be further degraded by processes which are already underway such as global warming and plans to further exploit natural resources. Although the popularity of hunting has been decreasing in recent decades, corporate financed hunting interest groups have become a powerful force in shaping environmental regulations.

It is in this ecological and political context that the state is attempting to artificially inflate the number of ungulates available to rural subsistence hunters and

²⁸ Ibid p. 176

²⁹ Chris Hedges. *War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*. (New York: Anchor Books, 2002, p. 138).

recreational hunters while also allegedly ensuring the long-term survival and well-being of predators, prey species, and the eco-systems that a multitude of species depend on. Clearly, this is not possible. Ideally, when regulating the access that individuals or institutions have to nature, policy makers should make the distinction between vital and non-vital interests. Among the conflicting interests described here, the vital interests can be defined as: the survival of eco-systems and species, the desire of individual members of sentient species to survive, the nutritional requirements of an undetermined number of game dependent individuals, and the survival of cultural traditions which have deep historical roots. The non-vital interests are the desires of recreational hunters to have access to trophy quality game animals and funding the Division of Wildlife Conservation through the sale of hunting licenses and game tags. Clearly, there are alternative means of funding government bureaucracies and recreational hunters have other means of meeting their nutritional requirements and can find alternative forms of recreation and conspicuous consumption.

Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Training Courses

May 26-27, 2009

Calgary, AB, Canada

Held on the University of Calgary Campus. Jointly sponsored by Magellan Corporate Strategies Inc., The Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary, and The International Resource Industries and Sustainability Centre. The Instructor is Rabel J Burdge. For the course outline:

www.socialimpactassessment.net/Calgary2009SIAcourse.htm

To register go to:

<http://www.magellancsi.com/event.html>

July 2-3, 2009

Vienna, Austria

As part of the **15th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management**.

Held at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (BOKU). The Instructor is Rabel J Burdge. The course materials include three new SIA books. For details on the course and the outline go to:

www.socialimpactassessment.net/SIAcourseISSRM09.htm

To register go to the ISSRM'09 website:

www.ISSRM09.info

Publications

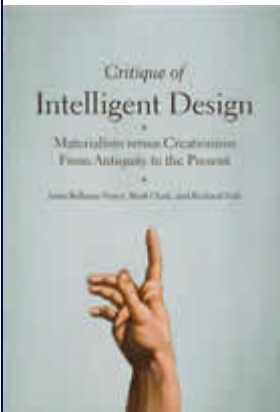
Books

The Critique of Intelligent Design: Materialism Versus Creationism From Antiquity to the Present.

John Bellamy Foster, Brett Clark, and Richard York.

Monthly Review Press (2008).

<http://www.monthlyreview.org/books/critiqueofintelligentdesign.php>



"What can a Marxist critique of 'intelligent design' do that the flood of non-Marxist atheist works on this subject cannot? The short answer is that it can show how this new/old form of ideology functions inside our modern capitalist society (systemic critique), and it can show how it has developed over time as part of the debate between materialist and idealist views of the world

(historical critique). The long answer can be found in the detailed and scholarly manner in which this project has been carried out in the volume before us. Without this double contextualization, you may be able to judge whether 'intelligent design' is true or false, but you will never know its 'meaning.' A brilliant scholarly achievement that no one interested in the subject—or in how to analyze this kind of subject—can afford to miss."

—BERTELL OLLMAN, Professor of Politics, NYU; author of *Dance of the Dialectic: Steps in Marx's Method and Alienation*.

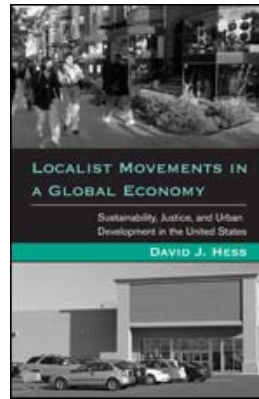
Localist Movements in a Global Economy: Sustainability, Justice, and Urban Development in the United States.

David J. Hess.

M.I.T. Press (2009).

<http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?tttype=2&tid=11802>

"A clear-eyed and intensively researched analysis of the ways in which localism does or does not promote a more sustainable and just world. Analyses of localism have been generally split between romantic advocates and cynical critics, but very few researchers have stepped back and carried out the kind of careful and objective analysis of the claims and the critiques of localism that David Hess has done



here. This book provides the most in-depth grappling of this issue to date. The case studies bring the book to life and will engage a wide variety of readers at a wide range of interest and understanding."

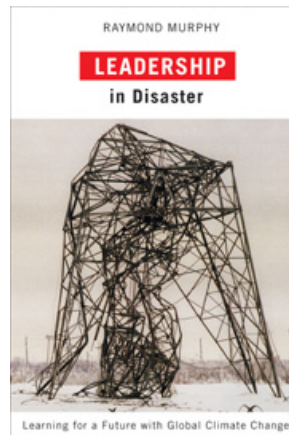
—E. Melanie DuPuis, Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Cruz

Leadership in Disaster: Learning for a Future with Global Climate Change

Raymond Murphy

McGill-Queen's University Press (2009)

<http://mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=2331>



Disasters occur when hazards of nature strike socio-technological vulnerabilities. While science provides valuable indications of risk, it does not yield certainty, yet leaders must make sense of threats. Raymond Murphy's case study of the management of the 1998 ice storm - the most costly disaster ever in Canada, northern New York state,

and Maine - presents rare interviews with key political and emergency management leaders that provide an insider's view of the challenge of responding to extreme weather. They document a generally well managed crisis, but also reveal the slippery slope from transparency to withholding critical information as the crisis deepened, and examine conflict resolution between leaders during a disaster. The study looks into whether technological development inadvertently constructed new vulnerabilities to nature's forces, thereby manufacturing a natural disaster.

"Interviews with key decision makers should mean this reaches a number of lay-people as well as journalists. Leadership in Disaster is beautifully written and deserving of a wide readership."

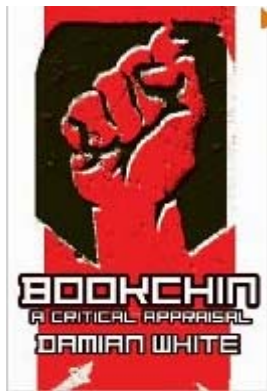
—Peter Dickens, University of Cambridge

Bookchin: A Critical Appraisal

Damian F. White.

Pluto Press (2008).

<http://www.amazon.com/Bookchin-Critical-Appraisal-Damian-White/dp/0745319645>



This is the first comprehensive overview of the work of Murray Bookchin, the left-libertarian social theorist and political ecologist who is widely regarded as the visionary precursor of anti-corporate politics. Bookchin's writing spans fifty years and engages with a wide variety of issues: from ecology to urban planning, from environmental ethics to debates about

radical democracy. Weaving insights from Hegel and Marx, Kropotkin and Mumford, Bookchin presents a critical theory whose central utopian message is 'things could be other than they are'. This accessible introduction maps the evolution of Bookchin's project. It traces his controversial engagements with Marxism, anarchism, critical theory, postmodernism and eco-centric thought. It evaluates his attempt to develop a social ecology. Finally, it considers how his thinking relates to current debates in social theory and environmentalism, critical theory and philosophy, political ecology and urban theory. Offering a clear account of Bookchin's key themes, this book provides a critical but sympathetic account of the strengths and weaknesses of Bookchin's writing.

The Ecological Modernisation Reader: Environmental Reform in Theory and Practice.

David A. Sonnenfeld, Arthur P. J. Mol, and Gert Spaargaren, editors.

Routledge (2009 - forthcoming).

<http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld/reader.htm>

This collection presents in one, easily-accessible volume, a series of thoughtful, up-to-date review essays by leading scholars from around the world on the dynamics and politics of institutional environmental reform, and a selection of the best published works and debates from a quarter-century of scholarship on what has come to be known as Ecological Modernisation Theory. Included are key foundational works never before published in English, translated especially for this volume, and an agenda for continued scholarship in this important area.

Note: This excellent resource may be preordered for summer and fall courses. See above URL for TOC and further information.

Technonatures: Environments, Technologies, Spaces, and Places in the Twenty-first Century.

Damian F. White and Chris Wilbert, editors.

Wilfred Laurier University Press (2009).

<http://www.wlu.ca/press/Catalog/white-wilbert.shtml>



Environmentalism and social sciences appear to be in a period of disorientation and perhaps transition. In this innovative collection, leading international thinkers explore the notion that one explanation for the current malaise of the "politics of ecology" is that we increasingly find ourselves negotiating "technonatural" space/times.

The term "technonatures" is in debt to a long line of environmental cultural theory from Raymond Williams onwards, problematizing the idea that a politics of the environment can be usefully grounded in terms of the rhetoric of defending the pure, the authentic, or an idealized past solely in terms of the ecological or the natural. In using the term "technonatures" as an organizing myth and metaphor for thinking about the politics of nature in contemporary times, this collection seeks to explore one increasingly pronounced dimension of the social natures discussion. Technonatures highlights a growing range of voices considering the claim that we are not only inhabiting diverse social natures but that within such natures our knowledge of our worlds is ever more technologically mediated, produced, enacted, and contested.

Recent Issues of Selected Journals

Environmental Politics

January 2009 (vol. 18, no.1)

Research Articles

"I do Therefore There Is": Enlivening Socio-Environmental Theory

Michael S Carolan

In search of the Ecological Citizen
Sverker Jagers

Making power explicit in sustainable water innovation: re-linking subjectivity, institution and structure through environmental citizenship

Sam Wong and Liz Sharp

Negotiated Agreements in the Netherlands

Hans Bressers, Theo de Bruijn and Kris Lulofs

The transitions storyline in Dutch environmental policy

Adrian Smith and Florian Kern

Against Ecological Sovereignty

Mick Smith

Profiles

One Person's Eu-topia, Another's Hell: Climate Camp as a Heterotopia

Clare Saunders & Stephan Price

Iniciativa Per Catalunya Verds and the Assembly of Catalonia Elections 2006

Pedro Riera & Marc Rius

A Green comeback in Greece? The Ecologist Greens in the 2007 parliamentary election

Kostas Gemenis

Environmental Politics

March 2009 (vol.18, no. 2)

Research Articles

The politics of operationalisation: sustainable development and the eco-space approach

Rafael Ziegler

The rise of the Global Reporting Initiative: a case of institutional entrepreneurship

Halina Szejnwald Brown, Martin de Jong and Teodorina Lessidrenska

Ecological modernisation and climate change in Australia

Giorel Curran

Environmental taxation for good and for bad: the efficiency and legitimacy of Sweden's carbon tax

Sverker C. Jagers and Henrik Hammar

Institutions, political economy and land-use policy: greenbelt politics in Ontario

David Pond

Environmental attitudes, beliefs about social justice and intention to vote Green: lessons for the New Zealand Green Party?

Penelope Carroll, Sally Casswell, John Huakau, Paul Perry and Philippa Howden Chapman

Research Note

The governance of coal ash pollution in post-socialist times: power and expectations

Vanesa Castán Broto, Claudia Carter and Lucia Elghali

Human Ecology Review

Winter 2009 (vol. 16, no. 2)

Freely accessible at:

www.humanecologyreview.org

Research and Theory in Human Ecology

The Challenge of Learning for Sustainability: A Prolegomenon to Theory

Adam Douglas Henry

Power, Profit and Pollution: The Persistence of Environmental Injustice in a Company Town

Diane Sicotte

Why We Don't "Walk the Talk": Understanding the Environmental Values/Behaviour Gap in Canada

Emily Huddart Kennedy, Thomas M. Beckley, Bonita L. McFarlane, and Solange Nadeau

Ideological Cleavages and Schism in the Czech Environmental Movement

Thomas E. Shriver and Chris Messer

Social Control and Contested Environmental Illness: The Repression of Ill Nuclear Weapons Workers

Tamara L. Mix, Sherry Cable, and Thomas E. Shriver

Neighborhood Quality and the Older Elderly: Theory and Two Pilot Studies

Michael R. Greenberg

Mental Health and Psychosocial Distress Sequelae of Katrina: An Empirical Study of Survivors

Francis O. Adeola

Forum: Essays, Commentaries, and Applications

The Integrative Complexity of Wildfire Management Scale: Are We There Yet?

Joshua Carroll and Alan D. Bright

Organization & Environment

December 2008 (vol. 21, no. 4)

Articles

Ecological Citizenship and the Corporation: Politicizing the New Corporate Environmentalism

Andrew Crane, Dirk Matten and Jeremy Moon

Overcoming the Social and Psychological Barriers to Green Building

Andrew J. Hoffman & Rebecca Henn

Environmental Organizations and Communication Praxis: A Study of Communication Strategies among a National Sample of Environmental Organizations

Michael Dreiling, R. Jonna, Nicholas Lougee, and Tomoyasu Nakamura

Citation Classics and Foundational Works

Introduction to the Symposium on Catton and Dunlap's Foundational Work Establishing an Ecological Paradigm
Richard York

Thirty Years of Scholarship and Science on Environment-Society Relationships
William R. Freudenburg

Exploring Deep Subjectivity in Sociology and Organizational Studies: The Contributions of William Catton and Riley Dunlap on Paradigm Change
John M. Jermier

A Retrospective View of My Development as an Environmental Sociologist
William R. Catton, Jr.

Promoting a Paradigm Change: Reflections on Early Contributions to Environmental Sociology
Riley E. Dunlap

Book Reviews

Environment and Social Theory, by John Barry.
Governing Environmental Flows: Global Challenges to Social Theory, edited by Gert Spaargaren, Arthur P. J. Mol, & Frederick H. Buttel.
Philip Mancus

A Theory of General Ethics: Human Relationships, Nature, and the Built Environment, by Warwick Fox
Piers H.G. Stephens

Shopping Our Way to Safety: How We Changed from Protecting the Environment to Protecting Ourselves, by Andrew Szasz
Kevin Wehr

Counterculture Green: The Whole Earth Catalog and American Environmentalism, by Andrew G Kirk
Horace Herring

The Old Way: A Story of the First People, by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas
Wayne Babchuk

Environmental Sociology: A Social Constructionist Perspective, by John Hannigan
Chenyang Xiao

Organization & Environment

March 2009 (vol. 22, no.1)

Special Feature on Science, Democracy and the Environment

Science, Democracy, and the Environment: The Contributions of Barry Commoner
Robert J. Brulle

Why Barry Commoner Matters
Michael Egan

Molecular Genetics: An Example of Faulty Communication Between Science and the Public
Barry Commoner

From 'Politico-Scientists' to Democratizing Science Movements: The Changing Climate of Citizens and Science

Sabrina McCormick

Articles

The Challenge of Climate Change and Energy Policies For Building a Sustainable Society in Japan
Kazumi Kondoh

The Role of Championship in the Mainstreaming of Sustainable Investment (SI): What Can We Learn from SI Pioneers in the UK?

Alan Lewis & Carmen Juravle

Childhood Development and Access to Nature: A New Direction for Environmental Inequality Research
Susan Strife and Liam Downey

Book Reviews

Barry Commoner and the Science of Survival: The Remaking of American Environmentalism, by Michael Egan

Andrew Biro

America's Nuclear Wastelands: Politics, Accountability, and Cleanup, by Max S. Power
John Wills

African American Environmental Thought: Foundations, by Kimberly K Smith
Bill E Lawson

Ethics and the Environment: An Introduction, by Dale Jamieson
Iorwerth Griffiths

Solidarity, Sustainability, and Nonviolence

The E-Journal of Solidarity, Sustainability, and Nonviolence (SSNV) is launching a new series on education for sustainable development.

<http://pelicanweb.org/solisustv05n04page1.html>

To get started on this new series, you are invited to a consultation on educational priorities for sustainable development. To participate, go to the link above and scroll to the bottom of the first article ("1. Pedagogy for Sustainable Development").

For further information, see the editor, Luis T. Gutierrez: luisgutierrez@PEOPLEPC.COM

"Even though this is a preliminary test, your participation and feedback are critical for this exercise to yield new insights that may be useful to sustainable development professionals. Please participate!"

- Luis Gutierrez

Articles

Of special note: The present issue of *Current Sociology* includes three articles of particular interest, all written by 2006 nominees of the Frederick H. Buttel International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology. They are the articles below written by Stewart Lockie, Michael Redcliff, and Steven Yearley. Lockie examines tensions between the spatio-temporal specificity of biodiversity management and the totalizing logic of market rule. Using a Foucauldian approach, he concludes that governance regimes have framed biodiversity in ways that ignore significant functional relationships between biological resources, agricultural productivity and ecosystem processes. Redcliff's article reviews contrasting positions on the environment and carbon dependence. He argues that sociology, by drawing on its roots in critique and the elaboration of alternative, utopian, futures in the Marxist tradition, has the capacity to make a major contribution to the analysis of future 'post-carbon' societies. Yearley raises the question of 'Sociology and Climate Change after Kyoto' His answer is a constructionist / deconstructionist role that he illustrates with analyses of the limitations of the peer review procedure, of the scientific judgement and of the economic valuations of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).



Altman, Rebecca Gasior, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Green Brody, Ruthann Rudel, Phil Brown, and Mara Averick. 2008. "Pollution Comes Home and Gets Personal: Cape Cod Women's Experiences of Household Toxic Exposure." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 49(4): 417-35.
<http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/DEC08JHSBFeature.pdf>

Brunsmas, David and J. Steven Picou 2008 "Disasters in the Twenty-First Century: Modern Destruction and Future Instruction." *Social Forces* 87(2):983-991. [Editors' introduction to a special section].

Dietz, Thomas, Eugene A. Rosa, and Richard York. 2009. "Environmentally Efficient Well-Being: Rethinking Sustainability as the Relationship between Human Well-being and Environmental Impacts." *Human Ecology Review* 16:114-123.

Dietz, Thomas, Paul C Stern, and Amy Dan. 2008. "How Deliberation Affects Stated Willingness to Pay for Mitigation of Carbon Dioxide Emissions: An Experiment " *Land Economics* 85:329-347.

Foster, John Bellamy and Brett Clark. 2008. "The Sociology of Ecology: Ecological Organicism Versus Ecosystem Ecology in the Social Construction of Ecological Science, 1926-1935." *Organization & Environment* 21(3): 311-352.

Lockie, Stewart. 2009. "Agricultural Biodiversity and Neoliberal Regimes of Agri-Environmental Governance in Australia." *Current Sociology* 57:407-426.
<http://csi.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/57/3/407>

Longo, Stefano and Richard York. 2009. "Structural Influences on Water Withdrawals: An Exploratory Macro-Comparative Analysis." *Human Ecology Review* 16(1): 75-83.

Morello-Frosch, Rachel, Julia Green Brody, Phil Brown, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Ruthann A. Rudel, Carla Pérez. 2009. "'Toxic Ignorance' and the Right-to-Know: Assessing Strategies for Biomonitoring Results Communication in a Survey of Scientists and Study Participants." *Environmental Health* 8:6.

Picou, J. Steven. 2008. "In Search of a Public Environmental Sociology: Ecological Risks in the Twenty-First Century." *Contemporary Sociology* 37 (6):520-523.

Redcliff, Michael. 2009. "The Environment and Carbon Dependence: Landscapes of Sustainability and Materiality." *Current Sociology* 57:369-387.
<http://csi.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/57/3/369>

Rosa, Eugene A. and Lauren Richter. 2008. "Durkheim on the Environment: Ex Libris or Ex Cathedra?" *Organization and Environment* 21:182-204.

Scammell, Madeleine Kangsen, David Ozonoff, Laura Senier, Jennifer Darrach, Phil Brown, and Susan Santos. 2009. "Tangible Evidence and Common Sense: Finding Meaning in a Community Health Study." *Social Science and Medicine* 68:143-153.

Whitfield, Stephen C., Eugene A. Rosa, Amy Dan, and Thomas Dietz. 2008. "Nuclear Power: Value Orientation and Risk Perception." *Risk Analysis* 29:425-437.

Yearley, Steven. 2009. "Sociology and Climate Change after Kyoto: What Roles for Social Science in Understanding Climate Change?" *Current Sociology* 57:389-405.
<http://csi.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/57/3/389>

Member News

York, Richard. 2009. "The Challenges of Measuring Environmental Sustainability: Comment on 'Political and Social Foundations for Environmental Sustainability.'" *Political Research Quarterly* 62(1): 205-208.

York, Richard, Brett Clark, and John Bellamy Foster. 2009. "Capitalism in Wonderland." *Monthly Review* 61(1): 1-18.

York, Richard and Philip Mancus. 2009. "Critical Human Ecology: Historical Materialism and Natural Laws." *Sociological Theory* 27(2): 122-149.

York, Richard, Eugene A. Rosa, and Thomas Dietz. "A Tale of Contrasting Trends: Three Measures of the Ecological Footprint in China, India, Japan, and the United States, 1961-2003." *Journal of World Systems Research* (forthcoming).

J. Steven Picou

J. Steven Picou, Professor of Sociology, University of South Alabama, received the Olivia Rambo McGlothorn National Alumni Outstanding Scholar Award for 2008 and The William Foote Whyte Distinguished Career Award given by the Sociological Practice session at the ASA Meetings in August 2008.

Gene Rosa

Gene Rosa, Edward R. Meyer Professor of Natural Resource & Environmental Policy at Washington State, recently completed an appointment as a Visiting Professor of Risk and Sustainability at Institut d'études politiques (IEP) Université Montesquieu, Bordeaux IV.

Brent Marshall Memorial Scholarship

Last April the section lost a highly esteemed colleague, Brent Marshall. Brent was a rising young environmental sociologist who had a passion for his research and an extraordinary commitment to his students. In his memory, Brent's family has created the Brent K Marshall Scholarship Fund. Members of our section hope to create an educational endowment that honors Brent's steadfast commitment to the environment and environmental sociology. For more information, you may contact

Christine Bevc Christine.Bevc@Colorado.edu
John S. Picou spicou@usouthal.edu
Barbara Satushek bmarshall56@yahoo.com

If you would like to contribute to the Brent K Marshall Scholarship Fund, please send your check to:

Brent K Marshall Memorial Scholarship Fund
UCF Credit Union
12253 Challenger Parkway
Orlando, FL 32826-3430

We miss Brent and cherish the memories and the manner in which he so deeply touched many lives.