

Environment, Technology and Society

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

SPRING 2012

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Special Issue of the Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences

by Riley E. Dunlap
Oklahoma State University

I am pleased to announce that a special issue of the Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences containing a symposium on the "Legacy of William R. Freudenburg" is now out, and that Springer has kindly provided open access to it for one month (so check it out now). The table of contents is given below, and here is the link:

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/p754733tj74g/>

Debra Davidson and I edited the symposium, and it consists largely of articles that stem from presentations made at the "Freudenfest" conference at UCSB back in November of 2010--less than two months before Bill Freudenburg's untimely death. While clearly I am not unbiased, I believe it consists of an extremely strong set of articles, and that anyone wishing to get a sense of Bill's wide-ranging and fundamental contributions to environmental/natural resources sociology and related areas will find them of interest. Most not only provide thorough reviews of Bill's work in selected areas, but also do an excellent job of demonstrating how his ideas can be further developed and fruitfully employed.

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**Section News:
Stay Tuned for ASA 2012 in Denver**

The official program schedule for ASA 2012 will be released on April 30. Stay tuned for an exciting slate of sessions sponsored by the Environment & Technology Section!

**Section News: ENVIROGRADS: Now Available to
ETS Student Members**

Student members may now subscribe by visiting the site online (<http://listserv.brown.edu/archives/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=ENVIROGRADS&A=1>). Once subscribed, students will be able to post to the list by sending their email to envirograds@listserv.brown.edu. 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.

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. In addition, the list will regularly send out calls for papers, awards, announcements about assistantships and fellowships, and information on an assortment of programs, conferences, and workshops.

As ENVIROGRADS is intended to serve as a companion to the section's main listserv, ENVIROSOC, student members are encouraged to subscribe to both. ENVIROgrads adheres to the same policies and guidelines as the main ENVIROSOC list, including listserv etiquette and professionalism. As a quick refresher, here are the policies:

1. Do not post anything that is of interest to only a few individuals whom you could e-mail directly
2. Always use an explicit, informative subject line
3. Never engage in personal attacks or flaming on the list.
4. Do not post items of broad interest to subscribers. Please do respect all users who do not want their mailboxes cluttered.
5. Do not reply to other people's postings by hitting your "reply" button. It clutters up the list if you include the entire original message. It is better to write something like, "In responses to Jane Smith's query on environmental sociology films," and to put in the

subject line a succinct subject, e.g. "query on films," "research on pesticides."

6. Do not paste entire articles from a newspaper or website. Instead, mention that there is an interesting article (in 1-3 sentences) and give the location for people to find it.

For information, questions, or general comments, please send an email to Christine at bevc@unc.edu or call (919) 966-0341. See you on ENVIROGRADS!!

p.s. Quick reminder to those of you "on the market" and registering for the ASA Job Bank – don't forget to start early and be prepared!

**NSF – Sponsored Video on Native American
Tribes and Climate Change Released Online**

Climate change will have a significant impact on natural resources, and thus, the rural Native American (and other) tribes that depend on them. Nevada's arid lands and vulnerable tribes provide a vivid case study of this interaction. Below is a link to a video produced by Dr. William James Smith, Jr. and tribal partners in NW Nevada. The video centers on tribal dependence on trout for both nutrition and as their cultural hearth, the status of their water resources which are the foundation for their fish-based culture, and the place of indigenous society surrounded by western culture, resource demands and policies as earth progresses through the Anthropocene. Several papers which will support this video are going through the publication process at this time. Contributors include the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe <http://www.summitlaketribe.org/>, and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe <http://www.pyramidlake.us/> and tribal environmental managers across Nevada. This research is supported by the National Science Foundation (# EPS-0814372).

Please go to: <http://epscorspo.nevada.edu/native-american-indian-video/>

**Special Issue of the Journal of Environmental
Studies and Sciences (continued from page 1)**

JESS is the journal of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, a rather new and highly interdisciplinary organization that Bill played a key role in founding. It is edited by political scientist Tony Rosenbaum, and has a large, multidisciplinary and international editorial board--

including several environmental sociologists: Tom Dietz, Hisayoshi Mitsuda, Paul Mohai, Timmons Roberts, and myself.

You can peruse the four issues of Volume 1 from last year via the same link provided above to get a sense of the wide range of articles being published, and I'm confident that some of you will find JESS to be an appropriate outlet for your work.

Finally, I'd like to encourage you to consider joining AESS. Membership fees are relatively modest and include a subscription to JESS. For information on AESS including membership, go to <http://www.aess.info/>

Bill regarded formation of AESS as one of his major accomplishments, and I personally hope to see more environmental sociologists joining it. (I'm looking forward to attending my first AESS meeting this summer.) It clearly offers an ideal means of exposing ourselves to inter- and multi-disciplinary perspectives on environmental matters.

Enjoy the symposium. I'm confident that Bill would be pleased with it, and I hope that his many fans will be as well.

(You can find a list of all the articles from this journal edition in the Publication section just below.)

Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

The Program for Society and Environment

The Program for Society and Environment is now up and running at the University of Maryland. Please check out our new website: www.cse.umd.edu

11 PhD scholarships in Political Ecology

The European Network for Political Ecology (ENTITLE) offers **11 generously-funded three-year PhD scholarships** available to candidates from all over the world. ENTITLE is an EU-funded Initial

Training Network whose aim is to promote European research and advanced training on the field of political ecology, including: the study of the commons; social metabolism and environmental conflicts; movements; disasters; ecological democracy; and environmental

justice. Successful applicants will be hosted in one of the participating institutes of the network in Barcelona, Coimbra, Manchester, Lund, Berlin, Athens, Istanbul or Santiago de Chile. For information on eligibility criteria, conditions and application procedures visit www.politicaecology.eu; or email for further information entitle2012@gmail.com. Deadline for applications: **20th of April 2012**.

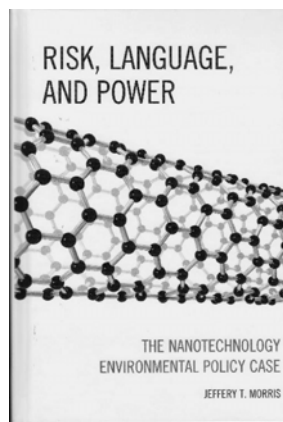
Publications

Books

Risk, Language, and Power: The Nanotechnology Environmental Policy Case. by Jeffery T. Morris

Lexington Books (2012)

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780739170557>



Risk, Language, and Power explores discourse around the environmental risks of nanotechnology, making the case that the dominance in risk discourse of regulatory science is a limiting policy debate on environmental risks, and that specific initiatives should be undertaken to broaden debate not just on nanotechnology, but generally on the risks of new technologies. Morris argues

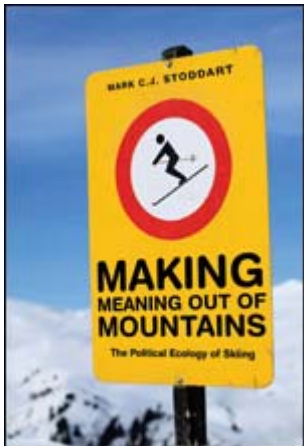
that the treatment of environmental risk in public policy debates has failed for industrial chemicals, is failing for nanotechnology, and most certainly will fail for synthetic biology and other new technologies unless we change how we describe the impacts to people and other living things from the development and deployment of technology. However, Morris also contends that the nanotechnology case provides reason for optimism that risk can be given different, and better, treatment in environmental policy debates. *Risk, Language, and Power* proposes specific policy initiatives to advance a richer discourse around the environmental implications of emerging technologies. Morris believes that evidence of enriched environmental policy debates would be a decentering of language concerning risk by developing within discourse language and practice directed toward enriching the human and environmental condition.

Making Meaning out of Mountains: The Political Ecology of Skiing

Mark CJ Stoddart

University of British Columbia Press (2012).

http://www.ubcpres.com/search/title_book.asp?BookD=299173555



Mountains bear the imprint of human activity. Deep scars from logging and surface mining crosscut the landmarks of sports and recreation -- national parks and lookout areas, ski slopes and lodges. Although the environmental effects of extractive industries are well known, skiing is more likely to bring to mind images of luxury, wealth, and health.

In *Making Meaning out of Mountains*, Mark Stoddart draws on interviews, field observations, and media analysis to explore how the ski industry in British Columbia has helped transform mountain environments and, in turn, how skiing has come to be inscribed with multiple, often conflicted meanings informed by power struggles rooted in race, class, and gender. Corporate leaders promote the skiing industry as sustainable development, while environmentalists and some First Nations argue that skiing sacrifices wildlife habitats and traditional lands to tourism and corporate gain. Skiers themselves appreciate the opportunity to commune with nature but are concerned about skiing's environmental effects.

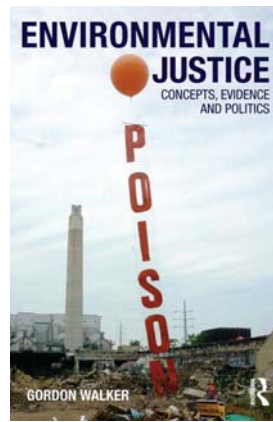
Environmental Justice: Concepts, Evidence, and Politics.

Gordon Walker

Routledge (2011).

http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415589741/?utm_campaign=Environmental%20Justice%20Environmental%20Governance&utm_source=adestra&utm_medium=email

This traces how the discourse of environmental justice has moved around the world and across scales to include global concerns, and examining research, activism and policy development in the US, the UK, South Africa and other countries. The widening scope and diversity of what has been positioned within an environmental justice 'frame' is also reflected in chapters that focus on waste, air quality, flooding, urban greenspace and climate change. In each case, the basis



for evidence of inequalities in impacts, vulnerabilities and responsibilities is examined, asking questions about the knowledge that is produced, the assumptions involved and the concepts of justice that are being deployed in both academic and political contexts.

Environmental Justice offers a wide ranging analysis of this rapidly evolving field, with compelling examples of the processes involved in producing inequalities and the challenges faced in advancing the interests of the disadvantaged. It provides a critical framework for understanding environmental justice in various spatial and political contexts, and will be of interest to those studying Environmental Studies, Geography, Politics and Sociology.

Recent Issue of the Journal of Environmental Studies and Science (Vol. 2, No. 1, March 2012)

Symposium on

"The Legacy of William R. Freudenburg"

Edited by Debra J. Davidson and Riley E. Dunlap

Open access available for one month (from March 30) at <http://www.springerlink.com/content/p754733tj74q/>

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Publications of William R. Freudenburg:

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Articles

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York, Richard and Eugene A. Rosa. 2012. "Choking on Modernity: A Human Ecology of Air Pollution." *Social Problems* (forthcoming).

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Thomas D. Hall

Thomas D. Hall, Professor Emeritus, DePauw University, was recently invited to give the following lectures:

What Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples Can Teach Us about Globalization. 2012. Talk presented at Symposium Against Global Indifference: Awakening to Action, at Ashland University, March 20.

Why Study Frontiers or Borders in an Age of Globalization? Distinguished Lecture, Central States Anthropological Society, Toledo, OH, March 23, 2012.

Lawrence C. Hamilton

Lawrence C. Hamilton, Professor of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire, was recently interviewed by *Climate Science & Policy*. The title of the interview is "Communicating Climate Change, the Internet May be the Key. To access this interview visit: <http://www.climatescienceandpolicy.eu/2012/03/communicating-climate-science-the-internet-may-be-the-key/>