



ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY NEWS

Newsletter of the American Sociological Association’s
Section on Environmental Sociology

Spring 2022

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SECTION CHAIR’S MESSAGE

Dear Members,
Welcome to our spring newsletter. It’s a bit late because I was slow to craft this message. I have much to report. First, I want to draw your attention to a fascinating, short article by Danielle Koonce, a graduate student at the University of Maryland who writes about her experience engaging with community members around environmental justice issues in eastern North Carolina. Be sure to read her piece and watch the short, powerful Vox documentary that features an interview with Danielle and her father reflecting on their community outreach and engagement. I’ll be keeping tabs on her important work, and will show the Vox documentary in my classes.

It’s been a busy winter for the section. In March, CRIEJ hosted their second Theory and Community Café featuring Janaki Anagha of Community Water Center in California. A small sub-committee of council members has also been busy organizing a teaching event on Zoom, scheduled for April 25th from 7-9pm ET. This event is open to all, and will

feature fellow environmental sociologists discussing the challenges of teaching at a time of radical environmental, political, and social change. You can register [here](#). We’ll record the presentation component of the evening.

Our chair-elect, Sandy Marquart-Pyatt has put together a fabulous program for the August ASA meeting in downtown L.A. The program is now posted on the ASA meeting [portal](#), and registration is open. In fact, if you are presenting you must register by May 6th or you risk being removed from the program. The conference venue and hotels are listed [here](#).

All of our section events will be held on **Saturday, August 6th**, including our first in-person reception and awards ceremony since 2019! This year we are holding a joint reception with the Sociology of Development section. Our treasurer, Amalia Leguizamón, along with Matthias vom Hau found us an amazing space, the [Arts Districts Brewing Company](#), about 2 miles east of the convention center (a short cab ride or 30-minute transit trip). Convening in downtown LA presents several

logistical challenges, and we did our best to find a large, airy venue that was close to the hotel. I thank Amalia and Matthias for locking this in for us.

It will be wonderful to gather in person after two years apart. But I realize that not all of our members can afford to travel to L.A., especially as it stands to be an expensive summer for travel. I, like many others, hope that one day we can have in-person ASA meetings in affordable cities or maybe even the odd Zoom conference—though not right away, thank you very much. If you have a small research budget or are a student with limited departmental support, I share your concern about the high cost of attending our annual meetings.

In other news, we have ASA-wide and section elections coming up. Current members will receive a ballot on April 26th. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to volunteer to be nominated! When you receive your ballot, you will be asked to vote for new council members and to approve two important bylaw changes. Please vote “yes” to these changes. The first relates to the Legacy Chair position, adding modified language to support a more inclusive vision for that role. The second is to approve the name change for CRIEJ: Committee for Racial Inclusion, Equity, and Justice.

I think that’s it for section news. World events are frightening and devastating, in such a way that the direst reading assigned in my undergraduate and graduate days (of yore) has become relevant once again for putting this period of violence and displacement in perspective. There is much new work to explore as well. I’ve added “Manual for Survival: A Chernobyl Guide to the Future” by historian Kate Brown (W.W. Norton & Co., 2019) to my reading list. Don’t mistake it for nuclear alarmism; rather Brown’s book shows how international experts constructed scientific ‘blind spots’ that imperiled environmental protection and public health in Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia. Those who study environmental health, power, and expertise in the U.S. and elsewhere will find the themes running through this story to be very familiar.

Finally, a big thank you to John Chung-En Liu, our newsletter editor, for putting together another excellent publication!

Norah MacKendrick
Chair, Environmental
Sociology Section of the
American Sociological
Association
Associate Professor,
Department of Sociology
Rutgers University



CALLS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teaching Environmental Sociology in a Time of Radical Flux

April 25th, 7pm ET on Zoom.

To register, visit:

<https://txstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/tj0tcuivrzwpGNDy07oABkgSOpSblsw5L1EQ>

Join panelists Jennifer Carrera (Michigan State University), Marla Pérez-Lugo (University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley), and Mehmet Soyer, (Utah State University) along with moderators Jessie Luna (Colorado State University) and Michelle Edwards (Texas State University) Join panelists and moderators in a supportive and dynamic discussion about the challenges of teaching environmental sociology at a time of rapid environmental, social, and political turbulence. Panelists will share their experiences of working to advance environmental and social justice through transformative pedagogies and research practices, and will discuss some of the challenges they have faced in their research and teaching.

Call for Papers. Immanuel Wallerstein: Celebrating his Life and Legacies

Conference Date: August 10, 2022

Venue: Royce Hall, UCLA

Abstract Submission Deadline: May 1, 2022

On August 10, 2022, the Political Economy of the World-System (PEWS) section of the American Sociological Association is hosting a day-long conference in honor of Immanuel Wallerstein (1930-2019). This event, held at the University of California-Los Angeles, will recognize Wallerstein's enduring influence as a preeminent scholar of historical capitalism and a founder of world-systems analysis, as well as a student of postcolonial Africa, a theorist of anti-systemic movements, an advocate for a unified social science, and a public intellectual committed to liberation struggles around the world.

We invite extended abstracts (2-4 pages) for papers that build on and extend Wallerstein's work and assess its ongoing relevance for contemporary research programs in the social sciences.

Extended abstracts should be emailed to wallersteinconference2022@gmail.com by the May 1, 2022 deadline. Decisions will be announced by May 15, 2022. For questions, contact Jenn Bair at jlb5md@virginia.edu.

CONVERGE Public Health Implications of Hazards and Disaster Research Training Module and Demonstration Webinar

The CONVERGE facility, headquartered at the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder, is so pleased to announce the release of a tenth CONVERGE Training Module. This free online course, which was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Science Foundation, focuses on the **Public Health Implications of Hazards and Disaster Research**.

You can register and access the free module here: <https://converge.colorado.edu/training-modules>.

This new module is part of a larger series designed to accelerate the training of a diverse hazards and disaster workforce. The new module offers original content and a number of case studies to illustrate the relationship between public health and hazards and disaster research. It also emphasizes how this type of research can help improve the health of disaster-affected people and communities.

This module, like the others in the series, concludes with a 10-question quiz. Upon successful completion of the quiz, users receive a **certificate**, which is worth **one contact hour** of general management training through the International Association of Emergency Managers certification program. These modules can be useful for classroom assignments as well as other activities.

Please see the CONVERGE Assignment Bank for sample activities:

<https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/training-modules/assignment-bank>.

To learn more, please access the recorded demonstration webinar at:

<https://converge.colorado.edu/webinars/converge-public-health-implications-of-hazards-and-disaster-research-training-module-a-demonstration-webinar/>.

You can sign up for additional free resources and updates at the CONVERGE website at:

<https://converge.colorado.edu/signup>.

FEATURE ESSAYS

Hog Farming and the Fight for Environmental Justice in Rural, Black Communities

Danielle Melvin Koonce
University of Maryland

As a graduate student, I always knew I wanted to situate my dissertation research within communities that were similar to the community that raised me: Black, rural, southern and agriculture based. Due to setbacks and opportunities created by Covid19 and the closing of campus at the University of Maryland, my family and I returned to my hometown where I successfully reached Ph.D. candidacy and began preparing for my dissertation research. Being back in eastern North Carolina has allowed me to serve my community and collect preliminary data as a participant observer, as my community and surrounding communities fight for clean air and water as they contend with the environmental, psychological, social and economic impacts of industrial hog farming. Through my research and volunteer work, I've had the opportunity to work alongside my father, Rev. Jimmy Melvin, to fight for clean water access for the parishioners and our surrounding community. Our work received national attention when Vox Media produced a short documentary entitled, "Hog farming has a massive poop problem," which was released in January of this year and has already been viewed over 5000,000 times.

This community engagement work is also part of my dissertation research tentatively titled, "Rural Resistance and the Environment: Understanding How Rural Black Communities Engage in Environmental Justice." Utilizing Aldon Morris' concept of local movement centers as a theoretical framework, I explore the development and impacts of local movement centers in helping Black people

living in two rural, southeastern counties in North Carolina, engage in the Environmental Justice Movement. By engage, I mean obtain and disseminate information, strategize and employ tactics to fight against environmental racism and inequality. I also want to understand the ways in which these groups assemble. Being able to understand the engagement side of environmental justice--how communities obtain and disseminate information, strategize and employ tactics to combat environmental injustice--is crucial for ensuring the entire landscape of environmental justice is accounted for and examined.

I did not expect for my research endeavors to turn into opportunities to serve my community while simultaneously broadening and developing my dissertation. I am grateful that, despite the challenges of the pandemic, I have been able to experience fulfilling community service alongside academic research. I plan to complete my dissertation by the end of summer, 2023 and look forward to future research endeavors that involve the intersection of race, rural space, and the environment.

To watch this Vox documentary, visit:
<https://youtu.be/WsUNylsiDH8>



PUBLICATIONS

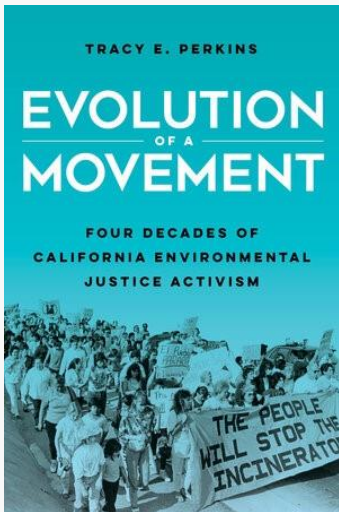
Books

Evolution of a Movement: Four Decades of California Environmental Justice Activism

Tracy Perkins

University of California Press

<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520376984/evolution-of-a-movement>



Despite living and working in California, one of the country's most environmentally progressive states, environmental justice activists have spent decades fighting for clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and safe, healthy communities. *Evolution of a Movement* tells their story—from the often-raucous protests of the 1980s and 1990s to activists' growing presence inside the halls of the state capitol in the 2000s and 2010s. Tracy E. Perkins traces how shifting political contexts combined with activists' own efforts to institutionalize their work within nonprofits and state structures. By revealing these struggles and transformations, Perkins offers a new lens for understanding environmental justice activism in California.

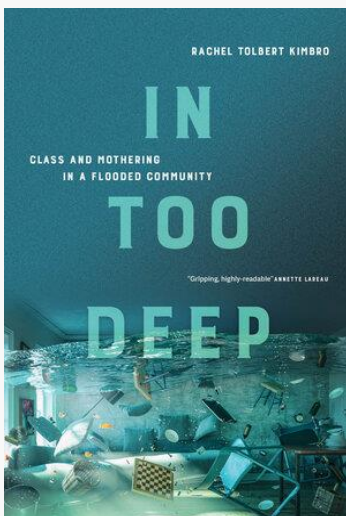
Drawing on case studies and 125 interviews with activists from Sacramento to the California-Mexico border, Perkins explores the successes and failures of the environmental justice movement in California. She shows why some activists have moved away from the disruptive "outsider" political tactics common in the movement's early days and embraced traditional political channels of policy advocacy, electoral politics, and working from within the state's political system to enact change. Although some see these changes as a sign of the growing sophistication of the environmental justice movement, others point to the potential of such changes to blunt grassroots power. At a time when environmental justice scholars and activists face pressing questions about the best route for effecting meaningful change, this book provides insight into the strengths and limitations of social movement institutionalization.

Tracy E. Perkins is Assistant Professor in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University.

In Too Deep: Class and Mothering in a Flooded Community

Rachel Kimbro

University of California Press <https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520377738/in-too-deep>



In a small Texas neighborhood, an affluent group of mothers has been repeatedly rocked by catastrophic flooding—the 2015 Memorial Day flood, the 2016 Tax Day flood, and sixteen months later, Hurricane Harvey. Yet even after these disrupting events, almost all mothers in this neighborhood still believe there is only one place for them to live: Bayou Oaks. *In Too Deep* is a sociological exploration of what happens when climate change threatens the carefully curated family life of upper-middle-class mothers. Through in-depth interviews with thirty-six Bayou Oaks mothers whose homes flooded during Hurricane Harvey, Rachel Kimbro reveals why these mothers continued to stay in a place that was becoming more and more unstable. Rather than retreating, the mothers dug in and sustained the community they have chosen and nurtured, trying to keep social, emotional, and economic instability at bay. *In Too Deep* provides a glimpse into how class and place intersect in an unstable physical environment and underlines the price families pay for

securing their futures.

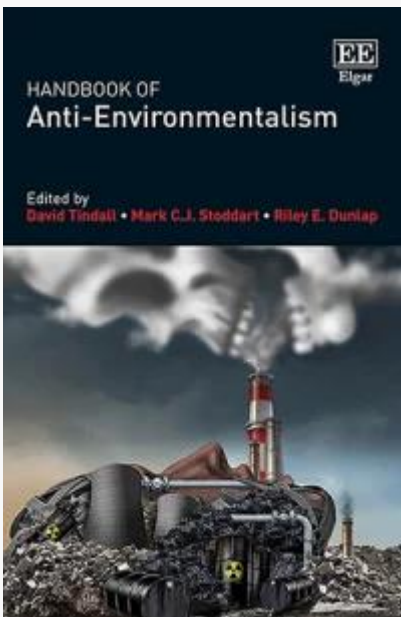
Rachel Tolbert Kimbro is Professor of Sociology at Rice University.

Handbook of Anti-Environmentalism

Edited by David Tindall, Mark Stoddart, and Riley E. Dunlap

Edward Elgar Publishing

<https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/handbook-of-anti-environmentalism-9781839100215.html>



This thought-provoking Handbook provides a theoretical overview of the wide variety of anti-environmentalisms and offers an integrative research agenda for future research on the topic. Probing the ways in which groups have organized to oppose environmental movements and pro-environmental policies in recent decades, it examines those involved in these countermovements and studies their motivations and support systems.

International contributors investigate the ways in which anti-environmentalism differs across regions and by the nature of the issue, alongside unique coverage of the critiques of environmental movements coming from sources that are not anti-environmental. This Handbook explores core topics in the field, including contestation over climate change, wind power, mining, forestry, food sovereignty, oil and gas pipelines and population issues. Chapters also analyse our understanding of countermovements, the effect of public opinion on environmental policy, and original empirical case studies from North America, Oceania, Europe and Asia.

Taking a multidisciplinary approach, the Handbook of Anti-Environmentalism will be a key resource for scholars and students of environmental politics and policy, environmental sociology, environmental governance and social movements.

David Tindall is Professor in the Department of Sociology at University of British Columbia, Canada.

Mark C.J. Stoddart is Professor in the Department of Sociology at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.

Riley E. Dunlap is Dresser Professor and Regents Professor of Sociology Emeritus at Oklahoma State University, US.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

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