



ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY NEWS

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

Spring 2026

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SECTION CHAIR’S MESSAGE



Dear colleagues,

As we near the end of the academic year, I find myself reflecting on the added weight that many of us have experienced working in higher education. The environmentally harmful political

climate has made research and teaching as environmental sociologists especially challenging. Nevertheless, we are persisting, carving out spaces of inquiry and hope that are needed more now than ever.

A recent experience particularly stands out. Several of my colleagues here at Colorado State University who help run the Center for Environmental Justice hosted an incredible hybrid Global Conference for Environmental Justice. There were participants from around the world who attended the two-day conference, both in person and online, some of whom were environmental sociologists. Participants hailed from North, Central, and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania, presenting research on a wide range of topics. Presentations and panels covered climate, extraction, finance, multispecies engagement, authoritarian threats, governance, health, food, agriculture, just transitions, renewable energy, air protection, social movements, and more. The convergence also provided opportunities for socializing, building new networks, and developing projects on pressing environmental justice concerns. The intentional mix of formal and informal engagement helped strengthen

community, bringing people together in the face of many divisive forces.

I know that I'm not alone in having these uplifting experiences. But we often don't have the space to share what's going well. What has inspired you lately? Are there professional gatherings, events at your university or in your department, or partnerships with community members that have provided some hope? What steps are you undertaking individually and with others to combat pervasive pessimism and disengagement? Please send these experiences my way. I'd love to provide more space in my communication to our section members for things going well in our environmental sociology community.

I also want to acknowledge that in addition to the external institutional pressures we face, there are internal institutional pressures. I have been thinking a lot about how we can best show up professionally as sociologists. Most pressing for me as the chair of our section has been with respect to ASA governance. I have been consistently communicating with you all since the start of the academic year about conversations section chairs have been having with ASA leaders. We are focused on improving the democratic governance of ASA and are in ongoing discussions. The recent ASA leadership response to the Sociologists for Palestine petition is just one issue, albeit catalyzing, that reflects deeper concerns with how our professional organization runs. In my capacity as chair, I have sought to understand the different perspectives of our membership. If you'd like to see the results of the survey I sent out, please see my April 9 email to our listserv.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and perspectives, and when you have it, your time to help foster a flourishing section. Despite the challenges ahead, I am confident that we can change how our institutions run so that they better reflect the needs and desires of those they are set up to serve.

Yours in community,
Josh Sbicca
ASA Section on Environmental Sociology Chair
Associate Professor of Sociology
Director of the Prison Agriculture Lab
Colorado State University

PUBLICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Books

[The Oxford Handbook of Climate Action](#)

Paul Almeida
University of California Merced

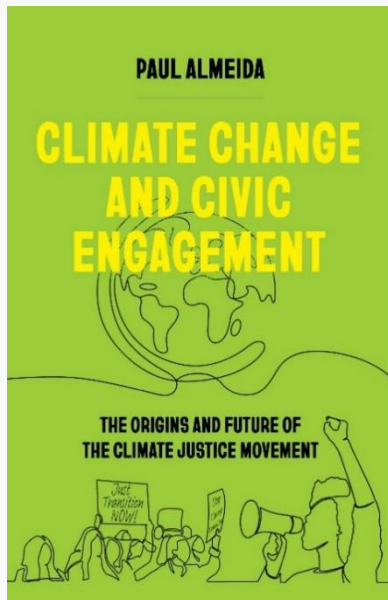


Climate action encompasses all kinds of efforts to mitigate climate change. The Oxford Handbook of Climate Action examines diverse efforts globally, with chapters discussing activism or policy on every continent. The volume presents major theoretical perspectives and concrete strategies for addressing climate change in the twenty-first century. The Handbook considers both noninstitutional and institutional forms of climate action. Contributors discuss the origins of climate activism as well as important achievements in raising public awareness, increasing participation, incorporating environmental justice, and implementing climate-friendly policies. They also demonstrate why nonconventional forms of collective action are necessary and effective when existing institutions fail to address planetary warming at an appropriate pace and level of urgency. Authors cover climate action planning, renewable energy systems, reforestation, carbon capture and storage technologies, nature-based climate solutions, and just economic transitions. The scholars also identify climate action within broader systems of race,

class, gender, and colonialism. Drawing from environmental science, sociology, political science, and anthropology, the Handbook gathers analyses and recommendations from an interdisciplinary field of specialists. The volume is thereby both comprehensive and accessible to students and scholars from various disciplines, making it a vital resource for anyone interested in the study of climate issues.

Climate Change and Civic Engagement

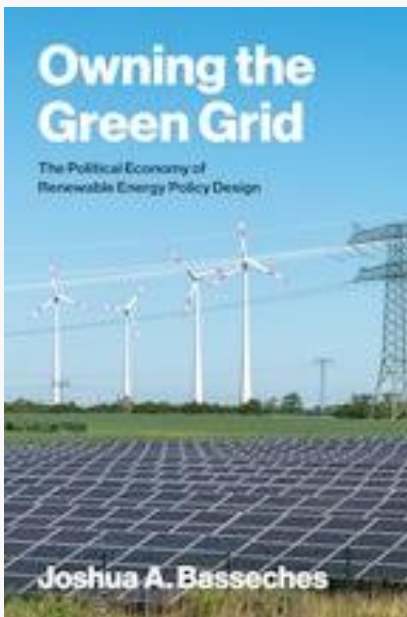
Paul Almeida
University of California Merced



The most recent scientific reporting suggests that the outlook for continued global warming is dire. Collective action and civic engagement by ordinary people around the world will prove decisive in slowing down global warming and supporting planetary survival. *Climate Change and Civic Engagement* demonstrates the origins, gains, and future trajectory of the climate movement. In analyzing collective action events around the world and exploring how the movement navigates the competing paradigms of climate denialism, decarbonization, and just transitions, this book includes: Data collected from thousands of climate engagements and events. The most recent tools from social movement scholarship, such as GIS mapping, representative surveys from frontline communities, and theories of expanding climate civic engagement along just transition pathways. An exploration of the links between climate justice and environmental justice. Creative tactics for sustaining collective climate action in the face of climate denialism and technocratic solutions. This book shows readers the indispensability of social movement knowledge in forging effective climate justice movements.

Owning The Green Grid: The Political Economy of Renewable Energy Policy Design.

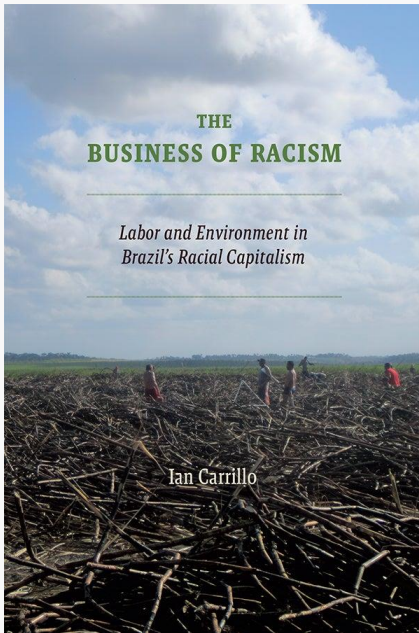
Joshua Basseches
Tulane University



This book tackles the longstanding sociological problem of corporate political power, by focusing on how it operates in the context of U.S. state-level policymaking to address climate change. Specifically, the book relies on qualitative methods to trace the political trajectories of a quarter century of renewable electricity policymaking in seven U.S. states, which together house a third of the U.S. population. By studying policy design, as opposed to mere policy adoption, as his outcome variable, Basseches observes forms of political influence that would otherwise be obscured. Rather than finding that business actors are uniformly influential (or not), he finds that one particular type of business actor (investor-owned utilities) consistently exerted greater influence than all other political actors, whether representing the public interest (e.g. environmental advocacy groups) or private ones (e.g. industrial ratepayers). This was true regardless of partisanship and in-state energy economy, often thought to be the principal determinants of state-level climate policy prospects. These findings suggest that creating equitable state-level climate policy requires either reducing the power of these utility monopolies (e.g. moving to a system of publicly-owned utilities) or creating separate policies that align investor-owned utilities' interests with those of the ratepaying public and with environmental protection.

The Business of Racism: Labor and Environment in Brazil's Racial Capitalism

Ian Carrillo
University of Oklahoma



In *The Business of Racism*, Ian Carrillo employs a case study from Brazil's sugarcane industry to show how racial capitalism is promulgated and maintained through politics and business. As Carrillo recounts, in the mid-2000s, Brazil embarked on a state-led project to improve environmental and labor conditions in sugarcane production. He describes how, seeing increased government regulation of their worksite as a threat to their power, the elites of Brazil's sugar-ethanol industry repurposed long-standing racial ideologies to undermine progressive institutions and elevate their own leaders. Carrillo's extensive ethnographic fieldwork in mills and plantations, as well as interviews with federal labor regulators and sugar-ethanol industry elites in Brazil, weaves together an account of how Brazil's labor and environmental regulations are forged through racial and class struggles at worksites and within the state. *The Business of Racism* contributes to ongoing sociological debates about race, development, and the environment while highlighting future pathways for achieving racial justice, labor equality, and climate sustainability. Save 40% with coupon code SPRING26 when ordering through www.dukeupress.edu.

Environmental Sociology Now

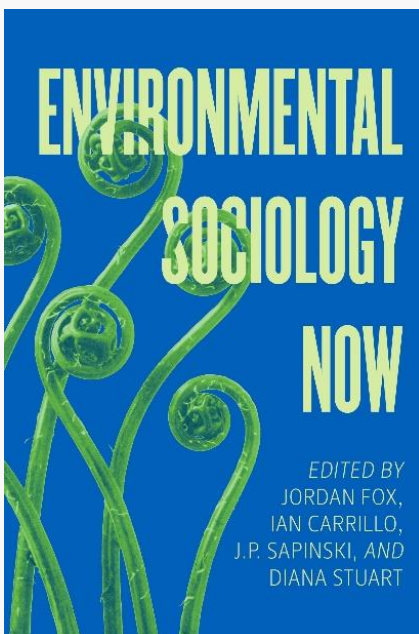
Edited by:

Jordan Fox – State University of New York at Buffalo

Ian Carrillo – University of Oklahoma

J.P. Sapinski – Université de Moncton

Diana Stuart – Northern Arizona University



It is a critical time for environmental sociology. Against a backdrop of increasingly dynamic environmental and social change, contemporary scholarship must reorient itself to cut through the noise and directly confront the urgent socio-environmental questions of today. In *Environmental Sociology Now*, Jordan Fox, Ian Carrillo, J. P. Sapinski, and Diana Stuart have gathered original essays from many of the emerging scholars who are advancing new ideas and making innovative connections across disciplines to lay new foundations. Each essay centers on the prompt "What does a more interdisciplinary, more diverse, and more justice-oriented environmental sociology look like, and what does that mean for our collective future?" Bringing together different—and often conflicting—points of view, this book outlines an inclusive, forward-looking classroom and research agenda. Challenging both students and scholars to critically reconsider what our environmental relationships currently look like (and what may be in store), this timely book will be a vital resource for the research and teaching of environment and society for years to come.

Organizations and Climate Change: Research in the Sociology of Organizations

Edited by:

Ion Bogdan Vasi – University of Iowa

Edward T. Walker – University of California Los Angeles

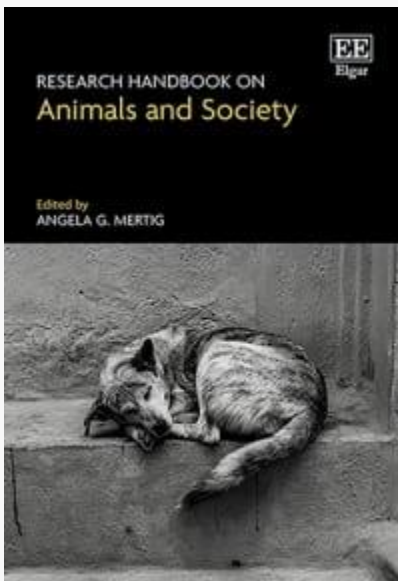


While the domains of organizational theory, grand challenges, and environmental sociology have developed via relatively distinct fields in sociology and management, they speak to a common set of social change phenomena at the intersection of the state, non-profits, and businesses. *Organizations and Climate Change* brings together new empirical papers that bridge these domains and sets an agenda for a more holistic theory of organizations and climate change, a theory that examines how various kinds of organizations respond to what is considered as one of the most important challenges for humanity during the 21st century.

Research Handbook on Animals and Society

Angela G. Mertig (ed.)

Middle Tennessee State University



This multidisciplinary book provides an overview of past, current and emerging research in human–animal studies. International experts explore this dynamic and expanding field in ways that challenge established thought about the interactions between nonhuman animals and human societies. Chapters discuss the “animal turn,” in which disciplines that have traditionally ignored, or not seriously considered nonhuman animals, have begun to consider the “animal question.” The contributing authors examine how societies have thought about animals and our connection to them over time. They address the different ways in which nonhuman animals have interacted with human society, including as food, in products, as pets, as workers, as entertainers and as targets of wildlife management concern. The *Research Handbook on Animals and Society* emphasizes that the consideration, treatment and welfare of animals is a crucial and fast-developing social justice issue.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

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Ahmad, Taimur. 2026. "'The Rock is the Community:' Cocreating Social Capital, Nature, and Transcendence in Central Park, NYC." *Qualitative Sociology*.

Ahmed, M.N.Q., Haq, S.M.A., Ahmed, K.J. and Lalin, S.A.A. (2026). Links between climate change perceptions and food security: a developing country context. *Global Nexus Handbook*, Wiley. Haq, S.M.A.,

Ahmed, M.N.Q., Lalin, S.A.A., Ratna, A.H., Ahmed, K.J. (2026). Does Social Practice Theory Explain Energy Use in All Contexts? An Overview. *Global Nexus Handbook*, Wiley.

Ahmad, S.; Soyer, M.; Lloyd, L.; Ahmed, M.N.Q. (2025). Beyond the Inhaler: Parental Perceptions of Air Quality and Asthma Management Through a Socio-Ecological Framework. *Journal of Asthma*, 1-26

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Loy, Loredana, and Rachel Wetts. 2026. "'Let Them Eat Kale!': Appeals to Class-Based Resentment in American Conservative Opposition to Climate Change Solutions." *Social Problems*. doi:10.1093/socpro/spag003.

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Tollefson, Jonathan. 2026. "Environment and the Racialization of Space in US Cities." *Social Forces* (online first).

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Public Sociology and Community Engagement

Almeida, Paul D, Ingrid Brostrom, Justin Barnes, Eliana Fonsah, Emily Rivera Mondragon, Luis Ruben Gonzalez, and Sara Patino. 2026. *The Merced High-Speed Rail Survey: Tracking Community Perspectives, Preferences, and Public Participation*. Merced, CA: UC Merced Community and Labor Center.

(Dis)closing the Water Gap is a publicly accessible dashboard with relevant government statistics, media about water and sanitation issues, and community narratives where available meant to help community activists and intermediaries identify water and sanitation access issues at the county (or equivalent) level throughout the US and territories. <https://disclosingthewatergap.org/>

Gasteyer, Stephen. 2026. Opinion: Water security, even in the Great Lakes, can be complicated. Crains Detroit Business Forum. <https://www.crainsdetroit.com/forum/cdb-forum-lake-erie-opinion-msu-20260323/>

Notable Presentations

Gasteyer, Stephen, Jennifer Keahy, Devparna Roy, and Hosea Patrich co-organized and presented on the panel Food, Energy, Water and Environmental Justice at the conference Where Do We Grow From

Here? Environmental Justice and the Politics of Hope in the Planetary Age, April 13 and 14, 2026

Perz, Stephen G. 2025. "Universidades y Ciudades Sostenibles? La Coevolución de la Universidad de Florida en Gainesville." Presentation at IV Foro Internacional de Desarrollo Amazónico Sostenible, Universidad Nacional Amazónica de Madre de Dios, Puerto Maldonado, Peru, 26 June. Stephen G. Perz. 2025. "Pesquisa Ação Participativa para Governança Ambiental: Colaboração na Amazonia Ocidental." Presentation to the Geography MA Program, Federal University of Acre, 3 July.

Plotkin, Andrew. 2026. Organized and presented the book "The EcoSociology Action Guide: For Making and Spending Your Money on What Matters Most to You" [in Author-Meets-Curious-Readers] at the Southern Sociological Society conference April 11, 2026 in Jacksonville, Florida. He co-authored the book in 2025 with William Tarman-Ramcheck and Alecea Standlee, which is available on their website at "Ecosociology Field Guide – Change the World, One Choice at a Time" ([url=https://astandlee.sites.gettysburg.edu/ecosociology/](https://astandlee.sites.gettysburg.edu/ecosociology/)).

Ribeiro, Sabina, N. Galia Selaya, Richarlly Costa, Fernando A. Schmidt, I. Foster Brown, and Stephen G. Perz. 2026. "Participatory Community Partnering for Sustainable Forest Management in the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve, Acre, Brasil." Poster for the 74th Latin American Studies Annual Conference, "The Power of Connections: Harvesting Lessons and Strengthening Coalitions for Amazonian Conservation." University of Florida, 24 February.

Career Transitions

Joshua Basseches will be starting a new position as an advanced assistant professor of public policy and environmental studies at Case Western Reserve University on July 1.

Dr. Chris Morris is currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Iowa State University. His

current research investigates factors that influence farmer adoption of conservation practices, with a focus on farm policy, technical assistance, and collective trauma. He has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Rural Sociology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work at Kansas State University starting this fall, where his research will focus on water quality and quantity issues in Kansas rural communities and agricultural systems.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Calls for Materials

Request for responses for a web survey on the reproductive health behaviors, aspirations, and access of U.S. undergraduate and graduate college students and how these are disrupted or affected by a disaster event. https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_09tAWj9T8HrXXn0

The only inclusion criteria are that respondents are U.S. college students, at least 18 years old, and experienced a disaster while they were students. No identifying information will be collected. It should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. If you are eligible, please consider taking the survey. Sharing this survey request with your networks would be greatly appreciated. For any questions, contact Dr. Melissa Villarreal (vrreal.mel@gmail.com), Postdoctoral Fellow at the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), University of Colorado-Boulder

Environmental Sociology Section at ASA 2026

Saturday, August 8

8:00-9:30 AM – Environmental Sociology Section
Open Call Paper Session

10:00-11:30 AM – Repair, Resistance, Renewal: Sociological Solutions to Wicked Problems

2:00-3:30 PM – Borders, Bodies, and Security: Climate Change and Global Inequality

4:00-5:00 PM – Roundtables

5:00-5:30 PM – Business Meeting

Sunday, August 9

8:00-9:30 AM – Capital, Communities, and Climate: How Local and Corporate Actors Shape Environmental Futures

10:00-11:30 AM – Environmental Justice, DEI, and Threats to Equity Work

12:00-1:30 PM – Truth Under Siege: Science in an Era of Executive Power

2:00-3:30 PM – Political Ecology (Co-sponsored by Marxist Sociology Section)

2:00-3:30 PM – Comparative-Historical Perspectives on Climate Change (Co-sponsored by Environmental Sociology Section)

6:00-8:00 PM – Enviro Soc Old & New Timers Get-Together (Location TBA) — RSVP @ [EnviroSoc Meet-up](#)

Monday, August 10

8:00-9:30 AM – The Sociology of Climate Change (Co-sponsored by Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section)

6:30-8:30 PM – Joint reception with Political Sociology, Theory, Global and Transnational Sociology, and History of Sociology and Social Thought – Location: Jake's Dilemma (430 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY 10024)

Section Officers (2025-2026)

Chair

Joshua Sbicca
Colorado State University

Chair-Elect

Kerry Ard

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