# **Environment, Technology and Society**

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

**SUMMER 2005** 

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Outstanding Publication Committee: Maurie Cohen, chair

Olsen Student Paper Award Committee: Maurie Cohen, chair

Nominations Committee: Steve Kroll-Smith, chair; David Pellow Lori Hunter

DistinguishedContribution Award Committee: Bob Brulle, chair; all council members

The Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism: Stella Capek, Chair

Teaching and Training Committee: Lori Peek, Chair

http://socsci.colorado.edu/ SOC/FT/ets.html

Section Website:

#### In Rememberance

Renaming the Distinguished Contribution Award for the Section and Environment and Technology to honor the late Fred Buttel, in my opinion, is an indisputably fitting tribute to an intellectual giant in the field of environmental sociology. Fred's immense scholarly productivity, his masterful ability to wed social theory and environmental issues, and his vast command of knowledge in the field has been and always will be an intellectual inspiration to environmental sociologists worldwide.

Fred bravely and aggressively faced more than a decade of battles with cancer. One year after he learned about his illness, Fred made his Presidential address to the Rural Sociological Society, a talk entitled "Environmentalization: Origins, Processes, and Implications for Rural Social Change." Throughout the 1990s he became increasingly active in the International Sociological Association, especially with European environmental sociologists. His influence on the International Sociological Association was such that there now is the Frederick H. Buttel International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology.

In his final years of work at the University of Wisconsinhis alma mater - Fred was the William H. Sewell Professor of Rural Sociology, a title that he held with great pride. Having worked with Fred since 1979, I knew that he was receiving many awards, promotions, distinctions, and so on. In all the years that I knew and worked with Fred, however, he always kept a great sense of humor and self-effacing modesty.

Part of his warm personality reflected his love for Madison, the city where he returned in 1992. Fred summed up his feelings toward Madison in his "Autobiography in place of a eulogy (January 2005)." "If you can't be happy living in Madison," Fred wrote, "you can't be happy living anywhere." Then, in truly Buttel style, Fred said, "There is a ceiling on how arrogant you can be if you live in Madison, Wisconsin." Fred, we truly, truly miss you.



## SECTION SYMPOSIUM ON THE DEATH OF ENVIRONMENTALISM

Maurie J. Cohen New Jersey Institute of Technology

Last October, at the annual meeting of the Environmental Grantsmakers Association, two intrepid activists, Michael Schellenberger and Ted Nordhaus, released an essay entitled *The Death of Environmentalism*. Despite its provocative title, this now infamous manifesto is no Lomborgesque antienvironmental screed. Rather the authors are, as they themselves readily admit, children of the contemporary environmental movement and have until recently earned their livelihoods working for many of the mainstream groups.

Nonetheless, their candid assessment is that the flagship environmental organizations have become moribund and completely unable to communicate effectively with the American public. The classic failure, to their minds, is the utter failure of these groups, some of which receive millions of dollars each year from major philanthropic foundations, to make the case for decisive action by the United States on global climate change. They contend that environmentalists need to lead the way toward a progressive politics that speaks to the issues of everyday life rather than to hair-splitting scientific debates that only rarely lead to noticeable improvements in environmental conditions.

While Schellenberger and Nordhaus are by no means the first critics to make this argument, what is sociologically interesting is the widespread attention they have garnered. During the past several months, they have been on a barnstorming tour and thousands of people have been attracted to their appearances. There are indications that they are galvanizing a new cadre of environmental proponents that evinces little receptivity to the standard-bearing groups.

Environmental sociology has been closely intertwined with contemporary environmentalism over the past three decades. In fact, the field began in many respects as the sociology of the environmental movement. Given this lineage, environmental sociologists have an obligation to carefully consider the specific claims put forth in *The Death of Environmentalism* and to gauge its implications not only for organized environmentalism, but also for the future of our field.

In conjunction with the annual ASA meeting

this year in Philadelphia, the Environment and Technology Section will be convening a panel discussion entitled The Death of Environmentalism **Future** and the of Environmental Sociology at 2pm on August 14. Participants in this panel will include Robert Brulle (Drexel University), Riley Dunlap (University of Central Florida), Craig Jenkins (Ohio State University), David Pellow (University of California at San Diego), and Lynnette Zelezny (California State University Fresno).

The event will be held on the second floor of the Bellet Building on Drexel University's Center City campus (located at 15th and Race Streets—within walking distance of the main ASA conference venues). Please be advised that details concerning this symposium will not appear in the conference bulletin!

## SYMPOSIUM ON SOCIOLOGICAL WORK AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Penelope Canan Global Carbon Project

Human practices since the Industrial Revolution have had such a large impact on the planet that the Earth has moved well outside the range of natural variability exhibited over more than 400,000 years. Already we are dealing with the impacts of just a one-degree rise in the global temperature and associated extreme weather events. Predictions for increasing global warming over the next few decades vary, but each scenario is alarming. Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use (industrialization, transportation, urbanization) and the loss of carbon sinks (deforestation) are major culprits. What do we as sociologist have to say about theoretical directions for social change to alter the patterns of a global carbon culture? We will produce a collection of examples of sociological work relevant to global warming, the carbon cycle, and climate change. Participants will be asked to prepare a brief oral overview of an assigned selection. Selections will include contributions covering environment, demographic change, energy consumption patterns, equity, impact analysis, carbon culture, land use changes (deforestation), urbanization, and globalization.

The symposium will start at 9:00 am on Friday August 12<sup>th</sup> and run all day in the downtown Courtyard Marriot.

#### 2005 ROBERT BOGUSLAW AWARD

The winner of the 2005 Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism is Dr. William James Smith, Jr., for his paper "Filling a gap in international water development discourse: Challenges to capacity building at the rural, remote and least-wealthy small island scale in Chuuk, Micronesia."

From the author's abstract: "Small island Western Pacific communities are among the least wealthy, most remote and resource-poor. Small landmasses, geologic composition, geographic isolation, colonial history, and weak educational, technological and financial resources constitute significant barriers to building capacity for improving access safe drinking to water. High-tech, high-cost, and complex Northern models are inapproriate and unsustainable." The author's project instead explores locally appropriate solutions. His "multiscale approach" combines GIS training, management, environmental watershed health education at the grassroots scale, and working with civil society to support appropriate technologies. The goal is to offer useful insights for improving capacity on islands with similar geographies across the globe. Dr. Smith is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Studies, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

The Boguslaw award committee consisted of Stella Capek, John Bellamy Foster, and Andrew Szasz.

Other papers under consideration included: Elizabeth Ransom, "Defining a Good Steak: Global Constructions of What is Considered the Best Red Meat"; Jeff Howard, "Toward Participatory Ecological Design of Technological Systems"; and Torin Monahan, "Counter-surveillance as Political Intervention?".

## **ELECTION RESULTS**

Congratulations to the following new officers that have been elected to the Environment, Technology and Society Section.

CHAIR-ELECT Timmons Robert

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR
Beth Schaeffer Caniglia

TEACHING AND TRAINING COMMITTEE CHAIR
Lori Peek

#### ASA ENVIRONMENTAL SESSIONS SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, AUG. 12

# Sociological Work on Global Warming and Climate Change

9:00am - 4:00 pm. Philadelphia Downtown Courtyard by Marriott.

#### **SUNDAY, AUG. 14**

## The Death of Environmentalism and the Future of Environmental Sociology

2 pm. Bellet Building on Drexel University's Center City campus (located at 15th and Race Streets—within walking distance of the main ASA conference venues).

## MONDAY, AUG. 15

#### **Environmental Movements**

8:30 am - 10:10 am. Marriot.

Organizer: Marieke M. Van Willigen (East Carolina University)

Presider: Marieke M. Van Willigen (East Carolina University)

Citizen Responses to Environmental Problems: An Analysis of Taiwan's People's Participation Potential for Environmental Movements. Hsin-Huang M. Hsiao, Gang-Hua Fan (University of Texas at Austin)

Environmental Groups, Relational Ties and the Mechanisms of Tactical Information Exchange. Fletcher Winston (mercer University).

Changing Political Economic Opportunity Structures: Environmental Movements in the Global Agrifood System. Jason Konefal (Michigan State University).

The Making of a Moratorium: Cultural Context and the Battle over the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer. Beth Schaefer Caniglia (Oklahoma State University), Kris Smith (Oklahoma State University), Mark Vermillion (Oklahoma State University).

Discussant: Bob Edwards (East Carolina State University)

## **Global Environmental Policy and Attitudes**

10:30 am - 12:10 pm. Loews Hotel.

Organizer: Marieke M. Van Willigen

Presider: Presider: Marieke M. Van Willigen

Urban and Industrial Environmental Reform in Southeast Asia: A Comparative Analysis. Arthur Mol (Wageningen University), David A. Sonnenfeld (Washington State University).

Influences on Environmental Concern: Are there Similarities Across Countries? Sandra T. Marquart-Pyatt (Utah State University).

Governing Beyond the State: Fostering Environmentally Friendly Markets and Fighting Corruption. Maria Sergeevna

Tysiachniouk (Center for Independent Social Research), Johnathan Reisman (intern).

Public Perception of Environmental Issues in a Developing Setting. Michael J. White (Brown University), Lori M. Hunter (University of Colorado Boulder).

### **Environmental Inequality**

2:30 pm – 4:10 pm. Marriot.

Organizer: Marieke M. Van Willigen (East Carolina University)

Presider: Marieke M. Van Willigen (East Carolina University)

Transnational Alliances and Global Politics: New Geographies of Urban Environmental Justice Struggles. David Pellow (University of California, San Diego).

Measuring Residential Proximity to Environmental Hazards: A New Approach. Liam Downey (University of Colorado)

Emissions of Common Anthropogenic Pollutants: A Quantitative, Cross National Analysis. John M. Shandra (Stony Brook University), Bruce London (clark University).

The Spread of Environmental Justice into Transportation Planning: A Chicago Case Study. Eric J. Petersen.

## **ET&S Council Meeting**

4:30 pm - 6:10 pm. Philadelphia Downtown Courtyard by Marriot.

## Paper Session: Social Environments and Demographic Processes

4:30 – 6:10 pm. Loews Hotel.

Session Organizer: Barrett Lee (Pennsylvania State

University)

Presider: Barrett Lee (Pennsylvania State University)

The Role of Institutional Context in European Regional Fertility Profiles. Daniel Adkins (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill).

Childlessness, Only Children and the Second Demographic Transition in Japan. Kimiko Tanaka (Michigan State University), Nan E. Johnson (Michigan State University).

Household Finance, Women's Age at First Birth, and Mental Health in Britain. Tim Futing Liao (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign).

Inter-Cohort Trends in Age Specific Health Inequalities: A Test of the Theory of "Fundamental Causes". John Robert Warren (University of Minnesota), Elaine M. Hernandez (University of Minnesota).

Change in Racial and Ethnic Residential Inequality in American Cities, 1970 to 2000. Jeffrey M. Timberlake (University of Cincinnati), John Iceland (University of Maryland).

#### ET&S Reception.

6:30~pm-8:00~pm. Marriot. Cambridge Scientific Abstracts is going to be hosting the ET&S reception this year. CAB is the publisher of a new e-journal called Sustainability: Science, Practice, and Policy that is currently being edited by Maurie Cohen.

## **TUESDAY, AUG. 16**

Paper Session: Environment in a Global Context: Insights from Cross-National Research

8:30 am - 10:10 am. Marriot.

Session Organizer: Stella M. Capek (Hendrix College).

Presider: Maurie J. Cohen (New Jersey Institute of Technology)

Global Warming and the Neglected Greenhouse Gas: A Cross-National Study of the Social Causes of Methane Emissions Intensity, 1995. Andrew K. Jorgenson (Washington State University).

Foundation Funding for the Global Environment – Green Altruism or Imperialism? Tammy Lewis (Muhlenberg College).

Nature Protection and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective. C.S.A (Kris) vanKoppen (Wageningen University), William T. Markham (University of North Carolina, Greensboro).

When Tropical Forests Shrink: The Significance of Declining Forest Size for Biodiversity Conservation Policies. Thomas K. Rudel (Rutgers University).

# Paper Session: Science, Environment and Democracy

2:30 pm – 4:10 pm. Marriot.

Session Organizer: Stella M. Capek (Hendrix College) Presider: Diane M. Sicotte (Drexel University)

Small, Not Beautiful: Nanotechnology and the Treadmill of Production. Kenneth Alan Gould (Center for Independent Social Research).

Ignorance of Environmental Risks in the "Capital of Soviet Chemistry". Alla Bolotova (Centre for Independent Socal Research).

Knowledge Claims and Experimental Design: Handling Surprises in Ecological Restoration. Matthias Gross (UFZ Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig)

Do Regulatory Agencies Matter?: Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Citizen Enforcement of Environmental Policy. Douglas Bevington (University of California, Santa Cruz).

#### Round Table: Urban Issues and the Environment

12:30pm - 1:30 pm. Philadelphia Marriott

**Round Table: Globalization and Environment** 

12:30pm - 1:30pm. Philadelphia Marriott

ET&S Business Meeting.

1:30 pm – 2:10 pm. Marriot.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

## **Special Issue of Organization & Environment**

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<u>Special Issue on the Environment and the Treadmill of</u> Production, Part II

<u>Dimensions of the Treadmill of Production in</u> Environmental Sociology

Articles

The Treadmill of Production: Expansion, Refinement, and Critique
RICHARD YORK AND JOHN BELLAMY FOSTER

The Treadmill of Accumulation: Schnaiberg's Environment and Marxian Political Economy John Bellamy Foster

Treadmills of Production and Destruction: Threats to the Environment Posed by Militarism

GREGORY HOOKS AND CHAD L. SMITH

How Ecologically Uneven Developments Put the Spin on the Treadmill of Production

STEPHEN G. BUNKER

Accelerating the Treadmill of Production Under NAFTA: The Effects of Multilateral Trade Agreements On Environmental Policymaking and Regulation, and National Sovereignty: The Use of Reformulated Gasoline in the US and Canada

CHRISTOPHER OLIVER

Treadmill Politics, Information Politics, and Public Policy: Toward a Political Economy of Information

**CHRISTINE OVERDEVEST** 

From Additions-and-Withdrawals to Environmental Flows: Reframing Debates in the Environmental Social Sciences

ARTHUR MOL AND GERT SPAARGAREN

#### Art and the Natural Environment

Scrub Jay's Voice Mad Insects
TERRY ANN THAXTON

Leslie Marmon Silko's Vision of Global Environmental Justice for the People and the Land

SUSAN BERRY BRILL DE RAMIREZ AND EDITH M. BAKER

## Dialogues and Debates

Celebrating a Citation Classic-And More: Symposium on Charles Perrow's *Normal Accidents* 

**EUGENE ROSA** 

## Review Essays

Politics of Latour, a review essay covering Bruno Latour's Politics of Nature: How to Bring the Sciences into Democracy

SAI RESTIVO

Green Liberalism and Beyond, a review essay covering Andrew Dobson's *Citizenship and the Environment* and Simon Hailwood's *Nature, Value and Liberal Philosophy* 

JOHN M MEYER

#### Reviews

Where Land and Water Meet: A Western Landscape Transformed, by Nancy Langston CHRISTA WALCK

Complexity, Organizations and Change, by Elizabeth McMillan

KATE FARRELL

Labor and the Environmental Movement, by Brian Obach

VICTOR SILVERMAN

Speaking for Nature: Women and Ecologies of Early Modern England, by Silvia Bowerbank ARIEL SALLEH

## **Organization & Environment**

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#### Articles

Getting Right with Nature: Anthropocentrism, Ecocentrism, and Theocentrism

ANDREW J. HOFFMAN AND LLOYD E. SANDELANDS

An Appraisal of the Critique of Anthropocentrism and Three Lesser Known Themes in Lynn White's "The Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis"

BEN A. MINTEER AND ROBERT E. MANNING

Citation Classics and Foundational Works: The Passion, Prescience, and Politics of "The End of Nature". Introduction to the Symposium

DAVID L. LEVY

The Emotional Core of The End of Nature
BILL MCKIBBEN

Global Warming and Political Power: The End of Nature and Beyond ROSS GELBSPAN

Translating Science and Restoring Our Sense of Wonder: The End of Nature as a Landmark
ROBYN ECKERSLEY

The "End" or The "Humanization" of Nature?

STEVEN YEARLY

Collective Action and the Eco Subpolitical: Revisiting Bill McKibben and "The End of Nature"

TIMOTHY W. LUKE

### Art and the Natural Environment

sal's branch trail in the forest letting go

DONELLE N. DREESE

The Memory of Trees

DONELLE N. DREESE

"There Are Balances and Harmonies Always Shifting; Always Necessary To Maintain": Leslie Marmon Silko's Vision of Global Environmental Justice for the People and the Land.

SUSAN BERRY BRILL DE RAMIREZ AND EDITH M. BAKER

### **Dialogues and Debates**

Celebrating a Citation Classic-And More: Symposium on Charles Perrow's *Normal Accidents* 

**EUGENE A. ROSA** 

#### Review Essays

Henry Thoreau and the Natural Life
BOB PEPPERMAN TAYLOR

Other Worlds are Possible GRAEME CHESTERS

#### Reviews

Democracy's Dilemma: Environment, Social Equity and the Global Economy, by Robert Paehlke JOHN BARRY

Take Back The Sky: Protecting Communities in the Path of Aviation Expansion, by Rae Andrè
PHAEDRA C. PEZZULLO

Globalism and Local Democracy: Challenge and Change in Europe and North America, by Robin Hambleton, Hank V. Savitch and Murray Stewart (Eds.) ANTHONY EDWARD ALEXANDER

John Dewey and Environmental Philosophy, by Hugh P. McDonald

PIERS H. G. STEPHENS

#### **Books**

Pellow, David, and Brulle, Robert J., (ed.) 2005. <u>Power, Justice and the Environment: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement</u>, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA

## **Book Chapters**

Brulle, Robert J. forthcoming. "Civil Society and the Environment: A Critical Perspective on the U.S. Environmental Movement" in Moore, Steven A. Transdisciplinary Nature: Perspectives on Sustainable Design and Development, Island Press

Brulle, Robert J, and Jenkins, J. Craig. 2005. "Foundations and the Environmental Movement: Priorities, Strategies, and Impact" in Faber, Daniel and McCarthy, Debra, Foundations for Social Change: Critical Perspectives on Philanthropy and Popular Movements Rowman & Littlefield

Brulle, Robert J. and Jonathan Essoka 2005 Whose Environmental Justice?: An Analysis Of The Governance Structure Of Environmental Justice Organizations In The United States, in Pellow, David N. and Brulle, Robert J. (ed.) 2005. Power, Justice, and the Environment: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement. Cambridge MA: MIT Press

Faber, D. Handy, F., and Brulle, R.J. 2004. "The Environmental Movement and Philanthropy," in Burlingame, D. (ed.) Philanthropy in the U.S.: An Encyclopedia, ABC-CLIO Santa Barbara, CA

#### Articles

Brulle, Robert J., and Pellow, David, 2006. "Environmental Justice: Human Health and Environmental Inequalities," <u>Annual Review of Public</u> Health

Clark, Brett and Richard York. 2005. "Dialectical Materialism and Nature: An Alternative to Economism and Deep Ecology." Organization & Environment 18(3): in press.

Clark, Brett and Richard York. 2005. "Dialectical Nature: Reflections in Honor of the Twentieth Anniversary of Levins and Lewontin's The Dialectical Biologist." Monthly Review 57(1): 13-22.

Dispensa, Jaclyn, and Brulle, Robert J, 2003, "Media's Social Construction of Environmental Issues: Focus on Global Warming" <u>International Journal of Sociology</u> and Social Policy

Downey, Liam. "The Unintended Significance of Race: Environmental Racial Inequality in Detroit", Social Forces. Vol. 83(3): 971-1007.

Al Gedicks, "Liberation Sociology and Advocacy for the Sokaogon Ojibwe," *Organization & Environment* 17:4 (October).

Norgaard, Kari and Richard York. 2005. "Gender Equality and State Environmentalism." Gender & Society 19: in press.

York, Richard. 2005. "Kyoto Protocol Participation: A Demographic Explanation." Population Research and Policy Review, in press.

York, Richard. 2005. "Toward a Martian Land Ethic." Human Ecology Review 12(1): 70-71.

York, Richard. 2005. "Homo Floresiensis and Human Equality: Enduring Lessons from Stephen Jay Gould." Monthly Review 56(10): 14-19.

York, Richard and Brett Clark. 2005. "The Science and Humanism of Stephen Jay Gould." Critical Sociology 31(1-2): 281-295.

York, Richard, Eugene A. Rosa, and Thomas Dietz. 2004. "The Ecological Footprint Intensity of National Economies." Journal of Industrial Ecology 8(4): 139-154.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER US\$70.000 - \$100.000 per year

The Global Carbon Project (GCP) is a joint program of the IHDP, IGBP, WCRP, and DIVERSITAS under their Earth System Science Partnership.

The GCP is seeking to appoint a highly motivated and independent person as Executive Officer (director) of its International Project Office in Tsukuba, Japan at the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES). The successful candidate will work with the GCP Science Steering Committee, its three co-chairs, and the Executive Officer of the other GCP International Project Office in Canberra, Australia to implement the science framework of the GCP.

The GCP-Tsukuba Executive Officer has administrative and scientific responsibility for a small, dynamic international office coordinating activities of the GCP research programme. The successful applicant will also work in coordination with the GCP international office in Australia and the European, PR China, and American nodes. The appointee will need to demonstrate a strong research background as he/she will be involved in the planning and development of research and synthesis documents.

We are therefore seeking a person with excellent working knowledge of the policy-relevant scientific objectives of the GCP and a keen interest in devising methods to integrate social and policy sciences into the understanding of the carbon-climate system as a coupled human/natural system. The Tsukuba IPO is especially focused on fostering and coordinating research related integrating the human and natural dimensions of the global carbon cycle and global/regional/urban carbon management. The Science Framework of the Global Carbon Project is available on the web, as are a number of publications, conference proceedings, and presentations that provide more background information.

Post- graduate qualifications (preferably a PhD) are desirable. The appointee will have demonstrated high organizational, communication and interpersonal skills; experience in drafting a diverse range of scientific documents; ability to communicate in English effectively with groups of scientists of diverse disciplinary, national, and cultural backgrounds; and the flexibility and willingness to undertake extensive, long-distance overseas travel.

This appointment at the National Institute for Environmental Studies, Tsukuba (Japan), is for a fixed term of two years, with the possibility of an extension up to five years. The successful candidate will be invited to commence the job as early as February 2006.

#### Closing date for applications: 1 October 2005

Please, send your application by email, including descriptions of skills, qualifications and work achievements, and contact details of three referees, to Ms. Yukako Ojima (ojima.yukako@nies.go.jp).

Further information on the position and the GCP is available from Penelope Canan (penelope.canan@nies.go.jp), Pep Canadell (pep.canadell@csiro.au), or by viewing the GCP homepage, http://www.globalcarbonproject.org.



### **MEMBER NEWS**

Thomas Dietz. Elinor Ostrom and Paul Stern have been awarded the 2005 Sustainability Science Award from the Ecological Society of America for their paper "The struggle to govern the commons" (Science, 2003, 301:1907-1912). According to Jerry Melillo, President of the ESA, "This award is given annually to the authors of the peer reviewed paper published in the last five years that makes the greatest contribution to the emerging science of ecosystem and regional sustainability through the integration of ecological and social sciences." Dietz notes "In the more than 35 years since Hardin published "The Tragedy of the Commons" many researchers have made important contributions to our understanding of the commons. This award is really a tribute to their work and in particular to Lin Ostrom who has been a leader in commons research. And since our paper built upon The Drama of the Commons (National Academy Press, 2002), the award is also an acknowledgment of the hard work of those who contributed to that volume.

**Bob Brulle** has been appointed to a three year term on the Editorial Board of the American Sociological Review. He and Dr. Craig Jenkins were also awarded a 3 year NSF research grant of \$287,408 titled "Civil Society and the Environment."

CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT: The Mobilization of the U.S. Environmental Movement, 1900-2000

Civil society plays an important role in the maintenance, legitimacy, and stability of democracy. Through their civic associations, citizens developan ethical life and exercise their citizenship through the formation of social movements. This provides society with a self-reflexive capacity to renew institutions and adapt to changing circumstances. This project examines the mobilization of the environmental movement in the U.S. between 1900 and 2000, addressing theories of the production of discursive frames, organizational development and collective action. Its most distinctive contributions are integrating cultural theory with organizational and collective action theories and anchoring this in systematic empirical analysis of the long-term mobilization of the environmental movement. In specific, it addresses:

- The sociopolitical factors contributing to the long-term mobilization of the environmental movement, including different discursive frames, issue concerns, types of SMOs, and forms of collective action

- The changing organization of the environmental movement, emphasizing the impact of foundation philanthropy and professionalization on changes in social movement organization
- The interaction of the environmental movement and the countermovement, assessing the importance of mutual threat to mobilization and tracing the diffusion of framing techniques, organization and tactics

This project will entail the construction of major data sets on environmental discourse production, organizational founding, density and disbanding, organizational structure, environmental movement/countermovement action, as well as relevant political opportunities and threats and macroorganizational resources as these have influenced the mobilization of the environmental movement. It will use a combination of case study methodology, multiple regression and event history methods as well as network analysis to examine the questions.

This project will address both academic researchers interested in social movement theory and the environmental movement as well as the broader philanthropic and environmental communities. Through the wider dissemination of the resultant analyses within the philanthropic and environmental communities, this research seeks to foster a reflexive examination within these communities about the organization of the environmental movement and environmental philanthropy and thereby contribute to the creation of an environmentally sustainable society.

Lawrence Hamilton (University of New Hampshire) continues to work on interdisciplinary studies of environment and society in the circumpolar North. This spring, he participated by invitation at the workshop on Nordic Research in Connection with International Polar Year (IPY, 2007-2008), held in Ilulissat, Greenland. At a Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics (GLOBEC) symposium on Climate Variability and the Ecosystems of Subarctic Seas, held in Victoria, British Columbia, he gave an invited presentation on "Human-environment interactions: Social drivers and impacts of change in the North Atlantic Arc." Most recently, Hamilton participated as a human-dimensions advocate and Executive Committee member at the Study of Environmental (SEARCH) Arctic Change Implementation Workshop held near Washington, DC. which also addressed IPY planning. Papers describing results from his North Atlantic research are scheduled for publication in two forthcoming books about the impacts of climate change on fisheries. Some other recent publications from this work can be obtained online at: http://pubpages.unh.edu/~lch