

Environment, Technology and Society

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

SUMMER 2011

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William R. Freudenburg: An Appreciation of His Intellectual Contributions and Professional Accomplishments

By Riley E. Dunlap, Oklahoma State University and
Debra J. Davidson, University of Alberta

The world lost one of its most productive, creative and influential environmental sociologists and our Section lost one of its intellectual and social leaders when William R. Freudenburg passed away on December 28, 2010. Bill, who had just turned 59 the month before, finally lost his battle with cancer, having well-exceeded the expectations of his doctors after the original diagnosis of bile-duct cancer in summer of 2009. He remained highly active until the end, finishing teaching his Fall course at UCSB and managing to complete a book on the 2010 BP oil spill with his long-term collaborator Robert Gramling, *Blowout in the Gulf: The BP Oil Spill Disaster and the Future of Energy in America*, that came out shortly before his untimely death. While it is impossible to do justice to the depth and scope of Bill's rich legacy of scholarly contributions and professional accomplishments in a short amount of space, we sketch out broad themes and highlight major trends and achievements in his remarkable career.

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ETS Reception at ASA 2011

The Environment & Technology Section Reception at this year's ASA Meeting will take place **Sunday, August 21 at 6:00 PM at the Springs Preserve** (an off-site location). There will be free transportation from the ASA hotel to the site, and there will be an online sign up for attendees (forthcoming). The first part of the reception, from 6:00 to 7:00, will be devoted to a memorial for Bill Freudenburg. After several people offer brief remembrances, there will be an open mic for others to share their thoughts. Other section events and awards presentations will take place from 7:00 to 8:30. There will be drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and ample opportunity to socialize throughout.

Special thanks are in order to Debra Davidson, Riley Dunlap, Dana Fisher and Tom Rudel, who organized Bill's memorial. We would also like to thank our colleague Robert Futrell (at the University of Las Vegas, Nevada) for his extraordinary efforts to organize and raise funds for this event.

ETS Award Announcements

ETS Section Environmental Sociology Teaching and Mentorship Award Submitted by Brian Mayer, University of Florida

I'm pleased to announce the winner of the ETS section's Environmental Sociology Teaching & Mentorship Award. This year, the award goes to Richard York at the University of Oregon.

The nominations this year were truly amazing and the committee members and I were faced with a very competitive field to choose from. I encourage all the applicants and their nominators to submit in 2013 when the award will be next given out.

Congratulations to Richard on an excellent record of teaching and mentorship! The formal award will be presented at the section's reception in Las Vegas.

Olsen Student Paper Award News submitted by Lori Hunter, University of Colorado Boulder

We have two co-winners of the Olsen Student Paper Award. Congratulations to both Maria Akchurin of the University of Chicago and Cristina Lucier of Boston College. Their paper abstracts are listed below, as are the names of the Olsen Student Paper Award Committee. Congratulations Maria & Cristina!

Maria Akchurin, University of Chicago, "Constructing the Rights of Nature: Environmentalism, Indigenous Politics, and Legal Mobilization in Ecuador, 1970-2008."

Abstract: In 2008, the Republic of Ecuador became the first country to grant legal rights to nature. Drawing on sociological institutionalism and social movement theory, I examine how this new category of rights became incorporated into the country's constitution. The first part of the analysis investigates the history of environmentalist and indigenous rights movements in the country, emphasizing how the rise of these movements created the cultural materials that could later be assembled into a new category of rights. The second part looks at the role of issue entrepreneurs who constructed the rights of nature as a legal category during the constitutional drafting process. The study elucidates the process whereby rights are politically and socially constructed, as well as showing the complexity of struggles over nature in the global South. It relies on a qualitative approach based on archival research at the Ecuadorian National Legislative Assembly Archive; semi-structured interviews with knowledgeable informants involved in the politics of nature and the constitutional assembly process; and secondary historical sources.

Cristina Lucier, Boston College, "Obstacles to precaution and equity in global environmental governance: applications to the Basel Convention."

Abstract: The Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste has been framed as one of the most "successful" global environmental regimes. In the proceeding analysis, we situate the development of this Convention in the context of the larger ideological shift to neoliberal discourses in global governance. The process of "neoliberalization" as it unfolds in global environmental governance has been marked, at least in part, by a move from a discourse of precaution and equity to a discourse of producer sovereignty and the privileging of a particular standard of technological expertise. This shift in understandings, we will argue, is negotiated in the contestations over the definition of "hazardousness" in the context of meetings of technical experts for the Basel Convention. In what initially appears as the codification of straightforward scientific criteria of "hazardousness," we find that the move to the legitimacy of certain kinds of knowledge (specifically, "neoliberal knowledge") about how hazardousness should be defined leads to the exclusion of other understandings that seemed to underlie the Convention's original objectives.

Olsen Student Paper Committee Members:
Lori Hunter, University of Colorado Boulder; Michael Mascarenhas, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Jessica Pardee Rochester Institute of Technology; Laura Senier, University of Wisconsin.

**Outstanding Publication/ Allan Schnaiberg Award
Submitted by Lori Hunter,
University of Colorado Boulder**

With thanks to a great committee – Michael Carolan and Leland Glenna – we've chosen a winning paper for the Outstanding Publication/Allan Schnaiberg Award as well as an honorable mention:

Winner: Sherry Cable, Tamara Mix, Thomas Shriver. 2008. "Risk Society and Contested Illness: The Case of Nuclear Weapons Workers." *American Sociological Review*. Vol. 73 no. 3: 380-401.

Honorable Mention: Shannon Bell and Richard York. 2010. "Community Economic Identity: The Coal Industry and Ideology Construction in West Virginia." *Rural Sociology*. Vol. 75: 111–143.

**Frederick Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award
Submitted by Tom Rudel,
Rutgers University**

Andrew Szasz is the 2011 recipient of the Frederick Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award of the Environment, Technology, and Society section of the ASA. For two decades Andy has enriched the lives of other environmental sociologists through imaginative analyses of environment and society in the United States. Both of his books, *Ecopopulism: Toxic Waste and the Movement for Environmental Justice* (1994) and *Shopping Our Way to Safety: How We Changed from Protecting the Environment to Protecting Ourselves* (2007), have been lauded by his peers. *Ecopopulism* won the Association for Humanist Sociology book award in 1995 and was named one of the ten most influential books in Environmental Sociology in 2000. *Shopping Our Way to Safety* was a finalist for the C. Wright Mills award in 2008 and received an honorable mention for the Harold and Margaret Sprout Award, also in 2008.

So what does Andy do that is so distinctive and so useful to the rest of us in environmental sociology? He is primarily a theorist. In that capacity he comes up with imaginative and highly original reformulations of events, that we have all remarked upon, but never managed to see in connection to

other trends in environment-society relations. *Ecopopulism* offers a case in point. It reconceptualizes and reinterprets the campaign against toxics that emerged in the years after Love Canal and helps us understand why the campaign achieved so much in a hostile political climate. Szasz accomplishes this end through the deft use of post-structuralist theoretical tools. He introduces the idea of environmental icons and explains how NGOs, in particular those associated with Lois Gibbs, developed the symbols, the parlance, and a political strategy that, while unorthodox, proved to be very effective in achieving important legislative goals. In his use of post-structural methods in *Ecopopulism* Szasz anticipated the cultural turn in sociology. He also managed to fuse this cultural analysis with macro-political events in a compelling way that makes his work especially useful to political sociologists.

Szasz's 2007 book, *Shopping Our Way to Safety*, provides another example of the innovative theorizing that is the hallmark of his work. He demonstrates through an extended analysis of secondary and media sources that such disparate and routine phenomena as drinking bottled water, moving to the suburbs, and eating organic foods can be usefully thought of as instances of a single social response to problems, that of quarantining oneself in order to limit one's exposure to disturbances of all sorts, from contaminants to criminals. I found Szasz's treatment of these oft-recognized trends to be truly illuminating. More than once, I found myself thinking, "I wish that I had thought of that!" Perhaps, it is this gift of insight that theorists give to the rest of us. In any event it is clear that Andrew Szasz has that gift! The rest of us in environmental sociology are lucky to have him as a colleague and a peer.

Special Session at the Upcoming ASA Co-Sponsored with New Global & Transnational Sociology Section

by Simone Pulver

A special session, co-sponsored by ETS and the new section on Global and Transnational Sociology will take place at this year's American Sociological Association Conference in Las Vegas.

The theme of the special session is Climate Change: Reconfiguring global authority, resources, ideas, and bodies. The goal is to present current research in sociology on the global/transnational aspects of climate change and to map out a future research agenda. Each panelist will present current research and identify promising research directions.

Saturday, August 20, 8:30-10:10am

Panelists:

- * Climate adaptation and finance, J. Timmons Roberts,
Brown University
- * Carbon markets, Simone Pulver,
University of California at Santa Barbara
- * Climate migration, Lori M. Hunter,
University of Colorado at Boulder
- * Climate politics, Dana Fisher, *University of Maryland*
- * Cities and climate change, JoAnn Carmin,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- * International negotiations, Ana-Liisa Aunio,
University of Montreal

Discussant: George Thomas, *Arizona State University*

William R. Freudenburg: An Appreciation of His Intellectual Contributions and Professional Accomplishments (continued from page 1)

After completing his undergraduate degree in his home-state at the University of Nebraska, Bill moved to Yale University in 1974 for graduate work in sociology where his advisor was Kai Erikson. Perhaps it was his small-town background that led him to focus on “energy boomtowns” in Colorado, small communities that were undergoing rapid and disruptive growth as a result of oil shale development pushed by the Carter Administration in reaction to the 1973-74 “energy crisis.” This work led to Bill being offered a joint position in the Departments of Sociology and Rural Sociology at Washington State University, whose faculty he joined in Fall of 1978 before completing his dissertation and receiving his PhD the following year. His joint appointment encouraged Bill to become active in the Rural Sociological Society as well as ASA, and throughout his career he kept his feet firmly grounded in the “natural resources sociology” tradition of RSS as well as the broader field of environmental sociology (Buttel 2002; Dunlap and Catton 2002; Freudenburg 2002).

Bill quickly made a name for himself with a series of articles and chapters that provided highly insightful and theoretically grounded analyses of these communities (e.g., Freudenburg 1981; 1982), earning the nickname “Boomtown Bill” in the process. This work typically involved a creative synthesis of qualitative and quantitative evidence, solidly grounded in sociological theory, and often cast with an eye toward policy relevance—qualities that would become distinguishing characteristics of Bill’s scholarship. Probably the most influential were those he managed to get published in the premier sociology journals, *ASR* (Freudenburg 1984) and *AJS* (Freudenburg

1986a). Both required multiple submissions and numerous revisions, and Bill recently noted that they needed “to be presented as an analysis of something else ... rather than an analysis of a community going through environmentally related disruptions” (Freudenburg 2008:451). Yet, these analyses of the differential impact of rapid growth on adolescents versus adults and the “density of acquaintanceship” represent the first appearance of work by an environmental sociologist in these elite journals, one of many breakthroughs by Bill.

As an aside, these two early pieces also laid the groundwork for Bill’s superb record of placing environmentally relevant research in elite journals, demonstrating his ability to frame his empirical research in ways that engaged theoretically significant issues. Most sociologists regard *ASR*, *AJS* and *Social Forces* as the top three disciplinary journals, and Bill managed to publish two articles and a long comment in *ASR*, four articles in *AJS* and six in *SF*. This is an unparalleled record for an environmental sociologist, and made an enormous contribution to legitimizing environmental research within the larger discipline.

Social science interest in energy boomtowns stemmed in part from the fact that “social impact assessment” was rapidly growing as a field of inquiry, due to legal decisions mandating that environmental impact assessments include “SIAs.” This momentum stimulated creation of an Ad Hoc Committee within the American Sociological Association charged with drawing up guidelines for the conduct of SIAs, and Bill quickly became a leading contributor to the work initiated by the short-lived committee—including that of a subsequent committee involving a number of representatives from government agencies that produced a report providing such guidelines (Interorganizational Committee on Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment 1993). Bill’s efforts led to a number of articles on social impact assessment (e.g., Freudenburg and Keating 1982; 1985), emphasizing the need for strong sociological contributions—methodologically rigorous and theoretically grounded—to SIAs, most notably an agenda-setting review piece in the *Annual Review of Sociology* (Freudenburg 1986b) that both signified and solidified Bill’s leadership in the field.

As reflected in his choice of a dissertation topic, from the outset Bill had a strong desire to focus his intellectual efforts on important societal phenomena, and this evolved into a strong and continuing interest in the policy process. When ASA developed a Congressional Fellow program Bill applied, and worked with the Committee on Energy and Commerce

in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1983-84. This experience, described in Freudenburg (1986c), heightened Bill's interest in the policy domain. One can see the impact of this interest not only in his work on SIA (e.g., Freudenburg and Keating 1985) but throughout his career, especially notable in pieces on nuclear power (Freudenburg and Jones 1991), agency failure (Freudenburg and Gramling 1994a; Freudenburg and Youn 1999), social science contributions to environmental management (Freudenburg 1989), social science input into policy-making (Freudenburg and Gramling 2002), the use of science in court cases (Freudenburg 2005a), and the misuse of science in environmental controversies (Freudenburg, Gramling and Davidson 2008).

Coming back to chronological order, another important development in Bill's career occurred while he was at WSU. Likely due to Pullman's proximity to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, Bill became interested in nuclear power and waste. This led to a co-edited book with Eugene Rosa (Freudenburg and Rosa 1984) and a long-term focus on nuclear issues (Freudenburg and Baxter 1984; 1985; Freudenburg and Jones 1991; Freudenburg 2004; Freudenburg and Davidson 2007; Alario and Freudenburg 2007), as well as a growing interest in environmental and technological risk in general and risk assessment writ large. This line of work generated numerous articles and chapters dealing with risk, including a landmark contribution in *Science* (Freudenburg 1988), that continued to appear up until his death. The work on risk is especially rich theoretically, as exemplified by several articles: Freudenburg and Pastor (1992), Freudenburg (1993); Davidson and Freudenburg (1996); and Alario and Freudenburg (2003; 2007; 2010). In addition to introducing his well-known concept of "recreancy," Bill, along with his colleagues, has offered insightful comparisons of American middle-range and European grand theorizing on risk, especially in terms of their relative degrees of empirical support.

After spending a 1984-85 sabbatical at the University of Denver, placing him close to the energy boomtowns he continued to follow, Bill moved to the Department of Rural Sociology at the University of Wisconsin in 1986, where he again helped strengthen a leading environmental sociology program. Building upon his earlier interests, at Wisconsin Bill used his boomtown work as a basis for contributing broader insights about extractive economies in general. He developed a highly productive and influential research program on the topic which, on the whole, offered irrefutable counter-evidence to the general assumption that natural resource development is an

attractive option for rural communities, pointing to multiple maladies that coincide with such economies (Freudenburg and Jones 1991b; Freudenburg 1992; Freudenburg and Gramling 1992; Freudenburg and Gramling 1994b; Freudenburg and Frickel 1994; Frickel and Freudenburg 1996; Freudenburg and Gramling 1998; Freudenburg, Gramling and Schurman 1999; Freudenburg and Wilson 2002). In addition to several graduate students studying at Wisconsin, Bill's work on extractive communities was done with Robert Gramling, with whom he began to collaborate after the two met on an advisory panel on offshore oil-drilling sponsored by the U.S. Minerals Management Service. This chance encounter launched one of the most productive partnerships in environmental sociology—resulting in three important books, seven magazine articles and technical reports, and over 20 peer-reviewed articles.

By the 1990s, with the help of Gramling, Bill began to turn more of his efforts toward one of his long-standing priorities—enhancing the academic position of the still-youthful field of environmental sociology. Focusing explicitly on the vexing issue of theorization of socio-environmental relations, this attention—as with his other pursuits—led to several landmark contributions with his collaborators (e.g., Freudenburg, Frickel and Gramling 1995; Gramling and Freudenburg 1996a). Bill and colleagues reported the results of creative studies that took an historical and comparative approach to analyses of societal-environmental interactions, enabling them to compare varying environmental characteristics and differing societal conditions over time, documenting the dialectic and socially contingent nature of environmental outcomes, always exemplifying in resounding terms the fact that "Nature does matter."

The archetypes of this work are his and Gramling's comparisons of the enthusiastic support for oil production in Louisiana to the equally enthusiastic opposition to it in both California and Florida, research that is groundbreaking in both findings and as contribution to sociological methodology (Freudenburg and Gramling 1993; 1994c; Gramling and Freudenburg 1996b). These studies provide exemplars of sophisticated, non-quantitative comparative methodology that offer current and future students invaluable tools for studying the relationships between social and physical phenomena, and provide superb illustrations of the fruits of strong environmental sociological research.

Around the same time period Bill's risk scholarship began to showcase inquiries into disasters and corrosive communities in particular,

beginning with a case study of the *Exxon Valdez* spill (Gramling and Freudenburg 1992) and ending with several articles and a book chronicling the social determinants of the catastrophe that was Hurricane Katrina (Freudenburg et al. 2008; 2009a; 2009b; Gramling et al. 2011), in all cases emphasizing the societal factors that help construct natural and technological disasters alike.

It was perhaps this accumulating record of case study material on disasters and corrosive communities that highlighted for Bill the enduring inequities associated with the distribution of environmental benefits and harms. His latest and arguably most compelling work was devoted explicitly to this issue, as represented in his groundbreaking research on disproportionalities and the double diversion tactics that serve to maintain them (Freudenburg 2005b; 2006), as well as an article and volume co-edited with Robert Wilkinson (Freudenburg and Wilkinson 2008; Wilkinson and Freudenburg 2008) and work with long-time collaborator Margarita Alario (Alario and Freudenburg 2010). His attention to equity simultaneously illustrated his continued enthusiasm for interdisciplinary work, and was one of the key topics of engagement with his natural science colleagues (e.g. Haberl et al. 2006).

More generally, Bill seems to have been motivated by a concern with “under-dogs” from the outset of his career--when he focused on residents of the small (and powerless) energy boomtowns in his dissertation research--to its premature end. As Bob Gramling put it in a message to us:

Bill was the true intellectual and scholar, but he also was passionate about injustice from the level of recreancy by large federal agencies to the level of individual discrimination, and that passion drove much of his work. Particularly troubling to Bill were situations that involved the relationships between rural communities and the environments they exist in and depend upon and large corporate or agency interests that exploit or regulate those environments. Manipulation or incompetence in these relationships drove him nuts!

A good bit of the motivation behind *Catastrophe* (Freudenburg et al. 2009c), *Blowout* (Freudenburg and Gramling 2011), *Oil in Troubled Waters* (Freudenburg and Gramling 2010) and our other work was our perception that greedy growth machines, corporations, or incompetent agencies were screwing communities. It is little wonder, then, that Bill often

found rural communities such a fitting place for his research.

Bill's scholarly contributions were recognized via a wide range of awards, beginning with the 1992 “Award of Merit” from RSS's Natural Resources Research Group and the 1996 “Distinguished Contribution” Award from ASA's Section on Environment and Technology. He also won “outstanding article” awards from the Pacific Sociological Association (for Freudenburg, Wilson and O'Leary, 1998), from ASA's Section on Political Sociology (for Molotch, Freudenburg and Paulsen, 2000) and from RSS (for Freudenburg, 2005b). The latter was the inaugural Frederick H. Buttell Award, and having it named for his close friend made it particularly rewarding to Bill. Then, last year, Bill received the Excellence in Research/Theory Award from RSS, and received a standing ovation at the awards luncheon. Finally, he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1998.

Bill was a leader not only on the basis of his intellectual achievements, but professionally through the numerous offices he held throughout his career. This was especially the case for RSS, where he served as Secretary (1980-81) and then Chair (1982-83) of the Natural Resources Research Group, and then as Vice President (1993-94), Council Member (2000-02) and ultimately President (2004-05) of RSS. He also served as Secretary (1986-1993) and Chair (1996-97) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Section on Social, Economic and Political Sciences (Section K) and as a Council Member (1980-83) and Chair (1989-1991) of the American Sociological Association's Section on Environment and Technology. At the time of his death, he was President-Elect of the newly-established Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences, an organization which he helped found. AESS has just established the Freudenburg Lifetime Achievement Award in Bill's honor.

Bill also compiled an exemplary record of service on prestigious advisory panels and boards, serving on several National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Panels as well as Advisory Committees for the U.S. Department of Energy and Department of Interior. He was an outstanding spokesperson for environmental social science in these advisory roles.

From his early years at Washington State University Bill made a habit of collaborating with grad students. This tendency was strengthened during his

time at Wisconsin and continued when he joined the Environmental Studies Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara as Dehlsen Professor of Environment and Society in 2002. Numerous grad students learned how to do research and get it into print under Bill's tutelage; several have gone on to develop very successful careers of their own. While mentoring grad students came naturally to Bill, at UCSB he took on a new challenge—teaching a large introductory course in Environmental Studies. He fulfilled the task brilliantly, developing one of the most popular courses on campus and regularly receiving standing applause from classes exceeding 400 students. In 2006-07 he received an "Outstanding Professor Award" from UCSB's Residence Halls Association and Office of Residential Life.

The respect, admiration and affection for Bill felt by his students, both current and past, and colleagues was on display at "Freudenfest," a symposium held last November at UCSB to honor Bill and his many contributions. It was a joyous occasion, and one that touched Bill profoundly. A few days afterwards Bill sent out an email thanking participants in which he ended by referring to something he often said to his son Max: "In the long run, people get the kinds of friends they deserve. After Saturday night [when the symposium dinner was followed by personal tributes], though, I need to modify that. In certain rare cases, a fortunate few are honored by having better friends that they deserve. Thanks to you, I am one of those fortunate few." Of course, all of us, and many more who could not be there, feel Bill more than deserved our friendship, support and appreciation.

The two of us are pleased to note that papers highlighting Bill's scholarly contributions evolving from presentations at Freudenfest will be published in a symposium we are editing for the new *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, the journal of AESS. In addition, two sessions focusing on Bill's work, organized by Tom Beckley, were held this June at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management in Madison. It is hoped that these will result in symposium in *Society and Natural Resources*.

Despite the sadly premature ending of his exceptional career, Bill left us with a rich legacy. For example, throughout the years he developed numerous theoretically derived concepts that have become valuable tools in social science analyses of environmental/resource issues and are instantly associated with his name, including the "density of acquaintanceship," "diversionary reframing," "recreancy," "corrosive communites,"

"disproportionality," "double diversion" and "SCAMs" (for "Scientific Uncertainty Argumentation Methods"). The continued fruitful use of these concepts by others will ensure that Bill's legacy continues, and their importance was best captured by fellow environmental sociologist Steve Kroll-Smith in a January 1, 2011 post on the ENVIROSOC listserv paying tribute to Bill: "I came to know some time ago that the greatest among us create vocabularies that become the way the rest of us speak or write the world into existence. Please accept my thanks for the words, the ideas and the subtleties of thought that pushed my work and me forward."

See *End of Newsletter for References*

Sociology Text Book Request

by Alan Smith
Sherubtse College

The Sociology Department of Sherubtse College in Kanglung, Bhutan (www.sherubtse.edu.bt) is requesting your kind assistance. The department is now concluding its second year offering sociology courses. Because we do not yet have a sociology library we are asking for book donations from the global community of sociologists. Our need for literature is vital in that Bhutan is undergoing profound and rapid social change and we believe that the discipline of sociology – and your book donations – can significantly contribute to its betterment. Both contemporary and time-tested classics will be greatly appreciated with single-subject books more useful than textbooks. We especially need books that focus on social theory, qualitative research methods, social statistics, the sociology of development, political economy, globalization, environmental sociology, rural sociology, social change, sociology of the family, sociology of religion, the sociology of health and medicine, technology and social forecasting and social demography. Questions can be directed to sherubtsebookdonations@gmail.com. Please send your donations by October 15, 2011 to our North American collection point at:

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NY 11377

Thank you,
The faculty of Sherubtse College

America's Climate Choices Report

The release of America's Climate Choices Report is now up on their website, www.americasclimatechoices.org.

This report and all other reports can also be downloaded for free at the website. Thomas Dietz, Michigan State University, is a member of the Committee on America's Climate Choices.

The Alternative Energy Future

The American Academy of Arts and Science has a project on The Alternative Energy Future. There was a workshop in DC last month and the papers and presentations will appear at: <http://www.amacad.org/projects/alternativeNEW.aspx>

Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

Boeing Professorship Symposium: The Contributions of Eugene Rosa

The Boeing Professorship Symposium will be held Saturday, September 24, 2011 at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. This event will examine the areas of environmental sociology and environmental science to which Gene Rosa has made major contributions. These include risk, structural human ecology and macro-comparative analysis, energy, and theories and conceptualizations of human/ environment interactions. Presentation and discussions will explore the current state of the science in these areas, prompting the kind of deep yet interdisciplinary discussions that Gene often initiates in person and in the literature. Speakers include Ortwin Renn (University of Stuttgart), Roger Kasperson (Clark University), Steve Fuller (Warwick University), Thomas Dietz (Michigan State University), Richard York (University of Oregon), Rachael Shwom (Rutgers University), Allan Mazur (Syracuse University), Andrew Jorgenson (University of Utah), and Sandy Marquart-Pyatt (Michigan State University).

Call for Papers & Conference: Towards a transatlantic dialogue on energy efficiency, energy poverty and fairness in climate policy

Location: Durham, North Carolina
Dates: October 6th – 7th 2011

The aim of this workshop is to promote a transatlantic dialogue around the themes of energy affordability, energy efficiency and related wider questions of fairness and justice in climate and energy policy, bringing together participants from the US and Europe to examine a common agenda that is being addressed across different social, spatial and political contexts. The presentations and interactive workshop discussions will explore understandings of existing and emerging problems of access to everyday energy services (warmth, cooling, light, mobility) for low income households in the US and Europe, and the consequences for the health and well-being of vulnerable groups. It will also examine the type of policy and civil society responses that are being made, or which could be made to improve the resilience of households and communities to increasingly unstable energy pricing and climatic conditions, at the same time as addressing energy efficiency and carbon emission reduction targets.

The rationale for enabling a transatlantic dialogue on these themes is that to-date there has been relatively little cross-fertilisation between US and European academic research, policy development or non-governmental action. There are undoubtedly opportunities for learning through comparison, and for the identification and formulation of joint research, policy and practice interests that this workshop hopes to realise.

The workshop is funded by the Interdisciplinary Cluster on Energy Systems, Equity and Vulnerability (InCluESEV) which is a research council resourced initiative based in the UK but with an international network membership. InCluESEV has the aim of fostering new thinking and new collaborations between researchers and those in policy and practice. This workshop builds on a series of seminar, workshop and plenary events that have been held in the UK and Europe, and on programmes of review work, site visits and exploratory research. See <http://inclusev.kcl.ac.uk/> for more details, in particular the activities of Work Packages 1-4.

Call for Papers and Participation

Those interested in presenting a paper at the workshop are invited to submit a 250 word abstract that fits with the rationale and themes as described above. We welcome papers from anyone involved in relevant research, policy or practice.

Participation without submitting an abstract and making a presentation is also possible in which case a short statement of interest in attending the workshop and how work or other experience is relevant to the workshop themes should be submitted.

Abstracts or statements should be sent to Conor Harrison conorh@email.unc.edu by 15th July 2011.

Conor Harrison, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Rosie Day, University of Birmingham
Gordon Walker, Lancaster University

Call for Papers: Special Issue of *Sustainability*

The following Special Issue will be published in *Sustainability* (ISSN 2071-1050, <http://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/>), and is now open to receive submissions of full research papers and comprehensive review articles for peer-review and possible publication:

Special Issue: Sustainable Policy on Climate Equity
Website:

http://www.mdpi.com/si/sustainability/climate_equity/

Guest Editor: Dr. Paul Baer

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New Journal: *Nature Climate Change*

Launched in April 2011, *Nature Climate Change* is a new research journal covering global climate change, its impacts and implications for policy, the economy and society. The journal is accepting manuscripts through its [online submission system](#). Both Thomas Dietz and Riley Dunlap are on the editorial advisory panel.

New MS Program and Center for Sustainable Tourism

East Carolina University now offers the nation's first interdisciplinary Master of Science in Sustainable Tourism (MS-ST) degree. The program formally began being offered in Fall, 2009 and just graduated its first cohort with half of them taking positions in the tourism industry and half moving on to disciplinary PhD programs in the fall.

The program offers a good value for students from a broad range of relevant undergraduate majors. For the 2011-12 school year, total tuition and fees for full-time, in-state students will be approximately \$5,600 per semester and approximately \$16,000 per year for out-of-state or international students. The MS program offers research assistantships to MS students of \$10,000 per year with the possibility of the remission of out-of-state tuition charges and additional financial support for students with exemplary records.

The MS program is housed in the Center for Sustainable Tourism which coordinates course offerings and the participation of faculty from a broad range of Colleges and departments including: sociology, human & physical geography, environmental and resource economics, biology, ecology, communications, English, business, hospitality management, and recreation and leisure studies.

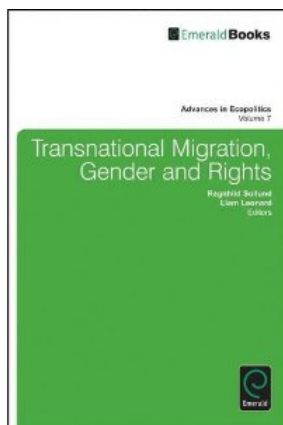
The Center for Sustainable Tourism at East Carolina University is dedicated to the research and promotion

of sustainable tourism throughout our region, North Carolina, and the nation through innovation in graduate education, leadership development, community consultation, and collaborative research. Devoted to implementing sustainable practices in business operations, public policies, and personal travel behaviors, the Center offers solutions to challenges facing the destination communities and the tourism industry as they seek to balance economic viability with socio-cultural and environmental enhancement and equity. Current Center research and engagement initiatives include: Climate, Weather and Tourism, Community Sense of Place, Renewable Energy in Tourism, Sustainable Tourism Practices, and Community Engagement and Outreach.

For more information about either the MS in Sustainable Tourism or the Center for Sustainable Tourism contact Bob Edwards, Associate Director for Academic Programs, Center for Sustainable Tourism at edwardsr@ecu.edu, or 252.328.4863. Or, visit the following website: www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/sustainabletourism/index.cfm.

Publications

Books



Transnational Migration, Gender and Rights (Advances in Ecopolitics)

Liam Leonard and Ragnhild Sollund.
Emerald Group Publishing (2011).

The last decades have shown an increase in the migration from poor and conflict ridden states to the affluent peaceful north. Part of this migration is constituted by refugees and asylum seekers, while the other part, grossly put, is constituted by labour migrants who seek to improve their lives and future prospects through their work power. There are of course not only push factors causing migrants to leave, but also pull factors as when the middle classes enjoy an increase in their living standards which cause them to employ domestic help in their homes. Different regulations apply for migrants within different national contexts and also within the same nation and have different impact on the migrants manoeuvring possibilities and rights, and may leave them vulnerable to exploitation. As migration is gendered

in that different motivations often exist for men and women, so are the possibilities that are offered, exemplified by the fact that very many women migrate as domestic workers, as nannies, or as au pairs, yet basically perform the same duties but are defined differently according to the rules that apply. As the work the female migrants perform is very often and traditionally regarded as women's work it does not qualify as real work and, consequently, it is not necessary to pay them a proper salary. This book examines the vulnerability caused by migration or rather the fact that the vulnerability of women may cause a forced migration and the ways in which this is dealt with by national authorities in affluent European states.

Dynamics of Disaster: Lessons on Risk, Response and Recovery

Edited By Rachel A. Dowty and Barbara L. Allen with a foreword by Alan Irwin
Earthscan Press (2011).

http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=102742#dnn_ctr288070_ViewProductInfo_fragment3



This is one of the first books to bring a Science and Technology Studies perspective to disaster studies.*The authors show how disaster planning and remediation can benefit from attention to issues such as local knowledge, uncertainty, undone science, and knowledge gaps. In addition to the book's importance to the social sciences, it also brings valuable and practical policy insights into the problem of

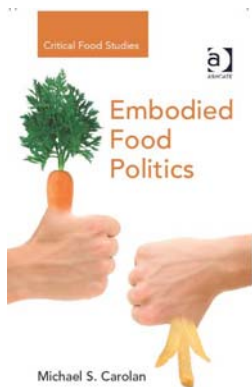
how to design sociotechnical systems that are both more resilient and more just. The chapters draw on methods across the social sciences to examine disaster response and recovery as viewed by those in positions of authority (Part I) and the 'recipients' of operations (Part II). These first two sections examine cases from Hurricane Katrina, while Part III compares this to other international disasters to draw out general lessons and practical applications for disaster planning in any context.

Embodied Food Politics

Michael Carolan
Ashgate (2011).

<http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409422099>

While the phenomenon of embodied knowledge is becoming integrated into the social sciences, critical



geography, and feminist research agendas it continues to be largely ignored by agro-food scholars. This book helps fill this void by inserting into the food literature living, feeling, sensing bodies and will be of interest to food scholars as well as those more generally interested in the phenomenon known as embodied realism.

This book is about the materializations of food politics; "materializations", in this case, referring to our embodied, sensuous, and physical connectivities to food production and consumption. It is through these materializations, argues Carolan, that we know food (and the food system more generally), others and ourselves.

The Real Cost of Cheap Food

Michael Carolan
 EarthScan (2011).
<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=102835&v=513708>

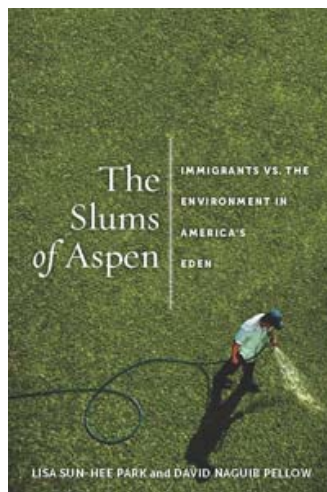
This challenging but accessible book critically examines the dominant food regime on its own terms, by seriously asking whether we can afford cheap food and exploring what exactly cheap food affords us. Detailing the numerous ways that food has become reduced to a state, such as a price per ounce, combination of nutrients, yield per acre, or calories, the book argues for a more contextual understanding of food when debating its affordability.



The author makes a compelling case for why today's global food system produces just the opposite of what it promises. The food produced under this regime is in fact exceedingly expensive. Thus meat production and consumption are inefficient uses of resources and contribute to climate change; the use of pesticides in industrial-scale agriculture may produce cheap food, but there are hidden costs to

environmental protection, human health and biodiversity conservation. Many of these costs will be paid for by future generations - cheap food today may mean expensive food tomorrow. By systematically assessing these costs the book delves into issues related, but not

limited, to international development, national security, health care, industrial meat production, organic farming, corporate responsibility, government subsidies, food aid and global commodity markets. The book concludes by suggesting ways forward, going beyond the usual solutions such as farmers markets, community supported agriculture, and community gardens. Exploding the myth of cheap food requires we have at our disposal a host of practices and policies. Some of those proposed and explored include microloans, subsidies for consumers, vertical agriculture, and the democratization of subsidies for producers.



The Slums of Aspen: Immigrants vs. the Environment in America's Eden

Lisa S. Park and David N. Pellow
 New York University Press (2011).
<http://nyupress.org/books/book-details.aspx?bookId=6370>

Environmentalism usually calls to mind images of peace and serenity, a oneness with nature, and a shared sense of responsibility. But one town in Colorado, under the guise of environmental protection, passed a resolution limiting immigration, bolstering the privilege of the wealthy and scapegoating Latin American newcomers for the area's current and future ecological problems. This might have escaped attention, save for the fact that this wasn't some rinky-dink backwater. It was Aspen, Colorado, playground of the rich and famous and the West's most elite ski town.

Tracking the lives of immigrant laborers through several years of exhaustive fieldwork and archival digging, *The Slums of Aspen* tells a story that brings together some of the most pressing social problems of the day: environmental crises, immigration, and social inequality. Park and Pellow demonstrate how these issues are intertwined in the everyday experiences of people who work and live in this wealthy tourist community. Developing the idea of "environmental privilege"--the economic, political, and cultural power that some groups enjoy, which enables them exclusive access to coveted environmental amenities such as forests, parks, mountains, rivers, coastal property, open lands, and elite neighborhoods--they argue that this odd marriage of environmental and nativist groups occurs because of population fears--both want less people, especially if they are the brown sort.

Recent Issues of Select Journals

Symposium on the Politics of Climate Change: *The Sociological Quarterly*, Spring, 2011

Featured Article:

McCright, Aaron M., and Riley E. Dunlap. 2011. "The Politicization of Climate Change and Polarization in the American Public's Views of Global Warming, 2001-2010." *The Sociological Quarterly* 52:155-194.

Commentaries:

Antonio, Robert J., and Robert J. Brulle. 2011. "The Unbearable Lightness of Politics: Climate Change Denial and Political Polarization." *The Sociological Quarterly* 52:195-202.

Nagel, Joane. 2011. "Climate Change, Public Opinion, and the Military Security Complex." *The Sociological Quarterly* 52:203-210.

Jenkins, J. Craig. 2011. "Democratic Politics and the Long March on Global Warming: Comments on McCright and Dunlap." *The Sociological Quarterly* 52:211-219.

Global Environmental Change

The journal *Global Environmental Change* has an forthcoming special issue on "Social Theory and the Environment in the New World (dis)Order." Its official print publication date is August 2011, but all articles are currently available via the 'Articles in Press' page of the journal's website, via ScienceDirect.

Journal Abstract: What does the New World (dis)Order in-the-making mean for environmental protection and deterioration? In a period of profound economic and political upheaval, institutional discontinuities and reversals, and ongoing environmental change, how should the possibilities and drawbacks of recent trajectories of socio-environmental reform be theorized? This symposium – organized in conjunction with the International Sociological Association's XVIIth World Congress of Sociology, Gothenburg, Sweden, July 2010 – includes invited papers by leading international scholars aiming to advance understanding of the conditions, dynamics, successes and failures of environmental reform in the contemporary period. What new forms, vehicles, actors, institutions and attempts for (in)effective environmental transformation are apparent, at various scales? How can their emergence and functioning be analyzed and

evaluated? What promising new theoretical concepts, constructs, notions and avenues are helpful in understanding environmental challenges in such newly turbulent times? What approaches are no longer apt or adequate in analyzing environmental reform efforts? It is such questions that this symposium seeks to address.

Articles

Adams, Crystal, Phil Brown, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Green Brody, Ruthann Rudel, Ami Zota, Sarah Dunagan, Jessica Tovar, and Sharyle Patton. 2011. "Disentangling the Exposure Experience: The Roles of Community Context and Report-back of Environmental Exposure Data." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 52 (2):180-196.

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Carrico, Amanda, Michael P. Vandenbergh, Paul C. Stern, Gerald T. Gardner, Thomas Dietz, and Jonathan M. Gilligan. 2011. "Energy and Climate Change: Key Lessons for Implementing the Behavioral Wedge." *George Washington Journal of Energy and Environmental Law* 2:61-67.

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Dietz, Thomas. 2011. "Stephen H. Schneider: pioneering an engaged interdisciplinary science." *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* 1:3-5.

Dietz, Thomas, Eugene A Rosa, and Richard York. 2012. "Environmentally Efficient Well-Being: Is There A Kuznets Curve?" *Journal of Applied Geography* 32:21-28.

Hamilton, L.C., D.M. White, R.B. Lammers and G. Myerchin (2011). "Population, climate and electricity use in the Arctic: Integrated analysis of Alaska community data." *Population and Environment* DOI: 10.1007/s11111-011-0145-1

Kalof, Linda, Joe Zammit-Lucia, and Jennifer R. Kelly. 2011. "The Meaning of Animal Portraiture in a Museum Setting: Implications for Conservation." *Organization & Environment* In pres/ online.

Knight, Kyle, and Eugene A. Rosa. 2011. "The Environmental Efficiency of Well-Being: A Cross-National Analysis." *Social Science Research* 40: 931-949.

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Member News

David Bidwell

David Bidwell, Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Center (glisa.msu.edu) at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University won the 2011 SSSP Environment and Society Brent K. Marshall Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper for the paper "The Role of Values and Beliefs in Public Attitudes towards Wind Farms."

Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez

Dr. Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez, expert on behavioral research and environmental solutions, joins the Garrison Institute as director of its Climate, Mind and Behavior (CMB) Program. The Garrison Institute is pleased to announce that [Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez, Ph.D.](#), a nationally recognized expert on the behavioral and social dimensions of energy and climate change, will join the Institute as the new director of its [Climate, Mind and Behavior \(CMB\) program](#) effective July 1, 2011.

Stephanie Malin

Stephanie Malin successfully defended her dissertation, "The Paradox of Uranium Development: A Polanyian Analysis of Social Movements Surrounding the Pinon Ridge Uranium Mill" and graduated from Utah State University this past Spring. She is headed eastward to Brown University, as she has accepted a Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in Environmental Ethics, with Brown's Center for Environmental Studies and the Dept. of Pathology. CONGRATULATIONS STEPHANIE!!!! Submitted by Peg Petrzelka

Eugene Rosa

Gene Rosa, Washington State University, has been awarded the Boeing Professorship in Environmental Sociology. He will also maintain his title as the

Edward R. Meyer Professor of Natural Resource & Environmental Policy in the Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service at Washington State.

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