

ASA ETS SECTION NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the SECTION on ENVIRONMENT, TECHNOLOGY and SOCIETY of
the AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Summer 2017
(July 15)

Section Committee

Officers

Chair (2016-2017):
Andrew Jorgenson jorgenan@bc.edu

Chair-Elect (2016-2017):
Tammy L. Lewis tlewis@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Past-Chair (2016-2017):
Kenneth Gould kgould@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Secretary (2015-2018):
Brian Mayer brianmayer@email.arizona.edu

Treasurer (2014-2017):
Stephanie Malin stephanie.malin@colostate.edu

Council

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Brian Gareau brian.gareau@bc.edu

Chair of Policy and Research Committee (2016-2018):
Alissa Cordner cordneaa@whitman.edu

Chair of Publications Committee (2014-2018):
Stefano Longo stefano_longo@ncsu.edu

Chair of Membership Committee (2015-2017):
Aya Kimura aya.hirata.kimura@gmail.com

Chair of Teaching and Outreach Committee (2015-2017):
Joshua Sbicca j.sbicca@colostate.edu

Council Member at-Large (2016-2018):
Kishi Animashaun Ducre kanimash@syr.edu

Student Representative (2016-2018):
Jordan Fox Besek jfb@uoregon.edu

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Alissa Cordner shwomrac@rci.rutgers

Chair of Marvin Olsen Student Paper Certificate Committee:
Alissa Cordner shwomrac@rci.rutgers

Chair of Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award Committee:
Kenneth Gould kgould@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Chair of Teaching and Practice Award Committee:
Joshua Sbicca j.sbicca@colostate.edu

Chair of Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism:
Tammy Lewis tlewis@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Communications

Newsletter Editor:
Lazarus Adua lazarus.adua@soc.utah.edu

Website Manager:
Nathan Lindstedt nathan.lindstedt@wsu.edu

Listserv Manager:
Andrew Van Alstyne andrewvanalstyne@suu.edu

Section Website: <http://www.envirosoc.org/wordpress/>

Section Listserv: envirosoc@listserv.neu.edu

Grad Listserv: envirograds@listserv.neu.edu

A MESSAGE FROM ASA ETS CHAIR-ELECT

Dear Environment and Technology Section,
I hope you all have had the chance to enjoy some of the slow days of summer. I just returned home to Brooklyn from the cloud forest of Ecuador. The days are slow there. The weather changes from moment to moment as the clouds roll down the Andes. You feel like you've lived many days in the course of twelve hours of daylight. I visited with activists in the Intag region who continue to resist state efforts to expand copper production. As



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ETS Chair-Elect's Message (cont'd)

part of my practice in public sociology, I invite you to send a donation to the grassroots organization DE-COIN through this site: <https://www.gofundme.com/intag-in-peril>. Even a small amount can help preserve biodiversity and non-extractive jobs.

We have an excellent line up of regular sessions and roundtables in Montreal. In addition, we have a special section with the Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section (SKAT), an author meets critic session with last year's award winning book, *Inequality, Democracy, and the Environment*, by Liam Downey, and regular sessions in Environmental Policy (organized by Fernando I. Rivera) and Environmental Sociology (organized by Kathleen J. Tierney). The program highlights for our section are listed later in this newsletter.

During our Business Meeting we will have a report by the Committee on Racial Equity regarding the Section's recent Diversity Survey. The Committee will be holding focus groups during the meetings to build on the findings of the survey. If you completed the survey and you're interested in participating, contact the committee chair, Michael Mascarenhas (mascarenhas@berkeley.edu).

I wanted to say a few words about how I chose the session themes and about the paper selection process. At last year's Business Meeting, members expressed an interest in having a greater say in the development of our themes. In response to that, in the fall I sent out a call to our members' listserv and received over fifty suggestions for panel themes. I was heartened by our members' responses. I used these as a guide to creating this year's themes. In terms of selecting papers for the panels, I started with the ASA's formal policies (<http://www.asanet.org/annual-meeting-2017/2017-call-papers-policies>), which help to create a level playing field. As has been the practice of at least the two prior chairs, I did not consider incomplete, previously presented, or slightly altered previously published work. There were more good papers than could be included. Many papers were passed onto other sessions or placed in roundtables. For the panels, I chose papers that fit the themes and that together would generate conversation and move our thinking forward. I'm looking forward to learning more about our colleagues' cutting-edge work.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who ran in the election and everyone who voted. Our nominations committee put together a strong slate of candidates and I'm confident in our section's new leadership.

Have a good rest of your summer. See you in Montreal.

Tammy L. Lewis
Chair-Elect, Environment & Technology Section
Tow Professor, 2017-2018
Professor of Sociology, CUNY/Brooklyn College
Professor of Sociology and Earth & Environmental Sciences, CUNY/Graduate Center

FEATURE ESSAY

The Environmental Data Governance Initiative

Alissa Cordner, Whitman College
ETS Policy and Research Committee Chair

The current political climate has motivated many scientists of all disciplines to speak out about policy and politics. From the recent "March for Science" to researchers running for public office, more people than perhaps ever before are disavowing the idealized line between science and advocacy. For environmental sociologists in particular, the threats to environmental and social justice posed by the Trump Administration are motivating many to speak out publicly about their research, and to turn their sociological eye on aspects of the current political moment – all with an eye towards creating awareness and change.

One such effort is the Environmental Data Governance Initiative (EDGI), "an international network of academics and non-profits addressing potential threats to federal environmental and energy policy, and to the scientific research infrastructure built to investigate, inform, and enforce" (www.enviroadatagov.org/about). Several environmental sociologists have worked with EDGI since its early days after the 2016 election, including Phil Brown (Northeastern University), Lindsey Dillon (UC Santa Cruz), Jill Harrison (University of Colorado-Boulder), Lauren Richter (Northeastern University), Lourdes Vera (Northeastern University), and me.

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Environmental Data Governance (cont'd)

EDGI works to proactively monitor and archive publicly available environmental data and websites through DataRescue events, where volunteers participate in “archive-a-thons” that have so far archived over 200 terabytes of government websites and data. Through these efforts, EDGI is archiving materials that might possibly be deleted or made difficult to find. EDGI is also monitoring and analyzing changes to federal agency websites, governance, budgets, enforcement, scientific research, and rulemaking capacity, and seeking additional releases of data when needed through Freedom of Information Act Requests.

Brown and Dillon were part of a handful of interdisciplinary scholars who co-founded EDGI, which presently has grown to about a hundred active members. As Brown described it, this interdisciplinary effort “exemplified the combination of academic and activist work that I always gravitated to.” EDGI uses sociological tools and theories to document and analyze the activities and impacts of the Trump administration. Dillon highlighted that establishing EDGI was “a way of making a small intervention or difference with my own skill set as a researcher.” Similarly, Brown told me that environmental sociologists have long “been in the forefront of those scholars studying the power of environmental social movements,” and that our subdiscipline’s work on climate denial, environmental injustice, and social movements make environmental sociology especially able to examine and understand the impacts of a climate denying president and fossil fuel executive cabinet members.

Several environmental sociologists have been working with EDGI’s Interviewing Project, conducting interviews with current and former EPA employees to understand how presidential transitions in general have impacted the EPA’s work, and how this transition in particular may impact environmental policy and conditions for years to come. EDGI’s recently released report about the first 100 days of the Trump Administration, titled *The EPA Under Siege*, concluded that “the Trump administration currently poses the greatest threat to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its entire 47-year history.” Drawing on a historical analysis of EPA documents and interviews with over 60 EPA employees, the report identified changes already made in the first months of the new administra-

tion that challenge EPA’s core mission of protecting public health and the environment.

EDGI is based on horizontal and collaborative research and broad dissemination of findings. Beyond its successes archiving data, monitoring websites, interviewing environmental agency employees, and sharing this information in publicly available reports, EDGI is developing new ideas of, as Brown puts it, “what a future participatory and democratic environmental governance would look like.” Dillon notes that sociologists are particularly well suited to this work and to this way of being a scholar-activist: our skills in critical thinking and research, “suggesting alternative frameworks or ways of interpreting events, and doing the rigorous empirical research to support their conclusions... are very much needed in public dialog and debate today.”

For more information, you can visit the EDGI website: <https://envirodatagov.org/>

SECTION NEWS

Section Name Change:

Following the recent amendment of Section bye-laws, the Section on Environment and Technology will soon be rechristened, the Section on Environmental Sociology.

Elections:

The ETS Section Chair, Dr. Andrew Jorgenson, announces the election of the following to fill various section positions.

1. Chair-Elect: Kari Marie Norgaard, University of Oregon.



2. Treasurer: Lori Hunter, University of Colorado – Boulder.



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Elections (cont'd)

3. Teaching, Training and Practice Committee Chair: Erica Morrell, Middlebury College.



4. Membership Chair: Kerry Ard, The Ohio State University.



Many congratulations to Kari, Lori, Erica, and Kerry. The section greatly appreciates your willingness to serve the discipline.

Award Winners:

Congratulations to the 2017 recipients of the ASA-ETS Awards. The award winners, reported below, will be recognized at the ETS reception during the 2017 ASA Annual Meeting in Montreal. The Section Chair and Chair-Elect invites all to join in celebrating these deserving colleagues.

1. The winner of the 2017 Section on Environment and Technology Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award is Dr. Richard York, University of Oregon. Congratulations!



2. The winner of the 2017 Section on Environment and Technology Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award is Dr. Jill Harrison, University of Colorado



Boulder. Dr. Harrison receives this award for her publication titled, *Coopted Environmental Justice? Activists' Roles in Shaping EJ Policy Implementation* which was published in *Environmental Sociology* in 2015. Congratulations!

Honorable Mention: Stefano Longo, North Carolina State University, and Brett Clark, University of Utah for their paper titled, *An Ocean of Troubles: Advancing Marine Sociology* which was published in *Social Problems* in 2016. Congratulations!

3. The winner of the 2017 Section on Environment and Technology Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award is Amanda McMillan Lequieu, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Amanda receives this award for her paper titled, *We Made the Choice to Stick it Out: Negotiating a Stable Home in the Rural, American Rust Belt*. Congratulations!



Honorable Mention: Jessie Luna, University of Colorado Boulder, for her paper titled, *The Color of Progress: Racialized Narratives and Environmental Inequality in the Cotton Sector of Burkina Faso*. Congratulations!

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Awards (cont'd)

4. The winner of the 2017 Section on Environment and Technology Practice and Outreach Award is Dr. David Naguib Pellow, University of California, Santa Barbara.



Honorable Mention: Tracy Perkins, Howard University.

5. The winner of the 2017 Section on Environment and Technology Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism is Dr. Amalia Leguizamon, Tulane University.



Honorable Mention: Summer Gray, University of California, Santa Cruz.

2:30pm Section on Environment and Technology: Sustainabilities: Ideologies and Practices.

4:30pm Regular Session: Environmental Policy.

6:30pm Section on Environment and Technology Reception.

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

7:00am Section on Environment and Technology Council Meeting.

8:30am Joint Session with Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology: Technology, Politics, and Socio-Environmental Solutions.

8:30am Section on Environment and Technology Roundtables.

9:30am Section on Environment and Technology Business Meeting.

10:30am Section on Environment and Technology: Water and Inequality.

12:30pm Section on Environment and Technology: Energy and Inequality.

2:30pm Section on Environment and Technology: Environmental Movements .

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

New Humanitarianism and the Crisis of Charity. Good Intentions on the Road to Help.

Michael Mascarenhas

(Indiana University Press, 2017)

http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product_info.php?products_id=808701

Soaring poverty levels and 24-hour media coverage of global disasters have caused a surge in the number of international non-governmental organizations that address suffering on a massive scale. But how are these new global networks transforming the politics and power dynamics of humanitarian policy and practice? In *New Humanitarianism and the Crisis of Charity*,

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Section Sessions at 2017 ASA Meeting:

The Section Chair-Elect announces that the Section's day at the 2017 ASA Meeting in Montreal are Monday, August 14, 2017 and Tuesday, August 15, 2017. There are also sessions of interest on Sunday. A schedule of the ETS-Related Sessions is reproduced below:

Sunday, August 13, 2017

10:30am Author meets critic with L. Downey's *Inequality, Democracy, and the Environment*

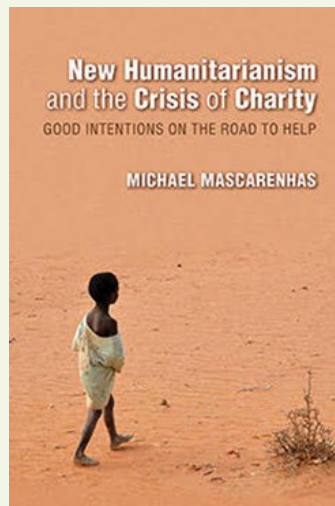
2:30pm Regular Session, Environmental Sociology: Selected Topics

Monday, August 14, 2017

8:30am Regular Session, Environmental Sociology: Corporations, Emissions and Environmental Justice.

New Humanism and the Crisis of Charity (cont'd)

Michael Mascarenhas considers that issue using water management projects in India and Rwanda as case studies. Mascarenhas analyzes the complex web of agreements—both formal and informal—that are made between businesses, governments, and aid organizations, as well as the contradictions that arise when capitalism meets humanitarianism.



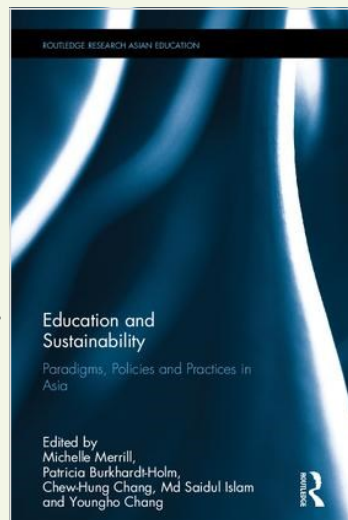
About the Author

Michael Mascarenhas is Associate Professor in the Science and Technology Studies Department at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is author of *Where the Waters Divide: Neoliberalism, White Privilege, and Environmental Racism in Canada* and a Framing the Global fellow.

Education and Sustainability: Paradigms, Policies, and Practices in Asia

Michelle Merrill, Patricia Burkhardt-Holm, Chew-Hung Chang, Md Saidul Islam, & Chang Youngho (eds)
(Routledge, Forthcoming)
(<https://www.routledge.com/Education-and-Sustainability-Paradigms-Policies-and-Practices-in-Asia/Merrill-Burkhardt-Holm-Chang-Islam-Chang/p/book/9781138681411>)

This book provides an introduction to the state of sustainability education in Asia. It covers national policies, institutional policies and practices within Asian universities, sustainability considerations for teacher training at schools of education, and pedagogical practices for sustainability in higher education. With contributors from universities and NGOs



in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia, India, China and South Korea, this volume brings together the best papers from a series of successful international conferences on post-secondary education for sustainability in Asia.

About the Authors

Michelle Y. Merrill is an independent researcher and consultant, and a member of the Advisory Board of the National Ecology and Environment Foundation (India, www.neef.in).

Patricia Burkhardt-Holm is Professor in the Faculty of Science, associated with the Department of Environmental Sciences, and heads the interdisciplinary research group Man-Society-Environment at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

Chew-Hung Chang is Associate Dean, Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning; and Associate Professor, Humanities and Social Studies Education Academic Group, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Md Saidul Islam is Associate Professor of Sociology and Coordinator of the Environment and Sustainability Research Cluster, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Youngho Chang is Assistant Professor of Economics, Coordinator of the Environment and Sustainability Research Cluster, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

- Allen, Summer, Aaron M. McCright and Thomas Dietz. 2017. "A Social Movement Identity Instrument for Integrating Survey Methods into Social Movements Research." *SAGE Open* 7(2):2158244017708819. doi: 10.1177/2158244017708819.
- Bohr, Jeremiah. 2017. "Is it Hot in Here, or is it Just Me? Temperature Anomalies and Political Polarization over Global Warming in the American Public." *Climatic Change*, 142(1):271-285.

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Articles and Book Chapters (cont'd)

- Boucher, Jean Léon. 2016. "Culture, Carbon, and Climate Change: A Class Analysis of Climate Change Belief, Lifestyle Lock-in, and Personal Carbon Footprint." *Social Ecology: Journal for Environmental Thought and Sociological Research*, 25(1-2):53–80.
- Boucher, Jean Léon. 2017. "The Logics of Frugality: Reproducing Tastes of Necessity among Affluent Climate Change Activists." *Energy Research & Social Science*. (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214629617301718>).
- Daniel Aldana Cohen. 2017. "The Other Low-Carbon Protagonists: Poor People's Movements and Climate Politics in São Paulo." Pp 140-157 in *The City is the Factory: New Solidarities and Spatial Strategies in an Urban Age*, edited by Miriam Greenberg and Penny Luce. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Elliott, James R. and Matthew Thomas Clement. 2017. "Natural Hazards and Local Development: The Successive Nature of Landscape Transformation in the United States." *Social Forces*, forthcoming.
- Gould, Kenneth. 2017 "Ecotourism Under Pressure: The Political-Economy of Oil Extraction and Cruise Ship Tourism in Belize." *Environmental Sociology*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2017.1308238>.
- Gunderson, Ryan. 2017. "Commodification of Nature." Pp...in *International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology*, edited by Douglas Richardson, Noel Castree, Michael F. Goodchild, Audrey Kobayashi, Weidong Liu, and Richard A. Marston. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. DOI: 10.1002/9781118786352.wbieg0332.
- Islam, Md Saidul and Andrea Wong. 2017. "Climate change and Food (In)security: A Critical Nexus." *Environments* 4(38): 1-15. doi:10.3390/environments4020038.
- Islam, Md Saidul. 2017. "Sustainability through the Lens of Environmental Sociology: An Introduction." *Sustainability* 9(3), 474: 1-11. doi: 10.3390/su9030474.
- Kais, S. M. and Md Saidul Islam. Forthcoming. "Impacts of and Resilience to Climate Change at the Bottom of the Shrimp Commodity Chain in Bangladesh: A Preliminary Investigation." *Aquaculture*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2017.05.024>.
- Liévanos, Raoul S. 2017. "Sociospatial Dimensions of Water Injustice: The Distribution of Surface Water Toxic Releases in California's Bay-Delta." *Sociological Perspectives*, 60 (3):575-599.
- Liévanos, Raoul S. and Christine Horne. 2017. "Unequal Resilience: The Duration of Electricity Outages." *Energy Policy*, 108:201-211.
- Malin, Stephanie A., Adam Mayer, Kelly Shreeve, Shawn K. Olson-Hazboun and John Adgate. 2017. "Free Market Ideology and Deregulation in Colorado's Oil Fields: Evidence for Triple Movement Activism?" *Environmental Politics*, 26(3), 521-545.
- Norgaard, Kari Marie and Ron Reed. Forthcoming. "Emotional Impacts of Environmental Decline: What Can Attention to Native Cosmologies Teach Sociology about Race, Emotions and Environmental Justice." *Theory and Society*.
- Norgaard, Kari Marie, Ron Reed and JM Bacon. 2017. "Environmental Decline and Changing Gender Roles: What Happens to Karuk Masculinity When There Are No Fish?" *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2332649217706518>.
- Summers, Nik and Tom VanHeuvelen. 2017. "Heterogeneity in the Relationship between Country-level Affluence and Environmental Concern," *Social Forces*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/sox038>
- Whitley, Cameron T., John Besley, Bruno Takahashi, Adam Zwickle, Alisa Lertpratchya. 2016. "Sustainability Behaviors Among College Students: An Application of the VBN Theory." *Environmental Education Research*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13504622.2016.1250151>
- Whitley, Cameron T., Ryan Gunderson, and Meghan Charters. 2017. "Public Perceptiveness to Policies Promoting Plant-Based Diets: Social Psychological and Structural Influences" *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning*, Online (2017): 1-19.
- Whitley, Cameron T., Louie Rivers III, Seven Bryant, Sandy Marquart-Pyatt, Laura Schmitt Olabisi, Arika Ligmann-Zielinska. 2017. "Climate-induced Migration: Using Mental Models to Explore Aggregate and Individual Decision Making." *Journal of Risk Research*, First Online (2017): 1-17.
- Whyte, Kyle Powys, Ryan Gunderson, and Brett Clark. 2017. "Is Technology Use Insidious?" Pp 41-61 in *Philosophy, Technology, and the Environment*,

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Articles and Book Chapters (cont'd)

edited by David M. Kaplan. Cambridge: MIT Press.
York, Richard and Stefano B. Longo. 2017. "Animals in
the World: A Materialist Approach to Sociological
Animal Studies." *Journal of Sociology*, 53(1): 32-46.

MEMBER NEWS

Dr. Thomas Dietz, a longtime member of the Section on Environment and Technology has been awarded the Distinguished Professor title at Michigan State University. Dr. Dietz's work has helped to shape many areas of our field. He has been instrumental in integrating environmental sociology into various multidisciplinary settings, and he has mentored countless members of our scholarly community. To read more about Dr. Dietz's well-deserved honor, follow this web address: <http://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2017/msu-faculty-members-awarded-distinguished-professor-title/>.

Congratulations, Dr. Thomas Dietz!

Dr. Shannon Bell is the 2017 recipient of the Rural Sociological Society's Excellence in Research Award. Also, Dr. Bell's recent book, *Fighting King Coal: The Challenges to Micromobilization in Central Appalachia* (MIT Press, 2016) was chosen as the American Association of Publishers PROSE Award winner in Sociology/Social Work. Her book also recently received a gold medal from the Nautilus Book Awards.

Congratulations, Dr. Shannon Bell!

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Starting with the Fall 2017 Issue, this Newsletter will carry a *Transitions* subsection. The subsection will publish member news about job changes, significant promotions, and transition to eternity.

We'd announced our intention to include this subsection in this (summer) issue of the newsletter. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, we're pushing it to the next issue, the Fall 2017 issue.