

Environment, Technology and Society

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

Winter 2010

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Is Our Sustainability Science Racist?

by Ariel Salleh
University of Sydney

The contents of this article were previously broadcast on Ockham's Razor, ABC Radio National, 4 Oct 2009.

It bothers me that the G8 and 'development experts' always talk about 'capacity building' for non-industrial communities in the global South, because as I see it, capacity building is just what's needed in the global North! And I'm not alone in this. In Anchorage recently, the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit pointed to the ecological debt notched up by affluent societies, as main

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* Ariel Salleh is a Researcher in Political Economy at the University of Sydney and former Associate Professor in Social Inquiry at UWS and co-editor of *Capitalism Nature Socialism*; author of *Eco-Sufficiency & Global Justice* and many articles: www.arielsalleh.net.

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ETS Membership Goals

With the new semester upon us and people beginning to think about ASA meeting submissions, the membership committee asks you to actively encourage any non-ETS graduate students or faculty who have an interest in environmental sociology to join our section. As you know, we now have well over 400 members and would like to increase our size to more than 500 members. This would give us more sessions at the annual conference and further demonstrate the centrality of environmental sociology in the discipline. Thank you for helping to promote our section to new members.

Liam C. Downey
Chair of Membership Committee
liam.downey@colorado.edu

ASA Submissions for Summer 2001

The deadline for paper submissions for the ASA Annual Conference is fast approaching. All papers must be submitted by **January 13, 2010**. To submit a paper for consideration, take the following steps:

- 1) Join or update your membership in the American Sociological Association. If you have been a member of the ASA before, go to: <https://www.e-noah.net/ASA/Login.asp> If you have never been a member before you can go to: <https://www.e-noah.net/ASA/Profile/NewCheck.asp?S=1> and follow the instructions.
- 2) Submit, at minimum, an abstract of your talk to the online registration site. You do this by going to <https://www.e-noah.net/ASA/MemberPortal.asp> and logging in. On the new page, scroll down to "Events" and click "2010 Online Paper Submission System." Then click the link to "Submit or Edit a Proposal". This will take you to the call for papers. Select the session you wish to submit your paper to, and fill in the form that appears.
- 3) All abstracts and/or papers must be submitted by **January 13, 2010**. **If do not submit an abstract and/or paper by this time you cannot be added into the program later.** So it is important to meet this deadline. There is nothing the organizer can do if you don't get your paper submitted in time.

This year, we have four sessions. The Environmental Sociology session will be organized by Dr. Sherry Cable. The three sessions for the Environment and

Technology Section will be organized by Dr. David Pellow. Only one of the four sessions has a theme, which is Challenges to the Orthodoxy of Environmental Sociology (full description listed below). All of the other sessions are open.

Challenges to the Orthodoxy of Environmental Sociology: The sub discipline of environmental sociology has long been focused on a number of key conceptual ideas, such as the "Treadmill of Production", or the distinction between the Dominant Social Paradigm and New Ecological Perspective, or the IPAT model, all of which originated over 30 years ago. The purpose of this session is to engage in critical reflection on these core conceptual frameworks, and to suggest theoretical developments that can advance our understanding of human-environment relations.

In addition to these four sessions, we will have a roundtable session. If you submit your paper to one of the four sessions, and it isn't accepted, it will be forwarded to the roundtable organizer.

Call for Nominations: 2010 Section Awards

Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award

The Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award is to recognize individuals for outstanding service, innovation, or publication in environmental sociology or sociology of technology. It is intended to be an expression of appreciation, to be awarded when an individual is deemed extraordinarily meritorious by the Section. All members of the Section are invited to submit nominations for the award, together with supporting documentation. To nominate an individual for this award, please send a letter of nomination describing the nominee's contribution to environmental sociology and/or the sociology of technology, accompanied by a copy of the nominee's CV, by March 1, 2010 to the chair of the award committee Timmons Roberts (jtrobe@wm.edu).

Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award

This award is given annually to recognize an outstanding graduate student-authored paper accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the ASA (The paper can be presented at any session or roundtable at ASA). Graduate students or advisors on their behalf are encouraged to submit papers to this competition. The deadline for submitting papers is April 1, 2010. E-mail nominations to Richard York (rfyork@uoregon.edu).

Outstanding Publication Award

This award recognizes outstanding research in the sociology of the environment and technology. In alternate years we consider research published either in book or article form. This year the committee will consider books published from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009. The committee will consider self-nominations as well as nominations made by people other than the authors. Please send a nomination letter and three copies of the book to Richard York (Department of Sociology, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403, rfyork@uoregon.edu) by April 1, 2010.

Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology & Humanism

The Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism recognizes work that addresses technology and human affairs, social action and social change, conflicts over values, or work that proposes innovative solutions to emerging social issues associated with technology. In accordance with Robert Boguslaw's wishes, the honored work should address the concerns of ordinary people rather than reflecting organizational or institutional agendas. The award is limited to doctoral students or young investigators who have obtained their Ph.D.s in the past five years.

Unpublished papers or articles published within the last two years are eligible. Candidates may either submit their own work or be nominated by someone else. Neither nominees nor nominators need be affiliated with this or any other Section, nor do they need to be associated with any other professional network or organization. Please submit nominations, including copies of the papers or articles by April 1, 2010, to David Pellow (dpellow@umn.edu)

Environmental Sociology Practice & Outreach Award

The biennial Environmental Sociology Practice and Outreach Award honors faculty members and other professional practitioners in the field of Environmental Sociology. The award recognizes the outstanding practice and outreach contributions of professionals not only in college and university positions, but also positions in journalism, government, service agencies, private sector environmental organizations, and non-profit environmental organizations. Section members are encouraged to nominate colleagues, but all members are encouraged to self-nominate. Nomination packets may include statements of commitment to service activities, letters of support that delineate the nominee's outstanding service and outreach accomplishments, and other evidence of especially dedicated service to the field. Materials

should be submitted by April 1, 2010 to Brian Mayer (bmayer@soc.ufl.edu)

Is Our Sustainability Science Racist?

(continued from page 1)

contributors to global warming. They spelled out their own vision of self-managed local economies based on food and energy sovereignty. And they told the UN that the time had come to hold Technical Briefings by Indigenous Peoples on Traditional Knowledge and climate change.¹

Governments and international agencies have not given due credit to the capacities of peoples at the margins of capital. There's a tacit environmental racism too, in letting these others pick up the tab - like when a nuclear waste dump is put in Aboriginal country; or when a REDD scheme converts the livelihood of Kalimantan farmers into a carbon sink for our coal-based consumer lifestyle.² The rhetoric of international 'partnership' does little to soothe the assault. True, conservation NGOs are anxious about the impact of rising seas on island peoples, but racism appears again in the claim that the populations of India and China are the biggest threat to global warming. For ecological footprint studies show that consumption per capita in China is negligible, compared with the average individual footprint in Australia or the US.³

The ecological footprint indicator is a terrific instrument for keeping policy makers honest, but mathematical formulae won't shift the totally ethnocentric idea that our model of production is the only viable way. In fact, the fixation on adjusting input/output parameters simply delays a more thoughtful response to climate change. This crisis asks us to stand back, and look at why we have configured our humanity-nature metabolism so badly.

Metabolism is the process by which humans take from nature, digest, and give back in return - and

¹ Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change, *The Anchorage Declaration*, 24 April 2009: (ENVIROSOC@listserve.brown.edu, 15 May 2009).

² A UNFCCC program, REDD stands for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation. For an example: Belinda Lopez, 'When Rudd Sticks', *New Matilda*, 17 June 2008: <www.newmatilda.com> (accessed 18 June 2008).

³ Mathias Wackernagel and William Rees, *Our Ecological Footprint*, Gabriola Island, BC: New Society, 1996: <www.footprintnetwork.org> (accessed 20 April 2007).

cultures across the world have devised different ways of managing it. The pioneering ecological economist Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen made it the centre piece of his new discipline, bringing biological systems and thermodynamic principles into economic reasoning.⁴ Yet today, sustainability science deals largely with the tip of the production iceberg. Most transfers between humans and nature are 'meta-industrial' - non-monetised, and not even named as economic.⁵

Sociologists give various explanations for our strange modern disconnect from the natural. John Bellamy Foster attributes it to the 'metabolic rift' between town and country - corporate globalisation and free trade now exporting this rift across the earth. Peter Dickens sees ecological alienation as an outcome of the industrial division of labour. And the more technologically 'improved' daily life is, the more people lose a feeling for their own organic embodiment as nature. Ecofeminist Silvia Federici uses the word 'amnesia' to describe this psychological splitting.⁶

The humanity/nature split is very clear in the language of ecological economics. I quote,

Natural capital can be considered the planetary endowment of scarce matter and energy, along with the complex and biologically diverse ecosystems that provide goods and services directly to human communities ... [water recycling, pollination, and so on].⁷

Here, 'scarcity' is an ontological constant, rather than a man-made anomaly; living systems are pulverised for turning into profitable goods. Metabolic flows are pulled apart and abstracted as 'factors'. There's little grasp of human co-evolution with the environment. And what's more, the gendered, class, and racialised origins of economics itself are bypassed.

Of course, there are also innovative moves in sustainability science. Herman Daly - albeit from the World Bank, matches the canon of efficiency with a

call for global justice. He knows too, that biological time is slower than economic time and that intergenerational equity calls for thinking with a long horizon.⁸ Yet the heritage of neoclassical economics is still active in Daly's work. His core variables of scale, distribution, and allocation, function in an ad hoc system, whose imaginary boundaries are never justified. His cybernetic analogies reify the market much as the old hidden hand of liberalism did. And descriptions of economic processes in the passive voice, set up a sense of inevitability that deflects people from making change.

As a sociologist of knowledge, I am only too aware that the transformative potential of any discipline is stymied, as long as sociological bias in its analytic tools goes unnoticed. Thus, Daly and conferees omit to ask: Who is it that decides on scale? Who distributes to whom? Who is entitled to make allocations? And, Why? Sure ... conferences in ecological economics now include sections on peasant and Indigenous societies, and sometimes, even host a feminist symposium. But my impression is that these are add-ons - 'problem areas', 'distribution conflicts', or 'externalities' waiting to be assimilated to the master map.

If the amnesia of industrialisation were shaken off, would it then become respectable to talk about other ways of satisfying human needs? For example, a 2007 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report notes that the greater part of the world's food supply is actually produced by peasant cultivation ...⁹ The celebrated ecofeminist - former quantum physicist - Vandana Shiva tells us how this is eco-sufficiency is achieved by meta-industrial workers in north India. It is women who manage the integrity of ecological and human cycles. As healers they gather medicinal herbs among the trees, and as catalysts of fertility, they transfer animal waste to crops, returning the by-products to animals as fodder. Their daily round - protecting natural sustainability and human sustenance - is an exemplar of scientific complexity in action.¹⁰

⁴ Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, *The Entropy Law and the Economic Process*, Harvard University Press, 1971.

⁵ On 'meta-industrial' activities: Ariel Salleh, *Ecofeminism as Politics*, London: Zed Books, 1997, pp. 164-66 and 175-78.

⁶ John Bellamy Foster, *Marx's Ecology*, New York: Monthly Review, 2000; Peter Dickens, *Reconstructing Nature*, London: Routledge, 1995; Silvia Federici, *Caliban and the Witch*, New York: Autonomedia, 2004; Salleh (1997), 'Body Logic: 1/0 Culture', pp. 35-52.

⁷ Wikipedia, 'Ecological Economics', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*: <www.wikipedia> (accessed 30 October 2006).

⁸ Herman Daly, Jon Erickson, and Joshua Farley, *Ecological Economics: A Workbook for Problem Based Learning*, Washington: Island Press, 2005.

⁹ FAO, International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security, Rome May, 2007. See also Kirsten Lyons interview, Future Tense, ABC Radio National, 2 April. 2009; Catherine Badgley et al, 'Organic Agriculture and the Global Food Supply', *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*, 2007, Vol. 22, No. 1, 86-108, p. 86.

¹⁰ Vandana Shiva, *Staying Alive*, London: Zed Books, 1989, p. 45. Also Veronika Bennhold-Thomsen and Maria Mies, *The Subsistence Perspective*, London: Zed

Aboriginal Australians too, make the seasonal walk through country with deliberation and disciplined harvesting to ensure renewal. Three hours work a day suffices in this bioregional economy. According to John Gowdy, a student of Roegen, the hunter-gatherer rarely extracts more matter or energy than needed for maintenance.¹¹ Don't get me wrong, I am not saying that everyone should head for the hills, but arguing that the epistemology of these alternative production models provides essential capacity building for a global regime like ours, staring at a 'wrong way go back' sign.

In regions where communal land is undisturbed by European ideas of development, self-managed Indigenous economies are both sovereign and synergistic - satisfying many needs at once. To paraphrase Chilean economist Manfred Max Neef: besides subsistence, they foster learning, participation, innovation, ritual, identity and belonging.¹² Against this, our engineered satisfiers use up much energy and time, often sabotaging the very convenience they were designed for. I mean, take a look at Al Gore's future vision of solar and geothermal cities in the US South West. This will consume vast amounts of front-end fuels in road making, welding turbines and power grids, water supply, component manufacture for housing, air conditioning for supermarkets. There will be new ecosystem damage - and psychological costs from mass resettlement. And is the lost farmland to be made good by overseas agricultural leases? How then will displaced Central American peasants feed them selves? And how much more heat will be generated by haulage of food back to the US?¹³

Let's face it: the economy of permanent consumption and 'green conversions' is not only ethnocentric it fails the thermodynamic test. So how do models of peasant and indigenous provisioning stand up as sustainability science? What are their methodological features?¹⁴

Books, 1999.

¹¹ Deborah Rose, *Nourishing Terrains*, Canberra: Australian Heritage Commission, 1996; John Gowdy (ed.), *Limited Wants, Unlimited Means*, Washington: Island Press, 1998.

¹² Manfred Max-Neef et al, *Human Scale Development*, New York: Apex, 1991.

¹³ Sharon Astyk, 'A New Deal or a War Footing? Thinking Through Our Response to Climate Change', *Ruminations for a New Future: Casaubon's Book*. (accessed 11 November 2008).

¹⁴ Adapted from Ariel Salleh (ed.) *Eco-Sufficiency & Global Justice*, London and New York: Pluto Press,

- First, the **consumption footprint is small** because local resources are used and monitored daily with care.
- **Closed loop production** is the norm.
- Scale is intimate, maximising responsiveness to matter/energy transfers in nature, so **avoiding entropy**.
- Judgments are built up by trial and error, using a **cradle to grave assessment** of ecosystem health.
- Meta-industrial labour is **intrinsically precautionary**, because it is situated in an intergenerational time frame.
- **Lines of responsibility are transparent** - unlike the buck passing that mars bureaucratized economies.
- With social organisation less convoluted than in urban centres, **synergistic problem solving** can be achieved.
- In farm settings and in wild habitat, **multi-criteria decision-making** is simply common sense.
- Regenerative work **reconciles time scales across species** and readily adapts to disturbances in nature.¹⁵
- This economic rationality **distinguishes between stocks and flows**. No more is taken than is needed.
- It is an **empowering work process**, without a division between workers' mental and manual skills.
- The **labour product is enjoyed or shared** whereas the industrial worker has no control over his or her creativity.
- Such provisioning is eco-sufficient because it **does not externalise costs on to others as debt**.
- Autonomous local economies imply **food and energy sovereignty**.

You get the picture. Here is a people's science that vies closely with the advice of good environmental consultants in the global North. The trouble is that in growth economies that advice too often gets shelved by governments under pressure

2009, pp. 302-303.

¹⁵ Barbara Adam, *Timescapes of Modernity*, London: Routledge, 1998.

from business. Or, unwieldy administrations foil the translation of principles into action on the ground. Beyond this, capitalist states are so dependent on resources from the meta-industrial periphery, the exacting sustainability practices of the global majority must remain invisible.¹⁶ - Yes, Technical Briefings by Indigenous Peoples are going to be indispensable if international decision-making is to become coherent and democratic.

Reshaping Nature: Old Limits and New Possibilities

Report from the 2nd German Environmental Sociology Summit held in Leipzig, Germany, 5-7 Nov., 2009

*by Matthias Gross
Department of Urban and Environmental
Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for
Environmental Research - UFZ*

The 2009 German Environmental Sociology Summit in Leipzig, Germany was held under the topic "Reshaping Nature: Old Limits and New Possibilities." The original idea of a biannually held English-speaking environmental sociology meeting in Germany was to foster exchange on current environment-related issues between a nationally oriented German environmental sociology culture and environmental sociologists from other countries.

All accepted abstracts were distributed to five overall themes, each introduced by a well known environmental social scientist (keynote). The first subtheme of the meeting was "Adapting and Mitigating to Climate Change" opened with a lecture by RC-24 president Raymond Murphy (University of Ottawa, Canada) on the "The Chronic and the Acute: Mitigating Creeping Environmental Problems and Sudden Disasters." Since the conference was held on the campus a mainly natural science research institute, a lot of the local attendees were natural scientist by training. Murphy's introductory talk, many later told me, was somewhat of an eye opener to them as to what environmental sociology is all about and it helped to clarify issues in our understanding of the nature-society interaction. Murphy's avoidance of esoteric sociology jargon certainly helped here. The subsequent session topics included debates on the climate change regime, climate policy, environmental

¹⁶ Ariel Salleh, 'Globalisation and the Meta-industrial Alternative' in Robert Albritton et al (eds), *New Socialisms: Futures Beyond Globalization*, London: Routledge, 2004.

protection and climate change, lifestyle changes in climate change, and adaptation and mitigation governance. All papers proved how vivid environmental sociological research on climate change with a global focus has become in the last few years. The second theme for the parallel sessions before lunch was entitled "Waste, Contamination, and the Challenges of Industrially Altered Landscapes," introduced by the geographer Christopher De Sousa (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA) who presented his research findings on efforts to manage the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated sites in North America over the last 30 years. As regards his outlook on new possibilities he ended with a pessimistic note, but his overview on best management practices showed that in the future a shift to sustainable restoration and revitalization processes is needed. This talk as well as the subsequent paper presentations in the sessions showed that European and North American experiences in waste management and the revitalization of contaminated sites can learn a lot from each other.

The third thematic block of sessions was called "Environmentalism and Theories of Human-Nature Interactions." It was introduced with a classical topic of the environmental social sciences, Garrett Hardin's statement that "freedom in a commons brings ruin to all." Andreas Diekmann (ETH Zürich, Switzerland) colorfully discussed the limits of rationality in environmental dilemmas ending with a rather pessimistic note on how the world's leaders will make their decisions at the Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009 to prevent further global warming and climate changes. The fourth and final theme of the first day was called "Knowledge and the Governance of Environmental Dynamics," introduced with a keynote talk by Eugene Rosa (Washington State University, Pullman, USA). Rosa's presentation gave an overview on the areas of social science research that have made remarkable progress in providing an understanding of the details and processes of the human-sustainability nexus. In great inter disciplinary fashion, Rosa drew on research from not only sociology, but also from anthropology, geography, policy analyses, and ecology. His outlook was the presentation of a refined template that brings into sharp relief key gaps where sustained research should be directed.

The second day of the conference linked the previous day's discussion on the possibility of a sustainable future of the planet with the subtheme on "New Trends in Research on Sustainability." Gert Spaargaren (Wageningen University, The

Netherlands) opened the sessions with a keynote speech on "Climate Change Politics and Life(Style) Politics: A Sociological Perspective." Against the background of the deepening climate crisis, Spaargaren argued that the empowerment of citizen-consumers as co-makers of change is an issue which deserves attention both from a theoretical and policy making perspective. In using a practice-oriented perspective to the role of human agents in climate change, Spaargaren argued, helps to emphasize agency in environmental change without lapsing into individualistic models of change.

To continue the tradition we started in Lüneburg in 2007, at this year's meeting a workshop was also launched. To prepare for a lively discussion, a background paper, co-authored by Huib de Vriend and Anna Wesselink, was circulated before the conference. Huib de Vriend, an engineer from the Technical University of Delft and director of the EcoShape Programme of the Netherlands not only attended his very first sociology meeting that day but with his co-author Anna Wesselink (University of Leeds, UK) he critically presented the EcoShape Programme with a talk on "Building with Nature: Ecodynamic Design in Practice." The goal of the Dutch program is to design and shape the Dutch coast line by using dunes and beaches together with elements such as rocks and jetties with novel technologies. The invited commentators Gert Spaargaren (Wageningen) and Wolfgang Krohn (Bielefeld University, Germany), together with the audience of the conference certainly accepted that the idea of "Building with Nature" (BwN) can be seen as a good example to foster win-win solutions for society and nature but they also pointed to the many obstacles and unintended side effects that large landscape design processes based on novel approaches in hydraulic engineering and its relationship to ecosystem dynamics can bring.

After lunch on Saturday, the closing plenary address was delivered by Hellmuth Lange (University of Bremen, Germany), who discussed "First and Third World Environmentalism: Competing Concepts or Two Sides of the Same Coin?" Lange unfolded in detail what First and Third World environmentalism can mean from different disciplinary perspectives. He also discussed on how much globalization leads to a blurring of any clear boundaries between both "environmentalisms." Based on this debate, Lange ended by discussing a list of research themes that will certainly gain in importance for environmental sociology in the near future fostered by the globalization of (un-) sustainable lifestyles, consumption patterns, as well as environmental

awareness and behavior. In short, there is more work for environmental sociologists to do than ever before.

As regards content of the overall conference theme, the meeting has supported the view that European environmental sociology is increasingly forging links with other disciplines, thus highlighting the inter-and even transdisciplinary potential of sociology as well as – at least on the local level – its strong focus on pragmatic solutions of environmental problems. Although the venue for the 3rd German Environmental Sociology Summit has not been finalized as of November 2009, there is good reason to look forward to the next meeting in November 2011.

Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

73rd Annual Meeting Rural Sociological Society: Panel on Global Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Oceanic Crisis: A Socio-Ecological Perspective

August 12-15, 2010, Atlanta, Georgia

Panel Description

Over a decade ago, scholars compiled the first sociological research on the emergence of industrial aquaculture in the global food production system. Today, aquaculture has become the fastest growing food producing sector, and consumption of farmed ocean species now outnumbers that of wild-caught species. This panel will examine the significance of the oceans and fisheries in the context of the global political economy. We welcome papers that analyze the social relations and historical conditions that have resulted in what many have been calling a global fisheries crisis. In addition, we invite research that provides an updated analysis of the growth of aquaculture, and broadly the interactions between human labor, technology and ocean ecosystems. Building on previous research, this panel will offer new substantive and theoretical insights into an often-overlooked aspect of society-nature relations, which is critical to food production and coastal community resiliency.

Panel Co-chairs:

Dr. Stefano Longo, University of Illinois, Springfield
Dr. Rebecca Clausen, Fort Lewis College

Submissions should be sent electronically to slong7@uis.edu or Clausen_R@fortlewis.edu.

Deadline for submissions is **January 15, 2010**.

IIASA Young Scientists Summer Program 2010

Each summer, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), located in Schloss Laxenburg near Vienna, Austria, hosts a selected group of graduate students, primarily doctoral, from around the world in its Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP). These students work closely with IIASA's senior scientists on projects within the Institute's 3 theme areas: Energy and Technology, Natural Resources and Environment, Population and Society.

Detailed information about each program is on the IIASA Website: <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/>

General Questions: Tanja Huber, YSSP Coordinator
yssp.support@iiasa.ac.at

U.S. contact: Margaret Goud Collins, Program Director for the U.S. Committee for IIASA
National Academy of Sciences mcollins@nas.edu

Applications deadline: **18 January 2010.**

Call for Papers: Special Issue of *Race, Gender, Class* focusing on Climate Change

Announcing a special issue of *Race, Gender, Class* focusing on Climate Change. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the IPCC's (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) most recent report on climate change it behooves academics and activists to ensure that the interrelated issues of race, gender and class are not further obscured but become as central to combating climate change as the policy that enforces corporate reductions in carbon emissions. In his *New York Times* Op-Ed piece on 8/22/2009 writer Thomas Friedman planted an intriguing analytical seed that nevertheless needs much more 'water' and 'light' if it is to illuminate more than it obscures. He stated that "We're trying to deal with a whole array of integrated problems — climate change, energy, biodiversity loss, poverty alleviation and the need to grow enough food to feed the planet — separately." He then goes on to say that the key to addressing *one* is to address them *all* simultaneously in an integrated manner as observable with any ecosystem. Friedman's observation is certainly correct that climate change (as with so many other issues) is being discussed in a social, political and economic vacuum with little or no reference to the contributing issues such as poverty, food production, energy creation and consumption...etc. However, his analysis likewise does not go deep enough in that he overlooks the systemic and endemic forces that are

creating the "whole array of integrated problems" that he himself mentioned. Such structural forces are of course the social, political and economic articulations of unequal power relations as created by the ideologies and practices of racism, sexism, classism, nationalism, ethnocentrism, speciesism ...etc. Thus, the need for more inclusive, interrelated and complex analyses of climate change is dire.

For this special issue of *Race, Gender, Class* we seek articles that take on this challenge in their approach to climate change by including the interrelated and integrated layers of race, gender and class. Submissions may focus on any aspect of climate change (legal, political, social, educational, agricultural, economic, religious, sexual, ideological, international, local...etc) but the analysis must be multifaceted in terms of race, gender and class, bringing to the fore a complexity that has been sorely lacking. Approaches may be empirically or theoretically based, may be qualitative or quantitative and may represent a variety of styles and perspectives but they should be well supported by argument and / or data and should attempt to bring new and provocative insight to the discussion of climate change.

Abstracts (500 words) should be sent by **April 1st, 2010** to the address below. Selected authors will be notified by May 1st 2010, and the deadline for submission of the final paper (8000 words) will be June 1st, 2010. For further information or submission of abstracts, please contact by email phoebe.godfrey@uconn.edu or by snail mail: Phoebe C. Godfrey Assistant Professor-in-Residence, Department of Sociology, 344 Mansfield Rd., University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06226-2068.

Position Announcements

State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF): Faculty Positions in Global Environment, Health and Sustainability

Tenure-track positions at the Associate or Assistant Professor level, in the following *representative* areas:

- Biomimicry and design of sustainable systems;
- Climate change drivers and responses of natural and urban systems;
- Urban sustainability: built environments, ecological engineering and sustainable communities;

- Quantitative analysis of fate and transport of environmental contaminants, pathogens and/or invasive species;
- Biomolecular engineering for sustainable products and processes; and
- Renewable energy engineering.

Additional information on these areas is provided at <http://www.esf.edu/positions>.

To ensure optimal consideration, all application materials must be received by **January 11, 2010**; open until filled.

Contact Persons: Search Committee Chair Dr. Neil H. Ringler, Dean of Research and Distinguished Teaching Professor, e-mail: neilringler@esf.edu, tel. +1.315.470.6682; or David A. Sonnenfeld, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Environmental Studies, e-mail: dsonn@esf.edu, tel. +1.315.470.6636.

University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR): Postdoctoral Position in Integrated Social Science

The NCAR/NESL Mesoscale and Microscale Meteorology Division is looking for a postgraduate scientist to conduct integrated social science— atmospheric science research on the socioeconomic impacts of weather and the communication, interpretation, use, and value of weather forecasts. The successful candidate must have a PhD in a relevant social science or interdisciplinary field, preferably within the last 5 years. Examples of relevant fields include (but are not limited to): risk communication, communication sciences, geography, economics, public policy, sociology, and psychology.

This two-year position may be extended. Relocation benefits provided in accordance with UCAR policy. Applicants can apply at the UCAR job site below.

Application deadline: **7 February 2010**

Contact: Jeff Lazo, NCAR
303-497-2857, lazo@ucar.edu
<http://www.fin.ucar.edu/hr/employment>

National Science Foundation (NSF) Post-doc Opportunity in Economic Sociology

Funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), this program will fund one Postdoctoral Fellow for a period of two years, beginning in August/September 2010, in the sociology department at EACH of the following major research universities: Cornell University, Harvard University,

Princeton University, Stanford University, the University of California-Berkeley, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Each of the Fellowships will provide a supportive research environment and an opportunity for collegial interaction with scholars in the Fellow's host university and with the other program participants. The six Fellowships will be offered pending final budgetary approval from NSF in 2010.

The Fellowship program seeks to recruit new or recent PhDs who are looking to strengthen research skills in economic sociology and better understand comparative economic institutions and processes. Applicants need not have done prior research on the current economic crisis. Stipend: \$45,000 annually plus benefits. Successful candidates will be assigned to one of the six research universities in consultation with the sociology faculty of those universities.

To be eligible, candidates must have received the PhD in sociology on or after May 1, 2008, or affirm that they will complete all PhD requirements, including the dissertation defense, by August 1, 2010. Completion by this date is a strict requirement for beginning the position. All Postdoctoral Fellows will be required to teach one seminar or limited-enrollment undergraduate course related to their research during their Fellowship period (typically in the first year of the Fellowship) and will also be expected to participate regularly in seminars or workshops of the department or program with which they are affiliated.

Postmark deadline for the application is **February 12, 2010**. Application forms may be found at www.asanet.org (click on "Funding"). In addition to a CV, official graduate transcripts, and three letters of recommendation, applicants will submit a personal statement (up to 10 double-spaced pages) that includes 1) why they are interested in the Fellowship program; 2) how their research experience fits the goals of the program; and 3) a description of their research agenda for the near future. Applicants will submit one writing sample (i.e. a single-authored published article or a dissertation chapter, preferably with a maximum of 50 pages). ASA and the six universities welcome applications from all who are qualified from a wide range of PhD programs and strongly encourages sociologists from under-represented populations, including women, under-represented racial and ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities, to apply for the Fellowship.

Per NSF guidelines, all applicants are required to be a U.S. citizen or a legal U.S. permanent resident.

Publications

Books

[The Rebirth of Environmentalism: Grassroots Activism from the Spotted Owl to the Polar Bear](#)

Douglas Bevington
Island Press (2009)



Over the past two decades, a select group of small but highly effective grassroots organizations have achieved remarkable success in protecting endangered species and forests in the United States. *The Rebirth of Environmentalism* tells for the first time the story of these grassroots biodiversity groups.

Author Douglas Bevington offers engaging case studies of three of the most influential biodiversity protection campaigns—the Headwaters Forest campaign, the “zero cut” campaign on national forests, and the endangered species litigation campaign exemplified by the Center for Biological Diversity—providing the reader with an in-depth understanding of the experience of being involved in grassroots activism.

Based on first-person interviews with key activists in these campaigns, the author explores the role of tactics, strategy, funding, organization, movement culture, and political conditions in shaping the influence of the groups. He also examines the challenging relationship between radicals and moderate groups within the environmental movement, and addresses how grassroots organizations were able to overcome constraints that had limited the advocacy of other environmental organizations.

Filled with inspiring stories of activists, groups, and campaigns that most readers will not have encountered before, *The Rebirth of Environmentalism* explores how grassroots biodiversity groups have had such a big impact despite their scant resources, and presents valuable lessons that can help the environmental movement as a whole—as well as other social movements—become more effective.

“The environmental movement is an ecosystem of its own, and Douglas Bevington does a fine job examining the understory that flourishes in the shade of the big green groups. This will be a useful text for those trying to

figure out how to build the global warming movement in the years ahead.”

—Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature*

[Speaking for Ourselves: Environmental Justice in Canada](#)

Julian Agyeman, Peter Cole, Randolph Haluza-DeLay, and Patricia O'Riley
University of British Columbia Press (2009)

Speaking for Ourselves

Environmental Justice in Canada



Edited by
Julian Agyeman | Peter Cole | Randolph Haluza-DeLay | Pat O'Riley

Environmental justice as a concept has evolved over the past two decades to offer new, challenging directions for social movements, public policy, and public planning. Researchers worldwide now position social equity as a building block for sustainability. Yet the relationship between social equity and the environmental aspects of sustainability has been little considered in Canada,

particularly in studies and discussions focused primarily on the environment.

Speaking for Ourselves draws together scholars and activists -- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, established and new -- who bring equity issues to the forefront by considering environmental justice in specifically Canadian cases and contexts and from a variety of perspectives, including those of First Nations and women. The contributors expand notions of justice and the concepts involved in environmental justice beyond their European origins and limits to demonstrate new ways of working toward environmental sustainability and social justice.

This innovative, engaging collection gives a voice to multiple perspectives on environmental justice and its construction in Canada. As the first major examination of the multidimensionality of environmental equity and injustice, it will appeal to scholars across a wide range of disciplines in the social and environmental sciences and to activists and citizens who want to make Canadian society more just and sustainable.

"Speaking for Ourselves is one of the most important books I have read in a long time. It has profoundly shaped my thinking about the scholarly and political work being done on environmental justice issues and about the world we live in and share with other beings ... This book will extend the fields of environmental justice studies and indigenous studies in new and productive ways."

--David Pellow, Professor and Martindale Chair of Sociology, University of Minnesota, author of *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements for Environmental Justice* and co-editor of *Power, Justice, and the Environment: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement*.

[Mountains and Climate Change - From Understanding to Action](#)

Thomas Kohler and Daniel Maselli (eds).
Geographica Bernensia (2009)

Contents:

- 1 Climate Change in Mountains
 - 2 Mountain Waters: Key Issues, and Case Studies from the European Alps, Andes, and Rocky Mountains
 - 3 Mountain Glaciers: Key Issues, and Case Studies from Peru, New Zealand, the European Alps, and the Hindu Kush-Himalaya
 - 4 Mountain Hazards: Key Issues, and Case Studies from Kyrgyzstan, Iceland, Switzerland, and Peru
 - 5 Mountain Biodiversity: Key Issues, and Case Studies from the Hindu Kush-Himalaya, and Mount Kilimanjaro
 - 6 Food Security in Mountains: Key Issues, and Case Studies from Peru, Nepal, India and Morocco
 - 7 Migration and Mountains: Key Issues, and Case Study from Central Asia
- Mountains and Climate Change: A Global Concern

Available for download in full at:

http://www.cde.unibe.ch/userfiles/Fullversion_low_Mountains_and_Climate_Change.pdf

[The International Handbook of Environmental Sociology](#) (2nd Edition)

Michael R. Redclift & Graham Woodgate (Eds.)
Elgar (Forthcoming - May 2010)

The second edition of *The International Handbook of Environmental Sociology* is a major interdisciplinary reference work consisting of 26 original essays. The authors are leading scholars, many of whom are intimately involved in national, regional or global environmental policy processes. Their essays mark changes and continuities in the field of environmental sociology, drawing attention to the theoretical debates and substantive concerns of today. As well as providing an assessment of the scope and content of environmental sociology, this Handbook sets out the intellectual and practical challenges posed by the urgent need for policy and action to address accelerating environmental change.

Contributors include: W.M. Adams, B. Ambrose-Oji, I. Bárcena Hinojal, T. Benton, R. Bryant, F.H. Buttel, C.N. Buzinde, J. Carmin, T. Dietz, R.E. Dunlap, A. Escobar, J.B. Foster, M. Goodman, N. Haenn, J. Hannigan, E. Hinton, M. Kousis, R. Lago Aurrekoetxea, S. Lockie, D. Manuel-Navarrete, A.P.J. Mol, R. Murphy, B.C. Parks, M.R. Redclift, J.T. Roberts, E.A. Rosa, W. Sachs, J.-G. Vaillancourt, G. Woodgate, S. Yearley

"The scope of the volume is vast and, overall, the Handbook amounts to an almost encyclopaedic reference text for scholars of environmental questions across the social sciences, be they in sociology, geography, political science or wherever."
– Neil Ward, *Environmental Politics*

"Each author writes with a distinctive style, yet the work flows well because the editors selected recognized scholars with outstanding credentials. Academic libraries, especially those serving a strong social science community, will find this work a worthwhile addition. Professors of sociology and environmental studies could use the essays for additional readings and reviews."
– Marjorie H. Jones, *American Reference Books*

[Human Footprints on the Global Environment: Threats to Sustainability](#)

Eugene A. Rosa, Andreas Diekmann, Thomas Dietz, and Carlo Jaeger (Eds)
MIT Press (2010 - available now)



The colossal human ecological footprint now threatens the sustainability of the entire planet. Scientists, policymakers, and other close observers know that any understanding of the causes of global environmental change is a function of understanding its human dimension—the range of human choices and actions that affect the environment. This book offers a state-of-

the-art assessment of research on the human dimensions of global environmental change, describing how global threats to sustainability have come about, providing an interpretive framework for understanding environmental change, reviewing recent work in the social and ecological sciences, and discussing which paths for future advances in our knowledge may prove most promising.

The chapters, by prominent North American and European authors, offer perspectives on population, consumption, land cover and use, institutional actions, and culture. They discuss such topics as risk, the new Structural Human Ecology approach to analyzing anthropogenic drivers of global environmental change, recent progress in understanding land use change, international environmental regimes, the concept of the commons, and the comparative vulnerability of societies around the world.

Human Footprints on the Global Environment has been issued in both hard and paperback.

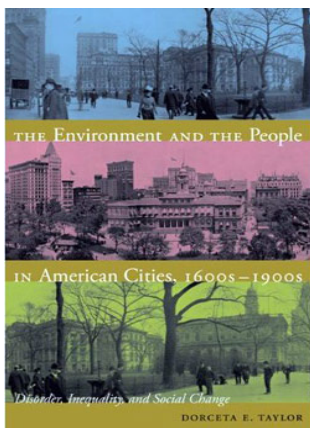
Contributors: Ulrich Beck, Thomas Dietz, Carlo C. Jaeger, Svein Jentoft, Jeanne X. Kasperson, Roger E. Kasperson, Bonnie J. McCay, Emilio F. Moran, Eugene A. Rosa, B. L. Turner II, Richard York, Oran R. Young

"This edited volume by Eugene Rosa and Thomas Dietz includes essays and analyses by the world's most distinguished scholars in the social sciences and global change. Anyone interested in the state-of-the-arts in the field should consult *Human Footprints on the Global Environment*. The plea for adaptive preparation that the editors advocate reconciles the fruitless debate about allocating priorities between mitigation and adaptation and provides an intelligent and insightful solution for climate change research as well as policy making."

—Ortwin Renn, Department of Technical and Environmental Sociology, University of Stuttgart

[The Environment and the People in American Cities, 1600s-1900s: Disorder, Inequality, and Social Change](#)

Dorceta E. Taylor
Duke University Press (2009)



In *The Environment and the People in American Cities*, Dorceta E. Taylor provides an in-depth examination of the development of urban environments, and urban environmentalism, in the United States. Taylor focuses on the evolution of the city, the emergence of elite reformers, the framing of environmental problems, and the perceptions of and responses to breakdowns

in social order, from the seventeenth century through the twentieth. She demonstrates how social inequalities repeatedly informed the adjudication of questions related to health, safety, and land access and use. While many

accounts of environmental history begin and end with wildlife and wilderness, Taylor shows that the city offers important clues to understanding the evolution of American environmental activism.

Taylor traces the progression of several major thrusts in urban environmental activism, including the alleviation of poverty; sanitary reform and public health; safe, affordable, and adequate housing; parks, playgrounds, and open space; occupational health and safety; consumer protection (food and product safety); and land use and urban planning. At the same time, she provides a historical analysis of the ways race, class, and gender shaped experiences and perceptions of the environment as well as environmental activism and the construction of environmental discourses. Illuminating connections between the social and environmental conflicts of the past and those of the present, Taylor describes the displacement of people of color in early America, the cozy relationship between middle-class environmentalists and the business community, and the continuous resistance against environmental inequalities on the part of ordinary residents from marginal communities.

"All future research on environmentalism and social change will reference *The Environment and the People in American Cities*. It is a pathbreaking, first-rate work of scholarship. As the first scholar to consider the relationship between social inequality and conservation issues within such an inclusive framework, Dorceta E. Taylor makes stunning links between the terrain of contemporary environmental and social justice conflicts and those of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries." – David Naguib Pellow, author of *Garbage Wars: The Struggle for Environmental Justice in Chicago*

Articles

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Member News

Collections of Sociology Books Available

Rabel Burdge is ending his professional career and desires to give (free of charge) his collection of books and journals on:

- *Environmental and Natural Resource Sociology*
Included is a complete set of *Society and Natural Resources* from Volume 1, No. 1 through Volume 22, 2009.

- *Social Impact Assessment*
Included are books and journals on Social Impact Assessment, public involvement and related social and environmental impact assessment topics.

Books will be donated to a department, library, educational, or not-for profit institution for the cost of shipment. For a list of relevant titles contact Rabel at burdge@comcast.net.

Lee Clarke

Lee Clarke gave a keynote address at the New York Federal Reserve Bank, in November. Clarke has also been asked by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs to present key findings from disaster research at DOD, this winter.

Gene Rosa

Gene Rosa, Washington State, gave the keynote address, "Shaping the Limits of Nature: Grand Risks as Leading Threats to Sustainability" at the 2nd German International Environmental Sociology Summit, Leipzig Germany.

Rachael Shwom

As of January 2009, Rachael Shwom has joined the Department of Human Ecology at Rutgers University, School of Environmental Biological Sciences. She is an Assistant Professor of Climate and Society.