

Environment, Technology and Society

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

Winter 2011

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In Memory: William Robert Freudenburg



William R. Freudenburg, Ph.D., died of bile duct cancer at his Santa Barbara, California home on December 28, 2010.

Bill was an extremely prolific environmental sociologist. During his career, which was cut short at 59, Bill's work had a lasting impact the study of natural resource dependent economies, rural communities, environmental risk perceptions, disaster response, disasters, as well as the society-environment relationship more broadly. Bill's work resonated with sociologists, scholars of environmental studies, as well as everyday people.

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**1st Section News Item:
2010 – A Great Year for ETS Section**

by Liam Downey
University of Colorado at Boulder

2010 was a great year for the Environment & Technology Section. As of December, we had 454 members, and I am hoping we can increase that to over 500 this year. The best way to ensure that this happens is for everyone who is currently a member to renew their membership, which would mean that we would only need 46 new members to reach 500. So please renew your ASA and ETS membership, and encourage your faculty and graduate student colleagues to do the same.

Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award

The **Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award** is given for publications of special noteworthiness in the field of environmental sociology. In alternate years, publications are considered in either book or article form. This year the committee will consider single articles of special noteworthiness in the field of environmental sociology published within the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010. All members of the Section are encouraged to submit nominations; self-nominations are welcome. By April 1, 2011 please send three copies of the works along with a nomination letter to Lori Hunter, Chair of the Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award committee: Lori.Hunter@colorado.edu.

Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award Competition

Encourage Grad Student Submissions for ASA Meeting Consideration as First Step to Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award Competition!

With the deadline for paper submission for the 2011 Annual Meeting looming, please keep in mind the section's Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper award. The award is given for a paper authored solely by a student or students *that is accepted for presentation at the ASA meeting*. So, the first step is to submit papers for meeting consideration!

A cash award, framed certificate and unending accolades will come to the winner. Seriously, mention of the paper award DOES draw valuable attention to one's CV when submitting job applications!

Contact Lori.Hunter@colorado.edu with questions!

**In Memory: William Robert Freudenburg
Continued from Page 1**

As environmental sociology grew as a sub-field of sociology, Bill was a leading force in expanding the subdiscipline, publishing rigorous sociological work in peer-reviewed journals that showed what we do and why it matters. His work was published in the top sociology journals in the United States, including the *American Sociological Review*, *The American Journal of Sociology*, and *Social Forces*.

I had the distinct pleasure of learning about environmental sociology from Bill. I was also blessed with the chance to experience how Bill created community as he practiced his craft. In the past few years, it has become clear to me how special and unique my experience and training was. One of my favorite of Bill's works was on the conjoint constitution between society and the environment (co-authored with Frickel and Gramling in 1995). The central component of this concept is the recognition that there is a "mutual contingency" between the physical and social worlds. In his own words in a 2002 article in *Society & Natural Resources*, Bill explained further: "What have commonly been taken to be 'physical facts' are likely in many cases to have been shaped strongly by social construction processes, while at the same time, even what appear to be 'strictly social' phenomena are likely to have been shaped in important if often overlooked ways by the fact that social actions often respond to stimuli and constraints from the biophysical world." (See "Navel warfare? The best of minds, the worst of minds, and the dangers of misplaced concreteness" in *Society & Natural Resources* 15:233)

Although I never realized it before, I think that the mutual contingency outlined in the conjoint constitution can also be applied to personal success and achievement. Some of it can be explained by raw talent and intellectual capacity. However, much of our success in the world is also shaped by the social interactions we have and the people who invest in these interactions. Bill Freudenburg was committed to such social interactions—whether over a beer or over a twenty-fifth draft of a paper. He had this amazing selfless capacity to give to others through his time and attention.

Bill was born in Madison, Nebraska on November 2, 1951, to Eldon Gilbert Freudenburg and Betty Davis Freudenburg. He grew up in West Point, Nebraska, and attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Following his

undergraduate studies, he attended Yale University where he earned his Ph.D. in Sociology. His thesis, on the “Boom and Bust” cycles associated with oil shale development, was based on a year living in Paonia, Colorado. He developed friendships there that he maintained for the rest of his life.

Bill embarked on his academic career in 1978 as an Assistant Professor at Washington State University. He taught there until 1986 when he moved to the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he served as Professor of Rural Sociology. There he studied natural resource development, including the human and environmental risks associated with it. He also expanded his interests in the environmental disasters occasionally associated with development and in the political forces surrounding those events.

During 1983-84, Bill served as a Congressional Fellow at the U.S. House of Representatives, and during 1984-95 he was a visiting professor at the University of Denver.

Bill married the love of his life, Sarah Stewart, in Denver on October 19, 1996. They were blessed with a son, Maxwell Stewart Freudenburg, who was born on August 3, 2000.

In 2002, the University of California Santa Barbara lured Bill away from Madison. He became the Dehlsen Endowed Chair in the Environmental Studies Program, where he was a core member of the Program, including teaching the introductory class to over 400 students each year. He received consistent accolades for his teaching, including being voted an “Outstanding Professor.” Bill continued to teach through the fall quarter of 2010. On November 6, 2010, he was honored for his extensive scholarly works by many colleagues, former and current students and friends from across the nation at Freudenfest, a day long symposium held at UCSB. Links to the Freudenfest, a lecture on the new book, and a tribute page can be found at: <http://es.ucsb.edu/>

In addition to publishing important papers on environment-society interactions, he published three books about oil exploration and production. The last, “Blowout in the Gulf”, was published in November, 2010. A little more than a month before his death, he presented a lecture on the risks of deep-water oil exploration that is available for viewing at <http://es.ucsb.edu/freudenburg>.

Bill was committed to professional service, including as President of the Rural Sociology Society and as President-Elect of the Association for Environmental

Studies and Sciences, an organization he helped found. He received numerous awards for his influential scholarship.

Bill was a wonderful family member, husband, father, and mentor. During my talk at the Freudenfest in Santa Barbara, I presented a list of how to be a great teacher/mentor, based on my experiences learning from him:

- 1) Be an active member of the community and help to connect people with similar interests.
- 2) Start your research with a theoretically driven research question; then test it in the real world.
- 3) To be a good interdisciplinarian means working with people from other disciplines and actively engaging with them and their work.
- 4) Teach by doing: listen without judging and be open to all perspectives.
- 5) Do not give up on good ideas and well done research—persevere and get it out!

I look forward to celebrating Bill’s contribution to environmental sociology with you all at the ASA this coming summer. Following Bill’s lead, the first round is on me!

(This piece includes excerpts from an obituary prepared by Bill’s brother, his wife, and the chair of his department at UCSB, along with comments I made during the Freudenfest in honor of his work in November 2011.)

- Dana R. Fisher
Department of Sociology
University of Maryland

In Memory of Bill...

A memorial service for Bill will be held on Saturday, January 22nd, 1:00 p.m. at the UCSB Faculty Club. All are invited.

UCSB’s Environmental Studies Program has established the Freudenburg Academic Development Fund to honor Bill Freudenburg (this was announced at November’s “Freudenfest”). In lieu of flowers, tax-deductible donations can be made by sending a check made out to “UCSB Foundation” and designated for the Freudenburg Fund to the Environmental Studies Program, UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-4160. Or consider making a donation to your favorite environmental charity.

A memorial website has also been created where you can leave short remembrances and/or longer statements of appreciation of Bill. His family enjoys reading these, so you should feel free to leave your thoughts. Also, you'll find many pictures of Bill there, including some from Freudenfest. Access it here: <http://www.forevermissed.com/billfreudenburg/#about>.

Book of Note: The Environment and the People in American Cities by Dorceta Taylor

by David N. Pellow

The Environment and the People in American Cities (Duke University Press 2009) is a rare work of extraordinary breadth and quality. While scholars like William Cronon, Martin Melosi, Joel Tarr, and Robert Gottlieb have given us first-rate urban environmental histories of U.S. cities, Dorceta Taylor's book offers the first truly multi-racial, multi-national, class-conscious and feminist environmental justice history of urban America. This book documents the experiences of working class, middle class, and elite groups, women, men, youth, Anglo, Dutch, French, German, Irish, Scottish, African American, Latino, Asian American, and Indigenous populations as they produced, confronted, or sought to avoid a host of environmental risks and threats. Taylor demonstrates that the U.S. environmental movement actually began in cities and towns, long before the environmental history begin and end outside of urban centers, Taylor centers her entire narrative on these sites. Moreover, refusing to restrict the volume to a consideration of what would become mainstream environmentalism, Taylor also reconsiders the origins of environmental justice politics in the U.S. Specifically, while a number of scholars have claimed that struggles for environmental justice go back much earlier in U.S. history than the usual starting point in the late 20th century, Taylor argues and demonstrates that such political and cultural dynamics were present at the nation's founding moment, and profoundly shaped what became the U.S.A. from the beginning.

This book examines seven major themes in urban environmental movements: (a) poverty reduction and improving people's quality of life, (b) sanitary reform and public health; (c) safe, affordable and adequate housing; (d) parks, playgrounds and open space; (e) occupational health and safety; (f) consumer protection in food and product safety, and (g) land use and urban planning. Taylor synthesizes multiple theoretical frameworks to tie these themes together,

drawing from environmental studies, race relations, organizational theory, and social movement theory.

Taylor's scholarship makes significant contributions to the study of recreation, particularly with her focus on the urban parks movements in the U.S. Her sections of the book on the founding and creation of Central Park, Boston Common, New Haven Green, Gramercy Park, and many other iconic green spaces in urban America produces a powerful understanding of how these locations function simultaneously as sites of public recreation and social control, popular reverence for nature, and environmental racism. The story of Central Park is particularly stark, as this monument of the urban parks movement was made possible by the displacement and expulsion of less politically powerful populations (including German and Irish residents and an entire African American community) and the subsequent exploitation of immigrant labor.

Another key contribution this book makes is to build on existing studies of environmental inequality (that tend to focus exclusively on environmental threats and harms facing historically marginalized communities) by documenting how such risks are inextricably related to the privileges that elite communities enjoy. Those privileged communities produce and maintain environmental benefits through the deployment of resources within political and corporate elite networks and institutions, facilitating zoning, planning, construction, and conservation policies that often protect wealthy, upper-class white communities, while other groups suffer industrial chemical exposure at home and on the job, cramped living conditions, and a lack of recreational venues and green space. This flipside of environmental racism and injustice is of critical importance because it forces scholars to consider the source of these social ills, rather than their most readily observable symptoms. Like some of the most invaluable and rare social science research on inequality, Taylor urges us to include both the ghetto and the gated community in our analyses. Far too often, social scientists exclude a consideration of elite populations in the production of poverty and inequality, an oversight that leaves our disciplines intellectually impoverished and methodologically lethargic.

In a critical departure from the work of nearly every scholar of environmental justice studies, Taylor insists on placing the workplace at the center of her analysis, focusing on how industrial pollution was linked to occupational safety and health as much as it impacted the health of neighborhoods and broader ecosystems. With case studies of the textiles, asbestos, and steel industries, she reveals that while many

environmentalists emerged from civil society and neighborhood concerns, others got their start and made their mark in the bowels of the steel mills, in the sweatshops of New York's garment district, and in other work sites where laborers confronted intense levels of pollution, low wages, sexual harassment, and other threats to health, safety, and dignity. The importance of a focus on the workplace cannot be overstated because this is a space where crucial but elusive labor-environmentalist alliances have taken hold and where new languages and discourses are invented that redefine what can be legitimately termed an "environmental" concern as well as who can be called an "environmentalist." It is also a site where human beings are often exposed to levels of industrial chemical hazards far greater than what people outside the workplace confront, and the law allows—even codifies—this disparate practice. While many environmental justice activists have always sought to expand the definition of "the environment" to include those spaces where people "live, work, learn, pray, and play," Dorceta Taylor is perhaps the only scholar I know of who has actually studied each of these sites (residential neighborhoods, workplaces, universities and schools, faith-based institutions, and recreational sites) and how they offer unique and intersecting paths to the theory and practice of environmental justice. She stands alone in this regard and has set the standard for all future scholarship on this topic.

Most importantly, Taylor reveals that, in the long run, social and environmental inequalities ultimately harm everyone: they are economically costly to society, ecologically devastating, and undermine democracy itself. Taylor finds that there are multiple feedback loops—boomerang effects—that society faces from supporting longstanding practices that produce to ecological unsustainability, political oligarchy, and steep social hierarchies.

David N. Pellow
dpellow@umn.edu

Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR SOCIETY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (ISSRM)

June 4-8, 2011

Madison, Wisconsin

Held at the University of Wisconsin Madison

Theme: "Integrating Conservation and Sustainable
Living."

By **February 15, 2011** submit abstracts on line for organizing sessions and posters or papers at <http://www.issrm2011madison.iasnr.org/>. There you will also find details on registration, accommodation and joining the International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR). Questions for the symposium organizers may be directed to ISSRM2011.Madison@gmail.com

CALL FOR PAPERS: RELIGION & CLIMATE CHANGE JOURNAL FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION, NATURE, & CULTURE (JSRNC)

Expressions of interest are requested by February 15, 2011; Papers July 2011.

Papers are requested for a special issue of the ***Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature & Culture*** (JSRNC) on "Religion and Climate Change" and a possible book. Anthropogenic climate change is among the most significant and far-reaching social issues of our time. Although climate scientists are near unanimous about potentially catastrophic consequences, mobilizing a meaningful response has proven to be a real challenge. Numerous statements on climate change by faith-based actors and institutionalized religious groups have occurred in recent years. However, far less research has been published about actually existing faith-shaped action by religious institutions, groups and individuals.

Papers that draw on case studies or other social scientific methodologies to examine the intersection of religion and climate change are sought for the special issue of the journal. Depending on the response, we may also pursue book publication. Papers may address the topic on scales ranging from global to local, and from any social science discipline, including but not limited to sociology, geography, history, cultural studies, native studies, anthropology, political science, and religious studies. The special issue also aims for geographical and religious diversity. See the detailed description at http://www.religionandnature.com/journal/pdf/climate_change_cfp.pdf

Interested scholars should send a 200-500 word prospectus for a paper contribution, along with a short biography up to 150 words (may include a website link if available) to the editors listed below. Please send expressions of interest by 15 February 2011. In paper proposals please describe the methodological approach you would expect to take and the

argument(s) likely to be advanced. Potential authors will be contacted by the end of February.

Randolph Haluza-DeLay,
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780-299-0866

Andrew Szasz
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Professor, Sociology
University of California-Santa Cruz

Robin Globus
rglobus@ufl.edu
Assistant Editor, *Journal for the Study of Religion,
Nature and Culture*
The University of Florida

The JSRNC is a quarterly, interdisciplinary, peer-refereed journal, which has been publishing since 2007. It is affiliated with the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, and published by Equinox, a high quality academic press based in London. The founding editor is [Bron Taylor](#). Further information about the journal, including guidelines for preparing manuscripts for submission, as well as samples of the diverse types of articles the JSRNC publishes, can be found at <http://www.religionandnature.com/journal>.

The Millennium Assessment of Human Behavior (MAHB)

What is the MAHB? The Millennium Assessment of Human Behavior (MAHB) is a bold initiative to encourage a fundamental transformation of global society and how humans everywhere think about environmental threats in order to act in sustainable ways. The serious assaults on the global environment and the deep threats to sustainability, due to individual and collective human actions, are now well established in the natural sciences. What is missing is a blueprint of how to bring about the necessary social changes. The MAHB seeks to fill this gap by linking scholarship with grassroots movements to coordinate efforts toward bringing what we know about human environmental behavior—from the cumulative knowledge of the social sciences and humanities—into actions to address global ecological degradation. The MAHB structure, evolving like an emergent property, will be a global network of independently operating but coordinated nodes. Each node will undertake activities consistent with MAHB

goals, but centered on their own interests and expertise. Some will focus on the further development of relevant social science and humanities topics. Others will emphasize capacity building: the expansion of researchers, teachers, practitioners, and monitoring systems. Still others will emphasize outreach by developing communication programs and engagement in behavioral change. Specific activities will be determined by each node.

Three nodes are now well established: at Stanford University, at the University of Oslo, and at the University of Lisbon Institute with a number of other affiliated academic and other institutions.

What's Next? The MAHB structure will emerge over time in phases, consisting of both planned and node-initiated activities. The first phase will emphasize two activities: (1) the establishment of a permanent secretariat and the reconstruction of the MAHB website; and (2) capacity building among future scholars and practitioners—graduate students, early career scholars, and action oriented players. The specific capacity building activity is a World Summit to be held in May 2011 in Oslo, Norway. The collection of scholars and practitioners will assemble before the formal Summit and hold workshops designed to generate new perspectives and innovations for addressing global environmental challenges.

What Can You Do Now? Numbers are power. Hence, you can soon add to our numbers (and to our power) by registering as a MAHB participant on the website, which is under development. The other first phase activity you can do is to stay abreast of developments in the 2011 Oslo Summit (via the webpage and listservs) and encourage or support graduate students, young colleagues, and action people whom you may know. We also expect to have an electronic hookup for those who cannot attend.

Future Engagements. While the MAHB develops its next phase of organizational development and Node activities, you could undertake activities directed toward the development of a mode around your own interests and specializations and among colleagues or other committed individuals. Candidate topics include but are hardly limited to: Social and Cultural Driving Forces, Environmental Justice, Civil Society and Social Movements, and Environmental Governance.

Eugene A. Rosa, Paul Ehrlich, Donald Kennedy, Ton Burns, Robert Horn, Stanford University and Robert Brulle, Drexel University

ChinaGreen: Summer Undergraduate Environmental Studies Course On Site in China



Please make the following information available to your undergraduate students as applicable:

This summer The Beijing Center, affiliated with Loyola University Chicago, will inaugurate ChinaGreen, the first undergrad environmental course in China that explores the current environmental challenges China faces.

Students will get a chance to travel deep in the heart of China for first-hand exploration. Students begin the course in Beijing, taking introductory classes and visiting environmental NGOs. Then, students will spend two weeks traveling in Northern and Southwestern China. Students will tour a coal mine in Taiyuan, visit the redevelopment of an earthquake-torn village in Sichuan, and explore regions of China visitors rarely see.

Dates: June 11 through July 9, 2011
Application deadline: March 18, 2011
Credits: 3

Full information, including curriculum, site visits, staff, tuition, and admissions procedures, visit the program website: <http://www.thebeijingcenter.org/chinagreen>

For questions please contact Christopher Tow,
c.tow@thebeijingcenter.org

Position Announcements

**State University of New York
Department of Environmental Studies
Assistant Professor, Environmental
Communication and/or Environmental Policy**

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) in Syracuse, NY, invites applications for two academic

year tenure-track positions as Assistant Professor in Environmental Communication and/or Environmental Policy.

Application Procedure: Application is online only (<http://www.esf.edu/hr/search/>). Applications should include a letter summarizing qualifications and research interests, curriculum vitae, a statement of teaching experience and philosophy, and contact information for three references. **The preferred application completion date was January 3, but the position remains open until filled.**

Contact Information: Dr. Theresa Selfa, Search Committee Chair, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, SUNY-ESF, 106 Marshall Hall Syracuse, NY 13210-2787, Tel: 315-470-6570, E-mail: tselfa@esf.edu

Job Description: The successful candidates will be expected to build strong extramurally funded research programs in environmental communication and/or policy. They will teach undergraduate and graduate course(s) in environmental communication and/or policy, and seminars within their areas of expertise. The typical teaching load is 2 courses per semester. These individuals are expected to collaborate with colleagues and students in other disciplines at the College and the broader academic community. At least one position will be filled by a candidate with expertise in one or more of the following *environmental communication* areas: public participation, collaboration and conflict resolution, environmental campaigns, new media, social marketing, science or risk communication, rhetoric and discourse, and environmental journalism, among others. We also welcome applicants with expertise in one or more of the following *environmental policy* areas: global and international environmental politics, environmental institutions and governance, climate change policy and implementation, urban regeneration, environmental justice, and land use change, among others.

Qualifications: A Ph.D. in Environmental Planning, Environmental Policy, Environmental Studies, Communication, Political Science, Geography, Sociology or a related discipline is required. Preference will be given to candidates with a record of excellence in research and teaching, commensurate with time since degree; strong theoretical grounding in one or more disciplines; post-doc or equivalent experience; interdisciplinary research experience; and ability to mentor graduate and undergraduate students.

SUNY-ESF is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

**Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Postdoctoral Fellow**

The Cogut Center for the Humanities, the Center for Environmental Studies, and the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine seek an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral fellow who studies ethical issues concerning the environment, especially those dealing with environmental justice, climate justice, environmental health, and both individual and community right-to-know about environmental risks and hazards. The Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow will teach two courses a year in the Center for Environmental Studies and the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine on topics dealing with environmental ethics, one which will stem from their own research, and one which covers a broader array of environmental ethics topics. The Fellow will also work with the Center for Environmental Studies and several Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Colloquium Committees to bring in speakers on environmental ethics, in order to expand that area both in the Center and throughout the university. The Fellow will have the opportunity to work with Center for Environmental Studies and Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine faculty who teach and/or have funded projects in environmental ethics, and will have collegueship and mentoring from faculty dealing with environmental ethics in other departments and centers as well. All fellows are affiliated with the Cogut Center for the Humanities where they participate in its activities as appropriate to their research. Fellows have the opportunity to interact with Brown faculty affiliated with the Center, to participate in fellows' seminars, lectures, and conferences and to participate in the planning of research groups and large-scale seminars on various topics in a stimulating intellectual environment in which to pursue research, develop new interdisciplinary connections, and network. The Fellow will receive a stipend of \$52,000 and \$54,080 in their first and second years respectively, plus a supplement for health and dental insurance, as well as a \$2,000 per year research budget.

Application Procedure: Candidates should send a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, and three letters of recommendation. The deadline for applying is January 15, 2011. Applications received by the deadline will receive full consideration, but the search will remain open until the position is closed or filled.

Contact Information: Patti_Caton@brown.edu or

Postdoctoral Fellow Search Committee
Center for Environmental Studies
Box 1943
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island 02912

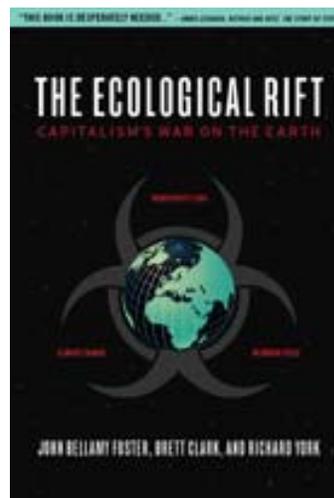
*Brown University is an EEO/AA employer.
Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.*

Publications

Books

The Ecological Rift: Capitalism's War on the Earth

John Bellamy Foster, Brett Clark, and Richard York
Monthly Review Press (2010).
<http://www.monthlyreview.org/books/ecologicalrift.php>



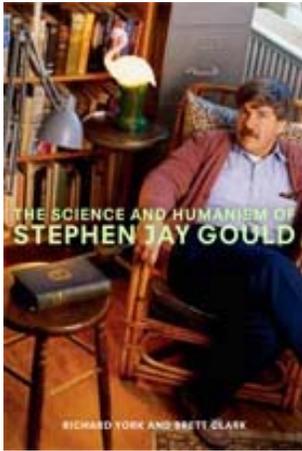
"This book is desperately needed, because it ends any illusion that we can solve our pressing environmental crises within the same system that created them. With tweaking the system—using incremental market-based strategies—off the table, we can put our efforts into genuine, lasting solutions." Annie Leonard, author and host, *The Story of Stuff*

"Marx's concept of 'metabolic rift' in the circulation of soil nutrients between countryside and town is generalized by Foster, Clark, and York to an insightful Marxist analysis of the current ecological rift between modern capitalism and the ecosystem. It is a scholarly, well-referenced, and important contribution." Herman E. Daly, Professor Emeritus, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, author, *Beyond Growth*

The Science and Humanism of Stephen Jay Gould

Richard York and Brett Clark
Monthly Review Press (2011)
<http://www.monthlyreview.org/books/stephenjaygould.php>

"This thoughtful and perceptive presentation of the remarkable work of Stephen Jay Gould is most



welcome. With skill and insight, the authors elucidate Gould's contributions to evolutionary theory and to the understanding of the interactions of science and human life in many dimensions, from the social factors that enter into serious scientific inquiry to the ways in which recognition of the meaninglessness of nature sets the conditions for a

humanistic concern for the achievements of creative intelligence and for how to live a decent life. Not least, they bring forth Gould's dedication to presenting to the general public the discoveries of biological science, and what it reveals about the wonders of nature, and his inspiring commitment to justice and freedom in his life and work." **Noam Chomsky**

"York and Clark present a sympathetic and expansive overview of Stephen Jay Gould's scientific and popular writings, emphasizing how his humanism penetrated every aspect of his work. They offer an insightful interpretation of Gould's scientific, historical, and philosophical endeavors, giving the reader a refreshing and unified view of his life's accomplishments."

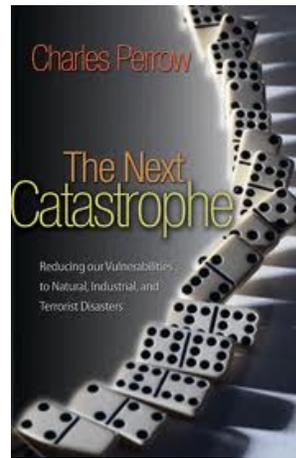
Elisabeth A. Lloyd,
Indiana University, Bloomington
author, *Science, Politics, and Evolution*

The Next Catastrophe – New Paperback Edition

Charles Perrow
 Princeton University Press (2011)
<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/8365.html>

Charles Perrow is famous worldwide for his ideas about normal accidents, the notion that multiple and unexpected failures--catastrophes waiting to happen--are built into our society's complex systems. In *The Next Catastrophe*, he offers crucial insights into how to make us safer, proposing a bold new way of thinking about disaster preparedness.

Perrow argues that rather than laying exclusive emphasis on protecting targets, we should reduce their size to minimize damage and diminish their attractiveness to terrorists. He focuses on three causes of disaster--natural, organizational, and



deliberate--and shows that our best hope lies in the deconcentration of high-risk populations, corporate power, and critical infrastructures such as electric energy, computer systems, and the chemical and food industries. Perrow reveals how the threat of catastrophe is on the rise, whether from terrorism, natural disasters, or industrial accidents. Along the way, he gives us the

first comprehensive history of FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security and examines why these agencies are so ill equipped to protect us.

The Next Catastrophe is a penetrating reassessment of the very real dangers we face today and what we must do to confront them. Written in a highly accessible style by a renowned systems-behavior expert, this book is essential reading for the twenty-first century. The events of September 11 and Hurricane Katrina--and the devastating human toll they wrought--were only the beginning. When the next big disaster comes, will we be ready? In a new preface to the paperback edition, Perrow examines the recent (and ongoing) catastrophes of the financial crisis, the BP oil spill, and global warming.

Articles

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Member News

Gene Rosa

Gene Rosa (Washington State and Stanford) has been appointed to the executive board of DIVERSITAS by the International Council of Scientific Society Unions (ICSU) that, in addition to ISCU, includes other other sponsoring organizations: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE).

William Freudenburg and Robert Gramling

Publisher's Weekly chose William Freudenburg and Robert Gramling's book, *Blowout in the Gulf* as their pick of the week in October 2010. To see the review of the book, please visit <http://lilolia.wordpress.com/2010/10/18/pws-pick-of-the-week-18-oct/>

Lori Peek

Former Teaching and Training Committee Chair Lori Peek has a new book out:

***Behind the Backlash:
Muslims Americans after 9/11***
Temple University Press (2010).

Behind the Backlash presents moving accounts of prejudice and exclusion experienced by American Muslims after 9/11. Peek also explains the struggles of young Muslim adults to solidify their community and define their identity during national crisis. Congratulations Lori!