

Environment, Technology and Society

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

WINTER 2012

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Section Website

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Encourage Graduate Student Submissions for ASA 2012

Submitted by Lori Hunter
University of Colorado at Boulder

Submission is First Step for Consideration for Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award Competition

With the deadline for paper submission for the 2012 Annual Meeting upon us (Jan 11), please keep in mind the section's Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper award. The award is given for a paper solo-authored by a student or students *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!

Email Lori Hunter at Lori.Hunter@colorado.edu with any questions

Membership Drive Update

by Brett Clark
North Carolina State University

Membership in the Environment & Technology section, according to the end of the year count, is 473 people—higher than last year. The current goal is to increase membership over 500 in 2012. To help meet this goal, all current members need to renew their memberships. Also, please encourage other faculty and graduate students to join our section.

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Call for Papers: Special Issue on Coal and the Environment Organization & Environment

Special Issue Editors:

Shannon Elizabeth Bell, University of Kentucky and
Richard York, University of Oregon

Deadline: April 1, 2012

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the burning of coal accounted for 41.3% of the global carbon dioxide emissions generated from the consumption of fossil fuels in 2006. This trend is not forecast to end anytime soon; between 2005 and 2035, world carbon dioxide emissions from coal are projected to increase by 68.1%. The coal industry – along with the capitalist world system that depends on the cheap energy it provides – holds a large share of the responsibility for rising global temperatures and the resulting harm that has come to many geographically-vulnerable nations. In addition to its contributions to hastening climate change, the coal industry also causes great ecological and social harm in its other industry activities. Throughout the entire lifecycle of this fossil fuel – including the mining, processing, washing, and burning of coal – workers and nearby communities are endangered by industry practices.

Given the coal industry's tremendous and rapidly-increasing impacts on global climate, fragile ecosystems, communities, and public health, it is critical that scholarly analyses of this industry be highlighted and prioritized in the social-scientific literature.

In this special issue on Coal and the Environment, we will bring together social science scholars studying coal throughout its lifecycle and across regions, with the hope of contributing to larger scientific and public debates about the future of this powerful industry.

We are soliciting article contributions of approximately 8,000 words, with a particular focus on the following priority areas:

- Examinations of the relationships between coal and other energy sources, with a focus on how tradeoffs between the costs and benefits of various energy sources are contested and negotiated.
- Critical assessments of “clean coal” technology, including carbon capture and storage.

- Theorizations of the global political economy of coal and the strategies and alliances that maintain the coal industry's global power.
- Examinations of social movements resisting coal extraction and/or coal power plants, particularly in vital but understudied areas, such as China.
- Analyses of the challenges and possibilities of transitioning away from coal as an energy source.
- Case studies of communities, states, or nations that have attempted (successfully or unsuccessfully) to transition away from coal as an energy source.
- Theorizations of the ways in which various axes of social inequality (such as race, class, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, or nationality) intersect with destructive coal industry practices and/or affect social movement outcomes.
- Analyses of the social, economic, political, and/or environmental impacts of mountaintop removal mining and other forms of coal extraction.

Please submit all contributions by April 1, 2012 at:
<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/oe>

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shannon.eliz.bell@uky.edu and Richard York
rfyork@uoregon.edu

Publications

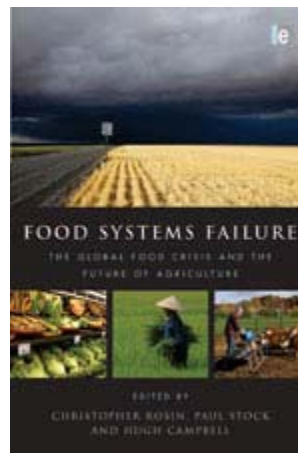
Books

Food Systems Failure: The Global Crisis and the Future of Agriculture.

Edited by Christopher Rosin, Paul Stock, and Hugh Campbell.

Earthscan (2011).

<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=102823&v=513668>



This book provides a critical assessment of the contemporary global food system in light of the heightening food crisis, as evidence of its failure to achieve food security for the world's population. A key aspect of this failure is identified in the neoliberal strategies which emphasise

industrial efficiencies, commodity production and free trade-ideologies that underlie agricultural and food policies in what are frequently referred to as "developed countries". The book examines both the contradictions in the global food system as well as the implications of existing ideologies of production associated with commodity industrial agriculture using evidence from relevant international case studies.

The book's first section presents the context of the food crisis with contributions from leading international academics and food policy activists, including climate scientists, ecologists and social scientists. These contributions identify current contradictions in policy and practice that impede solutions to the food crisis. Set within this context, the second section assesses current conditions in the global food system, including economic viability, sustainability and productivity. Case study analyses of regions exposed to neoliberal policy at the production end of the system provide insights into both current challenges to feeding the world, as well as alternative strategies for creating a more just and moral food system.



**Contested Illnesses:
Citizens, Science and
Health Social Movements**

Edited by Phil Brown,
Rachel Morello-Frosch,
Stephen Zavestoski, and the
Contested Illnesses
Research Group
University of California
Press (2012).
<http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520270213>

The politics and science of health and disease remain contested terrain among scientists, health practitioners, policy makers, industry, communities, and the public. Stakeholders in disputes about illnesses or conditions disagree over their fundamental causes as well as how they should be treated and prevented. This thought-provoking book crosses disciplinary boundaries by engaging with both public health policy and social science, asserting that science, activism, and policy are not separate issues and showing how the contribution of environmental factors in disease is often overlooked.

Articles

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<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/IB-Hamilton-Climate-Change-National-NH.pdf>

Knight, Kyle and Eugene A. Rosa. 2011. "Household Dynamics and Fuelwood Consumption in Developing Countries: A Cross-National Analysis." *Population and Environment*, online version 28 August.

Poland, Blake, Mark Dooris & Randolph Haluza-DeLay (2011). Securing 'Supportive Environments' for Health in the Face of Ecosystem Collapse: Meeting the Triple Threat with a Sociology of Creative Transformation and Cultural Change. Health Promotion International. 26 (sup 2), ii202-ii215.
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