

Environment, Technology and Society

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

WINTER 2014

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Pioneer Environmental Sociologist Dick Gale: A Remembrance

by Riley E. Dunlap
Oklahoma State University

Our field lost one of its founding figures, Richard P. (Dick) Gale, on September 27, 2013. Dick passed away on September 27, 2013 in Laguna Woods, CA, weeks after suffering a stroke, at age 75. Dick retired in 1997 as Professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon, whose faculty he joined 30 years earlier after graduate work at Michigan State University.

Dick was a central figure among the small number of sociologists pushing for greater disciplinary attention to environmental issues in the late Sixties and early Seventies. Such efforts eventually led to the establishment of our Section in 1976, and Dick was the inaugural Secretary and later served as Council Member of what was then the Section on Environmental Sociology. In those early years he was one of the Section stalwarts, providing both intellectual and organizational energy to the development of our field.

Dick was born in Chicago and raised in Portland, Oregon, where he developed a love of the outdoors. Following his BA at Reed College in 1960, Dick moved to Washington State University for his MA in 1962, and then to Michigan State, where he received his Ph.D. in 1968. His dissertation on Argentinean autoworkers was part of a multi-national study directed by his advisor, William Form.

Continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2	Section News
	The Metabolic Rift: A Selected Bibliography
1	Pioneer Environmental Sociologist Dick Gale: A Remembrance
6	Conferences, Calls for Papers, Grant Applications, and Program Advertisements
7	Publications
7	Books
9	Articles

The Metabolic Rift: A Selected Bibliography

by Ryan Wishart and R. Jamil Jonna

See also:

<http://monthlyreview.org/commentary/metabolic-rift>

This list below is in no way an exhaustive account of works utilizing the metabolic rift perspective. A recent search of scholarly publications using the exact phrase “metabolic rift” returned close to a thousand results.¹ In addition to the profusion of scholarship in this area, it is important to recognize that researchers most commonly use the theory of metabolic rift to investigate a wide range of environmental crises (or ecological rifts) emerging out of, and inexplicably connected to, capitalist commodity production. To Marx, however, the “full implications” capitalism’s ecological contradictions “could only be understood within the larger theory of nature-society metabolism” (Foster 2013: 8). The pioneering works listed below are laying much of the groundwork needed to develop such a comprehensive theory. In an attempt to track the emergence and development of these important efforts, we will be updating the online version of this bibliography continuously as new books and articles are published.

Books

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¹ Search of “metabolic rift” (with quotation marks) in Google Scholar, conducted January 3, 2014. All publications appeared after Foster’s (1999) seminal article in the *American Journal of Sociology*.

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Pioneer Environmental Sociologist Dick Gale: A Remembrance (continued from page 1)

by Riley E. Dunlap

The outdoors captured Dick's interest--both personally and professionally--early on, and this interest was strengthened by spending two summers on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) fire lookouts in Washington State during his grad school years. Besides stoking his love of nature, these summer experiences gave Dick a sense of the dilemmas the USFS faced when dealing with the conflicting demands of serving timber industry needs while also fulfilling its mandate of managing a national resource for the public interest and sparked his sociological imagination. While Dick was definitely a "conservationist" and then an

"environmentalist," he was also a talented sociologist who provided insightful analyses of a wide range of natural resource and environmental issues over the course of his career.

As soon as he joined the UO faculty Dick began to focus on such issues, both in his research and mentoring, giving the UO Sociology Department early visibility in environmental work. The first dissertation he chaired was Bill Devall's analysis of the Sierra Club, completed in 1970. Bill subsequently gained fame as a leading proponent of "deep ecology" during his long career at Humboldt State University. Dick also collaborated with another grad student, Joseph Harry (who subsequently published extensively on the sociology of homosexuality during his career at Wayne State University) and a social scientist with the USFS, on analyses of the "conservation movement" as it was transitioning into the modern environmental movement (Harry, Gale & Hendee 1969 and Hendee, Gale & Harry 1969).

I started grad school at UO the year Dick arrived, and after completing a thesis on student political activists in 1969 began talking with Dick about environmental issues--which were rapidly growing in societal salience. Our discussions led to a 1970 study of student "eco-activists" participating in the first Earth Day at UO (Dunlap & Gale 1972), and he later chaired my dissertation involving a comparison of Republican and Democratic legislators' environmental voting records in the Oregon Legislature (Dunlap & Gale 1974). Dick was far more knowledgeable about environmental matters than was I, and his mentoring played a crucial role in my decision to focus on environmental issues and specialize in what would soon become the field of "environmental sociology." I will always be grateful for his encouragement to tie my career to what others cautioned might be a fleeting "bandwagon" issue.

Dick's early work focused heavily on the emergence and evolution of the environmental movement (besides the above references see Faich & Gale 1971 and Gale 1972), and he continued to publish perceptive analyses of environmentalism into the 1980s (e.g., Gale 1983; 1986). However, his early interest in natural resource agencies began to manifest itself in a number of ways. First, in the Seventies Dick became a pioneer in social impact assessment by developing a series of SIA manuals and handbooks for the USFS (e.g., Gale 1975; 1981), and continued work on SIA throughout his career (Gale 1984). Then, in the Eighties he began publishing sociologically astute analyses of agencies managing forest and fisheries resources (e.g., Gale &

Miller 1985; Miller & Gale 1986; Miller, Gale & Brown 1987). By the Nineties Dick was focusing on resource-dependent communities (e.g., Gale 1991) and the sustainability of natural resources (e.g., Gale & Cordray 1994).

Early on Dick developed an appreciation for the importance of inter- and multi-disciplinary research on environmental issues, and the utility of “applied” research. He often collaborated with non-sociologists and worked with agency personnel, and increasingly published in journals such as *Fisheries* (e.g., Gale 1987) and the *Journal of Forestry* (e.g., Gale 1992). While such work pulled him away from a focus on environmental sociology per se and participation in our Section, it had many benefits for Dick and others.

Dick’s ability to work effectively with non-sociologists—including fellow academics, agency representatives, and various stakeholders—enabled him to bring a sociological perspective to a range of venues and policy debates. His commitment to understanding how natural resource agencies operate, especially in dealing with competing stakeholders like environmentalists and industry interests, and his desire to put sociological knowledge to use led to short-term appointments with both the USFS and the National Marine Fisheries Service. His interdisciplinary orientation led to a long-term position as Affiliate Professor of Marine Affairs with the University of Washington, as well as short-term appointments in the UW Institute for Marine Affairs and its College of Forest Resources. Few environmental sociologists have contributed to such a wide range of fields and professional settings as did Dick.

Besides producing a strong body of scholarly and applied work, Dick was the driving force in establishing UO’s thriving interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Program. It began as an undergraduate minor, but now offers majors at the undergraduate, Master’s and PhD levels, and Dick is widely acknowledged as the principal architect of the program’s founding, expansion and continued success. He also played an important role in helping set up collaborative (course-sharing) programs in Environmental Science at Oregon State University and in Environmental Science and Management at Portland State University.

Of course, Dick also planted the seed that has blossomed into the UO Department of Sociology’s current world-class program in environmental sociology, another highly significant legacy. He overlapped with John Bellamy Foster, and was delighted to see the program develop with the addition

of Richard York, Michael Dreiling, James Elliott and Kari Norgaard after he retired.

Dick’s hallmark was a firm belief in the importance of inter- and multi-disciplinary environmental education and research. The strong programs he worked so hard to create and nurture continue to grow and prosper, and constitute a wonderful legacy.

Dick was also a dedicated instructor and mentor, working tirelessly as an advisor for UO students in both Sociology and Environmental Studies, while also supervising the Sociology internship program for several years. He loved working with students, providing patient and tireless advice to both undergrad and grad students.

Dick was a “giver,” consistently helping others. He was also a “doer,” as indicated by his commitment to applied research and program building. Both orientations were reflected in his retirement—first in the coastal town of Florence, OR and then in Laguna Woods, CA. He served on the Florence Chamber of Commerce and as an ombudsman for a local nursing home, and helped initiate the annual Fall Festival celebration and obtain funding for the Events Center. After relocating to Laguna Woods in 2001 he tutored and mentored college students and joined with other retirees in organizing to pursue their musical and literary interests.

While I was disappointed when Dick left academia early, before turning 60, in retrospect I am pleased that he ended up having a good number of years to enjoy retired life—pursuing his loves of music, reading, cooking and traveling—to the fullest.

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Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

Lexington Studies in Environmental Sociology

A Series Edited by Dorceta Taylor,
The University of Michigan

Books in the ***Environmental Sociology*** series will explore the social and political dimensions of the environment around the globe. We invite the submission of manuscripts in the general field of environmental sociology. This includes but is not limited to manuscripts that draw on themes from the disciplines such as sociology; environmental justice; cultural, ecological, and medical anthropology; environmental policy; political science; urban studies; environmental history; agriculture; foods security; sustainability; climate change; technology; and development.

We are looking for manuscripts that are grounded in sociological, anthropological, political, or environmental theories and employ rigorous methodological techniques. This is an international book series that can include case studies or regional or national studies. Manuscripts that explore connections across disciplinary boundaries or that examine new theoretical or methodological techniques are welcome.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please contact Dorceta Taylor: dorceta@umich.edu

Summer Training Seminar

May 19-23, 2014
Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN

David Hess at Vanderbilt University will be hosting a one-week summer training seminar for PhD students who wish to deepen their knowledge about environmental sociology and environmental work in science and technology studies. The seminar is part of a research training grant that he has received funding from the Science, Technology, and Society Program of the National Science Foundation. The training seminar will take place at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, during the week of May 19 through 23. The grant will cover the cost of transportation, hotel, and meals. To be eligible, students must be in a PhD program in good standing in an American university, and they should have a demonstrable interest in environmental studies. They do not have to be in a PhD program in sociology or

STS. Topics covered will include basic theoretical frameworks in environmental sociology and environmental STS, including work on social movements, public participation, technological transitions, and the science-public interface. Please submit a 1-2 page letter describing your dissertation research, general interest in the environmental social sciences, stage of graduate education (year, exams completed if any, relevant coursework, dissertation research completed if any, other relevant research). Include the emails and phone numbers of two references who may be contacted. Applications are due Feb. 1 to david.j.hess@vanderbilt.edu. Decisions will be made by March 15 if not earlier. Nashville is known as “music city” and has one of the most active music and art scenes in the country.

explore the challenges, contradictions and consequences of social–ecological change, along with the uncertainties and governance dilemmas they create. The contributions are based around the themes of:

- Climate change, energy, and adaptation
- Urban environmental change and governance
- Risk, uncertainty and social learning
- (Re)assembling social-ecological systems

With case studies from sectors across both developed and developing worlds, the Handbook illustrates the inter-connectedness of ecosystem health, natural resource condition, livelihood security, social justice and development. It will be of interest for students and scholars across the social sciences and natural sciences, as well as to those interested and engaged in environmental policy at all levels.

Publications

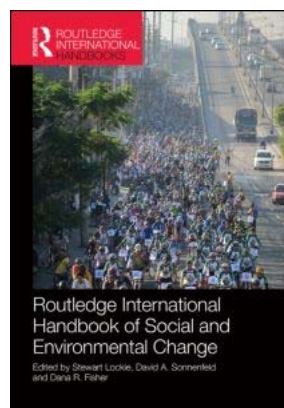
Books

The Routledge International Handbook of Social and Environmental Change.

Stewart Lockie, David A. Sonnenfeld, and Dana R. Fisher.

Routledge Press (2013).

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415782791/>



Today, the risks associated with global environmental change and the dangers of extreme climatic and geological events remind us of humanity’s dependence on favorable environmental conditions. Our relationships with the landscapes and ecologies that we are a part of, the plants and animals that we share them with, and the natural resources that we

extract, lie at the heart of contemporary social and political debates. It is no longer possible to understand key social scientific concerns without at the same time also understanding contemporary patterns of ecosystem change.

The Routledge International Handbook of Social and Environmental Change reviews the major ways in which social scientists are conceptualizing more integrated perspectives on society and nature, from the global to local levels. The chapters in this volume, by international experts from a variety of disciplines,

Our Roots Run Deep as Ironweed: Appalachian Women and the Fight for Environmental Justice

Shannon Elizabeth Bell.

University of Illinois Press (2013).

<http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/55gxp5kh9780252037955.html>



Motivated by a deeply rooted sense of place and community, Appalachian women have long fought against the damaging effects of industrialization. In this collection of interviews, sociologist Shannon Elizabeth Bell presents the voices of twelve Central Appalachian women, environmental justice activists fighting against mountaintop removal mining and its

devastating effects on public health, regional ecology, and community well-being.

Each woman narrates her own personal story of injustice and tells how that experience led her to activism. The interviews--a number of them illustrated by the women's "photostories"--describe obstacles, lawsuits, and tragedies. But they also tell of new communities and personal transformations catalyzed through activism. Bell supplements each narrative with careful notes that aid the reader while amplifying the power and flow of the activists' stories. Bell's analysis outlines the interconnectedness of Appalachian women's activism and their roles as

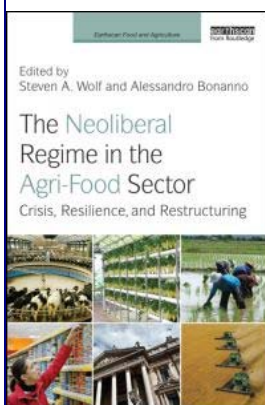
wives and mothers. Ultimately, Bell argues that these women draw upon a broader "protector identity" that both encompasses and extends the identity of motherhood that has often been associated with grassroots women's activism. As protectors, these women challenge dominant Appalachian gender expectations and guard, not only their families, but also their homeplaces, their communities, their heritage, and the endangered mountains that surround them.

The Neoliberal Regime in the Agri-Food Sector: Crisis, Resilience and Restructuring.

Steven Wolf and Alessandro Bonanno.

Oxon: Routledge (2014).

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415817899/>



For the last three decades, the Neoliberal regime, emphasizing economic growth through deregulation, market integration, expansion of the private sector, and contraction of the welfare state has shaped production and consumption processes in agriculture and food. These institutional arrangements emerged from and advanced academic and popular beliefs

about the virtues of private, market-based coordination relative to public, state-based problem solving. This book presents an informed, constructive dialogue around the thesis that the Neoliberal mode of governance has reached some institutional and material limits. Is Neoliberalism exhausted? How should we understand crisis applied to Neoliberalism? What are the opportunities and risks linked to the construction of alternatives? The book advances a critical evaluation of the evidence supporting claims of rupture of, or incursions into, the Neoliberal model. It also analyzes pragmatic responses to these critiques including policy initiatives, social mobilization and experimentation at various scales and points of entry. The book surveys and synthesizes a range of sociological frames designed to grapple with the concepts of regimes, systemic crisis and transitions. Contributions include historical analysis, comparative analysis and case studies of food and agriculture from around the globe. These highlight particular aspects of crisis and responses, including the potential for continued resilience, a neo-productivist return, as well as the emergence and scaling up of alternative models. Contributors: Alessandro Bonanno, Lawrence

Busch, Morgan Buck, André Magnan, Jill Lindsey Harrison, Rebecca L. Som Castellano, Haruhiko Iba, Kiyohiko Sakamoto, Devparna Roy, Karine Peschard, Steven A. Wolf, Anouk Patel-Campillo, Gerardo Otero, Madeleine Fairbairn, Geoffrey Lawrence, and Hugh Campbell.

The Risk Society Revisited: Social Theory and Governance.

Eugene A. Rosa, Ortwin Renn, and Aaron M. McCright

Temple University Press (2014).

http://www.temple.edu/tempress/titles/2092_req.html



Risk is a part of life. How we handle uncertainty and deal with potential threats influence decision making throughout our lives. In *The Risk Society Revisited*, Eugene A. Rosa, Ortwin Renn, and Aaron M. McCright offer the first book to present an integrated theory of risk and governance.

The authors examine our sociological understanding of risk and how we reconcile modern human conditions with our handling of risk in our quest for improved quality of life. They build a new framework for understanding risk—one that provides an innovative connection between social theory and the governance of technological and environmental risks, and the sociopolitical challenges they pose for a sustainable future.

Showing how our consciousness affects risk in the decisions we make—as individuals and as members of a democratic society—*The Risk Society Revisited* makes an important contribution to the literature of risk research.

Foundational Works on Corporate Environmentalism and the Greening of Organizations (Volume 1).

Effects of Governmental Programs and Initiatives on Corporate Environmentalism and the Greening of Organizations (Volume 2).

The New Corporate Environmentalism & Voluntary Environmental Initiatives, Part I. (Volume 3).

The New Corporate Environmentalism & Voluntary Environmental Initiatives, Part II. (Volume 4).

Greening Organizations and Organizational Effectiveness (Volume 5).

Critical Perspectives on Corporate Environmentalism and the Greening of Organizations (Volume 6).

J.M . Jermier (ed).
Sage Publications (2013).
<http://www.uk.sagepub.com/books/Book235671?productType=Books&subject=F00&sortBy=defaultPubDate+desc&pager.offset=20&fs=1>



As awareness of global environmental problems spreads, the natural environment has become an area of high strategic significance for organizational managers and other policy makers.

Since scholars turned their attention to the natural environment in the early 1990s, research on corporate

environmentalism and organizational greening has become a vibrant field. This major work shows both the variety of rigorous methods being employed in this area as well as the limitations in current research and the need to develop more innovative methods.

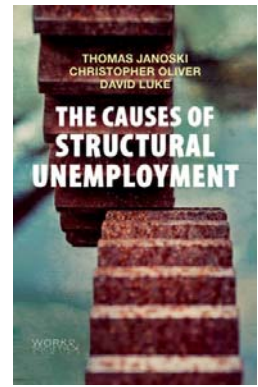
Providing a general framework for thinking about corporate environmentalism and the greening of organizations, this collection serves as a foundational resource for those interested in developing new theories, including researchers and students, as well as environmental policy experts in business and government around the world.

The Causes of Structural Unemployment.

Thomas Janoski, Christopher Oliver, and David Luke. Polity Press (2014).
<https://www.polity.co.uk/book.asp?ref=9780745670270>

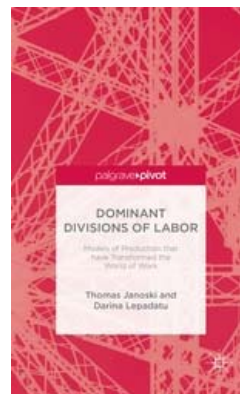
There is a specter haunting advanced industrial countries: structural unemployment. Recent years have seen growing concern over declining jobs, and though corporate profits have picked up after the Great Recession of 2008, jobs have not. It is possible that “jobless recoveries” could become a permanent feature of Western economies. This illuminating book focuses on the employment futures of advanced industrial countries, providing readers with the sociological imagination to appreciate the bigger

picture of where workers fit in the new international division of labor. The authors piece together a puzzle that reveals deep structural forces underlying unemployment: skills mismatches caused by a shift from manufacturing to service jobs; increased offshoring in search of lower wages; the rise of advanced communication and automated technologies; and the growing financialization of the global economy that aggravates all of these factors. Weaving together varied literatures and data, the authors also consider what actions and policy initiatives societies might take to alleviate these threats. Addressing a problem that should be front and center for political economists and policymakers, this book will be illuminating reading for students of the sociology of work, labor studies, inequality, and economic sociology.



Dominant Divisions of Labor.

Thomas Janoski and Darina Lepadatu. Palgrave-Macmillan Pivot Series (2013).
<http://www.palgrave.com/Products/title.aspx?pid=703874>



The past century of production was dominated by Fordism and Taylorism, but how do we make sense of global production today? This book takes a panoramic view of the new theories of production: post-Fordism, flexible accumulation, McDonaldization, Waltonism, Nikeification, Gatesism and Siliconism, shareholder value, and lean production with

Toyotism. The authors argue that lean production in a somewhat expanded version presents three variations: Toyotism (the full model), Nikeification (off-shored plants lacking teamwork) and Waltonism (the merchandising form that presses for off-shoring). While all three share strong elements of “just in time” inventory through supply chain management, they differ in how teamwork and long-term philosophies are valued. This critical review of dominant established theories shows how the contemporary division of labor is structured. The authors also preview the newly emerging “additive” or 3-D production process.

Ecovillages: Lessons for Sustainable Community.

Karen T. Litfin.

Polity Press (2014).

<http://www.polity.co.uk/book.asp?ref=9780745679495>

<http://ecovillagebook.org/>



In a world of dwindling natural resources and mounting environmental crisis, who is devising ways of living that will work for the long haul? And how can we, as individuals, make a difference? To answer these fundamental questions, Professor Karen Litfin embarked upon a journey to many of the world's ecovillages and intentional

communities at the cutting-edge of sustainable living. From rural to urban, high tech to low tech, spiritual to secular, she discovered an under-the-radar global movement making positive and radical changes from the ground up.

In this inspiring and insightful book, Karen Litfin shares her unique experience of these experiments in sustainable living through four broad windows - ecology, economics, community, and consciousness - or E2C2. Whether we live in an ecovillage or a city, she contends, we must incorporate these four key elements if we wish to harmonize our lives with our home planet.

Not only is another world possible, it is already being born in small pockets the world over. These micro-societies, however, are small and time is short. Fortunately - as Litfin persuasively argues - their successes can be applied to existing social structures, from the local to the global scale, providing sustainable ways of living for generations to come.

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