

Environment, Technology and Society

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

Winter 2016

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Exposing the Climate Change Denial Movement

by Bob Brulle and Riley Dunlap

This fall, as the world prepared for COP21, journalists, public officials, and sociologists belonging to this Section provided badly needed insight into the climate change denial movement and its smoke-and-mirrors tactics.

In particular, Justin Farrell published two blockbuster studies (listed below and also in the publications section of this newsletter) with a level of methodological scope and rigor that greatly advances prior work on the organization of the denial community, its funding and its political impact. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse made excellent use of Farrell's work in a recent speech to the U.S. Senate as part of his campaign to initiate a RICO investigation of Exxon Mobil. Prior to his discussion of Farrell's studies, Senator Whitehouse had already given overviews of other sociological work on organized denial in Senate speeches--e.g., summarizing a study of funding sources for the denial movement and another linking denial books to conservative think tanks (references below).

If you are dismayed by how many prominent U.S. politicians publicly deny climate change, you should watch Whitehouse's latest talk covering Farrell's work (link provided below). We are hopeful that Senator Whitehouse's campaign for a RICO investigation (already picked up by the New York State Attorney General) will prove successful.

References provided on the following page

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Tracking the Denial Movement (continued)

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Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

Call for Papers

"Emerging Trends in Aquaculture Value Chains" special issue in *Aquaculture* (Elsevier)

The role and function of value chains in governing the structure of the global aquaculture sector and trade in aquaculture products is receiving increased attention. As such, value chains are not only seen as a structural set of economic relations that generate and distribute value between firms. They are also seen as a set of social relations that structure flows of information and regulation around issues such as sustainability, as well as shaping and distributing development opportunities for producers in both export and domestic contexts.

Although increasing attention has been directed to aquaculture value chains, the literature is highly dispersed; covering a wide range of issues related to the broad political economy of specific sub-sectors, most notably shrimp and salmon. A subset of these papers has focused on new sustainability governance

arrangements such as eco and organic certification. Although these issues remain highly salient under the ongoing of globalisation of the aquaculture industry, a range of new questions are emerging. These cover areas including, but are not limited to, the contribution of aquaculture to economic development, and the emergence of social concerns related to labour in the industry, alternative forms of private-led environmental reform. The transformation of value chains serving Southern domestic markets as part of wider food system transformation, occurring in response to opportunities presented by urbanization and rising incomes, also demands closer attention.

This special issue will be a landmark publication, providing an overview of existing research on aquaculture value chains, as well as setting an agenda for future directions. Papers included in the issue will contribute to an understanding of how the social relations that structure value chain governance result in trade-offs between economic development, environmental reform and social equity in the aquaculture industry. How are value chains structured? What goals are set for value chain governance? What firm and non-firm actors are involved in the design and implementation of value chain governance arrangements? What are the impacts of these arrangements on development, consumers and the environment?

We are inviting submissions that will speak to four coherent themes of the special issue. The first theme presents a set of papers that will provide an overview to value chain research in aquaculture. The second theme then presents analysis on regulation and the global dimension of aquaculture value chain governance. The third theme will present a set of papers presenting cases related to sustainability governance through value chains. Finally, theme four will present cases related to social and economic development issues, particularly in the Global South.

Time schedule for submission:

Deadline first submission by 30th April 2016
Completion first review round by 30th June 2016
Deadline revised manuscripts, 30th September 2016
Completion of the review and revision process, 30th November 2016
Note: accepted papers will be available online ahead of publication of the special issue.

How to submit:

To submit a paper please see instructions at <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/aquaculture/>

Call for Papers
**"The Environmental Dimensions
of Fertility Decision-Making"**
special issue of *Population and Environment*

For this special issue, we seek a range of empirical papers that examine the reciprocal elements of this association including the potential influences of environmental context on fertility decision-making and the implications of fertility decision-making for local environmental context. We are primarily interested in research examining these processes at the household- or local scales. Papers should be theoretically sophisticated and methodologically rigorous and may include considerations of gender, social inequalities, environmental security, food security, among other social and environmental processes.

More generally, the research should improve broader understanding and theory regarding the association between population and environment. We encourage contributions based on quantitative as well as qualitative data, as well as those that focus on policy dimensions.

Population and Environment publishes research articles (both full-length and research briefs), commentary and reviews related to the reciprocal links between population, natural resources, and the natural environment, with the purpose of deepening scientific and policy dialogue in this often complex area. The coverage is multidisciplinary, spanning a range of social, policy, life, and natural sciences.

Submission Deadline: May 30, 2016.

Please submit questions prior to this deadline to Lori Hunter, Editor-in-Chief (Lori.Hunter@colorado.edu). Submitted manuscripts should be formatted in accordance with *Population and Environment* guidelines available in the journal or at www.springer.com.

Publications

Books

Standing in the Need: Culture, Comfort, and Coming Home After Katrina

Katherine E. Browne

University of Texas Press (2015)

<http://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/browne-standing-in-the-need>

Standing in the Need presents an intimate account of an African American family's ordeal after Hurricane

Katrina. Before the storm struck, this family of one hundred fifty members lived in the bayou communities of St. Bernard Parish just outside New Orleans. Rooted there like the wild red iris of the coastal wetlands, the family had gathered for generations to cook and share homemade seafood meals, savor conversation, and refresh their interconnected lives.

In this lively narrative, Katherine Browne weaves together voices and experiences from eight years of post-Katrina research. Her story documents the heartbreaking struggles to remake life after everyone in the family faced ruin. Cast against a recovery landscape managed by outsiders, the efforts of family members to help themselves could get no traction; outsiders undermined any sense of control over the process. In the end, the insights of the story offer hope. Written for a broad audience and supported by an array of photographs and graphics, *Standing in the Need* offers readers an inside view of life at its most vulnerable.

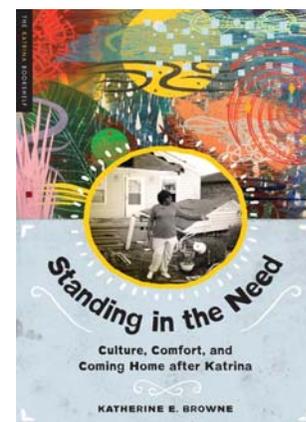
"I am moved by the honesty and compassion of Browne's enthralling narrative and the ways she captures both the cherished bonds of family and the world of the dispossessed. A stunning ethnography."
— Carol Stack, author of *All Our Kin* and *Call to Home*. Professor Emerita, University of California, Berkeley

"Browne's book offers completely new and highly relevant insights into disaster response. No other study in the field bears such focus and intensity. With uncommon discernment Browne shows how culture, history, language, customs, rituals, and especially kinship, so often ignored, are key factors in recovery... Browne imparts to us all what we have so blithely neglected."

— Dr. Susanna Hoffman, disaster anthropologist and director, Hoffman Consulting

"*Standing in the Need* delivers an epic story about disaster and the haunting problems imposed by our 'recovery culture.' As we encounter extreme weather we have never seen before, this is a book we must read in our book groups, university courses, city halls, and centers of bureaucracy. It should be the entrance exam for employment at FEMA. It will certainly be required reading in all of my courses."

— Mindy Fullilove, Professor of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University



A Community Guide to Social Impact Assessment (4th Edition)

Rabel J. Burdge

Social Ecology Press (2015)

https://securereg.mauconsulting.ca/iasnr/index.php?L1=left_home.php&L2=body_bookorder.php

This Guide is a tool for practitioners at all levels social scientists, agency employees, community leaders, volunteers to complete social impact assessments (SIAs) efficiently and effectively. The Guide is a how-to manual that provides the users with a step-by-step process easily followed by persons with minimal social science training. The Guide is organized into three sections: Chapters 1-6 provides the background, a short history, the conceptual model, the SIA scoping process and an explanation as to how to obtain data to measure SIA variables. Chapters 7-11 correspond to the five categories of SIA variables--population change, community and institutional arrangements, communities in transition, individual and family impacts and community infrastructure needs. Chapter 12 provides a worksheet to consolidate and rank the most significant social impacts. Chapter 13 outlines a Community Level Approach to Mitigation, Monitoring and a Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) for submission to a licensing agency. Chapter 14 Impacts and Benefits Agreements provides legal direction for the impacted communities facing significant biophysical and social impacts.

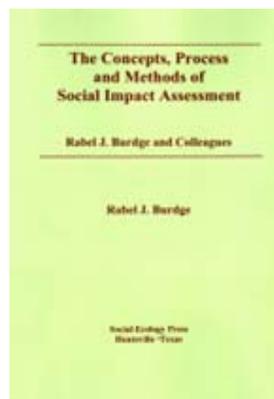


The Concepts, Process and Methods of Social Impact Assessment

Rabel J. Burdge and Colleagues

Social Ecology Press (2015 reprinted)

https://securereg.mauconsulting.ca/iasnr/index.php?L1=left_home.php&L2=body_bookorder.php



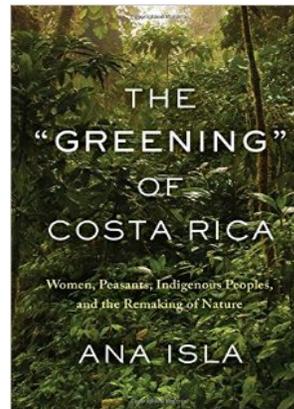
This book provides the conceptual & theoretical development of SIA by one of the founders and his colleagues of this applied social science field. 24 chapters treating process, method, public involvement, case studies, the international dimension, and other important aspects of contemporary SIA.

The "Greening" of Costa Rica: Women, Peasants, Indigenous People, and the Remaking of Nature

Ana Isla

University of Toronto Press (2015)

www.utppublishing.com/The-Greening-of-Costa-Rica-Women-Peasants-Indigenous-Peoples-and-the-Remaking-of-Nature.html



Since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the concept of sustainable development has become the basis for a vast number of "green industries" from eco-tourism to carbon sequestration. In *The "Greening" of Costa Rica*, Ana Isla exposes the results of the economist's rejection of physical limits to growth, the biologist's fetish with

such limits, and the indebtedness of peripheral countries.

Isla's case study is the 250,000 hectare Arenal-Tilaran Conservation Area, created in the late 1990s as the result of Canada-Costa Rica debt-for-nature swaps. Rather than reducing poverty and creating equality, development in and around the conservation area has dispossessed and disenfranchised subsistence farmers, expropriating their land, water, knowledge, and labour.

Drawing on a decade of fieldwork in these communities, Isla exposes the duplicity of a neoliberal model in which the environment is converted into commercial assets such as carbon credits, intellectual property, cash crops, open-pit mining, and eco-tourism, few of whose benefits flow to the local population.

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Member News

Riley Dunlap

Riley Dunlap gave the keynote address at the 5th International Symposium on Environmental Sociology in East Asia in Sendai, which took place last October 20-31. He also spoke at the memorial service for the late Harutoshi Funabashi, one of the founders of Japanese environmental sociology. Dr. Funabashi passed away last year at the young age of 66.

Michael Mascarenhas

In December Michael Mascarenhas was interviewed about his recently completed book project on humanitarianism. The interview can be found here: <http://framing.indiana.edu/2015/12/08/humanitarianism-crisis-charity-michael-mascarenhas/>.

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