



ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY NEWS

Newsletter of the American Sociological Association’s
Section on Environmental Sociology

Winter 2024

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PUBLICATION COMMITTEE CHAIR’S MESSAGE

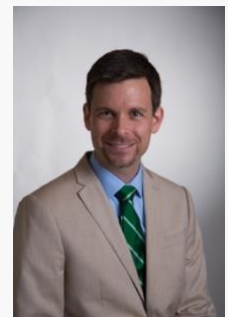
Greetings to the membership of the ASA Section on Environmental Sociology! Welcome to the Winter 2024 issue of the section newsletter.

As always, the newsletter provides information about section members’ professional accomplishments, including publications, activities in public sociology and community engagement, and career transitions. The newsletter also includes information about five exciting professional opportunities, including calls for abstract submissions to conferences, a special issue of *Valuation Studies*, and an edited volume addressing queer climate justice.

Finally, you will find information about submitting a paper or extended abstract to this August’s ASA meeting in Montreal at the end of the newsletter. The Section on Environmental Sociology will organize three exciting panels and a roundtable session at the meeting, and there are also many opportunities to participate in regular sessions and sessions sponsored by other sections.

All best wishes for a productive start to 2024!

Michael Haedicke
Publications Committee Chair
University of Maine



PUBLICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

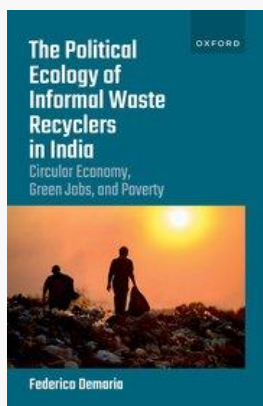
Books

[*The Political Ecology of Informal Waste Recyclers in India: Circular Economy, Green Jobs, and Poverty*](#)

Frederico Demaria

Oxford University Press

<https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/dying-green/9781978832107>



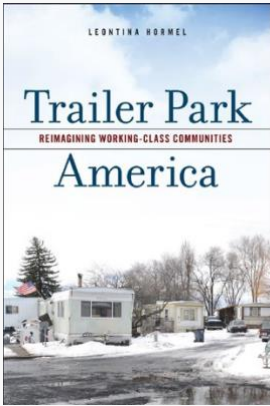
Waste is increasingly a site of social conflict. The questions related to waste management are not merely technical; what, how, where, and by whom become intrinsically political questions. This book is about the power relations in recycling, from the viewpoint of political ecology and ecological economics. Informal waste recyclers are invisible for citizens and public policy. This book focuses on environmental conflicts involving them, with two emblematic case studies from India. Firstly, ship breaking, where the metabolism of a global infrastructure, namely shipping, shifts social and environmental costs to very localized communities in order to obtain large profits. Secondly, the conflict around municipal solid waste management in Delhi shows how environmental costs are shifted to urban residents, and recyclers are dispossessed of their livelihood source: recyclable waste. The first is an example of capital accumulation by contamination, while the second involves

both dispossession and contamination. The struggles of informal recyclers constitute an attempt to re-politicize waste metabolism beyond techno-managerial solutions by fostering counter-hegemonic discourses and praxis. The book presents a range of experiences, mostly in India but with examples from all over the world, to inform theory on how environments are shaped, politicized, and contested.

Frederico Demaria is an associate professor of ecological economics and political ecology at the University of Barcelona.

[Trailer Park America: Reimagining Working-Class Communities](#)

Leontina Hormel
Rutgers University Press

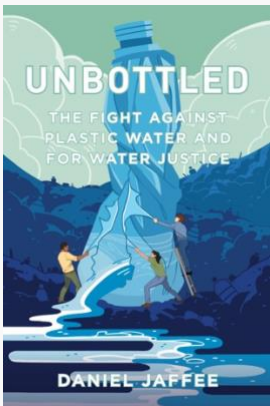


In rural northern Idaho in the winter of 2013-2014, Syringa Mobile Home Park's water system was contaminated by sewage, resulting in residents' water being shut off for 93 days. By summer 2018 Syringa had closed, forcing residents to relocate or face homelessness. Trailer Park America chronicles how residents dealt with regulatory agencies, frequent boil order notices, threats of closure, and class-based social stigma over this period. Despite all this, what was seen as a dysfunctional, 'disorderly' community by outsiders was instead a refuge where veterans, women heads of households, and people with disabilities or substance use disorders were supported and understood. The embattled Syringa community also organized to defend the rights and dignity of residents and served as a site for negotiating with local government, culminating in a class-action lawsuit that reached the federal level. The experiences Syringa residents faced in this conservative, predominately white region of the United States are emblematic of the growing national and global crisis in affordable housing and home ownership, with declining work conditions and incomes for the working-class.

Leontina Hormel is a professor of sociology at the University of Idaho.

[Unbottled: The Fight Against Plastic Water and for Water Justice](#)

Daniel Jaffee
University of California Press



Hawai'i is a primary site for development of herbicide-resistant corn seed and, until recently, was host to more experimental field trials of genetically engineered crops than anywhere else in the world. It is also a node of powerful resistance. While documentaries and popular news stories have profiled the biotech seed industry in Hawai'i, *Seeds of Occupation, Seeds of Possibility* is the first book to detail the social and historical conditions by which the chemical-seed oligopoly came to occupy the most geographically isolated islands in the world and made the soils of Hawai'i the epicenter of agrochemical and agricultural biotechnology testing. Andrea Brower, an activist-scholar from Hawai'i, examines the consequences related to genetically engineered seed development for Hawai'i's people and the social movement that has risen in response. With insights beyond the islands, *Seeds of Occupation, Seeds of Possibility* illuminates why visions for a radically better world must be expanded by intersectional and systemically oriented movements.

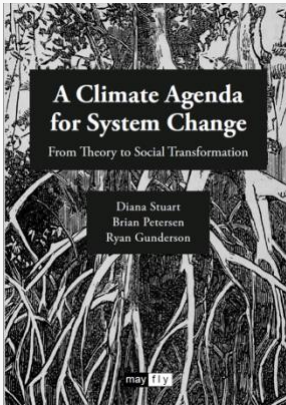
Daniel Jaffee is an associate professor of sociology at Portland State University.

[A Climate Agenda for System Change: From Theory to Social Transformation](https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Pandemic+Urbanism%3A+Infectious+Diseases+on+a+Planet+of+Cities-p-9781509549856)

Diana Stuart, Brian Petersen, and Ryan Gunderson

MayFly Books

<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Pandemic+Urbanism%3A+Infectious+Diseases+on+a+Planet+of+Cities-p-9781509549856>



While calls for “system change” to address the climate crisis have become more common, it is important to identify what system change should entail and why. This book examines what a climate agenda for system change might include and why these policies and programs are critical to minimize global warming and enhance social wellbeing. While our current trajectory involves maintaining the status quo and relying on future technologies to mitigate climate change, a system-changing agenda has the potential to more rapidly, effectively and justly minimize global warming. Drawing from ecosocialism and degrowth, the authors identify key agenda items and why they should be prioritized. The book then focuses on how system change might take place, identifying obstacles and challenges, and motivations for persevering despite opposition.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Almeida, Paul, Luis Rubén González, Edward Orozco Flores, Venise Curry, and Ana Padilla. 2023. [“The Building Blocks of Community Participation in Local Climate Meetings.”](#) *nj Climate Action*.

Boyer, Anne-Lise, David Blanchon, Laurent Schmitt, Dominique Badariotti, Jean-Philippe Bedell, Jean-Nicolas Beisel, François Chabaux, Eduardo Ferreira da Silva, Frédéric Huneau, Gwenaël Imfeld, Brian F. O’Neill, Vanina Pasqualini, Olivier Radakovitch, Cybill Staentzel, and François-Michel Le Tourneau. 2023. [“The Social Connectivity of Subsurface Flows: Towards a Better Integration of the Vertical Dimension in Socio-hydrosystem Studies.”](#) *WIREs Water*.

Deb, Nikhil. 2023. [“Unyielding Humanity From Catastrophic Ruins: New Political Society for Social and Environmental Justice After Bhopal.”](#) *Environmental Sociology* 10(1): 118-134.

Edwards, Guy, Paul K. Gellert, Omar Faruque, Kathryn Hochstetler, Pamela D. McElwee, Prakash Kaswhan, Ruth E. McKie, Carlos Milani, Timmons Roberts, and Jonathan Walz. 2023. “Climate obstruction in the Global South: Future research trajectories.” *PLOS Climate* 2(7):e0000241.

Fine, Julia Coombs, Summer Gray, Corrie Grosse, and Brigid Mark. 2023. [“A Song in a Cold Place: The Role of Emotions in Motivating Youth Activism and Advancing Justice at the COP.”](#) *Climate and Development*:1-12.

Gellert, Paul K., and Sarah D’Onofrio. 2024. [“Flex commodities and intertwining world-ecologies: Indonesian palm waste as an environmental fix in the New Zealand dairy industry.”](#) *Political Geography* 108:103038.

Grant, D., Leffel, B. & Johnson, E. 2023. [“Can transnational municipal networks mitigate the carbon pollution of the world’s power plants?: an empirical analysis.”](#) *nj Climate Action*.

Hadlock, Jordan and Brent Kaup. 2024. [“Locking-in white-nose syndrome? The limits of the endangered species act & non-charismatic megafauna.”](#) *Environmental Sociology*, 10(1):135-145.

Haney, Timothy J. and Aulora Morrow. 2023. [“We’re Still on That Treadmill”: Privilege, Reflexivity, and the Disruptive Potential of Permaculture.”](#) *Capitalism Nature Socialism*.

Harper, Marion C., Jamie M. Somer, and John M. Shandra. 2023. [“Government Revenue Composition and Forest Loss: A Cross-National Study of Low- and Middle-Income Nations.”](#) *Social Science Quarterly* 104(6): 1309-1323.

Harrison, Jill Lindsey. 2022. [“Environmental Justice and the State.”](#) *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* 6(4): 2740-2760.

Hazboun, Shawn and Erin Dixon. 2023. [“The Diffusion of Electrification Policy in U.S. Local Governments: A Case Study of Bellingham’s ‘Gas Ban.’”](#) *Case Studies in the Environment* 7(1): 2083841.

Jaffee, Daniel. 2023. [“Unequal Trust: Bottled Water Consumption, Distrust in Tap Water, and Economic and Racial Inequality in the United States.”](#) *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews-Water*.

Letourneau, Angeline, Debra J. Davidson, Carrie Karsgaard & Dasha Ivanova. 2023. [“Proud fathers and fossil fuels: gendered identities and climate obstruction.”](#) *Environmental Politics*.

O’Neill, Brian F. 2023. [“Scaping the Social: Understanding the Waterscapes of the American Southwest through Panoramic Photography.”](#) *International Journal of the Image* 14(2): 81-97.

O’Neill, Brian F. 2024. [“Is the Media Missing the Point on the Transnational American Desalination Pipe Dream?”](#) *World Water Policy*.

O’Neill, Brian Francis and Joe Williams. 2023. [“Developments in Desalination Need a Social Sciences Perspective.”](#) *Nature Water*.

O’Neill, Brian F., Joan Cortinas Muñoz, and Franck Poupeau. 2024. [“Colorado River Basin Water](#)

[Policy: Using Bourdieu’s Field Theory in the Environmental Policy Arena.”](#) Pp. 56-73 in *Bringing Bourdieu’s Theory of Fields to Critical Policy Analysis*, edited by Vincent Dubois. Edward Elgar Advances in Critical Policy Studies series.

Vallée, Manuel. 2023. [“How and why US universities fail to impart environmental literacy to all students.”](#) *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*. DOI: 10.1108/IJSHE-07-2022-0241.

Public Sociology and Community Engagement

Robert D. Bullard was [interviewed by Scientific American](#) about his career and the emergence of the environmental justice movement.

Daniel Jaffee published an article on *The Conversation* titled [“When Communities Face Drinking-Water Crises, Bottled Water Is a Temporary Solution That Often Lasts Years – and Worsens Inequality.”](#)

Transitions and Honors

Shawn Hazboun has transitioned into a new faculty role as Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Sociology at Oregon State University.

Brian O’Neill has accepted a position as visiting scholar at the Laboratoire Techniques, Territoires et Sociétés at the École des Ponts – Paris Tech in Champs-sur-Marne, France.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

(1) Call for abstracts: Movement and Stillness (conference)

The Stony Brook Sociology Graduate Student Forum would like to invite proposal submissions for our spring graduate student colloquia, surrounding the theme: [“Movement and Stillness: Navigating the Currents of Bodies, Ideas, and Spaces”](#). Graduate students from different disciplines working on movements and stillness are welcome to submit a proposal to present at this conference on April 5th, 2024.

Diverse dynamics define our social landscapes. Movement and stillness in bodily expression, intellectual ideology, and spatial configuration intricately influence our daily experiences. The ebb and flow of cultural expressions, technological advances, and ecological balance play pivotal roles in shaping our world. This event aims to unravel the multifaceted aspects of movement and stillness across various domains. We invite contributions that delve into the interplay between physical motions, evolving ideas, and changing spaces, fostering a nuanced exploration of these interconnected themes. Submissions are encouraged to encompass historical, contemporary, and futuristic perspectives, exploring real-world cases and hypothetical scenarios alike.

We invite submissions of 250-word abstracts or project descriptions as a PDF file until February 16, 2024. Project submissions may include, but are not limited to: academic papers (in-progress work welcomed and encouraged!), artistic pieces (video, photography, creative writing, critiques), or book chapters.

Participants will be notified about acceptance decisions by March 8. There is no participation or registration fee, and more details about the colloquia will be communicated in the upcoming weeks.

For all questions regarding the conference and to submit your proposal please email hannah.judson@stonybrook.edu.

(2) Call for abstracts: Queer Climate Justice (edited volume)

As seas rise, storms strengthen and wildfires blaze across the landscape, queer and trans people are among every community reworlding in the rubble, including those enacting both liberatory visions of the future and those investing in the further destruction of land and lifeways. As climate apartheid further widens the extremes between those with and without the resources for resilience, queer and trans people are among *every community*: the climate sacrificed, the climate abandoned, the climate privileged, and the climate responsible.

What, then, is a “queer” climate justice politics and praxis for these times of transitions, transformations, and constantly changing change? Following the lines of thought in critical queer scholarship (Eng & Puar, 2020; Halberstam et al., 2005), this book is a call for a climate justice reckoning of queer politics, and a curiosity about what queer theorizing could trouble about “climate,” “crisis,” and “climate + crisis,” and the implications for climate justice movements. We are inspired by the call in the above-cited works for a subjectless queer critique that refuses/subverts/deconstructs the politics of recognition, liberal rights, and assimilation into the militarized, extractive fascism that enables growing climate apartheid. Scholarly chapters and creative works are both welcome!

Please submit your abstract (up to 500 words) to the editors Vanessa Raditz (vanessa.raditz@uga.edu) and Jeff Feng (jeff.feng@northwestern.edu) by **March 15, 2024**.

(3) Call for abstracts: Energy as a valuation problem (special issue of *Valuation Studies*)

The climate effects of burning fossil fuels and more recently the war in Ukraine have made the revaluation of energy an urgent societal problem. Notions such as energy poverty, energy justice and energy democracy have become widespread concerns and attracted much attention within the social sciences and humanities (Jenkins et al., 2021; Bouzarovski, 2014; Szulecki & Overland, 2020). These issues are certainly important, yet their underlying valuation processes and the controversies surrounding them remain understudied.

Recent studies have begun to problematize how value is defined, measured and mobilised in different energy resources, technologies and processes: ranging from energy networks and infrastructures, such as electric grids, renewable technologies and energy living labs (Kirkegaard et al 2021; Pallesen & Jacobsen 2021; Silvast 2017a,b). These studies have shown that different energy objects and processes heavily rely on the creation and mobilisation of new, often contested, valuation devices and pricing techniques (e.g. Doganova & Karnøe 2015; Pallesen 2016; Cointe & Nadaï 2018; Breslau 2013; Ehrenstein & Muniesa 2013). Valuation practices and devices are equally central in the politics of ongoing energy transitions at both local and planetary scales, as they often arbitrate and define the possibility and existence (or not) of different transition paths. Along these lines, scholars have explored, for instance, the role of finance (Nadaï & Cointe 2020) and social and economic valuation (Kirkegaard et al 2023) in the development and scaling of renewables.

Besides this, contributions from neighbouring fields such as geography have studied the processes by which things are turned into energy resources (Kuchler and Bridge 2018; Bridge et al. 2020), while history of economic thought has started to investigate the genealogies of energy valuations and the emergence of an economics of energy (e.g. Missemer 2017; Russ 2020; Turnbull 2023). We see promising grounds for cross-fertilization between valuation studies and related fields for the study of energy - and energy things - as a valuation problem.

This call invites papers that problematize, analyse, and examine the valuation of energy and energy things in society. We invite contributions that explore empirically the valuation of energy or propose new approaches to valuation studies of energy. Potential research themes include, but are not limited to:

- How do valuation processes contribute to the constitution of energy resources - or to turning things into non-resources?
- How do energy infrastructures contribute to the valuation of energy resources, how do they become objects of valuation themselves, and how are they shaped by valuation practices ?
- How are (new) forms of expertise and the valuation of energy entangled?
- How are energy users developing new valuations - and how do they become valuable in new ways themselves - in contemporary energy systems?
- How do the (re)valuation of energy and newly emerged energy publics interrelate?

Expressions of interest shall be submitted in the form of an extended abstract (**about 1.000 words**) by **email to the editors by March 31, 2024**. Selected authors will then be invited to submit full papers for peer review by October 2024.

Please address queries and expressions of interest to Tomas Ariztia <tomas.ariztia@udp.cl>, Béatrice

Cointe <beatrice.cointe@minesparis.psl.eu>, Trine Pallesen <tp.ioa@cbs.dk> and Antti Silvast <antti.silvast@lut.fi>.

(4) Call for abstracts: International Multi-Risk Seminar (conference)

The Multi-Risk Project will host the **International Multi-Risk Seminar** on April 10th, 11th, and 12th, 2024, in the auditorium of the International Institute of Physics at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN), in Natal, Brazil. This event aims to qualify and disseminate debates in scenarios involving multiple risks.

The complete schedule can be accessed here (<https://georisco.ufrn.br/evento/multi-risk-international-seminar/>). The event will include the participation of international experts in lectures, round table discussions, work presentation sessions, and a workshop dedicated to implementing potential solutions for reducing disaster risks.

The central objective of the International Multi-risk Seminar is to advance the conceptual and methodological debate on how to evaluate and manage contexts where multiple risks overlap and result in other forms. Abstracts in Portuguese and English are accepted in this call, based on empirical and theoretical works and systematic literature reviews.

Expanded abstracts (up to 1,000 words) must be sent in word, with title, five keywords and identification of authorship via the registration form or to email: projetomultirrisco@gmail.com.

Submissions opening: December 10, 2023

Submissions end: February 10, 2024

Announcement of accepted works: February 15, 2024

(5) Call for abstracts: Climate Aging and Health in Rural America (workshop)

Climate change is influencing human health and is particularly challenging for older adults. In terms of these climate-health connections, rural America is characterized by distinct vulnerabilities, including a relatively older population and far more challenging access to health care and other necessary services. At the same time, extreme environmental events – hurricanes, floods, tornadoes – are rapidly increasing in frequency and severity with projections of further intensification. Amid climate-related health impacts, many rural communities continue to age.

The complex connections between Aging-Climate-Health in rural America requires new and innovative research attention. This workshop at the CU Population Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder brings together researchers in these topical areas with the objectives of reviewing current research, identifying knowledge gaps, and building collaborations. *Importantly, there are few scholars already investigating this three-way intersection – we seek participation from aging, health, and/or rural researchers with interest in expanding their portfolio to climate-related questions.*

During this 2-day conference, Day 1 will open with keynote speakers reviewing innovations, challenges, and needs in rural America with an emphasis on patterns of aging, climate-related stressors, and health. Following, research panels, flash talks, and a poster reception will provide important empirical examples. Time will also be offered for brainstorming within topically focused working groups aimed to build collaborations, discuss broad research agenda, explore dissemination, and/or work toward high-impact scientific publications and proposals. There will also be a ½ day remote, follow-up meeting several weeks after the conference to reconnect, discuss progress, and share opportunities.

Brief applications are required to ensure adequate space and to identify key thematic areas for working groups.

Some funds are available to support travel expenses. In your application, please include your CV and 1-page on your interest in the mini-conference including its relation to your research agenda or interests. If interested in presenting your research, please also include an extended abstract (no more than 1 page). Also please note if funding is required. Participants and presenters will be selected based on research alignment with conference objectives and quality of abstract. Attention will also be paid to achieving diversity of representation by discipline, geography, career stage, and socio-demographics.

Submit materials by January 31st.

Questions? Lori.Hunter@colorado.edu

Application to: Fadya.Bekta@colorado.edu

ASA PAPER/EXTENDED ABSTRACT CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

There are several different avenues to submit your paper or extended abstract. Full submission instructions are at <https://www.asanet.org/2024-annual-meeting/call-for-submissions/>.

Regular Sessions are sessions that are planned around a general topic/area of study and therefore do not issue individual calls. Regular sessions are open to all paper/extended abstract submissions that meet the criteria below. Regular sessions are independent of ASA Section programming.

Section Sessions are planned by the ASA Sections. Section sessions are open to all paper/extended abstract submissions that meet the criteria below. Calls will be posted soon.

Roundtable Sessions are sessions that use the roundtable model where multiple papers are presented at a single round table concurrent with other roundtables. Individual round tables are organized around a common theme or subject. ASA Sections often sponsor roundtables and there is the Open Refereed Roundtable, independent of the ASA Sections, that is an all topic roundtable session. Roundtable sessions are open to all paper/extended abstract submissions that meet the criteria below.

Student Forum Sessions provide an outlet for graduate and undergraduate sociology students. Student Forum sessions are open to all paper/extended abstract submissions that meet the criteria below. Calls will be posted soon.

Submission Policies

- Submissions must reflect original work or major developments in previously reported work. Papers are NOT eligible if 1. They have been presented previously at ASA or other professional meeting, 2. Published prior to the meeting or accepted for publication before being submitted, or 3. Modified in only secondary respects after presentation or publication.
- Submitters may elect to submit either full papers (15-35 pages) or extended abstracts (3-5 pages). **Authors submitting an extended abstract are required to provide a completed paper one month prior to the start of the meeting if accepted.**
- Only one single-authored paper presentation is permitted. Authors who have more than one single-authored paper accepted must decide which paper will be presented and inform the session organizer of the session from which they wish to withdraw immediately. This does not apply to individuals who are not the presenting author on multi-authored papers.
- Authors may submit a paper to a regular session topic and elect a section topic or roundtable as a secondary choice. Authors may not submit to a regular session topic as a first and second choice. The online submission system provides submission options reflecting this policy.
- Authors may submit a paper to a section topic and elect a secondary section topic, roundtable or regular session topic choice. The online submission system provides submission options reflecting this policy.
- Authors may submit to a roundtable session as their primary choice, as a secondary, or tertiary option. Only roundtable sessions may be selected as a tertiary choice and the online submission system provides options that reflect this policy.
- If a submission is not accepted by the primary choice, it will be transferred automatically to the second choice and/or third choice.
- Submitting individuals are encouraged to hold membership in ASA but membership is not required to register.

ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION SESSIONS AT THE ASA ANNUAL MEETING

Session 1: Intersectional Environmental Inequalities: Methodological and Theoretical Advances

Description: The last 15-20 years has witnessed the increasing use of frameworks that illuminate the various scales at which humans experience the environment unequally given their position within matrices of domination and resistance. To further this scholarly development, this session invites papers that critically appraise and/or build on prior methodological and theoretical advances in the study of intersectional environmental inequalities within and beyond environmental sociology.

Session 2: Managing Unequal Risks and Uncertainties in a Changing Climate

Description: Environmental sociologists typically understand risk as an unequally distributed threat of loss or harm to humans and the more-than-human world across space, time, and intersecting social locations. Climate change is continuously illuminating how that unequal distribution is heightened and translated into multiple and overlapping material experiences of loss and harm in the present, which bring about corresponding uncertainties about whose future livelihoods will be protected and secure. This session invites papers that offer new sociological insights on how such unequal risks and uncertainties are managed emotionally, symbolically, and/or materially by individuals, communities, organizations, institutions, and systems of knowledge production and governance.

Session 3: Intersectional Solidarities for Environmental and Climate Justice

Description: This session concludes the three-part series of environmental sociology paper sessions and connects directly to the 2024 annual meeting theme of “Intersectional Solidarities: Building Communities of Hope, Justice, and Joy.” It does so by featuring novel papers from scholars working within and beyond environmental sociology that describe and explain various forms of collective action – held together by discourses and practices of intersectional solidarities – that have contributed to or reflect the potential to advance environmental and climate justice at multiple scales of socio-environmental relations.

Section on Environmental Sociology Roundtables: This 60-minute session invites environmental sociology research papers that address topics outside the areas featured in the three section paper sessions. A presider will help facilitate constructive dialogue among participants about the accepted papers, which will cohere around common themes in each roundtable.

Section Officers (2023-2024)

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Twitter: @EnviroSocASA & @envirograd