



ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY NEWS

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

Winter 2026

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SECTION CHAIR’S MESSAGE



Dear colleagues,

As I’m entering the winter months and looking out my window on a cold and snowy day here in Fort Collins, Colorado—although I recognize that some of you don’t

experience this kind of winter—I’m reminded of the ecological uncertainty of the moment. We have had an “unusual” fall to winter transition. Warm and little snow. Everyone is talking about it.

Climate change is unsettling our expectations, and with it, our patterns of behavior and how we feel. For the recreators out there, warmth and little snow means that the skiing is poor, ice fishing is precarious, and behaviors of animals in the places we hike unpredictable.

As an environmental sociologist, I can’t help but tie this back to the rampant overproduction and consumerism that grips society. Our collective actions add up to create the conditions that we are then puzzling over. Here in the United States, there is furthermore the active undermining of the few political tools we have at a federal level to confront a rapidly warming planet. It’s easy to be cynical when the agencies ostensibly created to address our environmental problems are turned into tools

to facilitate industry and profit. Our work is critical. Our community is critical. While we aren't solely responsible for carrying the weight of a burning planet, we are positioned to ask the hard questions, pose tangible solutions, and imagine transformative futures.

We are entering our 50th anniversary as a section. In 1976, through the confluence of disparate environmental movements, sociologists studying different aspects of the environment, and organizational efforts to establish a subfield, ASA recognized the Section on Environmental Sociology. Since then, environmental sociologists have studied, debated, and sought to advance views of the nexus between society and the environment with real world implications. In a sense, our field has always been unsettled. While some paradigms have persisted, the sheer breadth of possible topics, the range of intersecting epistemic communities, and diverse experiences of members has produced a rich gumbo, however contested a recipe. That recipe is in part what makes our community of environmental sociologists important, and it is why we continue to make a mark on the broader field of sociology. With it becoming impossible to ignore the ecological crises we face fifty years later, especially the human impacts we hold dear as sociologists, we can continue to welcome people from throughout our discipline who may not have previously considered the environment, but see its significance in their work, into our community.

Many of you may be familiar with our section's [oral history project](#). It's an important moment to consider where we have been in order to think about where we might go. I want to encourage members to reach out to me if they would like to contribute essays, reflections, provocations, and more that focus on our field during this 50th year of the Section on Environmental Sociology. And this isn't just for the long-time members. It's especially important to integrate the insights of those new to the field. What is exciting? What is important? How do you view the section? What do you want to change?

Reflecting the dynamism of our field are several essays in this winter issue. First, Eric Bonds has an essay titled, "Data Centers, Secrecy, and Public Sociology." In this moment of rapidly expanding artificial intelligence, we would be remiss not to ignore the serious environmental concerns with the infrastructure required to power a tool that is permeating nearly every sector of society. Second, Ion Bogdan Vasi, in his essay, "Incorporating Sociological Research on Climate Change into Teaching," reminds us of the value we offer as educators. The essay offers helpful ideas for those of us who teach about climate change. I want to point out here that we also have some [climate change teaching materials on the section's website](#). If you would like to share some of your resources, please reach out to our Teaching Committee Chair, Lourdes Annette Vera. There are also several books highlighted in this winter issue that directly engage with issues of climate change: *Owning the Grid* by Joshua A. Basseches and *Environments of Planetary Urbanization* by Neil Brenner, Swarnabh Ghosh, and Nikos Katsikis.

In closing, I want to thank the Section on Environmental Sociology Council and Committee Leadership for all they do to hold our community together, who give of their time to ensure our presence as environmental sociologists within the larger field of sociology. One way to combat the paralysis of the environmental and social crises we face is to serve. If you are interested in learning more about how to get involved with the section, or if you have other ideas, please reach out to me.

Yours in community,
Josh Sbicca
ASA Section on Environmental Sociology Chair
Associate Professor of Sociology
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FEATURED ESSAYS

Data Centers, Secrecy, and Public Sociology

Eric Bonds

Professor of Sociology

University of Mary Washington

The data center industry is imposing enormous impacts on the environment. The amount of electricity demanded by the industry is mindboggling. One hyperscale data center in my hometown of Cheyenne, WY will use more electricity than that consumed by all households in the state combined. Even in a more populous state like my current home of Virginia, the data center industry is driving an anticipated doubling of total electricity demand over the next 15 years. The industry also uses vast amounts of water that, when combined with drought, will strain resources, even in historically water abundant states like Virginia. Some data centers consume millions of gallons of water each day to cool their facilities.

Last year I began work with two undergraduate students to document the potential water consumption, electricity demand, and climate impacts of data centers that have been proposed or are being built in our region of the state. The students—Victoria Galloway and Viktor Newby—soon found that much of this information simply isn't available. They contacted planners working for the various counties in our area that have approved data centers. The officials told the students that the question of energy demand was between the companies and the electrical utility, not local government. From their perspective as local planners, data center energy use is handled with a policy of "don't ask, don't tell." Next the students contacted representatives from the electrical utility, Dominion Energy, who told them that electricity contracting is private information between the supplier and consumer.

Site-specific water use typically isn't shared by the companies or the local governments either. The data center industry often claims it is a proprietary trade secret, and local governments echo this argument because they are hungry for the tax revenue that these companies can provide. Even if some local governments want to share this information, they might worry that they could open themselves up to a lawsuit because they've signed confidentiality or nondisclosure agreements (NDAs).

Finding our path blocked in our original research goal of documenting data center energy and water use, we shifted direction and made secrecy around this crucial information a topic of study in and of itself. After learning about the existence of one such NDA uncovered through a lawsuit, we wanted to determine how common they are in data center development across the industry.

We sent freedom of information act (FOIA) requests asking for any such documents to the 31 localities across Virginia that have existing or planned data centers. We found that 25 of these counties have signed NDAs (though we suspect that this is an underestimate and that almost all data center companies require localities to agree to some amount of confidentiality as an industry standard). Through these requests, we learned that many counties in our state have signed multiple NDAs with different data center developers. The NDAs we uncovered were not written in a narrow way to only inhibit disclosure of trade secrets and technology, they were written with very broad and vague language, frequently attempting to prohibit disclosure of "business plans" and "nonpublic information."

We shared our research results by writing a commentary piece that we published at a nonprofit newsroom that covers state politics. Our article gained widespread attention and brought us into conversation with

activists, journalists, and academics from around the country trying to pull back the veil of secrecy around this resource-intensive industry.

Despite the ubiquity of NDAs, there is a strong possibility that the secrecy they attempt to impose on local governments may not always be legal. After all, a government's promise of secrecy does not supersede state law requiring open records. But the question of legal enforceability seldom comes up because local governments are usually willing to toe the line and shield information from public scrutiny in order to advance lucrative data center development. This, at least, is the theory that I am currently trying to test as I use a citizen enforcement mechanism in Virginia's FOIA law to ask the courts to intervene and direct local governments to reveal water service agreements that they otherwise refuse to disclose.

It might be a fool's errand. But maybe it will bring some publicly important information about data center water consumption out into the open. Regardless, the experience itself is valuable research about barriers that prevent access to important information about a growing industry's impact on the environment.

I'm certain that there is outstanding research being done by other sociologists around the country on the data center industry. For those conducting this research, I encourage you to share it with the public. There is a tremendous need for the information you can uncover. For instance, the total amount of energy and water that this industry uses is still uncertain, but is a matter of great public concern. The industry's greenwashing has been very effective, and it badly needs debunking. And decisions to allocate enormous amounts of electricity to this industry have major implications for energy justice. Data center energy demand is raising electricity prices for residential customers and will consequently lead to increasing numbers of utility disconnections without government intervention.

For those doing this work, I urge you to consider sharing your findings even before you publish in a sociology journal. Putting your research out there where it can be fact-checked by news editors, replicated by reporters, and scrutinized by industry proponents is its own way to test accuracy. And the interest your research generates can confirm that you are moving in the right direction, adding to public knowledge in a timely way to inform debate about decisions being made now that will have a tremendous impact on our climate and shared waters.

Incorporating Sociological Research on Climate Change into Teaching

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Sociologists have called for more research and teaching in climate change but there is a persistent lack of attention to climate change in the discipline. A recent study found that between 2002 and 2023 climate change was mentioned in less than 1 percent of the articles published in top six sociology journals, in less than 2 percent of American Sociological Association Annual Meetings conference sessions, and in less than 1 percent of the course listings and 3 percent of faculty biographies in the 20 top-ranked departments in the U.S. (Hiltner 2024).

I have been conducting research on topics related to climate change since 2001, and I have incorporated climate change in many courses I have taught since 2006. As I write, it is clear that it is more important than ever to educate our students and the public about climate change, for two reasons. First, because record-breaking global temperatures have become an ominous reality: 2024 was the hottest year on record, and all of the previous 10 years were the warmest years on record. Second, because the Trump administration is using an aggressive “kill the messenger” approach to suppress climate change science. The administration has begun removing references to climate change from multiple federal agency websites and has dismantled the national climate research lab in Colorado.

My goal in this essay is to illustrate how sociological research on climate change can be incorporated in various courses, in addition to environmental sociology. I provide three examples based on my recent collaborative research.

Climate change attitudes and behaviors. Courses such as Introduction to Sociology, Social Problems, and Social Psychology ask fundamental questions about how attitudes are formed and how they influence behaviors. Understanding the factors that shape climate change attitudes and behaviors has been the focus of multidisciplinary research. A crucial question for scientists and educators is: how is it possible to increase public awareness about climate change and support for low-carbon technologies through effective communication of science and technology? My recent research (Vasi and Paez-Arellano 2025) addresses this question by examining the effect of watching short online videos on attitudes and beliefs that are relevant to climate change mitigation.

This research shows that short online videos focused either on facts about climate change science or solar PV technology can have a moderate effect on pro-environmental attitudes. However, videos that combine blue marble awe (the feeling of awe for the Earth arising from the realization that we live on a fragile planet) with facts about either climate change science or solar photovoltaic (PV) technology can have more substantial effects on those attitudes. Hence, combining blue marble awe and either science or technology information can enhance pro-environmental attitudes. The study also reveals that including a message from an astronaut who has direct experience with this effect and acts as an “ambassador” for solar PV technology can enhance the efficacy of communication approaches. Additionally, the study offers hope that a solution to the growing problem of ideological polarization of climate change attitudes is possible, albeit not simple. The study could be used for a class discussion on the effectiveness of different climate change communication approaches.

Climate change and organizations. Courses such as Sociology of Organizations and Organizational Behaviors examine processes that take place within and between different types of organizations (e.g. business, non-profit, governmental). Sociologists and management scholars have examined how organizations both contribute and respond to the climate change grand challenge or wicked problem. The forthcoming volume *Organizations and Climate Change in Research in the Sociology of Organizations* (Vasi and Walker 2026) builds on insights from sociology, management, and other disciplines that employ a meso-scale perspective to understand why and how some organizations mitigate climate change.

This volume brings together new empirical papers spanning various subfields within sociology and across social sciences. Its goals are to highlight stimulating new research on organizational actions in response to climate change and to set an agenda for theorizing about organizations and climate change. The papers included in this volume examine the actions taken by different types of organizations, both individually and collectively, which can result in either climate change mitigation or climate deterioration. The papers could be used for learning activities that examine organizational responses to climate change.

Climate change and politics. Courses such as Political Sociology explore the multifaceted interactions between society and politics. Research in this field has shown that partisan divisions in the form of affective polarization, or citizens' hostility toward opposing party members, have reached historically high levels in countries across the globe. The recent study by Grant et al. (2025) has examined whether affective polarization shapes power plants emissions of greenhouse gases.

This study builds on several theoretical perspectives to develop an argument that high levels of affective polarization contribute to power plants emission of greenhouse gases. The study analyzes a novel dataset of power plants in democratic countries and shows that power plants in democracies marked by high affective polarization emit significantly more carbon dioxide. Additionally, climate policies are less effective at curbing plants' emissions and plants pollute more where strong political constraints susceptible to gridlock are in place. These results suggest that partisan animosity likely creates institutional conditions that insulate power plants from stakeholder and regulatory pressure, thereby undermining countries' ability to mitigate climate change. This paper could be used for a class discussion on politics and climate change.

These are only a few suggestions; evidently, research on climate change can be incorporated in other courses (e.g. Immigration, Social Movements, Human Rights). I hope these ideas will inspire sociologists to think creatively about how they can educate their students about climate change.

PUBLICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Books

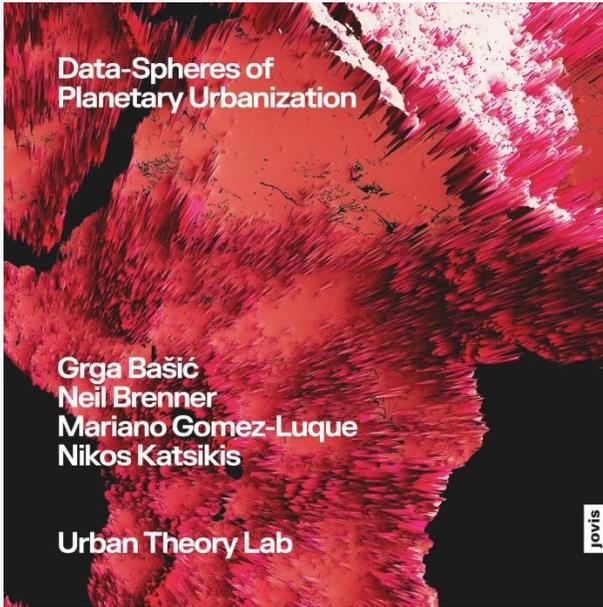
[Data-Spheres of Planetary Urbanization](#)

Grga Bašić, University of Chicago

Neil Brenner, University of Chicago

Mariano Gomez-Luque, Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia

Nikos Katsikis, TU Delft



How can we map the urbanization of the planet in an era of climate breakdown? The Urban Theory Lab's Data-Spheres of Planetary Urbanization confronts this question by assembling a series of experimental visualizations of the worldwide urban fabric. This book reverses the mainstream, city centric perspective on urbanization, showing, instead, that the world of contemporary urbanization encompasses much of the planet, including apparently remote areas, wildlands, and oceans. Cities are not only producers of value, but entropic black holes that consume surpluses produced elsewhere and project waste back into the planetary biosphere. Non-city spaces are, correspondingly, the metabolic bases of planetary urbanization.

[Owning the Grid](#)

Joshua A. Basseches

Tulane University

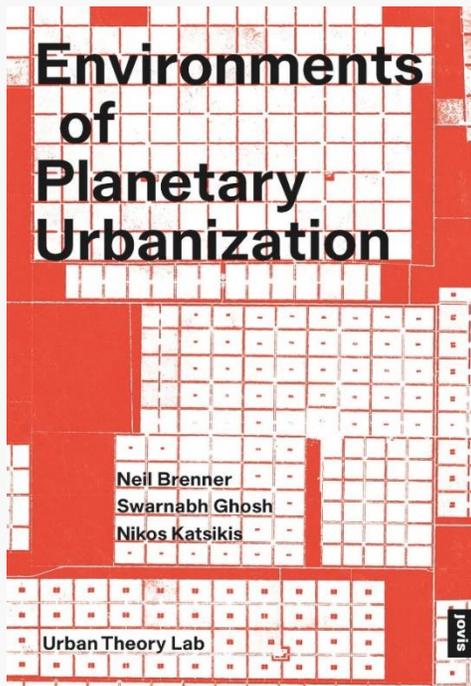
Historically (and for the foreseeable future), most public policy action in the United States to combat the global climate crisis has taken place at the state level. Former President Joe Biden's administration marked a significant departure from that trend, as his policies pursued a strategy of "electrify everything" (transportation, buildings, and industry). But who owns the electricity system that is the linchpin of such a strategy, and how does this ownership affect the policy preferences of interest groups at the state level? *Owning the Green Grid* addresses these questions and more through an in-depth study of a quarter century of renewable electricity policymaking in seven states.

[Environments of Planetary Urbanization](#)

Neil Brenner, University of Chicago

Swarnabh Ghosh, Harvard University

Nikos Katsikis, TU Delft



What role do spaces beyond the city play in urbanization? How have such spaces been transformed during the geohistory of capitalism? This volume brings together texts collaboratively produced by three researchers in the Urban Theory Lab to address these questions. Planetary urbanization is understood here not only with reference to the global expansion and proliferation of cities, but as an evolving web of metabolic relations between cities and the diverse operational landscapes that support them across the earth. Through studies of operational landscapes in various regions of the world and critical analyses of inherited approaches to urban theory, the authors portray capitalist urbanization as a metabolic monstrosity that degrades the biospheric foundations of both human and nonhuman life.

[Conflictos socioambientales y transiciones justas en el siglo XXI](#)

Pablo Vommaro (ed.), CLACSO

Gloria Amézquita (ed.), CLACSO



Latin America and the Caribbean have historically been global suppliers of raw materials and key minerals for the current digital and energy transition, perpetuating an extractivist model that deepens inequalities and exacerbates the socio-ecological crisis. The result of a research call promoted by CLACSO, this book addresses socio-environmental conflicts and just transitions in the twenty-first century by examining the tensions between hegemonic models—promoted from the Global North—and the territorial resistances that challenge them. Through case studies located in Argentina (lithium), Ecuador (balsa wood), the Peruvian Amazon (clean technologies), Cuba (food security), and the Southern Cone (Brazil and Chile), the authors show how the dominant energy transition reproduces dispossession, dependency, and corporate control under the discourse of “decarbonization.” From the perspective of Latin American Political Ecology, the volume offers a critical diagnosis while also proposing pathways toward transitions that conceive energy as a right, recognize local forms of knowledge, and aim for truly just models. An invitation to imagine and contest futures in

which social and environmental justice go hand in hand.

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Career Transitions

Alison Hope Alkon has joined the faculty of the Sociology Department and the Community Studies program at UC Santa Cruz. Community Studies is an interdisciplinary exploration of the theory and practice of social change through which students combine immersive experiential learning with rigorous theoretical critique.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam for Kai Erickson – by Phil Brown, Michael Edelstein, and Steve Kroll-Smith

<http://envirosoc.org/wordpress/2025/12/11/in-memoriam-kai-erikson/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Calls for Materials

Renewing Development: Connection and Action An international, transdisciplinary conference commemorating 25 years of the Polson Institute for Global Development April 8-10, 2026, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY in-person and remote While development seems continually to be in a state of crisis, now that state is heightened. Reshuffling of global powers, climate and biodiversity crises, and technological and military crisis are upending development institutions. Moments of crisis are moments of renewal. In this conference we will build on this legacy by bringing development practitioners, activists, policymakers, and researchers together to ask how development will be renewed. Through three days of active conversation, we will set a new vision for development through conversations grounded in practical engagement and critical analysis. The deadline for submitting abstracts for papers or pitches is January 30, 2026. Please send one-page proposals in .docx, .pdf, or .odt format to polsoninstitute@cornell.edu. Include full contact details (email, affiliation and address for contact). Notifications and initial programs will be sent out by early February 2026. Registration information will be made available by the end of January. There is no fee for registration. During the conference, all meals and materials will be provided for registered in-person participants. A limited number of hospitality grants may be provided. Please specify whether you would like to be considered for partial funding.

Teachers College Launches a New MA in Sustainability & Education Teachers College, Columbia University is launching a new fully online M.A. in Sustainability & Education, with its first cohort beginning in summer 2026. The mission of the program is to prepare professionals to advance sustainability through education—broadly defined—across schools, higher education, nonprofits, public agencies, and community-based organizations. Unlike traditional programs in environmental education, this degree focuses on how learning, institutions, and organizations can be mobilized to address contemporary environmental and equity challenges. Graduates are prepared for roles

that combine program design, coordination, training, and policy work, including positions such as sustainability coordinators, curriculum leaders, nonprofit program managers, policy advisors on education and climate, and community education specialists. The program builds on years of research and collaboration with partners across the United States and internationally, offering students insight into how sustainability initiatives operate across different institutional and organizational contexts. The curriculum is interdisciplinary and draws, among other traditions, on sociology. The program is fully online, cohort-based, and emphasizes applied projects that connect research, policy, and practice. [Website for Program in Sustainability & Education](#). Questions? Feel free to reach out to Oren Pizmony-Levy, Program Director, op2183@tc.columbia.edu.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is pleased to announce a new Open Call for Letters of Inquiry: Early-Career Faculty Support for Interdisciplinary Energy System Research. Submission Deadline: **Tuesday, March 17, 2026**. Grants of \$150,000 - \$250,000 to be made for early-career faculty focusing on interdisciplinary social science research on energy system decarbonization in the United States. The Energy and Environment program at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation supports research, training, networking, and dissemination efforts to inform the societal transition toward low-carbon energy systems in the United States by investigating economic, environmental, technological, and distributional issues. The program is inviting Letters of Inquiry from early-career faculty at the outset of their academic careers who are focusing on undertaking innovative interdisciplinary social science research related to the transition to a low-carbon economy in the United States. This Call for Letters of Inquiry is deliberately framed broadly to encourage submissions from a range of scholars drawn from different backgrounds and disciplines. It is expected that approximately 6-8 grants will be awarded from the Call, with grant amounts between \$150,000 to \$250,000 over a 2-3 year period. Eligible investigators must be a current or incoming Assistant Professor or Assistant Research Professor based at a university or college in the United States, with their first faculty appointment

at their current or any previous institution having a start date of August 1, 2022, or later. For more information and to submit applications, follow this link – https://apply.sloan.org/prog/early_career_call/

New series call for proposals. Environmental Justice and Power: Studies in Knowledge, Health, Sustainability, and Inequality. There are few series that are accessible to both academics and practitioners and have an interdisciplinary emphasis. This series seeks to move beyond the compartmentalization of issues surrounding justice and the environment by highlighting critical interdisciplinary approaches that consider intergenerational, compounded and cumulative effects of environmental burdens and benefits. Rather than viewing justice and the environment only through the lens of specific social movements, this series seeks to highlight historical and global connections, common causes and transformative solutions. We hope to bring together scholars, educators, practitioners and activists that deepen our understanding of the interplay between the social, political and economic issues that affect justice and rights.

This series is open to work that engage several aspects/principles below:

- -Explores the multi-dimensional meaning of well-being and health as they pertain to our understanding of justice
- -Explores the factors that contribute to resilience in the face of injustice
- -Explores issues of power imbalances and whose knowledge is valued, generated and disseminated and how and for
- whom decisions are used for policy decisions, planning on local levels, and education.
- -Examines how socioecological
- justice 'problems' are framed and by whom
- -Explores issues of justice, capitalism, globalization and sustainable development
- -Explores how current environmental hazards, prevention of broader scale environmental problems, and environmental
- justice are interrelated

- -Explores the connections among the root causes of colonial extractivism, current environmental problems and the impacts of adaptation planning today
- -Welcomes the interplay between indigeneity, and the social, political and economic issues that affect justice and rights.

Although the series is open to these topics, this is not a finite list of possibilities. This series is open to contributions from scholars of all disciplines, and practitioners and activists whose work seeks to grow beyond the labels of climate justice, energy justice, water justice, food justice, or environmental justice. Successful proposals will be accessible to a multidisciplinary audience, and advance our understanding of the socio-ecological and political economic connections over time that result in inequality and how it currently has repercussions for our future.

We are actively seeking proposals for academic works that fit this series. Please send inquiries to:
Christina Jackson (jackson.christina@rutgers.edu)
Maritza Jauregui (Maritza.Jauregui@stockton.edu)
Courtney Morales, Senior Acquisitions Editor (Courtney.Morales@bloomberg.com)

Environmental Sociology Section Award Calls

Environmental Sociology Student Paper Award
 Deadline: April 1, 2026
 Contact: Caleb Scoville (chair),
 caleb.scoville@tufts.edu

The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding paper written by a graduate student or group of graduate students. All members of the Section and the ASA are encouraged to submit nominations; self-nominations are also welcome. In addition to recognition, recipients will receive a modest monetary award. Papers do not have to be published or accepted for publication to be considered. They must have been submitted to the ASA annual meeting and/or to a journal by a graduate student(s) at the time the nomination is

made. Published papers must have been accepted for publication or published between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025 and while the author(s) was still a graduate student in order to be considered. Papers co-authored with faculty are ineligible. To nominate a paper, please send a PDF copy of the paper along with a nomination letter that includes information about the paper's status by April 1, 2026 to Policy & Research Committee Chair, Caleb Scoville (caleb.scoville@tufts.edu). Please include "Environmental Sociology Student Paper Award" in the subject line.

Environmental Sociology Outstanding Publication Award
 Deadline: February 1, 2026
 Contact: Caleb Scoville (chair),
 caleb.scoville@tufts.edu

This is given for publications of special noteworthiness in the field of environmental sociology. It is given in alternate years for either (a) a book in even years or (b) a single article in odd years. This year, the committee will consider books published within the period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025. To nominate a book, please email a nomination letter by February 1, 2026 to Policy & Research Committee Chair, Caleb Scoville (caleb.scoville@tufts.edu), who will provide the names and addresses to which hard or digital copies of the book should be sent no later than February 15, 2026. Please include "Environmental Sociology Outstanding Publication Award" in the subject line.

Distinguished Contribution Award
 Deadline: April 1, 2026
 Contact: Raoul Lievanos (chair),
 raoull@uoregon.edu

This award is given annually to recognize individuals for outstanding service, innovation, or publication in environmental sociology. It is intended to be an expression of appreciation, awarded when an individual is deemed extraordinarily meritorious by the Section. All

members of the Section are encouraged to submit nominations; self-nominations are welcome. Nominations for this award must be received by April 1, 2026. To nominate an individual for this award, please send a letter of nomination describing the nominee's contribution to environmental sociology, accompanied by a copy of the nominee's CV, to the chair of the award committee, Section Past-Chair, Raoul Lievanos (raoull@uoregon.edu). Please include "Distinguished Contribution Award Nomination" in the subject line.

Environmental Sociology Teaching and Mentorship Award (Bi-yearly)
Deadline: March 1, 2026
Contact: Lourdes Vera (chair), lavera@buffalo.edu

This award, given in even years, honors faculty members who demonstrate a notable dedication to teaching and mentorship through: innovative pedagogy; actionable attention to diversity, equity, and inclusion; robust community-engaged approaches; and/or other elements of excellence in the teaching and mentoring of undergraduate and/or graduate students in environmental sociology. All members of the Section are encouraged to submit nominations; self-nominations are welcome. The award is open to faculty of any rank, including tenure-track or contingent positions. Nomination packages should be combined into a single PDF and submitted by email to Lourdes Vera (lavera@buffalo.edu) by March 1, 2026. Nomination packages should include: (1) Letter of Nomination, not to exceed 2 pages; (2) personal statement on teaching and mentorship philosophy, not to exceed 3 pages; (3) CV with relevant components highlighted, such as teaching/mentoring awards and activities, publications or presentations co-authored with students (underline the names of student co-authors and indicate whether undergraduate, master's, or doctoral student). Please include "Environmental Sociology Teaching and Mentorship Award" in the subject line.

Nominations will be vetted within two weeks, and a selection of candidates will be asked to submit a comprehensive packet of additional materials by April 15, 2026 including: (1) a maximum of 5 letters of student support (any mix of present or past students); (2) a maximum of 2 additional letters of support from colleagues who are not former students; (3) a maximum of 3 syllabi or other relevant material from the past 5 years; and (4) excerpts or summaries of teaching evaluations as desired.

Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism (Bi-yearly)
The Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism, given in odd years, honors a doctoral student or other young investigator who has obtained a Ph.D. in the past five years. The purpose of the award is to recognize work that investigates the relationship between technology and humanism or otherwise proposes innovative solutions to emerging social issues associated with technology. We will accept nominations for this award at a later time for the 2027 award cycle.

Environmental Sociology Practice and Outreach Award (Bi-yearly)
This award, given in odd years, honors faculty scholar-activists who demonstrate outstanding practice and outreach contributions that advance equity in the context of socio-environmental relations. We will accept nominations for this award at a later time for the 2027 award cycle.

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Award Committees Chairs

Outstanding Publication Award

Student Paper Award

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Distinguished Contribution Award

Norah MacKendrick
Rutgers University

Teaching and Mentorship Award

Practice and Outreach Award

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Grad Listserv: envirograds@listserv.neu.edu

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