

**ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY NEWS**

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

July 2020

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**SECTION CHAIR'S MESSAGE**

Dear colleagues,

What a time we are in. From the everyday violence of racial inequalities in rates of COVID-19 illness and death to the continuing violence against Black and brown people by police and others alike, the fact that white supremacy shapes life in the United States as much today as ever before is laid bare again and again. And at the same time, the Black Lives Matter protests [may be the largest social movement in U.S. history](#), which fills me



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## Chair's Message (cont'd)

with gratitude, inspiration, and hope. I have been committing much of my time lately to listening, learning, and challenging racial injustice. I know that many of you have been focused on the same tasks. In her brief article in this newsletter, Lindsey Dillon helps us in this work by reflecting on the concept of *abolition* as a way environmental sociologists can understand the tasks of both dismantling and rebuilding unjust public institutions and also fighting oppression broadly.

As environmental sociologists, we have the skills to document and challenge the structures that produce these appalling inequalities and to support and help explain the practices and impacts of these important social movements. Many of the structures we can and must challenge are *material* – racist policies that devalue Black and brown lives across social institutions – including, as many of us have demonstrated, the design and enforcement of environmental laws and wide range of ways in which industry has captured the environmental state.

At the same time, many of the structures we must challenge are *cultural*. White people enjoy greater liberty, respect, and authority to define how the world works, what is good, and what is right and just. These dynamics and others constitute white supremacy. Contemporary race scholars show that white supremacy gets enacted not only by card-carrying, torch-bearing white nationalists, but also by people who identify as non-racist and intend to do good. This raises a question for environmental sociologists: How do people who strive hard to do what they see as good and right unwittingly contribute to racial environmental injustice? It is incumbent upon us to grapple with this. I'll share a few examples of how white supremacy gets enacted and reproduced in a variety of environmental spaces – starting with the state.

In recent years, my own work has taken me inside the state: inside the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other environmental regulatory agencies. I sought to learn more about why these agencies, despite years of working on “environmental justice” (EJ) reforms to regulatory practice, have accomplished so little. Through in-depth confidential interviews with and observations of staff, I have found that EJ reforms are thwarted not only by anti-regulatory elites and industry, but also by staff themselves. At every agency in my study, nearly all the “EJ staff” I interviewed – those few agency staff tasked with leading the design of EJ

reforms to regulatory practice – characterized their EJ reform efforts as “a constant battle” with their coworkers. As they recounted to me and as I observed, staff denigrate EJ reforms as trivial and distinct from the agency’s “true” work, referring to EJ as a “fad,” “trend,” or “the flavor of the month.” Importantly, at all organizations in my study, much of the pushback against EJ reforms that I witnessed and was told about focused on the fact that proposed EJ reforms explicitly identify and seek to reduce *racial* environmental inequalities (among others). Environmental regulatory agency staff, who are predominantly white, argue that the *race-conscious* nature of EJ reforms violates their organization’s need to be *neutral*. Staff use these colorblind racist narratives to reject proposed EJ reforms as unfairly providing “extra” resources to overburdened and vulnerable communities – even though industry and government practices have systematically, disproportionately afforded environmental protections and other material resources to whites. Through such pushback, staff undermine proposed EJ reforms and reinforce their organizations as [white institutional spaces](#) (seemingly race-neutral social spaces that reproduce white privilege). They are committed to environmental regulation, but they cast EJ reforms as contrary to that mission.

This makes me ask: How might I, too, unwittingly contribute to white supremacy at work? In teaching, for example, I have learned that I need to change the way I historicize environmentalism. [Dorceta Taylor](#), [Jules Bacon](#), and other scholars have challenged dominant narratives of environmental history for erasing a long and rich history of environmentalism by Black, Indigenous, and other marginalized people, obscuring significant differences in groups’ contributions to environmental harm, and ignoring the ways environmentalism has served whites at the expense of Indigenous and racially marginalized groups – often violently so. If your lecture on the history of U.S. environmentalism starts with John Muir, it’s time to update it. If your syllabus features all senior white men, it’s time to update it. Environmental sociology is richer and more expansive than it has often been framed as being. Our life experiences shape our work, which is why diversifying our discipline and our curriculum is such a crucial task. Let’s teach our students a broad, inclusive, anti-oppressive, and self-critical environmental sociology.

We must also ask: How does white supremacy manifest within this very section of ASA – whose members are

striving to do good research, teaching, and outreach? Some of the same boundary work I have observed in environmental regulatory agencies occurs here as well, as [documented](#) by the section's ad hoc Committee on Racial Equity. When our Membership Committee Chair surveyed those who had not renewed their memberships in our section to figure out why, one person replied: "When submitting to ASA 2018 conference, I had a hard time finding a session for my empirical article on a core environmental sociology topic. The special sessions were niche, did not speak to core concerns of empirical environmental sociology, and overlapped with central themes of other sections. I prefer a section that focuses on empirical research at the intersection of environment and society. This section seems to increasingly lean toward politicized pet projects of session administrators." I can't say how widely held this person's sentiment is, but I want to talk about the work it does. Casting that year's section-sponsored sessions – whose themes included settler colonialism and public sociology – as "niche" and not "core" explicitly marginalizes them as not "what we do". It's also offensive and discriminatory, in that it devalues these areas of scholarship and the perspectives of the people such scholarship honors. What counts as "core environmental sociology"? Who gets to decide? Scholars have rightly challenged similar patterns throughout environmental studies – see, for example, [this piece by Danielle Purifoy](#). Environmental sociology *is* changing – in wonderful and crucial ways. Some of our most cutting-edge work engages meaningfully with important sociological theories on race and settler colonialism.

Environmental sociology emerged out of critical reflection. In that same spirit of critical reflection and continually striving to do better, section council and the section's ad hoc Committee on Racial Equity have worked to address issues of racial exclusion in our section and subdiscipline. The ad hoc Committee on Racial Equity (Elisabeth Wilder, Lauren Richter, Michael Mascarenhas, Jennifer Carrera, and Raoul Liévanos) investigated racial and ethnic diversity within the section, assessed the professional climate for scholars of color, recommended changes in section policies and practices, organized a mini-conference on race and the environment, edited a special issue of *Environmental Sociology* to showcase scholarship from that conference, and advised council in our reform efforts. This is an extraordinary amount of work. Additionally, council has discussed and implemented changes to most of our position descriptions, our awards

nominations and selection processes, and our [list of readings](#) on the section website. We also crafted bylaws changes, approved by membership this year, which charge all council members with the responsibility to help create a more inclusive and diverse section, create a new standing committee called the Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity (**please see the call for nominations below**), and make our awards nomination processes more accessible (for details, see the [spring 2020 newsletter](#)). Most recently, section council crafted a statement of solidarity with and support of Black lives in which we specify ways we will confront racism within and beyond our section (distributed via listservs on 7/10/20).

I am sincerely grateful to those who have worked on these efforts. First, many thanks to Raoul Liévanos, Membership Committee Chair, for his leadership in crafting the statement in solidarity with and support of Black lives (see below). I want to express my sincere, deep appreciation to the members of the ad hoc Committee on Racial Equity for their remarkable amount of work. Thanks also to Hannah Holleman, section secretary, for helping to formalize these reforms – and to the rest of section council for taking the time in their busy schedules to help in these efforts through conference calls, many email exchanges, and otherwise.

Many thanks to our outgoing officers for all of their hard work in the past couple of years. Notably, Kari Norgaard is wrapping up her year as Past-Chair – Kari, you've been such an inspiring role model for me and a crucial leader in the reforms noted above. Many, many thanks to the others who are also wrapping up their terms on council: Treasurer Lori Hunter, Member-at-Large Emily Kennedy, Student Member Apollonya Porcelli, Nominations Committee Chair Tracy Perkins, Policy and Research Committee Chair Jack Zinda, Publications Committee Chair Josh Sbicca, Webmaster Nathan Lindstedt, and Social Media Coordinator Justin Myers. And many special heartfelt thanks to Lazarus Adua, for all of his fabulous work as newsletter editor in recent years.

Welcome to our many incoming officers! After serving as Chair-Elect for one year (including organizing this year's conference sessions), Rachael Shwom will begin her term as Chair in August. Our other new officers include Chair-Elect Norah MacKendrick, Treasurer Amalia Leguizamon, Council Member-at-Large Jessie Luna, Student Member Lourdes Vera, Nominations

Committee Chair Jordan Fox Besek, Policy and Research Committee Chair Sara Grineski, Publications Committee Chair John Chung-En Liu, Webmaster Michelle Edwards, and Social Media Coordinator Tim Haney. I look forward to working with you all in the coming year! I so appreciate everyone who ran for office – throwing one’s hat in the ring isn’t an easy decision to make, as these positions require time and care.

I’m so pleased to offer hearty congratulations to all who won section awards this year. First, congratulations to Andrew Jorgenson for winning this year’s Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award. The Teaching and Mentorship Award has been given to Sandy Marquart-Pyatt. The Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award went to Andrew McCumber for his paper, “Killing for Life: Species Eradication and the Ecology of Meaning in Ecuador’s Galápagos Islands”, with Honorable Mention going to Danielle Falzon for her paper, “Legitimately Paralyzed: How Fairness and Flexibility Have Doomed the UN Climate Negotiations from the Start.” Finally, Norah MacKendrick won this year’s Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award for her fabulous book, *Better Safe than Sorry: How Consumers Navigate Exposure to Everyday Toxics* (University of California Press 2018), with Honorable Mention going to yours truly for my new book, *From the Inside Out: The Fight for Environmental Justice within Government Agencies* (MIT Press 2019). For more detail on our award winners, please see the News section of the newsletter, below.

Finally, a few words about this year’s ASA virtual conference. While I am disappointed to not get to meet up with you all in person in August, we still have many thought-provoking sessions to attend. Chair-elect Rachael Shwom organized this year’s sessions, which are detailed on the ASA website and below in this newsletter. Thank you, Rachael! I encourage us all to watch and participate in the paper sessions and roundtables she has organized, as well as the many other sessions that relate to our work. ASA has sent instructions on how to access them. Council decided to not hold a live business meeting; instead, we will record a meeting in which we make a few brief announcements and then honor this year’s section award recipients. I will disseminate this video to section members via the listserv, social media, and other platforms in mid-August. Since we won’t have a regular business meeting, please share your announcements via the listserv instead. Finally, since we will not have a section

reception this year, Council voted to donate the \$1,500 we had available for our section reception this year to the ASA Minority Fellowship Program to offer direct support to Black and other racially marginalized junior scholars.

As we all persevere in our research, teaching, service, and personal lives, it’s important that we continually strive to identify and challenge the ways in which spaces we inhabit and are so committed to come to be dominated by whites and their concerns, and hostile to Black, brown, and Indigenous scholars and students. I commit to continuing this work in the coming year as Past-Chair - and after that as a member of this section.

Sincerely,

Jill Lindsey Harrison  
Chair, Environmental Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association  
Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Colorado Boulder

### **Council Statement on Black Lives**

#### **ASA Section on Environmental Sociology Stands in Solidarity with and Support of Black Lives**

Founded in 2013 following the acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s killer, the [Black Lives Matter](#) movement challenges the pervasive, institutionalized violence against Black communities in and beyond the United States. Evidence about and protests against the persistence of anti-Black racism in the United States reinforce the relevance and urgency of the Black Lives Matter movement and the broader movement against white supremacy and other forms of oppression with which it intersects. Evidence of the urgency is punctuated by the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery by police and white vigilantes, and by the [racial disparities in COVID-19 illnesses and deaths](#).

White supremacy and the state-sanctioned devaluation, segregation, persecution, and killing of Indigenous, Black, and other people of color undergird the global political and economic order and our unequal experiences of the biophysical environment. The systematic devaluation of Black and brown lives underpins disparate exposure to environmental health

hazards, the denial of adequate healthcare, and safe access to green spaces. Despite decades of civil rights and anti-colonial mobilizations against white supremacy and promises of state-based racial reforms, we find ourselves in the midst of a growing threat of white nationalism within and beyond the halls of state institutions and the persistence of racial disparities in illness, death, and freedom to simply breathe, jog, bird watch, enjoy nature, protest, and otherwise live and flourish.

In this context, each of us must stand firmly against such oppressive institutional and popular forces. There is no neutral position in this struggle; individuals cannot be non-racist when racism is embedded in systems and institutions. The silence and inaction of white people and predominantly white organizations reproduces systems of power just as thoroughly as overtly racist policies. As environmental sociologists, we have the ability to expose these power dynamics and support antiracist policies and practices. We have the responsibility to be accomplices in the fight against white supremacy, as it shapes every aspect of social life. We have work to do to confront the ways in which environmental sociology and higher education have been complicit in white supremacy.

Environmental sociology was founded as a response to sociology's failure to account for the role of the environment in social life – and yet, despite the fact that a number of scholars in our field long have grappled with the roles of white supremacy in structuring environmental outcomes as well as our own work, our field as a whole has not centered these concerns. We must recognize that the predominantly white-led subdiscipline of environmental sociology reproduces systemic racism and oppression (as the section's ad hoc Committee on Racial Equity helped [show](#)) – and we must actively subvert those power dynamics. Our section has been welcoming to many of us – but has not been a particularly welcoming space to many scholars of color. It is imperative that we acknowledge and confront this, and that white scholars in our community listen to and honor our students and colleagues of color while participating in the ongoing work needed to dismantle white supremacy within the section, discipline, and broader society.

The Council of the American Sociological Association's Section on Environmental Sociology stands in solidarity with and supports Black lives and the critical work of antiracist mobilizations unfolding in the United States and abroad. To demonstrate this solidarity and support, the section pledges to:

- Focus council work on assessing and developing ways to address the fact that our section and the broader discipline often continue to function as a [white institutional space](#) (a seemingly race-neutral social space that reproduces white privilege), and sharing these lessons with the broader membership through the listserv.
- Critically examine and change section business practices to help redress the whiteness of environmental sociology, including but not limited to addressing the overwhelming presence of white scholars among section award winners, council members, presenters in section sessions at the ASA annual meeting, and active participants on the section listserv. These changes are made through section bylaws (for details on those we enacted this year, see [here](#)), council positions' instructional handbooks (which we will continue to revise accordingly), and informal practices.
- Work across ASA and in our own departments to recruit sociologists of color as members and leaders in the section and other institutional spaces we inhabit.
- Establish and support a formal Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity to help continue the work started by our ad hoc Committee on Racial Equity. This was just approved by section membership, and we have issued a call for nominations for this committee (see page... of this newsletter).
- Revise the “canon” of environmental sociology posted on the section's website. Section members have [cultivated lists](#) of recommended scholarship that address race, racism, and the environment; settler colonialism and Indigenous environmental movements; and other critical and underrepresented bodies of literature that decenter and challenge white, heteronormative, and other privileged experiences of the environment. We have more work to do to elevate the work by Black scholars and other scholars of color and others underrepresented in the academy to elevate their

voices and scholarship within our own teaching, research, service, and outreach, including how we represent “core” environmental sociology.

- Revise our mentoring program to better serve the needs and interests of junior scholars, particularly those of color.
- The white members of council commit to listening and learning about how to be better accomplices in the fight against racist oppression and to honestly examining our own practices that reinforce white supremacy, which scholars of color have long called for. We implore our white colleagues throughout the section to join us in this work.
- Commit ourselves to speaking up about exclusionary claims, actions, dynamics, and other expressions of white supremacy in section affairs and on section listservs, and to following through on redressing them.
- Push beyond self-education, diversity training, and campus programming into advocating for antiracist policies and structural changes at our universities.
- Increase our media presence in order to more meaningfully support Black Lives Matter and affiliated movements against injustice.
- Regularly disseminate a survey inviting section members to suggest additional ways council can address racism within the section and the discipline more broadly.

There is much more to do. As always, if you have other suggestions for how council can pursue such work and/or would like to help in these efforts, please contact the section chair or another member of council (see list of current section council members [here](#)).

In Solidarity,  
Council for the American Sociological Association  
Section on Environmental Sociology  
<http://envirosoc.org/wordpress/section-officers/>

### Suggestions for further reading

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## FEATURE ESSAYS

### Abolition and Environmental Sociology

By Lindsey Dillon  
UC Santa Cruz

Abolition has gained considerable traction in the past few months, in the context of the [multiracial outpouring of support for the Movement for Black Lives](#) and related calls to [defund police departments](#). As scholars and activists—particularly from the Black feminist tradition—make clear, abolition is not merely about abolishing racist institutions, but the radical work of imagining and building "an array of alternatives" (Davis 2003). Calls to defund the police are simultaneously calls to fund other aspects of social life—education, mental health, divested neighborhoods—with the aim of rendering policing and prisons "obsolete."

Writers and activists have linked police and prison abolition with environmental politics. Defunding oversized police budgets, for example, would free up public money to support environmental regulations, food security, and health care for all. Recently, [Brett Story and Seth Prins](#) (2020) argued that a Green New Deal must include a transformative criminal justice agenda—that environmental justice and criminal justice have shared logics and goals. [Drew Costley](#) (2020) writes that "defunding or abolishing the police could represent a radical change for the environments of Black communities across the country," not only because police presence can act as an environmental stressor, but because "public funds meant for police could go to supporting community agriculture, health clinics, public parks, and a myriad of other social services."

In recent years, scholars in Sociology and related disciplines have developed an abolitionist-environmental framework. Ki'Amber Thompson (2018) studies the intersection of prisons, policing, and pollution through case studies in Texas and California,

arguing that environmental justice scholarship must engage with the ways prisons are extremely toxic spaces. She also demonstrates how abolitionist goals are quite similar to the goals of a “just sustainability.” Thompson writes, “Perhaps abolitionism is what sustainability resembles when we prioritize anti-racist, anti-colonial justice first and foremost, and (re)claim a justice that comes from a place of radical love.” David Pellow (2019) has examined similar dynamics in U.S. prisons. Pellow also suggests that environmental injustice is a practice of criminalizing communities of color, and therefore a radical environmental politics ought to embrace abolition. Building from W.E.B. Du Bois’s term “abolition democracy” in *Black Reconstruction*, Nik Heynen (2016, 2020) develops the term “abolition ecologies” to call attention to the white supremacist underpinnings of land and property relations. Abolishing white supremacy involves abolishing the institution of private property and rethinking human relations with the land.

As my colleague at UC Santa Cruz, Camilla Hawthorne, pointed out in conversation, abolition can be understood in terms of at least two analytical registers (1) the abolition of a specific institution (such as slavery or prisons), in part through building alternative institutions and social relations; and (2) abolition as a more general, world-building praxis (as an example, see [Savannah Shange’s](#) writing on abolitionist anthropology). These two ways of thinking about abolition are inextricable from each other, but maintaining a provisional distinction is useful, I think, in considering the potential work of abolition for environmental sociology. For example, in terms of the abolition of specific institutions, environmental sociologists might research the Green New Deal as a form of [fossil fuel abolition](#). In terms of abolition as a more general praxis, in addition to Shange, I turn to an essay by prison abolitionist and scholar-activist Ruth Wilson Gilmore, “[Abolition Geography and the Problem of Innocence](#).” While this essay tackles the prison industrial complex, Gilmore’s notion of “abolition geography” directs our inquiry to the ecological and infrastructural conditions of freedom (also see [Raganathan 2017](#)). As Gilmore writes, “Abolition geography and the methods adequate to it...elaborate the spatial—which is the say the human-environmental

processes—of Du Bois’s and Davis’s abolition democracy.”

An abolitionist approach within environmental sociology would begin from an intersectional framework ([Malin and Ryder 2018](#)) and broaden the range of what are considered environmental problems to include, for example, affordable housing and police violence ([Cohen 2019](#), [Dillon and Sze 2016](#)). In the past few months we have seen a proliferation of abolition syllabi, Zoom panel events, and articles on abolition in the mainstream press. The time is ripe for environmental sociology to contribute to the work of abolitionist theory-building, empirical inquiry, and political action.

[Sample abolition syllabi](#)

*The Abusable Past*, [Reading Toward Abolition](#)

If You’re New to Abolition: [Group Study Guide](#)

Resource Guide: [Prisons, Policing, and Punishment](#)

### **The Natural Hazards Center and CONVERGE Facility at the University of Colorado Boulder Supports Research on COVID-19**

By Lori Peek, Candace Evans, and Jessica Austin  
Department of Sociology, Natural Hazards Center, and  
CONVERGE, University of Colorado Boulder

The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives globally, while disrupting billions more. In the United States, higher fatalities have been recorded among older adults, medically fragile people, and Black, Latino, and Indigenous populations—adding to an already grim store of findings in the environmental sociology literature that shows that those who are marginalized often suffer first and worst in disasters.

It is imperative that we come together as a sociology community and in partnership with our colleagues in other disciplines to document, analyze, understand, and anticipate both the immediate and longer-term consequences of this pandemic. As such, our [Natural Hazards Center](#) and National Science Foundation-funded facility, [CONVERGE](#), have developed several different initiatives designed to help catalogue projects and facilitate collaboration across disciplines in regard to COVID-19.

For instance, we convened two major **COVID-19 Virtual Forums**. These forums, the first in a series, attracted hundreds of researchers and featured social scientists who have launched projects related to the pandemic or who are seeking collaborations. For recordings, see: <https://converge.colorado.edu/communications>.

CONVERGE has also **funded over 80 COVID-19 Working Groups for Public Health and Social Sciences Research**. These Working Groups are led by social and behavioral scientists, but the application requirement asked that all groups include researchers from three or more disciplines, to advance convergence research. On June 19, these Working Groups will submit a research agenda-setting paper that will help to identify gaps and opportunities for future research. A description of each Working Group and their members is available on the CONVERGE website at:

<https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/covid-19/working-groups>

We have also created the **first COVID-19 Global Research Registry for Public Health and Social Sciences**. Currently, we have many organizational partners across four continents contributing to this effort. The registry is currently available in **English, Spanish, Italian, French, and Chinese**. If you have launched a project on COVID-19, we ask that you please take 5-7 minutes to register your project at: <https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/covid-19/public-health-social-sciences-registry>.

We also have several efforts in the works in regard to data publication and sharing. For example, through our partnership with DesignSafe, a data repository for disaster researchers, we have just completed the first ever **data sharing model for social science and interdisciplinary research in the hazards and disaster field**. Thanks to NSF support of this effort, hazards and disaster researchers can now publish their data as well as data collection instruments and protocols. This will allow researchers working on COVID-19 projects and otherwise to share information and facilitate collaboration:

<https://converge.colorado.edu/data/data-publication>. We will soon host a hands-on workshop event to help attendees learn how to utilize DesignSafe (<https://converge.colorado.edu/data/events/publish-your-data/april-2020>).

In addition to the work of the CONVERGE facility, our Natural Hazards Center released a special call for **COVID-19 Quick Response Grants**. Aiming to promote social science and interdisciplinary innovation in disaster research, the program provides funding for U.S.-based researchers to gather perishable data in the immediate aftermath of extreme events. Funded researchers receive editorial support to publish their findings on the Natural Hazards Center website, allowing the Center's network of researchers, practitioners, and educators to access these preliminary analyses. We received nearly 60 applications for these Quick Response grants, and were able to fund 18 of the projects, which are now underway (see: <https://hazards.colorado.edu/research/quick-response-report/funded>). The Natural Hazards Center has also been compiling a list of the hundreds of NSF-funded RAPID Awards that have been issued since the onset of the pandemic. That list is available here:

<https://hazards.colorado.edu/resources/recent-awards/nsf-rapid-awards>

Lastly, our **Social Science Extreme Events Research (SSEER) Network** now has over 1,100 members! This, alongside the other NSF-funded Extreme Events Research networks, is helping to bring together and mobilize the social science hazards and disaster research community. The SSEER Researchers interactive web map (<https://hazards.colorado.edu/sseer/researchers-map>) allows researchers to search for one another by location, discipline, methodology, disasters studied, and user-defined keywords, facilitating connections and collaboration among social scientists wishing to study COVID-19 and other disasters.

### **Job Market Advice**

By Janet A. Lorenzen

Willamette University Salem, Oregon  
Chair of the Teaching & Practice Committee

I went on the job market after the Great Recession, I imagine that a post-Covid job market may be similar. I recommend that graduate students today seek out faculty mentors that experienced a job search during or shortly after the Great Recession (2009-2014). Here's a

little of the advice I received during that time and what I learned:

- I was told by a graduate student a year ahead of me “stay in school as long as possible.”
- Seek out grants that pay living expenses (I was supported by the AAUW). Find out what grants students in your program typically apply for (if you don’t already have a crowd-sourced list, make one) and get help from your university’s office of external grants and fellowships. Think about the topics you study and your social position when trying to find a grant that matches. Also look at internal grants, existing campus jobs, or develop a new campus job (one year I crunched data for a Dean and wrote a new exit survey for undergraduates).
- If you have to take a year off, keep in touch with faculty and graduate students, you will be more likely to return.
- Cultivate multiple mentors for the job market so you can triangulate advice. Do not expect professors who haven’t been on the market for a long time to understand the new situation (they may underreact and not understand the severity of the problem or overreact and advise you to take the first thing you’re offered). Have at least one job market mentor who has been on the market in the last 2 years (if you are 2 or 3 years away from going on the market this will work particular well for you).
- Decision-making for many post-docs is based on social networks (friendly phone calls), even more so than the job market. Also, post-docs often go to internal candidates (graduate students at the school where the post-doc is located). Should you still apply for a post-doc if you have no network connections with the program? If you have the time and it’s a good fit, sure, I used what I wrote for a post-doc application in an article I published so I don’t consider the time wasted.
- If the job market is particularly competitive as it recovers, consider publishing your dissertation as articles rather than a book. Book contracts mean little when you are competing against people with 3 or 4 published articles. Also, consider the tradeoffs between publishing faster at a less prestigious

journal vs. waiting to hear back from a more prestigious journal.

- Ask your graduate program chair to host a (zoom) panel of people who have sociology Ph.D.’s and jobs outside academia (like at RAND). Hopefully, they already do this.
- If you are applying to small liberal arts colleges be sure to read up about how that is different than applying to an R1 and follow the advice. Also write a diversity statement that explains how you will contribute to the diversity of the university. Send it with your job applications even if not requested.
- If there’s a 10% chance that you will take a job, do the interview. You really do get better at interviewing with practice. Also of course be sure to practice your job talk and classroom-simulation (if they ask for one).
- Keep applying. I was on the market for more than 2 years and sent out about 120 applications. I applied for tenure-track and visiting positions. Multi-year Visiting Assistant Professorships can be a great stepping stone, especially if faculty mentor you while you’re there. Also apply for the Society of Fellows which offers 4-year positions at prestigious schools.
- If people keep telling you that you are “doing everything right” and you still don’t have a job try to avoid blaming yourself (and consider therapy to help with that if you need it).
- Talk to financial aid and your student loan companies about your student loans. If you are leaving school or taking a year off, will you need to start repaying your loans in 6 months (that’s typical, but maybe negotiable)? If you need to take out a loan, are you eligible for a subsidized loan that doesn’t accrue interest while you are in school? Ask your administrative assistant for a recommendation about who to talk to in the financial aid office or just keep talking to different people until you find someone helpful.

Good luck!

## SECTION EVENTS AND NEWS

### ASA Annual Meeting Goes Virtual for 2020 (From Chair-Elect)

In the midst of COVID-19, this year the American Sociological Association's annual meeting has gone online. While disappointed to not be meeting face to face with our colleagues and friends, many of our program session presenters are enthusiastically preparing to either present in real time or pre-recording their papers to broadcast during programmed times.

The Environmental Sociology Section's day is Monday August 10<sup>th</sup> this year. We have a wonderful slate of speakers in three main sessions and a number of roundtables going forward. The online program is available to everyone, but you must be registered for the annual meeting to view information about how to participate in sessions. To access the online session information after you have registered, you need to log in to your ASA account, click on Virtual Engagement Portal listed under the Annual Meeting header and then click view the online program.

The first environmental sociology session (11:30 am - 1:10 pm ET) is "A Comparative Approach: Environmental Politics in a Time of Populism, Nationalism and De-Globalization." This session interrogates the bi-directional relationships between the rise of variants of populism and nationalism and environmental issues and features papers on China's environmental authoritarianism, Europe's yellow vest movement, and Brazil's anti-environmental leadership.

The second session (1:30-3:10 pm ET) "Creating Knowledge for Equality and Empowerment" takes on the question of how research can be done to ensure that environmental sociology research advances equality and empowerment? This session will feature researchers and practitioners using innovative approaches to create knowledge that empowers marginalized groups to achieve more just outcomes. Papers feature a range of approaches such as sustainable participatory action research, decolonization method, environmental justice training, science democratization, co-production, and the intersection of scientific engagement with social movements.

The third session (5:30 to 7:10pm EDT) "Social Change for Sustainability" focuses on making explicit

dimensions of social change in advancing a sustainable society. The presentations present wonderfully diverse approaches to social change such as social tipping points, understanding diffusion and adoption of solar technology, the dynamics between social movements and corporations and government in creating change, and the role of emotions in social change.

Finally- we have our roundtable sessions that will run from 8:10 to 9:10 pm ET. The roundtables going forward are: Coastal Resilience, Corporate Environmentalism, Crossing Boundaries: Human, Non-Humans and Nature, Cross-National Perspectives on Environmental Attitudes and Behavior, Energy Transitions, Environmental Governance, Household Inequality, Livelihoods Labor and the Environment, The Environment in the Media, Inequality of Toxic Air Pollution, Justice and Our Food Systems, Political Economy of Environmental Problems, Negotiating Responses to Environmental Change and Risk, Politics of Conservation, and Problematizing Solutions.

Rather than holding a live meeting, the Environmental Sociology Section Council will record a meeting in which we make a few brief announcements and then focus on honoring this year's recipients of our section awards. We will disseminate it to section members via the list-serv, social media, and other platforms in mid-August.

### Awards

#### ***Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award***

***Winner:*** Andrew Jorgenson, Boston University

***Nomination:*** Dana Fisher, Jennifer Givens, Debra Davidson, Tom Dietz, Lori Peek, David Pellow, Beth Caniglia, Brett Clark, Julie Schor, Don Grant, Alf Hornburg, Xiaorui Huang, Daniel Auerbauch, Jared B. Fitzgerald, James Rice, Annika Rieger, and Ryan P. Thombs

The Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award recognizes individuals for outstanding service, innovation, or publication in environmental sociology or sociology of technology. It is intended to be an expression of appreciation, to be awarded when an individual is deemed extraordinarily meritorious by the Section. Note that Dr. Jorgenson was nominated by no

less than 17 of his colleagues and students for this award!!! Following are some excerpts from his letters.

Professor Jorgenson has long distinguished himself as an exceptional scholar, mentor, colleague, and leader, promoting and advancing environmental sociology on numerous fronts. In what follows, we highlight his accomplishments, knowing it is impossible to account adequately for all of his contributions that serve as the basis for this award. Nevertheless, we trust that his merit is clearly evident, as he is truly deserving of this recognition.

Professor Jorgenson earned a PhD from the University of California-Riverside in 2004. He has been a professor at Washington State University, North Carolina State University, the University of Utah, and Boston College. At each of these universities, he made important contributions to the ongoing development and/or creation of environmental sociology training for students at all levels, introducing courses and integrating them within the required curriculum. Throughout his career, he has regularly published with graduate students – to date this includes 42 publications with students. He has published 110 articles, 17 book chapters, and 22 other scholarly publications. He has edited 5 special issues of journals, mostly focused on questions/issues related to environmental sociology. He has edited 5 books/handbooks. He also has a forthcoming book with Columbia University Press.

Beyond his publications, Professor Jorgenson is a clear leader in the field of environmental sociology. He served as a Distinguished Scholar for the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), a prestigious research organization that is committed to bringing together the natural sciences and the sciences of human behavior and decision-making. Reflecting his ability to draw out the relevance of his work, and of environmental sociology generally, to broad audiences, he also has become a recognized public sociologist, speaking regularly with the media about his research.

Professor Jorgenson has served in numerous leadership roles in the ASA, in which he has worked to advance environmental sociology. He has been the Chair of the Environmental Sociology Section. He was also chair of the Sociology of Development Section, and is a founding editor of the Sociology of Development,

that section's new journal. He is also an active member of the Political-Economy of the World-System Section. When working for other sections, he initiated panels that were devoted to environmental issues, in order to expand intersections and connections, which increased the visibility of the Environment Sociology Section. While Chair of the Environment Sociology Section, he encouraged efforts to increase the diversity and inclusivity of our field and to ensure that the Section's meetings were welcoming venues for all. These efforts continue to have positive resonance in the Section, as others have also carried on these objectives.

Moreover, Professor Jorgenson is a great colleague and strong mentor. He is an excellent role model for other professors and students. He invests copious amounts of time teaching students the appropriate methods to answer their research questions and helping them prepare papers. Students thrive under his guidance. He is an exemplary advisor, one of the best we have witnessed in many years of teaching.

Andrew's "work and service will continue to inspire the next generation of sociologists who aspire to understand and tackle the most significant socio-ecological challenges facing societies around the globe" and, as James Rice says, Andrew "embodies the spirit of Dr. Buttel in his many contributions."

### ***Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award***

***Winner:*** Andrew McCumber

***Title:*** Killing for Life: Species Eradication and the Ecology of Meaning in Ecuador's Galápagos Islands

This paper draws on efforts to eradicate invasive animals to show how the cultural and the material interplay in people's efforts to manage environments. Committee members appreciated its well-crafted theoretical discussion of ecologies of meaning, which deepened our understanding of how questions of the material and the symbolic, the general and the specific play out in efforts at conservation and species eradication. This conceptualization fuses with interviews with people involved in conservation on the Galápagos Islands to give an illuminating account of how symbolic conceptions of nature motivate actions with material consequences, and how those material effects redound to symbolic struggles over species and habitats. We

also remarked at the article's clear, expressive, and sensitive writing, which make it a great pleasure to read.

**Nomination:** self-nominated

**Honorable Mention:** Danielle Falzon

**Title:** Legitimately Paralyzed: How Fairness and Flexibility Have Doomed the UN Climate Negotiations from the Start

This paper's argument about how the pillars of the UNFCCC's legitimacy prevent it from effectively resolving climate challenges forced us to rethink what we thought we knew about international climate change efforts. Interviews with participants in climate negotiation illustrate the forces behind this conundrum, seamlessly substantiating the article's theoretical claims.

**Nomination:** self-nominated

**Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award**

**Winner:** *Norah MacKendrick*

**Title:** Better Safe than Sorry: How Consumers Navigate Exposure to Everyday Toxics

**Nomination:** Phil Brown

How does living in a world full of unknown chemical burdens that you must manage through responsible buying impact people faced with protecting themselves and their families? Norah MacKendrick shows how the environmental health movement in the U.S. shifted from advocating the precautionary principle to urging people to act as smart consumers, in particular targeting women who bear children and shop for households with responsibility to keep their loved ones safe. Her interviews with women who buy organic shows how they manage the burden of navigating aisles and labels, their strategies inflected by racialized and class distinctions. Arguing that precautionary consumption is not only inadequate for ensuring safety but creates gendered burdens, MacKendrick calls for institutionalizing the precautionary principle in consumer products regulation. This book's incisive account of the genesis of precautionary consumption and attentive analysis of women's experiences will help us to better understand how green consumption operates within changing social structures.

**Honorable Mention:** Jill Harrison

**Title:** *From the Inside Out: The Fight for Environmental Justice within Government Agencies*

**Nomination:** Phil Brown

Do resource constraints explain environmental agencies' lackluster performance on environmental justice mandates, or is there something more going on? Drawing from interviews with staff across many offices of the EPA and state environmental agencies, Harrison shows how an organizational culture of downplaying environmental justice concerns and obstructing environmental justice work hinders environmental justice staff—and recounts how environmental justice officials work to institutionalize environmental justice even in this hostile environment.

**Teaching and Mentoring Award**

**Winner:** Sandra Marquart-Pyatt, Michigan State University

The Teaching and Practice Committee is pleased to announce that the Biennial Teaching and Mentoring Award recipient is Dr. Sandra Marquart-Pyatt. Dr. Marquart-Pyatt was nominated by Dr. Riva Denny, Dr. Matthew Houser, Dr. Hui (Chloe) Qian, and Ph.D. candidate Jennifer Lai. We made two equity-informed changes this year, first, a nomination letter was the only submission necessary to begin the awards process. We hope that this change will increase nominations, especially from individuals from communities underrepresented among this award's past recipients. Second, award deliberations included careful consideration of how diversity, equity, and inclusion were supported by the nominees. Dr. Marquart-Pyatt excelled in this area and many others. One student expressed: "what is most remarkable about Dr. Marquart-Pyatt's mentorship is that she is able to maintain, for each student, a sense of history. She knows about your frustrations, your evolving research interests, your accomplishments, as well as important details from your personal life. She has a way of making students feel seen."

Thanks to Prof. Erica Morrell for serving as Chair of the Awards Committee, and Committee Members Prof. Anya Galli Robertson, Prof. John Chung-En Liu, Prof.

Michael Haedicke, Prof. Janet Lorenzen, and Ph.D. candidate Kindra De'Arman.

## CALLS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Call for Nominations: New Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity

We are seeking nominations for the Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity, a new formal committee of the ASA Environmental Sociology Section, which was approved by section membership this spring and will begin its work this fall. The Committee's mission is to assess and help address the historical and contemporary state of racial exclusion and equity in the Section with curiosity and a critical lens. The committee may undertake various projects and/or initiatives to achieve this mission with the objective of creating an empathetic yet critical space for conversation, reflection, and new scholarship on racial exclusion and equity as it relates to environmental sociology. The chair and other members of this new committee will be appointed by a consensus decision of the section chair and the ad hoc committee on racial equity from a list of candidates derived by soliciting nominations from section members and others. The committee will strive to be a racially diverse committee, as well as represent diversity with respect to career stage, gender, and other lines of inequality within the section. The committee chair must be a member of ASA during their time as chair, per ASA rules. **We are now soliciting nominations for this committee's chair and other members; self-nominations are welcome and encouraged. If you are interested in serving as chair or other member of this committee, want to nominate people for it, or have questions about these positions, please contact section chair Jill Harrison at [jill.harrison@colorado.edu](mailto:jill.harrison@colorado.edu).**

*Background: The ASA Environmental Sociology Section ad hoc Committee on Racial Equity (CRE) was founded in 2016, in response to numerous section members' concerns about insufficient attention to racial exclusion and racial inequity within the section. Initial members included Elisabeth Wilder and Lauren Richter, both graduate student members at the time, and Michael Mascarenhas. Jennifer Carrera joined the CRE soon after, followed by Raoul Liévanos the following year.*

*The CRE investigated racial and ethnic diversity within the section, assessing the professional climate for scholars of color, recommending changes in section policies and practices, organizing a mini-conference on race and the environment, editing a special issue of *Environmental Sociology* to showcase scholarship from that conference, and engaging environmental sociologists in laying the foundation for a more inclusive scholarly community. In 2018, section council expressed support for integrating the CRE's recommendations into all aspects of section practice; in fall 2019, council developed the new bylaw that would enact this, and in 2020 section membership approved this bylaw. Additionally, in 2018 and 2019 council meetings, section council expressed support for formalizing the CRE from ad hoc to permanent status within the Section; in fall 2019, council developed the new bylaw that would enact this, and in 2020 section membership approved the bylaw that formalized the ad hoc CRE into a new Committee on Racial Exclusion and Equity.*

Mascarenhas, Michael, Jennifer Carrera, Lauren Richter, and Elisabeth Wilder. 2017. "[Diversity in Sociology and Environmental Sociology: What we Know About our Discipline.](#)" *ASA ETS Section News*, 1-5.

Mascarenhas, M., Raoul S. Liévanos, Jennifer Carrera, Lauren Richter, and Elisabeth Wilder. 2018. "[Reflections on 'Bridging the Gap: Race and the Environment' Mini-Conference](#)" *ASA ETS Section News*, 3-5.

Wilder, Elisabeth, Lauren Richter, Michael Mascarenhas, Raoul S. Liévanos, and Jennifer Carrera. 2019. "[Confronting White Space and White Ignorance: A Summary of the Committee on Racial Equity's Mission and Work \(2016-2019\).](#)" *American Sociological Association Section on Environmental Sociology Newsletter* Fall 2019:3-6.

These reports are compiled here:

<http://envirosoc.org/wordpress/committee-on-racial-equity/>

### Request for Teaching on Resources Covid-19 and Online Learning

The Teaching & Mentoring Committee is collecting teaching resources for Covid-19 and online learning.

Intersectional and social justice perspectives are essential for a full understanding of Covid-19. We particularly encourage you to upload resources on Covid-19 and race, immigrant detention, farm workers, indigenous responses, prisons, environmental justice, climate equity or other topics that use an equity lens to examine problems and solutions.

Uploads about Covid-19 could include: Readings & links to readings, video & podcast links, links to other resource lists.

\*This is intended to be a curated list. Please only upload materials that you would assign in a class.

Uploads about online teaching pedagogy could include: Active learning activities that can be done online, class discussion resources, assignments that can be done online or partly online, syllabi or links to syllabi, advice or links to advice about teaching online/hybrid classes.

Thank you for your help.

Please upload resources by July 31st to this google folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16BoPD7BsfNE7Tn27kdMDAVp2D8g5ucOz?usp=sharing>

For additional information email Janet Lorenzen [jlorenze@willamette.edu](mailto:jlorenze@willamette.edu)

### CONVERGE IRB Procedures and Extreme Events Research Training Module

The NSF-funded CONVERGE facility, headquartered at the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder, is excited to announce the release of a fourth CONVERGE Training Module that focuses on ***Institutional Review Board (IRB) Procedures and Extreme Events Research***. You can register for the free online module here:

<https://converge.colorado.edu/training-modules>.

This IRB module is part of a larger series of online modules designed to accelerate the training of a diverse hazards and disaster workforce. These interactive, 30- to 60-minute courses cover a variety of topics that researchers and practitioners can use to quickly background themselves on the purpose of the IRB, the application process, and specific IRB challenges that

arise in the context of extreme events research. Upon successful completion of a 10 question quiz, users receive a certificate (so these can be useful for classroom assignments as well as other activities).

You can sign up for free resources and additional updates at the CONVERGE website at: <https://converge.colorado.edu/signup>. Thank you!

**Acknowledgements:** *The CONVERGE Training Modules are based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF Award #1841338). Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSF.*

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

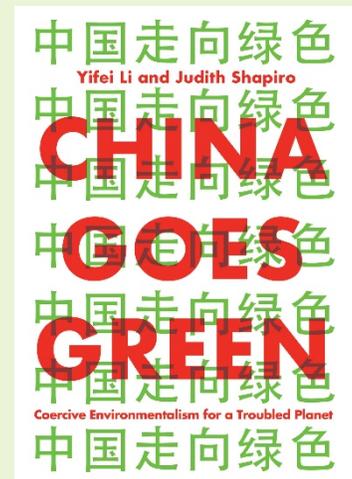
#### China Goes Green: Coercive Environmentalism for a Troubled Planet

Yifei Li and Judith Shapiro  
(Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2020)

<https://politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9781509543113>

What does it mean for the future of the planet when one of the world's most durable authoritarian governance systems pursues "ecological civilization"? Despite its staggering pollution and colossal appetite for resources, China exemplifies a model of state-led

environmentalism which concentrates decisive political, economic, and epistemic power under centralized leadership. On the face of it, China seems to embody hope for a radical new approach to environmental governance. In this thought-provoking book, Yifei Li



and Judith Shapiro probe the concrete mechanisms of China's coercive environmentalism to show how "going green" helps the state to further other agendas such as citizen surveillance and geopolitical influence. Through top-down initiatives, regulations, and campaigns to mitigate pollution and environmental degradation, the Chinese authorities also promote control over the behavior of individuals and enterprises, pacification of borderlands, and expansion of Chinese power and influence along the Belt and Road and even into the global commons. Given the limited time that remains to mitigate climate change and protect millions of species from extinction, we need to consider whether a green authoritarianism can show us the way. This book explores both its promises and risks.

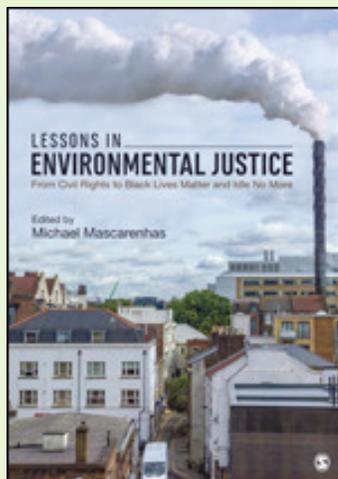
**Yifei Li** is Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at NYU Shanghai, and Global Network Assistant Professor at NYU.

**Judith Shapiro** is Professor and Director of the Masters in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development at American University.

### **Lessons in Environmental Justice. From Civil Rights to Black Lives and Idle No More**

Michael Mascarenhas (Editor)  
(Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing, 2020)  
<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/lessons-in-environmental-justice/book260893>

*Lessons in Environmental Justice* provides an entry point to the field by bringing together the works of individuals who are creating a new and vibrant wave of environmental justice scholarship, methodology, and activism. The 18 essays in this collection explore a wide range of controversies and debates, from the U.S. and other societies. An important theme throughout the book is how vulnerable and marginalized populations—the



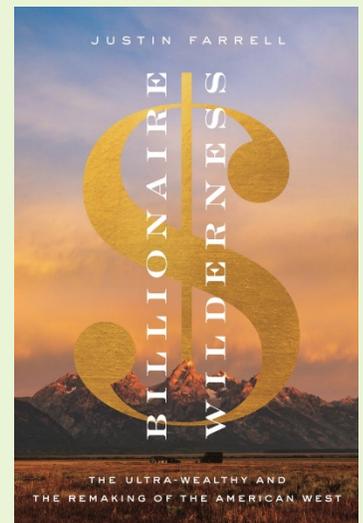
incarcerated, undocumented workers, rural populations, racial and ethnic minorities—bear a disproportionate share of environmental risks. Each reading concludes with a suggested assignment that helps student explore the topic independently and deepen their understanding of the issues raised.

**Michael Mascarenhas** is associate professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at University of California, Berkley.

### **Billionaire Wilderness: The Ultra-Wealthy and The Remaking of the American West**

Justin Farrell  
(Princeton University Press, 2020)  
<https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691176673/billionaire-wilderness>

*Billionaire Wilderness* takes you inside the exclusive world of the ultra-wealthy, showing how today's richest people are using the natural environment to solve the existential dilemmas they face. Justin Farrell spent five years in Teton County, Wyoming, the richest county in the United States, and a community where income inequality is the worst in the nation. He conducted hundreds of in-depth interviews, gaining unprecedented access to tech CEOs, Wall Street financiers, oil magnates, and other prominent figures in business and politics. He also talked with the rural poor who live among the ultra-wealthy and often work for them. The result is a penetrating account of the far-reaching consequences of the massive accrual of wealth, and an eye-opening and sometimes troubling portrait of a changing American West where romanticizing rural poverty and conserving nature can be lucrative—socially as well as financially.



Weaving unforgettable storytelling with thought-provoking analysis, *Billionaire Wilderness* reveals how the ultra-wealthy are buying up the land and leveraging one of the most pristine ecosystems in the world to climb even higher on the socioeconomic ladder. The affluent of Teton County are people burdened by stigmas, guilt, and status anxiety—and they appropriate nature and rural people to create more virtuous and

deserving versions of themselves. Incisive and compelling, *Billionaire Wilderness* reveals the hidden connections between wealth concentration and the environment, two of the most pressing and contentious issues of our time.

**Justin Farrell** is associate professor at Yale University.

### **Seeds of Power: Environmental Injustice and Genetically Modified Soybeans in Argentina**

Amalia Leguizamón  
(Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2020)  
<https://www.dukeupress.edu/seeds-of-power>

In 1996 Argentina adopted genetically modified (GM) soybeans as a central part of its national development strategy. Today, Argentina is the third largest global grower and exporter of GM crops. Its soybeans—which have been modified to tolerate spraying with herbicides—now cover half of the country's arable land and represent a third of its total exports. While soy has brought about modernization and economic growth, it has also created tremendous social and ecological

harm: rural displacement, concentration of land ownership, food insecurity, deforestation, violence, and the negative health effects of toxic agrochemical exposure. In *Seeds of Power* Amalia Leguizamón explores why Argentines largely support GM soy despite the widespread damage it creates. She reveals how agribusiness, the state, and their allies in the media and sciences



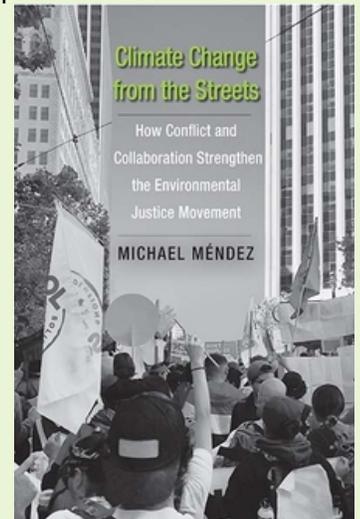
deploy narratives of economic redistribution, scientific expertise, and national identity as a way to elicit compliance among the country's most vulnerable rural residents. In this way, Leguizamón demonstrates that GM soy operates as a tool of power to obtain consent, to legitimate injustice, and to quell potential dissent in the face of environmental and social violence.

**Amalia Leguizamón** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Tulane University.

### **Climate Change from the Streets: How Conflict and Collaboration Strengthen the Environmental Justice Movement**

Michael Mendez  
(NewHaven, CT: Yale University Press, 2020)  
<https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300232158/climate-change-streets>

Although the science of climate change is clear, policy decisions about how to respond to its effects remain contentious. Even when such decisions claim to be guided by objective knowledge, they are made and implemented through political institutions and relationships—and all the competing interests and power struggles that this implies. Michael Méndez tells a timely story of people, place, and power in the context of climate change and inequality. He explores the perspectives and influence low-income people of color bring to their advocacy work on climate change. In California, activist groups have galvanized behind issues such as air pollution, poverty alleviation, and green jobs to advance equitable climate solutions at the local, state, and global levels. Arguing that environmental protection and improving public health are inextricably linked, Mendez contends that we must incorporate local knowledge, culture, and history into policymaking to fully address the global complexities of climate change and the real threats facing our local communities.



**Michael Méndez** is assistant professor of environmental planning and policy at the University of California, Irvine. He previously served in California as a senior consultant, lobbyist, and gubernatorial appointee during the passage of the state's internationally acclaimed climate change legislation.

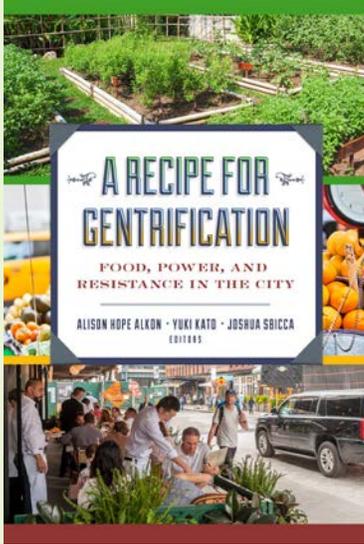
### **A Recipe for Gentrification: Food, Power, and Resistance in the City**

Alison Alkon, Yuki Kato, and Joshua Sbicca (eds).  
(New York, NY: NYU Press, 2020)  
<https://nyupress.org/9781479834433/a-recipe-for-gentrification/>

From hipster coffee shops to upscale restaurants, a bustling local food scene is perhaps the most commonly recognized harbinger of gentrification. *A Recipe for Gentrification* explores this widespread phenomenon,

showing the ways in which food and gentrification are deeply—and, at times, controversially—intertwined.

Contributors provide an inside look at gentrification in different cities, from major hubs like New York and Los Angeles to smaller cities like Cleveland and Durham.



They examine a wide range of food enterprises—including grocery stores, restaurants, community gardens, and farmers' markets—to provide up-to-date perspectives on why gentrification takes place, and how communities use food to push back against displacement.

Ultimately, they unpack the consequences for vulnerable people and neighborhoods. A

*Recipe for Gentrification* highlights how the everyday practices of growing, purchasing and eating food reflect the rapid—and contentious—changes taking place in American cities in the twenty-first century.

**Alison Hope Alkon** is Professor of Sociology at the University of the Pacific. She is co-editor of *The New Food Activism and Cultivating Food Justice* and author of *Black, White, and Green: Farmers Markets, Race and the Green Economy*.

**Yuki Kato** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University.

**Joshua Sbicca** is Associate Professor of Sociology at Colorado State University. He is the author of *Food Justice Now!: Deepening the Roots of Social Struggle*.

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## MEMBER NEWS

Section members **Alissa Corder, Lauren Richter, and Phil Brown** are among the authors of *PFAS Drinking Water Guideline Levels: The Role of Scientific Uncertainty, Risk Assessment Decisions, and Social Factors*, which has been selected to receive the 2020 ISES Award for Best Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology (JESEE) Paper for the year 2019. The award will be presented in the virtual awards session at this year's ISES annual meeting in September. The paper, co-authored by Alissa Corder, Vanessa Y. De La Rosa, Laurel A. Schaidler, Ruthann A. Rudel, Lauren Richter, and Phil Brown and published by the *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology* (2019 29:157–17), is a result of the long-standing collaboration between the Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute at Northeastern University and Silent Spring Institute.

**Thomas Dietz**, Michigan State University, has been appointed to the Canadian Northern Corridor Scientific Advisory Committee at the University of Calgary.

**Justin Farrell** published an op-ed in the **New York Times** about people fleeing COVID to rural and environmentally privileged areas: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/15/opinion/jackson-hole-coronavirus.html>.

*Many congratulations to these news-making section members for their achievements!*

## TRANSITION

**Michael Haedicke**, formerly an associate professor of sociology at Drake University, will begin a new position as an associate professor of sociology at the University of Maine in September, 2020.

**Janet Lorenzen** earned tenure and is now Associate Professor of Sociology at Willamette University in Salem, OR.

**John Chung-En Liu**, who was recently elected as the Publications Committee Chair, will take over as editor of the section newsletter. According section bylaws, the Publications Committee Chair serves as editor of the Section Newsletter.

**Amalia Leguizamón**, the section's Treasurer-elect (2020-2023), has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Tulane University.

*Many congratulations to you all for your achievements!*