

# Environment, Technology and Society

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

Fall 2014

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## Feature

### Boston militant ethnography collective on the People's Climate March

by Alex Press, Northeastern University  
and Robert Wengronowitz, Boston College

It's Saturday evening, September 20th. Approximately 125 people are meeting in Maria Hernandez Park in Bushwick, Brooklyn. The purpose is to continue planning for the #FloodWallStreet (FWS) action to begin 40 hours later. The goals of the action, clearly spelled out at the beginning of the meeting and written on large paper, included: "1) in solidarity with frontlines, 2) decentralized and coordinated, 3) replicable and viral, 4) focus on capital and capitalism, 5) escalating and raising the stakes, 6) attract media attention, 7) be awesome, and 8) to physically get in the way of business mother f\*\*\*\*\*." There is a righteous anger among participants, revealed in the epithet referencing adversaries, but there is also a loving calmness, well reflected in the anthem song for the action. As had happened before, Luke from The Peace Poets, leads the group: "The people gonna rise like the water, we're gonna calm this crisis down. I hear the voice of my great granddaughter singing shut down Wall Street Now." Luke quickly corrects himself, "Sorry, it's rise with the water, there ain't no stopping it now. We can only slow it down, talk to the scientists y'all."

We are sociologists engaged in militant ethnography, a collaborative form of participant observation that is explicitly political and built on the premise that to

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understand a social movement and help propel it forward, one must be an active participant (Juris 2007). Deeply concerned about climate (in)justice, we went to New York City for the Sunday, September 21 People's Climate March (PCM). Here, we share some of the highlights of a week of workshops, talks, discussions, ceremonies, and action planning, and we reflect on themes our research collective is pursuing.

The PCM and surrounding events prioritized indigenous and frontline voices. The McKibben's and Klein's had their say, but so too did environmental justice groups, organizations under the umbrella Climate Justice Alliance, and a host of community-based groups. As the climate movement in the U.S. continues to struggle with its own privilege and whiteness, we took a particular interest in the full schedule of indigenous peoples organized-and-centered events.

Erica Violet Lee, a young organizer with Idle No More, began her Saturday afternoon workshop at the Sixth Street Community Center by sharing a story. A short snippet provides a useful analytic backdrop to the week's events and to a climate movement returning, perhaps, to its roots and connecting many different struggles for justice. "One of the first memories I have—as a young person growing up, when I started realizing [that] perhaps I was a member of a group that wasn't considered as valuable as others—was when I was about four years old. My mom was late with the rent, like a day, by a day—my mom's single and raised me on her own. This landlord came to the door and reduced her to tears in front of me, as a four-year-old girl, you know, lecturing her, 'Where's the money?! You'll be on the street with that little girl of yours.' And I remember so clearly, seeing that hatred in his eyes for her and wondering why, why does he hate her right now? What's causing this? And it's taken a long time for me to realize that it's not an individual thing, right. It's based on devaluation of women, devaluation of mothers, devaluation of indigenous people, poor people. So that memory is sort of—whenever I feel tired of fighting and just, like, I could go and be a student and not worry about the world or the environment around me—I remember how hard my mom struggled to provide a chance for more for me." Erica's voice was just one of many linking the struggles of marginalized people to a broader struggle for freedom.

That same afternoon, a panel on Latin American social movements convened inside the aptly named Graffiti Church, tucked away in lower Manhattan's

Alphabet City. Most speakers delivered their talks in Spanish. A translator distributed earpieces to the

handful that needed translation, and stood to the side of the panel whispering translation, occasionally interrupting speakers with an apologetic grin when they, in their determination to address the concerns raised by questions from the floor, began speaking faster than she could translate.

Toward the end of the panel, a man in the audience, prefacing his question to identify himself half-jokingly as a gringo, directed a question to Jim Schultze, a gringo who played a crucial role in the Cochabamba uprisings in Bolivia. "How do we connect our efforts in Latin America and here in the empire?" he asked, leaning across the table slightly in Jim's direction. The speaker continued. "I'm seeking contacts to strengthen the networks of people who want to fight and don't know what to do. Because I'm here. And I'm here alone." Jim grinned, and after pausing for a moment, responded. "It would be a dream if we had a coordinated climate strategy. It will never happen." Letting his words sink in, Jim continued: "Strategy, in a movement, has to be magnetic. If we don't get so much stronger, so much smarter, I worry about what the world is going to look like when that girl [pointing to the only child in the room, whose mother held her hand and smiled] is as old as I am." The exchange spoke to central issues of strategy, scale, and power, all supercharged by a sense of urgency within a movement that increasingly understands its own timeline based on the ticking ecological clock as opposed to what is "politically possible."

Upon reconvening in Boston, our research collective organized themes we feel are not only worthy of further sociological study and inquiry, but will also help the movement better understand itself and potentialities moving forward.

The first is the constitution of those at the PCM and FWS action as publics, and the concerns these discursive publics had as to representation, perception, and unity. For example, at the PCM, volunteer "security marshals" recounted their uneasiness with telling marchers to go home before they even arrived at the planned destination, a desolate area (for Manhattan) at 11th Avenue and 38th Street. At one point during FWS, there was a call for Black and Brown folks to come to the front of the march, which organizers in a Boston-based affinity group understood as tokenizing. Similarly, after a string of male voices utilized the human amplified people's mic, complaints over "manarchists" stirred calls for reflection of oppression within our movement. Who is represented in what ways matters greatly to many participants.

Composed of such a broad spectrum of actors, the negotiation of difference within the unity of the convergence was fraught with tensions at times, a process that repeatedly surfaced throughout the week, causing us to mark it as a second theme worthy of investigation. The march's spatiality itself was notable in this respect, as it was divided into six sections, each with distinct themes that acted as distinct poles of attraction. Further, this spatial segregation mapped onto the racialized geography of the city, with different segments of the climate justice movement centering their events and socializing in different boroughs altogether.

There are other themes, such as organizing efforts and strategies following the convergence. Mass marches absorb much capacity and can lead to lulls in action, though in Boston there is a great deal of energy with at least six "PCM debrief and next steps" gatherings. Participants at one such debrief have begun to talk of a Boston PCM, "though we need to be serious, with demands." A separate but reoccurring theme for our research collective is the process of combining activism and scholarship. To juggle both roles simultaneously requires a self-reflexivity as to what it means to be both participant and observer.

Through militant ethnography one can gain insights into how a movement approaches an immense challenge summed up by some as disarming the extractivist approach of modern society and all the ills that follow from it (e.g. Klein 2014; Merchant 1990). Climate change is no longer an important "environmental issue" because "it's your life too" as a woman recounted in a PCM debrief. However, climate remains an "issue" for many, not connected to other injustices and oppressions that plague society. Therefore, social movement scholars and environmental sociologists can play a helpful role in the difficult process of building resilient networks and bridges across historic social divides.

Juris, Jeffrey S. 2007. "Practicing Militant Ethnography with the Movement for Global Resistance in Barcelona." Pp. 164–76 in *Constituent Imagination: Militant Investigations // Collective Theorization*, edited by Stephen Shukaitis, David Graeber, and Erika Biddle. Oakland, California: AK Press.

Klein, Naomi. 2014. *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Merchant, Carolyn. 1990. *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution*. Reprint. HarperOne

## Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements

### CUNY's Brooklyn College Launches Innovative Program in Urban Sustainability

The Brooklyn College of the City University of New York has launched a new major in Urban Sustainability. The Urban Sustainability Program draws on the three pillars of sustainability (ecological, economic, and social equity) and the college's location in the middle of one of the most diverse urban centers in the world to provide an undergraduate curriculum focused on addressing the socio-ecological crisis. The program unites three departments (Earth and Environmental Sciences, Economics, and Sociology) across three schools (Natural and Behavioral Sciences, Business, and Humanities and Social Sciences) to provide an interdisciplinary approach to socio-ecological problem solving that is place-based and community engaged. The Urban Sustainability curriculum culminates in students forming multidisciplinary teams working for institutional clients embedded in the Brooklyn community to help them address sustainability challenges. More information about the Urban Sustainability Program at Brooklyn College, including a downloadable brochure, factsheet, and student checklist, is available here:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/naturalsciences/interdisciplinary/undergraduate/urban.php>

### Code/Nature and Political Ecologies of Technology

Dimensions of Political Ecology (DOPE) Conference  
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY  
February 26 - February 28 , 2015

Organizers: Eric Nost (Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Daniel Cockayne (Geography, University of Kentucky)

This session is broadly concerned with the various intersections of nature and technology. As we write, shoebox-sized satellites capture changes in output from South African gold mines while algorithms work on the data to make predictions about future market volatility that hedge funds can purchase. Elsewhere, conservationists and decision-makers conceptualize wetlands and other ecosystems as service providers - laboring entities that if properly managed do work as "soft" infrastructural technologies, perhaps reducing

risks from storm surges (Braun 2014). Advocates of the biomimetics “movement” see the potential to craft any number of new materials, tools and (military) applications (Johnson 2010; Kosek 2010) taking inspiration from bees, lobsters, and other non-human lifeforms. In each of these moments, the environment is variously made visible by technology, is itself a technology, or informs technological design. Life and technology are enrolling each other in fascinating ways, but to understand rather than marvel at this, the session poses four questions:

- In what ways do technological objects and processes produce ecosystems, generate and circulate ecological knowledge, and otherwise mediate environmental governance?
- Can we understand code and software systems as productive of particular kinds of nature?
- How does ecology inform and trouble technological design?
- Finally, in what ways does nature become a technology or tool of power?

Drawing from social theory (including Foucault, Latour, Stiegler, and Simondon), geographers and others have tackled these questions from a variety of angles. Political ecologists have long looked at how land managers may be compelled to deploy technologies in the broadest sense (e.g. pesticides) and have also sought to understand how technologies like GIS and remote sensing (re)make environmental science (Turner 2003) and landscapes (Robbins 2001). These used - both physically and ideologically as tools of oppression (Castree 2005) or objects to be romanticized and dominated (Smith 1984).

Geographers of technology have developed fruitful ways of thinking about software code and the making of everyday space (Kitchin and Dodge 2011), but we know less about how code produces nature. Some researchers have begun to understand social media’s role in transforming environmental activism and mediating conservation governance (Büscher 2013), while nature/society scholars argue that states’ power to govern is possible only through certain tools, such as dams or fuel efficiency displays in cars (Meehan 2013; Braun 2014). All of these insights raise key questions about agency, materiality, and power that, in conversation with the interrelation between technology and nature, the session will confront. Papers may range from the theoretical to the empirical, and pardon the present tense: work based on historical cases is especially welcome.

Possible topics include:

- Remote sensing and environmental indicators in investment, risk assessment, and/or (re)insurance
- Data collection, management, and modelling for ecosystem service markets and payment schemes
- Big data in environmental management, both its uptake and resistance
- Continuous environmental monitoring
- Smart cities and the internet of things
- Use of programming and free and open source software (FOSS) in conservation planning
- Social media, citizen science, and online activism
- Geoengineering for climate change
- Technological imaginaries
- Ecosystem services as green infrastructure
- Biomimicry
- Digital or software produced natures; software-sorted natures
- Electronic tagging of plants and other ecosystem objects
- Code- and algorithm-based decision making
- Recycling and waste management of technological hardware or e-waste
- Technology industries, infrastructure and their supporting ecologies
- The implications of planned obsolescence in manufacturing and design
- Methodological considerations in researching political ecologies of technology

Express interest in participating in the session by sending an abstract to [nost@wisc.edu](mailto:nost@wisc.edu) and [daniel.cockayne@uky.edu](mailto:daniel.cockayne@uky.edu) by November 10th, 2014.

Participants must also register at the conference website: [politicalecology.org](http://politicalecology.org) by the registration deadline of November 17th 2014.

### **Call for Submissions – *Children Youth and Environments***

Along with traditional academic articles and book reviews, the publication *Children Youth and Environments* (CYE) features field reports, which are short articles about innovative initiatives to improve environments for children and youth. These reports give researchers and practitioners an opportunity to share insights and information about their work. A good field report tells a real-life story about a specific program, initiative or policy in a reflective and

informative way. We would like to invite you to submit a field report to *CYE*. Guidelines are available at:

<http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/fieldguidelines.htm>

Field reports are reviewed by the *CYE* editorial staff within 6-8 weeks of submission. *CYE* is published three times a year and accepts submissions on an ongoing basis. Please address submissions and any questions to:

Lori Peek, Ph.D.

CYE Field Report Editor  
Department of Sociology  
Colorado State University  
B-237 Clark Building  
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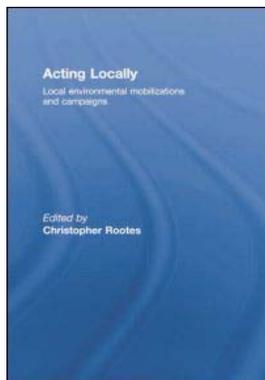
(970) 491-6777

## Publications

### Books

#### **Acting Locally: Local Environmental Mobilizations and Campaigns**

Edited by Christopher Rootes  
Routledge (2009)



Local campaigns are the most persistent and ubiquitous forms of environmental contention. National and transnational mobilisations come and go and the attention they receive from mass media ebbs and flows, but local campaigns persist. The persistence or re-emergence of local campaigns is also a reminder that it remain possible to mobilise people around environmental issues, and they

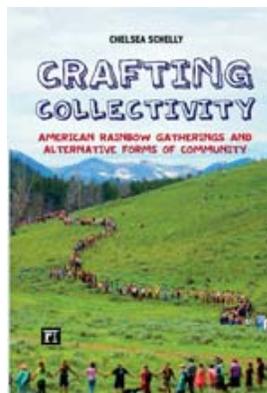
have often served as sources of innovation in and re-energization of national organisations that have allegedly been co-opted by the powerful and incorporated into the established political and administrative system.

But local environmental campaigns have been relatively neglected in the scientific literature. Drawing on examples from Britain, France, Greece, Ireland and Italy, this book seeks to redress that neglect by examining the networks among actors and organisations that connect local mobilizations to the larger environmental movement and political systems, the ways in which local disputes are framed in order to connect with national and global issues, and the persistent impacts of the peculiarities of place upon environmental campaigns

#### **Crafting Collectivity: American Rainbow Gatherings and Alternative Forms of Community**

Chelsea Schelly  
Paradigm Publishers (2014)

<https://paradigm.presswarehouse.com/books/BookDetail.aspx?productID=409763> ..



Every summer, thousands of people assemble to live together to celebrate the Annual Gathering of the Rainbow Family. Participants establish temporary systems of water distribution and filtration, sanitation, health care, and meals provided freely to all who gather, and they develop sharing and trading systems, recreational opportunities, and educational experiences distinct

to this creative social world. The Rainbow Family has invented itself as a unique modern culture without formal organization, providing the necessities of life freely to all who attend. The Annual Gathering of the Rainbow Family has been operating for more than forty years as an experiment in liberty that demonstrates how material organization, participation, and cultural connection can reshape social relationships and transform individual lives. Grounded in sociological theory and research, the book considers what kind of culture the material systems of “Babylon” reinforce and how society could facilitate the kind of social world and human welfare humans desire.

#### **Environmental Policy is Social Policy – Social Policy is Environmental Policy**

Edited by Isidor Wallimann  
Springer Link (2014)

<http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-1-4614-6723-6>



If sustainability is our goal, *social and environmental policy must be treated as one and the same field*. Examples from Agriculture, Nutrition, Forestry, Urban Planning, Care Work, Tourism, and University Management show that such a *paradigm shift* is indicated, important, and timely. They also show that Environmental or Social Impact Assessments

are no longer adequate. *The new paradigm synthetically combines environmental and social policy*. Not to do so leads to policy inefficiency and perverse effects. One policy domain may counteract or outright “sabotage” the other.

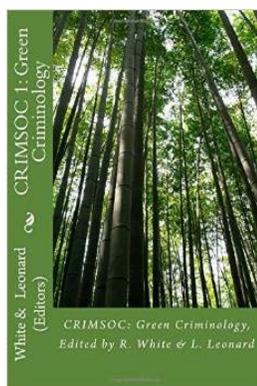
To synthetically combine environmental and social policy calls for a trans-disciplinary perspective to include both policy fields and academic disciplines. This is well illustrated by the contributors in this book who represent numerous academic disciplines. They help professionals and students appreciate the centrality of trans-disciplinary thought and practice in working toward sustainability.

### CRIMSOC 1: Green Criminology Issue

Edited by Rob White and Liam Leonard  
CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform  
(2014)

<http://www.amazon.com/CRIMSOC-Green-Criminology-SERIES-Volume/dp/1495211347>

CRIMSOC Series Volume 1, Green Criminology includes articles on environmental risks, harms and solutions in agriculture, the car industry, the toy industry while also exploring activism and culture.



Contents: Editor's Preface: Liam Leonard. ii. Guest Editor's Introduction: Rob White. 1. 'Confined Animal Feeding Operations': Michelle Larkins Jacques, Carole Gibbs, Louie Rivers III. 2. 'Exploring Environmental Activism: A Visual Qualitative Approach from an Eco-global and Green-cultural Criminological Perspective': Lorenzo Natali. 3. 'The Security Implications of the Illegal Wildlife Trade': Tanya Wyatt. 4. 'Global Transference of Environmental Harm: The Case of Toxic Toys': Diane Heckenberg. 5. 'Technological Drift and Green Machines: A Cultural Analysis of the Prius Paradox': Stephanie C. Kane and Avi Brisman.

### Global Environmental Politics: From Person to Planet

Edited by Simon Nicholson and Paul Wapner  
Paradigm Publishers (2014)

<https://paradigm.presswarehouse.com/Books/BookDetail.aspx?productID=393777>

Today's students want to understand not only the causes and character of global environmental problems like climate change, species extinction, and freshwater scarcity, but also what to do about them. This book offers the most comprehensive, fair-minded, accessible, and forward-looking text for introducing students to the challenge of global environmental protection. Drawing on a diverse range of voices, the book sequentially explains our current predicament, examines what is being done to respond at a variety of levels from the international to the

local, and outlines different, relevant strategic choices for genuine political engagement. Developed by two top researchers and master teachers of global environmental politics, the book brings together sharply written introductory essays with tightly edited selections from a broad cross section of thinkers to provide a text that will excite and educate students of global environmental affairs. In addition, the book introduces a series of exercises designed specifically to help students draw connections between their own lives and the broader challenge of global sustainability. Global Environmental Politics: From Person to Planet finally answers the question of how to teach students about environmental harm with a sober sense of ecological reality, a firm grasp on politics, and an optimistic look toward the future.

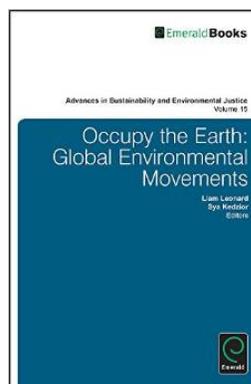


local, and outlines different, relevant strategic choices for genuine political engagement. Developed by two top researchers and master teachers of global environmental politics, the book brings together sharply written introductory essays with tightly edited selections from a broad cross section of thinkers to provide a text that will excite and educate students of global environmental affairs. In addition, the book introduces a series of exercises designed specifically to help students draw connections between their own lives and the broader challenge of global sustainability. Global Environmental Politics: From Person to Planet finally answers the question of how to teach students about environmental harm with a sober sense of ecological reality, a firm grasp on politics, and an optimistic look toward the future.

### Occupy the Earth: Global Environmental Movements (Series: Advances in Sustainability and Environmental Justice)

Edited by Liam Leonard and Sya B. Kedzior  
Emerald Group Publishing Limited (2014)

[http://www.amazon.com/Occupy-Earth-Environmental-Movements-Sustainability/dp/1783506970/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1413179578&sr=1-1&keywords=Occupy+the+Earth%3A+Global+Environmental+Movements](http://www.amazon.com/Occupy-Earth-Environmental-Movements-Sustainability/dp/1783506970/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1413179578&sr=1-1&keywords=Occupy+the+Earth%3A+Global+Environmental+Movements)

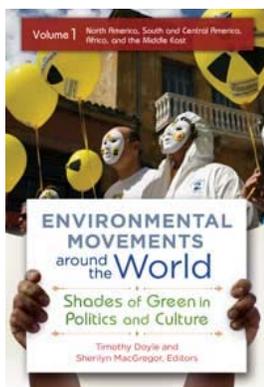


The onset of global concerns about environmental risks, climate change and threats to the planet from industry have focused the minds of a generation. Throughout the world, new movements are emerging in an attempt to challenge those who would put profits before the planet. This volume brings together global contributions that represent the cutting edge of research in the area of global environmental movements. Contributions include chapters on the impacts of environmental groups globally, including the work of Greenpeace in Brazil, environmental activism in Ireland, animal rights and anti-hunt activism in Malta, the global de-growth movement, environmental movement mobilization in China, and anti-pollution activism in India. The scope and breath of this research indicates the emergence of both a global grassroots environmental mobilization in addition to

analysis and documentation of these responses by researchers world-wide. With increased threats from climatic change and ecological degradation being highlighted as a threat to much of the world's population in the coming century, this activism and ensuing research becomes all the more significant.

### **Environmental Movements around the World Shades of Green in Politics and Culture**

Edited by Timothy Doyle and Sherilyn MacGregor  
<http://www.abc-clio.com/ABC-CLIOCorporate/product.aspx?pc=A3359C>



An unprecedented study of environmentalism, environmental movements, and efforts at "greening" across the globe, written by culturally embedded scholars with both academic expertise and first-hand experience with grassroots advocacy.

Protection of our planet, its people, and its natural resources has been a topic of

numerous debates in many nations for the past 50 years. Each hemisphere, continent, and country has environmental challenges unique to the region, giving birth to green movements all over the world. Until now, very few resources have compiled the political, scientific, economic, philosophical, and religious viewpoints of these programs in one place. This two-volume work provides a comprehensive collection of the ideas and actions that inform environmentalism, at local, national, and regional levels across the globe.

### **Experts & Campaigners: Scientific Information and Collective Action in Socio-Ecological Conflict**

by Mercedes Martín Iglesias  
 Universitat de Valencia (2014)



The papers assembled in this volume should enable readers to understand what too many people today insistently misperceive. Environmental protection is not just a "special interest". It is an essential task for everyone. This book brings together texts by social scientists from the United States, France and Spain. Their common frame of reference is the dialectic

between experts and activists in socio-environmental movements, as well as the concern about changes, both

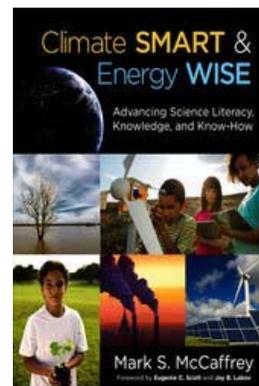
cognitive and political, arising in that context. Los trabajos reunidos en este volumen permitirán comprender a los lectores lo que no se percibe correctamente hoy en día: la protección medioambiental no solo es un «interés especial», sino que constituye una tarea esencial para todos. Este libro recoge textos de científicos sociales de los EEUU, Francia y España, cuyo marco común de referencia es la dialéctica entre expertos y activistas de los movimientos socio-medioambientales, así como la preocupación sobre los cambios cognitivos y políticos que surgen en este contexto.

### **Climate Smart and Energy Wise: Advancing Science Literacy Knowledge, and Know-How**

by Mark S. McCaffrey  
 SAGE Publications (2014)  
<http://www.corwin.com/books/Book241767?siteId=corwinpress&subject=C00&qsuplId=true&productType=&q=climate&fs=1#tabview=title>

The twenty-first century ushered in a set of unmistakably urgent global challenges that are too important to be an afterthought in today's classrooms. Climate Smart & Energy Wise offers a virtual blueprint to climate and energy education, packed with resources and strategies, including:

- A high-level overview of where climate and energy topics fit (or don't fit) into your current curriculum with connections to the NGSS
- Proven methods to teach climate change and related topics in a grade-appropriate way
- Sample learning activities and high-quality online resources

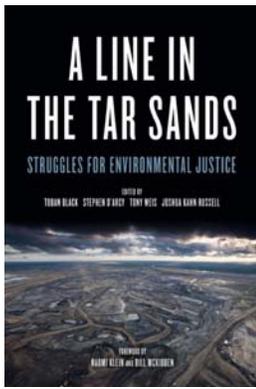


### **A Line in the Tar Sands: Struggles for Environmental Justice**

Edited by Stephen D'Arcy, Toban Black, Tony Weis and Joshua Kahn Russell  
 PM Press (2014)  
<http://btlbooks.com/book/line-in-the-tar-sands>

Tar sands "development" comes with an enormous environmental and human cost. But tar sands opponents—fighting a powerful international industry—are likened to terrorists; government environmental scientists are muzzled; and public hearings are concealed and rushed.

Yet, despite the formidable political and economic power behind the tar sands, many opponents are actively



building international networks of resistance, challenging pipeline plans while resisting threats to indigenous sovereignty and democratic participation.

Featuring contributions from Winona LaDuke, Bill McKibben, Naomi Klein, Clayton Thomas-Muller, Harsha Walia, Jeremy Brecher, Cherri Foytlin, Crystal Lameman, Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Yudith Nieto, Yves

Engler, MacDonald Stainsby, Greg Albo, Brian Tokar, Jesse Cardinal, Rex Weyler, Jess Worth, and more.

*The editors' proceeds from this book will be donated to frontline grassroots environmental justice groups and campaigns.*

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## Member News

### Timmons Roberts Receives Buttel Award

Timmons Roberts of Brown University was recently awarded the Frederick H. Buttel International Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Environmental Sociology of the International Sociology Association.

This is the highest award offered for the study of international environmental sociology. It's awarded once every four years to a scholar for the outstanding contribution to the international study of environment-society relations.

The Award Committee recognized Timmons for his publication of 15 peer reviewed articles, 6 book chapters and 2 book manuscripts during the last four years. These works all take an international sociological view of issues including climate change, biodiversity, international aid and inequality, and have had a major impact on the field of environmental sociology.

The Award also celebrates his work extending beyond the Academy. This includes numerous influential policy reports with the likes of the Brookings Institute and the International Institute for Environment and Development, extensive coverage in media outlets such as the *New York Times* and the *Guardian*, and his co-founding of three impactful organizations on international environmental issues: AidData, Adaptation Watch and Brown's Climate and Development Lab.

Timmons also led a team this spring to draft and pass climate change legislation in Rhode Island -- an amazing accomplishment. In addition, the award recognizes Timmons for his exceptional commitment to teaching and mentoring students.

Timmons accepted this award at the International Studies Association meeting in Japan in June. I hope you will congratulate him on this wonderful accomplishment.

## In Memoriam: JoAnn Carmin

18 July 2014

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Professor JoAnn Carmin, our valued colleague, collaborator and friend, on July 15, 2014 of complications from advanced breast cancer. She had been fighting cancer for years, bravely and without self-pity through many treatments and much suffering, and continued her immensely productive work and mentoring of her students to the end. Her courage, endurance and continued commitment to her work during her battle with cancer were extraordinary.

JoAnn was an Associate Professor at MIT in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and conducted research around the world on environmental governance, policy and most recently on climate adaptation at the local level. She was a leading scholar and top global expert, called upon for expertise by the World Bank, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the global league of cities addressing climate change (ICLEI) and other major institutions. Most recently she was a lead co-author of an excellent chapter on adaptation for the American Sociological Association's Task Force on Climate Change, forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

JoAnn earned her B.S. and M.S. degrees at Cornell University in management and organizational theory, where she took an early interest in the study of environmental citizen organizations and movements, environmental governance and environmental justice. She went on to earn her Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1999, and while there she developed a particular interest in local environmental politics and the many citizen environmental movements emerging in post-Communist Eastern Europe, beginning with extensive field work in the newly independent Czech Republic. Her doctoral dissertation, supervised by Professor Richard (Pete) Andrews, was an early and important contribution to understanding of environmental movements and local governance in the Czech Republic, and began a substantial continuing research program expanding this work to the rest of post-Communist eastern Europe. She taught first at Virginia Tech, and then at MIT, where she rose to the rank of tenured associate professor. She also was Director of the Program on Environmental Governance and Sustainability in MIT's Center for International Studies, and gave strong leadership to the department's graduate programs. From the beginning of her graduate studies JoAnn showed concern for the many ways in which

vulnerable groups are most impacted by environmental burdens, and she spent much of her career studying community responses to environmental inequalities. Her work explored the strategies and tactics used by environmental NGOs and environmental justice activists so that marginalized groups could have more meaningful participation in decisions that impact their land and territories. Among many places, her research took her to the gold mines of Eastern Europe, in places such as Rosia Montana in Romania. She did not call herself a scholar activist, but she was very much one, caring deeply about environmental justice and giving voice to vulnerable populations in her many articles and books.

At MIT JoAnn became one of the early scholars to study the emerging responses of cities around the world to global climate change. At a time when both policy and academic discussions were centered almost exclusively on mitigating climate change by reducing carbon emissions, she took the risk of focusing on urban adaptation to climate change, one of the most important issues of the 21st century for cities around the world, whether or not mitigation efforts are successful. In just a few years she pioneered a new field, including surveys of municipal governments around the world as well as case-study fieldwork on the initiatives of local governments on five continents. By the time of her death she was one of the world's leading experts on urban policies for adapting to the growing risks of climate change. She served as lead author of the report of Working Group II of the *Fifth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (released in 2014), and coordinating lead author of the urban technical report for the 2011-12 *United States National Climate Assessment*, as Associate Editor of *Urban Climate*, and on the boards of many professional journals and scholarly organizations. In 2011-2013 she was awarded a prestigious Abe Fellowship to study in Japan; she also was awarded visiting research fellowships at Yale, Duke, and the Prague University of Economics.

JoAnn published four books, most recently *Environmental Inequalities Beyond Borders: Local Perspectives on Global Injustices* (with Julian Agyeman) and *Green Activism in Post-Socialist Europe and the Former Soviet Union* (with Adam Fagan), both published in 2011. Two earlier books were *EU Enlargement and the Environment: Institutional Change and Environmental Policy in Central and Eastern Europe* (with Stacy VanDeveer) and *Collaborative Environmental Management: What Roles for Government?* (with several co-authors). She

also published a steady stream of scholarly articles, many of them co-authored with her students and other rising young scholars. At least as important in their impact were her reports for policymakers on urban climate change, including reports for the World Bank, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and others. She was immensely productive, she exuded competence, and she was an exacting scholar.

As important as her scholarly contributions was her spirit as a human being, as a colleague and as a mentor. She cared deeply about her students, and set demanding and uncompromising standards of excellence for them while inspiring them to meet them. She was passionate about environmental governance and justice, and equally so about excellence in research and teaching. She brought intense energy, engagement, caring and joy as well as intellect to all that she did. She was extraordinarily generous and collaborative, co-authoring with many of her students and with colleagues from around the world.

Through her close guidance to all students - and not only her own advisees - JoAnn was able to pass on her passion for equity, justice, and the environment, for civil society organizing, and for social science research of the highest quality. The time she spent on email, on the phone, in person, day or night, from Cambridge, Durban, London, Manila, or Tokyo, advising students on papers, dissertation topics and design, writing, readings, grants, and career advice cannot be counted. At MIT, she was known as the "research design and methods guru," with students and colleagues seeking advice and expertise from her with both respectful fear and enthusiasm. Many of JoAnn's students have gone on to significant positions in NGOs, local governments, and international aid agencies in the U.S. and Canada, as well as university positions.

JoAnn's academic and policy achievements are all the more notable in that her path to academia was not direct. Born October 17, 1957, her interests in the environment were drawn from her early experiences with camping, hiking, and wilderness activities. She clearly loved to travel and was able to combine her academic pursuits with around-the-world travel. She completed her high school degree at an alternative school because it allowed her to pursue subjects that interested her in far more depth than the traditional classroom. Her passion for good food and good hotels was drawn from her experiences at Cornell, and carried forward throughout the rest of her life. She had

a full first career as a high level chef, working at 4- and 5-star restaurants in Philadelphia after intense training with dictatorial French chefs in Paris, and subsequently for a year as personal cook to the founder of the Shambhala tradition of Buddhism, the faith she had come to embrace. During her graduate studies she considered starting a gourmet cookie business, and as a professor she enjoyed preparing meals for her colleagues and students, choosing recipes from all over the world and carefully selecting the best ingredients from local stores and markets. She made everyone feel welcome and part of a broader family.

JoAnn is survived by her sister, Cheryl Carmin, Ph.D., and by many close friends who became family over the course of her life and work and particularly during her most recent battle with cancer. Like her passion for her work and her students, she was deeply committed to her relationships with her extended "family."

The MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning has set up a memorial website on which people can add comments and other remembrances about JoAnn, at <http://dusp.mit.edu/in-memoriain/professor-joann-carmin>. At her students' initiative, the department also is establishing a memorial fund in her name to help support student research; Online donations can be made at: <https://giving.mit.edu/givenow/update-gift.dyn>

JoAnn, we will miss you, and will endeavor to keep alive your ideas and vision of what we as environmental social scientists can do. Viva JoAnn!