

# Environment, Technology and Society

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

SPRING 2015

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## *Environmental Sociology:* A New Journal for the Discipline

by Stewart Lockie

Volume 1, Issue 1 of *Environmental Sociology* has recently been published and is available, for a short time, open access. I'll get to some of the logistical matters readers will be interested in below. First, let me say something about the rationale for the journal.

Interest among environmental sociologists in the establishment of a flagship journal has been around for a long time but people have also been cautious about the timing. The availability of a specialist journal could, after all, discourage environmental sociologists from publishing their research in mainstream sociology journals or in multidisciplinary environmental and resource management journals. Establishing a flagship journal too early could leave us speaking mostly amongst ourselves.

A few years ago, members of the International Sociological Association's (ISA) Research Committee for Environment and Society (RC24) decided that the time for Environmental Sociology had come. As a sociological sub-discipline, environmental sociology had matured and was among the largest and most vibrant. Global environmental change was raising the profile of 'environmental sub-disciplines' in general and forcing science and environmental agencies to take the contributions of the social sciences more seriously. The growth of universities and research institutes outside the

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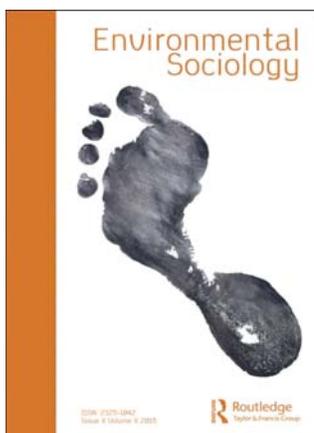
**Section News: A Call for Action-Oriented Teaching Exercises for the Environment & Technology Section Website**

Shannon Elizabeth Bell,  
University of Kentucky

The Teaching & Practice Committee of the Environment & Technology Section is collecting action-oriented teaching resources for engaging students with environmental problems and/or social justice issues. We will be compiling these teaching resources for the Environment & Technology Section website. If you have a class project or exercise you are willing to share, please send it to Shannon Bell at [shannon.eliz.bell@uky.edu](mailto:shannon.eliz.bell@uky.edu). Creators of the exercises will be fully credited.

**Environmental Sociology:  
A New Journal for the Discipline (cont.)**

Stewart Lockie,  
James Cook University, Australia



Global North was bringing new participants to our meetings. The opportunity was upon us, we believed, not just to establish Environmental Sociology as a viable journal but, in doing so, to increase the visibility and impact of environmental sociology internationally as a field of research and scholarship.

There is something unique about the sociological imagination, which makes this project, I believe, critically important. At the same time, there are numerous ways in which the sociological imagination can be applied, theoretically and methodologically, and our editorial policy is to be open to all of them. *Environmental Sociology* aims to stretch conceptual boundaries as much as to contribute to better environmental policy and management, to disseminate research and encourage cross-disciplinary dialogues.

The success of this project will, of course, depend on how well we develop a community of contributors and readers. I encourage you to participate in this community by:

- Considering *Environmental Sociology* as an outlet for your very best work.
- Requesting your institutional library take out a subscription.
- Encouraging your students and colleagues both to follow the journal and to read specific articles you have found interesting.
- Responding to requests to review papers (even if to say you're not available!).

Submission guidelines and other journal information can be found at [www.tandfonline.com/rens](http://www.tandfonline.com/rens).

Please note that as the official journal of RC24, all current financial members will receive free individual electronic subscriptions (please see [www.isa-sociology.org/rc24.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc24.htm) for details). Parallel membership of ISA is encouraged but not required.

For further information, please contact Stewart Lockie at [editor.jes@jcu.edu.au](mailto:editor.jes@jcu.edu.au).

**Conferences, Calls for Papers and Program Advertisements**

**Social Science-Environmental Health  
Interdisciplinary Collaborations Conference  
Northeastern University  
May 21-22, 2015**

The Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute and Silent Spring Institute, with co-sponsorship from the Puerto Rico Test Site for Exploring Contamination Threats (PROTECT - Superfund Research Program) will hold a first-ever conference at Northeastern University on "Social Science-Environmental Health Interdisciplinary Collaborations," funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. This conference will bring together scholars, government agency professionals, and community-based organizations working at the intersections of social science and environmental health. Case studies will include scholars and government agency professionals collaborating on: biomonitoring, fracking, the BP oil spill, and reproductive outcomes of contamination. Government regulatory and research agencies will also talk about the role of social science in their work. There will be workshops on practical applications of social science/environmental health collaborations, on working with environmental justice groups, and on developing curriculum for

cross training. Alternatives for Community and Environment (Boston) and the Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island are partnering in the conference.

In addition to regular speakers, there will be workshops and discussion groups, some of which will be set up in response to desires indicated by attendees in the months leading up to the conference.

There will be no cost for registration, but participants are asked to pay \$50 in advance for breakfast and lunch on both days, by check to Northeastern University. Catering will consist of excellent locally grown and environmentally friendly food from the community-based caterers Haley House. A limited number of travel grants will be available for students and postdocs; those interested will be asked to fill out a brief form about their experience and interest in attending. Childcare and disability services will be available by prior arrangement.

Registration details available at the Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute website: <http://www.northeastern.edu/environmentalhealth/>

The Colonnade Hotel, a short walk away, has a block of rooms available at \$289. Reservations can be made at:

[NEU Social Sciences Environmental Health Reservation Booking Link for May 20th to 22nd 2015](#)

## **SCHEDULE**

### Day 1 – May 21, 2015

8:30-9:00 *Introduction to the Conference*  
Julia Brody (Silent Spring Institute) and Phil Brown (Northeastern University)  
Gwen Collman (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

9:00-9:45 *Keynote Address*  
Katsi Cook – Running Strong for Native American Youth

9:45-10 *Break*

10:00-11:20 *Lessons from Case Studies of Social Science-Environmental Health Science Collaborations (1)*  
Endocrine Disruptors and Fracking  
Sara Wylie – Northeastern University

Carol Kwiatkowski – The Endocrine Disruption Exchange  
Susan Nagel – University of Missouri  
Deb Thomas – Shale Test

11:20-11:30 *Break*

11:30-12:50 *Lessons from Case Studies of Social Science-Environmental Health Science Collaborations (2)*

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill  
Brian Mayer – University of Arizona  
Andy Kane- University of Florida  
Symma Finn – National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

12:50-2:15 *Lunch Breakout Groups*

2:15-3:45 *Lessons from Case Studies of Social Science-Environmental Health Science*

*Collaborations (3) Environmental Contaminants and Preterm Birth*

Carmen Milagros Velez Vega– University of Puerto Rico  
Akram Alshwabkeh – Northeastern University  
Shobha Srinivasan, National Cancer Institute

3:45-4:00 *Break*

4:00-5:30 *Applying Social Science-Environmental Health Collaborations in Biomonitoring: US and International Projects*

Ludwine Casteleyn – University of Leuven (Belgium)

Julia Brody – Silent Spring Institute

Sharyle Patton – Commonweal

6-9 *Special Evening Event- Jammin' for Justice*

This is the Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) annual party featuring food, drinks, music, dancing, silent auction and the company of friends and environmental justice champions. It is held nearby at Hibernian Hall, 184 Dudley Street, Roxbury

### Day 2 - May 22 Workgroups on Implementation

9:00-10:30 *Developing and Evaluating Training Materials for Teaching Social Science-Environmental Health Collaboration: The "Curriculum Project"*

Robin Dodson – Silent Spring Institute  
Christine Vatovec – University of Vermont

10:30-10:45 *Break*

10:45-11:30 *Social Science in Government Regulatory and Research Agencies*

Cecile Wendling – CNRS-Sciences Po-Paris (Working with ANSES - French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety)  
Rachel Morello-Frosch - University of California-Berkeley (working with Biomonitoring California)

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-1:00 *Environmental Justice Organizations as Collaborators*

Jen Rossi, Steve Roberts, and Jesus Holguin–  
Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island  
Staci Rubin – Alternatives for Community and  
Environment

Penn Loh – Tufts University

1:00-2:15 *Lunch Breakout Groups*

2:15-3:30 *Developing and Carrying Out Collaborations – Practical Concerns*

Several concurrent discussions facilitated by members of SSEHRI, Silent Spring Institute, Environmental Justice League, Alternatives for Community and Environment. Some topics will be selected from participant suggestions pre-conference and on day 1. Potential topics will include cumulative exposures, using games as research translation and cross-community communication devices, garden projects for community collaboration, PhotoVoice, politics of environmental health data, report-back of data, publishing transdisciplinary work.

3:30-4:15 *Wrap-Up and Directions for Future*

4:15-5:30 *Coffee Hour/Networking Time*

### **IRCD Researchers Annual Meeting Call for Abstracts**

Scholarly submissions of hazards and disasters research from all disciplinary perspectives are now being accepted for the International Research Committee on Disasters (IRCD) Annual Meeting July 23-24 in Broomfield, Colorado. The IRCD is a Committee of the ISA focusing on disaster and hazard research. The annual meeting supports scholarly presentations from researchers and graduate students on all types of disaster and hazards from a variety of social science perspectives. Please e-mail abstracts to [ircdmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:ircdmeeting@gmail.com) with "IRCD Researchers Meeting Abstract" in the subject line.

The deadline for abstracts is **5:00 pm EST on MAY 22, 2015**. Notification of acceptance will occur in the beginning of June.

All abstract submissions must include the following:

- Author name(s), title(s), address (es), telephone number(s), and e-mail(s)

- Indicate the person that will present the paper;
- Title of the paper;
- Three or more keywords that identify the paper's topic;
- A single-spaced abstract of no more than 300 words describing your research question, methodology, and findings; and
- Indicate whether the research has been previously presented at the Natural Hazards Workshop or IRCD Researchers Meeting. If it has been previously presented, please indicate how this proposed presentation differs from your previous work.

Please contact IRCD Researchers Meeting co-chairs **Michelle Meyer** ([mmeyer@lsu.edu](mailto:mmeyer@lsu.edu)) or **John Cooper** ([jcooper@arch.tamu.edu](mailto:jcooper@arch.tamu.edu)) with any questions. See updated information about the Meeting and previous Meeting details on the website: <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/workshop/current.html>.

### **Position Announcements**

#### **Office of the New Brunswick Chancellor Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

*Henry Rutgers Disaster Preparedness and  
Emergency Response Professorship*

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, invites applications for the first Henry Rutgers Professor in Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response, a new senior faculty position created as part of the implementation of the Rutgers University Strategic Plan.

This multi-disciplinary position will be of interest to scholars and practitioners from a wide variety of backgrounds including health care, law and law enforcement, engineering, environmental science, computer science, social science, policy and planning, and business/management.

The successful candidate will have experience in one or more of the following: 1) management of complex research projects, preferably with experience directing an institute or center in a related field; 2) practical experience in design and implementation of disaster and emergency preparedness initiatives; 3) community outreach on

emergency preparedness issues; 4) experience with state and federal agencies and government advisory boards; 5) familiarity with international preparedness efforts; 6) superior leadership abilities, interpersonal relations and communication skills.

Applications and nominations, including curriculum vitae and cover letter detailing interest in the position, related experience and vision should be forwarded electronically to [emergency@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:emergency@rci.rutgers.edu). If electronic submission is not possible, hard copies of the application materials may be sent to: Alexis Biedermann at 83 Somerset Street, Suite 101, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Review of applications will begin April 2015 and will continue until the position is filled. Anticipated appointment start date is September 2015, but is negotiable.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability, protected veteran status or any other classification protected by law. Members of historically underrepresented groups are particularly invited to apply.

## Publications

### Books

#### ***Organic Struggle: The Movement for Sustainable Agriculture in the United States***

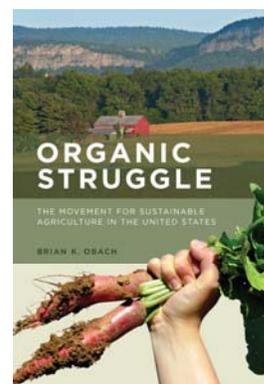
by Brian K. Obach  
The MIT Press (2015)

<http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/organic-struggle>

In the early 1970s, organic farming was an obscure agricultural practice, associated with the counter-culture rather than commerce. Today, organic agriculture is a multibillion-dollar industry; organic food can be found on the shelves of every supermarket in America. In *Organic Struggle*, Brian Obach examines the evolution of the organic movement in the United States, a movement that seeks to transform our system of agriculture and how we think about food.

Obach analyzes why the organic movement developed as it did and evaluates its achievements

and shortcomings. He identifies how divergent interests within the diverse organic coalition created vulnerabilities for the movement. In particular, he examines the ideological divide between those he calls the “spreaders,” who welcome the wider market for organic food and want to work with both government and agribusiness, and the more purist “tillers,” who see organic practices as part of a broader social transformation that will take place outside existing institutions.



Obach argues that the movement’s changing relationship with governmental institutions is crucial to understanding the trajectory of the organic sector. The government-run National Organic Program fostered dramatic growth and deep corporate penetration of the organic market. While many activists were disillusioned by changes in the organic industry that came with corporate and government involvement, Obach sees a failure in the essential market-based strategy adopted by the movement early in its history. He argues for a refocus on policy efforts that can reshape the agricultural system as a whole.

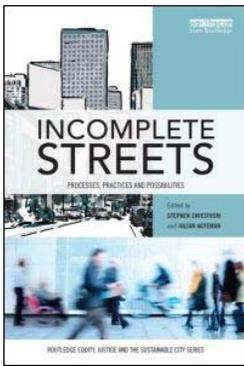
Brian K. Obach is Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at New Paltz and the author of *Labor and the Environmental Movement: The Quest for Common Ground* (MIT Press)

#### ***Incomplete Streets: Processes, Practices, and Possibilities***

edited by Stephen Zavestoski, Julian Agyeman  
Routledge, (2015)

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415725873/>

The ‘Complete Streets’ concept and movement in urban planning and policy has been hailed by many as a revolution that aims to challenge the auto-normative paradigm. By enabling safe access for all users, Complete Streets promise to make cities more walkable and livable and at the same time more sustainable. *Incomplete Streets* problematizes the Complete Streets concept by suggesting that streets should not be thought of as



merely physical spaces, but as symbolic and social spaces. When important social and symbolic narratives are missing from the discourse and practice of Complete Streets, what actually results are incomplete streets. The volume questions whether the ways in which complete streets narratives, policies,

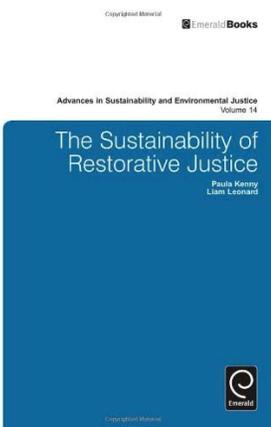
plans and efforts are envisioned and implemented might be systematically reproducing many of the urban spatial and social inequalities and injustices that have characterized cities for the last century or more. From critiques of a "mobility bias" rooted in the neoliberal foundations of the Complete Streets concept, to concerns about resulting environmental gentrification, the chapters in *Incomplete Streets* variously call for planning processes that give voice to the historically marginalized and, more broadly, that approach streets as dynamic, fluid and public social places.

Stephen Zavestoski, PhD, Sustainability Director, College of Arts & Sciences Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies, University of San Francisco

### **The Sustainability of Restorative Justice**

by Paula Kenny and Liam Leonard  
Emerald Group Publishing (2014)

[http://www.emeraldinsight.com/browse.htm?content=journal\\_books](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/browse.htm?content=journal_books)



There is a growing acknowledgment amongst professionals and academics that we need to develop new responses to crime. This book provides an insight into the first introduction of restorative justice to the criminal justice system in the Republic of Ireland. By analyzing six case studies of restorative conferencing

events, the authors aim to address the salient question of how restorative conferencing for young offenders can facilitate an exchange process

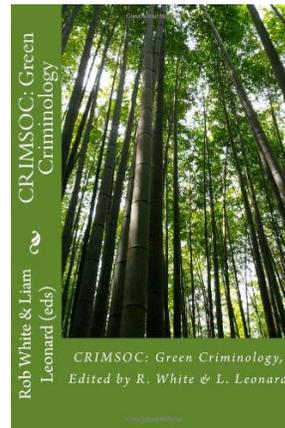
whereby forms of reparation and social regulation may be achieved. The restorative justice process has much to offer, and the authors argue that this concept, particularly as it centers on the greater use of non-custodial sentences, will not only bring about changes in the law but also have significant implications for social regulation

### **CRIMSOC: Green Criminology**

by Liam Leonard and Rob White

Create Space Independent Publishing Platform (2014)

<https://www.createspace.com/4619935>



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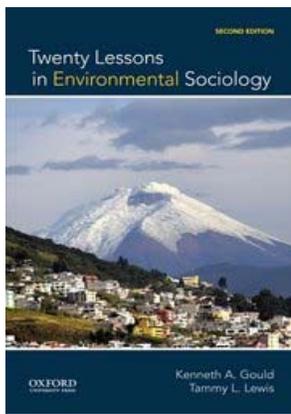
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### **Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology, Second Edition**

by Kenneth A. Gould and Tammy L. Lewis  
Oxford University Press (2014)

<http://global.oup.com/academic/product/twenty-lessons-in-environmental-sociology-9780199325924?q=Twenty%20Lessons&lang=en&cc=us#>

*Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology, Second Edition* introduces undergraduates to the topic in an innovative way -- instead of compiling articles from professional journals, this reader



presents twenty classroom-tested "lessons" from dedicated, experienced teachers and researchers in this sub-field. Building the collection on the model of a successful undergraduate classroom experience, the co-editors asked the contributors to choose a topic, match it with their favorite lecture, and construct a lesson to

reflect the way they teach it in the classroom. The result is an engaging and versatile volume that presents the core ideas of environmental sociology in concise, accessible chapters.

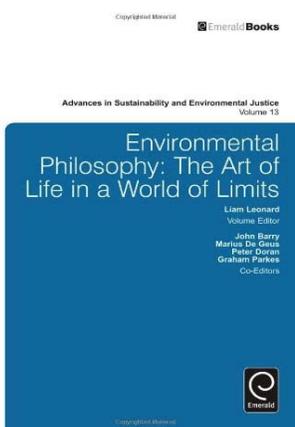
### New to This Edition:

- New chapter on Energy
- New chapter on Food Justice and Globalization
- New chapter on Climate Change and Denial
- Opening photo for each chapter
- New Glossary/Index with key terms and definitions
- An Instructor's Resource CD with discussion questions and other features

### Environmental Philosophy: The Art of Life in a World of Limits

by Liam Leonard, John Barry, Marius De Geus, Peter Doran, and Graham Parkes  
Emerald Group Publishing (2013)

[http://www.emeraldinsight.com/browse.htm?content=journal\\_books](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/browse.htm?content=journal_books)



Humankind has long considered the relationship it holds with nature to be both a blessing and a challenge. The onset of climate change has brought a new impetus to this relationship. This volume of *Advances in Sustainability and Environmental Justice* will examine environmental

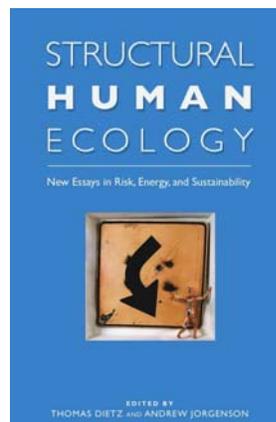
philosophy from a number of viewpoints. Each contributor has a unique perspective on the interaction and engagement between humanity and

the rest of nature, from the technological to the philosophical. *Environmental Philosophy: the Art of Life in a World of Limits* provides a series of interesting studies on humanity's place in the world, and the impact this is having on the planet. The book poses the question as to whether life can be lived in harmony with nature, and the impact such life has on the world around us.

### Structural Human Ecology: New Essays in Risk, Energy, and Sustainability

by Thomas Dietz and Andrew Jorgenson  
Washington State University Press (2013)

<http://wsupress.wsu.edu/shop/showbook.asp?id=382>



The emerging field of Structural Human Ecology researches the dynamic links between population, environment, social organization, and technology. Its community of specialists offers cutting-edge research in risk analysis that can be utilized to evaluate environmental policies and demonstrate how to effectively mitigate human impacts on the

biosphere. International scholars presented these essays at a 2011 symposium honoring the late Dr. Eugene Rosa

### Urban Environmental Stewardship and Civic Engagement: How Planting Trees Strengthens the Roots of Democracy

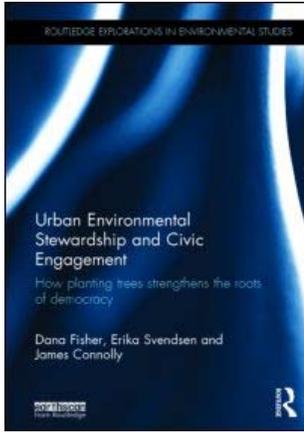
by Dana R. Fisher, Erika S. Svendsen, and James J.T. Connolly.  
Routledge (2015)

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415723633/>

Once considered the antithesis of a verdant and vibrant ecosystem, cities are now being hailed as highly efficient and complex social ecological systems. Emerging from the streets of the post-industrial city are well-tended community gardens, rooftop farms and other viable habitats capable of supporting native flora and fauna. At the forefront of this transformation are the citizens living in the cities themselves. As people around the world increasingly relocate to urban areas, this book discusses how they engage in urban stewardship

and what civic participation in the environment means for democracy.

Drawing on data collected through a two-year study of volunteer stewards who planted trees as part of the MillionTreesNYC initiative in the United States, this book examines how projects like this can make a difference to the social fabric of a city. It analyses quantitative survey data along with qualitative interview data that enables the volunteers to share their personal stories and motivations for participating, revealing the strong link between environmental stewardship and civic engagement.



As city governments in developed countries are investing more and more in green infrastructure campaigns to change the urban landscape, this book sheds light on the social importance of these initiatives and shows how individuals' efforts to reshape their cities serve to strengthen democracy. It draws out lessons that are highly applicable to global cities and policies on sustainability and civic engagement.

### Articles

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## Member News

### Caeser Donovan

Congratulations to Caeser Donovan, who has accepted the post of Assistant Professor of Sociology at California State University East Bay. He will start up at his new position this fall.

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