

Environment and Technology Division Newsletter

Summer 2011

A Note From the Chair...

As our 2011 meetings draw near, please begin to think about the sessions you would like to see for 2012. We will decide this at the Division Business meeting, Friday August 19, 4:30-6:10, Lake Tahoe meeting room. See inside for more details.

We will be electing a new chair to begin their term next year, so think about who of your colleagues you might like to nominate. Self-nominations are encouraged as well!

See you in Las Vegas!

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2011 Las Vegas Meetings...So much to do!

The 61th Annual Meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, August 19-21, promises to bring numerous sessions of great research and discussion.

Plan on attending Environment and Technology Division sponsored sessions involving papers focused on food and social justice, environment and globalization, uncertainty and risk, animal rights, and teaching environmental sociology.

Aside from the numerous sessions of exciting papers, Las Vegas promises not to disappoint! Check out the SSSP recommendations for visitors by clicking here <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1468/>.



A Call for Content

We would love to hear what are members are working on! Whether you are interested in sharing an experience with teaching, research, writing, publishing, community partnerships, among other things, we would love to hear about what our members are en-

gaged in. Please forward any short narratives, blurbs, or summaries to Erin Robinson at robinso5@canisius.edu.



Environment and Technology Division Responds to Service Sociology, A listing of 2011 Sponsored Sessions

"If each of us chooses some ... form of public service and puts himself thoroughly into it, things will go very well."
Charles Horton Cooley, *Social Organization* (1909).

Date: Friday, August 19

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM

Session 7: The Social Reconstruction After Natural and Unnatural Disasters I

Room: Studio 1

Sponsors: Community Research and Development
Environment and Technology
Family
Global

Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Steven Lang, LaGuardia College at CUNY

Papers:

"Beyond Petroleum in the Gulf of Mexico: The Social Construction of Catastrophe,"
Lynn Letukas, University of Delaware and John Barnshaw, University of South Florida

"There's God, then there's Mac': Responses to Living in a Geography of Trouble,"
Daina Cheyenne Harvey, Rutgers University

"Citizen Activism and the Reframing of a Slow-Moving Disaster," Steven Lang, LaGuardia College at CUNY

Date: Friday, August 19

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM

Session 15: The Social Reconstruction After Natural and Unnatural Disasters II

Room: Studio 1

Sponsors: Community Research and Development
Environment and Technology
Family, Global

Organizer, Presider &

Discussant: Steven Lang, LaGuardia College at CUNY

Papers:

"Oh, did the women suffer, they suffered so much: Impacts of Gendered Based Violence on Kinship Networks in Rwanda,"
Nicole S. Fox, Brandeis University, 1st place Winner of the Family Division's Student Paper Competition

"What Matters about 'One dead cow?': Institutional Responses and Adaptations to BSE and Food Risks in Canada,"
Kevin E. Jones and Debra J. Davidson, University of Alberta

"Sociological insights in the search of the disaster resilient community: past, present and future,"
Fernando I. Rivera and Marc R. Settembrino, University of Central Florida

Date: Friday, August 19

Time: 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM

Session 21: Building Greener Communities: Redefining Quality of Life

Room: Silver

Sponsor: Environment and Technology

Organizer & Presider: Janet A. Lorenzen, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Papers:

"Living a Life of Free: the Motives and Rational of Dumpster Diving,"
Jessica R. Sullivan and

Timothy E. Bauer, Western Michigan University

"Constructing the Rights of Nature: Environmentalism, Indigenous Politics, and Legal Mobilization in Ecuador, 1970-2008,"
Maria Akchurin, University of Chicago

"Constructing Road Safety as a Shared Responsibility and a Social Problem: The Swedish Model of Road Safety and Its Built-Environment Antecedents,"
Carolyn McAndrews, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholar, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"State Capacity, World Polity and Deforestation: A Cross-National Analysis of Less-Developed Nations,"
Adam Driscoll, North Carolina State University

Date: Saturday, August 20

Time: 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM

Session 50: Environmental Activism: Race, Class, and Inequalities

Room: Laughlin

Sponsors: Conflict, Social Action, and Change
Environment and Technology
Poverty, Class, and Inequality

Organizer &

Presider: John C. Alessio, Minnesota State University

Papers:

"Incorporation of the Sarayacu:

2011 Division Sponsored Sessions, Continued

Ecological and Social Challenges,” Paul Prew, Minnesota State University - Mankato

“Perceiving the Invisible: Chicago Residents’ Perceptions of Neighborhood Air Quality,” Katherine E. King, University of Michigan

“The Income, Housing and Jobs Divide in Jersey City: A Case of Uneven Development and Urban Inequality,” Donal Malone, Saint Peter’s College

“What Happens to Foreclosed Properties? Race, Class, and Neighborhood Inequality in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Region,” Emily Tumpson Molina, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Women of Color Leadership in the Environmental Justice Movement,” Jake Alimahomed-Wilson, California State University, Long Beach

Date: Saturday, August 20

Time: 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM

Session 63: Issues in Technology and Sexuality
Room: Silver

Sponsors: Environment and Technology
Racial and Ethnic Minorities
Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities

Organizer, President
& *Discussant:* Cary Gabriel Costello, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Papers:

“Meeting On-line and Maintain-

ing Personal Safety Offline,” Luis F. Nuño, William Paterson University

“Sexuality in Virtual Worlds,” Cary Gabriel Costello, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

“Beyond the Digital Divide: Low-Income Mothers Negotiate Technology for and with their Teens,” Joslyn Brenton, Rachel Powell and Sinikka Elliott, North Carolina State University

“Human Trafficking and Hurricane Katrina,” Kimberly Sue Smith, Virginia Tech

Date: Saturday, August 20

Time: 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM

Session 77: Non-human/Human Species and Inequalities
Room: Silver

Sponsors: Environment and Technology
Poverty, Class, and Inequality

Organizers: Julie Andrzejewski, St. Cloud State University
Anthony J. Nocella, II, Syracuse University

President: Julie Andrzejewski, St. Cloud State University

Papers:

“‘Saving Face’ While Confronting Guilt: Promoting Vegetarianism and Veganism to Omnivores,” Jessica B. Greenebaum, Central Connecticut State University

“Is the American Pit Bull Terrier a Social Problem? Aggression, Deviant Subcultures, and Dog Ownership,” Genevieve D. Minter

and Andrew L. Spivak, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

“War: Animals in the Aftermath,” Julie Andrzejewski, St. Cloud State University

“They Call it Thrill Killing: Animal Abuse in Wisconsin,” Ray Hutchinson and Karen Dalke, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

Date: Sunday, August 21

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM

Session 109: Globalization and Environmental Justice
Room: Silver

Sponsors: Environment and Technology
Global

Organizer & President: Erin E. Robinson, Canisius College

Papers:

“Materialism and Post-Materialism: Theory, Human Development, and Valuation of the Environment,” Tobin N. Walton, University of Tennessee

“National Footprints in the Modern World-System: An Indirect and Direct Effects Theorization and Structural Equation Modeling,” Laura A. McKinney and Ed Kick, North Carolina State University

“Statistics, Uncertainty, and the News Media Construction of Cancer Clusters in Delaware,” Victor W. Perez and Joel Best, University of Delaware

“Third World Sanitation in the First World: A Look at Detroit, MI and Lowndes County, AL,” Jennifer S. Carrera, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



More Division Sponsored and Business Meeting Information

Date: Sunday, August 21

Time: 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM

Session 119: Teaching Environmental Sociology: Sharing Techniques and Perspective

Room: Silver

Sponsor: Environment and Technology

Organizer &

Discussant: Erin E. Robinson,
Canisius College

Papers:

“Incorporating Environmental Organization Website Analysis into an Environmental Sociology Class,” David F. Steele, Austin Peay State University

“Teaching about Global Environmental Issues,” Christine A. Wernet, University of South Carolina Aiken

“The Greening UMass Projects: Empowering Students for Activism in Sustainability,” Shawn A. Trivette, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

“Using Fiction to Teach Environmental Sociology,” Manuel Vallée, University of Auckland

Division Business Meeting

Date: Friday, August 19

Time: 4:30 PM—6:10 PM

Room: Lake Tahoe

Ever wonder how sessions for next year’s meeting are created? Come to our division meeting for a relaxed atmosphere and discussion about next year’s program. Volunteer to be a session organizer! It is a great way to get involved with the organization and provide professional service.

We will be electing a new chair in 2012. At the business meeting, we will be thinking of nominations for next spring’s division election.

The business meeting is a great way to meet others in the division and share ideas for research and trends in the field.

I hope you to see you there!!



Graduate Student Paper Competition Winner!

Congratulations, David Bidwell, a graduate student in the Department of Sociology, Environmental Science and Policy Program at Michigan State University. David is this year's winner of the Brent K. Marshall Graduate Student Paper Competition.

David's paper on the perception of wind farm and clean energy served as an excellent example of superior research that our graduate students are conducting. He is encouraged to submit this paper for publication and will be presenting it at the annual meetings in the following session.

Session 58: Student Award Winning Papers II

Room: Parlor D

Sponsor: Program Committee

Organizer: Holly Foster, Texas A&M University

Presider: Steven E. Barkan, University of Maine

Papers:

"Explaining Women's Activism: Rethinking the Women's Environmental Justice Narrative in California's San Joaquin Valley," Tracy E. Perkins, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1st place Winner of the Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division's Student Paper Competition

"The Influence of Habitus in the Relationship Between Socioeconomic Status, Cultural Capital, and Academic Success," S. Michael Gaddis and Andrew Payton, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 1st place Winner of the Educational Problems Division's Student Paper Competition

"The Role of Values and Beliefs in Public Attitudes towards Wind Farms," David Bidwell, Michigan State University, 1st place Winner of the Environment and Technology Division's Student Paper Competition

"Locking Up Social Order: Incarceration, Organizational Leadership, and Street Corner Violence," Robert Vargas, Northwestern University, 1st place Winner of the Law and Society Division's Student Paper Competition

"Remaking Reciprocal Rules of Geriatric Care: The Case of Aging Taiwanese Immigrants," Ken Chih-Yan Sun, Brandeis University, 1st place Winner of the Youth, Aging, and the Life Course Division's Student Paper Competition

Thank you to all who submitted papers. It was a very competitive year and resulted in a difficult decision among all the superb papers.

We encourage you to think now of a submission for the 2012 competition!!

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updates and information at
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Environment and Technology Division Mission...

The Environment and Technology Division strives to encourage research and discussion about societal impacts of issues in environment and technology. Our division sponsors paper sessions across a range of subfields of sociology and the environment, including, but not limited to political economy of the environment, social movements and the environment, animals and the environment, technology and society, natural disasters and society, risk and risk perception.

As a division, we serve to support research that extends an understanding of social causes and impacts on social institutions that extend from environmental and technological concerns. We strive to advance the causes of social justice by directing attention to the unjust social consequences of environmental problems. Socio-economic status and other quality of life indicators become indicators of environmental pollution as well. Often times, poor and minority individuals suffer the burden of environmental pollution, while those in higher socioeconomic statuses are able to avoid such consequences. Our division works to understand the institutional causes and consequences of such disparities and work towards producing research that advances the literature in these areas.

Additionally, we seek to understand science and its limits surrounding conclusive evidence between exposure and illness. For example, it makes sense to focus on the basic needs that provide individuals with a strong quality of life. Arguably, if someone's quality of life is impacted, but the exposures do not fall within the deemed statistical significance necessary for the state to act, should consideration still be given to their right to pursue life in a clean, healthy environment? Essentially, the issues become issues of human rights and justice.

Environmental sociology and related areas of study have developed into a substantial field of literature since the 1970s. We seek to consistently address the findings in the literature from this field and offer engaging dialogue that seeks to advance the study of environment and society. From political economy of the environment introduced in seminal works, such as *The Environment from Surplus to Scarcity* (Schnaiberg 1980) to the social constructionist work of John Hannigan in *Environmental Sociology: A Social Constructionist Perspective* (1995), literature rich in theoretical and empirical findings continues to challenge assumptions made about the social world. Our division serves as a space for these discussions to be held.

SSSP members are drawn to this organization in part because of its historical focus on issues of social justice. We are interested in applying critical scientific perspectives to the basic study of society that affects us all. In concert with that, members of the Environment and Technology Division seek engage in research in order to explore and analysis a root cause of social injustice—environmental issues. Environmental issues are fundamentally issues of social justice. Inherent to these issues are issues of health and illness, issues of economics, issues of race, class, and gender, and issues of colonial exploitation. As we continue to advance as a society in late modernity, we will evermore have the need to explore and understand the consequences on society and environment of such forms of development such as a globalization, neoliberalism, and advanced capitalism.



Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. ~John Muir

