

Environment and Technology Division Newsletter

Annual Meeting 1

Brent K. Marshall
Student Paper Award
Recipient 2

Publications by
Members 2

Awards and
Appointments 3

Share information about your publications, awards, and research. Share stories of relevant efforts near you. Help to build a sense of community within the division and gain exposure for your work at the same time. Please send any announcements, member news, and blurbs to ljvandenscott@u.northwestern.edu for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Annual Meeting: August 9-11, New York City

By now we are all gearing up in some way or another for the annual meetings in New York City this summer. Below are listed the sessions which are sponsored or co-sponsored by the Environment and Technology Division. These meetings promise to be an exciting opportunity for dialogues previously started to flourish, and for new conversations to begin.

Please remember to register for the meetings as soon as possible. The deadline of July 1st is fast approaching! We look forward to seeing you there.

Session sponsored or co-sponsored by the division:

- Critical Dialogues: Competing Perspectives on Capitalism and the Environment
- Persistence and Change in Environmental Issues
- Environmental Privilege: Wealth, Waste, and Inequality
- New Resource Wars: Indigenous and Ethnic Environmental Struggles; co-sponsor with Racial and Ethnic Minorities
- Community Spaces and Food Security; co-sponsored with Community Research & Development
- Urban Environmental Issues; co-sponsored with Community Research & Development and Sociology & Social Welfare
- Public Health Sustainability, Ecological Justice, and Globalization; co-sponsored with Health, Health Policy, and Health Services and Global
- New Strategies in Online Constructionism; co-sponsored with Social Problems Theory
- Transformative Environmental Education; co-sponsored with Conflict, Social Action & Change

Brent K. Marshall Student Paper Award: Janet Lorenzen, Rutgers University

The Environment and Technology Division is pleased to announce the winner of the 2013 Brent K. Marshall Graduate Student Paper Award: Janet Lorenzen, Rutgers University for her paper, "Sustainable Lifestyles and Environmental Activism: How Lifestyle Change Supports Collective Action."



Abstract: Environmentally sustainable lifestyles have been characterized as part of "prefigurative communities" (aligning interests with social movements) or "inverted quarantines"

(when environmental protection is satisfied by consumer goods at the expense of political action). To explore this contradiction I draw on 45 in-depth interviews and participant observation with three groups: (1) voluntary simplifiers, (2) religious environmentalists, and (3) green home owners. I dispute the assertion that sustainable lifestyles are apolitical or create a tradeoff with political participation or support for system-level change. Transitioning to a sustainable lifestyle is often one part of a multi-faceted approach to addressing climate change. First, my research confirms that people who are in the process of cultivating a sustainable lifestyle are often pulled or pushed into collective action through social networks. Second, activists also use lifestyle change to shore up long-term, sometimes discouraging, environmental and social movement participation. And third, I find that those who wish to avoid formal, contentious politics are drawn to sustainable lifestyles – a case of selection effects rather than causality. Contrary to the inverted quarantine thesis, transitioning to a more sustainable lifestyle does not cause people to avoid politics. Lifestyles do not necessarily support the individualization of responsibility so much as they are a consequence of it. The result is an expansion of the tactics used to address climate change, rather than the replacement of public strategies with personal ones.

Division Member Publication Announcements:

J. Steven Picou has the following new publications:

Adeola, Francis O. and J. Steven Picou (2012). "Race, Social Capital, and the Health Impacts of Katrina: Evidence from the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast." *Human Ecology Review* 19:10-24.

Adeola, Francis O. and J. Steven Picou (2013). "Environment and Technology." Pp. 255-264 in David L. Brunnsma, et al, *Handbook of Sociology and Human Rights*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers.

Nicholls, Keith and J. Steven Picou (2013). "The Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Trust and Government." *Social Science Quarterly* 94(2): 344-361.

Michael Mascarenhas, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was recently interviewed about his book, *Where the Water Divide*, and global social movements, on Latin Waves Grass Roots Media, an internationally syndicated radio program, which features the voices of Noam Chomsky, Derrick Jensen, Vandana Shiva, Silvia Federici and others who are working to create a society based on justice (racial, gender, ecological and cultural) and principles of fairness and equity.

The interview can be found here:

<http://www.radio4all.net/index.php/program/67921> and here;

http://www.radio4all.net/files/latinwaves@gmail.com/4108-1-Syndication_Week_Of_April_22_2013.mp3

Lisa-Jo van den Scott, Northwestern University, has an insert in *Planning Ethically Responsible Research, Second Edition*, by Joan E. Sieber and Martin B. Tolich, published by Sage. Extensively revised and updated to serve today's needs for insight and solutions to the most vexing ethical and regulatory problems faced by researchers today, *Planning Ethically Responsible Research, Second Edition* guides readers through one of the most important aspects of their social or behavioral research: planning ethically responsible research. Authors Joan E. Sieber and Martin B. Tolich offer invaluable, practical guidance to researchers and graduate students to understand ethical concerns within real-life research situations, satisfy federal regulations governing human research, and work with the university's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The book includes an abundance of useful tools: detailed instructions on development of an effective IRB protocol; methods for handling issues of consent, privacy, confidentiality and deception; ways to assess risk and benefit to optimize research outcomes; and how to respect the needs of vulnerable research populations.



Awards and Appointments:

Ethan Schoolman, after defending his dissertation in sociology at the University of Michigan, will begin a postdoctoral appointment as a Dow Sustainability Scholar at the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan.

J. Steven Picou, Director, Coastal Resource and Resiliency Center and Professor of Sociology, University of South Alabama, was recognized as one of fifty researchers over five decades at the University who has made outstanding contributions to sciences in the areas of Sociological Practice, Environmental Sociology, and Disaster Research.

Lisa-Jo van den Scott, Northwestern University, has won the Karpf Prize from her department, which is awarded to an advanced graduate student whose work contributes to promoting "peace, goodwill, tolerance and understanding among the peoples of the Earth."

