

SSSP Section on **ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

**SUMMER 2021
NEWSLETTER**

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



CLARE CANNON
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA-DAVIS

Dear E&T,

It has been nearly one and a half years since the global pandemic emerged and accompanying lockdowns to try to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. As vaccines have become widely available in the U.S. and a reemergence is beginning to accompany re-openings, we keep in mind that the pandemic rages on across much of the world. As we emerge, we may take time to take stock of the close to 18 months it has been, the many losses both small and big, and perhaps, a newfound sense of the profundity of everyday life. And through it all, our community has persevered, lending a hand to each other when needed or an ear to listen to the many and ongoing difficulties this time has presented us with. We have also recently seen the one-year anniversary of the murder of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer, which galvanized

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many across the world to stand up for racial justice. It remains to be written whether or not the mass-protests this tragedy inspired portend a reckoning with the many injustices perpetrated by structural racism and a society devoted to white supremacy. We are reminded by such protests of our own need to contribute to working for racial justice.

As we continue our work through research into the environment and technology, teaching the next generation of organizers and researchers, as we work to advance our home institutions and the profession, we will continue to work together to confront our most pressing social problems including those related to climate change,

environmental racism, how technology can help us create a more equitable society not less, among many others. I want to thank you for your continued work on behalf of our community and especially to all those who served on SSSP committees this past year. I am so looking forward to seeing you all virtually at our business meeting July 12th, 9-1030 am PST, and at our annual meeting this summer, August 4-7th. This year we have 7 exciting sessions that I am particularly excited to attend. You will find more information on the upcoming sessions and other division related information in this newsletter. I am especially looking forward to visiting with you all in person next year in Los Angeles!

Wishing you a safe, restorative, and joyful summer,

Clare Cannon



BRETT K. MARSHALL AWARD

Congratulations to the Brent K. Marshall Paper Award Winner **Erika Kessler, Teacher's College and Columbia University**, for their paper, "Climate Change Concern among Youth: The Unexamined Role of Civics Education and Institutional Trust in Elevating Cross-national Climate Change Risk Perceptions."

The awards committee writes, "Kessler provides a timely analysis that addresses the growing climate emergency, investigating how youth across 22 different countries perceive climate change. Kessler argues that student engagement with climate change can be fostered by increasing organizational trust and civic knowledge. Kessler's analysis is novel, compelling, and has the potential to inform policy."

We also want to congratulate the Brent K. Marshall Paper Award **Honorable Mention** winner **Angela Zapata**,

University of Wisconsin-Madison, for their paper, "Materializing Inequality: The Production of Environmental Risks for Small-scale Farmers in the Palm Oil Industry."

The awards committee writes, "Zapata provides a compelling and well-organized analysis of monocrops in Colombia, drawing on secondary data analysis, 12-months of ethnographic observations, and 50 in-depth interviews. Zapata demonstrates that agriculture in Colombia is shaped by colonial legacies. Zapata's paper is insightful, engaging, and theoretically sophisticated."

Finally, the committee commented on the exceptionally strong submissions this year. We would like to extend a special thanks to the awards committee, Michael Halpin, Dana Greene, and Daina Harvey.

We look forward to next year's submissions!

Join Us!

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY VIRTUAL DIVISIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Topic: SSSP Environment & Technology Division Business

Time: Monday, July 12th 9-10:30 am PST

Zoom link: <https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/2259909983?pwd=RVJXSUVFwTVVNmTnh1aCtLMHFQZDZJdz09>

Meeting ID: 225 990 9983

Password: CRD240

REVOLUTIONARY SOCIOLOGY: TRUTH, HEALING, REPARATIONS AND RESTRUCTURING

SESSIONS SPONSORED BY THE SECTION ON ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Date: Wednesday, August 4

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:15 PM

Session 014: Theorizing Environment and Society in the Anthropocene

Sponsors: Environment and Technology & Social Problems Theory

Organizer & Presider: June Jeon, Tufts University

Description:

Anthropocene is a geological age, during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment. The rise of this new epoch demands sociologists to rethink our approaches in the understanding of human society, nature, and the interaction between them. This is an ever more urgent sociological mission, given the ongoing massive social changes by the Covid-19 pandemic, infested at the interface of human society and nature. How various organized human activities are systematically reshaping the global environment? How social forces that constitute an unequal and unjust society contribute to this global project? How global environmental crisis reproduces enduring patterns of social, economic, or health inequality? Moreover, how should we revolutionize our existing social theoretical frameworks to understand the environment and society in contexts of these massive global environmental changes? Papers in this session aim to raise and answer these provocative questions. They cover various geographic, institutional, and national contexts to reveal entanglements of social dynamics and local/global environmental changes. Collectively, the papers suggest new perspectives on the global environmental crisis and related social dynamics.

Papers:

- “Chinese Logged Everything’: Culture, Collective Cognition and Historical Trauma in Russian Deforestation Discourse,” Liudmila Listrovaya, University of Oregon
- “Dirty Looks’: A Critical Phenomenology of Motorized Mobility Scooter Use,” Alfiya Battalova and Laura Hurd, University of British Columbia, Sandra Hobson, University of Western Ontario, R. Lee Kirby, Dalhousie University, Richelle Emory, Vancouver Coastal Health and W. Ben Mortenson, University of British Columbia
- “In the Crosshairs: A Nationwide Analysis of Intersecting Natural and Industrial Hazardscapes,” Phylcia L. Brown, Rice University
- “Shaping Sheep, Sheep Shapers: Geo-zoe-politics of Networked Agencies,” Kristen Angela Livera, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
- “The Co-production of ‘Sustainability’: Coffee, Eco-tourism, and Environmental Relations on the Galapagos Islands,” Matthew J. Zinsli, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Society for
the Study of
Social
Problems

71st Virtual
Annual
Meeting
August 4-7,
2021

SESSIONS SPONSORED BY THE SECTION ON ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Date: Wednesday, August 4

Time: 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM

Session 023: Theorizing Environment and Society in the Anthropocene II

Sponsors: Environment and Technology & Social Problems Theory

Organizer & Presider: June Jeon, Tufts University

Papers:

- "A Power Structure Approach to Dirty Energy: Theorizing the Political Influence of Industries that Threaten Democracy and the Environment," Michael C. Dreiling and Yvonne A. Braun, University of Oregon
- "Governance Advances that Efface Environmental Ambition: Combining Institutional and Political-economic Approaches to Analyze Chile's REDD+ Program," Patrick CoatarPeter and Brian Gareau, Boston College
- "How Structural Denial in the 'Energy Field' Hampers Climate Action: An Analysis of Corporate Earnings Calls, 2008-2019," Annika Rieger, Boston College and Isak Ladegaard, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- "Materializing Inequality: The Production of Environmental Risks for Small-scale Farmers in the Palm Oil Industry," Angela Serrano Zapata, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Honorable Mention in the Environment and Technology Division's Student Paper Competition
- "Responsible and Profitable: The Coexistence of Institutional Logics in Corporations," Dasom D. Lee, University of Twente.

Date: Thursday, August 5

Time: 9:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Session 032: Environmental Activism: Communication, Mobilization, and Policy

Sponsors: Conflict, Social Action, and Change & Environment and Technology

Organizer & Presider: Marko Salvaggio, Tulane University

Description:

This session explores environmental activism through diverse socio-environmental topics such as climate change, mining, fossil fuel use, wildlife management, and animal welfare. Authors critically assess the relationships between environmental activists and the government, state, scientific, corporate, and industry entities that contribute and attempt to govern and manage environmental dilemmas and discourses. Authors describe environmental activism strategies, such as gathering public opinion and engaging in grassroots mobilization, shared learning experiences and the co-production of knowledge, as well as grief circles and storytelling. The need to analyze environmental discourse is also highlighted in this session.

Session papers and authors listed on next page.

SESSIONS SPONSORED BY THE SECTION ON ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Papers:

- “May the Cows Safely Graze? A Reflexive Approach to Bridging the Expert-Lay Knowledge Divide,” Jill Eileen Richardson, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- “Youth Climate Activists, Grief Circles, and Good Stories: Connecting Narrative and Emotional Processing,” Ann G. Ward, Brandeis University
- “Local Success and Global Struggles: The Politics of Environmental Justice in Neoliberal Bangladesh,” Nikhil Deb, Murray State University and Ayon Chakrabarty, Bangladesh University of Professionals
- “The Increasing Criminalization of Anti-fossil Fuel Activism: Dynamics and Implications,” Lauren E. Eastwood and Elizabeth Onasch, SUNY College at Plattsburgh
- “Banning Cockfighting in the U.S. Territories: Assessing Implementation and Public Opinion of the Legislation Extension,” Cameron Thomas Whitley, Western Washington University and Melanie Marie Bowers, Rutgers University

Date: Thursday, August 5

Time: 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM

Session 050: Transformative Technology and the Growing Digital Divide: Educational Promise and Peril

Sponsors: Disability, Educational Problems, & Environment and Technology

Organizer: Andrew Baird, Christopher Newport University

Presider: Taylor Devereaux, University of Central Florida

Description:

This session explores the interplay of technology and dynamic social structures within the context of education and socialization globally. There is particular emphasis on some of the more novel 21st century challenges that technology promises to ameliorate or exacerbate as education moves toward an inevitably more digital future

Papers:

- “‘Going Online’ - Experiences of Online Schooling among Disabled Students in India during Covid-19,” Anuj Goyal, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi and Sakshi Rai, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- “Girls, Gadgets and Gatekeepers: How Gender and Class Shape Adolescent Access to Mobile Phones in Mumbai, India,” Isha Bhallamudi, University of California, Irvine
- “Online and Correspondence: Cautions and Possibilities for College-level Prison Courses,” Colleen Rost-Banik, Windward Community College
- “Status Competitions in the Digital Era: Degree-seeking, Public Credentialism, and Informal Counseling in Two Taiwanese Social Media Sites,” Ruo-Fan Liu, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Honorable Mention in the Educational Problems Division’s Student Paper Competition
- “Students’ Racialized Experiences with an Industry-sponsored Computer Science Program,” Noemi Linares-Ramirez, University of California, Irvine

SESSIONS SPONSORED BY THE SECTION ON ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Date: Friday, August 6

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:15 PM

Session 071: Confronting Compounding Crises: The Intersection of Social, Economic, and Environmental Inequalities in the 21st Century

Sponsors: Environment and Technology & Labor Studies

Organizers: Todd Vachon, Rutgers University

Alexis Econie, University of Wisconsin

Presider: Eli Revelle Yano Wilson, University of New Mexico

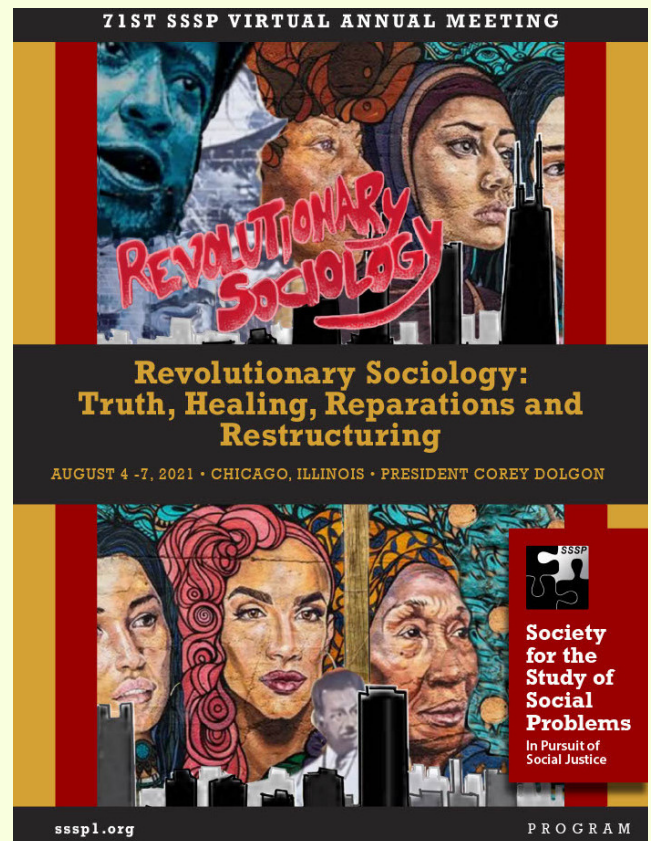
Discussant: Alexis Econie, University of Wisconsin

Description:

Working people in the US and around the world have been confronting compounding crises of social, economic, and environmental inequality. These crises often intersect and reinforce one another as is the case with struggles to decarbonize the economy and create green jobs. Legal definitions of employment and other labor market institutions also serve to create barriers to creating desperately needed good jobs. Papers in this panel are drawn from diverse theoretical and methodological vantage points to consider these contemporary compounding crises.

Papers:

- “I Would Hire You, But’: Finding Employment after Wrongful Incarceration,” Michelle L. Estes, Oklahoma State University
- “Skin in the Game: The Struggle over Climate Protection within the U.S. Labor Movement,” Todd Vachon, Rutgers University
- “The Spatial Challenges for Just Transitions and Green Jobs,” Erik Kojola, Texas Christian University
- “The Two-Employer Problem: Strategic Dilemmas at the Heart of the Tipped Wage Debate,” Hanna Goldberg, The Graduate Center, CUNY, Winner of the Labor Studies Division’s Student Paper Competition



SESSIONS SPONSORED BY THE SECTION ON ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Date: Friday, August 6

Time: 3:30 PM - 5:15 PM

SPECIAL Session 087: Food Justice in Practice: Perspectives from Activists and Reckoning with the Role of Scholarship

Sponsor: Environment and Technology

Organizer & Presider: Kelsey Ryan-Simkins, The Ohio State University

Discussant: Joshua Sbicca, Colorado State University

Description:

Community-based food projects have flourished across the United States in the past two decades. These projects propose radical changes to the food system that increase equitable access to fresh healthy foods, eradicate exploitation of workers in the food system, and reduce environmental harms that primarily affect low-income and people of color. This session features a panel of food justice activists from across the United States. Panelists will discuss how their work approaches food justice and offer insight into the role of research in food movement. A scholar-activist who specializes in food movements will offer a response and closing thoughts before Q&A.

Panelists:

- Julialynne Walker, Bronzeville Growers Market
- Monica Amador, The GrowHaus
- Kimberly T. Arnold, Black Church Food Security Network
- Yasmín Ruiz, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
- Pamela Broom, NewCorp, Inc.

Date: Saturday, August 7

Time: 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM

Session 114: Gender and Global Climate Change

Sponsors: Environment and Technology; Gender; Global

Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Clare Cannon, University of California, Davis

Description:

This session includes diverse papers that look at a range of issues related to the environment and technology, gender, and global conditions.

Papers:

- "Conveying Gendered Power through Bureaucratic Websites: A Content Analysis of Child Welfare Systems," Christa J. Moore, University of Virginia's College at Wise
- "Post-disaster Masculinity and Mental Health," Rebecca G. Ewert, University of Chicago
- "How is the Veterinary Community Addressing Opioids?" M.E. Betsy Garrison, Josephine Reardon, Heidi Ward and Kelly Way, University of Arkansas
- "Unpacking Sustainability: A Feminist Political Ecological Analysis of Global Overshoot Dynamics," Kristin Dobbin and Clare Cannon, University of California, Davis

INTRODUCING EMILY BURKE

Incoming Newsletter Editor

Meet Emily Burke, the new E&T Newsletter Editor! Emily is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and recently graduated from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. She is now a first-year Ph.D. student at University of Wisconsin-Madison in the joint Sociology and Community & Environmental Sociology program.

Emily's research interests include environmental sociology, climate change denialism, and social movements. Her prior research has examined the intersection of religion and the environment through content analysis of U.S. Catholic bishops' discussion of climate change and application of ideological denialism.

Emily will be the E&T Newsletter from Fall 2021 to Summer 2023.



EMILY BURKE
UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN-MADISON

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT & FAREWELL TO ALEXIS ECONIE

E&T Newsletter Editor 2018-2021



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UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN-MADISON

It has been an honor to serve as E&T Newsletter editor over the past three years. As I prepare to begin my dissertation fieldwork this fall, I leave you in the very capable newsletter-editing hands of Emily Burke.

The dissertation research program I am preparing investigates the social reproduction of vulnerability at the intersection of environment and labor, taking the US recycling industry as a case study with multi-method analyses conducted at the level of the community, the firm, and the individual. You can read my recent co-authored article on temporary work in the recycling industry [here](#) and [follow me on Twitter](#) for updates about my upcoming dissertation research.

It would be remiss of me to depart without highlighting my current work on an applied policy project. [ProGov21.org](#) is a free, fully-searchable online library of progressive policy resources. ProGov21 offers progressive policy roadmaps and a monthly policy podcast with guests from policy-research institutes around the US. You can [listen to The ProGov Podcast on Spotify](#) or our [website](#). For more information, follow ProGov21 on [Twitter](#) and [sign up for our newsletter here](#).