

DEVELOPMENT SOCIOLOGY 6210: FOUNDATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY
Wednesdays 10:00am, Warren 137.

Instructor: John Zinda
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Purpose

Proliferating environmental concerns and contention over them are drawing social scientists' attention like never before. But environmental issues pose major challenges for social scientists. Social-environmental relationships raise theoretical and methodological questions: How do we know an "environmental" issue when we see one? How can we effectively examine the multifarious relationships between environmental processes and social processes and structures? They also involve diverse empirical questions, such as how biophysical processes shape social structure and decision-making, how people collectively understand and frame environmental issues, and how political and economic institutions variably produce and respond to environmental change. This course will acquaint students with core scholarship and recent empirical and theoretical developments in the subfield of environmental sociology.

Format

This course is intended to be an occasion to read, write, and discuss. The bulk of each session will be devoted to open discussion of the day's readings. We will begin by setting the agenda, asking each participant to bring up any concepts or issues they want to clarify or discuss. I may spend some time introducing background or context of the debates at hand. Then we will discuss the readings together. In the second half of the meeting, we will focus on the methods, findings, and theoretical argumentation of the reading listed under "Research Focus". At the end of class I will make some remarks about the readings for the following week.

In this syllabus, I have tried to address the scope of the subdiscipline, but it is too extensive to cover entirely. Early in the semester we will discuss potential changes to take into account topics you would like to address.

Evaluation

Your grade in this course will be based on the following: three critiques (33%), a final paper (33%), and class participation (33%).

The Critiques

At our second meeting, you will sign up to submit critiques on three occasions during the semester. They are due 48 hours before we meet the week those readings are assigned, so that all participants have a chance to read them before class.

The point of the critiques is to give you a chance to develop your own views on the readings, to communicate those views to the class, and to demonstrate your command of what we've read

thus far. The format is simple: Write a critical appraisal of some particular theme in the readings, 2 to 3 pages single-spaced, and submit on Blackboard. Give your critique a title and list beneath that the works you covered in the piece, much as is done with a “review essay”. Each week, everyone will be expected to read the critiques, which we will use to help orient our discussion. The best critiques will be those that a) aptly summarize key points from the readings; and b) develop a coherent argument about their contents.

The Final Paper

The central written work of the course will be the preparation of a 4000-5000 word (about 16 to 20 double-spaced pages) essay in environmental sociology. I am eager that this paper be of use for you beyond the confines of this course. So I will be interested in something that relates to your own research, or something that helps you along in the process of figuring out what that might be. One option is to use the format of a “Policy Review” in *Society & Natural Resources*.

We will peer review our papers, with myself and one of your colleagues reviewing your draft. That means that you must submit a complete, relatively finished draft at the draft due date in order to receive a helpful review.

Please note that a topic statement of your paper is due by class time the sixth week (28 Feb.), and a revised topic statement and preliminary bibliography are due in the ninth week (21 Mar.). Your completed full draft is due at 5pm Monday of the twelfth week (18 Apr). I will provide feedback at each stage. The final draft is due by 5:00pm, 9 May. Each of these assignments is to be submitted via Blackboard.

A Note on Class Participation

Your grade for class participation will not be a measure of how loud you were, or of how often you spoke. Rather, it will reflect the extent to which you were “there.” I will evaluate your “thereness” based equally on 1) your engagement (including the quality of your listening) in class discussions; 2) attendance; 3) your participation in setting the agenda at the beginning of class meetings; and 4) your engagement in discussions of class members’ critiques. Peer review of a colleague’s paper will also be part of this grade. I will base grading in this area on the initial assumption that everyone will get full credit in all areas of participation, with deductions made for negligent or “unthere” performance, if necessary.

Course Outline

Note: Suggested readings are *not* required, but are offered as supplements in case you would like to further explore a topic. I can provide copies of some of them upon request.

Week 1. 24 Jan. Getting Acquainted

Week 2. 31 Jan. What Would Environmental Sociology Look Like?

- Lockie, Stewart. 2015. "What Is Environmental Sociology?" *Environmental Sociology* 1(3):139–42.
- Catton, Jr., William R., and Riley E. Dunlap. 1980. "A New Ecological Paradigm for Post-Exuberant Sociology." *The American Behavioral Scientist* 24(1):15–47.
- Buttel, Frederick H. 2002. "Environmental Sociology and the Sociology of Natural Resources: Institutional Histories and Intellectual Legacies." *Society and Natural Resources* 15:205–11.
- Lutzenhiser, Loren. 2002. "Environmental Sociology The Very Idea." *Organization & Environment* 15(1):5–9.

Research Focus

- Bohr, Jeremiah and Riley E. Dunlap. 2017. "Key Topics in Environmental Sociology, 1990–2014: Results from a Computational Text Analysis." *Environmental Sociology* online preprint.

Week 3. 7 Feb. People and Natures: Epistemological Foundations

- Williams, Raymond. 1980. "Ideas of Nature." Pp. 67–85 in *Problems in Materialism and Culture*. London: Verso.
- Freudenburg, William R., Scott Frickel, and Robert Gramling. 1995. "Beyond the Nature/Society Divide: Learning to Think about a Mountain." *Sociological Forum* 10 (3): 361–392.
- Carolan, Michael S. 2005. "Society, Biology, and Ecology Bringing Nature Back Into Sociology's Disciplinary Narrative Through Critical Realism." *Organization & Environment* 18(4):393–421.
- Haraway, Donna. 1988. "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective." *Feminist Studies* 14(3):575–99.

Research Focus

- Bowden, Gary. 2017. "An Environmental Sociology for the Anthropocene." *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue Canadienne de Sociologie* 54(1):48–68.

Week 4. 14 Feb. Extraction and Uneven Development

- Bunker, Stephen G. and Paul S. Ciccantell. 2005. *Globalization and the Race for Resources*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Ch. 1, 3.
- Freudenberg, W.R. 1992. "Addictive Economies: Extractive Industries and Vulnerable Locations." *Rural Sociology* 57(3): 305–332.
- Kaup, Brent Z. 2015. "Markets, Nature, and Society Embedding Economic & Environmental Sociology." *Sociological Theory* 33(3):280–96.
- Jorgenson, Andrew K. 2006. "Unequal Ecological Exchange and Environmental Degradation: A Theoretical Proposition and Cross-National Study of Deforestation, 1990–2000." *Rural Sociology* 71(4):685–712.

Research Focus

Ciplet, David and J. Timmons Roberts. 2017. "Splintering South: Ecologically Unequal Exchange Theory in a Fragmented Global Climate." *Journal of World-Systems Research* 23(2):372-98.

Week 5. 21 Feb. Gendering Environmental Sociology

Kennedy, Emily Huddart and Liz Dzialo. 2015. "Locating Gender in Environmental Sociology: Locating Gender in Environmental Sociology." *Sociology Compass* 9(10):920-29.

Salleh, Ariel. 1995. "Nature, Woman, Labor, Capital: Living the Deepest Contradiction." *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 6(1):21-39.

Peek, Lori and Alice Fothergill. 2009. "Displacement, Gender, and the Challenges of Parenting after Hurricane Katrina." *NWSA Journal* 20(3):69-105.

McCright, Aaron M. 2010. "The Effects of Gender on Climate Change Knowledge and Concern in the American Public." *Population and Environment* 32(1):66-87.

Research Focus

Bell, Shannon Elizabeth. 2016. *Fighting King Coal: The Challenges to Micromobilization in Central Appalachia*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press. Introduction, Ch. 1, 7, 9, Conclusion.

Week 6. 28 Feb. Political Economy: The Grand View

Gould, Kenneth, David N. Pellow, and Allan Schnaiberg. 2004. "Interrogating the Treadmill of Production: Everything You Wanted to Know about the Treadmill but Were Afraid to Ask." *Organization and Environment* 17(3): 296-316.

O'Connor, James. 1991. "On the Two Contradictions of Capitalism." *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 2 (3, Oct.): 107-109.

Foster, John Bellamy. 1999. "Marx's Theory of Metabolic Rift: Classical Foundations for Environmental Sociology." *American Journal of Sociology* 105(2): 366-405.

Freudenburg, William R. 2005. "Privileged Access, Privileged Accounts: Toward a Socially Structured Theory of Resources and Discourses." *Social Forces* 84 (1): 89-114.

Research Focus

Moore, Jason W. 2017a. "The Capitalocene, Part I: On the Nature and Origins of Our Ecological Crisis." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 44(3):594-630.

Moore, Jason W. 2017, forthcoming. "The Capitalocene Part II: Accumulation by Appropriation and the Centrality of Unpaid Work/Energy." *The Journal of Peasant Studies*.

Week 7. 7 Mar. Pathways of Ecological Modernization

Spaargaren, Gert and Arthur P. J. Mol. 2010 [1992]. "Sociology, Environment, and Modernity: Ecological Modernization as a Theory of Social Change." Chapter 5 in Mol, Arthur P. J., David A. Sonnenfeld, and Gert Spaargaren, eds. *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Christoff, Peter. 2010 [1996]. "Ecological Modernisation, Ecological Modernities." Chapter 5 in Mol, Arthur P. J., David A. Sonnenfeld, and Gert Spaargaren, eds. *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Dryzek, JS, C. Hunold, D. Schlosberg, D. Downes, and HK Hernes. 2002. "Environmental Transformation of the State: The USA, Norway, Germany and the UK." *Political Studies* 50(4):659-82.

Rudel, Thomas K. 2013. *Defensive Environmentalists and the Dynamics of Global Reform*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1, 10, 11.

Research Focus

Fisher, Dana R. 2013. "Understanding the Relationship Between Sub-National and National Climate Change Politics in the United States: Toward a Theory of Boomerang Federalism." *Environment & Planning C: Government & Policy* 31(5): 769-784.

Week 8. 14 Mar. Environmental Justice

Bullard, Robert D. 2005. "Environmental Justice in the Twenty-First Century." Pp. 19-42 in, edited by R. D. Bullard. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books.

Pellow, David N. 2000. "Environmental Inequality Formation: Toward a Theory of Environmental Injustice." *American Behavioral Scientist* 43(4):581-601.

Crowder, Kyle and Liam Downey. 2010. "Inter-Neighborhood Migration, Race, and Environmental Hazards: Modeling Microlevel Processes of Environmental Inequality." *American Journal of Sociology* 115(4): 1110-49.

Agyeman, Julian, David Schlosberg, Luke Craven, and Caitlin Matthews. 2016. "Trends and Directions in Environmental Justice: From Inequity to Everyday Life, Community, and Just Sustainabilities." *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 41(1):321-40.

Research Focus

Harrison, Jill Lindsey. 2017. "'We Do Ecology, Not Sociology': Interactions among Bureaucrats and the Undermining of Regulatory Agencies' Environmental Justice Efforts." *Environmental Sociology* 3(3):197-212.

Week 9. 21 Mar. Environmental Beliefs and Actions

Inglehart, Ronald. 1995. "Public Support for Environmental Protection: Objective Problems and Subjective Values in 43 Societies." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 28(1):57-72.

Dunlap, Riley E., and Richard York. 2008. "The Globalization of Environmental Concern and the Limits of the Postmaterialist Values Explanation: Evidence from Four Multinational Surveys." *Sociological Quarterly* 49(3):529-63.

Shove, Elizabeth. 2010. "Beyond the ABC: Climate Change Policy and Theories of Social Change." *Environment and Planning A* 42(6):1273-85.

Research Focus

McCright, Aaron M., Sandra T. Marquart-Pyatt, Rachael L. Shwom, Steven R. Brechin, and Summer Allen. 2016. "Ideology, Capitalism, and Climate: Explaining Public Views about Climate Change in the United States." *Energy Research & Social Science* 21:180-89.

Week 10. 28 Mar. Bringing Culture Back In

Norgaard, Kari Marie. 2011. *Living in Denial: Climate Change, Emotions, and Everyday Life*. Cambridge: MIT Press. Ch. 2, Ch. 5, Conclusion.

Research Focus

Farrell, Justin. 2015. *The Battle for Yellowstone: Morality and the Sacred Roots of Environmental Conflict*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Week 11. 11 Apr. Risk

Perrow, Charles. 1984. *Normal Accidents: Living with High-Risk Technologies*. New York: Basic Books. Introduction, Ch. 1, 2, 3.

Beck, Ulrich. 1992. *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*. London: Sage Publications. Introduction, Ch. 1-2.

Research Focus

Curran, Dean. 2017. "Environmental Justice Meets Risk-Class: The Relational Distribution of Environmental Bads." *Antipode*. Forthcoming.

Week 12. 18 Apr. Disaster

Erikson, Kai. 1994. *A New Species of Trouble: Explorations in Disaster, Trauma, and Community*. New York: W.W. Norton. Prologue, Ch. 1, 5, Epilogue.

Picou, J. Steven, Brent K. Marshall, and Duane A. Gill. 2004. "Disaster, Litigation, and the Corrosive Community." *Social Forces* 82(4):1493-1522.

Research Focus

Davidson, Debra J. 2017. "Evaluating the Effects of Living with Contamination from the Lens of Trauma: A Case Study of Fracking Development in Alberta, Canada." *Environmental Sociology*. Forthcoming.

Week 13. 25 Apr. Environmental Movements: Grassroots Mobilization

Brulle, Robert J. 2000. *Agency, Democracy, and Nature: U.S. Environmental Movements from a Critical Theory Perspective*. Cambridge: MIT Press. Ch. 2, 4.

Brulle, Robert J. 2015. "U.S. Environmental Movements." Pp. 263-82 in *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*, edited by K. A. Gould and T. L. Lewis. New York: Oxford University Press.

McAdam, Doug. 2017. "Social Movement Theory and the Prospects for Climate Change Activism in the United States." *Annual Review of Political Science* 20(1):189-208.

Research Focus

Dokshin, Fedor A. 2016. "Whose Backyard and What's at Issue? Spatial and Ideological Dynamics of Local Opposition to Fracking in New York State, 2010 to 2013." *American Sociological Review* 81(5):921-48.

Week 14. 2 May. Topical Exploration: To Be Decided

Week 15. 8 May. Symposium

Possible Topical Exploration 1: Political Economy of Land Change

- Logan, John R. and Harvey Molotch. 1987. *Urban Fortunes: the Political Economy of Place*. University of California Press. Ch. 1, 2, 3, 6.
- Rudel, Thomas K. 2009. "How Do People Transform Landscapes?: A Sociological Perspective on Suburban Sprawl and Tropical Deforestation." *American Journal of Sociology*. 115(1):129-154.
- Dietz, Thomas. 2017. "Drivers of Human Stress on the Environment in the Twenty-First Century." *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 42:189-213.
- Zinda, John Aloysius. 2017. "Tourism Dynamos: Selective Commodification and Developmental Conservation in China's Protected Areas." *Geoforum* 78:141-52.

Research Focus

- Elliott, James R. and Matthew Thomas Clement. 2017. "Natural Hazards and Local Development: The Successive Nature of Landscape Transformation in the United States." *Social Forces* 96(2):851-76.

Possible Topical Exploration 2: Hybridity and New Developments in Environmental Social Theory

- White, Damian F., Alan P. Rudy, and Brian J. Gareau. 2016. *Environments, Natures and Social Theory: Towards a Critical Hybridity*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.