

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

Instructor: John Zinda  
Office: 251A Warren  
Office Hours: Thursdays 3:00pm-4:30pm or by appointment  
email: jaz65@cornell.edu

### **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. We will take varying approaches to working through content and our reflections so that we all manage to learn and maybe have some fun in the process. 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.

Note: Given that this seminar runs through what for most people is lunchtime, it is fine to bring lunch. In past semesters, we have rotated bringing a snack to share.

### **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. Reading classmates' critiques is part of each week's reading assignment.

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 reasoned 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 a) aptly summarize key points from the readings and b) develop a coherent, original argument about what they tell us and leave unresolved.

### **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, with some flexibility) 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.

A topic statement of your paper is due the sixth week (26 Feb.), and a revised topic statement and preliminary bibliography are due in the ninth week (18 Mar.). Your completed full draft is due Monday of the twelfth week (13 Apr). A peer review of a classmate's paper will be due the next week (22 Apr.). I will provide details in class and give feedback at each stage. The final draft is due 9 May. Each assignment is to be submitted via Canvas by 11:59pm on the due date.

### **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**

### **Week 1. 22 Jan. Getting Acquainted**

### **Week 2. 29 Jan. What Would Environmental Sociology Look Like?**

Lockie, Stewart. 2015. "What Is Environmental Sociology?" *Environmental Sociology* 1(3):139-42.

Catton, William R., Jr., and Riley E. Dunlap. 1978. "Environmental Sociology: A New Paradigm." *American Sociologist* 13(1): 41-49.

Lidskog, Rolf, Arthur P.J. Mol, and Peter Oosterveer. 2015. "Towards a Global Environmental Sociology? Legacies, Trends and Future Directions." *Current Sociology* 63(3):339-68.

Pellow, David N., and Hollie Nyseth Brehm. 2013. "An environmental sociology for the twenty-first century." *Annual Review of Sociology* 39: 229-250.

### **Research Focus**

Qin, Hua, Yanu Prasetyo, Martha Bass, Christine Sanders, Elizabeth Prentice, and Quyen Nguyen. Forthcoming. "Seeing the Forest for the Trees: A Bibliometric Analysis of Environmental and Resource Sociology." *Society & Natural Resources*.

Ulrich-Schad, Jessica D. and Jennifer E. Givens. Forthcoming. "The Forest in the Future: A Response to Seeing the Forest for the Trees." *Society & Natural Resources*.

### **Week 3. 5 Feb. People and Natures: Epistemological Foundations**

- White, Damian F., Alan P. Rudy, and Brian J. Gareau. 2016. *Environments, Natures and Social Theory: Towards a Critical Hybridity*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. Ch. 1, 3, 4.
- 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.

### **Week 4. 12 Feb. Confronting Environmental Injustice**

- Bullard, Robert D. 2005. "Environmental Justice in the Twenty-First Century." Pp. 19-42 in *The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution*, edited by R. D. Bullard. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books.
- 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.
- Mohai, Paul and Robin Saha. 2015. "Which Came First, People or Pollution? Assessing the Disparate Siting and Post-Siting Demographic Change Hypotheses of Environmental Injustice." *Environmental Research Letters* 10(11):115008.
- Jerolmack, Colin and Edward T. Walker. 2018. "Please in My Backyard: Quiet Mobilization in Support of Fracking in an Appalachian Community." *American Journal of Sociology* 124(2):479-516.

#### **Research Focus**

- Norgaard, Kari Marie and Ron Reed. 2017. "Emotional Impacts of Environmental Decline: What Can Native Cosmologies Teach Sociology about Emotions and Environmental Justice?" *Theory and Society* 46(6):463-95.

### **Week 5. 19 Feb. Gendering Environmental Sociology**

- Kennedy, Emily Huddart and Liz Dzialo. 2015. "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.
- McCright, Aaron M. and Chenyang Xiao. 2014. "Gender and Environmental Concern: Insights from Recent Work and for Future Research." *Society & Natural Resources* 27(10):1109-13.

#### **Research Focus**

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

## **Week 6. 26 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.
- 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.

### **Research Focus**

- Sanderson, Matthew R. and Vivian Hughes. 2019. "Race to the Bottom (of the Well): Groundwater in an Agricultural Production Treadmill." *Social Problems* 66(3):392-410.

## **Week 7. 4 Mar. Labor and Consumption**

- Schor, Juliet. 1991. *The Overworked American: The Unexpected Decline of Leisure*. New York: Basic Books. Ch. 5.
- Knight, Kyle W., Eugene A. Rosa, and Juliet B. Schor. 2013. "Could Working Less Reduce Pressures on the Environment? A Cross-National Panel Analysis of OECD Countries, 1970-2007." *Global Environmental Change* 23(4):691-700.
- Shove, Elizabeth. 2003. "Converging Conventions of Comfort, Cleanliness and Convenience." *Journal of Consumer Policy* 26(4):395-418.
- Szasz, Andrew. 2007. *Shopping Our Way to Safety: How We Changed from Protecting the Environment to Protecting Ourselves*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Introduction, Assembling a Personal Commodity Bubble for One's Body.

### **Research Focus**

- MacKendrick, Norah. 2018. *Better Safe Than Sorry: How Consumers Navigate Exposure to Everyday Toxics*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 1, 2, 3, 5.

## **Week 8. 11 Mar. Uneven Development and Unequal Exchange**

- Bunker, Stephen G. and Paul S. Ciccantell. 2005. *Globalization and the Race for Resources*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Ch. 1, 3.
- 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.
- Givens, Jennifer E., Xiaorui Huang, and Andrew K. Jorgenson. 2019. "Ecologically Unequal Exchange: A Theory of Global Environmental Injustice." *Sociology Compass* 13(5):e12693.
- 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.

### **Research Focus**

- Shandra, John M., Michael Restivo, and Jamie M. Sommer. 2019. "Do China's Environmental Gains at Home Fuel Forest Loss Abroad?: A Cross-National Analysis." *Journal of World-Systems Research* 25(1):83-110.

### **Week 9. 18 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.
- 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**

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

### **Week 10. 25 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.
- Bolin, Jessica L. and Lawrence C. Hamilton. 2018. "The News You Choose: News Media Preferences Amplify Views on Climate Change." *Environmental Politics* 27(3):455–76.
- Shove, Elizabeth. 2010. "Beyond the ABC: Climate Change Policy and Theories of Social Change." *Environment and Planning A* 42(6):1273–85.

#### **Research Focus**

- Hegtvedt, Karen A., Christie L. Parris, and Cathryn Johnson. 2019. "Framing and Feeling Fuel Environmentally Responsible Behaviors of Black Residents in the United States." *Sociological Perspectives* 62(5):603–26.
- Lee, Chengpang and Ling Han. 2015. "Recycling Bodhisattva: The Tzu-Chi Movement's Response to Global Climate Change." *Social Compass* 62(3):311–25.

### **Week 11. 8 Apr. Environmental Movements**

- 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.
- Pellow, David N. and Hollie Nyseth Brehm. 2015. "From the New Ecological Paradigm to Total Liberation: The Emergence of a Social Movement Frame." *The Sociological Quarterly* 56(1):185–212.
- 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.
- Kallman, Meghan Elizabeth and Scott Frickel. 2019. "Power to the People: Industrial Transition Movements and Energy Populism." *Environmental Sociology* 5(3):255–68.

### **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 12. 15 Apr. Risk**

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

Rosa, Eugene A., Ortwin Renn, and Aaron M. McCright. 2013. *The Risk Society Revisited: Social Theory and Governance*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Introduction, Ch. 1, 2.

Auyero, Javier and Débora Alejandra Swistun. 2009. *Flammable: Environmental Suffering in an Argentine Shantytown*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Introduction, Ch. 3, 4.

### **Research Focus**

Cordner, Alissa. 2016. *Toxic Safety: Flame Retardants, Chemical Controversies, and Environmental Health*. New York: Columbia University Press. Ch. 1, 3.

### **Week 13. 22 Apr. Disaster**

Erikson, Kai. 1994. *A New Species of Trouble: Explorations in Disaster, Trauma, and Community*. New York: W.W. Norton. Prologue, Ch. 3, Conclusion. (Ch. 1 recommended.)

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

Tierney, Kathleen. 2012. "Disaster Governance: Social, Political, and Economic Dimensions." *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 37(1):341-63.

### **Research Focus**

Howell, Junia and James R. Elliott. 2019. "Damages Done: The Longitudinal Impacts of Natural Hazards on Wealth Inequality in the United States." *Social Problems* 66(3):448-467.

### **Week 14. 29 Apr. Further Explorations**

Norgaard, Kari Marie. 2018. "The Sociological Imagination in a Time of Climate Change." *Global and Planetary Change* 163:171-76.

Elliott, Rebecca. 2018. "The Sociology of Climate Change as a Sociology of Loss." *European Journal of Sociology / Archives Européennes de Sociologie* 59(3):301-37.

Zinda, John Aloysius, Yifei Li, and John Chung-En Liu. 2018. "China's Summons for Environmental Sociology." *Current Sociology* 66(6):867-85.

Liboiron, Max, Manuel Tironi, and Nerea Calvillo. 2018. "Toxic Politics: Acting in a Permanently Polluted World." *Social Studies of Science* 48(3):331-49.

Besek, Jordan F. and Richard York. 2019. "Toward a Sociology of Biodiversity Loss." *Social Currents* 6(3):239-54.

Fisher, Dana R. and Andrew K. Jorgenson. 2019. "Ending the Stalemate: Toward a Theory of Anthro-Shift." *Sociological Theory* 37(4):342-62.