SOC/SUST 670
Spring 2018
Sociology of Sustainability
GAR 102
Thursdays 0230-0500pm

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Course objectives
This class examines social controversies around environment, health, technology and science. This course will provide a broad overview of environmental sociology and related areas of study. Given highly complex nature of environmental issues, the class draws upon various fields including science and technology studies, political sociology, and gender studies in addition to environmental sociology.

The course starts with a reflection on the development of the field of environmental sociology in the past several decades.

We will then examine social movements that are concerned with the environmental issues. Important concept here is the linking between social justice and sustainability and the course starts by examining the histories of environmental movements and the emergence of the concept of environmental justice. We will also examine social mobilizations around health and environmental issues by reading cases of environmental, environmental health, and environmental justice movements in Asia-Pacific.

Central to many environmental and health disputes are technology and science. We will examine therefore politics of knowledge in environmental and health problems. Key questions that students are asked to think about include who has the power to define "expertise" relevant for environmental and health controversies? What are the roles of social movements in environmental disputes and in sustainability sciences? How do gender, race, and class stratify people's access to natural resources and environmental expertise?

Citizens are also taking science and technology into their own hands. Citizen science, participatory science, and community-based resource management are some of the examples of these undertakings. We will examine how regular citizens are mobilizing around technology and scientific and medical data collection and how the politico-economic elites respond to these movements.

Student learning outcomes
The learning outcome of this class is to develop critical thinking by examining the sociological writings on the relationships between environment, technoscience, and social movements. After

completing the class, students will be able to examine environmental and health controversies by drawing on sociological concepts. They will be able to articulate social dimensions of these controversies in a theoretically informed manner. Their reading, writing and oral presentation skills will be improved and students should become better communicators.

Assignments

(1) **Reflections on the assigned readings (30%):** Starting the second week of the class, post your summary and reflections on the assigned readings to the class Laulima site (Wed 5 pm as the deadline). You may "pass" four times a semester. ~800-1000 words.
(2) **Final research paper (50%)**: In consultation with the instructor, choose a topic that is broadly related to the class. This could be your dissertation proposal, or chapter of your dissertation, conference paper that you need to present, book review, or a publication that you want to work on. More instruction and consultation to follow.
(3) **Class participation: (20%):** Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in discussions and other activities.

Other rules

- Each student should check his or her email frequently for messages about the class. I will assume you check your email at least once a day. It is strongly recommended that you use your UH email address—I do not take responsibility for email messages that fail to arrive if you are using a non-UH email address
- If you have a disability and you have disability access concerns, please contact the KOKUA Program.
- Please refer to the UHM website on academic dishonesty and related issues. http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/students/conduct/impermissible_behavior.html.
- All cell phones and other electronic wireless devices must be off during class.

<PART I: THEORIES >

Jan 11 Introduction to class

Jan 18: **Classical theories in environmental sociology: Treadmill of production and ecological modernization theory**

Mol, Arthur PJ, and Gert Spaargaren. "Ecological modernisation theory in debate: a review." *Environmental politics* 9.1 (2000): 17-49.

Schnaiberg, Allan, David N. Pellow, and Adam Weinberg. "The treadmill of production and the environmental state." *The environmental state under pressure*. Emerald Group Publishing Limited, 2002. 15-32.

Hooks and Smith (2004). "The treadmill of destruction national sacrifice areas and Native Americans" American Sociological Review. 69 (4): 558-575.

Jan 25 Ideas of nature
Goldman, Michael, and Rachel A. Schurman. "Closing the "great divide": New social theory on society and nature." *Annual Review of Sociology* 26.1 (2000): 563-584.

Peluso, Nancy Lee. *Rich forests, poor people: Resource control and resistance in Java*. Univ of California Press, 1992. Selected chapters

Feb 1 Feminist theories and political ecology

Merchant, Carolyn. (1980). *The death of nature : women, ecology, and the scientific revolution.* New York: Harper and Row. Selected chapters

Rocheleau, Dianne, and Laurie Ross. "Trees as tools, trees as text: struggles over resources in Zambrana□Chacuey, Dominican Republic." *Antipode* 27.4 (1995): 407-428.

Rocheleau, Dianne, Barbara Thomas-Slayter, and Esther Wangari, eds. *Feminist political ecology: Global issues and local experience*. Routledge, 2013. Selected chapters

Feb 8 Agrofodo studies
Goodman, David and Michael J. Watts. (1997). *Globalising Food: Agrarian Questions and Global Restructuring.* London: Routledge. Selected chapters

Kloppenburg, Jack. (2004) *First the Seed : the political economy of plant biotechnology, 1492-2000.* University of Wisconsin Press. Selected chapters.

Alkon, Alison Hope and Agyeman, Julian. (2011). *Cultivating food justice.* Boston: MIT Press.
Chapter1 "the food movement as polyculture"
Chapter 4 "race and regulation: Asian immigrants in California agriculture"
Chapter 12 Guthman, Julie. "if they only knew" the unbearable Whiteness of alternative food"

Feb 15 Consumption as a driver for change
Jaffee, Daniel. (2007) *Brewing Justice: Fair Trade Coffee, Sustainability, and Survival.* Berkley: University of California Press.
Chapter 1 "a movement or a market?"

Loyon, Sarah and Moberg, Mark. (2010). *Fair Trade and Social Justice: Global Ethnographies.* NY Press. Selected chapters.

<PART II: SOCIAL MOBILIZATIONS>

Feb 22 Environmental justice movements
Brulle, Robert J. US Environmental movements in *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*. Eds. Gould and Lewis.

Wiebe, Sarah Marie (2016). *Everyday Exposure: Indigenous Mobilization and Environmental Justice in Canada's Chemical Valley*. Vancouver: UBC Press. Selected chapters.

David Schlosberg. 2007. *Defining Environmental Justice: Theories, Movements, and Nature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Selected chapters.

March 1 Environmentalism in Asia
Kalland, Arne, and Gerard Persoon. 2013. *Environmental movements in Asia*. Routledge. Selected chapters.

Hathaway, Michael 2013. *Environmental Winds: Making the Global in Southwest China* UC Press.

Chapter 1 "environmental winds"
Chapter 2 "fleeting intersections and transnational work"
Chapter 4 "making an indigenous space".

<PART III: TECHNOSCIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROVERSIES>

March 8 Infrastructure
TBD

April 5 Environmental health knowledge
Brown, Phil. 2007. *Toxic Exposures: Contested Illnesses and the Environmental Health Movement.* Colombia University Press. Selected chapters

Ottinger, G. 2013. *Refining Expertise: How Responsible Engineers Subvert Environmental Justice Challenges.* New York University Press. Selected chapters.

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<PART IV: KNOWLEDGE, DEMOCRACY, AND ENVIRONMENT>

April 12: Civic/citizen science
Irwin, Alan. *Citizen Science: A study of People, Expertise, and Sustainable Development.* Routledge. Introduction.

Fische, Frank. (2000). *Citizens, Experts, and the Environment: The politics of Local Knowledge.* Duke University Press. Selected chapters.

Leach, Melissa, and Ian Scoones, and Brian Wynne. 2005. *Science and Citizens: Globalization and the Challenges of Engagement.* Zed Books. Selected chapters.

April 19: Indigenous sciences
Bryan, Joe. "Walking the line: Participatory mapping, indigenous rights, and neoliberalism." *Geoforum* 42.1 (2011): 40-50.

Agrawal, Arun. "Dismantling the divide between indigenous and scientific knowledge." *Development and change* 26.3 (1995): 413-439.

April 26: Multispeciesm
Tsing, A. 2017. *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins.* Princeton University Press. Selected chapters.