

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Brian Azcona was born in New Orleans and has taught sociology at Xavier University and the University of New Orleans. As an M.A. student, he worked for the Center of Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (CHART) at the University of New Orleans, examining the interrelationships among culture, politics, economy, and Louisiana's coastal land loss. He has written about Louisiana coast for local, national, and academic audiences. He is currently completing his Ph.D. at the University of Kansas.

David Burley is an assistant professor of Sociology at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He recently defended his dissertation (December 2005) in Urban Studies at the University of New Orleans. His dissertation, *Land Loss: Attachment, Place, and Louisiana's Disappearing Coast*, was part of the larger "Coastal Communities Project" from the Center for Hazards, Assessment, Response and Technology (CHART). His research focuses on attachment to place, environmental change, and the social construction of whiteness. Recent publications include: "White Racial Reasoning: Rational Racism in the Perceptions of White Males" in the 2006 winter edition of *Humanity and Society*; an article co-authored with Pamela Jenkins, Joanne Darlington, and Brian Azcona titled "Loss, Attachment and Place: A Case Study of Grand Isle, Louisiana" in volume 5 (#3) of *Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture*; and a photo essay co-authored with Traber Davis, Pam Jenkins, and Shirley Laska titled "Losing Ground in South Louisiana" in volume 3 (#2) of *Contexts*.

Terry Nichols Clark is a professor of sociology at the University of Chicago. He holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University, and has taught at Columbia, Harvard, Yale, the Sorbonne, University of Florence, and UCLA. He has worked at the Brookings Institution, The Urban Institute, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the US Conference of Mayors. His books include *Citizen Politics in Post-Industrial Society*, *The City as an Entertainment Machine*, *City Money*, *The New Political Culture*, and *Urban Innovation*. Since 1982 he has been coordinator of the Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation (FAUI) Project, which includes

a database of over 10,000 municipalities in up to 35 countries. It is the most extensive study to date of local government in the world, including data, some 700 participants, a budget exceeding \$20 million, and 50 published books, much of which is available on the website: <http://www.fau.org>.

Matthias Gross is a research social scientist in the Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology at the Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) in Leipzig, Germany. He holds a doctorate in sociology from Bielefeld University and currently teaches at the University of Leipzig. He is a board member and treasurer of the research committee on “Environment & Society” (RC24) of the *International Sociological Association* (ISA) and co-founder of the journal *Nature & Culture*. His books include *Inventing Nature: Ecological Restoration by Public Experiments* (2003), *Realexperimente: Ökologische Gestaltungsprozesse in der Wissensgesellschaft* (2005, with Holger Hoffmann-Riem and Wolfgang Krohn), and most recently *Natur* (2006), an introductory textbook on the centrality of nature in sociology. He has published in journals such as *Current Sociology*, *Social Science History*, *The American Sociologist*, *Philosophy Today*, and *Public Understanding of Science*. His current research fields include the interaction between science and its publics in remediation strategies of contaminated sites and post-industrial landscapes.

Pam Jenkins is a professor of sociology and director of the Women’s Studies Program at the University of New Orleans. Her research interests are deeply connected to the community in which she lives – the coast of Louisiana. She has written about women and designed programs for women both at the university and the community. Her other interests include the meaning of place in relation to identity and community especially in regards to disappearing communities in Louisiana and the Midwest. At present, she is involved in two Katrina-related projects: collecting accounts of first responders to Katrina and re-interviewing the participants of the original coastal community project. All six communities in the original study were severely affected by either Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita. Her books include *Preventing Violence in America*, *Witnessing for Sociology: Sociologists in the Courts*, and *Stopping Domestic Violence: How a Community Can Prevent Spousal Abuse*. Her work on the coast and the environment has been published in *Contexts*, *Impact Assessment*, *Society and Natural Resources*, and *Industrial Crisis Quarterly*.

Jerome Krase, emeritus and Murray Koppelman professor at Brooklyn College CUNY, has an Indiana University B.A. and a New York University

Ph.D. His dissertation “The Presentation of Community in Urban Society” explored integrated neighborhoods. He was a community activist/scholar and served as a consultant to public and private agencies. His interests have expanded into visual studies of ethnic and other urban neighborhood communities. He has written and photographed widely on urban life and culture and has lectured, researched, and exhibited his images on “Spatial Semiotics” in the United States and abroad most recently in Bosnia/Herzegovina, and Shenzhen, China. Published works include *Self and Community in the City*, *Ethnicity and Machine Politics* with Charles LaCerra, *Italian Americans in a Multicultural Society* with Judith N. DeSena, and *Race and Ethnicity in New York City* with Ray Hutchinson. With Timothy Shortell, he has an online archive for visual and textual research and teaching resources at www.brooklynsoc.org.

Aaron M. McCright is an assistant professor in the Lyman Briggs School of Science, Department of Sociology, and Environmental Science and Policy Program at Michigan State University. He holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Washington State University, where he began his specialty in environmental sociology and political sociology. His recent publications include: “To Die For: The semiotic seductive power of the tanned body” (with Phillip Vannini), *Symbolic Interaction*, 27, 309–332; “Defeating Kyoto: The conservative movement’s impact on U.S. climate change policy” (with Riley E. Dunlap), *Social Problems*, 50, 348–373; “Politics and Environment in America: Partisan and ideological cleavages in public support for environmentalism” (with Riley E. Dunlap and Chenyang Xiao), *Environmental Politics*, 10(4), 23–48; “Challenging Global Warming as a Social Problem: An analysis of the conservative movement’s counter-claims” (with Riley E. Dunlap), *Social Problems*, 47, 499–522. His current research focuses on the relationships among dimensions of power, scientific reflexivity, social movements, and environmental problems.

Peter Messeri is an associate professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University. His research interests include the delivery of health services, community-level health promotion programs, and tobacco/substance use with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS. Recent articles include: “Evidence of a Dose-Response Relationship Between ‘Truth’ Antismoking Ads and Youth Smoking Preference” (with Matthew C. Farrelly, Kevin C. Davis, M. Lyndon Haviland, and Cheryl G. Heaton), *American Journal of Public Health*, 95, 425–431; “Conceptualizing Youth

Empowerment within Tobacco Control” (with Debra J. Holden, W. Douglas Evans, Erik Crankshaw, and Maureen Ben-Davies), *Health Education and Behavior*, 31, 548–563; and “The Impact of Ancillary HIV Services on Engagement in Medical Care in New York” (with D. Abramson, A. Aidala, F. Lee, and G. Lee), *AIDS Care*, 14, S15–S30.

Arthur P. J. Mol is chair and professor in environmental policy in the Department of Social Sciences at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. His fields of expertise and interest are in social theory, environmental sociology, globalization, environmental reforms in Asia, and information and environment. He is the president of the International Sociological Association’s Research Committee on Environment and Society (RC24) from 2002 to 2006. His recent books include: *Ecological Modernization Around the World: Perspectives and Critical Debates*, co-edited with David A. Sonnenfeld (Frank Cass, 2000); *The Environmental State Under Pressure*, co-edited with Frederick H. Buttel (JAI Press, 2002); *Greening Industrialization in Asian Transitional Economies: China and Vietnam*, co-edited with Joost C. L. van Buren (Lexington Books, 2003); and *Globalization and Environmental Reform: The Ecological Modernization of the Global Economy* (The MIT Press, 2003).

Raymond Murphy is professor of sociology at the University of Ottawa. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. He is the author of four books: *Sociological Theories of Education* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1979); *Social Closure* (Oxford University Press, 1988) translated into Japanese and two chapters into German; *Rationality and Nature* (Westview, 1994) translated into Korean; and *Sociology and Nature* (Westview, 1997) named by *Choice* as one of the Outstanding Academic books published in the United States that year. He has published numerous articles in sociological journals like *Theory and Society*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *Sociological Review*, *Sociology: The Journal of the British Sociological Association*, *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*, and in interdisciplinary journals like *Environment and History*, *Time and Society*, and *Advances in Human Ecology*. He is presently integrating environmental sociology and disaster sociology through an empirical study of the 1998 ice storm disaster in Northeastern North America.

Christopher Rootes is professor of environmental politics and political sociology in the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, and director of the Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements at the

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Kent P. Schwirian is a professor emeritus of sociology and professor emeritus of family medicine at The Ohio State University. He is also chair of the Inner City Health Research Group in the Primary Care Research Institute of the College of Medicine and Public Health. He teaches sociology courses in human ecology, community, and the sociology of health and illness. In addition, he mentors medical students and hospital residents in social research projects. He received his B.S. degree from Illinois State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He joined the Ohio State faculty in 1962 and was chair of the department from 1977 to 1982. His current research projects deal with: (1) community responses to overwhelming events, including plagues, terrorist attacks, and natural disasters; (2) neighborhood distress and health and illness; (3) psychological distress in Somali refugees and immigrants to U.S. cities; and (4) the demographic, organizational, and healthcare consequences of urban redevelopment for the inner city. He has published six books, the most recent of which is *High Stakes: Big Time Sports and Downtown Redevelopment* (with Tim Curry and Rachael Woldoff). He also has authored more than 100 papers and articles in professional journals including most recently: "Globalization, Plague and the Local Community: Healthcare Capacity, Politics, and the Microbe War" in *Sociological Focus*, 38, 151–170; and "Measuring Psychological Distress in Somali Refugees" (with Patricia Schwirian) in *New Research in Mental Health*, 16, 228–232.

Hilary Silver is an associate professor of sociology and urban studies at Brown University, where she has taught since receiving her Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University. She has written broadly on the subject of

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Lei Xie is a Ph.D. candidate working in the Environmental Policy Group at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. She began her Ph.D. program in 2003, focusing on Chinese environmental nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and their roles in establishing an environmental movement in China. She has worked in the NGO Research Center at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Her publications are mainly in Chinese and range from works introducing general theories on NGO studies to legal studies of this sector.

Ari Ylönen is a researcher in the Research Institute for Social Sciences at the University of Tampere, Finland. His publications include several articles and monographs in urban sociology and housing. His latest book is published in Finnish: *The City and the Countryside in the Information Society* (The University of Tampere, 2000). As a member of the international Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation Project, he has published several articles and monographs. His current interest is in the history of urban theory with the theme “City as a Metaphor of Modernity.”