

ENVIRONMENT, POLITICS,
AND SOCIETY

RESEARCH IN POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

Series Editor: Barbara Wejnert

Recent Volumes:

- Volumes 1–3: Richard G. Braungart
- Volume 4: Richard G. Braungart and Margaret M. Braungart
- Volumes 5–8: Philo C. Wasburn
- Volume 9: Betty A. Dobratz, Lisa K. Waldner, and Timothy Buzzell
- Volumes 10–11: Betty A. Dobratz, Timothy Buzzell, and Lisa K. Waldner
- Volume 12: Betty A. Dobratz, Lisa K. Waldner, and Timothy Buzzell
- Volume 13: Lisa K. Waldner, Betty A. Dobratz, and Timothy Buzzell
- Volumes 14–17: Harland Prechel
- Volumes 18–21: Barbara Wejnert
- Volume 22: Dwayne Woods and Barbara Wejnert
- Volume 23: Eunice Rodriguez and Barbara Wejnert
- Volume 24: Barbara Wejnert and Paolo Parigi

RESEARCH IN POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY VOLUME 25

ENVIRONMENT, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY

EDITED BY

RAM ALAGAN

Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL, USA

SEELA ALADUWAKA

Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL, USA



United Kingdom – North America – Japan
India – Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited
Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2018

Copyright © 2018 Emerald Publishing Limited

Reprints and permissions service

Contact: permissions@emeraldinsight.com

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without either the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying issued in the UK by The Copyright Licensing Agency and in the USA by The Copyright Clearance Center. Any opinions expressed in the chapters are those of the authors. Whilst Emerald makes every effort to ensure the quality and accuracy of its content, Emerald makes no representation implied or otherwise, as to the chapters' suitability and application and disclaims any warranties, express or implied, to their use.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-78714-776-8 (Print)

ISBN: 978-1-78714-775-1 (Online)

ISBN: 978-1-78743-932-0 (Epub)

ISSN: 0895-9935 (Series)



ISOQAR certified
Management System,
awarded to Emerald
for adherence to
Environmental
standard
ISO 14001:2004.

Certificate Number 1985
ISO 14001



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

CONTENTS

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS	vii
EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD	ix
PREFACE	xi
POLARIZING CLIMATE POLITICS IN AMERICA <i>Dana R. Fisher, Anya M. Galli Robertson, Joseph McCartney Waggle, Amanda M. Dewey, Ann H. Dubin and William Yagatich</i>	1
MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND MINIMUM FLOW: THE VARYING CONSERVATION OUTCOMES OF WATER CONFLICT RESOLUTION <i>Kate Pride Brown</i>	25
EMPOWERING THE DISEMPOWERED THROUGH CIVIL RIGHTS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS: THE CASE OF BLACK BELT REGION OF ALABAMA <i>Ram Alagan, Robert O. White and Seela Aladuwaka</i>	45
AN ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY COURSE AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS' PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS <i>Marcia Rossi</i>	75
SCHOOL GARDENS: UNPACKING THE POTENTIAL TO REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY AMONG ALABAMA'S CHILDREN <i>Sharon Lindhorst Everhardt, Brenda I. Gill, Jonathan Cellon and Christopher Bradley</i>	97

THE IMPACT OF CHINA'S CHANGING <i>HUKOU</i> ON WOMEN'S RURAL LAND RIGHTS <i>Deborah Naybor</i>	119
PLUGGING THE MALAYSIAN "GREAT BRAIN DRAIN": RECOGNITION OF DUAL CITIZENSHIP <i>Yew Wah Chow and Lorena Mathien</i>	133
SCALE AND POLITICAL ECOLOGY: A CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS OF THE BRAZILIAN SAMARCO DISASTER <i>Eric Spears</i>	151
GREEN TRANSPORT: A WAY FORWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY <i>Yashpal Malik, Nirupama Prakash and Ajay Kapoor</i>	163
FEMINIST ELITES IN DEMOCRATIC JORDAN 1989–2016 <i>Mohammed T. Bani Salameh and Emad Shdough</i>	181
ABOUT THE AUTHORS	203
INDEX	209

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

<i>Seela Aladuwaka</i>	Alabama State University, AL, USA
<i>Ram Alagan</i>	Alabama State University, AL, USA
<i>Mohammed T. Bani Salameh</i>	Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan
<i>Christopher Bradley</i>	Troy University, USA
<i>Kate Pride Brown</i>	Georgia Institute of Technology, GA, USA
<i>Jonathan Cellon</i>	Troy University, AL, USA
<i>Yew Wah Chow</i>	State University of New York at Buffalo, NY, USA
<i>Amanda M. Dewey</i>	Maryland University, MD, USA
<i>Ann H. Dubin</i>	Maryland University, MD, USA
<i>Sharon Lindhorst Everhardt</i>	Troy University, AL, USA
<i>Dana R. Fisher</i>	Maryland University, MD, USA
<i>Anya M. Galli Robertson</i>	Maryland University, MD, USA
<i>Brenda I. Gill</i>	Alabama State University, AL, USA
<i>Ajay Kapoor</i>	Swinburne University of Technology, Hawthorn, Australia
<i>Yashpal Malik</i>	Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
<i>Lorena Mathien</i>	State University of New York at Buffalo, NY, USA
<i>Joseph McCartney Waggle</i>	Maryland University, MD, USA
<i>Deborah Naybor</i>	Paul Smith's College, NY, USA
<i>Nirupama Prakash</i>	Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

<i>Marcia Rossi</i>	Alabama State University, AL, USA
<i>Emad Shdouh</i>	Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan
<i>Eric Spears</i>	Columbus State University, GA, USA
<i>Robert O. White</i>	Alabama State University, AL, USA
<i>William Yagatich</i>	Maryland University, MD, USA

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Patrick Akard
Kansas State University, KS, USA

Paul Almeida
*University of California Merced, CA,
USA*

Robert Antonio
University of Kansas, KS, USA

Alessandro Bonanno
*Sam Houston State University, TX,
USA*

Barbara Brents
*University of Nevada Las Vegas, NV,
USA*

David Brown
Cornell University, NY, USA

Kathleen Kost
University at Buffalo, NY, USA

Rhonda Levine
Colgate University, NY, USA

John Markoff
University of Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Scott McNall
*California State University Chico,
CA, USA*

Susan Olzak
Stanford University, CA, USA

Harland Prechel
Texas A&M University, TX, USA

Adam Przeworski
New York University, NY, USA

William Roy
*University of California Los Angeles,
CA, USA*

David A. Smith
*University of California Irvine, CA,
USA*

Henry Taylor
University at Buffalo, NY, USA

PREFACE

Our interest in political sociology is influenced by a background in geography, an integrative discipline using a holistic approach to understand the human–environmental relationship. A key aspect of geography focuses on people and their environments and how people’s activities/decisions shape the environment and subsequently impact the relationship between people and the environment. As geographers focusing on development, we welcome the opportunity to edit this special volume of *Research in Political Sociology* devoted to Environment, Politics, and Society. Human activities and decision-making have enormous impacts on the natural environment transforming it and human ability to prosper. This volume provides an opportunity to engage in critical conversations on Environment, Politics, and Society and how their interconnectedness and outcomes shape and impact natural environment and human activity.

In the midst of vigorous discussions on environmental sustainability and environmental crises that make global communities vulnerable more than ever before to environmental degradation on local, regional, and global scales, the papers in this volume offer a much-needed challenge. A better understanding of the depletion of natural resources, pollution, deforestation, and the impact of global warming and climate change on human existence is an important priority for all countries and all governments. Concerned citizens demand the undivided attention of politicians, policy makers, planners, and scientists to restore ecological balance and avoid further destruction of the planet.

Ensuring environmental sustainability is one of the 17 sustainable development goals proposed by the United Nations to be achieved by 2030. Three dimensions of sustainable development including social, economic, and environmental pay special attention to the relations of environment to peace, justice, and effective institutions (United Nations, 2015). Meeting these goals eventually depends on the political and policy agenda adopted by individual nations as well as on collective approaches and cross-national solidarity. Considering the current political climate in the United States of America and around the world, concurrent examination of environment, politics, and society make this volume pertinent and noteworthy. Adger et al. (2017) argue that analyses of environmental decision-making require interdisciplinary and a “more holistic” approach because of the complexities involved in the interaction of environment, politics, and society. It has been recognized as “a broad

social scientific approach to environmental decision-making which builds upon and combines perspectives from a number of disciplines and seeks to overcome the deficiencies of a narrow approach based on a single discipline” (Adger et al., 2017, p. 1097). The adverse outcome of any one of the three issues could jeopardize social, economic, political, and environmental sustainability. Consequently, this volume focuses on the shifting societal and political environment in the United States, Africa, South and Central Americas, South, Southeast and East Asia, and the Middle East. Mostly, the current environmental politics and policies are driven by long-term trends in economic growth, demographic change, and the degradation of natural systems. According to Brulle (2010) the response to the deterioration of the environment tends to be incremental and disconnected and a traditional explanation that has been advanced for environmental policy shifts is the classic “grievance.” Currently, around the world there are numerous environmental movements defining distinct communication of environmental and political problems, strategies and methods of organization (Brulle, 2000; Brulle & Jenkins, 2005).

Though progress has been made in environmental, political, and societal sustainability, numerous other areas require urgent attention in the center of a biased political atmosphere in “environmental policies, planning, management” and “sustainable society” around the globe. They are the familiar concerns such as a decrease in environmental research funds, and shrinking environmental regulations at the same time as the build-up of greenhouse gases, acid rain, deforestation, population growth, water pollution, loss of biodiversity, depletion of the stratospheric ozone layers, increased CO₂ production, coastal erosion, mining and urban pollution, and soil loss. Meantime, events and issues threaten social stability by increasing tension over nuclear proliferation, separation in regional cooperation, intensifying transnational terrorism, hunger and food security, gender disparity, and income inequality and poverty. Addressing these unprecedented and staggering challenges requires firm commitment from citizens, leaders, and organizations from the local to global scale. Yet, lack of confidence of facts-based scientific evidence of environmental crisis among groups, politicians, and individuals could hinder the ability to act promptly. Thus, it is more important than ever to address environmental crises taking responsibility at the political and societal level.

This volume initiates a broad conversation on a series of themes in environment, society, and politics. Two chapters discuss politics and environment in the US context. Dana R. Fisher and her co-authors of University of Maryland contributed a timely discussion and debate on current political polarization around the issue of climate change in the United States. Kate Pride Brown of the Georgia Institute of Technology discusses a dynamic and current dialogue on the relationship between multilevel governance and urban water conservation policy in the United States. Two chapters examine governance over resource management and policy formulation from international perspectives. Eric Spears from Columbus State University discusses a catastrophic failure of

a dam in Brazil and social and environmental issues. Yashpal Malik, Nirupama Prakash, and Ajay Kapoor explore a green transportation as a way forward for environmental sustainability in India.

From a societal, education, and policy perspective, this volume provides three research studies. Sharon Lindhorst Everhardt of Troy University and Brenda Gill of Alabama State University provide a solid contribution in engaging school children in sustainable projects such as food security and green school gardening in Alabama. Marcia Rossi of Alabama State University studies how college students comprehend behavior under environmental conditions which are detrimental day by day due to increased human influences. Rossi's chapter explores African-American college students' attitudes and beliefs about pro-environmental behavior using environmental psychology perspective. Yew Wah Chow and Lorena Mathien of Buffalo State provide a dual (US and international) focus on policy, brain drain, and dual citizenship aspects of discussion in the United States. This chapter argues the recognition of dual citizenship as an appropriate prescription in reducing the "great brain drain" problem afflicting the local labor market with a special focus on the Malaysian example.

While environmental, societal, education, and policy perspective engagements are underscored, other substantial contributions encompassed in this volume focus on civil rights struggles, gender, and politics. Ram Alagan, Robert White, and Seela Aladuwaka of Alabama State University underline the usefulness of Civil Rights Geographic Information Systems for understanding the African-American social struggles and assessing the critical needs of the disempowered population of Alabama's "Black Belt." The final two chapters investigate gender, politics, and land resources. Mohammed Bani Salameh studies the features and characteristics of feminist elites as well as their circulation rate in official political positions in Jordan while Deborah Naybor in the other chapter examines the role of gender in the changing use of hukou in the development of China, focusing on the impact of women's patterns of migration on land tenure.

Ram Alagan
Seela Aladuwaka
Editors

REFERENCES

- Adger, W. N., Brown, K., Fairbrass, J., Jordan, A., Paavola, J., Rosendo, S., & Seyfang, G. (2017). Governance for sustainability: Towards a 'thick' analysis of environmental decision-making. *Environment and Planning A (2003)*, 35, 1095–1110. Retrieved from <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1068/a35289>. Accessed on August 2017.
- Brulle, J. R. (2000). *Agency, democracy, and nature: The U.S. environmental movement from a critical theory perspective*. Cambridge, MA: MIT.

- Brulle, J. R. (2010). Politics and the environment. In K. T. Leicht & J. C. Jenkins (Eds.), *The handbook of politics: State and civil society in global perspective*. New York, NY: Springer Publishers.
- Brulle, J. R., & Jenkins, J. C. (2005). Foundations and the environmental movement: Priorities, strategies, and impact. In D. Faber & D. McCarthy (Eds.), *Foundations for social change: Critical perspectives on philanthropy and popular movements* (p. 74). New York, NY: Rowman & Littlefield.
- United Nations. (2015). Sustainable development goals: 17 goals to transform our world. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/12/sustainable-development-goals-kick-off-with-start-of-new-year/>. Accessed on August 1, 2017.