

CriticalMassBulletin

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Fall 2006

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Message from the Chair

I write in the middle of October, as the fall term is at its most hectic, with only three weeks until the mid-term elections. Many of us are busy giving lectures and grading papers about social movements, or are watching political campaigns mobilize people and symbols in pursuit of votes. At a more prosaic level, autumn is well underway, bringing both the glory of beautiful fall days and the press of immediate tasks such as covering and mulching the garden or waterproofing the back deck (how I spent last weekend). I also know that a number of professional meetings have deadlines for submission for abstracts right about now.

Thus, I am swimming against the tide a bit by asking you to think about the 2007 ASA meeting (August 11-14) and the Collective Behavior/Social Movement workshop preceding it (August 9-10). But I want to encourage all section members to think about attending and participating in one or both events. This past year's ASA in Montreal had some terrific sessions on social movements, sometimes attended to over-capacity. Given the workshop before the New York meetings, there will be even more opportunities to be involved next year. Those who have been to past workshops at Notre Dame or Davis can remember interesting papers, panel discussions, and opportunities for informal talk. Those new to the section, particularly graduate students, will find the workshop a great opportunity to get to know people and to display their work and research interests.

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Deadline for the Spring 2007 Issue of

Critical Mass Bulletin: April 15

Send submissions to cmeditor@msu.edu

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Message from the Chair—Continued

This issue of *Critical Mass Bulletin* has the list of organizers for the 2007 ASA sessions. That deadline will be in January, and submissions will be handled by the ASA's centralized electronic submission system. One can find out more about the workshop through the links to it from the section's website (from asanet.org, click on Sections, and then the CB/SM name, then click on the link to the section website). You will see that a lot of planning and structuring has already happened, but there are still a variety of ways to participate, in plenary, panel, or thematic sessions. The relevant deadline there is February 7, 2007.

I hope everyone can look up a bit from the press of the immediate to plan for next summer. There will be lots to talk about—find a way to get yourself involved.

Rhys Williams, CBSM Section Chair

2006 CBSM Section Awards

The CBSM section presented three awards at its business meeting at the 2006 ASA Annual Meeting in Montreal. The winners are:

Distinguished Book Award

Burns, Gene. 2005. *The Moral Veto: Framing Contraception, Abortion, and Cultural Pluralism in the United States*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Why have legislative initiatives occurred on such controversial issues as contraception and abortion at times when activist movements had demobilized and the public seemed indifferent? Why did the South—currently a region where antiabortion sentiment is stronger than in most of the country—liberalize its abortion laws in the 1960s at a faster pace than any other region? Why have abortion and contraception sometimes been framed as matters of medical practice, and at other times as matters of moral significance? These are some of the questions addressed in this book. Based on archival and sociological research, and speaking to issues in the study of culture, social movements, and legal change, this book examines what the history of controversies over such morally charged issues tells us about cultural pluralism in the United States.

Best Published Article

Amenta, Edwin, Neal Caren, and Sheera Joy Olasky. 2005. "Age for Leisure?: Political Mediation and the

Impact of the Pension Movement on U.S. Old-Age Policy." *American Sociological Review* 70:516-538.

This article elaborates a political mediation theory of the impact of social movements on states and policy, positing that the influence of mobilization and specific strategies of collective action depends on specified political contexts and the type of influence sought. Examining the influence of the U.S. old-age pension movement, this article appraises the mediation model using state-level data from the 1930s and 1940s on Old Age Assistance—the main support for the aged at the time—and a Senate vote for generous senior citizens' pensions in 1939. Our models control for other potential influences, notably public opinion, which is often ignored in empirical studies and sometimes claimed to be responsible for causal influence mistakenly attributed to challengers. We employ pooled cross-sectional and time series analyses and fuzzy set qualitative comparative analysis, which is especially suited to appraising the combinational expectations of the political mediation model. Both sets of analyses show that the pension movement was directly influential on the outcomes and provide support for the political mediation arguments.

Honorable mention was awarded to:

Smilde, David. 2005. "A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Conversion to Venezuelan Evangelicism: How Networks Matter." *American Journal of Sociology* 111:757-796.

While the influence of networks in conversion is among the most established findings in the sociology of religion, relatively little is known about how and why they have their influence. In this study the author finds the social conformity theorization most often used in network analysis important but incomplete. Network ties are frequently influential despite little or no direct contact between ego and alter and little or no motivation to conform. Similarly, "structural availability" works not only by freeing an actor from conformity-inducing constraints but also by indicating a relative absence of social and cultural support. This absence motivates individuals for religious innovation. Finally, while network location strongly determines who converts, the individual experience of life problems remains a causal factor, and in a small but irreducible number of cases, actors clearly exercise agency over their network locations.

Outstanding Student Paper Award

Rachel Meyer, University of Michigan. "Constituency and Emotion in Collective Action: Sources of Working-Class Identity and Activism."

Honorable mention was awarded to:

Jon Agnone, University of Washington. "Amplifying Public Opinion: The Policy Impact of the U.S. Environmental Movement."

Research Spotlight

Research and Action for Environmental Health and Environmental Justice: A Report on the Brown University Contested Illnesses Research Group

Laura Senier, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Phil Brown

The Contested Illnesses Research Group (CIRG) was established in 1999 with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson and the National Science Foundation. Today, though with new funding and new faces, CIRG continues to meet weekly, under the direction of Phil Brown and Rachel Morello-Frosch. Each week, Brown and Morello-Frosch gather with seven graduate and undergraduate students from sociology, anthropology, ethnic studies, and science studies to discuss ongoing work. Occasionally, we host visits from outside scholars to discuss common interests and to mutually support each other's work. We also collaborate with scholars at other institutions, including recent graduates, scientists at Silent Spring Institute (a research institute in Newton, Massachusetts that focuses on women's health and the environment), Boston University School of Public Health, and with environmental justice activists at Communities for a Better Environment (a community-based organization in Oakland, CA). In this column, we report on our history and our current projects, with a focus on our efforts to link research with praxis.

Initially, CIRG studied controversies over contested environmental illnesses. These controversies are characterized by extensive public and scientific disputes over the causes and treatment of illnesses. As we carried out this work, we found that disease sufferers-turned-activists and their lay and professional allies challenged both public and scientific understanding of these diseases and conditions. Whether contesting diseases and conditions as varied as breast cancer, asthma, or Gulf War Illness, activists encountered a shared set of beliefs and practices about disease treatment and causation that are embedded within an intertwined network of institutions including medicine, science, government, and the media. We termed this the "*dominant epidemiological paradigm*" (DEP), and defined it as salient to how these groups operated. These organized social movement groups offer a strong critique of contemporary science, medicine, and policy by calling out how ideological and political-economic factors shape medical research and treatment to systematically overlook the contribution of environmental (largely chemical) factors in disease. These groups also leverage scientific data and medical information and

marshal strategic resources to produce their own scientific knowledge, often by forming citizen-science alliances. Stemming from this effort was one dissertation, by Dr. Sabrina McCormick (now faculty at Michigan State University), which was awarded the 2005 Brown University Joukowsky Prize for the best social science dissertation, and numerous articles and book chapters.

Over time, we began to synthesize this work. In several publications, we described what we saw as a field of health social movements (HSMs) and crafted a general approach for studying them. In our experience, few theoretical tools within the social movement literature could adequately explain the dynamics of these movements, so instead we culled theory and insights from several subfields within sociology to characterize both the context that gives rise to health-based activism as well as examine how this unique class of movements operates. We began by offering a typology of HSMs, an early attempt to define the parameters for this field of study. This typology proposed three categories of movements: Health Access Movements, which seek equitable access and improved quality of care; Constituency-Based Health Movements, which address health inequality and inequity based on race, ethnicity, gender, class and/or sexuality differences; and Embodied Health Movements, (EHMs), which involve people's direct experience with disease and the ways in which lay activists leverage that experience to challenge science on etiology, diagnosis, treatment and prevention. We focused most intensively on this third category, embodied health movements, and are excited by other efforts to characterize other categories or alternative typologies of this important class of movements.

Over the past five years, we are pleased to see increased interest in the topic. We enjoyed lively presentations at the Society for the Social Study of Science and Collective Behavior and Social Movements conferences in 2001 and 2002, as well other special forums and conferences specifically about HSMs: a second Society for the Social Study of Science conference in 2003, two Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute conferences in 2003 and 2004, a Swedish patient movement conference in 2004, and a special issue of *Sociology of Health and Illness* on the topic, which Phil Brown and Stephen Zavestoski guest edited in 2004. In May 2007 there will be a special HSM conference at the University of Michigan, and the CIRG will present a paper at the CBSM pre-ASA conference in August 2007. By studying HSMs, we collectively broaden the scope and character of the sociology of social movements, as well as contribute to the sociology of science, sociology of knowledge, political sociology, medical sociology, and environmental sociology.

A second outgrowth of our work on HSMs was a research focus on coalitions among activist groups

concerned about health and the environment, particularly between the labor and environmental movements. Although recent history suggests an adversarial relationship between labor unions and environmental groups, a longer history points to a mutually supportive relationship between unionists and others concerned with the health effects of chemical exposures. Our own work has shown that when so-called blue-green coalitions form around a shared health concern, they more easily bridge these historical, ideological divides to form viable, successful coalitions. This work, also funded by NSF, led to a second prizewinning dissertation (Brown University Joukowsky Prize, 2006) by Dr. Brian Mayer, who joined the faculty at the University of Florida this year. Several additional scholarly publications are in production. As an outgrowth of this project, Laura Senier and Brian Mayer helped a Massachusetts-based coalition of labor and environmental advocacy groups evaluate their campaign to introduce environmentally-friendly cleaning products into a public school system. The CIRG team generated a report used by these activists to help other communities adopt safer cleaning methods in public school systems.

More recently, our work on contested environmental illnesses and citizen-science alliances segued into participation in novel research collaborations among environmental health and justice activists, environmental scientists, and social scientists. Two concurrent projects (funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and NSF) break new ground in both environmental health science and the social and ethical implications of such research. In the first project, we partner with Silent Spring Institute and Communities for a Better Environment to conduct environmental exposure assessments of what pollutants are found in home environments, a novel step to better characterize pathways of human exposure to environmental pollutants. This research follows a community-based participatory research approach, which means we collaborate with community members on the design and implementation of the study and report our findings back to participants and the community. Community activists have been trained to collect air and dust samples to assess indoor levels of pollutants, especially endocrine disruptors, which have been potentially linked to breast cancer, reproductive and neurological anomalies, and other health outcomes. A companion research project broaches the ethical issues associated with this novel science and practice of reporting environmental study results. We have one article in press, and several that will soon be submitted.

We also have embarked on a related study of human biomonitoring, a scientific approach for characterizing environmental pollutants in human samples such as blood or urine. Here, we examine the scientific, ethical, and public policy implications of this science, and its recent

proliferation in the academic and environmental health advocacy arenas. Two pending grant applications propose to explore biomonitoring science in the three arenas where it is most readily conducted and debated: national-level population surveillance, state-based biomonitoring, and place- or community-based studies that investigate local environmental problems. This work culminated in Margaret Frye's undergraduate thesis on advocacy biomonitoring and one dissertation, in progress by Rebecca Gasior Altman, which examines how grassroots and environmental health advocacy organizations engage biomonitoring to address environmental problems in three contrasting political contexts.

Connecting Theory to Action

In addition to this theoretical and empirical scholarship, the CIRG is dedicated to connecting research and practice. Group members work intensively with activists to translate technical and empirical findings into tools that support communities' efforts to promote environmental justice and challenge toxic contamination. These efforts have benefited community groups in Rhode Island and across New England, and have extended as far as collaboration with our California partners.

Locally, we founded the Providence Environmental Justice Education Forum (PEJEF), in cooperation with a NIH-funded project, the Collaborative Initiative for Research Ethics in Environmental Health, to provide technical and scientific support to community-based environmental advocacy groups and to build local capacity. To implement the forum, we draw on empirical and theoretical social movement research about grassroots organizations, which suggests the value of community command over technical and scientific knowledge, but also the importance of networking isolated organizations and linking them to the resources they need to cleanup address local environmental problems. The PEJEF holds regular meetings where members cooperate and support one another in their campaigns and also to share knowledge and expertise about strategies and tactics they have employed when addressing environmental issues. We also run skill-building workshops for members. For example, we invited professional activists to discuss strategies for communicating with the media and have provided counsel on grant-writing. Two of our member groups, in fact, were awarded grants from the EPA's Healthy Communities Program this year, and we are helping them design program components for these activities.

Here and elsewhere in New England, we have collaborated with Toxics Action Center (TAC), a grassroots support group based in Boston, Massachusetts, with regional offices in every New England state. For a recent student thesis, one group member interviewed

activists who work with TAC in order to elucidate the pressures and difficulties faced by first-time activists. From this work, Toxics Action Center developed leadership training and capacity building workshops for emerging grassroots leaders to support and sustain them in what can often be protracted campaigns. We also helped TAC obtain foundation support to build their Rhode Island office, and we co-sponsor activities with them.

In addition to fostering local and regional activist networks, we also participate in scientific research carried out by other Brown University faculty. As official collaborators, we bring to the research our knowledge of the social, ethical, and historic controversies over the role of science and technology in struggles over environmental health and justice. For example, we coordinate the Community Outreach Core of Brown's Superfund Basic Research Program (SBRP). Unlike other university SBRP programs, we work directly with community groups affected by toxic waste, rather than delivering outreach activities through an intermediary state or federal agency. We believe that outreach activities are most likely to be effective when developed in response to the needs and interests of community groups, and we have therefore worked hard to tailor our outreach efforts to the needs of the groups with whom we are working. We cooperate with state and federal agencies that also serve these groups, and mitigate the tension that often exist between agency representatives and community groups. Second, through our direction of the Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications core of Brown's Nanoscale Interdisciplinary Research Team, we bring an environmental health and precautionary principle approach to scientists and graduate students who work with nanomaterials—minute, human-synthesized particles about which little human health data exist. This has led to Mara Averick's undergraduate thesis on the social and ethical implications of nanotechnology.

Another important and innovative application of our research findings to activism has been our efforts to link the environmental breast cancer and environmental justice movements, two historically distinct movements with parallel concerns about the role of chemical and industrial exposures in human health. We assisted a New York environmental justice organization, West Harlem Environmental Action, with convening the nation's first conference on breast cancer, the environment, and women of color, and have conducted a similar forum here in Rhode Island. Through our collaborative project with Silent Spring Institute and Communities for a Better Environment, we bring the insights of social movement theory to activists and scientists at environmental health and justice organizations. We use insights from earlier work on science in environmental health and justice organizing to inform decisions about research design and

communication. We also analyze how these organizations communicate scientific findings to research participants and the public, which provides these organizations critical feedback and us yet another opportunity to contribute insights from sociology.

Training the Next Generation of Scientist-Activists

The Contested Illnesses Research Group is a unique forum where students can explore both the theoretical and applied elements of environmental health and social movement scholarship. Students who participate in the group have opportunities for authorship on journal articles and book chapters. They also have ample opportunity to take the lead on writing projects and reports that are used by our community-based partner organizations, and to work on collective grant-writing. Students have organized several of the outreach initiatives outlined above, including work with the TAC activist network and with community groups served by the Brown SBRP Outreach activities. Finally, we designed a colloquia series on public sociology and community-based participatory research for the Brown Sociology department two years ago, which was well attended and fostered thought-provoking conversations throughout the department.

With our diversity (African-American, Latino, Native American, and Anglo), we are able to tap into many groups and networks, and to demonstrate the importance of an environmental health and justice approach to environmental science and social science. While the work of our group is oriented around serious theoretical and empirical investigation of various aspects of HSMs, we are also conscious of the need to rise from the level of abstraction to connect these theories with practice. We do not, for example, merely study citizen-science alliances, but actively participate in them, and work hard to ensure that the alliances we engage in benefit the communities as well as advancing our own theoretical formulations. Like many other scholars of social movements before us, we find that the best way to learn is by doing.

Current and former CIRG members: Phil Brown, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Stephen Zvestoski, Pamela Webster, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Meadow Linder, Joshua Mandelbaum, Theo Luebke, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Laura Senier, Carrie Alexandrowicz, Elizabeth Hoover, Heleneke Mulder, Margaret Frye, Angela Hackel, Crystal Adams, and Mara Averick.

Web links:

Contested Illnesses Research Group

www.brown.edu/contestedillnesses

Superfund Basic Research Program--Community Outreach Core

www.brown.edu/Research/SBRP/coreE.shtml

Brown University Nanoscale Interdisciplinary Research Team

www.engin.brown.edu/Facilities/LINC/NIRT/Home.htm

Selected Publications

- 1) "A Gulf Of Difference: Disputes Over Gulf War-Related Illnesses" (Phil Brown, Stephen Zavestoski, Sabrina McCormick, Joshua Mandelbaum, Theo Luebke, Meadow Linder). *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 2001, 42:235-257.
- 2) "Moving Further Upstream: From Toxics Reduction to the Precautionary Principle" (Brian Mayer, Phil Brown, and Meadow Linder). *Public Health Reports* 2002, 117:574-586.
- 3) "The Health Politics of Asthma: Environmental Justice and Collective Illness Experience in the United States" (Phil Brown, Stephen Zavestoski, Theo Luebke, Joshua Mandelbaum, Sabrina McCormick, and Brian Mayer). *Social Science and Medicine* 2003, 57:453-464. Reprinted in *Where We Live, Work, and Play: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement*, David Pellow and Robert Brulle, (eds.) Cambridge: MIT Press.
- 4) "The Personal Is Scientific, The Scientific Is Political: The Public Paradigm of the Environmental Breast Cancer Movement" (Sabrina McCormick, Phil Brown, and Stephen Zavestoski). *Sociological Forum* 2003, 18:545-576.
- 5) "Qualitative Methods in Environmental Health Research" (Phil Brown). *Environmental Health Perspectives* 2003, 111:1789-1798.
- 6) "Embodied Health Movements: Uncharted Territory in Social Movement Research" (Phil Brown, Stephen Zavestoski, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Rebecca Gasior,). *Sociology of Health and Illness* 2004, 26:1-31.
- 7) "Clearing the Air and Breathing Freely: Disputes Over Air Pollution and Asthma" (Phil Brown, Stephen Zavestoski, Theo Luebke, Joshua Mandelbaum, Sabrina McCormick, and Brian Mayer). *International Journal of Health Services* 2004, 34:39-63. Also reprinted in *Smoke and Mirrors: Air Pollution as a Social and Political Artifact*, Melanie Dupuis, (ed.), 2004. New York: New York University Press.
- 8) "Embodied Health Movements and Challenges to the Dominant Epidemiological Paradigm" (Stephen Zavestoski, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Phil Brown, Brian Mayer, Sabrina McCormick, and Rebecca Gasior Altman). *Research in Social Movements, Conflict and Change* 2004, 25:253-278.
- 9) "Embodied Health Movements: Responses to a 'Scientitized' World" (Rachel Morello-Frosch, Stephen Zavestoski Phil Brown, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Sabrina McCormick, and Brian Mayer). In *The New Political Sociology of Science: Institutions, Networks, and Power*. Kelly Moore and Scott Frickel, (eds.) Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2006.
- 10) "'A Lab of Our Own': Environmental Causation of Breast Cancer and Challenges to the Dominant Epidemiological Paradigm" (Phil Brown, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Stephen Zavestoski, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Rebecca Gasior Altman, and Laura Senier). *Science, Technology, and Human Values* 2006, 31:499-536.
- 11) "Is It Safe? New Ethics for Reporting Personal Exposures to Environmental Chemicals" (Julia Green Brody, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Phil Brown, Ruthann A. Rudel, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Margaret Frye, Cheryl C. Osimo, Carla Perez, and Liesel M. Seryak). *American Journal of Public Health* in press.

Activist Corner

From time to time, *Critical Mass Bulletin* will feature interviews with social movement activists around the world to try to connect social movement scholars more closely to the people and phenomena they study. For this issue, the newsletter editors interviewed Nathan Springer, co-founder of Amigos de los Ríos in El Monte, California.

When and why was your coalition founded?

Los Angeles County has both the largest urban poverty population and the smallest percentage of park space of any county in the country. More than half the population is overweight or obese, and high rates of asthma and diabetes affect children. Since 1999, several existing and new organizations have worked together to create a regional park system called the "Emerald Necklace." In 1999, volunteers from the local chapter of the Sierra Club formed a task force to promote greening along the San Gabriel River. I was hired to lead a special project to involve community members in the projects following on the heels of several notable political and fundraising successes. It quickly became apparent that a new organization would best fit the needs of fundraising, outreach, and project management. Amigos de los Ríos was founded in 2003 to assume those roles and began writing grants, involving residents in projects in their neighborhoods, and designing/constructing parks for the City of El Monte. A year later, the Emerald Necklace Coalition—mostly local cities under whose jurisdiction the Emerald Necklace fell—was formed with the help of the City of El Monte. The Coalition is a regional collaboration to share resources and focus efforts on developing the Necklace. Today, the Emerald Necklace continues to evolve with the impact of additional organizations and projects. Mujeres de la Tierra, the first Latina environmental organization in the country, founded a chapter based around an Emerald Necklace project this

year. The first community garden in the City of El Monte was founded in 2005 by volunteers associated with Amigos de los Ríos. Several citizen groups, under the banner of “neighborhood improvement associations,” have been launched following the lead of the Park El Monte Improvement Association.

What actors participate in your coalition and how do they participate?

Sierra Club Angeles Chapter: planning, coalition building
 Amigos de los Ríos: planning, project management, construction, some fundraising and outreach
 Emerald Necklace Coalition: cities advocating, collaborating, and planning to develop the Emerald Necklace
 City of El Monte: parks within city boundaries, facilitate collaboration among cities
 City of Duarte: parks within city boundaries, facilitate collaboration, new leader of Coalition
 Congresswoman Hilda Solis: prominent local champion, federal funding
 Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: regional planning, facilitate collaboration, administers funds
 County Supervisor Gloria Molina: funding

What is the goal of your coalition?

We address the health challenges faced by an absence of parks and sustainable environments by developing a regional park system called the Emerald Necklace.

What tactics does your coalition use to accomplish your goal?

We use a combination of five factors:
 Vision: we promote a positive vision rather than oppose something we do not like
 Leadership: we find elected, administrative, and business leaders who will develop resources, unite supporters, and open doors
 Media savvy: we foster relationships with our local newspapers and distribute press releases that highlight successful projects; we also use the media to acknowledge leaders and supporters
 Fundraising: we write grant proposals and leverage existing funds and supporters to bring more
 Facilitation: we bring together decision makers through the Coalition to move projects forward

What successes and/or failures have you had so far?

We have established a vision for a 17 mile network of parks in overcrowded communities, united 15 cities and groups, raised \$13 million, added 6 acres of parks and a community garden, and established a non-profit group. Our failures have been those you might expect with a start-up movement/organization: challenges building the

organizational infrastructure to deliver on the \$13 million in projects, a coalition supported by the contributions of a few key individuals, an approach that requires broader involvement for success. These weaknesses run the risk of turning into failures.

Could you tell us how you explain your achievements? What factors have affected your level of success so far?

We have been fortunate to find supportive elected and administrative leaders; in fact, we’ve sought out high profile champions for our projects. We have formed a team of committed activists and created several vehicles for them to achieve successes, including Amigos de los Ríos, the Emerald Necklace Coalition, and the Sierra Club Task Force. We have been particularly savvy in crafting grants and proposals to raise funds for these projects. Money brought to our region generates credibility and a direct value to the cities we work with and in. We have also been fairly entrepreneurial. We identify a problem, find a niche and potential funding, and aggressively pursue support. For example, by distinguishing ourselves as fundraisers, we can market our services to local cities that do not have the resources for full-time grant writers. We write grants for parks on their behalf and meet both our goals and theirs. That said, we would be in a much different situation without two factors: (a) the California resource bonds that have generated billions of dollars for these types of projects and (b) the Director of Community Services for the City of El Monte. The resource bonds have given us the market so that we can bring expertise to capitalize on it. The Director, who recently took on a higher position in another city, opened a lot of doors and hired Amigos for specific park projects, allowing us to generate successes while we incubated the organization and the concept of the Emerald Necklace.

In your own eyes, what is the most serious challenge your coalition is facing?

Several years after the creation of Amigos de los Ríos, the Emerald Necklace Coalition, and the departure of our strongest advocate, we are facing growing pains. Amigos should probably seek allies or incubate organizations to share responsibilities. The Coalition needed a strong champion to get off the ground, but now it needs shared leadership among the cities so there is a sense of buy-in and commitment. Other tasks, such as building a grassroots base, have gone undone because of time, funding, and other constraints. Although we have engaged thousands of people in specific projects, we have been unable to build it into a larger movement. Partly this is due to time/funding since our funding structure is such that we can devote very little staff time to this effort. Other challenges include monumental cost of land acquisition and development in Southern California,

continuity and effectiveness of our own leadership/staff, and building large-scale grassroots support.

What challenges, if any, have you faced as a direct result of the structure of your coalition?

The Coalition was founded on the leadership of Amigos de los Ríos and the City of El Monte. Currently, Amigos de los Ríos handles much of the fundraising, facilitation, leadership, planning, and construction management. The prominence of these two entities was necessary for its start-up, but shared responsibilities by other cities and organizations will be necessary to carry it further. As a result of this structure, Amigos often feels overburdened, and there has not been enough effort on certain tasks required in a broad movement.

To your knowledge, to what extent do the participants in your coalition pay attention to any academic work on social movements?

I think there is little interaction between academia and people in my field for a variety of reasons including a difference of approach and goals, a pressing need (by activists) for information that will yield tangible results, and few existing bridges/links between activists and academia. We focus on goals that yield direct results as efficiently as possible, and there is a sense that academic contributions may be less concrete. In many cases, we have to make decisions based on incomplete information instead of exploring every possible option. Time is a resource to most of us, and we choose to use our time as efficiently as possible. Therefore, while many of us would be personally interested in learning about the best practices that academia could contribute, we do not have the time to seek it out. Furthermore, to the extent we seek knowledge to further our professional expertise, we identify with mentors and colleagues from whom we can learn and enhance our capacity. Professional conferences and workshops where we can interact with others in our field and experienced leaders seem to be especially effective in this regard.

If you were to provide guidance to social scientists studying social movements, what general message would you convey to them?

Team up with a specific organization or leader. In that way, collaboration can occur that meets the needs of both the researcher and the leader. Seek research topics with tangible and direct impacts on existing movements. Approach a leader or movement as an “organizational consultant” willing to share results of the research in a way that identifies and offers recommendations for areas of improvement. Immerse yourself or your team in the issue, people, leaders, and politics of an issue—as someone who also has something to learn. One professor

from a local institution approached us about research he wanted to conduct and blazed his own route after asking us for recommendations and guidance. Later, he was nearly run out of town at a presentation to city council because he trampled over several hot-button political issues, all of which could have been avoided if he had been more involved in the local situation. Try to be a part of the issue, get involved with the players, become a “volunteer.” While we recognize your time and funding is also limited, leaders of social movements can open doors for those who are truly engaged.

What sort of trends among social movements do you see occurring into the next several years?

One trend that I am excited about is the business savvy applied to complex social problems on a global scale, as championed by the Clinton Global Initiative and Gates Foundation. Another is the idea of a social entrepreneur. A third is the demand by my generation that their employers and companies who manufacture the products they buy maintain a commitment to social responsibility. I believe that progressive social movements will become increasingly coordinated and dependent on coalitions of seemingly disparate issue-advocacy groups because of the apparent failure of the issue-by-issue approach. I also suspect there will be a resurgence of grassroots movements. Today’s leaders of social movements tend to be technology savvy, media savvy, and politically savvy, all of which has resulted in the successes of recent decades; but, many have lost touch with the very people they serve.

What sort of research questions would you want social movement scholars to ask? Or what sort of puzzles would you want them to try to solve? In short, what important phenomena should social movement scholars be studying?

Our projects have very specific questions that we would like addressed by social scientists. Earlier I mentioned the scholar as “organizational consultant”—someone to study what we have accomplished, where we are strong, where we are weak, and where we could improve to be more effective. Specific research, such as that associated with income, race, parks, economic development, and health would also be useful to bolster our cause. On a larger movement-wide scale, I think it would help to see research on best practices. For instance, what are some transferable skills or robust lessons that we may learn by studying multiple movements? How do movement actors connect and integrate issue-specific campaigns into a broader movement? How can the market, economy, and business community be harnessed to serve just ends? I would also like to see more comparative research on, for example, the different methods used by different issue-advocacy groups. How do labor, environmental, and

social justice organizations achieve their ends differently/similarly? Another question for inquiry regards the value (e.g., capacity building, crime reduction, improved health, education, economic investment, etc.) brought to a community by a social movement. For example, one could quantify the value of funds we have raised for the communities where we have initiated projects, but there is an associated increase in property values, impacts on youth development and delinquency, concepts such as capacity building and social capital that might be quantifiable, and even feelings of well-being and social cohesion.

What specific insights might social movement scholars gain by studying your particular organization/coalition?

Good question. I do not know if what we are doing is any different than hundreds of other projects, campaigns, and coalitions across the country. What seems to be unique in what we do compared to “traditional” environmental groups is that (1) we work primarily on issues important to urban low-income minority groups and (2) we use health arguments to advocate for environmental projects. We feel that our success is in part due to filling a niche for which there is a significant unmet demand. Another interesting phenomenon that I have noticed is a number of off-shoot projects that have resulted from our work. Neighborhood associations, community gardens, the first Latina environmental group have all grown independently from, though partly associated with, our work. Our project is unique from “opposition campaigns,” characterized by the Sierra Club, in that we project a positive vision and advocate *for* something rather than against something. Likewise, we have garnered significant successes through facilitating multi-agency and multi-government partnerships. I am curious to know what social movement scholars think could be gained by studying our approach and outcomes.

Recent Publications

Almeida, Paul D. 2006. “Organizational Expansion, Liberalization Reversals, and Radicalized Collective Action.” *Research in Political Sociology* 15:57-99.

Bernstein, Mary. 2005. “Identity Politics.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 31:47-74.

Bernstein, Mary. 2005. “Liberalism and Social Movement Success: The Case of the United States Sodomy Statutes.” Pp. 2-18 in *Regulating Sex*, edited by Elizabeth Bernstein and Laurie Schaffner. Routledge.

Frickel, Scott, and Kelly Moore, editors. 2006. *The New Political Sociology of Science: Institutions, Networks, and Power*, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

Goodwin, Jeff. 2006. “A Theory of Categorical Terrorism.” *Social Forces* 84:2027-2046.

Goodwin, Jeff. 2006. “What Do We Really Know About (Suicide) Terrorism?” *Sociological Forum* 21:315-30.

Goodwin, Jeff, and James M. Jasper. 2006. “Emotions and Social Movements.” Pp 611-635 in *Handbook of the Sociology of Emotions*, edited by Jan E. Stets and Jonathan H. Turner. New York: Springer.

Jasper, James M. 2005. “Culture, Knowledge, and Politics.” Pp. 115-134 in *The Handbook of Political Sociology*, edited by Thomas Janoski, Robert Alford, Alexander Hicks, and Mildred A. Schwartz. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Jasper, James M. 2006. “Emotions and the Microfoundations of Politics: Rethinking Ends and Means.” Pp. 14-30 in *Emotion, Politics, and Society*, edited by Simon Clarke, Paul Hoggett, and Simon Thompson. London: Palgrave-Macmillan.

Jasper, James M. 2006. *Getting Your Way: Strategic Dilemmas in Real Life*. University of Chicago Press.

Jasper, James M. 2006. “Motivation and Emotion.” Pp. 157-171 in *The Oxford Handbook of Contextual Political Studies*, edited by Robert E. Goodin and Charles Tilly. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Johnston, Hank, and Paul Almeida, editors. 2006. *Latin American Social Movements: Globalization, Democratization, and Transnational Networks*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Kleidman, Robert. 2006. “Public Sociology, Engaged Scholarship, and Community Organizing.” *Journal of Applied Sociology* 23 / *Sociological Practice* 8:68-82.

McCright, Aaron M., and Terry N. Clark, 2006. “The Political Opportunity Structure of the Environmental Movement in U.S. Communities.” Pp. 199-240 in *Community and Ecology: Dynamics of Place, Sustainability, and Politics*, edited by Aaron M. McCright and Terry N. Clark. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

McCright, Aaron M., and Terry N. Clark, editors. 2006. *Community and Ecology: Dynamics of Place, Sustainability, and Politics*. Amsterdam: Elsevier/JAI Press.

Pfaff, Steven. 2006. *Exit-Voice Dynamics and the Collapse of East Germany: The Crisis of Leninism and the Revolution of 1989*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Rootes, Christopher. 2006. “Explaining the Outcomes of Campaigns against Waste Incinerators in England: Community, Ecology, Political Opportunities, and Policy Contexts.” Pp. 179-198 in *Community and Ecology: Dynamics of Place, Sustainability, and Politics*, edited by Aaron M. McCright and Terry N. Clark. Amsterdam: Elsevier/JAI Press.

- Swank, Eric. 2006. "Welfare Reform and the Power of Protest: Quantitative Tests of Piven and Cloward's 'Turmoil-Relief' Hypotheses." In *The Promise of Welfare Reform*, edited by Keith Kilty and Elizabeth Segal. The Haworth Press.
- Williams, Rhys H. 2006. "Collective Action, Everyday Protest, and Lived Religion." *Social Movement Studies* 5(1):81-87.
- Xie, Lei, and Arthur P. J. Mol. 2006. "The Role of *Guanxi* in the Emerging Environmental Movement in China." Pp. 269-292 in *Community and Ecology: Dynamics of Place, Sustainability, and Politics*, edited by Aaron M. McCright and Terry N. Clark. Amsterdam: Elsevier/JAI Press.

Awards and Honors

Benita Roth's *Separate Roads to Feminism: Black Chicana, and White Feminist Movements in America's Second Wave* (Cambridge University Press, 2004) received the "Distinguished Book Award" from the ASA Section on Sex and Gender. Roth is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies in the Department of Sociology at Binghamton University.

This is the first book to examine the simultaneous emergence of feminist movements from the Civil Rights/Black Liberation movement, the Chicano movement, and the white Left in the 1960s and 1970s. Challenging the picture of second wave feminism as monolithically middle class and white, Roth argues that the second wave was comprised of *feminisms*: organizationally distinct movements that influenced each other, and influenced other movements, in complex ways. In different communities that were situated in an overall framework of intersecting class and racial/ethnic inequalities, feminists overcame challenges to forming new organizations, not the least of which stemmed from their concerns for (male) activists left behind in the wake of autonomous feminist organizing. Feminists made new movements in a crowded and competitive intermovement milieu that shaped their political decisions and discourses. This dynamic picture of Black, Chicana, and white feminists constructing movements alters our understandings of left social protest in the era and highlights the way that second wave feminist activists provided insights into the intersecting nature of oppressions: of gender, race/ethnicity, class, sexuality.

In The News

Ron Pagnucco has been appointed chairman of the Department of Peace Studies at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

The **Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA)**, located at www.thearda.com, provides free access to high quality quantitative data on religion. The ARDA allows you to interactively explore American and international data using online features for generating national profiles, maps, church membership overviews, denominational heritage trees, tables, charts, and other summary reports. Over 400 data files are available for online preview (including the International Social Survey Program and multiple years of the General Social Survey and) and virtually all can be downloaded free of charge. The ARDA has also developed a series of tools for education. Learning modules provide structured class assignments and the many online tools allow students to explore religion across the globe or in their own backyard. Housed in the Social Science Research Institute at the Pennsylvania State University, the ARDA is funded by the Lilly Endowment and the John Templeton Foundation.

Job Announcements

University of California, Santa Barbara. The Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenured position in quantitative sociology at the rank of Associate or Full Professor. We seek to appoint a scholar with an active research agenda, strong quantitative skills, and a track record of extramural funding whose substantive research interests complement one or more of the department's existing strengths in cultural sociology; feminist studies; global studies; race, ethnicity and nation; organizations, institutions, and networks; social movements; and conversation analysis. The department is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community through research, teaching, and service. Applications received before November 1, 2006 will receive full consideration, although the position will remain open until filled. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, samples of recent publications and syllabi, and a list of references to: Verta Taylor, Chair, Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9430. The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Lehigh University. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Sociology position. The successful candidate is expected to have an active research program focused primarily outside of the United States and also to be able to contribute to core undergraduate courses and to the Masters program in applied sociology. Candidates must have Ph.D. completed by the starting date of August 2007 and show significant evidence of research productivity and successful teaching experience. Ability to teach quantitative research methods is essential. The standard teaching load is 2-2. The College of Arts and Sciences at Lehigh University is committed to increasing the diversity of the college community and curriculum. Candidates who can contribute to that goal are encouraged to apply and to identify their strengths or experiences in this area. Lehigh University is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are particularly encouraged to apply. Lehigh University is a highly competitive, research-oriented university located one hour north of Philadelphia and 90 minutes west of New York City. Send a curriculum vitae and a letter of application indicating teaching and research interests and names of four references to: Judith Lasker, Chair; Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Lehigh University; 681 Taylor Street; Bethlehem, PA 18015. <http://www.lehigh.edu/~insan/socanth.html>. The deadline for applications is October 30, 2006.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenure-track or tenured position at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor, to start as early as July 1, 2007. Strong candidates will have built strong records of research in the field of peace studies, broadly defined to include social movements, conflict and conflict resolution, and other related areas of research. The position will be jointly appointed with the Curriculum of Peace, War, and Defense (PWAD), an interdisciplinary community of faculty (<http://www.unc.edu/depts/pwad>), and relevant courses will be cross-listed in the PWAD Curriculum. Send letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, four letters of recommendation, and samples of recent papers and published work to: Ms. Jackie Gorman, Administrator; Curriculum in Peace, War, and Defense; CB#3200; 401 Hamilton Hall; UNC-Chapel Hill; Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3200. Consideration of applications will begin on November 15, 2006, and will continue until the position is filled. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply. The University of North Carolina is an Equal Opportunity Employer. <http://sociology.unc.edu>.

University of Pittsburgh. The Department of Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh is adding to our existing strengths in the area of social inequalities, which we study from the interpersonal level to the transnational. We are recruiting for two positions at the Associate or full Professor level, pending budgetary approval. We are looking for candidates with strong records in research, teaching (especially in the mentoring of graduate students), and service. We expect our new colleagues to play leadership roles in the department. Both positions will be for a scholar and teacher on inequalities. At least one of the two positions will be for a scholar of social movements or related phenomena and at least one for someone able to supervise graduate students working on current U.S. issues. Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2006 and continue until the positions are filled. To apply, send a CV and a 1-page statement of current research activities to: Professor Kathleen Blee, Chair; Senior Search Committee; Department of Sociology; University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA 15260. The University of Pittsburgh is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and members of minority groups under-represented in academia are especially encouraged to apply.

Rutgers University—New Brunswick. The Women's and Gender Studies Department invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor to begin in Fall 2007, pending final budgetary approval. We seek an interdisciplinary scholar who specializes in the study of African American women and who will contribute to the research and teaching mission of our Ph.D.-granting department. The ideal candidate would add to existing faculty strengths in studies of inequality, public policy, or social or political movements in the U.S. or transnationally. We are eager to consider graduates of interdisciplinary programs including gender or ethnic studies departments, competent in multiple methodologies, and prefer candidates with degree in hand. The department encourages applications from members of under-represented groups. Rutgers is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and has a strong institutional commitment to diversity. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, letter of interest, samples of written work, evidence of teaching effectiveness, and three letters of recommendation to: Professors Abena Busia and Judith Gerson, Search Committee Co-Chairs; Women's and Gender Studies Department; 162 Ryders Lane; New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Review of applications begins October 20, 2006.

Calls for Papers/Submissions

Midwest Sociological Society Meeting April 4-7, 2007 in Chicago, Illinois

Session: "Political Activism and the Internet"
Organizer: Marc Eaton, University of Colorado-Boulder
Deadline for Abstracts/Papers: October 31, 2006

This is a call for papers for a session at the 2007 joint meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society and the North Central Sociological Association to be held April 4-7 in Chicago, Illinois. The session is entitled "Political Activism and the Internet," and it will focus on the role played by the internet in coordinating and conducting political activism on the local, national, and/or international levels. "Political activism" will be broadly defined, including more mainstream approaches to politics (such as e-petitioning and online financial contributions to political organizations) as well as "radical" approaches (virtual blockades of websites, defacing or altering websites, and other forms of "hactivism") and practices not traditionally recognized as activism (blogging, establishing alternative media online, etc.). Some possible areas of interest are:

- the role of the internet in transnational movements
- the role of the internet in democratizing opportunities for political debate
- the internet and mobilization of people and resources
- network analysis of online political organizations
- the effect of the internet on collective identity in social movements
- the internet as a site of protest

These are only some of the topical areas that would fit within this session. I encourage graduate students as well as professors and researchers to consider submitting an abstract or paper to me, either through e-mail or "snail mail," by October 31, 2006:

Marc Eaton
University of Colorado-Boulder
219 Ketchum, 327 UCB
Boulder, CO 80309-0327
Email: marc.eaton@colorado.edu

The editors of *Mobilization: The International Quarterly Review of Social Movement Research* invite scholars to submit articles for consideration. Please mail manuscripts (five copies please) and a \$15.00 processing fee to:

Daniel J. Myers
MOBILIZATION
Department of Sociology
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556
email: moby@nd.edu

Please refer to the inside back cover of *Mobilization* for author submission guidelines, or visit the journal's website at: www.mobilization.sdus.edu and click on "Information for Authors."

CBSM Call for Papers at 2007 ASA Annual Meeting

The Section invites submissions to two open paper sessions and a roundtable session. The Section will also host an invited session.

- (1) *Rethinking the Civil Rights Years: Social Movements in the Urban North*
Organizer:
Gilda N. Zwerman, SUNY College at Old Westbury (gzwerman@aol.com)
 - (2) *Culture, Social Movements, and Political Authority*
Organizer:
Sharon Erickson Nepstad, University of Southern Maine (snepstad@usm.maine.edu)
 - (3) *Roundtable*
Organizer:
Michael Young, University of Texas at Austin (myoung@mail.la.utexas.edu)
 - (4) *Invited Session (title TBA)*
Organizer:
Rhys H. Williams, University of Cincinnati (rhys.williams@uc.edu)
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