



BIG energy seminar series

Addressing the scale and complexity of the global energy challenge.



Socio-environmental Successions: How Cities and Science Respond to Environmental Change

Scott Frickel

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Date: Monday February 18th, 2013 at 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: IBS 155A

Abstract:

Environmental sociology seeks to understand the interrelationships between natural and social systems. This talk will introduce “socio-environmental succession” as a central, but often overlooked, process shaping nature-society interactions. Socio-environmental succession describes how social uses and understandings of nature change in response to changing environmental conditions. The general utility of the concept for understanding a wide range of phenomenon and for synthesizing environmental sociological theory is illustrated with two very different cases: a study of hazardous waste accumulation in Portland, Oregon and a study of wetlands ecology research before and after Hurricane Katrina. Implications for renewable energy development and implementation are discussed.

Bio:

Scott Frickel is Associate Professor of Sociology at Washington State University. His research examines the intersection of environment, science, technology, and social movements. He has published in a wide range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals, including *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Environmental History*, and *Environmental Science and Policy*. He is author of *Chemical Consequences: Environmental Mutagens, Scientist Activism, and the Rise of Genetic Toxicology* and co-editor of *The New Political Sociology of Science: Institutions, Networks, and Power*. He is recipient of the Robert K. Merton Book Award and the Star-Nelkin Paper Award, both from the American Sociological Association section on Science, Knowledge and Technology.

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