

Christopher Oliver

Professor of Practice, Department of Sociology and Environmental Studies Program

Jill H. and Avram A. Glazer Professor of Social Entrepreneurship and Carnegie Corporation of New York

Professor of Social Entrepreneurship III, Phillis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking

William L. Duren '26 Professor, 2018-2019

Affiliated Faculty, The City, Culture, and Community Program and Urban Studies Program

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I. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Ph.D. Sociology, Michigan State University

Specialization: environmental sociology; science, technology and society; environmental regulation; urban political ecology, and political economy and the state.

B.S. Geography, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona,

Specialization: environmental management, spatial analysis and geographic techniques

II. AREAS OF ACADEMIC INTEREST

Environmental Sociology; Urban Political Ecology, Urban and Community Sociology; Organizational Sociology; Economic Sociology and Sociology of Labor; Sociology of Science, Knowledge and Technology

III. CURRENT PROJECTS AND WORKING MANUSCRIPTS

Current Projects:

- A. Tulane-Canal / Tulane-Gravier Neighborhood Project: Assessing Neighborhood Resources, Needs and Concerns in Changing Times
- B. New Orleans BioDistrict Urban Development Zone: Urban Development and Neighborhood Change in the Tulane/Canal/Gravier Neighborhood
- C. The Agriculture Street site (former municipal landfill, former EPA Superfund/NPL site, and former site of Moton Elementary School) and the Residents of Gordon Plaza / Clio-Silver City site (former municipal landfill and former site of Booker T. Washington HS): A Comparative Analysis of the Building of Public Housing and Public Education Facilities on Former Municipal Landfills
- D. Toxic Decisions: A Critical Political Ecology Approach to the Study of Environmental Problems / Environmental Regulatory Standards: The Science and Politics of Standards in Environmental Pollution Liability and Litigation

Working Manuscripts:

- A. "Examining the growth of short term rentals (STRs) and its consequences on rental housing accessibility and affordability: Airbnb as a new form of tourism gentrification in New Orleans."

- B. "Airbnb, gentrification, and the rent gap: Measuring the growth of short term rentals (STR) market in New Orleans."
- C. "Building toxic neighborhoods and creating environmental injustices: Public development projects on former municipal waste sites in New Orleans."
- D. "Neoliberalizing "home": Tourism gentrification and capital investment in the short-term rental (STR) market in New Orleans."

IV. PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Publications and Books

Janoski, Thomas, David Luke, and Christopher Oliver. 2014. The Causes of Structural Unemployment: Four Factors That Keep People From the Jobs They Deserve. London: Polity Press.

Blaacker, Debra, Joshua M. Woods, and Christopher Oliver. 2012. "How big is Big Coal? Public perceptions of the coal industry's economic impact in West Virginia" *Organization and Environment*. 25: 385-401.

Oliver, Christopher. 2005. "The treadmill of production under NAFTA: Multilateral trade, environmental regulation and national sovereignty." *Organization and Environment*. 18: 55-71.

Research Reports and White Papers

Janoski, Thomas and Christopher Oliver. 2012. "The vortex of labor." In Rebuilding the Mosaic: Fostering Research in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation in the Next Decade. Arlington, VA: National Science Foundation.

Busch, L.; Allison, R.; Harris, C.; Rudy, A.; Shaw, B.; Ten Eyck, T.; Coppin, D.; Konefal, J.; Oliver, C. 2004. External Review of the Collaborative Research Agreement between Novartis Agricultural Discovery Institute, Inc. and the Regents of the University of California. East Lansing: Institute for Food and Agricultural Standards, Michigan State University, July 13.

Reviews

Oliver, Christopher. 2008. Review of 'Frontiers: Histories of civil society and nature' by Michael R. Redclift. *Rural Sociology*. 73:692-694.

Oliver, Christopher. 2005. Review of 'Labor and the environmental movement: Quest for the common ground' by Brian Orbach. *Rural Sociology*. 70:281-284.

Oliver, Christopher. 2004. Review of 'Greening the Americas: NAFTA's lessons for hemispheric trade,' edited by Carolyn Deere and Daniel Esty. *Society and Natural Resources*. 17:953-955.

Oliver, Christopher. 2002. Review of 'State and community in fisheries management: Power, policy and practice,' edited by E. Paul Durrenberger and Thomas King." *Society and Natural Resources*. 15:381-383.

Invited Articles and Chapters

Oliver, Christopher. In press. "Agriculture Street Landfill." In A People's Guide to New Orleans. Edited by Lynnell L. Thomas and Elizabeth Steeby. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

V. GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND OTHER AWARDS

William L. Duren '29 Professorship, Endowed Teaching Award, 2018-2019. "Visualizing Environmental Injustice(s): An Exploration of Visual Methods in Research, Advocacy, and Policy in Environmental Studies." Award \$10,000.

Carol Lavin Bernick Faculty Awards/Tulane University, Research Award, 2016, "Assessing Neighborhood Resources, Needs and Concerns in Changing Times." Awarded \$9000 (co-PI with Steven Ostertag, Sociology).

Carol Lavin Bernick Faculty Awards/Tulane University, Faculty Interdisciplinary Workgroup Award, 2016, "Public Environmental Studies: Assessing Environmental Issues, Promoting Active Community Engagement, and Responding to Community Needs (EVST Interdisciplinary Workgroup)." Awarded \$5000 (co-PI with Casius Pealer, Architecture).

VI. PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Professor of Practice, Department of Sociology and Environmental Studies, Tulane University, July 1, 2014 – current.

Responsibilities: Teach courses to undergraduate students; administrative responsibilities; serve on thesis committees. Position is jointly between Sociology (67%) and Environmental Studies (33%).

Jill H. and Avram A. Glazer Professor of Social Entrepreneurship and Carnegie Corporation of New York Professor of Social Entrepreneurship III, Phillis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking (3-year appointment starting July 1, 2018)

Responsibilities: Standing faculty; serve on Taylor Center committees; report to fellow faculty on progress.

Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Kentucky, August 1, 2010 – June 30, 2014.

Responsibilities: Teach courses to undergraduate students; administrative and service activities as part of the regular faculty.

Postdoctoral Researcher, Project on Regulation, Compliance, and Enforcement of Emerging Carbon Trading Markets, School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University, July 1, 2009 – June, 30, 2010.

Responsibilities: Research on emerging carbon trading markets in various countries throughout the world to better understand existing and potential issues regarding fraud and other criminal activities associated with these markets. Working with Interpol, law enforcement and environmental regulators in the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, and US regulators (US EPA) and law enforcement (Dept. of Justice) associated with the possible implementation of cap-and-trade system in the US. Research involves quantitative data analysis, surveying and qualitative interviewing.

Postdoctoral Researcher, Environmental Science and Policy Program, Michigan State University, September 2008 – May 2009 (Graduate Research Assistant – Jan. 2007 to August 2008).

Responsibilities: Research on U.S. energy policy and environmental policymaking and regulation -- specifically the use of reformulated gasoline and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and its effect on local environmental conditions throughout the country. Additionally, research on the consequences of bilateral trade agreements on federal, state,

and local environmental policymaking. The project involved quantitative data analysis, archival and policy document analysis, and qualitative interviewing. Supervised post-baccalaureate and graduate students in support roles.

Graduate Research Assistant, Environmental Science and Policy Program, Michigan State University, October 2003 – May 2004.

Responsibilities: Assisted in the development of the newly initiated Environmental Science and Policy Program. Developed and catalogued information and data pertaining to national and international science research agendas for use in the formation of Signature Science Research Programs at Michigan State University. Currently researching issues surrounding globalization and international trade and their effects on global environmental conditions.

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University, January 2002 – December 2003.

Responsibilities: media content analysis and data collection on relationship between Novartis Agricultural Discovery Institute, Inc., a biotechnology company, and the Regents of the University of California (to benefit the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, University of California, Berkeley).

Labor Organizer, Local 6196, East Lansing, MI, American Federation of Teachers/AFT-Michigan, September 1998 – October 2001

Responsibilities: work with other organizers to organize teaching assistants into a collective bargaining union; training and work with state labor organization regarding community activism regarding labor issues throughout the state; eventually, president of the labor union, Graduate Employees Union-MSU.

Research Associate/Project Supervisor, Center for Global Change and Earth Observations (formerly known as the Basic Science and Remote Sensing Initiative), Michigan State University, May 1998 – August 2000.

Responsibilities: oversee project development and task management (4-person team); spatial modeling research on forest fragmentation, land use and biotic carbon budgeting, Amazonia, Brazil; project manager, common data format (CDF) processing of digital imagery; digital image interpretation and classification (ERDAS Imagine) and input into a geographic information system (Arc/Info) of images from Landsat Pathfinder full scenes of Amazonia and Southeast Asia; developed methods of data management and storage of land information for retrieval; developed interpretive and classificatory schemes for land use evaluation of tropical forested regions.

Visiting Research Associate, Office of International Research and Development, U.S. Forest Service, USDA- Pacific Northwest Research Station, Department of Anthropology and the College of Forestry, Oregon State University, May – August 1995.

Responsibilities: research for ethnographic report on social organization, community participation and networks, northwest Oregon; extensive media content analysis of forest issues and public participation; project contracted under USDA/US Forest Service-- Forest Plan Option Nine, Social Impact Assessment.

Graduate Research Assistant/Project Supervisor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Oregon State University, September 1993 – March 1994.

Responsibilities: development of research project involving the spatial and economic analysis of land use and zoning regulations, Deschutes County, Oregon; developed methodology of

geographic analysis using geographic information systems (GIS) and aerial photo interpretation; produced grant proposal and research report.

VII. PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND ORGANIZED SESSIONS

“Building toxic neighborhoods and creating environmental injustices: Public development projects on former municipal waste sites in New Orleans.” Paper to be presented the International Sociological Association Annual Meeting, July 15-21, 2018, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

“Airbnb as a new form of tourism gentrification in New Orleans: Examining the Growth of Short Term Rentals and Impacts Upon Housing Affordability.” (Co-authored with Eric Nost and Dustin Robertson). Paper presented at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meetings, April 11-14, 2018, New Orleans, LA.

“Examining the growth of short term rentals (STRs) and its consequences on rental housing accessibility and affordability: Airbnb as a new form of tourism gentrification in New Orleans.” Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August 12, 2017, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

“Postneoliberalism? Neoliberal regulation in the continuing crisis: Opportunities for change or just more of the same?” Session organizer (co-organizer with Hugh Deaner) at American Association of Geographers Annual Meetings, April 9-13, 2013, Los Angeles, CA

“The crises of overaccumulation and the three “fixes”: Marx, Polanyi, Harvey, and the role of the regulatory fix” (co-author with Hugh Deaner). Paper presented at American Association of Geographers Annual Meetings, April 9-13, 2013, Los Angeles, CA

“Political Ecology and Environmental Sociology: Towards Productive Engagement or Sustaining the Contract of Mutual Indifference?” Organized panel session (Co-organizers: Dr. Damian White, Rhode Island School of Design; Dr. Alan Rudy, Central Michigan University, and Dr. Brian Gareau, Boston College). Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, University of Kentucky, February 28, 2013, Lexington, Kentucky.

“Toxic consequences: State-industry partnerships, routine regulatory failure, and the case of methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) in reformulated gasoline (RFG)” Paper presented at the Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, University of Kentucky, April 14, 2012, Lexington, Kentucky.

“Home ownership, mortgage-backed securitization, and changing information technologies: Towards a new geography (and sociology) of risk” Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Association of Geographers, February 24, 2012, New York, New York.

“Market-based environmental regulation?” Paper presented at the 5th Annual International Social Science Research Conference, September, 23, 2010, New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Can new neoliberal institutions solve global climate change? Market-based environmental regulation and the potential for fraud and corruption in emerging carbon markets.” Roundtable. Paper presented at the 2010 Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, August 14, 2010, Atlanta, Georgia.

“Are biofuels a Panacea or a potential environmental disaster? The use of ethanol and the potential for water contamination.” Paper presented at the 1st International Sociological Association Forum of Sociology. RC-24 (Research Committee on Environment and Society), September 5-8, 2008, Barcelona, Spain.

“Toxic decisions: The state, industry and environmental public health under the regulatory reign of MTBE.” Paper presented at the 58th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, July 31 – August 2, 2008, Boston, Massachusetts.

“Critical materialism in environmental sociology: A comparative exploration.” Paper presented at the 102nd Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 11 – 14, 2007, New York, New York.

“Accelerating the treadmill: NAFTA, international trade disputes and environmental regulation.” Paper presented at the Symposium on the Environment and the Treadmill of Production, Special Meeting of the Environment and Society Research Committee (RC-24), International Sociological Association, October 31- November 1, 2004, Madison, Wisconsin.

“Schnaiberg and O'Connor: The economy, the state, and environmental social movements.” (Co-authored with Alan P. Rudy, Department of Sociology, Central Michigan University). Paper presented at the Symposium on the Environment and the Treadmill of Production, Special Meeting of the Environment and Society Research Committee (RC-24), International Sociological Association, October 31- November 1, 2004, Madison, Wisconsin.

“Undermining state environmental protection efforts: Trade agreement disputes under WTO and NAFTA.” Paper presented at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, July 26-30, 2003, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (held jointly with the American Agricultural Economics Association and the Canadian Agricultural Economics Association).

“Cleaning the air, poisoning the water: The spatial distribution of human health effects associated with exposure to MTBE-contaminated sources.” Paper presented at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, August 15-18, 2001, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

“Estimating potential loss of carbon in forest edges of the Brazilian Amazon.” (Co-authored with Thomas Smucker, Department of Geography, Ohio University). Paper presented at the 96th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, April 4-8, 2000, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

“Forest fragmentation and possible effects on biomass and carbon flux, Legal Amazon, Brazil.” Paper presented at the Basic Science and Remote Sensing Initiative—Department of Geography Seminar Contemporary Research on Amazonia, February 18, 1999, East Lansing, Michigan.

“Conceptualizing the social dynamics of land use change: Observations on methodology.” (Co-authored with Thomas Smucker, Department of Geography, Ohio University). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the East Lakes Division, Association of American Geographers, October 29-30, 1999, Columbus, Ohio.

“Situating ecology and archaeology in eco-archaeological tourism: The (re)production of nature, culture and travel along La Costa Maya, Quintana Roo, Mexico.” Paper presented at the Globalization and Its (Dis)Contents Conference: Multiple Perspectives, April 1998, Sponsored by Michigan State University and the Center for Advanced Studies of International Development and James Madison College, East Lansing, Michigan

“Conceptualizing community through bureaucratic and local discourse: Natural resource issues and policy and the amorphous nature of group identity in the Pacific Northwest.” Paper presented at the 96th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 1997, Washington DC.

VIII. TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Teaching Positions

Professor of Practice, Tulane University, July 2014-present

Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Kentucky, August 2010-June 2014.

Visiting Instructor, Department of Sociology and College of Lyman Briggs, Michigan State University, August 2008 – August 2009.

Visiting Instructor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Kalamazoo College, August 2008 – December 2008.

Graduate instructor, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University, January 2003 – August 2008.

Teaching Interests

Environmental sociology; urban sociology; organizational sociology, sociology of labor; science, knowledge and technology; economic sociology; environmental policy and regulation; sociology of risk; sociology of work and occupations; classical and contemporary sociological theory; social problems; social inequality; qualitative methods

Courses Taught

Tulane University (2014-present)

SOCI 1060: Urban Sociology
SOCI 1090: Social Problems
SOCI 2500: Organizational Behavior
SOCI 4210: Urban Ethnography and Social Justice
EVST 3950: Environmental Crime and Security
EVST 4010: Environmental and Social Justice in Southeastern Louisiana
EVST 4400: Urban Political Ecology
EVST 4650: Senior Colloquium

University of Kentucky (2010-2014)

SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology
SOC 342: Work and Organizations in Society
SOC 350: Special Topics - Economic Sociology
SOC 350: Special Topics – Science, Technology and Society
SOC 360: Environmental Sociology

Michigan State University (2003-2009)

SOC 100: Introduction to Sociology
SOC 161: International Development and Social Change
SOC 315: Families and Society
SOC 321: Industrial Sociology
SOC 322: Sociology of Work
SOC 330: Social Stratification
SOC 368: Science, Technology and Society
SOC 424: Complex Organizations
LBS 133: Introduction to Science and Technology Studies (Lyman Briggs College)

LBS 492: Senior Seminar – The Environment: From Global to Local

Kalamazoo College (2008)

ANSO 110: Medicine and Society

ANSO 258: Political Ecology of Globalization

Publications related to teaching

Oliver, Christopher. 2004. “Syllabus for Industrial Sociology” and “Syllabus for Sociology of Work.” *In* *Sociology of Work and Occupations*. 5th Edition. Edited by Carol Auster. Pp. 172-180 and Pp. 180-186. Washington DC: American Sociological Association.

IX. HONORS AND AWARDS

Michigan State University

Graduate School and Department of Sociology Fellowship, 2007

Graduate School and Department of Sociology Conference Travel Grant, Summer 2007

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), Portuguese, Summer 1999 and AY 1996-97

Predissertation Summer Travel Fellowship, (for travel to Brazil), Summer 1999

Predissertation Summer Travel Fellowships, (for travel to Mexico and Belize), Summer 1997

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Spanish, AY 1997-98

X. SERVICE

Environmental Studies Program, Tulane University

Faculty Advisory Committee, 2014-present

Coordinator, EVST Focus on the Environment (FOTE) Speaker Series, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

Department of Sociology, Michigan State University

Graduate Education Committee, 2003-2004

Theory Committee, 2002-2003

Self-Study Committee (External Review) of the Department (ad hoc), 2001-2002

Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty Meetings, 2001-2002

Curriculum Committee, 2000-2001

Co-chair, Sociology Collective (Graduate student group), 2001-2002

Co-developed course for training graduate students as professional-academic sociologists, 2003

Co-developed syllabus for advanced graduate course in science and technology studies, 2002

Environmental Science and Policy Program, Michigan State University

Member, Ecological and Cultural Change Studies Group, 2002-present

Michigan State University

President, 2000-2000 and Lead organizer, 1998-2000, Graduate Employees Union (GEU), Michigan State University

Community Service

Residents of Gordon Plaza (community group, New Orleans), Advisory Working Group

XI. PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association (Sections: Environment and Technology, Science, Knowledge and Technology, Organizations, Occupations and Work, Economic Sociology, Political Sociology)

Reviewer, *Organization and Environment, Rural Sociology*

XII. REFEREES

Thomas Dietz

Assistant Vice President for Research and Graduate Study
Associate Dean, Environmental Science and Policy, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College of Natural Science, and College of Social Science
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