

EVST 2016-2017 *Focus on the Environment* Speaker Series
The Petrochemical City: The Costs and Consequences of Petrochemical
Industrial Production on New Orleans
Fall 2016 / Spring 2017 Speakers (and Symposium)

Speaker 1:

Dr. Barbara Allen

Professor of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech University -
Capitol Campus

Title of talk: **Hidden Illness? The Challenge of Obtaining Relevant Health
Data in Industrial Regions in Louisiana and France**

Date: **Thursday, October 20, 2016 @ 6:30PM**

Location: **Richardson Memorial Hall Room 201**

Brief bio:

Dr. Allen is professor of Science and Technology in Society (STS) at Virginia Tech University (National Capitol Region Campus) and former director of the graduate program in STS. She has two recent research projects that fall broadly within two interdisciplinary areas: 1) the political sociology of science and technology, and 2) community-based participatory environmental health. She is currently working on an NSF-funded project that examines the dynamics of citizens, science, regulation and environmental justice in heavily polluted regions in the U.S. and the EU (Italy and France). Additionally, she examines how citizens, organizations, and other non-traditional science institutions participate in the shaping of policy-relevant scientific and technical knowledge. Currently her work is funded by the French Agency for Environmental and Occupational Health (ANSES) to develop, conduct, analyze, and disseminate a participatory environmental survey in two towns in a polluted industrial zone. Previously, also funded by the NSF, Allen completed research that examined both the efficacy of, and the types of justice embedded in, NGO efforts in the rebuilding and repatriation of post-disaster New Orleans. Through comparative analysis of the rebuilding of three heavily flooded neighborhoods, she drew conclusions on what synergies and alliances were most successful and why. Allen received her Ph.D. in STS from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1999. Prior to that she was both a professor and practitioner of architecture.

Speaker 2:

Dr. Gerald Markowitz

Distinguished Professor of History, John Jay College / CUNY Graduate Center,
New York City

Title of talk: **Lead Poisoning: An (On-Going) American Tragedy of Race,
Class and Industrial Pollution?**

Date: **Wednesday, November 9, 2016 @ 6:30PM**

Location: **Richardson Memorial Hall Room 201**

Brief bio:

Dr. Markowitz is Distinguished Professor of History at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. He received his doctorate from the Department of History of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has been teaching at John Jay since 1970. He is the recipient of numerous grants from private and federal agencies, including the Milbank Memorial Fund, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). He has been awarded the Viseltear Prize for Outstanding Work in the History of the Public Health from the American Public Health Association in 2000. Together - with David Rosner (professor of public health history at Columbia University) - he has authored and edited books and articles on occupational safety and health, including: *Are We Ready? The Public Health Response to 9/11*, *Deceit and Denial: The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution*, and *Deadly Dust: Silicosis and the Politics of Occupational Disease in Twentieth Century America*. In their most recent book *Lead Wars: The Politics of Science and the Fate of America's Children* the authors examine the history of lead poisoning in the US during the past half century, arguing that lead exposures remain one of the most contentious and bitter battles in the history of public health. Dr. Markowitz has appeared numerous times on National Public Radio (NPR), including *Fresh Air* with Terry Gross, as well as on The Bill Moyers Show (PBS), as well as appearances on cable and network news programs.

Speaker 3:

Dr. Michael Mascarenhas

Associate Professor of Science and Technology Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York

Title of talk: TDB

Date: TBD (March 2017)

Location: TBD

Brief Bio: TBA

Invited Speakers (Spring 2017):

Dr. Katherine Hayhoe

Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, and Director of the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University

Bill McKibben

Writer, public intellectual, and leading American activist in support of efforts to curb global climate change, as well as Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College

Dr. Timmons Roberts

Ittleson Professor of Environmental Studies and Professor of Sociology, and Institute Fellow, Institute at Brown on Environment and Society, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Symposium and Panel Discussion (proposed):

Living with/in the Toxic Landscape: The Residents of Gordon Plaza and the Agriculture Street Superfund Site (former Agriculture Street Municipal Landfill, New Orleans, LA)

Date: TBD

Participants (Note: this is a tentative list):

Moderator: Angela Kinlaw (attorney, independent activist)

Residents of Gordon Plaza

Shannon Rainey, President RGP
Joshua Newell, Vice-President RGP

Community experts / activists

Wilma Subra, Subra Company (independent scientist / researcher)

Monique Harden (attorney, specializing in environmental law and public legal advocacy)

Cashuanna Hill (attorney and director, Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center)

Academic researchers / experts

Beverly Wright (professor, Dillard University)

Adam Babich (attorney / professor, Tulane School of Law, and director, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic)

Craig Colten (professor, Louisiana State University)