

Researching topic #2 SOCIAL CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE – Scholarship in contemporary of Environmental Sociology [last revised 3/3/2021]

Many, perhaps most, recent climate articles written by environmental sociologists are about *impacts* and about *responses* (for example, on climate activism, our topic #15; denial, topic #16; public opinion, topic #19), but environmental sociologists have also contributed to the discussion of *causes*.

The best known contribution has been the articulation, and subsequent refinement, of the IPAT concept: Impact = Population x Affluence x Technology ... but the environmental sociology literature discusses other ways to conceptualize sociological causes, as well.

Some suggestions if you are doing research on SOCIAL CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE – Scholarship in the field of Environmental Sociology:

You can search by author. Here are the names of some environmental sociologists who have written about social causes of climate change: Brett Clark, Thomas Dietz, Andrew Jorgenson, Timmons Roberts, Eugene Rosa, Richard York.

To help you get started, some articles, chapters:

Antonio and Clark, “The Climate Change Divide in Social Theory,” Chapter 11 in Dunlap and Brulle, Climate Change and Society: Sociological Perspectives, Oxford University Press, 2015.

Clark, Brett and Richard York, “Carbon Metabolism: Global Capitalism, Climate Change, and the Biospheric Rift,” *Theory and Society* 34:391-428, 2005.

Dietz, Thomas, “Drivers of Human Stress on the Environment in the Twenty-First Century,” *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 42:189–213, 2017.

Dietz and Eugene Rosa, “Rethinking the Environmental Impacts of Population, Affluence and Technology,” *Human Ecology Review*, v.1, Summer/Autumn, 1994

Dietz and Rosa, “Effects of Population and Affluence on CO2 emissions.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 94:175-179, 1997.

Dietz, Rosa, and Richard York, “Human Driving Forces of Global Change: Dominant Perspectives,” in Human Footprints on the Global Environment: Threats to Sustainability, MIT Press, 2009.

- Grimes, P.P., & Kentor, J., "Exporting the greenhouse: Foreign capital penetration and CO2 emissions 1980-1996," *Journal of World Systems Research*, 9(2), 261-275, 2003.
- Jorgenson, Andrew, "Consumption and Environmental Degradation: A Cross-National Analysis of the Ecological Footprint." *Social Problems* 50:374-394, 2003.
- Jorgenson, "Economic Development and the Carbon Intensity of Human Well-Being." *Nature Climate Change* 4:186-189, 2014.
- Jorgenson, and Thomas J. Burns, "The Political-Economic Causes of Change in the Ecological Footprints of Nations, 1991-2001: A Quantitative Investigation." *Social Science Research* 36:834-853, 2007.
- Jorgenson, Shirley Fiske, Klaus Hubacek, Jia Li, Tom McGovern, Torben Rick, Juliet B. Schor, William Solecki, Richard York, and Ariela Zycherman. 2019. "Social Science Perspectives on Drivers of and Responses to Global Climate Change." *WIREs Climate Change* 10:e554. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.554>.
- Jorgenson, Schor, and Xiaorui Huang, "Income Inequality and Carbon Emissions in the United States: A State-Level Analysis, 1997-2012." *Ecological Economics* 134: 40-48, 2017.
- Nagel, et al, "Workshop on Sociological Perspectives on Global Climate Change" [search for this on Google and download PDF; read, especially, pp 13-16]
- Roberts, et al, "Social roots of global environmental change: A world-systems analysis of carbon dioxide emissions," *Journal of World Systems Research*, 9(2), 277-315, 2003.
- Rosa, Eugene and Dietz, "Human Drivers of national greenhouse-gas emissions," *Nature Climate Change*, vol. 2, August, 2012, 581-586
- Rosa, et al, "The Human (Anthropogenic) Driving Forces of Global Climate Change," Chapter 2 in Dunlap and Brulle, *Climate Change and Society: Sociological Perspectives*
- Rosa, Richard York, and Thomas Dietz, "Tracking the Anthropogenic Drivers of Ecological Impacts," *AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment* 33:509-512, 2004.
- York, Richard, Rosa, and Dietz, "Footprints on the Earth: The Environmental Consequences of Modernity," *American Sociological Review* 68:279-300, 2003.
- York, Rosa, and Dietz, "Stirpat, IPAT and ImPACT: Analytic Tools for Unpacking the Driving Forces of Environmental Impacts," *Ecological Economics* 46:351-65, 2003.
- York, Rosa and Dietz, "A Rift in Modernity? Assessing the Anthropogenic Sources of Global Climate Change with the Stirpat Model," *The International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 23:31, 2003.

... and some more suggestions (added March, 2021):

Joane Nagel, *et al*, “Workshop on Sociological Perspectives on Global Climate Change,” Sociology Program, Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, National Science Foundation, American Sociological Association, 2010.

Eugene A. Rosa and Thomas Dietz, “Human drivers of national greenhouse-gas emissions,” *Nature Climate Change*, Vol 2, pp. 581-586, August, 2012.

Andrew K. Jorgenson, *et al*, “Social science perspectives on drivers of and responses to global climate change,” *WIREs Climate Change*, [Volume10, Issue1](#), January/February 2019, e554. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.554>

Eric Klinenberg, *et al*, “Sociology and the Climate Crisis,” *Annual Review of Sociology*, 46:649–69, 2020.

Thomas Dietz, Rachael L. Shwom and Cameron T. Whitley, “Climate Change and Society,” *Annual Review of Sociology*, 46:135-158, 2020.

Md Saidul Islam and Edson Kieu, “Sociological Perspectives on Climate Change and Society: A Review,” *Climate*, 2021, 9, 7. <https://doi.org/10.3390/cli9010007>