



BSA Annual Conference 2019: Challenging Social Hierarchies and Inequalities

Call for Papers
Environment & Society Stream

Submissions

We would like to invite you to submit a paper to the Environment & Society stream - hosted by the Climate Change Study Group - at the next BSA Annual Conference, which will take place on the 24-26 April 2019 at Glasgow Caledonian University.

Sociology has an increasingly important role to play in shaping and contributing to public and policy debate about environmental change. The study group provides a forum in which to explore how to effectively bring sociology's unique perspective to bear on this most pressing of challenges. We pay particular attention to the inequalities that differentiate the experience of environmental change, as well as the rights and responsibilities brought to bear upon different social groups in so doing.

This year, we host a stream plenary on 'Intersecting Inequalities and Sustainable Consumption: A Gender Perspective.' This session will bring together Lynn Jamieson (University of Edinburgh), Kate Burningham (University of Surrey) and Lucie Middlemiss (University of Leeds), who argue that policy instruments designed to encourage more sustainable household practices can have a disproportionate impact on more vulnerable and marginalised households and often result in the privatization and feminization of environmental responsibility. Paradoxically, less research has been conducted among such households. This panel considers future directions in researching, governing and conceptualising more sustainable consumption, in ways that can be sensitive to the needs and constraints of various social groups.

We are keen to encourage authors to submit papers that speak to the stream plenary theme, but also in relation to these cognate issue areas:

- **Gender, inequalities & environmental change**

This theme invites papers that consider the disparity between higher income groups who account for a greater share of global resource use and the poor that typically bear the costs. Furthermore, women tend to shoulder the burden of reproductive work which underpins much of daily life in both the global North and South, and are in many ways intimately involved in consumption work. Amidst disparities between rich and poor, and between different social groups,

at different spatial scales – local to global – what can be done to make everyday life more sustainable and just for all?

- **Sustainable consumption and production**

Consumption and production are increasingly treated within Economic Sociology not as separate fields of inquiry, but as a related set of processes around which structures of everyday life are reproduced and changed. This session invites contributions that theorise the relationship between consumption and production, as a means to understand the organisation of macro, meso, and micro level spheres of activity which shape environmental problems, and the potential solutions.

- **Everyday life, materiality and the non-human**

This theme considers how theories of social practice, materiality, and non-human, help us to understand trajectories through which sustainable ways of life might become normal; how environmental issues intersect with other aspects of daily life; or the temporal rhythms of everyday life and their implications for social change.

- **Governing Transitions**

This theme invites analysis of particular policies; examinations of sustainability governance in different forms, such as transition management; or analysis of how social science research can influence policy. Relevant questions include; what is the adaptive capacity of our institutions, forms of governance and ways of life in the face of environmental changes? How do these requirements relate to different scales and places? Under what conditions are we able to participate in decision-making processes underpinning policy?

These are suggested thematic areas but we welcome submissions relevant to issues of environment and society more broadly.

How to submit

Please submit your abstract under the preferred stream of 'Environment & Society' on the online submission system. All paper abstracts and proposals for other events can be submitted online at:

<https://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/key-bsa-events/bsa-annual-conference/submissions/>

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **12 October 2018**.

For further information contact the *Environment & Society stream co-ordinator*, Jessica Paddock Email: jessica.paddock@bristol.ac.uk

Alternatively, contact the BSA Events Team Email: events@britsoc.org.uk