

LAUREN E. RICHTER

2 College Street
Providence, RI 02903

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2019-present Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies
Department of History, Philosophy + Social Sciences
Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
- 2018-2019 Research Fellow, Silent Spring Institute, Newton, MA
Research Fellow, Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute,
Northeastern University, Boston, MA

EDUCATION

- 2018 Northeastern University, Boston, MA
Ph.D., Sociology
- 2008 Washington State University, Pullman, WA
M.A., Sociology
- 2005 Connecticut College, New London, CT
B.A., Sociology with Distinction
Certificate in Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies

NONACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2009-2013 Development Director, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, Oakland, CA

REFEREED ARTICLES

Lauren Richter. 2019. Challenging Dominant Breast Cancer Research Agendas: An Assessment of Stakeholder Perspectives on the Interagency Breast Cancer and Environment Research Coordinating Committee. 2019. *Environmental Health*. 18(41).

Alissa Cordner, **Lauren Richter**, and Phil Brown. 2019. Environmental Chemicals and Public Sociology: Engaged Scholarship on Highly Fluorinated Compounds. *Environmental Sociology*. 5(4): 339-351.

Elicia Cousins, **Lauren Richter**, Alissa Cordner, Sokona Diallo, and Phil Brown. 2019. Risky Business? Manufacturer, Retailer, and Consumer Campaigns to Reduce Emerging Chemical Exposure. *New Solutions*. 29(2): 242-265.

Alissa Cordner, Vanessa De La Rosa, Laurel Schaidler, Ruthann Rudel, **Lauren Richter**, and Phil Brown. 2019. PFAS Drinking Water Guideline Levels: The Role of Scientific Uncertainty, Risk Assessment Decisions, and Social Factors. *Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology*. 29: 157-171.

Lauren Richter, Alissa Cordner, and Phil Brown. 2018. Non-Stick Science: Sixty Years of Research and (In)Action on Perfluorinated Compounds. *Social Studies of Science*. 48(5): 691-714.

Lauren Richter. 2018. Constructing Insignificance? Applying Critical Race Theory to Institutional Failure in Environmental Justice Communities. *Environmental Sociology*. 4(1): 107-121.

* 2018 Winner of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences *Best Student Paper Award*.

* 2018 Department of Sociology & Anthropology *Outstanding Research Paper Award*, Northeastern University.

Leif Fredrickson, Chris Sellers, Lindsey Dillion, Jennifer Ohayon, Nicholas Shapiro, Marianne Sullivan, Stephen Bocking, Phil Brown, Vanessa De La Rosa, Jill Harrison, Sara Johns, Katherine Kulik, Rebecca Lave, Michelle Murphy, Liza Piper, **Lauren Richter**, and Sara Wylie. 2018. History of U.S. Presidential Assaults on Environmental Protection. 2018. *American Journal of Public Health*. 108(S2): S95-S103.

Cordner, Alissa, **Lauren Richter**, Phil Brown. 2016. Can Chemical-class Approaches Replace Chemical-by-Chemical Strategies? Lessons from Recent FDA Regulatory Action on Perfluorinated Compounds. *Environmental Science & Technology*. 50(23): 12584-12591.

Rosa, Eugene A. and **Lauren Richter**. 2008. Durkheim on the Environment: Ex Libris or Ex Cathedra: Introduction to Inaugural Lecture to a Course in Social Science, by Emile Durkheim 1887-1888. *Organization & Environment*. 21(2): 182-188.

Articles Under Review:

Lauren Richter, Alissa Cordner, and Phil Brown. Producing Ignorance Through Environmental Regulatory Structure: The Case of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).

Articles in Preparation:

Lauren Richter. Critical Race Theory and Environmental Sociology. Invited book chapter in *The Racial Structure of Sociological Thought*, Edited by Jennifer Mueller and Victor Ray.

Lauren Richter, Alissa Cordner, and Phil Brown. Strategic Science Production and the Obviation of Regulation of Highly Fluorinated Chemicals.

Lauren Richter. Corporate Virtue and Preemptive Problem Resolution: PFAS as a Non-Problem.

Tibrine Da Fonseca, **Lauren Richter**, Alissa Cordner, and Phil Brown. From Community to Courtroom: Litigation and Environmental Justice in the Case of PFAS Contamination.

NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Elisabeth Wilder, **Lauren Richter**, Michael Mascarenhas, Raoul S. Lievanos, and Jennifer Carrera. 2019. Confronting White Space and White Ignorance: A Summary of the Committee on Racial Equity's Mission and Work (2016-2019). *American Sociological Association, Section on Environment and Technology*, Fall Newsletter.

Christopher Sellers, Lindsey Dillon, Jennifer Liss Ohayon, Nick Shapiro, Marianne Sullivan, Chris Amoss, Stephen Bocking, Phil Brown, Vanessa De La Rosa, Jill Harrison, Sara Johns, Katherine Kulik, Rebecca Lave, Michelle Murphy, Liza Piper, **Lauren Richter**, Sara Wylie. 2017. The EPA Under Siege. *Environmental Data & Governance Initiative*. Available Online.

Mascarenhas, Michael, **Lauren Richter**, Elisabeth Wilder and Jennifer Carrera. 2017. Diversity in Sociology and Environmental Sociology: What We Know About Our Discipline. *American Sociological Association, Section on Environment and Technology*, Spring Newsletter.

Lauren Richter. 2015. Why Community-Based Research Matters to Science and People. *The Equation*. Union of Concerned Scientists. Available Online.

Rosa, Eugene A. and **Lauren Richter.** 2007. Review of *Organizational Encounters with Risk* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) Edited by Bridget Hutter and Michael Power. *American Journal of Sociology*. 113(3): 886-888.

GRANTS

2019	New Faculty Research Grant, Rhode Island School of Design, \$1,500
2019	Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation, Professional Development Grant, \$500
2019	Professional Development Grant, Rhode Island School of Design, \$3,150
2018-2019	Leadership Grant, Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation, \$22,000
2018	National Science Foundation Conference Award for “Bridging the Gap: Race and Environment Conference,” American Sociological Association Environmental Sociology Section, Committee on Race and Equity, \$19,000
2018	Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation, Professional Development Grant, \$400
2017	National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Award, \$7,500
2014, 2015 & 2017	Summer Research Grant, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Northeastern University, \$500, \$500, and \$2,000
2014	New World Foundation Grant, “Crowdsourcing Disaster Response in Colorado” with Sara Wylie and Public Lab, \$25,000

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2019	Kendall Fellowship, Union of Concerned Scientists (declined).
2018	Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences Best Student Paper Award.
2018	Department of Sociology & Anthropology “ <i>Outstanding Research Paper Award</i> ,” Northeastern University
2017-2018	Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation Environmental Fellow, \$15,000
2015	Department of Sociology & Anthropology “ <i>Outstanding Public and Applied Research Award</i> ,” Northeastern University
2010	Young Nonprofit Professional Network Career Development Committee “ <i>Volunteer of the Year</i> ,” San Francisco Bay Chapter
2008	Thomas S. Foley Institute Graduate Fellowship, Foley Institute, WSU, \$2,000
2008	Boeing Graduate Fellowship in Environmental Studies, College of Liberal Arts, WSU, 2008, \$2,000
2007	Fred R. Yoder Memorial Graduate Fellowship, Department of Sociology, WSU, \$2,000
2005	American Sociological Association Student Honors Program

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental Justice
Social Movements
Environmental Health
Social Inequality

Environmental Sociology
Community-Based Participatory Research
Sociology of Knowledge and Ignorance
Sociology of Race and Ethnicity

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rhode Island School of Design

Environmental Justice & Injustice, 2019
Social Movements & Backlash, 2019
Environmental Sociology, 2020

University of San Francisco, *Instructor of Record*, San Francisco, CA

Environmental Justice, 2009
Environmental Justice, 2011 (co-taught with Alégria De La Cruz)

OTHER TEACHING AND COMMUNITY FACILITATION EXPERIENCE

- 2019 **New England Grassroots Environment Fund**. Community Responses to Highly Fluorinated Compounds (PFAS). 2019. RootSkills Conference, Brattleboro, VT. With Shaina Kasper.
- 2019 **Local Environmental Action Conference**. PFAS in Food Contact Paper. Worcester, MA. With Maureo Fernández y Mora and Anna Robuck.
- 2018 **College of the Atlantic**, *Workshop Designer and Facilitator*, Bar Harbor, ME
Led campus and community training on facilitating conversations on race.
- 2016-2018 **StirFry Seminars & Consulting**, *Certification in Mindful Facilitation*, Berkeley, CA
Trained in facilitation techniques focused on discussions of race and racism.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2018-2019 **Research Fellow**, *Silent Spring Institute*
Conduct in-depth interviews in communities responding to PFAS contamination on Cape Cod, MA. Provide research translation to impacted communities, and engaged in ongoing private well monitoring in homes on the Cape for the STEEP Superfund Research Program, led by Silent Spring Institute, University of Rhode Island, and Harvard University.
- 2015-2019 **Northeastern University**, *Research Fellow*
Conduct in-depth interviews, participant observation, archival research, and content analysis to investigate the multi-decade social and scientific discovery of per- and polyfluorinated compounds. Supervise undergraduate and graduate student research collaborators in the Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute. Funded by two NSF grants in the STS Program.
- 2016-2018 **Environmental Data and Governance Initiative**, *Interview Research Group*
Collaborator on research initiative monitoring changes to federal regulation, enforcement, research, funding, websites and agency management at the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Member of the “EPA Under Siege” writing group, collective co-authors of EDGI article, “The Environmental Protection Agency in the Early Trump Administration: Prelude to Regulatory Capture.” 2018. *American Journal of Public Health*. 108(S2): S89-S94.
- 2007-2008 **Washington State University**, *Research Assistant for Eugene Rosa*
Conducted literature reviews on nuclear energy and climate change public opinion.

2006-2007 **Washington State University**, *NSF Funded Research Assistant for Gregory Hooks*
Created a spatial dataset in GIS of hazardous waste sites and census data to assess the relationship between hazardous waste sites, race, and class in the rural U.S.

INVITED TALKS & GUEST LECTURES

Engaged Scholarship on Highly Fluorinated Chemicals. 2019. Superfund Research Program, Brown University, Providence.

Strategic Science Production and PFAS Compounds. 2019. Environmental Justice Seminar, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Vermont, Burlington.

Strategic Science Production and Contested Environmental Data. 2019. Liberal Arts Brown Bag Seminar, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence.

Producing Environmental Ignorance: The Case of PFAS. 2019. Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation, Board of Directors Retreat, Boston.

Institutional Failure and Contested Illness in Environmental Justice Communities. 2018. Human Ecology Forum. College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor.

Studying the EPA. 2018. Endangered Data Week. Invited Panelist, Northeastern University, Boston.

Academic Data Security. 2017. Department of Sociology and Social Science and Environmental Health Research Institute, Northeastern University, Boston.

Research Partnerships with Environmental Justice Organizations. 2017. *Environmental Justice* seminar, Northeastern University, Boston.

Long-term Movement Engagement and Making Sense of Failures. Fall 2017. *Environmental Justice and Sustainability* seminar, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Vermont, Burlington.

An Exception or the Rule? Institutional Failure and Contested Illness in Kettleman City, CA. 2017. Public Seminar Series on Race, Justice, & Environment. Department of Earth and Environment, BU.

The Social and Scientific Discovery of PFASs. 2017. Minnesota Department of Health, Saint Paul.

Fundraising Strategies for the Environmental Justice Movement. 2014. Alternatives for Community and Environment, Board of Directors Retreat, Boston.

Assessing the Impact of the 2013 Interagency Breast Cancer and Environment Report. 2014. The Silent Spring Institute Board of Directors, Newton.

DIY Environmental Science Technologies. 2014. California's Unconventional Oil Drilling Debates: Knowledge-Sharing Workshop. University of Southern California, Science and Technology Studies Cluster, Los Angeles. With Sara Wylie.

Social and Environmental Risks in California's San Joaquin Valley. 2013. Presidio Graduate School, Market Failure and the Regulatory Environment Class, San Francisco. With Caroline Farrell and Ingrid Brostrom.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PRESENTATIONS

Conferences/Symposia Organized

- 2019 Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) National Conference. Northeastern University, Boston, MA. Funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.
- 2018 Bridging the Gap: Race and Environment Conference. Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. Funded by the National Science Foundation. With Michael Mascarenhas, Raoul Liévanos, Jennifer Carrera, and Elisabeth Wilder.
- 2017 Highly Fluorinated Compounds – Social and Scientific Discovery. Northeastern University, Boston, MA. Funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.
- 2015 Social Science – Environmental Health Collaborations. Northeastern University, Boston, MA. Funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.
- 2009 Environmental Justice and the Law. University of San Francisco. San Francisco, CA.

Papers Presented

- Virtue, Ignorance, and Environmental Devastation. 2019. Political Ecologies of the Far Right. Lund University, Sweden.
- Strategic Science Production. 2019. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York. With Alissa Cordner and Phil Brown.
- Constructing Ignorance: Environmental Health Data Under the Toxics Substances Control Act. 2018. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.
- Environmental Chemicals and Public Sociology: Engaged Scholarship on Highly Fluorinated Compounds. 2018. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia. With Alissa Cordner and Phil Brown.
- Constructing Insignificance? Critical Race Theory and Institutional Failure in Environmental Justice Communities. 2018. Association for Environmental Studies & Sciences Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- Constructing Insignificance? Critical Race Theory and Institutional Failure in Environmental Justice Communities. 2017. Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Boston.
- Re-Centering the Right: Deploying Whiteness Post-1960. 2017. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal.
- From Community to Courtroom: Litigation and Environmental Justice in the Case of PFAS Contamination. 2017. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal. With Tibrine Da Fonseca, Alissa Cordner, and Phil Brown.
- The Social Discovery of Highly Fluorinated Chemicals. 2017. Highly Fluorinated Chemicals – Social and Scientific Discovery Conference, Boston. With Alissa Cordner.
- Constructing Insignificance? Racial Contract Theory and Institutional Failure in Nonwhite Contaminated Communities. 2017. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Boston.
- Risky Business? Manufacturer, Retailer, and Consumer Campaigns to Reduce Emerging Chemical Exposure. 2016. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle. With Elicia Cousins, Alissa Cordner, and Phil Brown.

The Sticky Science of Non-Stick Chemicals: Forty Years of Research and (In)Action on Fluorinated Compounds. 2016. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle. With Alissa Cordner and Phil Brown.

PFASs Past and Present: PFASs as Re-Emerging Contaminants. 2016. North Atlantic Chapter Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Meeting, Amherst. With Alissa Cordner, Phil Brown, and Nick Chaves.

Working Toward Prevention: Negotiating Paradigms and Models of Change in Environmental Breast Cancer Research. 2015. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago.

Academic-Community Partnerships: An Open Forum on Collaborative Environmental Health Research. 2015. Toxics Action Center Annual Local Environmental Action Conference, Boston. With Elisabeth Wilder.

Contested Data: A Place-Based Account of Two Decades of Citizen Science in California's Southern San Joaquin Valley. 2015. First Annual Citizen Science Conference, San Jose.

Community-Based Environmental Monitoring: An Assessment of the Field in California's San Joaquin Valley. 2014. Society for the Study of Social Problems, San Francisco.

Extending Environmental Inequality Research to the Rural United States. 2009. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco. With Chad L. Smith and Gregory Hooks.

A Quiet Environmental Crisis: The Toxic Legacy of Military Activities. 2007. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York. With Gregory Hooks, Ana Cavanaugh, Shushanik Makaryan and Chad Smith.

Discussant, Chair, or Panel Organizer

Dialogue Session: Racial Capitalism, Designs for Energy Transition, and the Green New Deal. Climate Futures II Symposium. 2019. Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University, Providence.

The Political and Economic Context of PFAS. 2019. PFAS National Conference, Boston.

Inside Looking Out. 2018. Bridging the Gap: Race and Environment Conference, Philadelphia.

Community-Scientist Partnerships: Bridging the Gap Between Communities and Science. 2017. American Association for the Advancement of Science, Boston.

SERVICE

Elected Faculty Representative, *Research Advisory Council*, Rhode Island School of Design (2019-Present)

Founding Member, *Committee on Racial Equity*, American Sociological Association Section on Environmental Sociology (2016-present)

Board of Directors, *Alternatives for Community and Environment*, Roxbury, MA (2013-2017)

Student Editorial Board, *Social Problems* (2016-2017)

Reviewer: *Environmental Sociology*, *Science, Technology & Human Values*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Social Studies of Science*, *New Solutions*, and *Earth and Space Science*.

Advisory Board Member, *Brothers on the Rise*, Oakland, CA (2012-2013)

SKILLS Dedoose, NVivo, STATA, WordPress, and JS Timeline.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Sociological Association (Sections on Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Environmental Sociology; Collective Behavior and Social Movements; and Science, Knowledge and Technology)

Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Association of American Geographers

Society for Social Studies of Science