

LAUREN RICHTER

Rhode Island School of Design
2 College Street
Providence, RI 02903
United States
laurenrichter.com

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2019-present **Assistant Professor**, Department of History, Philosophy + Social Sciences
Rhode Island School of Design
- 2018-2019 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Silent Spring Institute
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Social Science Environmental Health Research
Institute, Northeastern University

EDUCATION

- 2013-2018 **Ph.D., Sociology**, Northeastern University
- Dissertation: “Unseen Science: The Social Re-Discovery of Per- and Polyfluorinated
Compounds”
- Committee: Phil Brown (chair), Steven Vallas, Laura Senier, and Alissa Cordner
- 2006-2008 **M.A., Sociology**, Washington State University
- Thesis: “Patterns of Hazardous Waste in the United States: Analyzing Rural
Environmental Justice with Spatial Data”
- Committee: Gregory Hooks (chair), Eugene Rosa, and Scott Frickel
- 2001-2005 **B.A., Sociology**, Connecticut College (with distinction)
Certificate in Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies

NONACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

In preparation. *Toxic Ignorance*. (expected manuscript completion date August 2021).

Edited Collection:

Race and Environment, Special Collection in *Environmental Sociology*. Co-Edited with Raoul S. Lievanos, Jennifer Carrera, and Elisabeth Wilder. In preparation.

Journal Articles:

Lauren Richter, Alissa Cordner, and Phil Brown. 2020. Producing Ignorance Through Regulatory Structure: The Case of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). *Sociological Perspectives*. (Accepted).

Lauren Richter. 2019. Challenging Dominant Breast Cancer Research Agendas: An Assessment of Stakeholder Perspectives on the Interagency Breast Cancer and Environment Research Coordinating Committee. *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.
2020 International Society of Exposure Science *Award for Best Journal Article of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology*.

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 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:

Eric Nost, Sara Wylie, Chris Sellers, Becky Mansfield, Kelsey Breseman, Gretchen Gehrke, Lourdes Vera, **Lauren Richter**, and EDGI. Environmental Data for the Green New Deal. *Science for the People*.

Articles in Preparation:

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

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

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

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

Jennifer Ohayon, Alissa Cordner, Phil Brown, and **Lauren Richter**. How Scientific Opportunity Structures Shape Social Movement Organizing around Contamination by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.

NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Phil Brown, Alissa Cordner, **Lauren Richter**, David Andrews, and Olga Naidenko. 2020. Mapping the PFAS Contamination Crisis. Environmental Working Group. News and Analysis. Available Online.

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.

Lauren Richter. 2008. Patterns of Hazardous Waste in the United States: Analyzing Rural Environmental Justice with Spatial Data. Unpublished Master's Thesis. Washington State University, Pullman, WA.

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

2020	New Faculty Research Grant, Rhode Island School of Design, \$1,500
2019	Professional Development Grant, Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation, \$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

2020	International Society of Exposure Science “ <i>Award for Best Journal Article</i> ” of <i>Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology</i>
2019	Kendall Fellowship, Union of Concerned Scientists (declined)
2018	Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences “ <i>Best Student Paper Award</i> ”
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
2008	Boeing Graduate Fellowship in Environmental Studies, WSU
2007	Fred R. Yoder Memorial Graduate Fellowship, Department of Sociology, WSU
2005	American Sociological Association Student Honors Program

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Contested Illness	Environmental Sociology
Health Social Movements	Community-Based Participatory Research
Environmental Justice	Sociology of Knowledge and Ignorance
Environmental Health	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity

TEACHING

Rhode Island School of Design

Environmental Justice and Injustice, 2019, 2020
Social Movements and Backlash, 2019, 2020
Environmental Sociology, 2020
Graduate Research Methods, 2021

University of San Francisco, *Instructor of Record*

Environmental Justice, 2009

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

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020 **Decolonial Teaching and Action**, *Participant in Faculty Semester Course*, Rhode Island School of Design, Center for Social Equity and Inclusion, Providence, RI.

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.

2005-2006 **Nova Group**. English Instructor. Iwaki, Japan.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2019-present **Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute**, Northeastern University
Affiliated Faculty Researcher
Conduct qualitative data analysis, archival research, and policy analysis on emerging chemicals of concern. Funded by NSF grant, “New Chemical Class Activism: Mobilization Around Per- and Polyfluoralkyl Substances.

2018-2019 **Silent Spring Institute**, *Research Fellow*
Conduct in-depth interviews in communities responding to PFAS contamination on Cape Cod. Provide research translation to impacted communities, 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.

2018-2019 **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 NSF.

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**, *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

Health Disparities & Covid-19. 2020. Webinar with Intercultural Student Engagement and Student Health Services. Rhode Island School of Design, Providence.

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.
- 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

- How Scientific Opportunity Structures Shape Social Movement Organizing around Contamination by Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. 2020. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (*online due to covid-19*). With Jennifer Ohayon, Alissa Cordner, and Phil Brown.
- Multinational Corporations and the Construction of Virtue. 2020. Corporate Mapping Project Symposium. University of Victoria, Canada. (*conference canceled due to covid-19*).
- 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, NY. With Alissa Cordner and Phil Brown.
- Constructing Ignorance: Environmental Health Data Under the Toxics Substances Control Act. 2018. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Environmental Chemicals and Public Sociology: Engaged Scholarship on Highly Fluorinated Compounds. 2018. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. 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, MA.
- Re-Centering the Right: Deploying Whiteness Post-1960. 2017. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

- From Community to Courtroom: Litigation and Environmental Justice in the Case of PFAS Contamination. 2017. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada. 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, MA. With Alissa Cordner.
- Constructing Insignificance? Racial Contract Theory and Institutional Failure in Nonwhite Contaminated Communities. 2017. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- Risky Business? Manufacturer, Retailer, and Consumer Campaigns to Reduce Emerging Chemical Exposure. 2016. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA. 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, WA. 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, MA. 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, IL.
- Academic-Community Partnerships: An Open Forum on Collaborative Environmental Health Research. 2015. Toxics Action Center Annual Local Environmental Action Conference, Boston, MA. With Elisabeth Wilder.
- 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, CA.
- Extending Environmental Inequality Research to the Rural United States. 2009. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. 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, NY. 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. 2019. Climate Futures II Symposium. Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University, Providence, RI.
- The Political and Economic Context of PFAS. 2019. PFAS National Conference, Boston, MA.
- Inside Looking Out. 2018. Bridging the Gap: Race and Environment Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Community-Scientist Partnerships: Bridging the Gap Between Communities and Science. 2017. American Association for the Advancement of Science, Boston, MA.

Conference Poster Presentations

The PFAS Project. 2020. "From PBB to PFAS: Research and Action to Address Michigan's Large-Scale Chemical Contaminations." University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. With Phil Brown, Alissa Cordner, Jennifer Ohayon, Cole Alder, Kylin Brown, Elicia Cousins, Jessica Roderiguez, Grace Poudrier, Martha Powers, Avery Rosenbloom, Isabel Araceli Ernst Geisler, Sana Chowdhry, Olivia Chignon & Lauren Balsamo.

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, CA.

RECENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2020 National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD), Future Faculty Success Program, Participant in 12-week professional development program.
- 2019 Inclusive Syllabus Workshop. RISD Center for Social Equity and Inclusion, 9/14.
- 2019 Cultural Appropriation Workshop, RISD Center for Social Equity and Inclusion, 10/19.
- 2019 New England Workshop on Race and Ethnicity (NEWER), Research Workshop Participant, Boston University, 11/11.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2020-present Member. *Showing-up for Racial Justice* (SURJ), Rhode Island Chapter. Participant, Summer Accountability Partner Workshop, 8/20. Participant, Summer Dialogue Series, 8/12, 8/19 & 8/26.
- 2019 Workshop Designer and Facilitator, Community Responses to Highly Fluorinated Compounds (PFAS). 2019. RootSkills Conference, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Brattleboro, VT. With Shaina Kasper.
- 2019 Workshop Designer and Facilitator, PFAS in Food Contact Paper. *Local Environmental Action Conference*. Worcester, MA. With Maureo Fernández y Mora and Anna Robuck.
- 2018–2019 Member. *Showing-up for Racial Justice* (SURJ), Boston Chapter.
- 2018 Fellow Interview and Selection Committee. Switzer Environmental Fellows. *Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation*. Boston, MA.
- 2013-2017 Board of Directors, *Alternatives for Community and Environment*, Roxbury, MA.
- 2012-2013 Advisory Board Member, *Brothers on the Rise*, Oakland, CA.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

Rhode Island School of Design

- 2020-present Research Ethics Task Force, *Member*, RISD Research Office

2019-present Elected Faculty Representative, *College Research Advisory Council*, RISD.

2019-present Nature Culture and Sustainability Studies, *Master's Program Advisory Committee*, RISD.

American Sociological Association

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

Reviewer

Environmental Sociology, Ethics, Policy & Environment, Science, Technology & Human Values, Sociological Perspectives, Social Studies of Science, New Solutions, and Earth & Space Science.

2016-2017 *Social Problems*, Student Editorial Board

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Sociological Association

(Sections on Medical Sociology; Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations; Environmental Sociology; Collective Behavior and Social Movements; and Science, Knowledge and Technology)

International Sociological Association

Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Association of American Geographers

Society for Social Studies of Science