

REBECCA GASIOR ALTMAN

Department of Sociology
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EDUCATION

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Ph.D., Sociology, expected 2008

Dissertation: Biomonitoring across the Chemical Life-Cycle: *Bodies* as Evidence and the *Burden* of Proof

Committee: Phil Brown (Chair), Rachel Morello-Frosch, Ann Dill

Comprehensive Exam Areas:

Political Economy of Environmental Health and Justice

Social Context of Health, Illness, and Medicine

Grassroots Leadership and Social Movement Theory

M.A., Sociology, 2004

Thesis: "Biographical Disruption and Local Anti-Toxics Activism"

Committee: Phil Brown (chair), James Mahoney

Bates College, Lewiston, Maine

B.S., Child and Family Studies, African-American Studies (Minor), 1999

Phi Beta Kappa, Magna cum Laude, Thesis Honors

TEACHING INTERESTS

Environment and Society

Introduction to Sociology

Leadership: Sociological Perspectives

Qualitative Research Methods

Medical Sociology

Social Movements

Social Movements and Health

Science, Knowledge, and Social Change

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Chemical and Environmental Policy

Community and Grassroots Organizing

Community-Based Participatory Research

Environmental Inequality and Justice

Health Social Movements

Political Economy of Health and the Environment

Professional Activism to "Green" Health Care

Public Sociology

Science and Social Movements

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Medical Controversies: Social Influences on Health and Illness (Co-taught with Laura Senier), Summer Studies Program, Brown University, July 2006.

Teaching Assistantships

Human Needs and Social Services (Ann Dill, Sociology), Brown University, Spring 2004.

Organizational Theories of the Public and Private Sector (Ann Dill, Sociology), Brown University, Fall 2003.

Introduction to Community Health (Edith Balbach, Community Health), Tufts University, Fall 2001.

Pedagogical Training

Level I Teaching Certificate Program, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University, 2003-2006.

Undergraduate Research Mentor

Department of Sociology, Brown University, Providence, RI, 2005 - 2007.

Provided supplemental mentorship for two undergraduate theses on qualitative research methods, theory-driven coding and analysis, and presentation of research findings.

Community Health Program, Tufts University, Medford, MA, 2000 - 2002.

Served as primary mentor and coordinator of eight undergraduate students on faculty-sponsored research, including content analysis and archival research.

Guest Lecturer

“Institutionalizing Public Sociology and Engaged Research.” Fall 2007. *Public Sociology* (Emily Kane, Sociology), Bates College, Lewiston, Maine.

“Biomonitoring, Body Burden, and Emergent Forms of Science-Based Environmentalism.” Spring 2007. *Environment, Health, and Society* (Sara Shostak, Sociology), Brandeis University.

“Science and Environmental Organizing: Contests, Complexities & Consequences.” Fall 2006. *The Science and Political Economy of Environmental Health and Social Justice* (Rachel Morello-Frosch and Phil Brown), Brown University.

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“The New Ethics for Reporting Personal Environmental and Biological Exposures to Study Participants.” Julia Green Brody, Phil Brown, Ruthann A. Rudel, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Margaret Frye, Cheryl C. Osimo, Carla Perez, and Liesel Seryak. Forthcoming. *The American Journal of Public Health*.

“A Lab of Our Own’: Environmental Causation of Breast Cancer and Challenges to the Dominant Epidemiological Paradigm.” Phil Brown, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer,

Stephen Zavestoski, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Rebecca Gasior Altman, and Laura Senier. 2006. *Science, Technology and Human Values* 31: 499-536.

“Embodied Health Movements: Uncharted Territory in Social Movement Research.” Phil Brown, Stephen Zavestoski, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Rebecca Gasior Altman. 2004. *Sociology of Health and Illness* 26:1-31.

“R.J. Reynolds Targeting of African-Americans.” Edith Balbach, Rebecca Gasior and Elizabeth Barbeau. 2003. *American Journal of Public Health* 93(5): 822-827.

“Tobacco Industry Documents: Comparing the Minnesota Depository and Internet Access.” Edith Balbach, Rebecca Gasior and Elizabeth Barbeau. 2002. *Tobacco Control* 11: 68-72.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“Social Movements in Health: Responses to and Shapers of a Changed Medical World.” Rachel Morello-Frosch, Stephen Zavestoski, Phil Brown, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Sabrina McCormick, and Brian Mayer. 2006. In: *The New Political Sociology of Science: Institutions, Networks, and Power*. Kelly Moore and Scott Frickel, eds. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.

“Embodied Health Movement and Challenges to the Dominant Epidemiological Paradigm.” Stephen Zavestoski, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Phil Brown, Brian Mayer, Sabrina McCormick, and Rebecca Gasior Altman. 2004. In: *Authority in Contention*. Daniel J. Myers and Daniel M. Cress, eds. Boston: Elsevier.

BOOK REVIEWS

“Street Science: Community Knowledge and Environmental Health Justice.” Phil Brown and Rebecca Gasior Altman. 2007. *International Journal of Epidemiology*.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW OR IN PROGRESS

“Pollution Comes Home and Gets Personal: Cape Cod Women’s Experiences of Household Toxic Exposure.” Rebecca Gasior Altman, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Green Brody, Ruthann Rudel, Phil Brown, and Mara Averick. [Under review, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*].

“IRB Challenges in Multi-Partner Community-Based Participatory Research.” Phil Brown, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Green Brody, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Ruthann A. Rudel, Laura Senier, and Carla Pérez. [Under review, *Hastings Center Report*.]

“The Right to Know, the Right to Act, and the Right Not-to-Know: Ethical and Scientific Dilemmas of Reporting Data in Biomonitoring Research.” Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Green Brody, Margaret Frye, Phil Brown, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Ruthann A. Rudel, and Carla Perez. [Manuscript in progress.]

“Health Care Without Harm: Rethinking Iatrogenesis.” Rebecca Gasior Altman. [Manuscript in progress.]

“Sustained Participation in Social Movements: The Significance of Transformative Events in Communities and Families.” Rebecca Gasior Altman. [Manuscript in progress.]

NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

“Using an Annotated Bibliography to Enter a Research Topic.” *Forthcoming*. Rebecca Gasior Altman and Laura Senier. Handbook for Teaching Medical Sociology, American Sociological Association.

“Ethnography as Extractive Enterprise?” 2007. Environment, Technology and Society: Newsletter of the Environment and Technology Section, American Sociological Association.

“Research and Action for Environmental Health and Environmental Justice: A Report on the Brown University Contested Illnesses Research Group.” Laura Senier, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Phil Brown. 2006. Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section Newsletter, American Sociological Association.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Pollution Comes Home and Gets Personal: Women’s Experience of Household Toxic Exposure.” Rebecca Gasior Altman, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Brody, Ruthann A. Rudel, Phil Brown, and Mara Averick. 2007. *The American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, New York*.

“Right-to-Know, the Right-to-Act, and the Right Not-to-Know: Ethical and Scientific Dilemmas of Reporting Data in Biomonitoring and Environmental Exposure Studies.” Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Brody, Margaret Frye, Phil Brown, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Ruthann Rudel, and AJ Napolis. 2006. *The American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Montreal*.

“Environmental Justice and Breast Cancer Advocacy: Household Exposure to Endocrine Disrupting Compounds.” Julia G. Brody, Ruthann A. Rudel, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Phil Brown, AJ Napolis, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Cheryl Osimo, Carla Perez, Liesel Seryak, Allan Just. 2006. *The American Public Health Association Meetings, Boston*.

“Health Care Without Harm: An Alternate Framing of Iatrogenesis.” Rebecca Gasior Altman. 2005. *The American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Philadelphia*.

“Siblingship, Co-Residence & Adult Disability: An Exploratory Family Analysis.” Rebecca Gasior Altman and Maryhelen D’Ottavi. 2005. *The American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Philadelphia*.

“Biographical Disruption among Anti-Toxics Activists.” Rebecca Gasior Altman. 2004. *The American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, San Francisco*.

“Embodied Health Movements: Responses to a “Scientized” World.” Rachel Morello-Frosch, Stephen M. Zavestoski, Phil Brown, Brian Mayer, Sabrina McCormick, and Rebecca Gasior Altman. *American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, San Francisco*.

“Science, Knowledge, and Environmental Causation of Breast Cancer.” Phil Brown, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Stephen Zavestoski, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Rebecca Gasior, Pamela Webster. 2003. *The American Public Health Association Annual Meetings*.

“Embodied Health Movements: A New Conceptual Framework for Social Movements Research.” Phil Brown, Steve Zavestoski, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Rebecca Gasior. 2003. *American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta*.

“Tobacco Industry Targeting of African Americans.” Edith Balbach, Rebecca Gasior and Elizabeth Barbeau. 2001. *The National Tobacco Control Conference, New Orleans*.

INVITED TALKS

“Pollution Comes Home and Gets Personal: Women’s Experience of Household Toxic Exposure.” Rebecca Gasior Altman, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Brody, Ruthann A. Rudel, Phil Brown, and Mara Averick. Invited for presentation at *the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences Environmental Justice: Partnerships for Communication Grantee Conference*, December 2007, Boston, MA.

“Research in Communities, With Communities: Case Studies Linking Research and Action in Science and Technology Studies.” 2007. Rachel Morello-Frosch, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Laura Senier, and Phil Brown. *Knowing in Action: Where’s STS? Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Montreal*.

“The Boston Consensus Conference on Biomonitoring: Lay Input on Surveillance, Communication and Ethics.” Jessica Nelson, Madeleine Kangsen Scammell, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Thomas F. Webster, Leslie Kagan, Beverly Prestwood-Taylor, Karen Nell Smith, and David Ozonoff. 2007. *Chemical Bodies: Biomonitoring, Body Burden and The Uncertain Threat of Endocrine Disruptors. Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia*.

“Disrupting Privilege: Inequality, Community, and Social Change.” 2007. Bates College, Lewiston, Maine.

“Teaching Public Sociologies: Professional Development and Public Sociology.” 2005. *The American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Philadelphia*

“Public Sociology Meets Community-Based Participatory Research.” Rebecca Gasior Altman and Phil Brown. 2004. *Department of Sociology, Brown University*.

“Emerging Collaborations between Breast Cancer Activism and Environmental Justice Activism.” Phil Brown, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Rebecca Gasior Altman. 2004. *Science, Environment and Technology Conference, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*.

“Creating a Digital Collection to Manage Tobacco Industry Documents.” 2001. *The International Digital Library Annual Conference, Tufts University, Medford, MA*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Brown University, Providence, RI

“Linking Environmental Justice and Breast Cancer Activism,” 2004 – 2007.

A community-based participatory and interdisciplinary collaborative with the Silent Spring Institute (Newton, MA) and Communities for a Better Environment (Oakland, CA). Examined common household exposures to endocrine-disrupting compounds and rights-based communication of personal exposure information.

“Contested Illnesses” Research Working Group, 2002 – present.

An interdisciplinary working group. Substantive focus on health social movements, environmental health science, regional environmental health and justice advocacy, and public disputes over illness etiology and treatment. Research uses qualitative, multi-sited ethnographic, and engaged and/or community-based participatory approaches to research.

“Ethics of Community-Based Research Collaborations between Professional Researchers and Communities Exposed to Environmental Hazards,” Summer 2002. Conducted literature review and synthesis of divergent literatures.

Research Coordinator, Community Health Program, Tufts University, Medford, MA

“Tobacco Industry Targeting of Low-Income Populations,” Edith Balbach, 2000-2002.

Conducted and provided undergraduate training in archival research on tobacco industry documents and content analyses of tobacco industry advertisements in popular magazines.

“Tufts Alcohol Study,” Edith Balbach and Charlene Galarneau, June 2000. Coded focus group recordings for analysis of campus-wide perspectives on alcohol consumption.

Research Consultant, Tufts University and Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA

“Tobacco Industry and Organized Labor,” Edith Balbach and Elizabeth Barbeau, 2000 - 2002. Conducted archival research on tobacco industry documents and labor union newspapers; assisted with preparation of federal grant application.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Invited Participant, Wildbranch Writing Workshop with Dr. Sandra Steingraber, Sterling College, Vermont, June 2007.

Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School, Brown University, 2006 - 2007

Louise Johnson Scholar Graduate Student Paper Award for “Health Care Without Harm: An Alternative Framing of Iatrogenesis,” Medical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association, 2005.

Marvin E. Olsen Graduate Student Paper Award for “Biographical Disruption among Anti-Toxics Activists,” Section on Environment and Technology, American Sociological Association, 2004.

Alden Speare, Jr. Memorial Graduate Thesis Award, Department of Sociology, Brown University, 2004.

Dean’s Fellowship, Graduate School, Brown University, 2002 - 2003.

All-America Scholar Athlete, National Fast-Pitch Softball Coaches Association, Spring 1999.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

American Sociological Association

Elected Graduate Student Representative, The Section on Environment and Technology of the American Sociological Association, 2006 - present.

Graduate Student Representative, American Sociological Association Task Force on Institutionalizing Public Sociology, 2004 - 2006.

Louise Johnson Scholar Selection Committee Member, Medical Sociology Section, The American Sociological Association, June 2006.

Co-organized Roundtable Paper Sessions, Environment and Technology Section, American Sociological Association, 2003 - 2004.

Campus and Departmental Service

Graduate Student Liaison, the Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University, 2004 - 2006.

Co-Organizer, Colloquium Series on Public Sociology, Brown University, 2004 - 2005.

Graduate Student Representative, Department of Sociology, Brown University, 2003 - 2004.

Conference Organizing

Conference Co-Coordinator, "Research Ethics in Environmental and Public Health," Brown University, May - June 2003.

Conference Coordinator, "Research Ethics Workshop: Preparing for Research in the Community," Harvard School of Public Health, September 2002.

Journal Referee

Journal of Health Communication, 2004 - present.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Reports and Newsletters

"Reproductive Health and Environmental Exposures: A Primer for Health Care Providers." A literature review prepared for Alaska Community Action on Toxics and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Alaska. 2007. (Peer-reviewed).

"The Experience of First-Time Grassroots Leadership in the Environmental Health Movement." A research-report prepared for Toxics Action Center, Boston, Massachusetts." 2006.

Project Consulting

"Alaska Community Action on Toxics and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Alaska TeleSeminar Series," Anchorage, AK, Fall 2006 - present.

"Massachusetts Pollution in People Project," The Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, January 2007 - present.

“Measuring Chemicals in People: Boston Consensus Conference on Biomonitoring”—A Lay Panel Weighs in on Policy-Relevant Science,” Boston University, Boston, Fall 2006.

“Breast Cancer, The Environment, and Communities of Color Forum,” We Act for Environmental Justice, New York City, October 2004.

“Breast Cancer, Justice, and the Environment Forum,” Brown University, March 2006.

“Breast Cancer and the Environment— Truth and Consequences Conference,” Hurricane Voices, Boston, March 2005

“Providence Environmental Justice Educational Forum,” Providence, RI, November 2004.

Workshops Offered

“Balancing Family and Local Campaigns.” *Toxics Action Center Environmental Leadership Conference, Boston, March 2005.*

“Personal Change and Becoming Activist: Exploring the Personal Experience and Historical Context of Local Grassroots Leadership.” *Toxics Action Center Environmental Leadership Conference, Boston, March 2004.*

“Social Supports for First-Time Grassroots Leaders,” Staff Training Workshop, Toxics Action Center, Boston, MA, August 2004.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association, 2002 - present.

Section Memberships:
Environment & Technology
Medical Sociology

Science, Knowledge & Technology
Social Movements & Collective Behavior
Teaching Sociology

Campus-Community Partnerships for Health, 2004 - present.

Collaborative on Health and the Environment, 2004 - present.

Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Alaska, 2005 - present.

REFERENCES

Dr. Phil Brown
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Dr. Rachel Morello-Frosch
Associate Professor
Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management and The School of Public Health
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(ph) 510.643.6358

Dr. Ann Dill
Professor of Sociology
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Director, Community Health Program
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