

BRIAN MAYER

Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
University of Florida
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EDUCATION

Brown University

Ph.D. in Sociology, 2006

Dissertation: "Blue and Green Shades of Health: The Social Construction of Health Risks in the Environmental and Labor Movements."

Committee: Phil Brown (Chair), Rachel Morello-Frosch, Patrick Heller

Comprehensive Exam Areas: Environmental Sociology, Medical Sociology and Social Movement Theory

M.A. in Sociology, 2002

Masters' Thesis: "The Precautionary Principle Movement: Collective Framing and Common Sense in Environmental Policy."

University of California at Santa Cruz

B.A. in Environmental Studies and Politics, 1999

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Environmental Sociology, Medical Sociology, Social Movements, Science and Technology Studies, Qualitative Methods, Spatial Relations in Health and Illness

AWARDS AND HONORS

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Nomination for Faculty Teaching Award for 2006-2007.

Joukowsky Family Foundation Outstanding Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences, Graduate School, Brown University. 2006.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Activity Fund Project, Environmental Leadership Program, 2005-2006.

Title: "Fostering Blue/Green Leadership in Massachusetts."

National Science Foundation Research Grant, 2004-2006.

Program: Social Dimensions of Engineering, Science, and Technology, Ethics and Values Studies.

Title: “Blue and Green Shades of Health: The Social Construction of Health Risks in the Labor and Environmental Movements.”

Environmental Leadership Program Fellowship, 2005 - 2006.

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2004-2005.
Program: Sociology.

Summer Travel Grant, Brown University Graduate School, 2005.

Keen Dissertation Fellowship, Brown University Graduate School, 2004-2005.

Summer Travel Grant, Brown University Graduate School, 2003.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Qualitative Methods Consultant

Family Consequences of Child Disability Project, Brown University. 2005

- Creation of codes, transcribing, and coding of interviews with parents of disabled children for key themes using QSR NVivo.
- Analysis of qualitative data to supplement demographic research on childhood disability.

Research Assistant

Regional Equity Project, Center for Environmental Studies, Brown University, Summer 2003.

- Literature review of regional equity issues in relation to economic growth and environmental quality.

Contested Illnesses Working Group. Brown University, 2000-2005.

- Ethnographic research on social and political contestation of three environmental health issues: breast cancer, asthma, and Gulf War-related illnesses.
- Interviews, participant observations, archival research, media analyses.
- Collaboration with diverse team members, including undergraduates, graduate students, Brown faculty from multiple departments, and outside researchers.

Social Exclusion, Inequality, and Health Project, Brown University, Summer 2002.

- Spatial analysis of social inequality in New York City using GIS.
- Generated database of health measures, poverty, and ethnicity from multiple sources for spatial analysis.

Demography of Child Disability Project, Brown University, Summer 2001.

- Quantitative analysis of childhood disability data using SAS, SPSS, and SUDAAN.
- Generation of cross-tabs and OLS regressions using NHIS, 1997-1999.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Illness & Environment. Department of Sociology, University of Florida, Fall 2006 & Spring 2007.

Social Movements. Department of Sociology, University of Florida, Spring 2007

Teaching Assistant

Perspectives on Social Interaction: An Introduction to Social Psychology, Department of Sociology, Brown University, Fall 2003.

Environmental Health and Policy, Department of BioMed-Community Health and the Center for Environmental Studies, Brown University, Fall 2002.

Invited Guest Lecturer

Environmental Justice: The Science and Political Economy of Environmental Health and Social Justice, Brown University. "Blue-Green Coalitions: Building Alliances between the Labor and Environmental Movements." Spring 2004 & Spring 2005.

Environmental Health and Policy, Brown University. "The Precautionary Principle and Public Health Policy." Fall 2003 & Fall 2004.

Environment and Society, Brown University. "Asthma and the Politicized Illness Experience." Spring 2003 & Fall 2005.

Pedagogical Training

Sheridan Center Teaching Certificate. Brown University. In progress.

- Developed reflective teaching practice to improve classroom style and teach to different learning styles.
- Improve syllabi design and approach to course assignments.

REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

"School Custodians and Green Cleaners: New Approaches to Labor-Environmental Coalitions." In press. Laura Senier, Brian Mayer, Phil Brown, and Rachel Morello-Frosch. Organization and Environment.

"A Lab of Our Own": Environmental Causation of Breast Cancer and Challenges to the Dominant Epidemiological Paradigm." 2006. Phil Brown, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Stephen Zvestoski, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Rebecca Altman, and Laura Senier. *Science, Technology & Human Values* 31(5): 499-536.

"Clearing the Air and Breathing Freely: The Health Politics of Pollution and Asthma." Brown, Phil, Brian Mayer, Stephen Zvestoski, Theo Luebke, Joshua Mandelbaum, and Sabrina McCormick. 2004. *International Journal of Health Services* 34(1):39-63.

- “Patient Activism and the Struggle for Diagnosis: Gulf War Related Illness and Other Medically Unexplained Physical Symptoms in the US.” Zavestoski, Stephen, Phil Brown, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Maryhelen D’Ottavi, and Jaime Lucove. 2004. *Social Science and Medicine* 58 (1): 161-176.
- “Embodied Health Movements: Uncharted Territory in Social Movement Research.” Brown, Phil, Stephen Zavestoski, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Rebecca Gasior-Altman. 2004. *Sociology of Health and Illness* 26(1): 50-81.
- “The Health Politics of Asthma: Environmental Justice and Collective Illness Experience in the United States.” Brown, Phil, Brian Mayer, Stephen Zavestoski, Theo Luebke, Joshua Mandelbaum, and Sabrina McCormick. 2003. *Social Science & Medicine* 57(3): 453-465.
- “Science, Policy, Activism, and War: Defining the Health of Gulf War Veterans.” Zavestoski, Stephen, Phil Brown, Meadow Linder, Brian Mayer, and Sabrina McCormick. 2002. *Science, Technology, and Human Values* 7:171-205.
- “Moving Further Upstream: From Toxics Reduction to the Precautionary Principle.” Mayer, Brian, Phil Brown, and Meadow Linder. 2002. *Public Health Reports* 117(6): 574-86.
- “Policy Outcomes for Contested Environmental Diseases.” Brown, Phil, Brian Mayer, Stephen Zavestoski, Sabrina McCormick, and Pamela Webster. 2002. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 584:175-202.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- “The Health Politics of Asthma: Environmental Justice and Collective Illness Experience.” Brown, Phil, Brian Mayer, Stephen Zavestoski, Theo Luebke, Joshua Mandelbaum and Sabrina McCormick. 2005. In David Pellow and Robert Brulle (eds.), *Power, Justice, and the Environment: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement*. Cambridge, MIT Press.
- “Social Movements in Health: Responses to and Shapers of a Changed Medical World.” Brown, Phil, Stephen Zavestoski, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Rebecca Gasior. 2005. In Kelley Moore and Scott Frickel (eds.), *The New Political Sociology of Science*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- “Health Social Movements and the Challenge to the Dominant Epidemiological Paradigm.” Zavestoski, Stephen, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Phil Brown, Brian Mayer, Sabrina McCormick, Rebecca Gasior-Altman. 2004. In Daniel Myers and Daniel Cress (eds.), *Authority in Contention: Research in Social Movements, Conflict and Change Vol. 25*. Oxford: Elsevier JAI
- “Cleaning the Air and Breathing Freely: The Health Politics of Air Pollution and Asthma.” Brown, Phil, Stephen Zavestoski, Theo Luebke, Joshua Mandelbaum,

Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer. 2004. In Melanie Dupuis (ed.), *Smoke and Mirrors: Air Pollution in a Social Context*. New York: NY University Press.

“Chemicals and Casualties: The Search for Causes of Gulf War Illnesses.” Brown, Phil, Stephen Zavestoski, Meadow Linder, Sabrina McCormick, and Brian Mayer. 2003. In Monica Casper (ed.), *Synthetic Planet: Chemical Politics and the Hazards of Modern Life*. New York: Routledge.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

“Blue and Green Shades of Health: Bridging the Labor-Environmental Divide using the Precautionary Principle” Brian Mayer. *Under Review at Sociological Inquiry*.

“Constructing a Frame Pyramid in a Cross-Movement Coalition: New Jersey’s Labor-Environmental Alliance. Brian Mayer and Phil Brown. *Under Review at Social Forces*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Constructing a Frame Pyramid in a Cross-Movement Coalition: New Jersey’s Labor-Environmental Alliance.” 2005. Mayer, Brian and Phil Brown. *American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia*.

“Blue and Green Shades of Health: The Framing of Precaution.” 2004 (August). Mayer, Brian. *American Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco*.

“Health Social Movements and Contested Illnesses.” 2003. Brown, Phil, Brian Mayer, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Rebecca Gasior, Sabrina McCormick and Stephen Zavestoski. *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference, Atlanta*.

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

“Cleaning the Air and Breathing Freely: The Health Politics of Air Pollution and Asthma.” 2003. Brown, Phil, Stephen Zavestoski, Theo Luebke, Josh Mandelbaum, Sabrina McCormick, and Brian Mayer. *American Society for Environmental History, Providence*.

“Policy Issues in Environmental Health Disputes.” 2002. Brown, Phil, Stephen Zavestoski, Brian Mayer, Sabrina McCormick, and Pamela Webster. *American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Chicago*.

“Science, Knowledge, and Environmental Causation of Breast Cancer.” 2002. Brown, Phil, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, and Stephen Zavestoski. *American Sociological Association Annual Conference*.

“Illness Experience and Patient Activism: Gulf War Related Illness and Other Medically Unexplained Physical Symptoms.” 2002. Stephen Zavestoski, Phil Brown, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Maryhelen D’Ottavi, and Jaime Lucove. *American Sociological Association Annual Conference*.

- “Health Social Movements: Uncharted Territory in Social Movement Research.” 2002. Brown, Phil, Stephen Zavestoski, Sabrina McCormick, and Brian Mayer. *Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section of the American Sociological Association Mini-Conference*.
- “Something in the Air: Citizen-Science Alliances and the Dispute Over Environmental Factors in Asthma.” 2001. Brown, Phil, Steve Zavestoski, Theo Luebke, Josh Mandelbaum, Sabrina McCormick, and Brian Mayer. *Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Conference*.
- “Gulf War Illnesses: Toxics, Stress, and Other Approaches To Mysterious Ailments.” 2001. Brown, Phil, Steve Zavestoski, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Theo Luebke, Josh Mandelbaum, and Meadow Linder. *American Public Health Association Annual Conference*.
- “The Politics of Asthma Suffering: Environmental Justice and the Social Movement Transformation of Illness Experience.” 2001. Brown, Phil, Steve Zavestoski, Theo Luebke, Josh Mandelbaum, Sabrina McCormick, and Brian Mayer. *American Sociological Association Annual Conference*.
- “Moving Further Upstream: Toxics Use Reduction Institute and the Precautionary Principle.” 2001. Brown, Phil, Brian Mayer, and Meadow Linder. *American Sociological Association Annual Conference*.
- “Gendered Bodies and Disease: Breast Cancer Activists’ Challenges to Science, the Biomedical Model, and Policy.” 2001. Zavestoski, Steve, Phil Brown, Sabrina McCormick, and Brian Mayer. *International Sociological Association Annual Conference*.

NONREFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- “Boston Public Schools Green Cleaners Project: Pilot Program Assessment”
Report to Massachusetts Committee on Occupational Safety and Health and
Boston Urban Asthma Coalition.
- “Linking Environmental Justice, Health, and the Workplace.” 2005. *Environmental Leadership News* (Fall).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Sociological Association:
Environment and Technology Section
Medical Sociology Section
Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section
- Society for the Social Study of Science

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Nominee for Faculty Senate. University of Florida. 2007.

Guest Discussant in Dr. Leonard Beeghley's Graduate Proseminar. 2006.

Panel Participant. "Succeeding on the Job Market for Sociology Graduate Students."
2006.

Graduate Teaching Evaluator. 2006.

Board Member, Toward Tomorrow. 2006-present.

Labor Advisory Board Member, Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow. 2004 – present.

Conference Coordinator. Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, "Building Labor-
Environmental Relations in Massachusetts, A Two-Day Workshop." planned for
Spring, 2006.

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

Conference Organizer. Brown University, "Research Ethics and Environmental Justice."
Summer, 2003.

Survey Consultant. Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, "Household Pesticide Use and
Attitudes towards Safer Alternatives." Spring, 2004.

Labor Advisory Board Member, Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow. 2004 – present.

Conference Coordinator. Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, "Building Labor-
Environmental Relations in Massachusetts, A Two-Day Workshop." planned for
Spring, 2006.