

**JORDAN FOX BESEK**  
*Curriculum vitae*

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Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology  
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**PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

- 2017 - Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University at Buffalo, SUNY
- 2017 - 2021 Affiliated Faculty, RENEW (Research and Education in eNergy, Environment and Water) Institute, University at Buffalo, SUNY

**EDUCATION**

- 2017 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Oregon
- 2012 M.A., Geography, University at Buffalo, SUNY
- 2006 B.A., *alpha sigma nu*, Journalism, Fordham University

**SCHOLARLY INTERESTS**

Environmental Sociology; Political Ecology; History and Philosophy of Ecology; Theory.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Refereed Journal Articles**

- Forthcoming Shtob, Dan, and Jordan Fox Besek. "Environmental Precedent and Environmental Sociology: Integrating Law and the Study of Socio-Environmental Interactions." *Sociological Forum*.
- 2021 Besek, Jordan Fox, Patrick Greiner, and Brett Clark. "W.E.B. Du Bois and Interdisciplinarity: A Comprehensive Understanding the Scholar's Approach to Natural Science." *Journal of Classical Sociology* 21(2): 144-164.
- 2021 Besek, Jordan Fox. "On the Interactive Nature of Place-Making: Modifying Growth Machine Theory to Capture the Spatial and Temporal Connections that Spawned the Asian Carp Invasion." *The Sociological Quarterly* 62(1): 121-142.

- 2021 Yin, Dameng, Le Wang, Zhenduo Zhu, Susan Spierre Clark, Ying Cao, Jordan Besek and Ning Dai. "Water Quality Related to Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and cropland areas: Evidence from Multi-Temporal Remote Sensing." *International Journal of Applied Earth Observations and Geoinformation* 96 (102272).
- 2020 Besek, Jordan Fox, Erin Robinson and Avery Rosenbloom. "Critical Environmental Justice Studies Through the Veil." *Environmental Justice* 13(3): 86-90.
- 2020 Besek, Jordan Fox and Jeanine Cunningham. "On the Environmental Embeddedness of Redneck Identity and Politics: The Original Redneck Fishin' Tournament and Invasive Species in a Rural Community." *Sociologia Ruralis* 60(2): 394-413.
- 2020 Greiner, Patrick, Daniel Shtob and Jordan Fox Besek. "Is Urbanization Good for the Climate?: A Cross-County Analysis of Impervious Surface, Affluence, and The Carbon Intensity of Well Being." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 6.
- 2019 Besek, Jordan Fox. "Invasive Uncertainties: Environmental Change and the Politics of Limited Science." *Environmental Sociology* 5(4): 416-427. (Runner-up for the 2020 Environmental Sociology Early Career Prize).
- 2019 Besek, Jordan Fox and Daniel Shtob. "Breaking the Divide: Setting Environmental Precedent in the Chicago River." *Law & Policy* 41(4): 387-410.
- 2019 Besek, Jordan Fox and Richard York. "Towards a Sociology of Biodiversity Loss." *Social Currents* 6(3): 239-254.
- 2019 York, Richard and Jordan Fox Besek. "Social Evolution and Environmental Context: Explanative Pluralism and Potentiality." *Sociological Inquiry* 89 (2): 317-338.
- 2015 Besek, Jordan Fox. "Neoliberal Niagara? The Political History of Fish Consumption Advisories in New York State." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 33(2): 281-295. (Recipient of the 2015 Graduate Student Publication Award, Department of Sociology, University of Oregon).
- 2015 McGee, Julius Alexander; Matthew Thomas Clement and Jordan Fox Besek. "The Impacts of Technology: A Reevaluation of the STIRPAT model." *Environmental Sociology* 1(2): 81-91.
- 2014 Besek, Jordan Fox and Julius Alexander McGee. "Introducing the Ecological Explosion: A Cross-National Analysis of Invasive Species and Economic Development." *International Journal of Sociology* 44(1): 75-93.

### Popular Work

- 2020 Besek, Jordan Fox. "W.E.B. Du Bois embraced science to fight racism as editor of NAACP's magazine The Crisis." *The Conversation*. [Link](#).

- 2019 Besek, Jordan Fox. "A Sociological Approach to Global Biodiversity Loss." Commentary for the environmental news website *Mongabay*. [Link](#).

### **Book Review**

- Forthcoming Besek, Jordan Fox. "Building a Vision of the Good Life. A review of Kate Soper's 'Post-Growth Living: For an Alternative Hedonism.'" *Monthly Review*
- 2014 Besek, Jordan Fox. "Review of Elizabeth Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*." *Human Ecology Review* 20 (2): 185-188.

### **Encyclopedia Entry**

- 2017 Besek, Jordan Fox. "Invasive Species." *Humans and Animals: A Geography of CoExistence*. Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio.

### **Manuscripts in Submission**

- R&R Porcelli, Apollonya and Jordan Fox Besek. "Sub-disciplining Science in Sociology: Bridges and Barriers Between the STS and Environmental Sociology."

### **Technical Report**

- 2016 Spacapan, Molly; Jordan Fox Besek and Greg G. Sass. "Perceived Influence and Response of River Users to Invasive Bighead and Silver Carp in the Illinois River." *Illinois Natural History Survey Technical Report INHS* (2).

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2021-2022 UB Faculty Research Grant
- 2020-2021 Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship, SUNY at Buffalo
- 2014-17 General University Scholarship, University of Oregon.
- 2016 Wasby-Johnson Dissertation Award, Department of Sociology, University of Oregon.
- 2015 Research Award for Data Collection and Presentation, University of Oregon. (Shared with Jeanine Cunningham.)
- 2015 Graduate Student Publication Award, Department of Sociology, University of Oregon.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Invited Talks**

- 2021 Presenter. "W.E.B. Du Bois And Interdisciplinarity: How Du Bois Fused Natural Science into His Political Projects." Humanities Institute Scholars @ Hallwalls speaker series.
- 2019 Presenter (with Daniel Shtob). "Breaking the Divide: Environmental Precedent in the Chicago River." Center for Environmental Futures, University of Oregon.

### **Conference Activity/Participation**

- 2019 Presenter. "Rural Refractions of Ecological Instability: A View from the Original Redneck Fishin' Tournament." Sustainability: Transdisciplinary Theory, Practice and Action Conference, University of Toronto, Mississauga.
- 2019 Presenter. "On the Politics of Limited Science." American Sociological Association annual meeting, New York, NY.
- 2019 Presenter. "The Connected Nature of Landscape Transformation: A Case Study of Asian Carp." International Association of Landscape Ecology World Congress, Milan, Italy.
- 2018 Presenter. "What Can Flying Fish Teach Us About Social History? On the Historical Interplay of the Social and the Biophysical." American Sociological Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 Panel Organizer (with JP Sapinski). "Paradigm Shift? Catton and Dunlap's Call for an Environmental Sociology 40 Years On." RC24 International Sociological Association Pre-Conference, Toronto, ON.
- 2018 Presenter. "On the Logics of Social and Biophysical Change: From the Asian Carp Invasion to the Reversal of the Chicago River." RC24 International Sociological Association Conference, Toronto, ON.
- 2018 Panel Organizer (with Irus Braverman). "Wet Ecologies: Politics, Science, and Water in the Anthropocene." Society for Human Ecology Annual Conference, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2018 Presenter. "Flying Fish and Mechanismic Explanation: Bringing Social Science and Biology Together on Shared Ground." Society for Human Ecology Annual Conference, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2017 Presenter (with Jeanine Cunningham). "You Get It Taken Away, You Strike Back: Responding to the Presence of Invasive Species." American Sociological Association annual meeting, Montreal, QC.
- 2016 Presenter. "On the Relationship Between Social Contexts and Biophysical Contexts." American Sociological Association annual meeting, Seattle, WA.
- 2016 Panel Organizer. "Bridges and Barriers Between the Social and Ecological Sciences." Society for Human Ecology annual meeting, Santa Ana, CA.

*(Recipient of the “Best Conference Session Organized by a Student” Award)*

- 2015      Presenter. “Away from a Theory of Biodiversity Loss: Seeing the Biodiversity Loss Crisis in Concert with Social History.” American Sociological Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2015      Presenter. “Confronting the Complexity of Life: How to think about Biodiversity from A Sociological Perspective.” Pacific Sociological Association annual meeting, Long Beach, CA.
- 2015      Discussant. Undergraduate roundtable session “Environmental Sociology.” Pacific Sociological Association annual meeting, Long Beach, CA.
- 2015      Presider. Panel session “The Global Food & Agriculture System versus Local Identity.” Pacific Sociological Association annual meeting, Long Beach, CA.
- 2014      Presenter. “Latent Ecologies: The Connections Between Invasive Species, Habitat Destruction and Social Processes.” American Sociological Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2014      Presenter. “The Trouble with Fish: Examining the Political History of Fish Consumption Advisories in New York State.” American Sociological Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2014      Presenter. “Reworking Nature: Analyzing the Social Drivers of Invasive Species.” Pacific Sociological Association annual meeting, Portland, OR.
- 2013      Presenter. “From Resource to Hazard: A Critical Human Ecology of the Asian Carp Invasion.” American Sociological Association annual meeting, New York, NY.
- 2013      Presenter. “Neoliberal Niagara? The Neoliberalization of Fish Consumption Advisories for the Upper Niagara River.” American Association of Geographers annual meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2012      Presenter. “Post-Industrial Marginalization Among Subsistence Anglers in Buffalo, New York.” American Association of Geographers annual meeting, New York, NY.
- 2011      Co-Presider (with Miriam Katz). “Economy, Environment, and Crisis.” North East Regional Space-Time Conference, Toronto, ONT.

**Campus/Departmental Talks**

- 2021      Presenter. “Ungoverned Ecologies: Environmental Precedent in the Great Lakes.” Guest colloquium at the SUNY at Buffalo Geography Department.
- 2019      Presenter. “Flying Fish, Environmental DNA, and the Politics of Limited Science.” Guest presentation to the Humanities Institute Science Studies Workshop.

- 2016            Presenter. “Examining Biodiversity Loss on a Social Scale: From Context to Structure.” Guest Presentation to the University of Oregon Human/Animal Research Interest Group.
- 2016            Presenter. “The Sociology of Environmental Change: A Multi-Scalar Exploration of the Asian Carp Invasion.” Colloquium presentation to the University of Oregon Department of Sociology.
- 2015            Presenter. “Undoing the Richness of Life: Baselines for Interrogating the Social Processes that lead to Biodiversity loss.” Panel Presentation to the University of Oregon Interdisciplinary Discussion Group.
- 2014            Presenter. “On the Banality of Environmental Inequality.” Guest Presentation to the University of Oregon Human/Animal Research Interest Group.
- 2014            Co-presenter (with Julius McGee). “The Dialectic of Invasion: Putting Invasive Species Events into Socio-Historical Global Context.” Included in the University of Oregon Symposium on Animal Vulnerability.
- 2014            Presenter. “Conserving Marginalization: Interrogating Environmental Inequalities at the Nexus of Neoliberalism, the Conservation Movement and Fish Consumption Advisories.” Colloquium presentation to the University of Oregon Department of Sociology.
- 2014            Panel Moderator. “Wake Up Before Its Too Late, GMO’s Don’t Feed the World, Small and Organic Farmers Do: Oregon Perspectives.” Included in the University of Oregon Public Interest Law Conference.
- 2013            Panelist. “The Emancipated City: A discussion with Carolyn Steele about her book “Hungry City: How food Shapes our Lives”. Included in HOPES19: A Conference for Collaborative Futures.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Courses Taught: SUNY at Buffalo**

#### *Graduate*

Classical Social Theory  
 Contemporary Social Theory  
 Sociology of Science  
 Environmental Sociology

#### *Undergraduate*

Social Change  
 Cinematic Sociology  
 Organizational Sociology

### **Courses Taught: University of Oregon**

American Society  
 Complex Organizations  
 Animals and Society  
 Development of Sociological Theory

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

### **Editorial Board Member**

2021-Present Human Ecology Review  
 2021-Present Social Currents

### **Reviewer**

*Theory and Society; Ecological Economics; Environment and Planning D: Society and Space; Environmental Sociology; Ethics, Policy, and Environment; Human Ecology Review; International Journal of Comparative Sociology, Sociological Perspectives; Sociological Inquiry; Research in Political Economy; International Sociology; Sociologia Ruralis; Social Currents; Environmental Justice; Poetics; The Sociological Quarterly; Sociology of Development; Sociological Forum; Law & Policy.*

### **Professional Associations**

2012-Present American Sociological Association  
 Section Memberships: *Environmental Sociology; Science, Knowledge and Technology; Animals and Society; Marxist Sociology; Theory; Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations.*

2013-Present Society for Human Ecology

2011-2013 American Association of Geographers

### **Elected Officer Positions**

2020-2023 American Sociological Association  
*Council Member; Animals and Society Section*

2020-2022 American Sociological Association  
*Nominations Committee Chair; Environmental Sociology Section*

2016-2018 American Sociological Association  
*Graduate Student Representative; Environment and Technology Section*

## **SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY**

### **Research Workshop Leadership**

2020-Present Co-Coordinator (with David Herzberg, SUNY Buffalo History); SUNY Buffalo Humanities Institute Science Studies research workshop

### **Dissertation Committees Served**

2020-Present Elías Plata Espino, Department of Anthropology

2017-Present Miranda Workman, Department of Sociology

2017-Present Michael Cimasi, Department of Sociology

### **Departmental Committees Served**

2020-2021 BA Revision Committee, Department of Environment and Sustainability

2018-Present Grievance Pool Mediator, Department of Sociology

2017-Present Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Sociology

### **University Wide Committees Served**

2017-2021 RENEW Freshwater Coastal Ecosystems focus area member

2017-2021 RENEW Sustainable Urban Ecosystems focus area member

### **Internal Publications**

2017 “Writing the Dissertation: Fitting Notes into a Broader Scaffold” *Writing Through Series*, The Graduate School and Center for Excellence in Writing