

JENNIFER LEIGH LAWRENCE

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Post-Doctoral Research Associate | The Global Forum on Urban & Regional Resilience | Virginia Tech

Current research projects center on the political economy of socio-environmental disasters as well as reconceptualizations of environmental disaster that account for self-legitimizing cycles of disaster production and response. Collaborative projects progress a Critical Theory of resilience including investigations into socio-economic practices and processes of accumulation by dispossession.

Education

2015 | PhD in Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought | Virginia Tech

Dissertation Title: "Governing Nature, Sustaining Degradation: An Ecogovernmental Critique of the Deepwater Horizon Disaster"

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Timothy W. Luke (Chair); Dr. Francois Debrix (co-Chair); Dr. Ann Laberge; Dr. Bruce Hull

My dissertation project articulates a critical reconceptualization of environmental risk, and investigates the contradictory, and often criminal, connections between environmental degradation, regulatory capture, and the commodification of natural resources. Moreover, the project highlights occluded dynamics of poor technical and managerial decision-making in the events surrounding the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and situates these technical and managerial strategies as regular features of disaster management. I argue that the environmental disasters of our modern time are normal, and therefore unavoidable, outcomes of an oil dependent global economy. As such, my research explores how eco-governmental discourses normalize environmental disaster on at least two levels. On the first level, these practices can be understood as strategies that return the environment to its pre-disaster state of normality and production. But, on a second level, these eco-governmental discourses also contribute to the longer, chronic, disaster of climate change. This project is a part of a larger research agenda, which specifically assesses the increasing regularity, and scope, of environmental disasters that are embedded in the brittle complex of technologies and governance techniques used in unconventional oil extraction.

2007 | MSc in International Political Economy | London School of Economics and Political Science

Thesis Title: "Institutions and the Resource Curse: A Comparative Analysis"

2004 | BA in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations | Christopher Newport University

Cum Laude; CNU Honor's Program; CNU Honor's Council; Pi Sigma Alpha

Publications

Manuscripts

"Governing Nature, Sustaining Degradation: An Eco-Governmental Critique of the Deepwater Horizon Disaster" *under review*.

Edited Volumes

"Biopolitical Disaster" *accepted for publication*. Routledge (Interventions). Co-editor: Dr. Sarah Wiebe (University of Victoria).

"The Resilience Machine" *under review*. Routledge. Co-editors: Drs. Paul Knox (Virginia Tech), Jim Bohland (Virginia Tech), and Simin Davoudi (Newcastle University).

Journal Articles

- “Resilience Narratives: Global Worldviews Underpinning the Resilience Concept” *in development*. Co-authored with Drs. Jim Bohland and Peter Rogers (Macquarie University).
- “Analyzing Disaster Recovery Using Data Analytics” *in development*. Co-authored with Dr. Jim Bohland and Rupinder Paul.
- “Resilience for Social Justice: Understanding the Evolution of Resilience Discourse with Bibliometrics.” Co-authored with Dr. Jim Bohland, Natsuko Nichols, Vera Smirnova, and Michal Linder.
- “The Human Toll of Illegal Logging” *in development* for Transnational Environmental Law.
- “Critical Perspectives in Post-Crisis Resilience” workshop report *in development*.
- “Seeing Gender in the Tar Sands: Toward a Convergence of Biopolitics and Eco-Feminism” *in development* for Discard Studies. Co-authored with Dr. Emily Ray (Sonoma State University).
- “(Un)Inhabitable: Contradictory Representations and Realities of Climate Migration” *in development*.

Book Chapters

- 2016 | “Eco-Centrism” *in preparation for* The Encyclopedia of Social Theory.
- 2016 | “Manufactured Risk as Biopolitical Disaster” *in preparation for* “Biopolitical Disaster” edited volume.
- 2016 | “The Anatomy of the Resilience Machine” *in preparation for* “The Resilience Machine” edited volume. Co-authored with Drs. Paul Knox, James Bohland, and Simin Davoudi.
- 2015 | “Environmental Movements” *accepted for* The Encyclopedia of Social Theory.

Book Reviews

- 2016 | “A Contribution to the Contemporary Critique of Capitalism” by Raju Das *in preparation for* **Human Geography**
- 2015 | “Globalization and the Environment” by Peter Christoff and Robyn Eckersley *published in* [Global Environmental Politics](#)
- 2015 | “Cultures and Crises: Understanding Risk and Resolution” by Mary Douglas *published in* [Emotion, Space, Society](#)
- 2013 | “Private Empire: Exxon Mobile and American Power” *published in* [New Political Science](#)
- 2012 | “Security and Environmental Change” by Simon Dalby *published in* [SPECTRA: The ASPECT Journal](#)
- 2011 | “The Environmental Politics of Sacrifice” by Michael Maniates and John Mayer *published in* **Public Knowledge Journal**

Grant Activity

- 2016 | “Resilience Perspectives in a Culture of Fear” \$18,000 *awarded by* the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (\$8,000) and Northern Virginia Briefing Center (\$10,000) at Virginia Tech. Co-PIs Dr. Jim Bohland and Dr. Mark Orr.
- 2016 | “(In)Visible (In)Justice: Environmentalism and the Digital Humanities” *in preparation for* National Endowment for the Humanities. Digital Humanities Discover Grant \$30,000.
- 2015 | “Governing for Progressive Resilience: Exploring New Values for Environmental Policy and Planning” *under review with* The Toyota Foundation. PI-Dr. Jim Bohland. Declined.
- 2015 | “Global Event Trend Archive Research” *under review with* National Science Foundation. PI-Dr. Edward Fox. Total Requested: \$446,000.

Professional Experience

2015-present | Adjunct Professor | Virginia Tech Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability

Job Description: Preparation, teaching, and grading of graduate level/executive courses in natural resource management.

2010-2015 | Graduate Teaching Assistant | Virginia Tech Department of Political Science

Job Description: Preparation, teaching, and grading of undergraduate courses in political science and urban affairs.

2008-2010 | Chief of Staff | The Foundation on Economic Trends

Job Description: Liaison between The Foundation on Economic Trends and Members of European Parliament, European Commission, heads of state, Fortune 500 companies, and media outlets on environmental issues such as climate change, sustainable development, and alternative energy.

2008-2010 | International Development Consultant | Les IDI (Ingénieurs de Développement International)

Job Description: Responsible for assisting in the development of a strategic plan for the implementation of the GOEG 2020 initiative (Development Goals for Equatorial Guinea) in which the country's oil wealth will be used for the overall development of the country.

2008 | International Development Fellow | Alexius International

Job Description: Responsible for developing and implementing a Program Management Plan for the World Bank's PRONACOM initiative for Guatemala.

2007-2008 | Public Outreach Specialist | Al-Nasher Technical Services & Advertising Agency, Inc.

Job Description: Responsible for composing, editing, and presenting findings of 2007 USAID/Jordan 'Fruits of Partnership' comparative qualitative and quantitative surveys to USAID officials in Amman and Washington, DC.

2006-2007 | Research Assistant | UK Parliament- House of Commons

Job Description: Worked alongside Right Honourable Harriet Harman (Labour) to address constituent inquiries from Camberwell and Peckham.

2005-2006 | Executive Assistant | US Congress- House of Representatives

Job Description: Logistics and liaison between Congresswoman Drake and constituents of Virginia's 2nd Congressional District; Researched and analyzed legislative issues dealing with international relations; i.e., humanitarian issues, trafficking in persons; the Darfur crisis, debt relief, poverty, HIV/AIDS, and international development.

2004-2005 | Research Analyst | The National Defense University Joint Forces Staff College

Job Description: Responsible for researching and reporting on 43 areas in the Pan Sahel region for the Theater Strategic Estimate as a part of the Joint Advanced War-fighting School (JAWS) curriculum. This specific area is now under the US Africa Command (USAFRICOM).

Conference and Panel Convening

2016 | The Resilience Machine

- Workshop Co-Convener

2016 | Resilience Perspectives in a Culture of Fear

- Workshop Co-Convener

2016 | Western Political Science Association

Panel Convened: "Critical Theory and the Environment" for Environmental Political Theory Section

2015 | International Symposium for Next Generation Infrastructure

- Conference Co-Organizer

2015 | Western Political Science Association

Panel Convened: "Toxic Body Politic" for Environmental Political Theory Section

2014 | Western Political Science Association

Panel Convened: "Biopolitical Disaster I & II" for Environmental Political Theory Section

Conference Presentations

2016 | Western Political Science Association

Paper Title: "Myth, Morality, and Mass Deception: Climate Change as the Disaster Triumphant"

2016 | International Studies Association

Paper Title: "Energy Tomorrow: Some Contradictions in the Geopolitics of Unconventional Oil Development"

2015 | International Herbert Marcuse Society Conference

Paper Title: "In Order Not to Die From the Truth: Disaster, Art, Resistance"

2015 | The American Political Science Association

Paper Title: "Uninhabitable: Representations and Realities of Resilience"

2015 | The American Association of Geographers

Paper Title: "Regulation, Reconstitution, and Routinization: The Biopolitics of Environmental Disaster"

2015 | The Western Political Science Association

Paper Title: "Exploited Bodies, Endangered Territories, Extracted Resources: Theorizing the Biopolitical Violence of Hydrofracking on Native American Women"

Paper Title: "Aesthetic Eco-Resistance: A Response to the Perverse Relationship Between Democracy and Oil"

2015 | The ASPECT Conference

Paper Title: "Aesthetic Eco-Resistance: Art Imitating Life in the Aftermath of Deepwater Horizon"

2014 | The Global Forum on Urban and Regional Resilience

Paper Title: "Eco-Resistance as Eco-Resilience"

2014 | American Political Science Association

Paper Title: "Fetishizing Efficiency, Constructing Disaster: An Ecogovernmental Critique of Oil Spill Governance"

2014 | The Western Political Science Association

Paper Title: "Environmental Disaster as Manufactured Risk and the Practice of Biopolitics"

2014 | The ASPECT Conference

Paper Title: "Governing Nature, Sustaining Degradation: Toward a Normalization of Environmental Disaster"

2013 | Policy Studies Organization—The DuPont Summit

Paper Title: "(De)Visualizing Disaster: Eco-strategies Rendering the Gulf Oil Spill Invisible"

2013 | International Herbert Marcuse Society Conference

Paper Title: "Technological Rationality and the Normal Accident: A Critical Analysis of the Deepwater Horizon Disaster"

2013 | European Consortium for Political Research—Environmental Politics and Policy Summer School

Paper Title: "Was Deepwater Horizon a Normal Accident?"

2013 | The ASPECT Conference

Paper Title: "Modernity as a Form of Violence on the Environment"

2013 | International Studies Association

Paper Title: "Modernity as a Form of Violence on the Environment: The Case of Deepwater Horizon"

2013 | The Western Political Science Association

Paper Title: "Technological Rationality and the Normal Accident: The Case of Deepwater Horizon"

2012 | Dimensions of Political Ecology

Paper Title: "A Political Ecology Challenge to the Resource Curse"

2012 | The Western Political Science Association

Paper Title: "The Resource Curse: Casting Reasonable Doubt on Accepted Knowledge"

2011 | Ecological Inequalities & Interventions: Contemporary Environmental Practices (Cultural Studies Conference)

Paper Title: "The Resource Curse as a *Fait Accompli*?"

2010 | The Art of Problem Driven Theorizing: Global Environmental Politics Workshop

Selected to attend PhD workshop on "Writing Dissertations that Engage the World"

Teaching

2016 | Transboundary Resource Management (Co-Taught with Dr. Courtney Kimmel)

Course Description: Boundaries are all around us and many times offer a sense of comfort because they help define separation, distinction, ownership, sovereignty. Boundaries also define rights, responsibility, and accountability on a number of levels--individual, local, regional, national and international. Although boundary-markers intend to effectively delineate territory, they are often problematically informed, and can create political, cultural, economic, and even environmental divisions. Amongst the issues that might be understood from the lens of boundaries, boundary-making, and boundary contestation are: global markets; state power; transnational communication and transportation systems; logistics and supply systems; resource royalties; and increasingly sophisticated and complicated international and transnational legal structures. The complex materialization of boundaries not only blur traditional lines that have been relied upon to guide political, economic, and environmental decision-making but also demand new strategies for negotiating across an array of complex factors. What is especially difficult about boundaries is that they are ultimately human constructions; boundaries do not amount to more than what people and society assign to them--and this is why they are so often contested. Transboundary Resource Management is thus a social problem that requires understanding cultural, social, geographic, and political context, rather than an oversimplified and instrumentalist logic of resource management. Institutional arrangements within policy, law, markets, and even social norms are essential if we are to understand the essence of transboundary resource management. In this course, we will be exploring the variants of boundaries, resources that evade boundaries, the challenges managing these resources pose, and strategies that have proven promising (or not) for managing resources that evade boundaries in this changing age. While not your traditional definition of a course on 'transboundary resource management,' this course is sure to challenge your thinking and better prepare you to think critically and creatively as we navigate the difficulties of the anthropocene.

2015 | Environmental Ethics

Course Description: This course offers a critical examination of the ethical dimension of major environmental issues and assesses the embedded social, economic, and cultural constructs that shape both the causes and consequences of environmental problems. Environmental problems are incredibly complex, in moral as well as in economic, political, and biological terms; however there is often a desire to oversimplify both the roots of current environmental crises as well as the possible responses. The course contextualizes this tension by assessing environmental problems such as, but not limited to, overconsumption, pollution, resource conflicts, carrying capacity, food production, climate change, and environmental disaster through a philosophical lens. A special emphasis on responsibility and accountability will be used as a framework for analysis, asking questions about responsibility to future generations, human/non-human relationships, as well the impact of particular worldviews on the possibility for creating an environmentally sustainable and secure future.

2012-2015 | Global Environmental Issues

Course Description: This course offers a critical examination of the complexity of major global environmental problems. Issues such as global warming, deforestation, toxic waste, population growth, food production, and resource dependency will be addressed. A special emphasis on the interconnectedness of social, economic, political, ethical, and policy implications of environmental issues will serve as the framework for analysis of these global environmental issues.

2013 | Urban Politics

Course Description: This course offers a survey of the basic concepts of urban politics, governmental structures, policy processes, and political conflicts in U.S. cities. It undertakes a critical examination of the complexity of urban problems, and

also touches on the international scope of these issues. The course assesses options for coping with urban problems. Interdisciplinary topics such as sex trafficking, gentrification, transportation, inequality, and urban decay will be addressed. A special emphasis on the interconnectedness of social, economic, political, ethical, policy, and environmental implications will serve as the framework for analysis of these subjects.

2013 | The Promises and Perils of Unconventional Oil

Course Description: This is an undergraduate independent study research project. Environmental disasters associated with unconventional forms of mineral extraction such as deepwater drilling, hydraulic fracturing of oil shale, and strip mining of tar sands have become the predominant product of industrial society. This research surveys the emergent unconventional oil industry in the Middle East. Specifically, the project will look at the major controversies and policies that are present in the Middle East with regard to this topic. Case study research may be employed to carry out the project.

2011-2012 | International Relations Theory

Course Description: This course presents international relations as political theory. It considers how questions of culture, power, conflict, cooperation, society and economy are situated within the modern world. We explore particular problems in contemporary world politics and international political economy through the cinematic works associated with *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction*. These films broadly reflect the concerns of a variety of theoretical approaches, including realism, idealism, constructivism, feminism, liberalism, Marxism, and poststructuralism, among others.

2011 | International Organizations and International Law

Course Description: This course builds upon the theoretical foundations covered in International Relations Theory. Moving from this theoretical framework, we will concentrate on the broad concept of governance and its application through international organizations and law. Governance refers to the systems and methods in which authorities exercise control and manage society. Understanding the ways in which authority and power are distributed, and the mechanisms put in place for governing societies are important for any study of international relations or political science. While the study of national types of governance is important, international governance is increasingly important in a today's world. Over the course of the 20th century, international modes of governance, such as organizations, treaties, pacts, etc. have become more influential to global politics. Furthermore, through the analysis of global governance, we will see the interplay of IR theoretical innovation as it pertains specially to how we approach and understand the structures and dynamics of order that operate in the world today.

Invited Lectures

2016 | Guest Lecture for Charity and Philanthropy Course in Urban and Regional Planning at Virginia Tech
"Commodifying Disaster"

2016 | Guest Lecture for Global Governance Course in School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech
"Rationalities of Resilience"

2015 | Guest Lecture for Senior Seminar in Political Science
"Exploitation and Extraction: Human Trafficking in Sites of Natural Resource Development"

2014 | The Global Forum on Urban & Regional Resilience
"Commodification and Normalization of Environmental Disaster"

2014 | ASPECT on Geopolitics
"The Geopolitics of Carbon"

2014 | Guest Lecture in Virginia Tech Department of Landscape Architecture
"Discourses of Environmental Disaster"

2014 | Rotary Club of Bluefield, Virginia
"In Search of Responsibility: Assessing our Relationship to Natural Resources"

2013 | Language and Culture Institute of Virginia Tech

“Environmental Justice: Pollution, Poverty, and People of Color”

2013 | ASPECT Professional Development Course

“Preparing the Dissertation Proposal”

2013 | Language and Culture Institute of Virginia Tech

“Addressing the Complexities of Modern Day Slavery”

2012 | Human Rights in the Global Market Course

“Shadow Economies: Trafficking in Persons”

2012 | Guest Lecture for International Law Course

“The Myth of Globalization”

“International Law & Politics”

“Economic Structuralism”

2012 | Guest Lecture for International Political Economy Course

“Multilateralism and Global Governance: Economic Diplomacy”

2012 | Guest Lecture for Environmental Politics Course

“Responding to the Resource Curse”

Professional Service

2016 | Discussant for ASPECT Conference panel on “Ecologies of Crisis”

2015~ | Richard Cloward and Frances Fox Piven Award Committee for APSA Section on New Political Science

2015 | Workshop, Conference, and Seminar Organizer for the Global Forum on Urban and Regional Resilience

2015 | Thriving in Graduate School Table Host for BGSO Welcome Dinner

2015; 2013 | Organizer for Environmental Political Theory Workshop at the Western Political Science Association

2014~ | American Political Science Association Program Chair for Green Politics and Theory Group; Steering Committee for 2015 Meeting

2014~ | Reviewer for *Environment and Planning A*

2014~ | External International Studies Program Reviewer for Ferrum College

2014 | Discussant for ASPECT and Political Science Special Working Paper Session featuring Michael Lipscomb

2013; 2014 | Graduate Assistant for Summer Research Internship with Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program

2013~ | Associate Editor for *Journal of Integrated Environmental Sciences*

2013~ | Reviewer for *Environmental Politics Journal*

2013~ | Editor-in-Chief for *Public Knowledge Journal*

2013 | Panelist for Open Access Week Panel on Open Access Journals at Newman Library, Virginia Tech

2013 | Interview of Dr. Brent Steele (University of Utah) and Dr. Harry Gould (Florida International University) as part of the 2013 ASPECT on Geopolitics event; published in *SPECTRA: The ASPECT Journal* Volume 3, Issue 1

2013 | Panelist for The Virginia Network Conference on Women in Higher Education

2012 | Editor-in-Chief for *SPECTRA: The ASPECT Journal*

2012 | Technology Assistant for *Center for Digital Discourse and Communication* at Virginia Tech; Environmental Political Theory Website Management

2011; 2012 | Committee to Select Graduate Representative for Board of Visitors at Virginia Tech

2011-2012 | Journal Manager for *Public Knowledge Journal*

2011-2012 | Steering Committee for TEDxVirginiaTech: Knowing

2011 | Research Assistant for Political Science Department at Virginia Tech

2010-2011 | Associate Articles Editor for *Public Knowledge Journal*

Languages

Spanish – *Proficient*

- Superior Level in Spanish Language and Literature from Universidad de Alicante, Spain

Arabic – *Intermediate*

- Certificate from American University of Beirut; and University of Jordan

French – *Intermediate*

Professional Association Memberships

Western Political Science Association

Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society

International Studies Association

American Political Science Association

American Association of Geographers

References

Timothy W. Luke

University Distinguished Professor of Political Science

Chair, Department of Political Science

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François Debrix

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Professor, Department of Political Science

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Ann Laberge

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Bruce Hull

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Website: http://frec.vt.edu/people/faculty/faculty_folder/hull.html