

LAURA A. BRAY

Curriculum Vitae

University of Oklahoma
Center for Applied Social Research
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EDUCATION

PhD in Sociology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, 2021

MS in Sociology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, 2015

BA in Sociology and Political Science, Austin College, Sherman, Texas, 2009

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND EXPERIENCE

2022-present Research Scientist, Center for Applied Social Research, University of Oklahoma

2022-present Affiliate Faculty, Department of Sociology, University of Oklahoma

2021 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for Applied Social Research, University of Oklahoma

2018-2021 Project Manager, College of Natural Resources, NC State University

2017-2021 Instructor of Record, Department of Sociology, NC State University

2014-2017 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, NC State University

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Environmental Sociology

Rural Sociology

Social Movements

Environmental Justice

Health and wellbeing

Disasters and Hazards

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed publications

Forth. **Bray, Laura A.** “Water Justice Across the Rural-Urban Interface: The Making of Hydrosocial Territories in New Mexico’s Rio Grande Valley.” *Society & Natural Resources*. doi: [10.1080/08941920.2022.2032893](https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2022.2032893).

Forth. **Bray, Laura A.,** Olivia Porter, and Andrew Kim, and Lori L. Jervis. “Collective Health Behaviors and Face Mask Utilization During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Oklahoma, USA.” *Journal of Public Health*.

- Forth. **Bray, Laura A.**, Nicholas J. Membrez-Weiler, and Thomas E. Shriver. “Agrochemical Exposure and Environmental Illness: Legal Repression of Latin American Banana Workers.” *The Sociological Quarterly*. doi: [10.1080/00380253.2020.1841585](https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2020.1841585).
- Forth. Shriver, Thomas E., **Laura A. Bray**, Annika Wilcox, and Adriana M. Szabo. “Human Rights and Dissent in Hybrid Environments: The Impact of Shifting Rights Regimes.” *The Sociological Quarterly*. doi: [10.1080/00380253.2021.1909444](https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2021.1909444).
- 2021 **Bray, Laura A.** “Settler Colonialism and Rural Environmental Injustice: Water Inequality on the Navajo Nation.” *Rural Sociology* 86(3): 586-610, special issue on “Race, Ethnicity, and Rurality in the United States.” doi: [10.1111/ruso.12366](https://doi.org/10.1111/ruso.12366).
- 2020 Adams, Alison E., Thomas E. Shriver, **Laura A. Bray** and Chris Messer. “Petrochemical Pollution and the Suppression of Environmental Protest.” *Sociological Inquiry* 90(3):646-68. doi: [10.1111/soin.12321](https://doi.org/10.1111/soin.12321).
- 2020 Shriver, Thomas E., Adriana Szabo, and **Laura A. Bray**. “Opportunity and Threat behind the Iron Curtain: The Failed Diffusion of Human Rights Activism in Romania.” *International Sociology* 35(6):739-57. doi: [10.1177/0268580920928925](https://doi.org/10.1177/0268580920928925).
- 2020 Shriver, Thomas E., Annika Wilcox, and **Laura A. Bray**. “Elite Cultural Work and Discursive Obstruction of Human Rights Activism.” *Social Currents* 7(1):11-28. doi: [10.1177/2329496519870554](https://doi.org/10.1177/2329496519870554).
- 2019 **Bray, Laura A.**, Thomas E. Shriver, and Alison E. Adams. “Framing Authoritarian Legitimacy: Elite Cohesion in the Aftermath of Popular Rebellion.” *Social Movement Studies* 18(6):682-701. doi: [10.1080/14742837.2019.1597698](https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2019.1597698).
- 2019 **Bray, Laura A.**, Thomas E. Shriver, and Alison E. Adams. “Mobilizing Grievances in an Authoritarian Setting: Threat and Emotion in the 1953 Plzeň Uprising.” *Sociological Perspectives* 62(1):77-95. doi: [10.1177/0731121418791771](https://doi.org/10.1177/0731121418791771).
- 2019 Shriver, Thomas E., Alison E. Adams, and **Laura A. Bray**. “Political Power and Manufacturing Consent: The Case of the 1953 Plzeň Protest.” *The Sociological Quarterly* 60(1):26-45. doi: [10.1080/00380253.2018.1526046](https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2018.1526046).
- 2018 Shriver, Thomas E., **Laura A. Bray**, and Alison E. Adams. “Legal Repression of Protesters: The Case of Worker Revolt in Czechoslovakia.” *Mobilization* 23(3):307-28. doi: [10.17813/1086-671X-23-3-307](https://doi.org/10.17813/1086-671X-23-3-307).
- 2017 **Bray, Laura A.** “Media and ‘Undone Science’ in West Virginia’s Elk River Chemical Spill.” *Environmental Sociology* 3(4):359-69. doi: [10.1080/23251042.2017.1324241](https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2017.1324241).

Manuscripts in review and preparation

Jervis, Lori L., **Laura A. Bray**, Derrell W. Cox II, Gloria Tallbull, Bryce C. Lowery, Paul Spicer. “Availability of Healthy Food, Alcohol, and Tobacco in a Rural Tribal Community” (under review).

Vilá, Olivia, **Laura A. Bray**, Bethany B. Cutts, Gracie Hornsby, Angela Harris, Hannah Goins, Nathan McMenamin, Taleek Harlee, Angela Allen, Sallie McLean, Margaret Crites. “Shifting Terrains: Soils and Environmental Health Perception Following Floods” (under review).

Vilá, Olivia, Bethany B. Cutts, **Laura A. Bray**, Margaret Crites. “Community Recognition through Ethical Research Practices: Environmental Justice in Long-term Disaster Recovery” (under review).

“Saving Southern Dogs: Recognition and Rural Justice in the Animal Welfare Movement,” with Lori Jervis and Kayla Jackson (in preparation).

“Mental Healthcare in Rural Oklahoma Primary Care Settings,” with Lori Jervis and Jack R. Friedman (in preparation).

“US Chemical Weapons Disposal Program: A Comparative Study of Community Activism and Acquiesce,” with Thomas Shriver, Alison Adams, Landen Longest, Brittany V. Gaustad Shantz (in preparation)

“Organizing Environmental Inequality: Indigenous Marginalization in Western Water Politics” (in preparation).

Reports and other publications

- 2021 Video: Between a River and a Swamp: “All That Water’s Gotta Go Somewhere.” Project BRIDGE, NC State University (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGip4nQIOy4>)
- 2020 **Bray, Laura A.**, Olivia Vilá, Bethany B. Cutts, David Lowry, Margaret Crites, Hannah Goins, Sallie McLean, Nathan McMenamin, Mac Legerton, and Angela Harris. “Promoting Environmental Justice through Participatory Disaster Research: Hurricane Recovery in Robeson County, North Carolina.” *Carolina Planning Journal* 45:48-57. (https://issuu.com/carolinaplanningjournal/docs/cpj_45_hazardsinsoutheasternus)
- 2019 Vilá, Olivia, **Laura Bray**, Bethany Cutts, Angela Harris, and Gracie Hornsby. *Citizen Science in the Post-Disaster Context*. Quick Response Report. Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center (<https://hazards.colorado.edu/quick-response-report/environmental-risk-and-recovery>)

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2020 North Carolina Sea Grant, Mini Grant (\$10,000). “Planning nature-based flood mitigation strategies through participatory videos.” PI: Bethany Cutts.
- 2019 Foundation for the Carolinas, Hurricane Florence Response Grant Program (\$40,000). “Robeson County – 100 soils tests near flooded homes.” Bethany Cutts (PI), Olivia Vilá, **Laura Bray**, David Lowry, and Angela Harris.
- 2018 Rural Sociological Society, Dissertation Research Award Grant (\$1,405). “Dividing the San Juan: Water Inequality in the Southwest.”

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2020 Graduate Student Mentor Award, Sociology Graduate Student Association, NC State University
- 2017 Lead Peer Mentoring Collaborative, NC State University. \$1,000.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited presentations

- 2022 “Resourcing Resilience: A Deliberative Documentary on Long-Term Disaster Recovery in Robeson County,” with Bethany Cutts, Olivia Vilá, and Tira Beckham. UNCP Social Justice Symposium, UNC Pembroke, Pembroke, NC (Feb 9).
- 2021 “Exploring the Sociocultural Life of the Banana,” Fairtrade Fortnight 2021, panel organized by the Sustainable Development Society, University of St. Andrews, Scotland (Mar 5). Invited panelist.
- 2021 “Water Justice in the US,” Social Justice Ministry, Grace First Presbyterian Church, Weatherford, TX (Apr 13). Invited speaker.

Conference participation

- 2022 “Saving Southern Dogs: Recognition and Rural Justice in the Animal Welfare Movement,” with Lori Jervis and Kayla Jackson. To be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Westminster, CO (Aug 4-7).
- 2022 “Precarious Ties and Geographic Othering in Animal Transport Rescue Networks,” with Lori Jervis and Kayla Jackson. To be presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Anthrozoology, Boise, ID (Jul 7-9).
- 2021 “Settler Colonialism and Rural Environmental Injustice: Water Inequality on the Navajo Nation.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Session on Race, Ethnicity, and 21st Century Rural Sociological Imaginings (Jul 31).
- 2020 “Racial Projects and Rural Environmental Injustice: Water Inequality on the Navajo Nation.” Accepted for the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society (Aug 6–9), Westminster, CO. [Meeting cancelled due to COVID-19]
- 2020 “Pesticide Exposure and Transnational Legal Mobilization of Farmworkers,” with Nicholas Membrez-Weiler and Thomas Shriver. Accepted for the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society (Aug 6–9), Westminster, CO. [Meeting cancelled due to COVID-19]
- 2019 “Environmental Justice and Disaster Recovery: The Role of Citizen Science and Fecal Indicator Bacteria,” with Gracie Hornsby, Olivia Vilá, Angela Harris, and Bethany Cutts. Presented at UNC Water and Health Conference (Oct 7–11), Chapel Hill, NC. Poster.
- 2019 “Agrochemical Exposure and Environmental (In)justice: Legal Repression of Latin American Banana Workers,” with Nicholas Membrez-Weiler and Thomas Shriver. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (Aug 10–13), New York.

- 2019 “Environmental Risk and Recovery: Citizen Science in the Post-Disaster Context,” with Olivia Vilá, Bethany Cutts, Angela Harris, and Gracie Hornsby. Presented at the 44th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop (Jul 14–17), Broomfield, CO.
- 2019 “Water Conflicts and Rural Environmental Justice.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (Apr 10–13), Atlanta, GA.
- 2019 “Elite Cultural Work and Discursive Obstruction of Human Rights Activism,” with Thomas Shriver and Annika Wilcox. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (Apr 10–13), Atlanta, GA.
- 2019 “Repression and Dissent behind the Iron Curtain: Human Rights Activism in Romania,” with Thomas Shriver and Adriana Szabo. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (Apr 10–13), Atlanta, GA.
- 2019 “Water Conflicts and Rural Environmental Justice.” Presented at the Food and Environment Brownbag Series, NC State University (Apr 4), Raleigh, NC.
- 2019 “Post-Disaster Environmental Risk: Insight Gained from Citizen Science Participation,” with Olivia Vilá, Bethany Cutts, Angela Harris, and Gracie Hornsby. Presented at the RISING NC Exhibit (Mar 28), Raleigh, NC. Poster.
- 2019 “Citizen Science in the Post-Disaster Context,” with Olivia Vilá, Bethany Cutts, Angela Harris, and Gracie Hornsby. Presented at the Citizen Science Association Conference (Mar 13–17), Raleigh, NC.
- 2019 “Environmental Recovery: Citizen Science in the Post-Disaster Context,” with Olivia Vilá, Bethany Cutts, Angela Harris, and Gracie Hornsby. Presented at the 6th Latin American Student Association Research Symposium, NC State University (Feb 15), Raleigh, NC. Poster.
- 2019 “Agrochemical Exposure and Environmental (In)justice: Legal Repression of Latin American Banana Workers,” with Nicholas Membrez-Weiler and Thomas Shriver. Presented at the Culture and Politics Workshop, University of North Carolina (Feb 15), Chapel Hill, NC.
- 2018 “Authoritarian Legitimacy and Elite Cohesion.” with Thomas Shriver and Alison Adams. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (Apr 4–7), New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 “Discursive Obstruction and the Vilification of Grassroots Environmental Activists,” with Alison Adams and Thomas Shriver. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (Mar 29–Apr 1), Greenville, SC.
- 2017 “Mobilizing Grievances in an Authoritarian Setting: Threat and Emotional Liberation in the 1953 Plzeň Uprising,” with Thomas Shriver and Alison Adams. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (Mar 29–Apr 1), Greenville, SC.
- 2017 “Media, Lay Knowledge and ‘Undone Science’ in the Elk River Chemical Spill.” Laura Bray. Presented at the North Carolina Sociological Association (Feb 17), High Point, NC.

- 2016 “Elite Framing and the Vilification of Dissent in Authoritarian Settings,” with Thomas Shriver and Alison Adams. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (Aug 20–23), Seattle, WA.
- 2016 “Agrochemical Exposure Abroad: The Cultural Dynamics of Transnational Tort Litigation.” Laura Bray. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (Apr 13–16), Atlanta, GA.
- 2016 “State Official Frames and the Vilification of Dissent.” Thomas E. Shriver, Alison E. Adams, and Laura Bray. “Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (Apr 13–16), Atlanta, GA.
- 2015 “Media Risk Framing in the Elk River Chemical Spill.” Laura Bray. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (Mar 25-28), New Orleans, LA.

Session presider

- 2019 “Environmental Change and Inequality,” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (Aug 10–13), New York, NY.
- 2019 “Media, Mobilization, and Repression,” Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (Apr 10–13), Atlanta, GA.
- 2016 “Domestic and International Economic Development,” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (Aug 20–23), Seattle, WA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of record, North Carolina State University, Department of Sociology

Technology in Society and Culture, online, 2018-2021
 Current Social Problems, 2017-2018
 Sociology of Agriculture and Rural Society, 2018
 Current Social Problems, online, 2017

Teaching assistant, North Carolina State University, Department of Sociology

Theories of Social Structure, 2014

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University and department

Co-organizer, Environmental Justice and Health Working Group, 2019–present
 Volunteer, University Research Symposium Proposal Collaboration Networking, 2021
 Lead Mentor, Lead Peer Mentoring Collaborative, 2017–2018
 Cohort Representative, Graduate Student Advisory Board, 2016–2017
 Climate Survey Committee, Sociology Graduate Student Association, 2015–2016
 Treasurer, Sociology Graduate Student Association, 2015–2016
 Cohort Representative, Graduate Student Advisory Board, 2014–2015

Finance Committee, Sociology Graduate Student Association, 2014–2015

Journal article reviewer

American Sociological Review, Environmental Sociology, International Sociology, Social Movement Studies, Social Problems, Social Forces, Sociological Perspectives, Sociological Quarterly

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
Environmental Sociology Section
Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations
Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section
Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences
Rural Sociological Society
Southern Sociological Society