ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY

Utah State is home to one of the country’s largest and most active groups of social science faculty working on Environmental and Natural Resource problems, and on their linkage to varying community contexts in both urban and rural settings. Our doctoral specialization in Environment & Community provides strong disciplinary training in social theory and research methods, together with substantive coursework and research opportunities exploring a wide range of environmental and natural resource issues.

Core Faculty

E. HELEN BERRY (PhD, Ohio State). Professor. Demography, Population & Environment, Rural and Urban Sociology


JENNIFER GIVENS (PhD, Utah). Assistant Professor. Environmental Sociology, Global and Comparative Sociology, Development, Political Economy.


PEGGY PETRZELKA (PhD, Iowa State). Professor. Environmental & Natural Resource Sociology, Rural Sociology, Qualitative Methods.

Core Graduate Courses

Environment, Technology and Social Change
Public Sociology: Ecological Justice and Community Action
Natural Resources and Social Development
Community Theory and Research
Environmental Conflict Management

Recent and Ongoing Faculty Research Projects

- Amenity-based development, social well-being, and landscape change
- Cross-national comparisons of the carbon intensity of well-being
- Drivers of environmental concern and beliefs about climate change
- Local and Regional Water Resource Sustainability in Rural-to-Urban Mountain landscapes
- Ecosystem Disturbance, Climate Adaptation, and Managing Socio-Ecological Change
- Social and Community Dimensions of Environmental Health
- Public Response to Renewable Energy Development
- Deconstructing the multidimensionality of environmental attitudes and beliefs
- Power and powerlessness played out on land
- Social dynamics of women landowner and male tenant relations on leased agricultural land