The Graduate Program in Sociology at Utah State University is housed in the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology, and has one of the largest and most active groups of faculty working in the fields of Environmental, Natural Resource, and Rural/Community Sociology in the country. Located in the beautiful Cache Valley between the Wellsville and Bear River mountain ranges in northern Utah, USU is a perfect base from which to conduct research (and recreate!) in the diverse mountain and desert regions of the Intermountain West.

We offer both MS and PhD degrees in Sociology, and provide strong disciplinary training in social theory and social science research methods, together with substantive coursework and research opportunities exploring a wide range of environmental, natural resource and community issues. Graduate curriculum offerings are focused on the sociology of natural resources, environmental sociology, community theory, and applied community development, and most of our students engage in interdisciplinary training with colleagues across the USU campus.

The faculty in the Environment and Community Sociology area maintain active research and outreach in areas such as natural resource development and social change, resource dependency patterns, landscape and land use planning, public participation in environmental planning, community-level effects of energy development activities, environmental equity and environmental justice concerns, environmental risk analysis, public land management policies, linkages of environmental and community conditions with population change, and a variety of other natural resource policy and management and community development issues. Faculty members are engaged in cooperative research ventures with colleagues in natural resource sciences, water engineering, applied economics, and other physical and social science disciplines.

Many of our faculty have received major teaching, outreach, and research awards and served in leadership roles within the Rural Sociological Society and International Society for Society and Natural Resources.

For more information or to request application materials, contact:

Dr. Richard Krannich, Director of Graduate Studies in Sociology 0730 Old Main Hill, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-0730
(435) 797-1241 or richard.krannich@usu.edu

Application Deadline for Fall Admission and Funding Consideration: February 1.
CORE FACULTY

E. HELEN BERRY (PhD, Ohio State) Professor; Distinguished Professor, Women and Gender Research Institute. Demography, Ecology, Methods, Urban and Rural Sociology

STEVE DANIELS (PhD, Duke) Professor. Rural and Natural Resource Community Development, Collaborative Learning and Conflict Mediation, Natural Resource Policy

COURTNEY G. FLINT (PhD, Penn State) Associate Professor. Environmental and Natural Resource Sociology, Community, Rural Sociology, Interdisciplinary Science and Mixed Methodology.

DOUGLAS JACKSON-SMITH (PhD, Wisconsin-Madison) Professor. Agricultural and Natural Resource Sociology, Rural Planning, Political and Economic Sociology, Research Methods, Interdisciplinary Science.

RICHARD S. KRANNICH (PhD, Penn State) Professor and Director of Graduate Studies. Environmental and Natural Resource Sociology, Community, Rural Sociology, Survey Research Methods

PEGGY PETRZELKA (PhD, Iowa State) Associate Professor. Environmental Sociology, Community and Rural Sociology, International Development, Qualitative Methods

AFFILIATED FACULTY

JOHN ALLEN (PhD, Washington State) Professor and Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Community, Network Analysis, Entrepreneurship.

LEON ANDERSON (PhD, University of Texas) Professor and Department Head, Dept. of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology. Qualitative Research Methods, Homelessness, Criminology.

MARK BRUNSON (PhD Oregon State) Professor and Department Head, Dept. of Environment and Society. Human Dimensions of Ecological Systems, Rangeland Studies.

H. REED GEERTSEN (PhD, Utah). Professor. Social Theory, Medical Sociology, Sociology of Health, Community Research.

CLAUDIA RADEL (PhD, Clark University) Associate Professor, Department of Environment and Society. Political Ecology, Geography, Latin America.

ERIC N. REITHER (PhD, Wisconsin). Associate Professor and Director of the Population Research Laboratory. Demography, Social Epidemiology, Health Disparities, Research Methods, Determinants and Consequences of Obesity.
CORE GRADUATE COURSES

Environment, Technology and Social Change  Community Theory and Research
Natural Resources and Social Development  Conflict Management in Natural Resources
Applied Community Development  Sociology of Environmental Hazards & Risks
Interdisciplinary Environmental Vulnerability Assessment
Public Sociology: Ecological & Community Justice

This list contains only our core courses; topics of environment and community are also discussed in other courses in our curriculum. In addition, our students frequently take advantage of courses focusing on social science applications to natural resource management offered through the Environment and Society Department in USU’s College of Natural Resources.

RECENT AND ONGOING FACULTY RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Amenity-Based Development, Social Well-Being, and Landscape Change
- Social and Environmental Implications of Absentee Landownership
- Hydraulic Fracturing – The Relationship Between Communities and Industry
- Omission of Voice in Land Use Decisions – Impact on Trust in Governmental Agencies
- Agricultural Adaptation at the Rural-Urban Interface: Can Communities Make a Difference?
- Tracking Spatial Patterns in Rural Land Use Change
- Impacts of Amenity-Based Development Decisions Upon Overall Community Well-Being
- Community Responses to a Landfill Siting Proposal
- Can Recycling Program Participation Affect Recycling Attitudes and Beliefs?
- Implications of Structural Changes in Livestock-Based Agriculture in the West
- Population Change and the Future of Rural Communities
- A Community Capacity Approach to Community Development
- Cache County Household Recycling and Solid Waste Study
- Place-making, Aging, and Environment: The Interaction Between Land Use, Life-cycle and Aging in Rural Places
- Social Responses to and Consequences of Renewable Energy Development
- Socioeconomic Linkages to Public Lands and Resources in the Intermountain West
- Network Theory as a Method for Understanding Environmental Conflict
- Social Impacts of Rapid Growth Tourism Communities
- Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Wildlife Management
- Using Participatory Methods to Advance Understanding and Conservation Behavior in Agricultural Watersheds.
- Human Dimensions of Complex Water Systems
- Assessing Water Vulnerability Across Intermountain West Landscapes
- Human-Nature Relationships in Landscape Conservation Engagement in the U.S. and Austria
- Human Dimensions of Nutrient Management in Agricultural Watersheds
- Development of a Mountain Socio-Ecological Observatory Network
- Facilitation of the Monroe Mountain Working Group and the Utah Forest Restoration Working Group
SELECTED CORE FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS IN ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY (past 3 years)  
(Faculty names in bold, current and former USU graduate students noted with *)

2013


2012


**2011**


