

## Alissa Cordner

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### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**2013-present**      **Assistant Professor of Sociology**  
Whitman College, Department of Sociology, Walla Walla, WA  
**Paul Garrett Fellow, 2017-present**

### EDUCATION

**Brown University**, Department of Sociology, Providence, RI

Ph.D. May 2013

*Title:* Risk, Power and Policy in Environmental Health Controversies: The Case of Flame Retardant Chemicals

*Committee:* Phil Brown, J. Timmons Roberts, Gianpaolo Baiocchi, and Nitsan Chorev

M.A., May 2010

*Thesis:* Boundary Work and Uncertainty in Flame Retardant Research and Policy

*Committee:* Phil Brown and Susan Short

**Bowdoin College**, Brunswick, ME

B.A., May 2004, Sociology (with Honors) and French

### PUBLICATIONS

#### **Books:**

**Alissa Cordner**. 2016. *Toxic Safety: Flame Retardants, Chemical Controversies, and Environmental Health*. New York: Columbia University Press. Reviewed in *American Journal of Sociology*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, *Choice*.

**Award:** American Sociological Association's Section on Environmental Sociology Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award, 2018.

Gianpaolo Baiocchi, Elizabeth Bennett, **Alissa Cordner**, Peter T. Klein, and Stephanie Savell. 2014. *The Civic Imagination: Making a Difference in American Political Life*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers. Reviewed in *Contemporary Sociology*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Choice*.

#### **Refereed Journal Articles (student co-authors underlined):**

**Alissa Cordner**, Vanessa Y. De Lar Rosa, Laurel A. Schaider, Ruthann A. Rudel, Lauren Richter, and Phil Brown. In Press (November 2018). "Guideline Levels for PFOA and PFOS in Drinking Water: The Role of Scientific Uncertainty, Risk Assessment Decisions, and Social Factors." *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology*.

**Alissa Cordner** and Eliana Schwartz. Online First. "Covering Wildfires: Media Emphasis and Silence after the Carlton and Okanogan Complex Wildfires." *Society & Natural Resources* DOI: 10.1080/08941920.2018.1530816.

Lauren Richter, **Alissa Cordner**, and Phil Brown. 2018. "Non-Stick Science: Sixty Years of Research and (In)Action on Fluorinated Compounds." *Social Studies of Science* 48(5):691-714.

**Alissa Cordner**, Lauren Richter, and Phil Brown. 2016. "Can chemical-class based approaches replace chemical-by-chemical strategies? Lessons from recent U.S. FDA regulatory action on perfluorinated compounds." *Environmental Science & Technology* 50(23):12584-12591.

- Alissa Cordner**, Adrien Wilkie, Tim Wade, Edward Hudgens, Rebecca Birch, and Jane Gallagher. 2017. "Gender and racial/ethnic disparities: Cumulative screening of health risk indicators in 20-50 year olds in the United States." *Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice* 10(1):8.
- Jane Gallagher, Adrien Wilkie, **Alissa Cordner**, Edward Hudgens, Andrew Ghio, Rebecca Birch, and Tim Wade. 2016. "Factors associated with self-reported health: implications for screening level community-based health and environmental studies." *BMC Public Health*. 16:640-654.
- Alissa Cordner**. 2015. "Defining and Defending Risk: Conceptual Risks Formulas in Chemical Alternatives Assessment." *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* 5(3):241-250.
- Alissa Cordner**. 2015. "Strategic Science Translation and Environmental Controversies." *Science, Technology & Human Values* 40(6):915-938.
- Alissa Cordner** and Phil Brown. 2015. "A Multisector Alliance Approach to Environmental Social Movements: Flame Retardants and Chemical Reform in the United States." *Environmental Sociology* 1(1):69-79.
- Alissa Cordner**, Kathryn M. Rodgers, Phil Brown, and Rachel Morello-Frosch. 2015. "Firefighters and Flame Retardant Activism." *New Solutions* 24(4):511-534.
- Stephanie Savell, Gianpaolo Baiocchi, Elizabeth Bennett, **Alissa Cordner**, and Peter T. Klein. 2015. "Civic Innovation and Creative Campaigns: How Fresh Ideas Are Compromising Local Democracy." *Metropolitiques*. <http://www.metropolitiques.eu/Civic-Innovation-and-Creative.html>.
- Elizabeth Bennett, Gianpaolo Baiocchi, **Alissa Cordner**, Peter T. Klein, and Stephanie Savell. 2013. "Disavowing Politics: Civic Engagement in an Era of Political Skepticism." *American Journal of Sociology* 119(2):518-548.
- Alissa Cordner**, Margaret Mulcahy, and Phil Brown. 2013. "Chemical Regulation on Fire: Rapid Policy Advances on Flame Retardants." *Environmental Science & Technology* 47:7067-7076.
- Alissa Cordner** and Phil Brown. 2013. "Moments of Uncertainty: Ethical Considerations and Emerging Contaminants." *Sociological Forum* 28(3):469-494.
- Alissa Cordner**, David Ciptlet, Phil Brown, and Rachel Morello-Frosch. 2012. "Reflexive Research Ethics for Environmental Health and Justice: Academics and Movement-Building." *Social Movement Studies* 11(2):161-176.
- Reprinted in *Research Ethics and Social Movements: Scholarship, Activism, and Knowledge Production*. Kevin Gillan and Jenny Pickerill, Editors. Routledge: 2015.
- Alissa Cordner**. 2012. "The Health Care Access and Utilization of Homeschooled Children in the United States." *Social Science & Medicine* 75(2): 269-273.
- Alissa Cordner**, Peter T. Klein, and Gianpaolo Baiocchi. 2012. "Co-Designing and Co-Teaching Graduate Qualitative Methods: An Innovative Ethnographic Workshop Model." *Teaching Sociology* 40:215-226.
- Phil Brown and **Alissa Cordner**. 2011. "Lessons Learned From Flame Retardant Use And Regulation Could Enhance Future Control Of Potentially Hazardous Chemicals." *Health Affairs* 30(5): 906-914.

#### **Book Chapters:**

- Alissa Cordner**, Phil Brown, and Rachel Morello-Frosch. 2016. "Health." In *Keywords in the Study of Environment and Culture*. Joni Adamson, William Gleason, and David Pellow, Eds. New York University Press.
- Alissa Cordner**, Phil Brown, and Margaret Mulcahy. 2015. "Playing with Fire: Flame Retardant Activists and Policy Arenas." In *Players and Arenas: The Interactive Dynamics of Protest*. Jan Willem Duyvendak and James M. Jasper, Eds. Amsterdam University Press.
- Alissa Cordner**, Phil Brown, and Rachel Morello-Frosch. 2014. "Health Social Movements." In *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Health, Illness, Behavior, and Society*. William Cockerham, Robert Dingwall, and Stella Quah, Eds. Wiley.

**Alissa Cordner**, Phil Brown, and Alison Cohen. 2011. "Public Sociology for Environmental Health and Justice." Pp. 97-106 in *Public Sociology: Research, Action, and Change*. Eds. Phillip Nyden, Leslie Hossfeld and Gwen Nyden. Los Angeles: Sage.

Phil Brown, Stephen Zavestoski, **Alissa Cordner**, Sabrina McCormick, Joshua Mandelbaum, Theo Luebke, and Meadow Linder. 2011. "A Narrowing Gulf of Difference? Disputes and Discoveries in the Study of Gulf War-Related Illnesses." Ch. 7 in *Contested Illnesses: Citizens, Science, and Health Social Movements*. Eds. Brown, Morello-Frosch, and Zavestoski. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Sabrina McCormick, Phil Brown, Stephen Zavestoski, and **Alissa Cordner**. 2011. "The Personal Is Scientific, the Scientific Is Political: The Public Paradigm of the Environmental Breast Cancer Movement." Ch. 9 in *Contested Illnesses: Citizens, Science, and Health Social Movements*. Eds. Brown, Morello-Frosch, and Zavestoski. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

#### **Other Publications:**

Lief Fredrickson, Marianne Sullivan, Christopher Sellers, Jennifer Ohayon, Ellen Kohl, Sarah Lamdan, **Alissa Corder**, Alice Hu, Katarzyna Kaczowka, Natalia Navas, Linda Wicks, and EDGI. November 2018. "A Sheep in the Closet: The Erosion of Enforcement at the EPA."

<https://envirodatagov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Sheep-in-the-Closet.pdf>

**Alissa Cordner**. October 22, 2017. "Opinion: Wildfires like the Wine Country's affect rich and poor differently." *The Mercury News*. <http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/10/22/opinion-wildfires-like-the-wine-countrys-affect-rich-and-poor-differently/>

**Alissa Cordner**. Review of *Multiple Autisms: Spectrums of Advocacy and Genomic Science* by Jennifer S. Singh. *American Journal of Sociology*, 2017, Volume 122, Number 6.

**Alissa Cordner**. July 18, 2016. "Why Chemicals in the U.S. Are Still 'Innocent Until Proven Guilty.'" *Smithsonian Magazine*.

Michael D. Kennedy, Timmons Roberts, **Alissa Cordner**, and Adam Kotin. "Environmental Knowledge Matters." White Paper, published January 19, 2012. Available at:

<http://www.luceenvironment.org/luce-initiative/environmental-knowledge-matters/>

**Alissa Cordner** and Sarah Petras. "Body of Evidence: Reproductive Health and the Environment." Bulletin for Alaska Community Action on Toxics, published July 2012; February 2016 update with Amira Aker.

#### **Manuscripts Under Review or In Preparation (student co-authors underlined):**

**Alissa Cordner**, Zoey Kapusinski, and Alberto Santos-Davidson. "'How's the Soil?' Environmental Risk from Wheat Field to Vineyard." Full manuscript available.

**Alissa Cordner**. "Risk." Chapter for *International Handbook of Environmental Studies*, Edited by Beth Caniglia, David Pellow, Lori Peek, Andrew Jorgenson, and Stephanie Malin. Submitted, June 2018.

**Alissa Cordner** and Phil Brown. "Science, Expertise, and Environmental Justice." Chapter for *Lessons in Environmental Justice: From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter*, Edited by Michael Mascarenhas. Revised and Resubmitted, December 2018.

Phil Brown, Vanessa De La Rosa, and **Alissa Cordner**. "Toxic Trespass and Emerging Contaminants: Science, Activism, and Policy Concerning Chemicals in Our Bodies." Chapter for *Environmental Justice and Citizen Science in a Post Truth Age*, edited by Alice Mah. Revised and Resubmitted, October 2018.

#### **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2018-2021	The New Chemical Class Activism: Mobilization Around Per- and Polyfluoralkyl Substances, Co-PI with Phil Brown, Northeastern University; National Science Foundation Science, Technology, and Society Program; \$499,901
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2017	Highly Fluorinated Compounds – Social and Scientific Discovery, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Conference Grant, Co-PI with Phil Brown, Northeastern University; \$10,000
2015-2018	Perfluorinated Chemicals: The Social Discovery of a Class of Emerging Contaminates, National Science Foundation, Science, Technology, and Society Program; Co-PI with Phil Brown, Northeastern University; \$418,698
2014-2016	Next Generation of Hazards and Disasters Researchers Fellowship Program, National Science Foundation; mentorship, travel expenses, and stipend
2014	Abshire Research Award, Whitman College; \$1,000
2014	Louis B. Perry Research Grant, Whitman College; \$5,800
2010-2013	EPA Science to Achieve Results Graduate Fellowship; \$111,000

### RESEARCH and TEACHING INTERESTS

Environmental Sociology	Environmental Health
Risk and Disasters	Politics, Participation, and Governance
Environmental and Social Justice	Science and Knowledge
Qualitative Methods	Medical Sociology

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### Whitman College, Tenure Track Faculty, 2013-present

Courses: Environmental Sociology, Environmental Health, Environmental Justice, Sociology of Disasters, Social Research Methods, Social Problems, Sociology Capstone and Thesis  
 Senior Thesis Advising: *2016-2017*, 14 Sociology and Environmental Studies theses, 1 Politics-Environmental Studies thesis, 1 Art-Environmental Studies thesis; *2015-2016*, 10 Sociology and Environmental Studies theses; *2014-2015*, 10 Sociology and Sociology-Environmental Studies thesis, 1 Gender Studies thesis; *2013-2014*, 13 Sociology and Environmental Studies theses, 1 Politics-Environmental Studies thesis

Advising of First-year and Transfer Students, Sociology Majors, and Environmental Studies Majors

#### Brown University, Co-Instructor

Brown University Sociology Graduate Qualitative Methods Course, Spring 2010

#### Dissertation Committees

Lauren Richter, Sociology Department, Northeastern University. PhD granted 2018.

Laura Rabinow, Science and Technology Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2017-present.

Melodie Selby, Engineering Department, Walla Walla University. 2016-present.

### SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Covering Wildfires. 2018. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

Environmental Chemicals and Public Sociology: Engaged Scholarship on Highly Fluorinated Compounds. 2018. With Lauren Richter and Phil Brown. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

Constructing Ignorance: Environmental Health Data Under the Toxic Substances Control Act. 2018. With Lauren Richter and Phil Brown. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

Social Factors in Wildfire Management. 2018. Rural West Conference, Stanford's Bill Lane Center for the American West. Yakima, WA.

- From Community to Courtroom: Litigation and Environmental Justice in the Case of PFAS Contamination. 2017. With Tibrine de Fonseca, Lauren Richter, Phil Brown, and Marina Atlas. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada.
- “Big Old Smoke Columns” and “Sporty Fires”: Motivators of Improved Wildfire Risk Management in the Pacific Northwest. 2017. Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Portland, OR.
- Wildfires and Environmental Justice: Examining the (Unequal?) Impacts of Wildland Fire. 2016. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA.
- The Sticky Science of Non-Stick Chemicals: Forty Years of Research and (In)Action on Fluorinated Compounds. 2016. With Phil Brown and Lauren Richter. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA.
- Risky Business? Manufacturer and Retailer Action to Remove Per- and Polyfluorinated Chemicals From Consumer Products. With Elicia Cousins, Phil Brown, and Lauren Richter. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA
- Wildfires and Environmental Justice: Examining the (Unequal?) Distribution of Risks from Wildland Fire. 2016. Next Generation of Hazards and Disasters Researchers Program. San Diego, CA.
- ‘How’s the Soil?’ Environmental Risk from Wheat Field to Vineyard. 2015. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. With Alberto Santos-Davidson (Whitman Student).
- Opening the Black Box of Risk: Strategic Science Translation in Chemical Blacklists. 2014. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.
- Flame Retardants as a Prompt to Chemical Reform: A Multisector Alliance. 2013. Democratization of Risk Governance. Tel Aviv, Israel. With Phil Brown.
- Fighting Science with Science: Uncertainty, Environmental Health Research, and the Chemical Industry. 2013. American Sociological Association meeting. New York, NY.
- Unlikely Allies and Competing Authorities in Chemical Regulation. 2012. Society for the Social Study of Science Meeting. Copenhagen, Denmark. With Phil Brown and Margaret Mulcahy.
- ‘What’s More Un-Green than a Fire?’ Alliances between the Public Health, Environmental, and Firefighting Communities. 2012. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. With Phil Brown and Margaret Mulcahy.
- Impact of Environmental Chemicals, Sociodemographic Variables, Depression, and Clinical Indicators of Health and Nutrition on Self-Reported Health Status. 2012. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. With Tim Wade, Elaine Cohen Hubal, Edward Hudgens, Stephen Edwards, and Jane Gallagher.
- Defining and Defending Risk within the EPA and the Chemical Industry. 2012. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO.
- Playing with Fire: The World of Flame Retardant Activism and Policy. 2012. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. With Phil Brown and Margaret Mulcahy.
- Social Movements 2.0? 2012. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. With Gianpaolo Baiocchi, Elizabeth Bennett, Peter Klein, and Stephanie Savell.
- Politics and its Problems. 2012. American Sociological Association Meeting. Denver, CO. With Gianpaolo Baiocchi, Elizabeth Bennett, Peter Klein, and Stephanie Savell.
- Incorporating Unequal Exposure to Environmental Hazards in Sample Design. Poster at Population Association of America Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. With Seth Spielman, Susan Short, Rachel Goldberg, John Logan, and Stephen Buka. *Winner of Population Sciences Research Day Student Poster Award, Population Studies and Training Center.*

- Civic Innovators: Business Ideology in Civic Engagement. 2012. Presentation at Eastern Sociological Society Meeting. New York, NY. With Gianpaolo Baiocchi, Elizabeth Bennett, Peter Klein, and Stephanie Savell.
- Moments of Uncertainty: Ethical Considerations and Emerging Contaminants. 2011. Presentation at American Sociological Association Meeting. Las Vegas, NV. With Phil Brown.
- Boundary-work at the Nexus of Science, Activism, and Policy Concerning Flame Retardants. 2010. Presentation at Society for the Social Studies of Science. Tokyo, Japan. With Phil Brown.
- Impact of Biomonitoring Research on Activism and Regulation of Flame Retardant Chemicals. 2010. Presentation at American Public Health Association Meeting. Denver, CO. With Phil Brown and Rachel Morello-Frosch.
- Public Sociology for Theory and Practice. 2009. Presentation at American Sociological Association Meeting. San Francisco, CA. With Crystal Adams, Laura Senier, and Elizabeth Hoover.

### **INVITED TALKS**

- Communication and Outreach about Prescribed Fire: Lessons from the Social Sciences. Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange. April 30, 2018.
- Non-Stick Science: Sixty Years of Research and (In)Action on Fluorinated Compounds. Washington State University Sociology Department Colloquium. Pullman, WA. April 13, 2018.
- Waiting for the Next Big One. Whitman College Alumni Program. Historic Kenton Firehouse. Portland, OR. March 3, 2018.
- What Can Sociology Teach us about Disasters? Whitman College. Walla Walla, WA. October 3, 2017.
- Social and Scientific Discovery; Closing Comments and Future Directions. Highly Fluorinate Compounds: Social and Scientific Discovery. Boston, MA. June 14-15, 2017.
- Communication and Outreach about Prescribed Fire: Lessons from the Social Sciences. Central Oregon Prescribed Fire Training Exchange. May 1, 2017.
- Fighting Fire in a Risky World. Earth, Itself. Brown University, Providence, RI. April 20, 2017.
- Waiting for the Next Big One: Catastrophic Wildfire and Other Motivators of Improved Wildfire Risk Management. Project Wildfire. Bend, OR. August 9, 2016.
- Engaging the Public in Conversations about Prescribed Fire and Risk. Central Oregon Ecological Fire Training Exchange. Bend, OR. April 25, 2016.
- Waiting for the Next Big One: Catastrophic Wildfire and Other Motivators of Improved Wildfire Risk Management. Central Oregon Fire Science Symposium. Bend, OR. March 25, 2016.
- Toxic Safety: Flame Retardants, Chemical Controversies, and Environmental Health. Alaska Collaborative on Health and the Environment Teleconference. April 6, 2016.
- Challenges in Selecting Alternatives and Implementing Substitution. 2013. Webinar for the Interagency Alternatives Assessment Group.
- Community-Engaged Research and Reflexive Research Ethics. 2012. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Superfund Research Program Trainees Meeting.
- Moments of Uncertainty: Ethical Considerations and Flame Retardant Chemicals. 2012. Invited panelist at Fire Retardant Dilemma Conference. Berkeley, CA. With Phil Brown.
- Environmentalism and Environmental Justice. 2011. Invited panelist at EPA STAR Fellows Conference. Washington, DC.
- Social Implications of Risk and Hazard Assessment. 2011. Presentation to the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington DC

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Sociological Association  
Pacific Sociological Association  
Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences  
Society for Social Studies of Science

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Cross-Disciplinary Learning and Teaching Initiative: Environmental Studies modules. Whitman College, 2016-2018.  
Cross-Disciplinary Learning and Teaching Initiative: Water. Whitman College, 2014.  
Qualitrix. Whitman College, 2014  
Engaging the Community for Research Success. NIEHS. Raleigh, NC, 2012  
Ethical Awareness in International Collaborations. Brown University, 2009-2010  
Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences (S4) GIS Institute. Brown University, 2009  
NVIVO Qualitative Software Training Course. Brown University, 2009

## **OTHER RESEARCH**

Environmental Data Governance Initiative, Interviewing Team

## **SERVICE**

ASA Environment and Technology Section, Policy and Research Committee Chair (elected), 2016-2018  
Advisory Committee, PFAS Chemical Action Plan, Washington State Department of Ecology, 2017-present  
Steering Committee, Highly Fluorinated Compounds: Social and Scientific Discovery Conferences, 2017, 2019  
Panel Organizer, "Risk," American Sociological Association 2016 Annual Meeting  
Panel Discussant, "Sociology of Science," American Sociological Association 2016 Annual Meeting  
Panel Presider, Society for Social Studies of Science 2015 Annual Meeting  
Roundtable Presider, American Sociological Association 2015 Annual Meeting  
ASA Environment and Technology Section Student Member (elected), 2012-2014

Book Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology*

Film Reviewer: Bullfrog Films

Paper Reviewer: *Agriculture and Human Values, Biopolitics, Bulletin of Science & Technology, Environmental Sociology, Journal of the American Planning Association, Journal of Urbanism, Nature and Culture, Political Geography, Population and Environment, Science as Culture, Science of the Total Environment, Social Movement Studies, Social Problems, Social Science & Medicine, Social Studies of Science, Society & Natural Resources, Sociological Forum, Sociological Perspectives, Sociological Theory, Teaching Sociology*

Book Manuscript Reviewer: Duke University Press, Rutgers University Press

Proposal Reviewer: Oregon SeaGrant Program

Workshop Proceedings Reviewer: National Academies of Sciences

Whitman College Service:

Search Committee Member: Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology, 2013; Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Sociology, 2014; Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Environmental Health, 2014; Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Spanish, 2016; Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology, 2017; Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology, 2018

Environmental Studies Committee (2013-present)

Academic Information Technology Advisory Group (2014-2017; Chair 2016-2017)

Institutional Review Board (2014-2015)

Assessment and Accreditation Committee (2016-2017)

Faculty Advisory, Action for Animals student group (2016-2017)

Faculty Advisor, Alpha Phi Sorority (2014-present)

Committee on Student Affairs and Academic Standards (elected, Spring 2019)

Hanford Advisory Board Public-at-Large member, Department of Energy Appointee, 2014-2018

Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer, Rhode Island Department of Youth and Family Services, 2009-2011; Walla Walla County, 2014-present

Wildland Firefighter Volunteer, Walla Walla County Rural Fire District 4, 2017-present

Board Member, Northwest Green Chemistry, 2018-present