

CURRICULUM VITAE

Erik Kojola

CURRENT POSITION

Visiting Assistant Professor
Environmental Studies Department
Davidson College
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EDUCATION

- PhD University of Minnesota, Sociology, 2018
Dissertation: "Extracting Identities and Value from Nature: Power, Culture, and Knowledge in the Contested Politics of Mining"
Committee: David Pellow (co-advisor), Rachel Schurman (co-advisor), Michael Goldman and Kate Derickson
- MA American University, Sociology, 2013
Thesis: "Greening Labor Unions: Environmental Concerns of Union Members"
Advisor: Chenyang Xiao
- BA Oberlin College, Politics, *high honors*, 2009
Thesis: "Trade Unions and Green Jobs in the Post-Fordist Economy: Just Rhetoric or a Fundamental Shift?"
Advisor: Chris Howell

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental justice	Labor and work
Race, class and gender	Social movements
Global political economy	Science and technology studies

PUBLICATIONS

- Kojola, Erik.** *Forthcoming*. "Bringing Back the Mines and a Way of Life: Emotions, Memories, and Visions in the Politics of Extraction." *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.
- Kojola, Erik.** 2018. "[Indigeneity, Gender and Class in Decision-Making about Risks from Resource Extraction](#)." *Environmental Sociology*. Early online publication version.
- Kojola, Erik.** 2017. "[\(Re\)constructing the Pipeline: Workers, Environmentalists and Ideology in Media Coverage of the Keystone XL Pipeline](#)." *Critical Sociology*. 43(6): 893-917.
- Moen, Phyllis, **Erik Kojola** and Kate Schaefer. 2017. "[Institutional Work around Older Talent](#)." *The Gerontologist*. 57(5): 847-856.
- Moen, Phyllis, **Erik Kojola**, Erin Kelly and Yagmur Karakaya. 2016. "[Men and Women Expecting to Work Longer: Do Changing Work Conditions Matter?](#)" *Work, Retirement and Aging*. 2(3): 321-344.
- Kojola, Erik** and Phyllis Moen. 2016. "[No More Lock-Step Retirement: Boomers' Shifting Meanings of Work and Retirement](#)." *Journal of Aging Studies*. 36: 59-70.
- Kojola, Erik.** 2014. "[Serving Food Justice: A Union Campaign for Fresh Food, Health, and Sustainability](#)." *Journal of Workplace Rights* 17(2):175-190.

Kojola, Erik. Chenyang Xiao and Aaron M. McCright. 2014. "Environmental Concerns of Labor Union Members in the United States." *The Sociological Quarterly*. 55:72-91.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Kojola, Erik. "Who Speaks for the Place? Identity and Collective Memory in Conflicts over Resource Extraction and Conservation." Submitted to *Social Problems*.

Kojola, Erik and Julian Ageyman. "Just Transition and Labor." Invited chapter under review for forthcoming *Routledge Handbook of International Environmental Sociology*.

Pellow, David and **Erik Kojola**. "Environmental Justice Studies: State of the Field and New Directions." Invited submission to 20th anniversary edition of *Environmental Politics*.

Matson, Laura and **Erik Kojola**. "Regulating Complexity: Sulfate, Wild Rice, and Environmental Ontologies in the Great Lakes Region." Planned submission to *Geoforum*.

Kojola, Erik. "My Backyard is Your Playground: Struggles over Mining Development and Conservation in the Minnesota Iron Range." Book manuscript.

BOOK REVIEWS

Kojola, Erik and David Pellow. 2017. "Review: Empire of Timber: Labor Unions and the Pacific Northwest Forests by Erik Loomis." *Society and Natural Resources*.

Kojola, Erik. 2016. "Briefly Noted: Subterranean Estates: Life Worlds of Oil and Gas, edited by Hannah Appel, Arthur Mason, and Michael Watts." *Contemporary Sociology*. 45(4): 520.

PRESENTATIONS

Kojola, Erik. 2018. *Who Speaks for the Place? Identity and Nostalgia in Conflicts over Resource Extractive and Conservation*. Paper session, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. August 11-14.

Kojola, Erik. 2018. *Class, Identity and Place in the Tensions between Environmental Conservation and Resource Extraction: The Politics of Copper Mining Development in Minnesota*. International Sociological Association XIX World Congress. Toronto, Canada. July 19.

Matson, Laura and **Erik Kojola** (co-presenters). 2018. *Regulating Complexity: Sulfate, Wild Rice, and Environmental Ontologies in the Great Lakes Region*. Panel session, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. April 10-14.

Kojola, Erik. 2018. *Populism in the Cultural and Class Politics of Resource Extraction*. Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN. March 22-25.

Kojola, Erik. 2018. *Defending a Way of Life: Populism and Mining on the Minnesota Iron Range*. Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference. University of Kentucky. Louisville, KY. February 24.

Kojola, Erik. 2017. *Contested Identities and Truths in Governance of Extraction and Environmental Risks in Minnesota Copper Mining*. Paper session, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, CA. August 12-15.

- Kojola, Erik.** 2017. *Contested Metals: Knowledge, Politics and Culture of Copper-Nickel Mining Controversies in Minnesota*. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. April 5-9.
- Kojola, Erik.** 2015. *(Re)constructing the Pipeline: Workers, Environmentalists and Ideology in Media Coverage of the Keystone XL Pipeline*. Environmental Labour Studies Conference. Stockholm, Sweden. September 17-20.
- Kojola, Erik.** 2015. *(Re)constructing the Pipeline: Workers, Environmentalists and Ideology in Media Coverage of the Keystone XL Pipeline*. Paper Session, Section on Labor and Labor Movements. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. August 22-25.
- Moen, Phyllis and **Erik Kojola (presenter)**. 2015. *Working Longer: Do IT Boomers' Expectations Differ by Gender?* Roundtable, Section on Aging and Life Course. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. August 22-25.
- Kojola, Erik.** 2015. *Permitting Discourses of Science and Risk in the Politics of Copper Mining in Minnesota*. Knowledge from the Margins: Social Justice and Sustainability Conference. East Lansing, MI. August 18-19.
- Kojola, Erik.** 2015. *Can Black be Green? Climate Politics and Coal Mining Unions in Australia and the U.S.* Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Kansas City, MO.
- Kojola, Erik,** Phyllis Moen and Yagmur Karakaya. 2015. *Exit Strategies: Contingencies and Dynamics of IT Boomers' Retirement Plans*. Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Kansas City, MO.
- Moen, Phyllis and **Erik Kojola (presenter)**. 2014. *Emerging Retirement: Do Professional Men and Women Boomers Have Similar Retirement Expectations?* Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. November 6.
- Moen, Phyllis and **Erik Kojola (presenter)**. 2014. *Boomers at Work/In Transition: The Minnesota Experience*. Presented at the Labor and Employment Relations Association Annual Meeting. Portland, OR. June 1.
- Moen, Phyllis, **Erik Kojola (presenter)** and Kate Schaeffer. 2014. *Boomers at Work/in Transition: The Minnesota Experience*. Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Omaha, NE. April 3-6.
- Kojola, Erik.** *Just Food and Just Work: Union Organizing for Sustainability, Nutrition and Food Access*. Social Sciences History Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. November 21-24.
- Xiao, Chenyang, Dayong Hong and **Erik Kojola (non-presenter)**. *Explaining the Rising Environmentalism in China—Postmaterialism, Affluence, Or Global Environmentalism?* American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Environment and Technology Section Roundtable. New York, August 2013.
- Kojola, Erik.** *Constructing Divisions between Labor and the Environment: Ideology in Media Portrayals of the Keystone XL Pipeline Controversy*. Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Roundtable. Boston, MA. March 23, 2013.
- Kojola, Erik.** 2012. *Environmental Attitudes and Activism of Union Workers*. George Mason Public Sociology Graduate Conference, George Mason University, Oct. 20, 2012.
- Kojola, Erik** and Chenyang Xiao. 2012. *Greening Labor Unions? Environmental Attitudes and Beliefs of Union Members*. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Environment and Technology Section Roundtable. Denver, August 19, 2012.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Council of Graduate Student, University of Minnesota. Travel Funding Grant Award. 2018.

Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship at Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota Graduate School. 2017-18.

University of Minnesota, College of Liberal Arts. Thesis Research Travel Grant. 2017.

University of Minnesota, Dept. of Sociology. Anna Welsch Bright Research Award. 2016.

University of Minnesota, College of Liberal Arts. Graduate Research Internship Award. Summer 2016. Host organization: Blue Green Alliance. Amount: \$4,000.

University of Minnesota, College of Liberal Arts. Graduate Research Partnership Program Fellowship. Summer 2015. Amount: \$4,500.

University of Minnesota, Life Course Center. Professional Development Award. 2015.

Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honors Society Student Travel Grant. October 2012.

American University Mellon Graduate Student Research Support Grant. May 2012.

Graduate student scholarship, *How Class Works Conference*. June 2012.

Jere Bruner Research Grant in Politics, Oberlin College. January 2005.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award, ASA Section on Environmental Sociology. 2018.

Don Martindale Fellowship, University of Minnesota. 2018.

Irene B. Taeuber Graduate Student Paper Award, DC Sociological Society. 2013.

Kianda Bell Award, American University. 2012.

High Honors in Politics, Oberlin College. 2009.

Comfort Star Prize in Politics, Oberlin College. 2009.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Wild rice in Minnesota and the Great Lakes region: A flagship for environmental preservation and Indigenous resource sovereignty, Co-PIs G.-H. Crystal Ng, Mark Bellcourt, Mae Davenport, Daniel Larkin, and Cara Santelli, University of Minnesota Grand Challenges Research and Institute on the Environment. January 2018 to May 2018.

Research Assistant, Minnesota Boomers at Work/In Transition, PI Phyllis Moen, University of Minnesota, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs. June 2013 to May 2015.

Research Assistant, Flexible Work and Wellbeing Project, Co-PIs Phyllis Moen and Erin Kelly, University of Minnesota. May 2014 to August 2015.

Research Assistant, American University Center on Health Risk and Society, Department of Sociology. February 2013 to May 2013.

Research Assistant, Erran Carmel, Kogod School of Business American University. December 2011 to February 2013.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Assistant Professor, Davidson College, Department of Environmental Studies

- Environmental Justice: Fall 2018
- Environmental Social Movements: Fall 2018
- Climate Change and Society: Spring 2019
- Globalization and Sustainability: Spring 2019

- Political Ecology: Spring 2019
- Instructor*, Macalester College, Department of Environmental Studies,
- Environmental Justice: Spring 2015, Spring 2016 and Spring 2017
- Teaching Assistant*, University of Minnesota, Department of Sociology
- Global Institutions of Power with Prof. Michael Goldman: Fall 2015
 - Intro to Sociology with Prof. Cawo Abdi: Spring 2016
 - Research Methods with Prof. Carolyn Leibler: Fall 2016
- Teaching Assistant*, American University, Department of Sociology
- Global Sociology and Views from the Third World with Prof. Susan McDonic: Fall 2011
 - Classical Social Theory with Prof. Randa Serhan; Contemporary Social Theory with Prof. Natalia Ruiz-Junco: Spring 2012
 - Global Sociology and Critical Social Thought with Prof. Alan Dahl: Fall 2012
 - Classical Social Theory with Prof. Alan Dahl and Social Advocacy and Social Change with Prof. Bette Dickerson: Spring 2013

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND WRITING

Graduate Editorial Board Member, [The Society Pages](#), Fall 2014 to Summer 2017.

Selected Publications:

- [“The Hopes and Broken Promises of Coal.”](#) May 3, 2017.
- [“Roundtable: Climate Change and the 2016 Presidential Election.”](#) Nov. 4, 2016.
- [“Whose Nation, Whose Parks?”](#) Sept. 26, 2016.
- [“Pipeline Protests a Pipedream?”](#) Sept. 21, 2016.
- [“Corporate Denial of Climate Change Risks.”](#) Dec. 9, 2015.
- [“Fast Food Strikes Bring Everyone to the Table.”](#) Sept. 23, 2014.

Kojola, Erik. 2017. [“For Love of the Place: Emotions and Identities in Conflicts over Environmental Risks from Mining in Minnesota.”](#) *Toxic News*. November, 7.

Moen, Phyllis, **Erik Kojola** and Kate Schaefer. 2017. [“Boomers at Work and in Transition.”](#) *The CURA Reporter* 47(1):3-9.

Kojola, Erik. 2016. [“Labor-Environment Relations: An Enduring Conflict or Transformative Alliance?”](#) *International Sociological Association Forum Blog*.

Kojola, Erik. *Aging Horizons Bulletin*. 2016. Interview: [“Boomers Reinvent Retirement.”](#)
Project Coordinator, Real Food Real Jobs Worker Survey. American University. Spring 2013.

EMPLOYMENT AND ADVOCACY WORK

Graduate Research Intern, Blue Green Alliance, Summer 2016

- Researched just energy transitions and green jobs creation, and wrote report about history of coal power in Minnesota and assistance for displaced workers

Research and Policy Intern, Leadership Center for the Common Good, Summer 2012.

- Coauthor of report *Beating the Rap: How Current Federal Investigation into Mortgage-Backed Securities Compares to other High-Profile Federal Investigations*

Writer, Transport Workers Union, August 2010 to August 2011.

- Wrote and edited *TWU Express* magazine which involved interviewing workers and union leaders, and attending events around the country

Communications Assistant, Community Design Collaborative, July 2009 to July 2010.

- Managed website about community-based design and urban sustainability

Livable Wage Campaign Intern, Vermont Peace and Justice Center, Summer 2008.
Corporate Accountability Intern, Government Accountability Project, Summer 2007.
Speed Matters Intern, Communication Workers of America, January 2007.

SERVICE

Discussant. Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting 2018.
Session Organizer, Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference 2018. *Contested and Uncertain Temporalities of Resource Extraction*.
Department of Sociology Executive Council, Graduate Student Representative, University of Minnesota August 2015 to May 2016.
Department of Sociology Workshop Committee Representative, University of Minnesota May 2014 to May 2015.
AKD International Sociology Honors Society, President AU Chapter, May 2012 to May 2013.

Manuscript Reviewer

American Journal of Sociology, The Sociological Quarterly, Mobilization, Critical Sociology, Annals of the American Association of Geographers, Environmental Politics, Environmental Economics and Policy Studies, Public Administration, Environmental Sociology

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association; Midwest Sociological Society; American Association of Geographers; Labor Research Action Network