

# Jonathan Tollefson

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Brown University Department of Sociology  
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[www.jonathantollefson.com](http://www.jonathantollefson.com)

## EDUCATION

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- 2019 -** Brown University / Ph.D., Sociology
- Qualifying exam in Environmental Sociology
  - Qualifying exam in Urban Sociology
- 2016 - 2018** University of Vermont / M.S., Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
- 2011 - 2015** Brown University / Sc.B., Social Analysis and Research (with honors)

## AREAS OF INTEREST

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Environmental Inequality, Environmental Justice, Urban Sociology, Computational Sociology, Science and Technology Studies, Political Ecology, Climate Change

## DISSERTATION RESEARCH

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*How industry segregated cities: The environmental dimensions of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century urban inequality.* Three standalone papers presenting a comparative study of urban environmental inequality at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, drawing on an original computational approach to mapping urban industry in that period.

Committee:

- Scott Frickel, Sociology and Institute at Brown for Environment and Society, Brown University
- Margot Jackson, Sociology and Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University
- Jennifer Candipan, Sociology and Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University

## PUBLICATIONS

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### PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

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- 2023** Tollefson, J., Frickel, S., Gonsalves, S., and Marlow, T. [Parks, people and pollution: A relational study of socioenvironmental succession](#). *City and Community* special issue, "Environmentalizing Urban Sociology" 22(4): 286-307.
- 2023** Tollefson, J., Frickel, S., Gonsalves, S., Marlow, T., Sucsy, R., Byrns, M., and Orpen-Tuz, M. [Early childcare and education in a post-industrial landscape: Inequalities in exposure to active and relic manufacturing in metropolitan Providence, Rhode Island](#). *Environmental Justice* 16(4): 309-320.
- 2022** Frickel, S., and Tollefson, J. [When environmental inequality racialized: Historical evidence from Providence, Rhode Island](#). *Socius* 8: 1-14.
- 2021** Tollefson, J., Frickel, S., and Restrepo, M. [Feature extraction and machine learning techniques for identifying historic urban environmental hazards: New methods to locate lost fossil fuel infrastructure in US cities](#). *PLOS ONE* 16(8): e0255507. [Dissertation paper 1]
- Finalist – 2022 John Odland Award, American Association of Geographers, Spatial Analysis and Modeling Group

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- 2020      **Tollefson, J.** and Panikkar, B. [Contested extractivism: Impact assessment, public engagement, and environmental knowledge production in Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta](#). *Journal of Political Ecology* 27(1): 1166-1188.
- Awarded – 2021 Graduate Student Paper Award, Rural Sociological Society, Natural Resources RIG
- 2020      **Tollefson, J.** [Post-Fukushima discourse in the US press: Quantified knowledge, the technical object, and a panicked public](#). *Public Understanding of Science* 29(7): 670-687.  
[Undergraduate honors thesis]
- 2018      Panikkar, B. and **Tollefson, J.** [Land as material, knowledge, and relationships: Resource extraction and subsistence imaginaries in Bristol Bay, Alaska](#). *Social Studies of Science* 48(5): 715-739.

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## INVITED CHAPTERS

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- 2024      Candipan, J. and **Tollefson, J.** [Machine learning and large-scale data for understanding urban inequality](#). Invited chapter for *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Machine Learning* (Borch, C. and Pardo-Guerra, J.P., eds.).

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## MANUSCRIPTS

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- Under Review      **Tollefson, J.**, Frickel, S., Helgeson, J., and Gore, C. Community resilience planning: What new methods reveal about the formation and transformation of a field.
- Working Papers      **Tollefson, J.** Environmental risk and the changing scale of urban inequality, 1880-1930. [Dissertation paper 2].
- Awarded – 2023 IPUMS USA Student Research Award
  - Awarded – 2024 Brent K. Marshall Student Paper Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Environment and Technology Division
  - Awarded – 2024 Graduate Student Paper Prize, Spatial Structures for the Social Sciences, Brown University
  - Honorable Mention – 2024 Student Paper Award, ASA Environmental Sociology Section
  - Honorable Mention – 2024 Candace Rogers Award, Eastern Sociological Society
  - Featured in [IBES spotlight article](#)
- Tollefson, J.** HOLC redlining as an environmental process.
- Tollefson, J.**, Frickel, S., Helgeson, J., and Gore, C. The role of adaptation frameworks in community resilience planning: Field formation and conceptual development.
- In Progress      **Tollefson, J.** Environmental roots of long-term trajectories of neighborhood inequality. [Dissertation paper 3].
- Tollefson, J.** Suburban development and agricultural land conversion: New landscapes of environmental health inequality. *Delivered at Pacific Sociological Association (Sacramento, CA. Apr. 7-9, 2022).*

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Burns, A. and **Tollefson, J.** Inequality in the effects of pesticide exposure on infant health. *Delivered at Population Association of America (New Orleans, LA. Apr. 12-15, 2023) and American Sociological Association (Philadelphia, PA. Aug. 17-21, 2023).*

### PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

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|------|---|
| 2023 | <b>Tollefson, J.</b> <a href="#">Redlining and segregation in Providence, RI</a> . Essay for <i>Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America</i> . Richmond, VA: University of Richmond Digital Scholarship Lab. |
| 2021 | <b>Tollefson, J.</b> and Frickel, S. <a href="#">Gasworks, lost and found</a> . <i>Urban Omnibus</i> . July 1.  |
| 2016 | <b>Tollefson, J.</b> and Urso, M. <a href="#">Black Lives Matter at St. Patrick's Day Parade</a> . Op-ed in the <i>Providence Journal</i> . April 2.  |

### AWARDS

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| 2024 | Awarded – Brent K. Marshall Student Paper Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Environment and Technology Division |
| 2024 | Honorable Mention – Candace Rogers Award, Eastern Sociological Society   |
| 2024 | Honorable Mention – ASA Environmental Sociology Section Student Paper Award  |
| 2024 | Awarded – Graduate Student Paper Prize, Spatial Structures for the Social Sciences, Brown University                           |
| 2023 | Awarded – IPUMS USA Student Research Award   |
| 2022 | Finalist – John Odland Student Paper Award, American Association of Geographers, Spatial Analysis and Modeling Group           |
| 2021 | Awarded – Graduate Student Paper Award, Rural Sociological Society, Natural Resources RIG                                      |
| 2021 | Awarded – First Place Poster Award, Dellinger Symposium (Superfund Research Program of the NIEHS)                              |

### FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

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|-------------|--|
| 2024 - 2025 | Interdisciplinary Opportunities Fellowship (full funding, 2024-25 academic year), <i>Institute at Brown for Environment and Society</i>  |
| 2024        | Research Fellow: Community Resilience and Risk (Jan. – Dec. 2024), <i>Georgetown University / NIST-PREP</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgetown University / National Institute of Standards and Technology Professional Research Experience Program.</li> </ul> |
| 2024        | Joukowski Summer Research Award (\$1,000), <i>Brown University</i>   |
| 2023 - 2024 | Asa and Horace Learned Fellowship (full funding, 2023-24 academic year), <i>Brown University</i>   |

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- 2023** NIST-PREP Fellowship (full funding, Jan. – Jun. 2023)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology Professional Research Experience Program.
- 2023** Graduate Research, Training, and Travel Award (\$3,145), *Institute at Brown for Environment and Society*
- 2022** Finalist – Raskin Scholarship, *Earth Science Information Partners*
- 2021** NIEHS SRP Traineeship (full funding, Jan. 2021 – Dec. 2021)
- Superfund Research Program of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences. Supported by NIEHS grant P42ES013660.
- 2021** Collaborative Research Award (\$2,000), *Brown University Department of Sociology*
- 2020** Collaborative Research Award (\$2,000), *Brown University Department of Sociology*
- 2019 - 2020** Graduate Fellowship (full funding, 2019-20 academic year), *Brown University*
- 2016 - 2018** Governance of Large Mine Permitting Research Fellowship (full funding, 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years)
- Supported by National Science Foundation award #1642226 (PI: Bindu Panikkar).
- 2017** Florence Tinker Matteossian Memorial Grant (\$4,214), *University of Vermont*
- 2017** Graduate Student Senate Mini-Grant, *University of Vermont*
- 2017** Rubenstein Graduate Student Association Mini-Grant, *University of Vermont*
- 2013** Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award (\$3,000), *Brown University*
- Travel Grants**
- 2024: Disaster Research Center Workshop Travel Grant, *University of Delaware Disaster Research Center*
  - 2024: International conference travel grant, *Brown University*
  - 2022: GSC Travel Grant, *Brown University*
  - 2021: Dellinger Symposium Travel Award, *Superfund Research Program of the NIEHS*
  - 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021: Graduate School Travel Grant, *Brown University*
  - 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021: Sociology Dept. Travel Grant, *Brown University*

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKING GROUPS

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- 2024** Working group discussion: Computational affordances for STS. *Computational Environmental STS Working Group (Technical University of Munich)*. Munich, Germany. Jul. 22-25.
- 2024** Keynote lecture. What historic maps reveal about racial-environmental inequality in US cities. *Center for Urban and Regional Analysis Summer Speaker Series*. Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, and Online. Jun. 14.

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- 2024 Invited lecture. Environmental risk and the reorganization of urban inequality in the late 19th and early 20th century. *Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences, 2024 Graduate Fellow Lecture*. Providence, RI. Apr. 26.
- 2023 Invited lecture. The development and transformation of community resilience planning research: Insights from domain-topic models with chained dimensions. *NIST Applied Economics Office Research Seminar Series*. Washington, DC. Nov. 3.
- 2023 Invited panelist. The environmental dimensions of urban inequality, 1880-1930. *Spatial Data Science Symposium*. Online. Sept. 6.
- 2022 Workshop presentation. Energy geography and urban inequality: Computational techniques for historical research. *Computational Environmental STS Working Group (Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Sciences Innovations Sociétés, Paris)*. Paris, France. Jul. 10-13.
- 2020 Workshop presentation. Manufactured gas and historic environmental inequality. *Urban Theory and Data Lab (Harvard University)*. Cambridge, MA. Oct. 29.
- 2017 Invited lecture. Land use, power, and knowledge at the Northern resource frontier. *Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources Graduate Symposium (University of Vermont)*. Burlington, VT. Oct. 13.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2024 Environmental risk and the reorganization of urban inequality in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. *Society for the Study of Social Problems*. Montreal, QC. Aug. 9-11.
- 2024 Siloed Interdisciplinarity?: A Multi-level Computational Text Analysis of Community Resilience Planning. *American Sociological Association*. Montreal, QC. Aug. 9-13.
- 2024 Community resilience planning: What new methods reveal about the formation and transformation of a field. *Disaster Research Center 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Workshop*. Newark, DE. May 2-5.
- 2024 Urban environmental inequality from 1880 to 1930. *Population Association of America*. Columbus, OH. Apr. 17-20.
- 2024 The development and structure of community resilience planning research. *Eastern Sociological Society*. Washington, DC. Feb. 29 – Mar. 3.
- 2023 Urban fossil fuel production and the changing scale of racial segregation, 1880-1930. *International Association of Public Health Scholars*. Baltimore, MD. Oct. 2-5.
- 2023 Burns, A., and Tollefson, J. Inequality in the effects of pesticide exposure on infant health. *American Sociological Association*. Philadelphia, PA. Aug. 17-21.
- 2023 How industry segregated cities: Using computational data extraction to reexamine the formation of early-20th century segregation. *American Sociological Association*. Philadelphia, PA. Aug. 17-21. (Paper accepted, could not attend due to scheduling conflict).
- 2023 Burns, A., and Tollefson, J. Inequality in the effects of pesticide exposure on infant health. *Population Association of America*. New Orleans, LA. Apr. 12-15.

- 2023 Environmental inequality and the changing scale of urban segregation in the early 20th century. *Pacific Sociological Association*. Bellevue, WA, Mar. 30 – Apr. 2.
- 2023 What was the role of environmental risk in the early formation of neighborhood-level segregation? *American Association of Geographers*. Denver, CO. Mar. 23-27.
- 2023 **Tollefson, J.** and Silberstein, S. Right-wing extremism online: A quantitative and critical discourse analysis of the Parler website. *American Association for Applied Linguistics*. Portland, OR. Mar. 18-21.
- 2022 Brownfields and green spaces: Neighborhood change and urban park access in a post-industrial city. *American Sociological Association*. Los Angeles, CA. Aug. 5-9.
- 2022 Frickel, S., and **Tollefson, J.** When environmental inequality racialized: Evidence from a historical case study. *American Sociological Association*. Los Angeles, CA. Aug. 5-9.
- 2022 Agricultural land conversion and new geographies of suburban environmental risk. *Pacific Sociological Association*. Sacramento, CA. Apr. 7-9.
- 2022 Gastown: Fossil fuels and the changing nature of urban environmental inequality at the turn of the 20th century. *Eastern Sociological Society*. Boston, MA. Mar. 10-13.
- 2022 New methods to locate historic fossil fuel infrastructures: How computational techniques can illuminate 19th century urban environmental hazards. *American Association of Geographers*. New York, NY and online. Feb. 25 – Mar 1.
- Presented as part of John Odland Award session.
- 2021 Urban environmental inequality in the 19th century and the toxic legacy of the manufactured gas industry: Unearthing early fossil fuel infrastructure in American cities (poster). *Dellinger Symposium of the Superfund Research Program*. Apr. 28.
- Awarded – First Place Poster Award
- 2021 Urban environmental inequality and the toxic legacy of the manufactured gas industry: Unearthing 19th century fossil fuel infrastructure in American cities. *Pacific Sociological Association*. Online. Mar. 17-21.
- 2018 Mining, public engagement, and contentious land imaginaries in Bristol Bay and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska. *American Association of Geographers*. New Orleans, LA. Apr. 10-14.
- 2017 Knowledge, sovereignty, and resource extraction in rural Alaska: A case study of the Donlin Gold public comment process. *ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting*. Quebec City, QC. Dec. 11-15.
- 2017 Land as material, habitat and survival: Resource materiality and mining in Bristol Bay and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska. *Society for the Social Studies of Science*. Boston, MA. Aug. 30 – Sept. 2.

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2016 Resource materiality and resistance to mineral development in Bristol Bay, Alaska.  
*ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting*, Winnipeg, MB. Dec. 5-9.

## WORKSHOPS AND PANELS ORGANIZED

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2021 - present Environmental Sociology Workshop, *Brown University*.

- Brown University's Environmental Sociology Workshop brings together faculty and graduate students to discuss ongoing sociological research on environmental topics.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### UNIVERSITY TEACHING

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2025 Brown University, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society / "Environmental justice and the city: Linking urban and environmental sociology for a just future" / *Instructor of Record*

2024 I.E. Business School and Brown University School of Professional Studies / "Society and Culture in the Age of Globalization" / *Teaching Associate* / Prof. Meghan Kallman

2023 I.E. Business School and Brown University School of Professional Studies / "Society and Culture in the Age of Globalization" / *Teaching Associate* / Prof. Meghan Kallman

2022 Brown University, Sociology / "Organizations and Society" / *Teaching Assistantship* / Prof. Rachel Wetts

2022 I.E. Business School and Brown University School of Professional Studies / "Society and Culture in the Age of Globalization" / *Teaching Associate* / Prof. Meghan Kallman

2020 Brown University, Sociology / "Methods for Interdisciplinary Environmental Research" / *Teaching Assistantship* / Prof. Rachel Wetts

- Advised individual student research proposals.

2018 University of Vermont, Environmental Studies / "Human Ecology, Health, and Sustainability in the Circumpolar Arctic" / Co-taught with Prof. Bindu Panikkar

- Co-taught a seminar-style discussion course on the Arctic.

2017 University of Vermont, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources / "Social Processes and the Environment" / *Teaching Assistantship* / Prof. Cecilia Danks

2017 University of Vermont, Environmental Studies / "Environmental Policy and Activism" / *Teaching Assistantship* / Prof. Trish O'Kane

2016 University of Vermont, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources / "Race, Culture, and Natural Resources" / *Teaching Assistantship* / Prof. Clare Ginger

**Guest lecturing** 2024: Brown University, Sociology / "The Geography of Urban Inequality" / *Guest Lecturer* / Prof. Jennifer Candipan

2022, 2021: Brown University, Environmental Studies / "Environmental Studies of Pollution" / *Guest Lecturer* / Profs. Meredith Hastings and Scott Fricke

# Jonathan Tollefson

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## COMMUNITY TEACHING

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| <b>2015 - 2016</b> | Extraordinary Youth Ensemble (Providence, RI) / <i>Administrator and teacher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed curriculum and successfully obtained biannual grants from the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts to provide weekly instrument and music history instruction to Providence area high school students.</li> </ul>                         |
| <b>2014 - 2015</b> | Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (Providence, RI) / <i>Visiting Artist, Music Instruction</i>   |
| <b>2014 - 2015</b> | Breakthrough Providence (Providence, RI) / <i>Teacher, “Demonstration and Organizing”</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed original student-centered curriculum for 7th-9th grade students. Taught weekly lessons and advised student projects on the role of organizing in bringing about social and political change. Advised teaching assistant.</li> </ul> |

## SERVICE

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| <b>2021 - present</b> | Graduate Student Council (Brown University), Department of Sociology representative.  |
| <b>2025</b>           | Will evaluate submissions for SSSP Environment & Technology Division paper award.   |
| <b>2024</b>           | Presider, “Urban Environments” roundtable session, <i>American Sociological Association</i> annual meeting. Montreal, QC. Aug. 9-13.  |
| <b>2023</b>           | Poster Judge, <i>International Association of Public Health Scholars</i> annual meeting. Baltimore, MD. Oct. 2-5.   |
| <b>2023</b>           | Presider, “Urban Sociology” panel session, <i>American Sociological Association</i> annual meeting. Philadelphia, PA. Aug. 17-21. (Could not attend due to scheduling conflict).  |
| <b>2023</b>           | Presider, “Environmental Justice” panel session, <i>Pacific Sociological Association</i> annual meeting. Bellevue, WA. Mar. 30 – Apr. 2.  |
| <b>2022</b>           | Evaluated submissions for Rural Sociological Society NRRIG paper award.   |
| <b>2022</b>           | “Getting to Know Brown and Rhode Island,” panel presentation for incoming graduate students.  |
| <b>Ongoing</b>        | Peer review for <i>American Sociological Review</i> ; <i>Public Understanding of Science</i> ; <i>Population and Environment</i> ; <i>Journal of Political Ecology</i> ; <i>Journal of Computational Social Science</i> ; PLOS ONE. |

## AFFILIATIONS

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### INSTITUTES, LABS, AND WORKING GROUPS

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| <b>2022 - present</b> | Computational Environmental STS Working Group (Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Sciences Innovations Sociétés Paris; Technical University Munich; Brown University) |
| <b>2020 - present</b> | Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (Brown University)   |
| <b>2020 - 2022</b>    | Urban Theory and Data Lab (Harvard University)  |
| <b>2017 - 2018</b>    | Gund Institute for Environment (University of Vermont)  |



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## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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American Sociological Association

- Section memberships: Environmental Sociology; Community and Urban Sociology; Science, Knowledge, and Technology

American Association of Geographers

Eastern Sociological Society

Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science

Pacific Sociological Association

Population Association of America

Rural Sociological Society

Society for the Study of Social Problems

## LANGUAGE AND TECHNICAL

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*Language:* Japanese (rusty)

*I use an array of computational tools in my research and teaching, including statistical analysis in **R**, **Stata**, and **SPSS**; spatial analysis in **R**, **ArcGIS**, and **QGIS**; automation, web scraping, text analysis, and machine learning applications in **Python** and **R**; text analysis using the [Sashimi](#) toolset; and qualitative analysis in **NVivo** and **HyperResearch**.*