

Introduction:  
What Is Environmental  
Sociology?

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What comes to your mind when  
you think of the term the  
"environment"?

Some people refer to it as the  
"ecosystem" or the living and non-  
living components of an area.

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How about "sociology"?  
What come to your mind?

Sociology is sometimes defined  
as the scientific study of how  
society functions and how  
people act or relate to one  
another

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If sociology includes the study of  
societies, how do we go about studying  
societies?

Does "science" play a part?

Sociology is a Social Science.

What do we mean by "science?"

What are its two major  
components?

Science is the testing of theories (what  
we believe to be true or real) through  
the use of "sound" research methods.

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Why do I "enjoy"  
contributing to  
social theory?

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Putting the terms together:

What is Environmental Sociology?

Stuart defines it as:

"the study of how social systems  
interact with ecosystems."

Ecosystem has been defined as: a  
geographic area where plants, animals,  
and other organisms, as well as  
weather and landscape, work together  
to form a bubble of life

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### Why study the environment from a sociological perspective?

- Review how people (and organizations) have interacted with their environments in the past,
- Identify how they may have and are causing environmental changes
- Consider what might be done to improve the environment and prevent its continued degradation

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### What is "public sociology" (also referred as "applied sociology" in the past)?

Sociological research with the purpose of addressing public issues such as climate change.

Research findings that can be applied to solve social problems.

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### Global Warming By Al Gore

(show 17minutes; next time show rest ~8 mins)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVfgkFaswn4>

Study of toxins in lakes that may cause alzheimers (3 mins)  
<https://www.unh.edu/unhtoday/2014/07/are-toxins-escaping-our-lakes>

Robert J. Sampson: Neighborhood Effects and the City\_(start at 8:00 mins)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnKLIvyFOzc>

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### What Is the Most Sustainable City in the World?(2020: 7:48)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsWrOLfM\\_uQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsWrOLfM_uQ)

5 Most Polluted Cities on Earth  
(start at 6:00; goes until 11:05—5 minutes total)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69jwIw4Jevk>

### Innovating to zero! | Bill Gates (18:00/29:32)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaF-fq2Zn7I>

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