



THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIUM PRESENTS:

No Empires, No Dust Bowls: Lessons from the First Global Environmental Crisis



Hannah Holleman

Associate Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies
Amherst College

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

12:30–1:50 PM Central Time

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3l2pHt0>

Dr. Holleman will discuss vital insights offered by study of one of the first global environmental problems of modern capitalism, which reached its apogee in the “dust-bowlification” of agricultural lands in the 1920s and 1930s. Based on award-winning research, she reinterprets regional crises of soil erosion in this period as dramatic manifestations of a transnational social and ecological emergency generated by the racialized political economy and ecology of white settler colonialism and the new imperialism of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She draws lessons from this era for our current struggles to address climate change, environmental injustice and racism, and new threats of dust-bowlification worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic has only reinforced the urgency of these lessons as the abuse of nature increasingly comes back to haunt society and reinforce inequalities. In the end, Dr. Holleman will share thoughts and invite discussion of the challenges for sociology presented by the new dust bowl era in which we now live.

This event is co-sponsored by the Urban Theory Lab and the Committee on Geographical Sciences. Please contact Meredith Clason with questions or for assistance at mclason@uchicago.edu.