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Pre-Tenure Leave Application OCT 31 2018

Name Todd Fuist Your Email: tfuist@iwu.edu

Department or School Sociology and Anthropology

First Year Appointed to a Tenure Line 2017

Year of Tenure Consideration 2020 Na

Have you applied for a Pre-Tenure Leave before? If yes, when? _____

Leave Requested for (please check one and fill in the year)
_____ Fall _____ Spring _____ of Academic Year 2019-20

- If your proposal is funded, would you be willing for the Mellon Center to use it as an exemplary submission in the online Handbook? Yes No
- Will you use human beings as experimental subjects? Yes No
If yes, please submit the appropriate approval notice.
If you have questions about whether IRB approval or exemption is required for your project, please see the pdf link on "Policies and Procedures" at https://www.iwu.edu/irb/forms/IRB_PolicyProcedure.pdf.
- Will you use animals as experimental subjects? Yes No
- If so, have you requested IRB and/or IACUC approval? Yes No
If yes, please submit the appropriate approval notice.
(See the IACUC link to protocol forms at <https://www.iwu.edu/associateprovost>)

Please complete the following checklist by placing a check mark against each item to insure that your application is complete. Incomplete and/or late applications will be returned without evaluation.

1. Summary of Project emailed to chorner@iwu.edu Yes No
2. Proposal as per format described in Handbook Yes No
3. A brief Vita Yes No
4. Supervisor Letter Yes No

Please give name and email address of immediate supervisor.

Name: Meghan Burke Email: mburke@iwu.edu

Todd Fuist, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Pre-Tenure Leave, Project Narrative

A. End Product

I am currently working on a project that is a comparison of two anti-coal movements in different social contexts. The first movement was a mobilization against a proposed coal terminal in Bellingham, Washington. This mobilization was undertaken by a coalition of environmentalists and Native tribes who, together, successfully prevented the coal terminal from being built near Bellingham on tribal land. The other movement was a mobilization against a proposed coal mine near Canton, Illinois. A small group of local activists, predominantly first-time movement participants, agitated against the mine, successfully preventing it from being opened.

These two movements make for an interesting comparison that I plan to explore in a book manuscript. Chapter 1 of the book will focus on the intellectual context of the research, which I detail further below. Chapter 2 of the book will provide a brief history of each movement, explaining the key players, the watershed moments in each movement, and the result of each campaign. Chapters 3 and 4, then, will examine the success of each movement: What led to their respective abilities to stop the coal operations in their town? For the Bellingham movement, it was a combination of Native American tribal rights, Pacific Northwestern environmentalism, and convincing the highly educated locals that scientific consensus was on the anti-coal side. For the Canton group, on the other hand, it was predominantly a “Not in My Back Yard” (NINBY) concern for local folks who care deeply about the area, though discourses about specific scientific findings did play a role in the legal battle. While most of the community members were

more persuaded by how close the mine would be to their homes and water supplies, a visit from a scientist from Colorado helped convince local politicians to stop the project.

Having explained the history and respective successes of the movements, Chapter 5 will compare and contrast these two success stories. In this chapter, I will examine these movements, which share much on paper (successful anti-coal movements), but also have many key differences, for what they can teach us about social movements and the environment. In particular, I will engage with work that examines (a) how local context shapes movement action, and (b) how scientific understandings of nature contribute to environmental controversies.

B. Scholarly Significance of the Project

This project is aimed squarely at addressing ongoing questions that sit at the intersection of the sociology of social movements and environmental sociology. First, scholars of social movements have increasingly tried to, in the words of McAdam and Boudet (2012), “put social movements in their place,” by examining how the context around movements shapes their actions and outcomes. These two examples provide a particularly compelling comparison, given that they (a) have similar targets and (b) were both successful. As such, a comparison of these two mobilizations allows for a finely-tuned examination of how their respective contexts mattered for movement success. That said, there are also important differences: the more left-wing and educated town of Bellingham was highly influenced by scientific findings, Native American tribal concerns, and environmentalist rhetoric. Canton, on the other hand, had to focus primarily on NIMBYism, given less interest among the locals in hearing about environmentalism and ecology. Additionally, Canton has a long history with the coal industry that Bellingham

doesn't, meaning that people had very different stakes in the game, both on the pro-mine and anti-mine sides.

And yet, despite these differences, both movements drew heavily on the place-knowledge of participants. For the Bellingham coalition, it was the connection of the Native tribes, such as the Lummi, to water that would be polluted by the terminal. As one tribal elder put it to me, "for us, fishing is a noun, a verb, and an adjective." For the Canton movement, predominantly made up of senior citizens, a deep connection to the land by families that had lived in Canton for generations shaped their perception of it. Research participants regularly gesture over to the lake while telling me that they learned to swim in that lake, and the idea of a coal mine being opened so near it, spurred them to action. These comparisons provide rich data to help make sense of how place-knowledge and local context shape successful movement action in similar coalitions.

This leads to the second key area of scholarly interest: the social construction of nature. Environmental sociologists have long examined the various ways that different groups (movements, scientists, industry) construct nature for public consumption. In particular, a number of scholars (Farrell 2015; Moore 2008 Ottinger 2013) have argued that while science has a strong role in constructing nature, the ability of activists to use science is limited given its complicated nature, its interpretive flexibility, its inability to answer moral questions, and its ownership by authorities (Farrell 2015; Ottinger 2013). This work demonstrates how context shapes the successful use of science by environmental activists in two very different milieus. For the Bellingham mobilization, the highly educated and liberal local populace were strongly convinced by appeals to scientific expertise, shaping public opinion on the terminal. While the Canton activists found little traction in using science to shape public opinion, their ability to connect with a scientific authority allowed them to pull the right combination of legal levers to

prevent the mine from being opened. These findings give us a better understanding of the complicated ways that engagements with science, including science used by activists, can construct the environment, both for the general public as well as in the legal and political arenas. All of these findings have implications for understanding how environmental movements can replicate the success of these two groups in a variety of settings.

C. Professional Significance of the Project

My main area of scholarship is the sociology of social movements. I am especially interested in how intergroup considerations shape social movement mobilization. My previous work examines how progressive religious groups mobilize around issues of social justice, based on their interpretations of their faith traditions. The present research is important to my scholarly development for three reasons. First, it connects my research to the area of environmental sociology. I currently teach an Environmental Sociology course at IWU, and it is an area of great interest to me, yet my previous focus on religious movements has meant that I have done little empirical work in this subfield. The anti-coal movement study is squarely aimed at environmental sociology, enhancing my scholarly expertise and presence in that subfield.

Secondly, this work allows me to address central questions in the sociology of social movements. My previous work was focused on the sociology of religion rather than the sociology of social movements. Most of the publications that emerged out of it have been most read and discussed by scholars in the sociology of religion. This study addresses questions of interest to scholars in the sociology of social movements, allowing me to grow my expertise and influence in that subfield.

Finally, while I have produced a number of articles, book chapters, and an edited volume, I have yet to produce a single-authored, book length manuscript. This project is aimed directly at creating a book manuscript. The development of a research manuscript as an important marker of scholarly achievement in my discipline, and this research will allow me to meet that goal.

D. Proposed Timetable

The data for the Washington phase of this project has already been collected and analyzed. The Illinois data is currently being collected. I am roughly halfway through the number of interviews I plan to collect. (I have interviewed six people and plan to interview 10-14 given that the group in question was rather small). Since I will have all of 2019 to complete this research, have the interviews transcribed, and begin to analyze the data, I will be able to use the Spring 2020 leave period to (a) write a draft of the book and (b) send the prospectus to potential publishers.

E. IRB Review

I received approval for the Illinois half of this study on April 2, 2018 from the IWU IRB.

Brief Vita, Todd Nicholas Fuist

Education

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL, Ph.D. in Sociology, 2013
DePaul University, Chicago, IL, M.A. in Sociology, 2005
DePaul University, Chicago, IL, B.A. in Sociology, 2001

Recent Publications

Books

2017 Braunstein, Ruth, Todd Nicholas Fuist, and Rhys H. Williams (eds.).
Religion and Progressive Activism: New Stories about Faith and Politics. NYU Press.

Articles

2018 Fuist, Todd Nicholas, Elizabeth Mogford, and Ahbijit Das. "Lifestyle Movements as Social Networks: The Connections between Everyday Politics and Larger Collective Action in an Indian Feminist Movement." *Sociological Perspectives*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0731121418757505>.

2018 Fuist, Todd Nicholas. "Not Left-Wing, Just Human": The Integration of Personal Morality and Structural Critique in Progressive Religious Talk" *Politics and Religion*. 11(1): 169-191.

Book Chapters

2017 Fuist, Todd Nicholas, Ruth Braunstein, and Rhys H. Williams. "Religion and Progressive Social Action: Introducing and Mapping the Field." In *Religion and Progressive Activism: New Stories about Faith and Politics*.

2017 Fuist, Todd Nicholas. "Three Models For Integrating Religion and Politics in Progressive Religious Communities." In *Religion and Progressive Activism: New Stories about Faith and Politics*.

Reviews

2018 Fuist, Todd Nicholas. "Review of *Gay on God's Campus: Mobilizing for LGBT Equality at Christian Colleges and Universities*, by Johnathan S. Coley." *Review of Religious Research*.

2017 Fuist, Todd Nicholas. "Review of *A Shared Future: Faith-Based Organizing for Racial Equity and Ethical Democracy*, by Richard L. Wood and Brad R. Fulton." *The American Journal of Sociology* 122(4): 1317-1319.

Courses Taught at Illinois Wesleyan

Sociology 101: Introductory Sociology*
Sociology 250: Media and Popular Culture
Sociology 290: History of Social Thought
Sociology 328: Criminology
Sociology 333: Youth Subcultures
Sociology 340: Social Movements and Politics in the U.S.

Sociology 367: Environmental Sociology

Recent Conference Presentations

- 2017 “Safe Havens” and Places of Protest’: Space and Identity in LGBT Congregations.” Paper presented at the Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Washington, D.C.
- 2017 Speaker in “Scholars Are People, Too: Negotiating Work/Life Balance in Academia” panel at the Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Washington, D.C.
- 2017 We Fight For the Next Seven Generations: Constructing Authority Among Anti-Coal Activists in Whatcom County, Washington. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Sociological Society, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2017 Speaker in “Strategies for Publishing Your Research at a Primarily Teaching Institution” panel at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Sociological Society, Milwaukee, WI. (Also on same panel in 2016).

Service

To the Discipline

Reviewer for *American Sociological Review*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Social Problem*, *Research in Social Movements*, *Conflict and Change*, *Social Movement Studies*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Sociological Compass*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Humanity and Society*, and *The Sociological Quarterly*.

- 2017 Organized Session called “Beyond Binaries: New Research on Religion and Sexuality” at the Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Washington, D.C.

To the University and Department

- 2018 Conducted talk with student co-presenter on race and criminal justice for Illinois Wesleyan University’s Politalks series.
- 2017- Participated in redesign of sociology program, Illinois Wesleyan University.
- 2017- Faculty advisor for Alpha Kappa Delta, Illinois Wesleyan University.
- 2017 Served on domain committee for proposed new general education curriculum, Illinois Wesleyan University.

Affiliations and Memberships

American Sociological Association
Association for the Sociology of Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Midwestern Sociological Society



OCT 25 2018

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

October 22, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to offer my full support for Todd Fuist's proposed Pre-Tenure Leave during the Spring 2020 semester. Todd's proposal to complete a book-length manuscript based on a comparative analysis of two social movements that are opposing proposed new coal mines in Washington and Illinois will firmly situate his research as relevant to both the Social Movements and Environmental subfields in sociology. This is not only important for Professor Fuist's scholarship, but also for his teaching, as he has developed and taught both of these courses for us since starting here at Illinois Wesleyan in the fall of 2017.

Todd's expertise in our discipline includes social movements; environmental sociology; identity, culture and media; subcultures; deviance; theory; and criminal justice. He has woven together many of these threads in his published research on progressive religious movements, the role of culture and identity in social movements, queer identities in religious communities, religious practices as they relate to identity and community, civic engagement in both urban and religious spaces, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. While he has an impressive record of 10 peer-reviewed articles, 4 book chapters, and a co-edited book, the level of nuance and scholarly rigor that our work as sociologists produces often necessitates a book-length treatment of our research findings; this would be Todd's first, and an important achievement for him as he advances toward tenure and promotion.

The book project proposed in his Pre-Tenure Leave presents an exciting extension of his expertise in Social Movements by extending into the growing subfield of Environmental Sociology. Utilizing in-depth interviews with activists in anti-coal movements in Bellingham, Washington and Canton, Illinois allows Professor Fuist to not only consider the unique strategies mobilized in each local movement, but also to analyze the differences in persuasion that allowed each movement to succeed. As discussed in his proposal, Todd's preliminary analysis indicates a fascinating deployment of popular notions about both nature and community that is sure to contribute to the literature on the discourses around science, social construction of nature, environmentally-focused social movements, and social movement scholarship more generally.

Todd is well-poised to complete this project in the timeline that he details in his proposal. He has already completed the collection and transcription of his interview data from his field work in Bellingham, Washington, and completed a preliminary

analysis of that data, drawing out themes that illustrate how this more progressive and highly-educated town was persuaded by concern for a local indigenous community and scientific findings that supported the anti-coal movement's goals. This project was approved by the IRB at the university where he was working as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the time. Our IRB has also already approved his work to collect the second data set, consisting of interviews and fieldwork with anti-coal activists in Canton, Illinois. Professor Fuist has already begun conducting and transcribing those interviews, and will finish doing so before the Leave begins in January 2020, more than a year from now. This will allow him to devote his Leave to drafting the full book manuscript and sending the prospectus to academic publishers.

The timing of this Leave is also ideal for Todd's promotion and tenure case. Todd arrived last academic year with one year removed from his tenure clock, meaning that he is currently in his "third" year of his probationary period. This Leave will occur in the second semester of his fourth year, leaving just one remaining academic year before his case for promotion and tenure is presented to our PAT committee. The typical timing of moving an accepted book from contract to full submission, through peer review, requested edits, re-evaluation, indexing, proofing, marketing, and release is often at least one year. That should mean that his book is released just as he is coming up for promotion and tenure. As such, a Spring 2020 leave is essential for Professor Fuist's successful PAT case.

Our sociology program has been intentional about developing long-range course offering and staffing charts that can accommodate pre-tenure and sabbatical leaves among our faculty while still ensuring the success of our students and the rigor of our program. Indeed, that success and rigor vitally depends on our faculty's ability to remain actively engaged with our research and scholarship. It is for this reason that I have no hesitation enthusiastically supporting Todd's Spring 2020 Pre-Tenure Leave.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance as you consider Todd's proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MBurke', written in a cursive style.

Meghan Burke, Associate Professor of Sociology
Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
309.556.3671; mburke@iwu.edu