Clinical and Applied Sociology

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Assignment

**Assignment #2 – Developmental Readings**

1. Create Developmental Readings from seminal sources and scholarly peer-reviewed

journal articles. Review instructions for Assignment #3, the course essential elements, and course readings to identify selections of books and journals to create entries.

1. Refer to the "Student Guide to Developmental Readings" in the General Helps folder for updated information on sample comments, the grading rubric, and key definitions related to developmental readings.

This developmental reading focuses on Seasonal Migrant Agriculture Workers Heat Risks

**Source One:** Castillo, F., Mora, A. M., Kayser, G. L., Vanos, J., Hyland, C., Yang, A. R., & Eskenazi, B. (2021). Environmental Health Threats to Latino Migrant Farmworkers. *Annual Review of Public Health*, *42*(1), 257–276. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-012420-105014>

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “According to data reported from 2005 to 2014, 20% of heat-related deaths among non-US citizens occurred on a farm, and almost 95% of these deaths took place in Texas, Arizona, and California (128). Agricultural workers are at risk of prolonged heat exposure—and thus heat stress and strain—owing to their outdoor work, physical exertion, and limited water intake.”

(Castillo et al., 2021, p. 261)

**Essential Element:** Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The heat-related death information in the above quote is additive to my current understanding of the problem associated with heat in the farmworker’s life.

**Contextualization:**  This data is from the mid-2000s, and most of the heat-related deaths occurred in southern agricultural states where summer temperatures are high. Due to the increased effects of climate change, these temperatures are getting hotter and rising temperatures are moving into northern agrarian states. This means that the heat is becoming more dangerous, particularly to farmworkers. This is a major concern not only for the farmworkers, but also for the farming community, consumers, and society at large. We must rethink the way things have been done in the past and adapt our regulations and practices to fit the changing environmental conditions, especially those who work outdoors such as farmworkers.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Some recommendations that have been made regarding how farmworkers can avoid heat-related illnesses include a focus on hydration, use of proper clothing (e.g., PPE, lightweight clothing, and clothing that is light in color), more frequent rest periods, and health education. To avoid excessive heat exposure, changes to work shifts have been adopted in some locations. This adaptation strategy, however, has resulted in hours of work lost and consequently reduction in pay. Prevention measures such as farm-level administrative controls to ensure provisions for adequate cooling, rest, recovery, and water could be implemented more broadly to protect farmworkers and minimize their time in intense heat.” (Castillo et al., 2021, p. 262)

**Essential Element:** Applications for Sociological Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The protocols mentioned in the above quote are additive to my current understanding of what is used to protect farmworkers from heat-related injuries.

**Contextualization:** Water, heat protection clothing, breaks and health education are important protocols for farmworker safety, however, more needs to be done to protect farmworkers in the increased heat, the above measures only go so far for protection. Some simple things could be done, one is to have paid breaks, to avoid the system of avoidance of breaks. Another is facilitating better hydration, including cool water throughout the day, clean and cooled porta-potties and cooled shading areas through shade trailers. The challenge of these are the cost and the facilitation of these differently they are currently being done. Water is cooled with ice in the mornings but becomes warm as the day continues, porta-potty trailers are used but are hotter than the outside temperature, they are known as “blue-collar saunas” in the construction community. In a farm field, one would be lucky to find shade in nearby trees, otherwise, breaks are taken in the hot sun.

**Source Two:** Curl, C. L., Meierotto, L., & Som Castellano, R. L. (2020). Understanding Challenges to Well-Being among Latina FarmWorkers in Rural Idaho Using in an Interdisciplinary, Mixed-Methods Approach. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, *18*(1), 169. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18010169>

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Under the Worker Protection Standard (WPS), agricultural employers are required to provide all workers with supplies for routine and emergency decontamination in the event of pesticide exposures, including “plenty of” soap and single use towels, and either one gallon of water per worker or 3 gallons of water per handler at the beginning of each work period. Accessible toilets are also required. However, according to the survey results, 7% of our participants did not have access to toilets every day, and 21% reported that employers did not provide water to wash hands every day. This lack of basic sanitation also emerged as a theme in the focus groups and interviews.”

(Curl et al., 2020, p.8)

**Essential Element:** Applications for Sociological Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive to my understanding of Worker Protection Standards, and the need for employers to protect their employees, including farm laborers, from hazards and work-related injuries.

**Contextualization:** The information shared in the above quote informs us that some protocols and items should be used but are not always provided. This is a misfortunate, though there may be some distribution challenges from moving to different fields throughout the day, there should be a way to get the workers and the supplies needed from field to field. Many employers look at the cost factors of supporting and supplying protective measures for their employees. Nevertheless, when things go wrong and their employees are unable to work, there is a cost to that as well. Farm employers need to view the protection of employees as the ‘right’ thing to do.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “A range of factors shape the well-being of Latinx farmworkers in the United States (US). Their work is often contingent and low-paid. They labor in, and live in, rural places with fewer resources. They have limited access to insurance and physical and mental health care, and face well-documented occupational health and safety risks. Family separation, social hierarchies, insufficient social networks and other forms of social suffering also influence Latinx farmworker well-being. Further, immigration politics have been central to shaping farmworker livelihoods in the US, and immigration status affects access to federally-funded safety nets which can improve health and welfare.” (Curl et al., 2020, p.1)

**Essential Element:** Clinical Sociology

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is additive to my understanding of the dynamics farmworkers are faced with and exist within. There are organizations that support the needs of farm labors such as rural health centers that treat patient no matter their ability to pay, and migrant councils to support their needs.

**Contextualization:** Seasonal and migrant farmworkers live a challenging life, they are undervalued by farms and the farm communities, as well as the U.S. Their jobs are tough, dirty, and hot for low pay, but what they do is vital for agriculture. There has been a decrease in seasonal and migrant farmworkers as more technology is incorporated into agriculture, nevertheless, they are needed for many crops to be produced. They live in rural communities where there is a lower level of human services available and are more likely to be uninsured and have access issues of getting time off and transportation to receive routine healthcare. There are councils and community organizations that advocate and support farmworkers which is great, but often the basic needs of farmworkers in their work environment are overlooked. I grew up and live in an agricultural area and have seen farmworkers in the fields what I have noticed is that we have fewer farmworkers and not much has changed in the way of worker resources in the fields they do have porta-potty trailers now and have seen only a small amount of shade trailers by the fields.

**Source Three:** Hyland, C., Flores, D., Augusto, G., Ruiz, I., Vega, M., & Wood, R. (2024). “No matter how hot it is, you just have to do the work”: Examining farmworkers’ experiences with heat and climate change in Idaho. *The Journal of Climate Change and Health*, *16*, 100300. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joclim.2024.100300>

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “One participant discussed how they feel there is already a lack of regulations to protect farmworkers, and no additional protections have been put in place even as climate change continues to worsen with increased heat and more wildfires.” (Hyland et al., 2024, p. 3)

**Essential Element:** Sociological Interventions

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is additive to my understanding of how climate change is impacting agriculture and agriculture workers.

**Contextualization:** The above quote identifies that farmworkers themselves notice and feel the impact of climate change. However, in many agricultural areas, the community at large denies climate change, which is difficult to understand, but many also affirm that it has been getting hotter than in previous years. This is an agreement between climate change affirmers and deniers, this is good and a good place to start where we do not need to change the minds of deniers to work together to make additional changes to protect farmworkers from heat as they work. In the western U.S. wildfires have been a common occurrence even more so in recent years. The wildfire smoke moves to the valleys even if it may be from another state, the valleys are where the majority of agricultural production is and a major issue for all people who live in the valleys, particularly for people who work outdoors, such as farmworkers. I am unsure what could be done to reduce the wildfire smoke or the harm from it, but there seems like there may be a better solution than just farmworkers wearing bandana while they work.

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The primary strategies participants reported to cool down and protect themselves from heat included carrying cold water, trying to find shade, and wearing a bandana, hat, or long clothes. For example, one participant reported that they wear a handkerchief, and when it gets really hot, they sweat a lot and the handkerchief gets wet and this keeps them cooler. Participants consistently reported that the frequency and duration of breaks were insufficient to help them cool down.” (Hyland et al., 2024, p. 2)

**Essential Element:** Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This information about the things that are being used and may be ineffective for cooling farmworkers down is additive to my current understanding.

**Contextualization:** Farmworkers are doing what they can to try to minimize the impact of heat on them, the question is whether farms and the community are doing what they can to minimize the impact of the heat on farmworkers. I argue that some progress has been made but by far not enough. Agriculture technology is an advanced and large industry, from farm equipment to irrigation, it seems like there could be an advancement in supporting farmworkers in many ways, particularly regarding more protection from the heat. Outdoor clothing has had scientific and technological advancement in recent years, there may be some great opportunities to make and provide farmworker clothing that allows for more efficient cooling. In addition, solar technology can be used to power cooling devices in water stations, porta-potties, and shade trailers.

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Farmworkers are one of the groups most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and exposure to extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and climate disasters will continue to worsen in the coming decades. Findings from this work underscore the importance of shifting the burden of climate resiliency from individuals to systemic workplace, residential, and community interventions to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of this essential population.” (Hyland et al., 2024, p. 5)

**Essential Element:** Applications for Sociological Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The concept of the limitations of individuals to protect themselves from the impacts of climate change, and the need for workplaces to also implement protections against climate change is additive to my current understanding.

**Contextualization:**  I wholeheartedly support this quote “…shifting the burden of climate resiliency from individuals to systemic workplace, residential, and community interventions to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of this essential population.”, I agree and think that this could be facilitated by applied, clinical and public sociology, where we could understand the structural dynamics and include agricultural communities to become involved in, with farmers, farm workers, the community, and high school vocational programs working together to help bring about awareness and action to reduces the risks of farm workers.

**Source Four:** Langer, C. E., Armitage, T. L., Beckman, S., Tancredi, D. J., Mitchell, D. C., & Schenker, M. B. (2023). How Does Environmental Temperature Affect Farmworkers’ Work Rates in the California Heat Illness Prevention Study? *Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine*, *65*(7), e458–e464. <https://doi.org/10.1097/JOM.0000000000002853>

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Farmworkers' exposure to high temperatures will intensify as a result of global climate change. The temperature in California is projected to increase between 5.6°F and 8.8°F by the end of the century, with the annual temperatures having already increased by greater than 1°F across most of the state. In addition to increasing the risk for HRI, agricultural productivity is anticipated to fall as workers reduce work rate to cope with heat and shift to earlier and later working hours to avoid peak heat exposure.” (Langer et al., 2023, p. 458)

**Essential Element:** Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive to my understanding of the impacts climate change has on the agricultural community and industry; growing seasons are changing as well as the ability to grow certain crops in certain areas. In addition, the impact it has on farmworkers' health and safety.

**Contextualization:** Heat Related Illnesses (HRIs) in farmworkers will continue to increase as the increase in summer temperatures farmworkers work within as climate change continues to become worse. I think the community will become more aware of this as this will also increase the burden on the farms and support systems within the community. I believe with little cost, there can be community solutions and support to reduce the HRIs among farmworkers, and even bring in economic growth and jobs within the rural communities. Farm communities need to be able to adapt to the changes that are being caused by climate change.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The strongest association with work rate in the multivariate model was dehydration measured at the end of the shift, with an estimate of 55.3 (95% CI, 23.1 to 87.4) greater cpm in each 15-minute interval among workers who were dehydrated. The positive association between dehydration and work rate may be due to greater fluid loss from sweating among more active workers. The higher work rate could also result from taking fewer breaks to hydrate. However, in a separate analysis by Langer et al, 23 participants in this study were found to drink more water in higher temperatures but not in sufficient quantity to prevent dehydration. Dehydration can lead to elevated core body temperatures as well as blood volume depletion that can lead to kidney damage, which was seen in the CHIPS study.” (Langer et al., 2023, p. 462)

**Essential Element:** Applications for Sociological Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This research finding from this article is additive to my understanding of the difficulties it is to stay hydrated working in hot temperatures.

**Contextualization:** It has been said that water is the most important and undervalued resource in the world. I would argue that this could be the case for our bodies as well, water is what is needed to stay hydrated and healthy from young to old, people who work indoors and in particular for people who work outdoors, such as farm workers. This quote identifies the importance and issue of hydration in the heat and environment that farmworkers labor in, that it is difficult to stay hydrated and cool in the increasingly harsh conditions of farm labor. This research found that as farm workers where drinking water while working in the fields it was in many cases not enough to stay hydrated. Without breaks in cooling stations, drinking water can only go so far to keep one hydrated, there needs to be a multi-faceted approach to protect farmworkers from heat injuries.

**Source Five:** Nursinah, A., Suabey, S., Kadir, E., Asmi, A. S., Purba, E. R. V., Henderika Litaay, S. C., & Pannyiwi, R. (2023). Environmental Sociology Approach From A Social Risk Perspective. *International Journal of Health Sciences*, *1*(2), 102–110. <https://doi.org/10.59585/ijhs.v1i2.59>

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Environmental issues are not merely technical and biological issues; they are social issues that must be approached through a socio cultural study of society. With environmental sociology studies, environmental problems can be studied more comprehensively.” (Nursinah et al, 2023, p. 109)

**Essential Element:** Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This concept of incorporating social scientists into the study of climate change and its impacts is additive to my understanding of environmental studies.

**Contextualization:** There is nothing outside of the study of sociology, this is because everything is a social issue, from changes in technology which change society, and environmental changes also change society as well. These changes could be negative or positive. As sociologists we can uncover the changes that have happened and moreover, what will likely happen by social research and promote this social change in a positive direction. In order to do this there seems to be a need for more public sociology and a turning back to socially relevant sociology from our academic sociologist. To me it seems that our fellow social scientists in psychology, economics and anthropology are contributing to the larger social knowledge and facilitating action than sociology.

**Source Six:** Watson, E., McElvein, A. & Holst, E.(2019). *Farmworkers and Heat Stress in the United States: A future proofing the U.S. agriculture report*.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Generally, OSHA recommends that workers rest hourly in temperatures above 77°F and prioritize rest in shaded areas. The Division of Occupational Safety and Health of California, also known as Cal/OSHA, defines shade as blockage of direct sunlight that allows the body to cool, meaning that, for example, a car sitting in the sun does not provide acceptable shade unless the car is running with air conditioning” (, p. 14)

**Essential Element:** Sociological Interventions

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive to my understanding of the importance of taking breaks in a shaded cooling area in the farm fields, where there is most likely a minimal amount of natural shade.

**Contextualization:** It is important for farmworkers to drink water take break throughout the day, and with the impacts of climate change that is making the summer hotter it is even more important for cool water and breaks in a cooling station. The issue is that what is done today to protect workers from heat injuries is not enough because of the rising summer temperatures and will become a bigger problem. Farmworkers do use cars they drive to the fields as a way to try to cool down, but without the vehicle moving there is limited cooling. Also many of the vehicles that are out there may not have a air conditioner or perhaps a working one. Another solution is needed for a shaded cooling station, such as well-designed cooling shade trailers. There are shade trailers available but are limited in providing shade and cooling.

**Source Seven:** Reichard, J. D. (2023). Applied and Clinical Sociology. In D. Hiebert, *The Routledge International Handbook of Sociology and Christianity* (1st ed., pp. 369–379). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003277743-40>

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Applied sociology is the application of sociological research to assist with social problem identification and diagnosis; clinical sociology is the implementation and evaluation of interventions for groups, organizations, and communities using sociological theories and methods. In both cases, the aim is to translate sociological theories into practice for nonacademic audiences.” (Reichard, 2023, p.369)

**Essential Element:** Clinical Sociology

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my understanding of the definition and tasks of applied sociology and clinical sociology.

**Contextualization:** The author provides a great and simple definition of applied and clinical sociology, “Applied sociology is the application of sociological research to assist with social problem identification and diagnosis; clinical sociology is the implementation and evaluation of interventions…” I have thought of myself as an applied sociologist, and that is what I have mainly done in my career in healthcare analytics. My work has brought about data driven decision-making by stakeholders, and have provided input of explaining what an analysis suggests, and have thought given an analysis this is what I would do, but it was not my place to take direct action. I see clinical sociology that implements intervention and action. As I reflect upon the work of W.E.B. Dubois, he incorporated clinical sociology with his applied sociology.

**Source Eight:** Thompson, N. (2018). *Applied Sociology*. Routledge.

**Comment 12:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “A basic premise of sociology is that all human activity takes place within a social context. A basic premise of applied sociology is that failing to consider that social context at best gives us only a partial picture of what we are dealing with and, at worst, significantly exacerbates the problems we are seeking to address and/or introduces new problems.” (Thompson, 2018, p. 14)

**Essential Element:** Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This concept of the premise of utilizing applied sociology is additive to my understanding of the benefits of applied sociology.

**Contextualization:** The author makes a good insight into the benefits of utilizing applied sociology in social problems, where a larger understanding of the dynamics of the social problem is needed in order to make the appropriate intervention to work and not cause unintended consequences. Along with social research or analysis, it is important to incorporate social theory in order to have the combination working with each other.

**Source Nine:** Burawoy, M. (2021). *Public Sociology*. John Wiley & Sons.

**Comment 13:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Only in the US did we have to invent a special term to distinguish public sociology from professional sociology- a sociology that is accountable to a community of scientists, a sociology that is largely inaccessible and incomprehensible to lay audiences.” (Burawoy, 2021, p. 33)

**Essential Element:** Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This concept of a constructed distinction in the U.S. of academic (‘professional’) sociology and public sociology is additive to my understanding of the divided U.S. sociology.

**Contextualization:** This quote reinforces my thought about U.S. sociology becoming lost in academia. Though academia sociological research studies interesting topic and phenomena, the publication of that research is geared toward academic journals and just for the sake of publishing for academic accolades of the sociologist. Sometimes, in reading sociological journals I get frustrated by the academic junk that is written for the sake of just publishing. I do think academic sociologist mean well, they are just caught up in this self-academic promotion to look like a good productive sociologist so they can get the next big professorship.

**Source Ten:** Agger, B. (2007). *Public Sociology: From Social Facts to Literary Acts*. Rowman & Littlefield.

**Comment 14:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “A public sociology today needs to help young people read the world in some depth and complexity, especially using theory, and it needs to give young people a stake in the world.” (Agger, 2007, p. 284)

**Essential Element:** Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The above quote is additive to my understanding of the impact of public sociology to include young people.

**Contextualization:** This is an insightful statement the author makes about making public sociology relevant to young people. As an sociology adjunct professor who works in applied sociology, I do try to bring about the relevance of sociology in everyday life and different professions, so they could see that sociology is not just an academic profession, but could be used in applied settings as well as public setting to bring about sociological insights to non-sociological audiences. Younger children I see would also benefit from the sociological perspective especially here in the U.S. where we tend to see ourselves in the center of the world around us. I believe there would be so much less bullying if the youth had a sociological perspective.

**Source Eleven:** Urry, J. (2011). *Climate Change & Society.* Polity Press.

**Comment 15:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “I thus argue that sociology now needs a different niche of research and enquiry, a new disciplining. This will be to its benefit in a new world dis/order characterized by novel resource constraints and perverse consequences since it places ‘society’ centerstage. And also that the world needs sociology in order to displace dominant economic models of human behavior.” (Urry, 2011, p. 16)

**Essential Element:** Applications for Sociological Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This concept of sociological thinking and research is needed in studying environmental issues as well as the need for sociologist to study of environmental issues because they impact people and societies is additive to my understanding.

**Contextualization:** This presentation of the need for sociology to adapt to study the impacts of environmental issues, I believe is also a call for academic sociologists to become more involved in public issues and public audiences. With the resources they have at universities, it would be wonderful to also do public sociology as well. With the state of higher education (high cost and decreasing enrollment, it would behoove sociology departments to bring attention and courses in public sociology, applied sociology and clinical sociology.

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