

Bill Freudenburg
Statement of interest

In essence, there are three main ways in which space is intrinsic to my work.

First, and most obviously, much of my work has had to do with specific communities and regions, and the ways in which they have responded to environmental and technological threats and opportunities. Each one of those communities is profoundly connected to its own setting, for reasons that range from the geologically ancient (e.g., presence of oil deposits or of rock that looks "favorable" for nuclear waste disposal), to the reasonably current (e.g., present-day debates over how forest policy ought to be managed, future plans for amenity-related shore-front developments).

Second, I have often looked at relationships that are spatially structured within a given community -- involving for example connections or conflicts between established and newly developed parts of town, or between those who live in trailer courts and those who live in the expensive houses up on the hill.

Third, and more quantitatively, I have been doing some work in recent years with Frank Howell (a sociologist at Mississippi State University), looking at connections between inequality, policy, and environmental degradation. Our findings deserve to be seen as preliminary for now, but we do seem to find some evidence that the relationships between pollution and inequality are different for the southeastern U.S. than for the rest of the country.