

**RILEY E. DUNLAP**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Oklahoma State University**  
**Stillwater, OK 74078**  
**Email: rdunlap@okstate.edu**

Riley E. Dunlap received his Ph.D. (1973) from the University of Oregon, supported by a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from Resources for the Future, Inc. He joined the faculty of Washington State University in 1972 and rose to full Professor. In 1997 Dunlap was appointed Boeing Distinguished Professor of Environmental Sociology at WSU, a position he held until 2002 when he resigned to become Donner Professor at Åbo Akademi University in Turku/Åbo, Finland. He joined the Oklahoma State University faculty in January of 2006, and was appointed Regents Professor of Sociology in July of 2007 and the Laurence L. and Georgia Ina Dresser Professor in July of 2011.

Starting over four decades ago, Dunlap has studied the nature and sources of "environmental concern," trends in public opinion toward environmental issues, and the linkage between public opinion and environmental policy-making. As a result of this work Dunlap was appointed Gallup Fellow in Environment at the George H. Gallup International Institute, where he served as Project Director for the 24-nation "Heath of the Planet Survey" in 1992. In 1999 he was appointed Gallup Scholar for Environment with the Gallup Organization, serving as advisor for the Gallup Poll's environmental surveys.

Dunlap's early research examined the link between traditional American beliefs and values (e.g., individualism, laissez faire, and progress) and environmental attitudes and behavior. He was the first researcher to examine empirically the relationship between acceptance of the basic beliefs and values constituting our society's "Dominant Social Paradigm" (or "DSP") and concern for environmental quality. He also developed a measure of the core elements of the "environmental paradigm" or "worldview" that has begun to challenge the DSP in many industrialized nations. The "New Environmental Paradigm Scale" (revised at the New Ecological Paradigm Scale in 2000) has become the most widely used measure of environmental concern, employed in hundreds of studies in numerous nations around the world.

His current research focuses primarily on climate change, including analyses of public opinion toward climate change, the growth of political polarization over climate science and policy, and the sources and nature of climate change denial. Dunlap served as Chair of the American Sociological Association's Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change (2010-2014). He is senior editor of the Task Force's report, *Climate Change and Society: Sociological Perspectives*, published by Oxford University Press in 2015 and co-winner of the 2016 Outstanding Publication Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on Environment and Technology.

Dunlap has been very active in the development of the field of environmental sociology, first in the U.S. and then internationally. He has served as Chair of the American Sociological Association's Section on Environmental Sociology, the Rural Sociological Society's Natural Resources Research Group and the Society for the Study of Social Problems' Environmental Problems Division, as well as President of the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Environment and Society (RC 24).

With William Catton, Dunlap co-authored a series of articles that defined and codified the field of environmental sociology, and earned them a "Distinguished Contribution Award" from the ASA Section and an "Award of Merit" from the RSS Research Group. Their contributions were acknowledged in an article, "The Emergence of Environmental Sociology: Contributions of Riley E. Dunlap and William R. Catton, Jr.," in a special issue of *Sociological Inquiry* (November, 1989) devoted to profiles of "individuals whose contributions ... prompted the exploration of new frontiers of sociological study." More recently Catton's and Dunlap's work was the subject of a four-article symposium for the "Citation Classics and Foundational Works" section of *Organization and Environment* (December, 2008), a leading environmental social science journal.

Dunlap's work has been published in sociology journals such as the *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Social Science Research*, and *Sociological Quarterly*; in social science journals such as *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Social Science*

*Quarterly*, and the *Policy Studies Journal*; and in multidisciplinary environmental journals such as *Nature Climate Change*, *Global Environmental Change*, *Environment*, and *Environmental Politics*. He is senior editor of *American Environmentalism* (Taylor and Francis, 1992), *Public Reactions to Nuclear Waste* (Duke University Press, 1993), the *Handbook of Environmental Sociology* (Greenwood, 2002), *Sociological Theory and the Environment* (Rowman-Littlefield, 2002) and *Climate Change and Society: Sociological Perspectives* (Oxford 2015), and co-author of *Viewing the World Ecologically* (Westview, 1992).

In 2000 Dunlap was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and also received the Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award from WSU's College of Liberal Arts. In 2002 he was awarded the Excellence in Research Award from the Rural Sociological Society, and in 2010 was elected a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. He received a Regents Distinguished Research Award from OSU and the William R. Freudenburg Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Environmental Studies and Science in 2012. Most recently, he was elected a member of the Sociological Research Association (2016), sociology's honorary society, and named a "Highly Cited Researcher" by the Web of Science Group in 2019.