

# Health, Risk, and Environmental Justice

Lecture Part 1

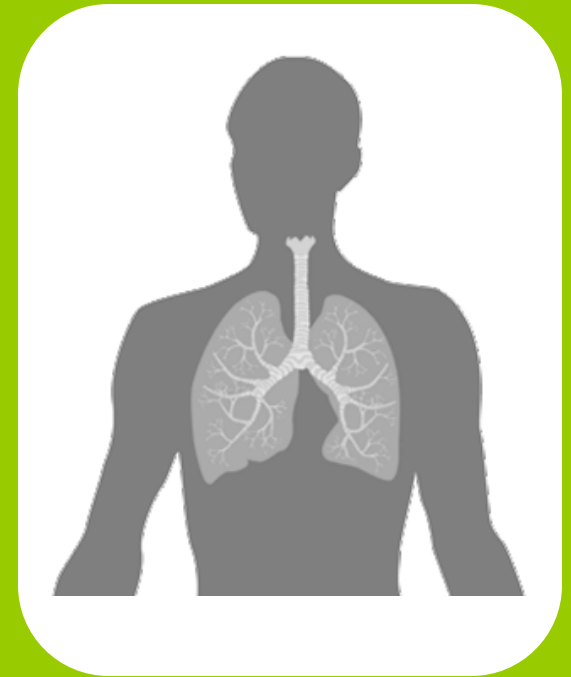
SOC165

Spring 2010



# This Week's Topic

## Health, Risk, and Environmental Justice



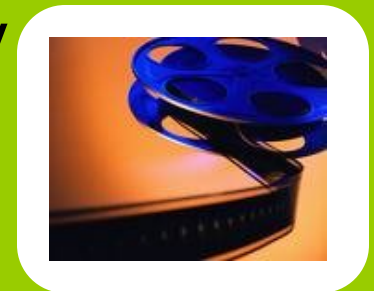
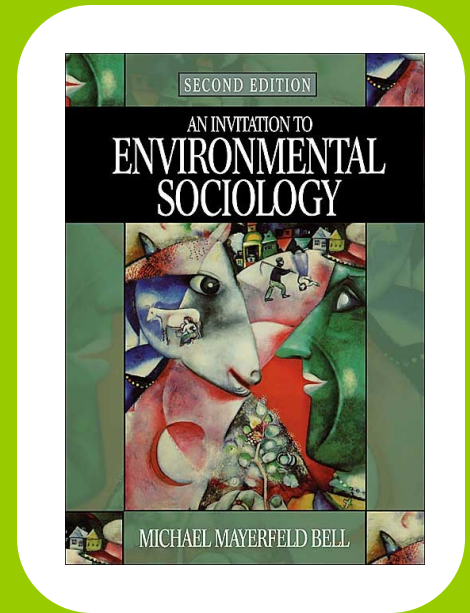
# This Week's Required Materials

Required reading:

- Bell: Body and Health (Chapter 5)
- Bell: Risk (Chapter 9)

Required video:

- “The Future of Food”
- Vyvyan Howard: The chemical industry and toxicology
- Vyvyan Howard: Rising cancer rates



# *In Part 1*

## The “Invironment”



# The “Invironment”?

- Human health
- The environment is out there, and also in here



# The “Invironment”

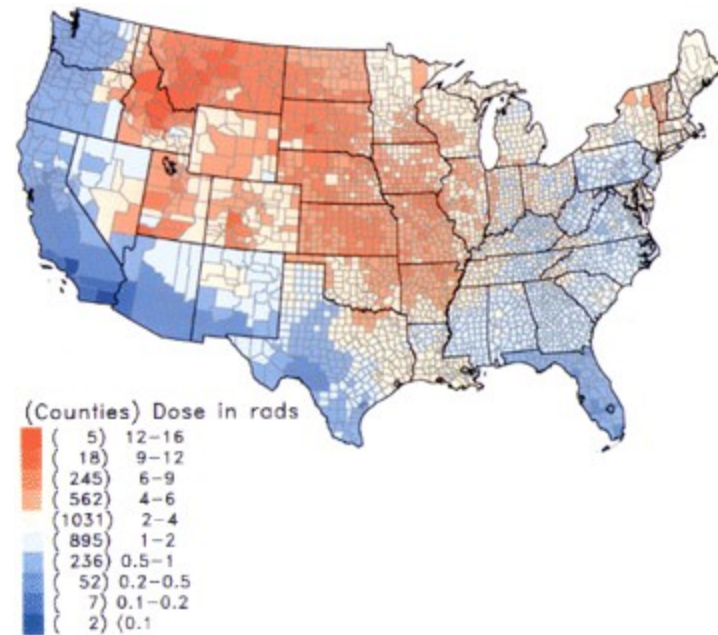
“So rather than speaking of the ‘body’ and the ‘environment,’ I suggest we speak of the ‘invironment’ and the ‘environment’ – where the *invironment* refers to the zone of the body’s perpetual dialog *with* the environment.”

– Bell, p. 108



# Material Dialogue

- Living downstream: we are all connected to environment



# Ideal Dialogue

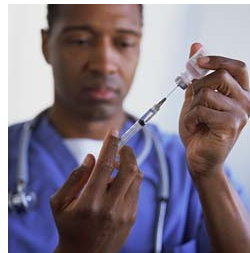
- The body is also in an ideational relationship with the environment:
  - How we interpret nature's effect on our bodies
  - How our understanding of our bodies affects our relation to nature
  - Related to eco-feminism





# Health and the Environment

- Historically, there have been efforts to conquer nature to promote public health
  - Fighting diseases
  - Trying to obtain enough food
- But in modern world, we see connections between environmental quality and human health



# The Environment and Sustainability

- Concern about environment relates to sustainability

## Survival

- Environmental problems threaten individual health, and may damage genes & harm future generations



# The Environment and Sustainability

## Biodiversity

- Utilitarian value of nature for ecosystem services and to help human health



# The Environment and Sustainability

## Equity

- Environmental quality available to all, or are some people exploited or threatened by environmental problems?



# The Invironment and Sustainability

## Quality of Life

- A clean environment, and good health, are key to the good life



# Health and the Environment

## Pesticides

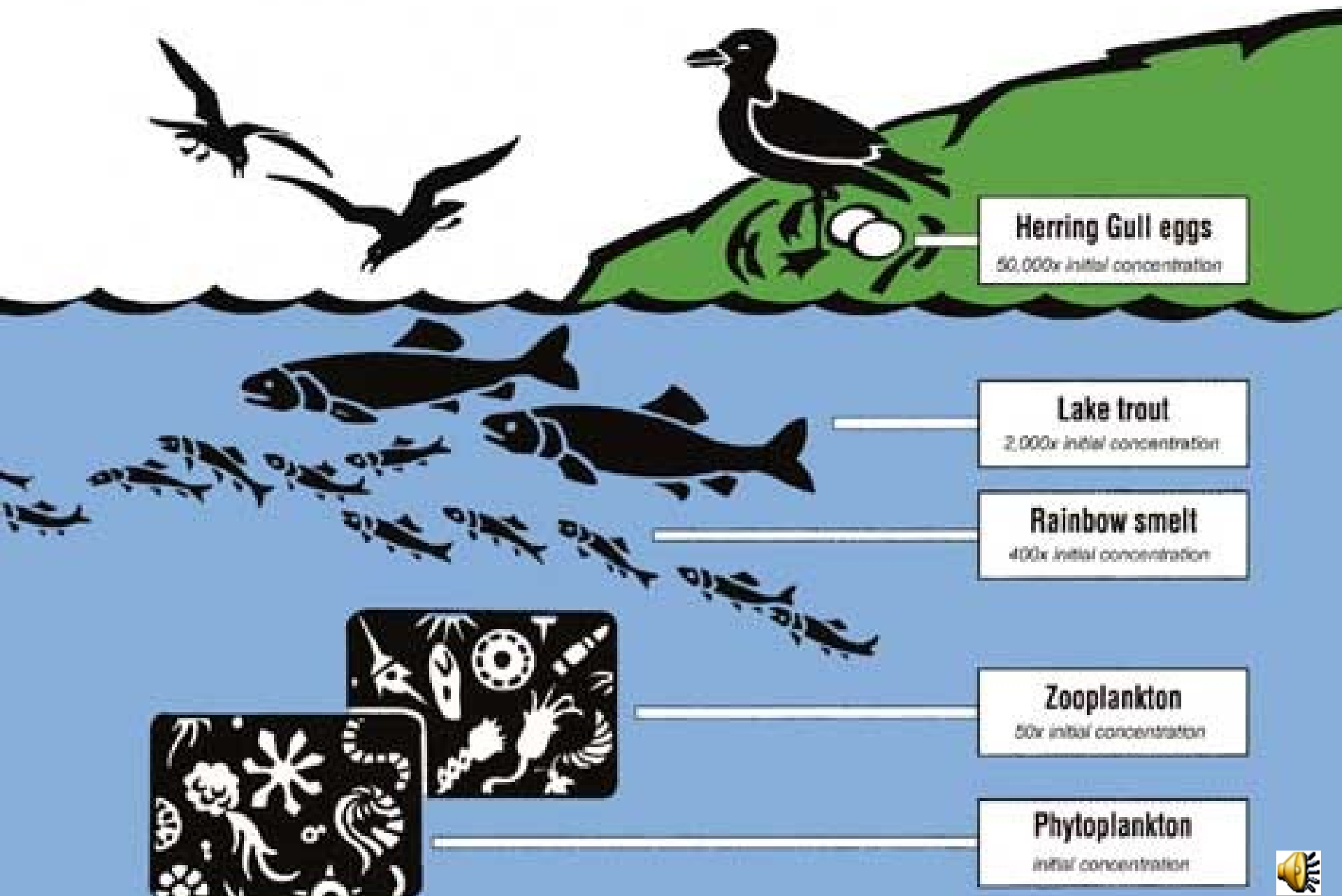
- Threaten environment and people
- Examples: insecticides, fungicides
- “Interaction effects”



# Pesticides and Pollution

- Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)
- Harm Eskimo health & culture
- Biomagnification
- Bioaccumulation





**Herring Gull eggs**

50,000x initial concentration

**Lake trout**

2,000x initial concentration

**Rainbow smelt**

400x initial concentration

**Zooplankton**

50x initial concentration

**Phytoplankton**

initial concentration





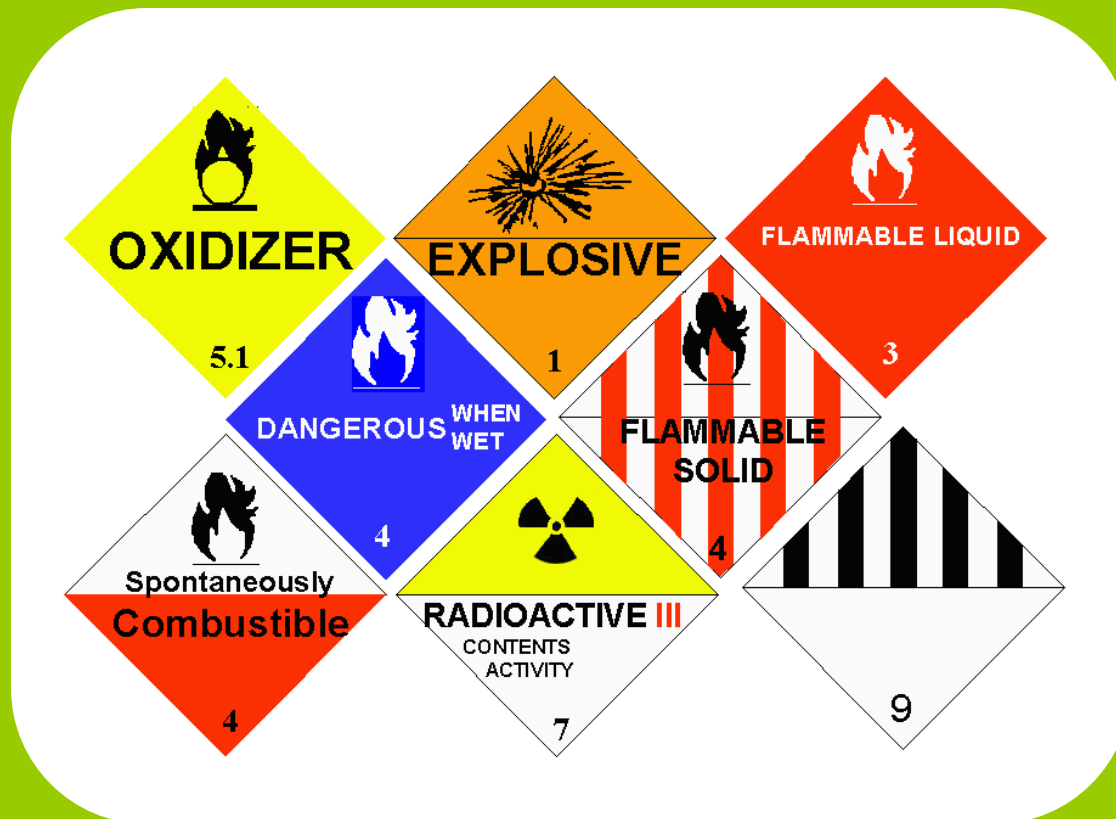
# Pesticides and Pollution

- Rich can afford organic food and to live in places less affected by pollution
- Bell: “Vanity food”



# End of Part 1

Continue to Part 2.



# Citations Used in This Lecture

Bell, M.M. 2004. *An Invitation to Environmental Sociology*. 2nd ed. Thousand Oaks, California: Pine Forge Press.