

Aaron McCright

Professor and Chairperson, College of Social Science/Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI, US

Dr. McCright specializes in environmental sociology, sociology of science and technology, and social movements.

Biography

Aaron M. McCright is Professor and Chairperson in the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University. His sociological research investigates how interrelationships among scientific developments, political processes, and social dynamics influence society's capacity for recognizing and dealing with environmental degradation and technological risks. Dr. McCright is most well-known for his work analyzing the political dynamics and public understanding of climate science and policy in the United States—especially organized climate change denial and political polarization on climate change. In addition, his recent work helps to improve our sociological understanding of societal risk and increase the effectiveness of our risk governance for promoting a more sustainable society. Dr. McCright also investigates the roles of public opinion for social movements, especially how we can use public opinion surveys to investigate how citizens identify with different social movements over their life course. Further, he conducts research on the effectiveness of inquiry-based learning projects for improving students' scientific and statistical knowledge, skills, and attitudes. He has published two books, has authored over a dozen chapters in edited volumes, and has written a few commissioned reports. He also has published over 60 peer-reviewed articles in such scholarly journals as Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Nature Climate Change; Global Environmental Change; Climatic Change; Public Opinion Quarterly; Social Problems; Social Science Quarterly; Theory, Culture, and Society; The Sociological Quarterly; Journal of Risk Research; Organization and Environment; Environment and Behavior; Population and Environment; and Environmental Politics. He was named a 2007 Kavli Frontiers Fellow in the National Academy of Sciences, he served as a 2008-2009 Lilly Teaching Fellow at MSU, and he received the 2009 Teacher-Scholar Award and the 2009 Curricular Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Award at MSU.

Industry Expertise

Research, Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Political Polarization, Values and Sciences, Climate Change Politics, Climate Change, Climate Change Denial, Trust in Science, Social Movement Identity

Education

Washington State University
Ph.D. Sociology

Washington State University
M.A. Sociology

Accomplishments

2007 Kavli Frontiers Fellow
Given by the National Academy of Sciences

2009 Teacher-Scholar Award
An award given by MSU

The 2009 Curricular Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Award
An award given by MSU

Larry T. Reynolds Award for Outstanding Teaching of Sociology
An award given by the Michigan Sociological Association

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