Description: There are massive and consequential inequalities between those who produce the most carbon and those who suffer the effects. In this new research project, Rene Almeling brings social scientific research on privilege, complicity, and complacency to bear on debates about how to foster the social, political, economic, and cultural changes necessary to reduce climate warming. Situated in theoretical and empirical approaches to environmental justice, which foreground intersecting inequalities such as race and class, this project involves systematically conceptualizing both “climate” and “privilege.” Professor Almeling will discuss how a deeper understanding of climate privilege can contribute to addressing one of the most pressing questions facing our society: What are the social processes through which we continue to ignore our most significant problems?

Rene Almeling is Professor of Sociology at Yale University. Using a range of qualitative, historical, and quantitative methods, she examines questions about how biological bodies and cultural norms interact to influence scientific knowledge, medical markets, and individual experiences. She is the author of Sex Cells: The Medical Market for Eggs and Sperm (2011) and GUynecology: The Missing Science of Men’s Reproductive Health (2020).