

Lawson, C. and I. Kelman. 2008. "Slow Migration Due to Environmental Contamination: The Making of an Oklahoma Ghost Town". Presentation at the Society for Applied Anthropology, 68th Annual Meeting, Memphis, Tennessee, 25-29 March 2008.

Abstract:

This study investigates the slow migration due to environmental contamination during the past 28 years from Picher, Oklahoma, USA. This voluntary migration began soon after Picher Mining Company closed in 1970, but accelerated after May 2006 when Oklahoma's government announced a buyout of remaining homes in danger of subsidence. This study analyzes the timing and reasons for residents relocating or remaining and places that decision-making process within the context of the timing and reasons for other environmentally-related migration case studies. Techniques for analyzing and communicating options and consequences of selecting each option emerge from the case study comparison.