

**Master in Political Ecology**  
**Academic year: 2018-2019**

**URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**Coordinators:**

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**Day/time:** Tuesdays

**Dates and Room:** As follows – please pay careful attention to the change of room depending on the dates.

**General Address:**

PRBB – Parc de Recerca Biomedica de Barcelona, 88 Dr. Aiguader, 08003 Barcelona  
Metro: Ciutadella/Vila Olimpica (Linea Amarilla – Metro)

October 9<sup>th</sup>, PRBB ground floor, outside access from the seafront, Ramon y Cajal room (10am-12pm)

October 16<sup>th</sup>, outside access from the seafront PRBB Ramon y Cajal room (10am-12pm)

October 23<sup>th</sup>, PRBB-IMIM (inside building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, each student needs to bring an ID) Xipre room, (10am-12pm)

October 30<sup>th</sup> PRBB ground floor, outside access from the seafront Charles Darwin's room (11.30am-1.30pm)

November 6<sup>th</sup>, PRBB ground floor, outside access from the seafront Charles Darwin's room (11.30am-1.30pm)

November 13<sup>th</sup>, PRBB-IMIM (inside building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, each student needs to bring an ID) Xipre room, (10am-12pm)

November 20<sup>th</sup> , PRBB-IMIM (inside building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, each student needs to bring an ID) Xipre room, (3pm-6pm)

## **Objectives**

The aim of this seminar is to debate and deepen students' knowledge on some of the key themes in urban environmental justice scholarship and activism. Throughout the course, we will look at the origins and the principles of the environmental justice (EJ) movement in the US in the 1980s, as a movement against “environmental racism,” and examine the early contributions of urban environmental justice scholarship to the movement, including on questions of urban health equity and various forms of environmental inequity and exclusion. We will also focus on race and ethnicity in urban environmental justice and on the way in which racial capitalism perpetuates unevenness within urban nature. We will then turn to the evolution of urban environmental justice agendas until today and their ramifications with other movements and agendas for sustainable cities. Last, we will expose current paradoxes in urban environmental justice activism through a discussion on environmental gentrification and its linked processes of green, food, and climate exclusion.

## **Structure**

The course has 7, two-hour classes (14h total). Each class will involve a mix of teaching, discussion and group work. To participate in class, you should have read the readings carefully in advance. Without this preparation, you will not be able to follow the class, and what you will get out of it will be limited. Instructors will assume that students have done the readings, and may ask related questions during the class.

All articles and reading material for the class are uploaded in a special Dropbox folder ([link: xxx](#)) and will stay there up to three months after the end of the class, after which it will be deleted. The course does not require you to buy books, go to the library or download anything.

## **Assignments**

1. For each of the 7 sessions, discussion leaders (course students) are assigned and are responsible for presenting core take-aways from readings and questions for discussion based on the readings' intersecting points and unique contributions (25%)
2. Individual reaction paper (35%) on chosen group of readings positioning oneself within one of the key debates of the readings (1,200-1,500 words)

3. In groups of 3/4, students should reflect on and discuss the questions below and prepare a short presentation (15 minutes) in class to present their answers to the questions (40%):
  - a. What are the most acute types of environmental inequalities have you encountered in your work or research? What have been some of the most innovative solutions developed to address them?
  - b. Do you agree with the fact that environmental restoration and physical upgrading will eventually increase social and racial inequality locally and through the city? Think about the variety of cities you are familiar with. Reflect on the urban changes in those places.
  - c. What type of policies and initiatives can, in your views, temper the rise of social problems and conflicts that arise from environmental restoration and physical upgrading? Be as specific and concrete as possible (do not only mention general housing policies or tax schemes. Be creative and detailed in your proposal).
  - d. Can (1) planners, (2) architects, and (3) community groups help address the potential negative mid-term effect of revitalization and upgrading? Think about the three different stakeholders and justify your response.

## **PROGRAM OUTLINE**

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### **Week 1 Intro to urban environmental justice (James Connolly) – Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>**

The intellectual history of urban sustainability and environmental justice: An overview of the broad evolution of thinking in the two areas with a focus on intersections and divergences

Schlosberg, D. (2007). Defining Environmental Justice: Theories, Movements, and Nature. pp. 1-53

Pearsall, H., & Pierce, J. (2010). Urban sustainability and environmental justice: evaluating the linkages in public planning/policy discourse. *Local Environment*, 15(6), 569-580.

Bullard, R. (1996) Environmental Justice for All. In Bullard, R. D., & Lewis, J. Environmental justice and communities of color. *San Francisco*.

Eady, Veronica. "Warren County and the Birth of a Movement: The Troubled Marriage Between Environmentalism and Civil Rights." *Golden Gate U. Env'tl. LJ* 1 (2007): 41.

Letter to Jay D. Hair from Pat Bryant, Amos Favorite Sr., Anne Braden, Sharon Lewis, Janice Dickerson, Dr. C.T. Vivian, Darryl Malek-Wiley, Rose Mary Smith, Rev. Avery C. Alexander, Richard Moore, Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Mildred Henderson, and Betty Ewing (Jan. 16, 1990) (on file with author); see also The Letter That Shook a Movement, 78 SIERRA MAGAZINE, May-June 1993, at 54

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## **Week 2 The origins, early contributions and evolution of the urban EJ agenda and scholarship (Isabelle Anguelovski) – October 16<sup>th</sup>**

Earlier studies on toxics and measurements of environmental injustice. Attention to issues of distribution, identity, and participation, capabilities, human rights. Integration of broader issues of community (re)development and rebuilding.

Mohai, P., D. Pellow and J.T. Roberts. (2009). Environmental justice. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 34, 405-30.

3. Pellow, D. (2000). Environmental inequality formation: Toward a theory of environmental justice. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 43(4), 581-601

Mohai. P and Saha. R. (2015). Which came first, people or pollution? Assessing the disparate siting and post-siting demographic change hypotheses of environmental injustice. *Environmental Research Letters* (10).

Anguelovski, I. (2013). New directions in urban environmental justice: Rebuilding community, addressing trauma, and remaking place. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 33(2), 160-175

Agyeman, J., Schlosberg, D., Craven, L., & Matthews, C. (2016). Trends and directions in environmental justice: from inequity to everyday life, community, and just sustainabilities. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 41, 321-340.

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## **Session 3 Health and EJ (Helen Cole) October 23<sup>th</sup>**

The link between health and environmental justice, with a focus on health equity. The health-related implications of uneven distributions of exposures to toxins and hazardous waste, green space, pollution, as well as social inequities.

Brulle, R., & Pellow, D. (2006). Environmental Justice: Human Health and Environmental Inequalities. *Annual Review of Public Health*, 27(1), 103-124. doi: [doi:10.1146/annurev.publhealth.27.021405.102124](https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.publhealth.27.021405.102124)

Schulz AJ, Mentz GB, Sampson N, et al. RACE AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK: A Case Example from the Detroit Metropolitan Area. *Du Bois review : social science research on race*. 2016;13(2):285-304. doi:10.1017/S1742058X16000163.

Hertzman, C., & Boyce, T. (2010). How experience gets under the skin to create gradients in developmental health. *Annual Review of Public Health*, 31, 329-47. doi: [10.1146/annurev.publhealth.012809.103538](https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.publhealth.012809.103538)

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## **Session 4: EJ and its relation to racial and colonial capitalism: Articulations of racial capitalism, and the unevenness it perpetuates within urban nature (Melissa Garcia) October 30<sup>rd</sup>**

Unpacking the racial and colonial dimensions of environmental justice and emerging strands of thinking around the topic. Analyzing how urban nature is intertwined with racial and capitalist dynamics.

Brownlow, A. 2006. An archeology of fear and environmental change in Philadelphia. *Geoforum*, 37, 227-245.

Byrne, J. 2012. When green is White: The cultural politics of race, nature and social exclusion in a Los Angeles urban national park. *Geoforum*, 43, 595-611.

Heynen, N. 2015. Urban Political Ecology II: The Abolitionist Century. *Progress in Human Geography*, 40(6), 839-845.

Safransky, S. 2014. Greening the urban frontier: Race, property and resettlement in Detroit. *Geoforum*, 54, 237-248.

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**Session 5 New green inequalities and environmental gentrification (Isabelle Anguelovski) – Nov 6<sup>th</sup>**

EJ and its ramifications -- food gentrification, climate gentrification, environmental gentrification

Gould, K., & Lewis, T. (2016) *Green Gentrification: Urban Sustainability and the Struggle for Environmental Justice*. Routledge. Chapter 1 and 2.

Curran, Winifred, and Trina Hamilton. (2012). "Just Green Enough: Contesting Environmental Gentrification in Greenpoint, Brooklyn." *Local Environment* 17, no. 9. 1027-42.

Anguelovski, I., Shi, L., Chu, E., Gallagher, D., Goh, K., Lamb, Z., . . . Teicher, H. (2016). *mama. Journal of Planning Education and Research* (Optional for Monday)

Checker, M. (2011). Wiped Out by the “Greenwave”: Environmental Gentrification and the Paradoxical Politics of Urban Sustainability. *City & Society*, 23(2), 210-229.

Carter, E. D. (2016). Environmental justice 2.0: new Latino environmentalism in Los Angeles. *Local Environment*, 21(1), 3-23

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**Session 6 The politics of space in EJ and sustainability policy (James Connolly) – Nov 13<sup>th</sup>**

Organizational coalitions and land use policy change around social equity and environmental goals

Connolly, J. (In Development) The Social-Ecological Politics of Just City Planning in Fast Growing Cities. Unpublished Draft.

Heynen, N., Kaika, M., Swyngedouw, E. (2006) Urban Political Ecology: Politicizing the production of urban natures. In *In the Nature of Cities* (pp. 16-35). Routledge.

Song, L. K. (2015). Race, transformative planning, and the just city. *Planning Theory*, 14(2), 152-173

Goodling, E. (2017). Grassroots Resistance in the Sustainable City: Portland Harbor Superfund Site Contamination, Cleanup, and Collective Action (dissertation Introduction)

Complemented by: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVCpyrNbNx8> (22' - documentary made by Erin's students)

**Session 7: Final Evaluations. Nov 20<sup>th</sup>**