

Master in Political Ecology

Academic year: 2019-2020

THE EJ ATLAS

Instructor

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Structure

Lectures will be largely based on the Atlas of Environmental Justice, EJAtlas (www.ejatl.org), a unique project of ICTA UAB which started in 2012. The EJAtlas is reaching 3000 conflict cases by December 2019 with data sheets of 5 to 6 pages. It is an instrument for research in Comparative Political Ecology, and it supports the global movement for environmental justice. Students should become familiar with the EJAtlas and through this get to know what is meant by "social metabolism", "ecological distribution conflicts", "social movements", "environmental justice", "environmental racism".

Evaluation

- a) Filling in or updating three cases in the EJAtlas (approved by JMA), by groups of three or four students.
- b) Reading previously to the class the articles listed in the Programme outline.
- c) Looking at the short video EJAtlas tutorial.
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/environmental-justice/0/steps/37211>

Programme outline

1. Origins of Environmental Justice in the USA in the 1980s.

Cases of "environmental racism" in the EJAtlas (e.g. Mossville, Louisiana). Coloniality, racism, environmental justice in the Americas (discussion of the article by Iokiñe Rodríguez and Mirna Liz Inturias, Conflict transformation in indigenous peoples' territories: doing environmental justice with a 'decolonial turn', 2018).

The EJAtlas in India. Origins of the notion of "environmentalism of the poor".

Brototi Roy. A panorama of ecological distribution conflicts in India, based on the EJAtlas (article in *Ecología Política* 55, 2018 in Spanish and English).

2. Social metabolism, commodity extraction frontiers, ecological distribution conflicts, and valuation languages. The EJAtlas in China and elsewhere.

Leah Temper et al, Mapping the frontiers and front lines of global environmental justice: the EJAtlas, *J. of Political Ecology*. 2015.

J. Martinez-Alier & Juan Liu, Conflictos socioambientales en China: casos seleccionados del Atlas de Justicia Ambiental, *Ecologia Politica* 56, 2018 (in Spanish and English)

3. The industrial economy is not circular, it is entropic: this is why there are so many environmental injustices in extraction, transport and waste disposal.

a) J. Martinez-Alier et al, Is there a global environmental justice movement? *J. Peasant Studies* 43(3), 2016. b) Scheidel A., et al. Ecological distribution conflicts as forces for sustainability: an overview and conceptual framework. *Sustainability Science*. 13(3) 2018.