

Master in Political Ecology
Academic year: 2019-2020

URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Coordinators:

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Dr. Margarita Triguero-Mas: Margarita.Triguero@uab.cat

Day/time: Tuesdays

Dates and Room: As follows – please pay careful attention to the change of room depending on the dates. Please arrive 5’ before the beginning of the class since room availability means that we will have to finish each session on time.

General Address:

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

November 5th, PRBB ground floor, outside access from the seafront, Ramon y Cajal room
(10.30am-12.30pm) (James)

November 12th PRBB-IMIM (inside building, 1st floor, each student needs to bring an ID)
Xipre room, (11am-1pm) (Isabelle)

November 19th, PRBB ground floor, outside access from the seafront Marie Curie room
(10.30am-12.30pm) (Isabelle)

November 26th, PRBB ground floor, outside access from the seafront Marie Curie room
(10.30am-12.30pm) (Helen/Ita)

December 4th, PRBB ground floor, outside access from the seafront Ramon y Cajal room
(10.00-12.00pm) (Isabelle)

December 10nd, PRBB ground floor, outside access from the seafront Marie Curie room
(10.30-12.30pm) (James)

December 17th, PRBB ground floor, outside access from the seafront Marie Curie room (10.00-13.00am) (ALL)

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, 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 6, two-hour classes and a final 3h final class (15h 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 Onedrive folder (https://uab-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/1300905_uab_cat/EsD2-OIRuXJMskc07ScluUQBYDQJStAiT8nyKiQ1OCIHXA?e=6Y6kAu) 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. Session Presentation and Discussion: For each of the 6 initial sessions, discussion leaders (course students) are assigned and are responsible for presenting core take-away points from readings and questions for discussion based on the readings' intersecting points and unique contributions. Before class, those students will send a one page single-space document introducing the readings to the weekly instructor(s) AND then introduce and discuss these readings in small groups during class time. *Please see your names below after every week's reading.* (25% of final grade)

2. Individual reaction paper (37.5%) on a chosen group of readings positioning yourself within one of the key debates of the readings (1,500 words, +/- 10%) and reflecting on it from the point of view of degrowth politics and practice. Due on January 8th 2020.
3. Final group work: In groups of 3/4, students should reflect on and discuss the questions below and prepare a short presentation (15 minutes) for the December 17th class with their answers to the questions (37.5%). Please also submit your presentation online for everyone to be able to learn from it.
 - a. What are the most acute types of **urban** environmental inequalities – both “brown” and “green”—that you have encountered in your work or research or that you can witness around you? Present concrete examples and drivers of inequalities. In contrast, what have been some of the most innovative solutions developed to address such environmental issues in ways that promote equity and alternative growth models that you have witnessed or learned about?
 - b. What type of public policies and planning tools, community initiatives, and privately-led or -funded projects can, in your views, mitigate the rise of social problems and conflicts that arise from green or climate gentrification and/or urban sustainability planning more generally? Be as specific and concrete as possible (do not only mention general housing policies or tax schemes. Be creative and detailed in your proposal). Last, be sure to consider the differentiated position(s) and role(s) of different stakeholders here: Urban planners, policy makers, community organizations, and private businesses.

Submission of Assignments: All required assignments should be submitted to Campus Virtual before each class session.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Week 1 Intro to urban environmental justice (James Connolly) – Nov 5th

The intellectual history of urban environmental justice and urban political ecology: An overview of the broad evolution of thinking and specifically of how justice is mobilized in the urban context.

3 MANDATORY READINGS

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

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.

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).

ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL READINGS:

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

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.

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

Session 2 EJ and its relation to racial and colonial capitalism: Articulations of racial capitalism, and the unevenness it perpetuates within urban nature -- Nov. 12th (Isabelle Anguelovski) – ALBA, SOUZA, EMERSON, RAMBUMAR, VOS, ZIVKOVIC, RAWLINGS

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.

CHOOSE EITHER ONE OF THE TWO FOLLOWING READINGS:

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.

+ CHOOSE EITHER ONE OF THE TWO FOLLOWING READINGS:

Pulido, L. (2017). Geographies of race and ethnicity II: Environmental racism, racial capitalism and state-sanctioned violence. *Progress in Human Geography*, 41(4), 524-533.

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

+ CHOOSE EITHER ONE OF THE TWO FOLLOWING READINGS:

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

Anguelovski, I., Irazábal, C., & Connolly, J. (2019). Grabbed Urban Landscapes: Sociospatial Tensions in Green Infrastructure Planning in Medellín. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.

Session 3 Green inequalities, gentrification, and uneven urban development (Isabelle Anguelovski) Nov 19th – PENA ROMERO, POLISHCHUK, MAS SERRA, ACKERMANN, LIMACHER, GUTIERREZ RODRIGUEZ, POLATOVSKA

CHOOSE 3 MANDATORY READINGS

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

Kabisch, N., & Haase, D. (2014). Green justice or just green? Provision of urban green spaces in Berlin, Germany. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 122, 129-139.

Haase, D., Kabisch, S., Haase, A., Andersson, E., Banzhaf, E., Baró, F., . . . Kabisch, N. (2017). Greening cities—To be socially inclusive? About the alleged paradox of society and ecology in cities. *Habitat International*, 64, 41-48.

Anguelovski, I., Connolly, J., & Brand, A. L. (2018). From landscapes of utopia to the margins of the green urban life: For whom is the new green city? *City*, 22(3), 417-436.

Session 4 Urban health and EJ (Helen Cole/ Margarita Triguero Mas) Nov 26th -- MC DONAGH, GIL RUBIO, OCHOA PEREZ, RUISECO GALVIS, NISTOR, JIRAWONG-ARAM

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.

READ THESE 3 MANDATORY READINGS:

Marmot M. (2017). The Health Gap: The Challenge of an Unequal World: the argument. *International journal of epidemiology*, 46(4), 1312–1318.
doi:10.1093/ije/dyx163

Mueller N, Rojas-Rueda D, Khreis H, et al. (2019). Changing the urban design of cities for health: The superblock model. *Environment International*, 2019 Sep 9:105132. doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2019.105132.

Cole H, Triguero-Mas M, Connolly JTT, Anguelovski I. (2019). Determining the health benefits of green space: Does gentrification matter? *Health and Place*. 57: 1-11.

THESE ARE OPTIONAL READINGS:

Pearce, J, Cherrie, M, Shortt, N, Deary, I, Ward Thompson, C. (2018). Life course of place: A longitudinal study of mental health and place. *Trans Inst Br Geogr.* 43: 555– 572. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12246>

Pearce J., Richardson R.A., Mitchell R. J., Shortt N.K. (2010) Environmental justice and health: the implications of the socio-spatial distribution of multiple environmental deprivation for health inequalities in the United Kingdom. *Social Science and Medicine.* 73(3): 410-20.

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.

Mitchell R., Popham F. (2008) Effect of exposure to natural environment on health inequalities: an observational population study. *Lancet.* 372(9650):1655-60.

Woodward A, Smith KR, Campbell-Lendrum D, et al. (2014). Climate change and health: on the latest IPCC report. *The Lancet.* 383(9924): 1185-89.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)60576-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)60576-6)

Session 5 Inequities in urban climate resilience (Isabelle Anguelovski) – Dec 4th
CAVALLI, FERNANDEZ VALDERAS, ORTIZ GIL, RHEINHEIMER, PAI,
ORTEGA MARTINEZ, DIAZ MUNOZ,

CHOOSE 3 MANDATORY READINGS

Anguelovski, I., Shi, L., Chu, E., Gallagher, D., Goh, K., Lamb, Z., . . . Teicher, H. (2016). Equity Impacts of Urban Land Use Planning for Climate Adaptation: Critical Perspectives from the Global North and South. *Journal of Planning Education and Research,* 36(3), 333-348. doi:10.1177/0739456x16645166

Connolly, J. J. (2018). From Systems Thinking to Systemic Action: Social Vulnerability and the Institutional Challenge of Urban Resilience. *City & Community,* 17(1), 8-11.

Anguelovski, I., Checker, M., Connolly, J. J., Gould, K., Lewis, T., Maantay, J., . . . Shokry, G. (Forthcoming). Green climate gentrification or the unsustainability of urban resilience practice. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.*

Bulkeley, H., Edwards, G. A. S., & Fuller, S. (2014). Contesting climate justice in the city: Examining politics and practice in urban climate change experiments. *Global Environmental Change,* 25(0), 31-40.

OPTIONAL:

Gould, K. A., & Lewis, T. L. (2018). From Green Gentrification to Resilience Gentrification: An Example from Brooklyn 1. *City & Community,* 17(1), 12-15.

Keenan, J., Hill, T., & Gumber, A. (2018). Climate gentrification: From theory to empiricism in Miami-Dade County, Florida. *Environmental Research Letters.*

Session 6 The politics of space in EJ and sustainability policy Dec 10th -- James Connolly – WILK, MARTINEZ DE LA SOTA, BALELI, PIOVANO, MASCELLINO, VICTORIEN LA BOIX, HADI

This course covers the intersection of political actions focused on urban EJ and urban sustainability as a means for discussing where urban EJ may go next.

4 MANDATORY READINGS:

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)

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

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*.

Session 7: Final Evaluations. Dec 17th --- All teachers