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)
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-OIRuXJMskc075CluUQBYDQJSrT8nyKiQ1OClHXA?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


ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL READINGS:


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**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:**


**+ CHOOSE EITHER ONE OF THE TWO FOLLOWING READINGS:**


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**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


**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:


THESE ARE OPTIONAL READINGS:


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**


**OPTIONAL:**


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:

   Complemented by: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCpyrNbNx8 (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


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