

An Introduction to Environmental Justice

EnJust – Network for Environmental Justice



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Origin and History



Historical Context

- 1982: Protests against toxic waste facilities in marginalized communities
- Addressing socio-spatial differences in environmental burdens
- 1992: UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro

Historical Context

- Robert D. Bullard is seen the "father of environmental justice"
- From "Not in my backyard" to "Where we live, work, and play"



- Diversity of topics expands (e.g. e-waste, pesticides, supply chains)
- Not only environmental impacts but also environmental resources

Sources:

<https://www.greenamerica.org/putting-big-squeeze-big-oil-coal-gas/interview-environmental-justice-leader-dr-robert-bullard>

<https://infonetz-owl.de/index.php?id=170>

Traditional Environmental Movements

Often privileged, white groups

e.g. Anti-Nuclear Movement

WWF, Global Nature Fund, Friends of the Earth

Nature as a separate area that must be protected

Post-colonial definition of „Environmental Protection“

Environmental Justice Movements

Roots in Environmental Racism Movement

Grassroot Level

Holistic approach to causes

Nature as a place where we live, work and play

Participation of local communities



What is
Environmental
Justice?

What is Justice?



Equality

Equity



Equality

Equity



Structural Change

Environmental Justice is...

a protest movement

an academic research field

a slogan for different environmental movements

a normative principle

a tool in political debates

and much more

Food Justice

Intergenerational Justice

Climate Justice

Gender Justice

Racial Justice

Environmental Justice

Energy Justice

Health Justice

Social Justice

Water Justice

Multispecies Justice

Indigenous Justice

Resource Justice

Environmental Justice - Definition(s)

„Environmental Justice means that every person has:

- A right to **healthy places** to live, work and enjoy themselves.
- A right to a **fair share** of benefits of nature's benefits like food and water.
- A responsibility to look after the planet for others and for future generations.”

Three Dimensions of Environmental Justice



Distributive Justice



Procedural Justice



Justice of Recognition

1) Distributive Justice



Source: EJAtlas (o.J.): The avocado agribusiness and the water crisis in Petorca, Valparaíso Chile. URL: <https://ejatlas.org/print/the-avocado-agribusiness-and-water-drought-in> [Stand: 20.04.2021]

- Just distribution of benefits (resources) and disadvantages (risks and damages)
- Further Aspects:
 - Vulnerability
 - Need
 - Responsibility
- Example: Avocado plantations in Petorca, Valparaíso Chile

2) Procedural Justice



- Justice is judged by how decisions are made, who is involved, and who can exert influence
 - Availability of information
 - Inclusion in decision making process
 - Access to jurisdiction
- Example: Gemini Solar Project, Californien, USA



Source: Gemini Solar Project. URL: <https://www.geminisolarnev.com/> cited in: EJAtlas (o.j.): Gemini Solar Project, California, USA. URL: https://ejatlas.org/conflict/gemini-solar-project?fbclid=IwAR1er_nccfqrSqgJl_12qMGwFdh-OCIVztSNtBG1kqIA2VLSWBMzxo7PZUY [20.04.2021]

3) Justice of Recognition



Source: Nairaland Forum. URL: <https://www.nairaland.com/5935648/just-gov-umahi-begins-construction> [23.04.2021]

- Justice is defined by who is respected and seen as valuable.
 - Ethnic group, religion, gender, ...
 - Institutional and cultural misrecognition
- Example: Airport in Ebonyi, Nigeria

Three Dimensions of Environmental Justice



Distributive Justice



Procedural Justice



Justice of Recognition





New Trends



Climate Justice

- 2005: Hurricane Katrina exposes major inequalities
- Not only direct, local effects, but also global, long-term effects must be considered
- 2018: Fridays For Future, Extinction Rebellion, ...

Multispecies Justice

- Includes not only humans, but all living beings in justice issues
- Donna Haraway as a pioneer
- Understanding of human-nature relationship

Just and Sustainable Systems

- Strong focus on supply chains due to globalization
- Who pays the price for my consumption?

Further Materials

- Literature (Background and case studies): <https://enjust.net/de/bibliography/>
- Overview of current conflicts worldwide: <https://ejatlas.org/>
- Learning materials: <https://www.bne-portal.de/de/lernmaterialien-2454.php> (Search term: climate justice or equity)
- Educational materials on climate justice and climate change: <https://klimaretter.hamburg/materialien/>

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Thank you for your interest in
Environmental Justice!

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