

# 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

Source: https://www.nrdc.org/stories/history-environmental-justice-five-minutes

#### 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

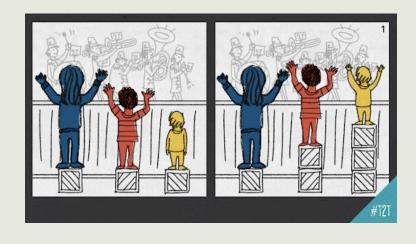


<b>Traditional Environmental Movements</b>	<b>Environmental Justice Movements</b>
Often privileged, white groups	Roots in Environmental Racism Movement
e.g. Anti-Nuclear Movement	Grassroot Level
WWF, Global Nature Fund, Friends of the Earth	Holistic approach to causes
Nature as a separate area that must be protected	Nature as a place where we live, work and play
Post-colonial definition of "Environmental Protection"	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





Intergenerational Justice

Climate Justice

Racial Justice

Gender 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."

Source: Friends of the Earth UK (o.J.): What is environmental justice.



# 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, Valparaiso 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, Valparaiso 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.geminisolarnv.com/ cited in: EJAtlas (o.j.): Gemini Solar Project, California, USA. URL: https://ejatlas.org/conflict/gemini-solar-project?fbclid=lwAR1er\_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

Causes?



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



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# Thank you for your interest in Environmental Justice!

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