

Call for Participation

International Workshop 2022 on Environmental Justice

EnJust Network

Bern, Switzerland

7-9 September 2022

Jointly organized by

University of Bern, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) and Institute of Geography
University of Osnabrück, Institute of Social Sciences

Main objective and format

This workshop will bring together around 30 members of the [EnJust Network](#) as well as interested professionals to advance shared understanding and to allow in-depth discussion of current advances in pathways to environmental justice as well as persistent challenges of environmental injustices. The format will involve input presentations and interactive debate in an informal, collegial atmosphere. The workshop shall take place in physical presence in Bern. Only if the pandemic situation in September 2022 would demand it, we shall move it to online space.

Thematic focus of this workshop: Institutionalizing environmental justice in policy, laws and private-sector organizations

This workshop will focus on the theme “**Institutionalizing environmental justice in policy, laws and private-sector organizations**”. Much previous research and activism for environmental justice (EJ) has focused on conflicts surrounding environmental (in)justice at the local scale. With this workshop we aim to advance current debates by discussing environmental justice issues in the context of global trade relations and supply chains and in transnational contexts (e.g. transnationalization of regulation, of advocacy networks, of the state). As our global political economy and corporate concentration have contributed to or exacerbated environmental justice concerns in numerous places, often located in the Global South, it is important to increasingly discuss such transnational constellations. An important focus at this workshop to discuss how new public policies or private initiatives to regulate or govern global supply chains could be designed and implemented in a way that fosters EJ. Furthermore, it is important to contextualize transnational rules to gain a better understanding of how they intersect with and are shaped by domestic politics, as such interactions have implications for EJ outcomes.

In this workshop we aim to go beyond critical conceptual and empirical analyses of the status quo by shedding light on the question of how environmental justice is or could be institutionalized in policy, laws and private-sector governance. We shall discuss different paths for transformation. We understand the ‘institutionalization of environmental justice’ as the establishment and implementation of rules for distributive, procedural and recognitional justice in accessing, using and protecting the environment.

Four guiding questions

To implement this thematic focus, this workshop will be organized around **four guiding questions**:

1. How can **European policies and laws** targeting global trade and supply chains integrate environmental justice in their design and implementation? What are the cutting-edge best practices in producing and consuming countries participating in global supply chains that properly integrate EJ in the rule of law and policy?
2. How do **regulatory frameworks and domestic politics in producing countries** of global value chains intersect with transnational governance approaches, thereby influencing environmental justice outcomes? What is the role of grassroots initiatives and supply chain actors in such dynamics?
3. How can environmental justice be institutionalized in **certification schemes, community-based organizations or other private governance arrangements**? How do these initiatives open up negotiation spaces? What are the pre-conditions and limitations of private and hybrid governance for environmental justice?
4. What are the most promising **shifts in concepts and theories on EJ** in transnational contexts (e.g. global trade and supply chains, transnationalization of regulation, of advocacy networks, of the state), beyond a conflict-centric lens of environmental justice?

Specific objectives

1. **Share most recent results and generate common understanding** and increased precision about current problems and, more importantly, effective approaches and strategies for environmental justice around the four guiding questions.
2. **Discuss current conceptual and methodological challenges and good practices** in the research and practice of environmental justice.
3. **Discuss future forms of collaboration.**

Invitation to submit your abstract by 6th March 2022

There are two ways to participate at the workshop:

- 1) with a presentation and workshop engagement (“**presenters**”)
 - 2) without a presentation, with workshop engagement (“**non-presenters**”)
- “**Presenters**” submit an abstract for a presentation of e.g. a scientific paper, artistic project, activist project, research project.
 - “**Non-presenters**” submit an abstract of your current project (e.g. art, research, activism, implementation) to illustrate the relation of your engagement with environmental justice.

Abstracts are between 250-300 words, plus title, author(s) and affiliations. Participants with limited travel budget are strongly encouraged to submit their abstracts. We aim to secure funds to reimburse travel costs and accommodation for a limited number of participants.

Please submit your abstract by email to enjust.cde@unibe.ch until 6th March 2022.

Please indicate in your email (1) whether you wish to participate as presenter or non-presenter and (2) whether your workshop participation depends on financial support.

Review and notifications of acceptance by 30th April 2022

All submissions will be reviewed by at least 2 members of the workshop team. To be accepted, abstracts and summaries need to be of sufficient clarity and quality. If applications exceed workshop places, selection will take place by using the following criteria:

- **Fit** of presentation or project with the main themes of the workshop
- **Clarity and quality** of the abstract
- **Diversity** of set of participants in terms of regions of engagement and forms of engagement (e.g. research, activism, arts, social-entrepreneurial, ...)

We will send **notifications of acceptance** until **30th April 2022**.

Workshop participation

To enable in-depth, informed debate at this workshop, **participants are expected to:**

- Respond to the **preparatory survey** (ca. 15 minutes) in June 2022 to enable designing a workshop programme that meets the needs and interests of participants.
- Actively attend the full workshop from 7th through 9th September 2022 in Bern.

Venue and modalities

- Workshop Venue: University of Bern, Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern, Switzerland
- The workshop has **no registration fee**, but participants are expected to **cover their own travel and accommodation expenses**.
- Next to highly interactive discussions, the direct expected outputs will be a Workshop Report and an Action Plan. We do not plan to publish workshop proceedings.

Organizers

Workshop hosts: University of Bern and University of Osnabrück

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Samuel Brülisauer

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With the generous support of the EnJust Core Team

Workshop email: enjust.cde@unibe.ch

Tentative workshop schedule

The Workshop will commence on 7th September 2022 at 13.00h and end on 9th September 2022 at 13.00h. The tentative schedule – subject to changes – is:

Tuesday, 6 September 2022	
18.00	Get together dinner in Bern for early-arrivers (self-paid)

Wednesday, 7 September 2022 (morning)	
8.00 - 12.00	Optional pre-workshop excursion about environmental justice in Bern (partly self-paid)

Wednesday, 7 September 2022 (afternoon)	
13.00	<i>Welcome Coffee & Tea, Registration</i>
13.15	Session 1: Opening plenary (welcome, introduction of participants)
14.15	Session 2: Parallel presentation sessions
15.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15.45	Session 3: Parallel presentation sessions
17.15	Session 4: Closing of day 1, outlook to day 2 (plenary)
18.15	<i>End of Day 1</i>

Thursday, 8 September 2022	
8.30	<i>Welcome Coffee & Tea</i>
9.00	Opening of Day 2 (plenary)
9.15	Session 5: Interactive debate of focus issues
10.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.15	Session 6: Interactive debate of focus issues
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00	Session 7: Interactive debate of focus issues
15.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16.00	Session 8: Interactive debate of focus issues
17.15	Summary of Day 2 and outlook to Day 3 (plenary)
18.00	The Current State and the Future of the EnJust Network (plenary)
18.45	<i>End of Day 2</i>

Friday, 9 September 2022	
8.30	<i>Welcome Coffee & Tea</i>
9.00	Opening of Day 3 (plenary)
9.15	Session 9: Interactive debate of focus issues, focus on interactions between the guiding questions (e.g. interactions between EJ in laws in EU and producing countries as well as private governance arrangements)
10.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.00	Final Plenary: Summary of workshop outcomes, action plan and outlook
13.00	<i>End of Workshop</i>