

ENGAGING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE GUIDELINES and RUBRIC

(Environmental Justice CSU)

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Many of us explore environmental justice and equity **explicitly**. We discuss our specific approach and methods and collect and analyze information to address directly questions of EEJ, drawing from the growing literature. Even more of us, however, explore questions of EEJ **implicitly**. We may be interested in making cities accessible to everyone, think of water, energy or health as rights, are concerned about the privatization of the commons and biodiversity, examine uneven participation and power in governance and so on. It is common for people to talk about climate justice, water justice, health justice and so on, reflecting the realization that questions of justice present themselves differently in various issue areas.

Whether we are engaging EEJ explicitly or implicitly we may ask questions about the maldistribution of environmental harms and benefits amongst humans, often called **environmental justice**, as well as the maldistribution of harms and benefits between humanity and nature, often called **ecological justice**.

In the course of our work we ask questions about who is **recognized** as a stakeholder in the politics of environmental and ecological justice. Are the poor recognized when dealing with urban renewal? Is nature recognized when setting up wildlife reserves? Who is left out amongst the weak? Is justice for some groups used to make others invisible? Which elements of nature are privileged and what are the implications for ecological justice? We also explore **participation**. What kinds of participation or **procedural justice** are better suited for the more just **distribution** of actual harms and benefits amongst humans and between humanity and nature, often called **substantive justice**. Can procedural justice be justified by broadening participation or must we also address power inequalities amongst stakeholders? Should distributive justice move beyond opportunities to include outcomes?

Not everyone is interested in or is doing work in EEJ. However, as the above comments suggest, EEJ is quite broad and ubiquitous. Those who are explicitly working on EEJ will benefit from engaging questions that are about equity and justice even if they do not use these terms. And those who are implicitly working on EEJ may benefit from the concepts and research practices that EEJ has developed over the last thirty years.

With these suggestions in mind we hope that a series of informal learning meetings will allow us to become familiar with each other's work, deepen our relations, and result in a first overview of the range of EEJ work taking place at CSU. During each meeting one (or more) presenters can talk about their ongoing or planned work or research. In preparation they can circulate, in advance, something they have written or created. The presentations and the discussion can be articulated around a number of themes, with the understanding that the presenters may choose to focus on some of them.

Rubric:

1. Why/how does EEJ matter in your work?
2. How do you view/employ EEJ in your work?
 - 2a. In what context/issues does EEJ emerge in your work?
 - 2b. What are some of the relevant concepts and previous research you use?
3. Your Approach to EEJ
 - 3b. Do you address EEJ explicitly or implicitly?
 - 3c. Do you address both environmental and ecological justice?
 - 3d. Do you see a relationship between social and environmental justice?
4. How do you do EEJ?
 - 4a. What methods do you use?
 - 4b. What has worked and what went wrong?
5. How have people responded to you doing EEJ, particularly with respect to the scholar or activist question?
6. What are the implications of an EEJ approach to your research? How does EEJ impact and influence the science you conduct?
7. Could you recommend any authors, journals, funding opportunities, research or research initiative (including yours) that we can add to our information on EEJ.

NOTE: This is a living and heuristic document. We **invite and welcome** your input as well as your further involvement with Environmental Justice CSU. You can contact any one of us.

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