

Race and Environmental Justice in the Era of COVID-19

Edited by Tatiana Konrad

I am currently inviting chapter contributions for an edited collection on race and environmental justice in the era of COVID-19. This publication emerges within the framework of the ongoing research project “Air and Environmental Health in the (Post-)COVID-19 World”. Michigan State University Press has expressed interest in the book.

Contributions are sought that examine public health practices within racial and environmental justice contexts.¹ This might include chapter proposals which address complex entanglements between communities, governmental systems, and capitalist structures. Positioning the COVID-19 pandemic as a public health issue with deep roots in environmental degradation this book seeks to address disproportionate impacts on marginalized populations at local and global levels. Bringing questions of intersectional justice to public health frameworks, this edited collection will contribute to understandings and recognition of the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on BIPOC communities across the globe, exemplary of wider health disparities emerging from a number of societal and structural barriers to health care access and proximity to harms.

Chapters might also address the ambiguity of “social distancing”—questioning structural isolation, broader societal barriers, and matters of proximity as they relate to environmental and racial (in)justice. In the context of structural racism and health, the impacts of “racial residential segregation”—the geographical distancing and separation of specific populations due to structural and endemic racism—is emphasized as directly correlated to disproportionate ill-health, and presents as one broader framework for contributions.² Additionally, the conceptual framework for this collection is premised upon a foundation which recognizes the complex interrelationships between environmental and racial (in)justice and wider understandings of health and well-being. These expansions open up ways of thinking, practicing, and being that illuminate the importance of resistance, care, and community amidst climate and epidemiological crisis. This is a significant grounding for interrogating connections between people and place which is inclusive of and responsive to BIPOC epistemologies and cosmologies.

This edited book will bring together a collection of chapters that showcase and critically engage with and reflect on the long and complex legacy of social and global (in)justice, calculated, political, and structural harm, and environmental (in)justice—generated by a variety of social, political, cultural, and economic factors—in the context of “social distancing” and COVID-19. In recognition of the interdisciplinary nature of this research, scholars working in multiple fields are encouraged to participate. However, a list of desirable topics is provided here to outline the scope of possible contributions:

- Environmental Health
- Environmental and Medical Racisms
- Intersectionality: Gender, Race, and Class
- Slow Violence, Toxicity, and Structural Harms

- Representation and Exclusion of BIPOC from Mainstream Environmental Narratives or Movements
- Settler Colonialism, Native Land Dispossession, and/or Resource Exploitation
- Protest, Resistance, Anti-Racist Activism
- Indigenous Cosmologies
- Labor, Wages, and Frontline Workers
- Black Liberation, Black Feminist Theory, and Abolition Ecologies
- Indigenous Environmental Justice
- Reconciliation, Land Rights, and Transformative Justice
- Indigenous Futurism and Afrofuturism
- Environment, Values, Cultures, and Social Identities (including Disability, Indigeneity, Race, Queer Ecologies, and Ecofeminism)
- Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Chthulucene Reconfigurations
- Agriculture and Climate Justice

Contributions from BIPOC scholars are particularly welcome.

Please email your abstract of 300 words and short biographical statement of no more than 150 words by **May 15, 2023** to tatiana.konrad@univie.ac.at

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¹ Sonja Avlijaš, “Security for Whom? Inequality and Human Dignity in Times of the Pandemic,” in *Pandemics, Politics, and Society: Critical Perspectives on the Covid-19 Crisis*, ed. Gerard Delanty (Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 2021), 227-42.

² Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, “Residential Segregation and the Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases,” *Social Science & Medicine* 51, no. 8 (2000): 1143–61.