

Seminar Title: Environmental Justice: Theory, Practice, and Change (Tentative Syllabus)

Free 10-Week Online Seminar Fall 2024

**Every Wednesday, October 25 – December 4, 2024
9:00 – 10:30 AM EST (NYC)**

Course Description:

This seminar explores the concept of environmental justice, examining how environmental issues intersect with racial, economic, and social inequalities. Participants will learn about historical and contemporary environmental justice movements, key legal and policy frameworks, and community activism and policy advocacy strategies.

Seminar Co-Leaders:



Dr. Ibrahim Ozdemir

Dr. Ozdemir is a professor of philosophy and ethics. His extensive teaching career includes prestigious appointments as a visiting professor at Harvard University, Hartford Seminary, Abo Akademi University in Turku, Finland, and Clark University in Worcester, MA, USA.

Among his notable achievements, Dr. Ozdemir was instrumental in the creation of the *Islamic Declaration for Global Climate Change* (2015) and contributed to *Environment, Religion, and Culture in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2016), published by UNEP, and *al-Mizan: A Covenant for Earth* (2024).



Dr. Fatih Celebioglu

Dr. Celebioglu is an associate professor specializing in development economics, focusing on economic and regional growth, inequalities, and innovation. His career includes prestigious roles such as visiting professor and senior research fellow at the University of Arizona, USA, and Philipps University-Marburg, Germany.

Dr. Celebioglu currently serves as a senior researcher at Philipps University-Marburg, where his recent work examines the connections between industrial clusters, innovation, specialization, and other economic factors in Germany.

More Information:

Participants who attend at least 8 complete seminar sessions will receive a certificate of satisfactory completion from the Dean of The New School for Social Research. In order to obtain the certificate, participants must register and log in with the same email address each week.

Registration will remain open for the duration of the seminar. Registrants will receive a reminder email with the Zoom link each week. The seminar sessions will be recorded and available to registrants on Vimeo the following week.

Objectives:

- Understand the principles and foundations of environmental justice.
- Analyze case studies demonstrating environmental inequality across different regions and communities.
- Develop strategies for advocacy and change in the field of environmental justice.

Outcomes:

- Develop a multifaceted understanding of environmental justice.
- Gain insight into the historical context of the environmental justice movement, understanding its roots and evolution.
- Learn to apply this knowledge to analyze contemporary case studies from various regions, including understanding different communities' unique challenges and approaches.
- Be equipped to assess the impact of legal and governmental frameworks on environmental justice issues and comprehend the role of public health concerns within this field.
- Engage with the principles of activism and grassroots movements, empowering them to advocate effectively for equitable environmental policies and practices. They will leave the seminar with the ability to synthesize this information to propose actionable solutions and strategies for promoting environmental justice in various contexts.

Format: Weekly sessions that include lectures, discussions, and interactive activities.

Week 1 (Sept. 25): Introduction to Environmental Justice

Topic: Overview of Environmental Justice

Reading: Robert D. Bullard, *Dumping in Dixie*, Preface and Ch. One.

Video: <https://youtu.be/ZBjiC0Rjtbk?t=4>

<https://youtu.be/fWZPbaqE2nA>

- **Activity:** Q&A

Week 2 (Oct. 2): Historical Perspectives

Topic: History of the Environmental Justice Movement

Reading: “Environmental Justice in the 21st Century”

- Paul Mohai et al. “Environmental Justice.” [ANRV390-EG34-17.tex \(annualreviews.org\)](https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-environ-011117-011111)
- **Activity:** Q&A

Week 3 (Oct. 9): Case Studies – National Focus

Topic: Case Studies on Environmental Justice in the United States

Reading:

- Selections from "Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility" by Dorceta Taylor
- Pastor, M., Sadd, J., & Hipp, J. (2001). *Which Came First? Toxic Facilities, Minority Move-In, and Environmental Justice*. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 23(1), 1–21. doi:10.1111/0735-2166.00072
- **Activity:** Q&A

Week 4 (Oct. 16): Global Environmental Justice: International Perspectives and Issues

Reading: Amiri, M. (2020). *David Pellow. What is critical environmental justice?* *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, 10(2), 210–211. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13412-019-00575-8>

- **Activity:** Q&A

Week 5 (Oct. 23): The Role of Government and Policy

Topic: Legal Frameworks and Policy in Environmental Justice

Reading: Luke W. Cole and Sheila R. Foster, "From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement"

- **Activity:** Q&A

Week 6 (Oct. 30): Environmental Justice and Public Health

Topic: Intersection of Environmental Hazards and Public Health

Reading: Selected articles from the American Journal of Public Health on Environmental Justice

Brown, Phil. 1987. "Popular Epidemiology: Community Response to Toxic Waste-Induced Disease in Woburn, Massachusetts." *Science, Technology, and Human Values* 12: 78-85.

- **Activity:** Q&A Discuss public health outcomes related to environmental injustices.

Week 7 (Nov. 6): Indigenous Perspectives on Environmental Justice

- **Reading:** Whyte, Kyle, Indigenous Experience, Environmental Justice and Settler Colonialism (April 25, 2016). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2770058> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2770058>
- **Activity:** Q&A

Week 8 (Nov. 13): Corporate Responsibility and Accountability

- **Reading:** Excerpts from "Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Chemical Exposure in the United States" by Steve Lerner
- **Activity:** Q&A

Week 9 (Nov. 20): Activism and Grassroots Movements

Strategies for Grassroots Organizing and Activism

- **Reading:** "Blessed Unrest" by Paul Hawken

No Class (Nov. 27): U.S. Thanksgiving holiday

Week 10 (Dec. 4): In this last session, we will summarize and reflect: A General Evaluation of the Course and Key Takeaways Through the Lens of the Butterfly Effect

- **Activity:** Q&A

Reading text:

- Robert D. Bullard, "Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality".
- Paul Mohai et al. "Environmental Justice". [ANRV390-EG34-17.tex \(annualreviews.org\)](https://www.annualreviews.org/ANRV390-EG34-17)

Recommended Resources:

- A collection of scholarly articles, books, documentaries, and online resources relevant to each week's topic will be shared during the course.
- Environmental Justice Reading List:
<https://www.eli.org/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-reading-list>

Videos:

- **Father of Environmental Justice' Robert Bullard on the Work Behind a Movement**
<https://youtu.be/fWZPbaqE2nA?t=181>
- **"Pollution is Segregated," Says the Father of Environmental Justice:**
<https://youtu.be/qU-D3YkOe-w>
- **David N. Pellow: Critical Environmental Justice**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hye4503qtkw&pp=ygUVRW52aXJvbm1lbnRhbCBkdXN0aWNl>
- **Environmental Justice and Climate Change:** <https://youtu.be/lcZaUhKQ4sk>

- **A Brief History of Environmental Justice:** <https://youtu.be/30xLg2HHg8Q>
- **Our Environmental Destiny - Robert Kennedy, Jr.:** <https://youtu.be/XdQOFdT0Xiw>
- **Harriet Washington, "Medical Apartheid" author interview:**
<https://youtu.be/PzsNFBZK6ks>
- **Six Pillars of Climate Justice:** https://youtu.be/0X6eF7_yZ8
- **Social, Racial and Environmental Justice:** <https://youtu.be/xCJcWZ6Zxlo>
- **Ethics, Science, and Medical Apartheid - Six Lessons from History:**
<https://jdc.jefferson.edu/surgeryqr/146/>
- **Very Good Website: Climate Justice**
- <https://centerclimatejustice.universityofcalifornia.edu/what-is-climate-justice/>